



## New VP of Student Affairs Arrives at XU

*Dr. Kimberly Moore looks forward to engaging directly with Xavier students in new role*

By DYLAN PAULSON  
*Newswire Intern*

Former Dean of Students at the University of Miami, Ohio Dr. Kimberly Moore joined Xavier as the new Vice President for Student Affairs this June.

Originally from Milwaukee, Moore came to Xavier hoping to embrace the Jesuit values she remembers from home. She is eager to explore how these values can support her work with Xavier students.

“I missed the Jesuit education,” Moore said, “Having a defined mission grounded in social justice animates my work — I missed that at a public institution.”

Coming out of her undergraduate education as a marketing major, Moore realized that her career in business was not quite as fulfilling as she had hoped.

“I just didn’t know what I wanted to do, which I think a lot of students could probably resonate with, but I knew it wasn’t marketing and working on the business

side,” she said.

Despite having a successful career in business, she felt that she wanted to do something different with her life. Soon after achieving success, Moore found what that something was.

“I just happened to be invited to my alma mater to guest lecture on business ethics, and when I was doing that, I had a bit of an epiphany and said ‘Hey, how do I work with these amazing young people?’” she said.

After her guest lecture, Moore pursued a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs at Loyola University Chicago, where she would then go on to pursue a doctorate in the same field.

After graduating with her doctorate in 2018, Moore became the Dean of Students at Miami University, where she would serve until spring of 2023, after which she came to Xavier. When asked why she chose Xavier, Moore praised the student body.

“I think what stands out to me the most is how pure of heart our students are,”

Moore said. “I think our students have really good intentions, and they are seeking more meaningful and purposeful ways to elevate their talents and skills for the common good, which is so very Jesuit.”

Though she has only been on campus for a few months, Moore is already hard at work deciding her first steps at Xavier, including meeting the needs of the modern student who has been impacted by things such as COVID-19.

“You young people are so used to algorithms guessing and knowing what is of interest to you, what your needs are and anticipating those options to you in apps and through technology. So, we’ve got to figure out ways to meet students where they are and maybe change the way that we teach and learn, or the models that we deploy around student engagement, student involvement, health and well-being support and make sure it’s built in the ways that our students are expecting and needing,” she said.



Photo courtesy of Kimberly Moore

**New Vice President for Student Affairs Kimberly Moore looks forward to engaging the student body in a way that is informed by Jesuit values.**

Additionally, Moore hopes to push the limits of higher education and develop connections with the students on a deeper level.

“My purpose is to help students maximize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of college,” Moore said, “(and) the way we do that is to help them be successful.”

Moore outlined some ideas that are being discussed by Xavier leadership, including hosting different kinds of events to reach out to the student body and promote student involvement.

Expressing to students that she hopes to receive invitations to participate and

attend events, Moore is eager to engage with students and student groups.

“I want them to know that I am very big on invitations. So if there is an event or group meeting or an opportunity for me to meet and engage with more students directly, I am absolutely open to them. The more students I can share space and time with, the better I am able to do my work,” she said.

Moore emphasized that she plans to usher in a new era of connection between students and staff and ultimately hopes to develop a tighter-knit campus community.



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

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# LGBTQ+ Alliance Hosts Drag Show

## Xavier students enjoy performances from five regional drag performers

BY JOSEPH HAMMANN  
Guest Writer

Last Thursday, Xavier's LGBTQ+ Alliance held their 7th Annual Drag Show in the Arrupe Overlook featuring five regional drag performers, including *RuPaul's Drag Race's* Trinity K. Bonet.

Tips and donations that were collected at the event will be donated towards Transform Cincinnati, a non-profit organization that provides gender affirming clothing to transgender and gender non-conforming youth in the surrounding area.

Cincinnati drag queen Jessica Dimon emceed the event, beginning with a message expressing that drag shows are just as much an opportunity to inform the audience as they are entertaining.

"Drag has saved many lives for performers everywhere," Dimon said, yelling out to the crowd before beginning her performance.

Following Dimon's opening performance, students saw performances from drag performers Lexi Love, Johnny Justice, Amaya Sexton and Trinity K. Bonet, who all performed for Xavier's audience with elaborate outfits, lip

syncing to popular songs and elaborate dances.

Some performers followed the event's black and white theme, while others exploded with bright colors with their outfit choices.

Many of the outfits were inspired by characters and pieces of media



Newswire photo courtesy of Alex Sepulveda

such as *Toy Story*, Wednesday Addams, *The Boys*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and many more. Songs from artists such as Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Paramore and Dua Lipa were the performers' soundtrack for the night.

As the night continued, students became increasingly engaged and cheered loudly for each of the performers.

After finishing her performance to Lady Gaga's "Bloody Mary," Amaya Sexton, a drag queen from Dayton, Ohio, thanked the cheering students for their excitement.

"Y'all made me feel like I was really Lady Gaga," she said.

Additionally, after each of their first performances, they took a brief intermission to bring a select few students up on stage. First, three duos were selected to perform an act on the stage while lip syncing to songs in typical *RuPaul's Drag Race* fashion. Then, two other students compet-

ed in a runway walk competition. The winners of each competition were decided by the amount of money students gave them during each of their performances.

After the intermission, each of the drag performers performed their final act, and they ended the night allowing students to get pictures with all the drag performers on stage.

Reflecting on the event, sophomore Levi Davidson felt the atmosphere of the drag show was freeing.

"It was really fun to be



Newswire photo courtesy of Alex Sepulveda

around in a place where everyone around you is an ally and you don't have to feel self-conscious," Davidson said.

Additionally, the LGBTQ+ Alliance executive board was delighted by the results of the show.

"It went well. It was all very smooth. The black and white theme was an amazing addition for this year. It was nice working with different performers regionally and from *RuPaul*, as well as the happiness we felt from the donated money towards Transform Cincy," sophomore LGBTQ+ Alliance Events Coordinator Georgia Larive said.

Junior LGBTQ+ Alliance Vice President Mia Karlsson also expressed gratitude to those who came to the event and those who contributed to its success.

"We were grateful for both the performers and those who came in attendance. We couldn't have done it without them and we hope to do this again for years to come," Karlsson said.

The LGBTQ+ Alliance hopes to continue this event in the years to come as both an entertaining performance and an opportunity to engage students with a hallmark of LGBTQ+ culture.

# Boo-tiful Shots: XU Students Haunt Halloween

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

During this bone-chilling time, students got dressed up in costumes, had fun and partied hard-y across campus and throughout Cincinnati this "Halloween."

From the silly to the nostalgic to the downright devilish, here are a few students and their costumes in the spirit of Halloween. Get it? Spirit?



Newswire photo courtesy of Connor Driscoll-Natale

"I'm a hot dog. Norwood PD finally took a chill pill and let the kids have fun. Roll blob. Free Palestine," senior nursing major Connor Driscoll-Natale said.



Newswire photo courtesy of Maggie Shears

"We chose (Blue and Steve) because we love *Blue's Clues*. It really played a big part in our childhoods. We wanted a recognizable costume that could inspire nostalgia in others," junior environmental sciences major Maggie Shears said.

"Steve from *Blue's Clues* is one of my heroes. I wanted to represent his glory for a night," graphic design major Roan Regnier said.



Newswire photo courtesy of Griffin Brammer

"I wanted to be an angel, and she's my sidekick, so she had to be the devil," senior biology and environmental sciences double major Erin Linko said.

"I don't know. She's my friend and I'm just mean," senior biomedical science major Ashleigh Donohoe said.

# JOIN OUR TEAM



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A student-led initiative supported by the President's Office that seeks to promote positive, non-partisan dialogue on the full range of perspectives regarding reproductive health

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# Haunted Locations to Visit in Cincinnati

BY NICK WATTS  
Guest Writer

If you weren't already in the Halloween mood with pumpkin spice, colorful leaves littering the yard and Halloween 2023, *NewsWire* is here to add to the season's festivities.

These locations add to the city's share of ghost stories, urban legends and whispers. You can, in fact, venture to any of these places — at your own risk, of course...

## Cincinnati Music Hall

Did you know that below one of the Queen City's most iconic and beautiful landmarks lies a gravesite? Well, the builders and surveyors of 1878 sure did, but that did not stop them! Music Hall was built directly over a potter's field, which served as the unmarked final resting place for many of the cities' immigrants and poor citizens without identification. The field beneath it has also been said to serve as a military hospital during the Civil War, and housed unidentified victims from the 1838 *Moselle* steamboat disaster.

Many night patrolmen and even the former Cincinnati Pops orchestra conductor Erich Kunzel have reported seeing notable but harmless spirits, some of whom are children, wandering the Music Hall. Given that the remains of many individuals lie



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

**Cincinnati Music Hall, which was constructed in 1878, is considered one of the most haunted buildings in the city, with staff and musicians reporting that harmless spirits roam the halls of the site.**

underneath the building, it is not surprising that supernatural stories like these come up.

## Peters Cartridge Co.

The imposing Kings Mills factory was constructed in 1887 along the Little Miami River to supply ammunition to the United States Army from the Spanish-American War all the way through World War II.

Unfortunately, the work conditions at the plant didn't always live up to safety standards. Multiple explosions occurred at the site, killing many in the process. Many reports of hauntings of the un-

fortunate souls who perished in the blasts have followed.

## Spring Grove Cemetery

Spring Grove Cemetery is host to the graves of many important Americans, including the sixth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Salmon Chase, General Joseph Hooker and the 38th Speaker of the House, Nicholas Longworth.

Arguably the most famous creepy tale of this cemetery is that of Charles Breuer, a businessman who wanted his own eyes installed in a bust of himself attached to his tombstone. Instead of his real eyes, glass eyes were installed

inside the bust, and many visitors to the site report the glass eyes following them.

The Dexter Family Crypt is also an iconic site at the cemetery that is said to be haunted by phantom dogs that bring ill will upon those who spot them.

## Eden Park Gazebo

While strolling through the scenic walkways surrounding Mirror Lake overlooking the old Cincinnati Water Works Reservoir in Mount Adams, it is impossible to miss the large gazebo in the northwest corner of the park. Though it is a pretty place to take pictures,

the history of the gazebo is not so beautiful.

The structure is connected to the infamous Cincinnati lawyer and bootlegger George Remus, who exacted revenge against his wife at the site. After she liquidated his assets and attempted to steal his money, Remus tracked down his wife Imogene at the gazebo, ran her car off the road and shot her. Remus was later acquitted of murder in one of the first pleas of insanity.

Some claim that Imogen's spirit can still be seen wandering the park in the same black dress she wore on that fateful day and has been at the site for over 90 years.

## Dent Schoolhouse

The alleged ghost stories surrounding murdered children at the famous Cincinnati haunted house attraction — the Dent Schoolhouse — are not true.

Though the attraction's website claims that several children went missing and were murdered there from 1942 through 1955, no archived newspaper article has a record of any murdered children at the school at the time.

The final nail in the coffin for these tall tales comes from the fact that the real Dent Schoolhouse closed in 1949, making the claim that any children died at the school after that year virtually impossible.



## Ohio's "rattiest" cities, alleged meteor crash, Florida Man competition & giant Spider-Man gathering

BY GAVIN STEELE  
Staff Writer

A man was trapped overnight inside a steel-reinforced concrete jewelry vault in New York City while trying to access his safety deposit box. Firefighters worked to rescue him before abandoning the effort to keep the man safe. The man was able to escape when the vault opened on its own from a timer (Oct. 25).

Cincinnati ranked 31st on Orkin Pest Control's list of "rattiest" cities in the U.S. Chicago took first place, followed by Los Angeles and New York. Rounding out the Buckeye State, Cleveland placed 10th and Columbus ranked 18th (Oct. 26).

An Arkansas family's deck caught on fire after a suspected meteorite flew through the structure. The flames were extinguished by their hot tub, which melted nearby. The family is awaiting confirmation from the United States Geological Survey if the cause was a meteorite, which could take years to complete (Oct. 26).



Photo courtesy of flickr.com



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Floridians will soon have the chance to compete in the first-ever "Florida Man Games," which have been scheduled to happen next Feb. in St. Augustine, Fla. Contestants are set to duel in an evading arrest obstacle course, weaponized pool noodle mud duel, Category 5 cash grab and beer belly sumo, which are based on the headline-inspired Florida Man meme (Oct. 27).

In what organizers dubbed as "probably one of the most unique parades in the country," approximately 1,000 sheep were herded through Cedar, Utah, during the Cedar City Sheep Parade. The livestock procession, which dates back to the 1870s, also features antique tractors and horses and celebrates the sheep traveling to their winter homes (Oct. 30).

An estimated 2,000 people dressed in Spider-Man costumes convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina in an attempt to break a Guinness World Record. Influencer Uki Deane, who initiated the event, said that the number of attendees might have been closer to 3,000, but there were not enough notaries to verify the participant totals. Participants donated non-perishable food items to a local charity (Oct. 30).

# Ohio Issues 1 and 2 Spark Controversies

The issues target reproductive rights and the legalization of marijuana in the Buckeye State

BY LUCA FILIGENZI  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 7, Ohioians will vote on Issue 1, regarding the reproductive rights of Ohio citizens, and Issue 2, regarding the statewide legalization of marijuana. Ohio is the only state directly voting on an abortion bill this election cycle, which is attracting a high amount of external investment and national attention to the election cycle.

Issue 1, fully known as the “Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion Initiative,” is a proposed state constitutional amendment

that would establish the right to “make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions,” according to the text of the amendment.

The Issue 1 initiative comes in the wake of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, which gave states the opportunity to decide their own legislation on abortion. Currently, abortions are available in Ohio during the first 21 weeks and six days of pregnancy.

However, if passed, Issue 1 would amend this statute so that as long as the physician can affirm that the abortion would benefit the health of the pregnant individual, an

abortion would be legal at any stage of the pregnancy.

“The Amendment would give greater protection to abortion to be free from regulation than at any time in Ohio’s history. That new test includes definitions and other terms that likewise make it harder for any law covering ‘reproductive decisions’ to survive,” Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said in his legal analysis of the issue.

If this amendment is approved, it would go into effect 30 days after the election. A “yes” on the issue would establish an affirmative right to abortion, contraception, miscarriage care and fertility treatment within the state constitution.

Voting “no” on Issue 1 would leave Ohio’s abortion laws up to interpretation by the government and courts.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has stated that Issue 1 “just goes much, much too far,” and has argued that voting down the proposed amendment can give lawmakers the chance to draft a bill most Ohioans would agree with.

Issue 2 proposes the creation of a new state law that would legalize and regulates “the sale and purchase of marijuana” in Ohio for adults aged 21 and above, according to the text of the amendment. This would include the cultivation, sale, purchase and use...



Photo courtesy of flickr.com



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Issue 2 proposes allowing for the sale and purchase of marijuana in Ohio and legalizing recreational marijuana for adults above 21.

age of marijuana. A 10% tax on marijuana sales would also be imposed, and the revenue from these taxes would go toward a marijuana social equity and jobs program.

Under the proposed law, individuals would be allowed to buy and possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis flower and up to 15 ounces of the plant’s extract. If the issue passes, Ohio would become the 24th state to legalize cannabis use.

Those who oppose recreational cannabis use believe that this proposed amendment may act as a gateway towards the increased usage of drugs.

Yost noted in another legal analysis that Issue 2 would “not repeal the existing criminal prohibitions against marijuana cultivation and use...

but does create protections against arrest and prosecution if you follow the new rules it creates.”

In the analysis, Yost also said that the state’s medical marijuana laws would remain in place if Issue 2 passes. It would also set an initial limit on the number of licensed cannabis operators in Ohio and would limit how much space each facility could use to grow the plant, which would be overseen by a newly-established Division of Cannabis Control.

The ramifications of these two controversial issues will have an impact on not only Ohioans, but also residents in states where reproductive rights and marijuana are debated.

## Cincinnati Issue 22 Divides City Leaders and Voters

BY GAVIN STEELE  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 7, local voters will decide whether the City of Cincinnati will sell the Cincinnati Southern Railway via the Issue 22 ballot measure. The railroad is the only municipally-owned interstate railroad in the United States.

Issue 22, known as the “Sale of Cincinnati Southern Railway to Norfolk Southern Measure,” is a proposed piece of legislation that would authorize the Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees to sell the railway for \$1.6 billion to the Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The money would then be deposited into a trust fund managed by the board with the City of Cincinnati as the

sole beneficiary. The city would receive at least \$26.5 million annually to spend on existing infrastructure and renovations to public facilities.

The railroad has been leased out since 1881 to various railroad companies. Since 1893, the railroad has been run by companies associated with Norfolk Southern, which has leased the railway since shortly after it was built. The Board of Trustees negotiated an agreement with Norfolk Southern to sell the railroad, and the ballot measure would enable this sale if it is passed by local voters.

Voting “yes” on the measure would allow the City of Cincinnati to sell the railroad. Many supporters of Issue 22 argue that the money from

the sale will improve city infrastructure.

The ballot measure is supported by a bipartisan group of city officials including Democratic Mayor Aftab Pureval, eight of the nine city council members including Republican Liz Keating, several labor unions and the Cincinnati U.S.A. Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“If this doesn’t pass and our deferred capital maintenance continues to go up by hundreds of millions of dollars, then we would no longer be able to maintain the infrastructure we have,” Pureval said.

“We’ll have to downsize the number of fire stations and police stations we have, which will have an impact on safety. We won’t be able to maintain the parks we have in our community. The basic blocking and tackling of running a city will no longer be affordable,” he stated.

“Selling the Cincinnati Southern Railway for \$1.6 billion will deliver a windfall for Cincinnati. It will generate funds to improve existing city infrastructure — to protect clean water, improve fire and emergency services, repair roads and sidewalks, update city parks, bring recreation centers up to code and



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Issue 22, proposed by the the City of Cincinnati, would allow for the sale of the only city-owned railroad in the country.

more,” Building Cincinnati’s Future, a local organization in support of Issue 22, said in a statement.

Voting “no” aims to prevent the sale of the railroad and lead to a renegotiation of the lease that is set to end in 2026. Renegotiations on the lease would begin next year.

Some opponents of Issue 22 have shared concerns about not knowing where the investments from the funds would be allocated towards.

City Councilmember Scotty Johnson is opposed to the issue because of concerns about whether spending will be invested towards neighborhoods that have historically not received government

funding.

Several groups have also been formed to oppose the sale of the railroad, including Save Our Rail and Derail the Sale.

Some leaders from prominent Black communities have expressed that they have been ignored during the lease negotiation process. “We don’t see investment in Black neighborhoods,” Joe Mallory, the President of the Cincinnati NAACP, said. “So, we’re tired of being left out.”

Local police and fire unions and the Cincinnati Republican Party are neutral on the issue, while the AFL-CIO Labor Council has rescinded their support for the measure.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

# Zoinks, Scoob, It's a G-g-g-ghost!

They're creepy, they're kooky, they're mysterious and they're ooky; they're just downright spooky. However, given the season, they are everywhere. I'm not talking about politicians making hollow election promotions, I'm talking about ghosts.

Today, many skeptics would call balderdash on these campfire story ghouls, claiming they are nothing more than symbolic, silk-sheeted specters passed down from older, more superstitious generations. However, it is my belief that these phantoms are indeed real, and I am going to take you on a little stroll down memory lane. You, too, may see that there is more than just a Scooby Doo villain beneath this mystery.

The first-ever recorded sighting of a ghost occurred 2,000 years ago in the Roman Empire by Pliny the Younger. According to Pliny, this creature haunted a house in Athens, where they would rattle their chains and waive their beard, all while suspended in mid air — all telltale signs of a classic haunting. From there, ghosts have held a proverbial possession of societies of all kinds.

In Japan, ghosts are called

“Kami” — spirits that, while inhumane, possess many similar qualities to ghosts — haunting people, moving objects, appearing human, etc.

In Germany, the first recorded case of a violent poltergeist was seen threatening a family of farmers with throwing knives. Then, the rapid spread of Christianity raised a question about ghosts: When people die, they're supposed to go to either heaven or hell, so where do ghosts fit in?

Many theories and refusals were raised, but Italian poet and theologian Dante Alighieri raised an idea in his famous poem *Divine Comedy*. In the poem, the dead Roman poet Virgil guides Dante on his journey through hell, purgatory and heaven. Dante's famous work introduces the idea that ghosts may be former members of the living stuck between the circles of hell, stricken with the duty to guide the living.

So, if ghosts could coexist with Christian theology, they could continue to keep those anxious minds awake with worry. If they could no longer be cast aside by devout minds, every creak in the night could become a reason to hide under

the covers.

But stories as numerous as these don't only exist as part of our distant history. Over time, the fear that was put in the hearts of medieval farmers was quelled by the age of discovery. Learning more about our world, its inhabitants and the rules we are bound by limits the potential for spookiness overall. Now science has disproved all sorts of myths, from A for Atlantis to Z for zombies.

However, ghosts remain one of the few myths that has survived because sightings and encounters with the beyond are constantly and tangibly occurring. Every day, self-proclaimed ghost hunters walk into graveyards with radios and voice detectors hoping to catch a glimpse of their local phantom. Many of them are successful in finding something... ominous. Maybe it's a cross in radio waves, maybe it's a squirrel rustling in the bush, perhaps it's just an overactive imagination.

Though for every hundred that are easily explained and disproven, there are one or two that keep your attention. You may look at the picture or listen to the recording again and again, running every pos-

sible solution in your head. Yet there's always just that one piece that doesn't fit, discrediting the theory. “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth,” the infamous writer and parapsychologist Arthur Conan Doyle wrote.

Sometimes the line between the two is as thin and vague as the ghosts they represent. The sheer mass of these accounts, over thousands of years and across multiple cultures, suggests some truth. Amongst the thousands of stories, accounts and frightenings, at least one of them must be true.

Maybe ghosts aren't exactly the spooky, booing, house-haunting ghosts that we often think of. Perhaps there exists some inexplicable, cold, intangible force, a voice that can be seen or spoken to on eerie, lonesome fall nights.

Ghosts are more popular and believed in than ever. Ghost tours that advertise the promise of seeing one of their passed celebrities populate all great cities. Ghost movies like *The Shining* and *The Ring* are regarded as some of the greatest, scariest

and most culturally influential films of all time for a reason. Still, perhaps what keeps the thrill of ghost stories alive is not the evidence upholding or disproving their existence but rather the human love for mystery — the fact that even in this age when all cryptids and creatures have been thrown to the wind, they may still be here. Perhaps they are real and have been kept around by those who aren't quite convinced by the skeptics and realists. Maybe that noise in your dorm is something more. Maybe out of the corner of your eye, that shadow wasn't just a trick of the light. Try to keep that sense and spirit alive. Happy Halloween to all, and to all a good fright.



Luca Filigenzi is a staff writer for *Newswire*. He is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major from Oak Ridge, Tenn.

## Med School Meddling

As a first-year student majoring in biomedical sciences, I found the approval of plans to construct Xavier's own college of osteopathic medicine quite exciting. This initiative marks a significant improvement for medical school-bound undergraduates, aligning harmoniously with the Jesuit values instilled in Xavier's education. Nevertheless, there exists a noticeable stigma associated with those who seek to become doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO) when compared to those who follow the more traditional path to become Doctors of Medicine (MD).

Historically, the worlds of osteopathic medicine and allopathic medicine (MD) have often existed along distinct paths, each with its distinct philosophy and approach. While these differences have

long ignited a debate regarding the other's credibility and efficacy, it's essential to acknowledge that these distinctions are increasingly blending in today's dynamic and competitive healthcare landscape. The crux of the matter is that both DO and MD schools produce highly skilled and competent physicians, and we must recognize the credibility of both in the modern healthcare world.

Now more than ever, the acceptance rate for pre-med track undergraduates into medical schools is shockingly low. In the 2022-2023 admission cycle, a mere 42% of medical school applicants were extended offers of admission, underscoring the intense competition within the field. Importantly, this competition isn't exclusive to any specific type of medical

school. Both DO and MD programs boast equally competitive admission processes. The statistics affirm this, with the average MCAT score of DO applicants being 502.80 and 505.90 for MD applicants — the highest possible score being a 528 and the lowest being 472 — with only a few points difference. Other prominent stats, such as GPA, exhibit minimal variations between the two applicant pools.

Regarding education, the primary difference between the curriculum of DO and MD students is the additional training in osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) that DO students receive. OMT is a hands-on approach to diagnosing, treating and preventing medical conditions, including using the musculoskeletal system to promote overall health and well-being. In con-

trast, MD programs traditionally focus on biomedical sciences and do not require training in OMT. MD schools emphasize clinical diagnosis, treatment and research.

However, both DO and MD programs emphasize patient-centered care and are committed to providing quality healthcare. Medical students in both paths learn the fundamentals of diagnosis, treatment and patient management. Moreover, most of the foundational medical knowledge obtained by students in each program remains the same, covering a wide range of subjects. The shared focus on foundational knowledge and patient care ensures that healthcare professionals from both backgrounds are dedicated to addressing the holistic needs of their patients.

In the modern healthcare landscape, collaboration and multidisciplinary care are integral for providing the best patient outcomes. MDs and DOs are trained to work within diverse healthcare teams, enabling them to leverage their strengths to offer comprehensive care. The ability of DOs and MDs to work harmoniously in healthcare settings further underscores the credibility and integrity of both paths in the medical field.



Leah Barnard is a guest writer for *Newswire*. She is a biomedical sciences major from Lexington, KY.

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### Mission Statement

The Xavier *Newswire* is committed to reporting the news, as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the *Newswire* hopes to foster a dialogue on campus and among students, faculty and staff.

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### For Your Information

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# Put Raccoon Tour on the Roster

I don't know about you, but I love fall. Walking on campus just feels refreshing as the leaves change from yellow to orange and red. I take time away from homework to watch football and toss a frisbee outside, and for the first time in a few months, I feel ready to begin annual traditions.

Every fall, I'll do some of the classics: watch scary movies, visit pumpkin patches and set up a hammock outside. However, during this time, I also partake in my own tradition: listening to the band Raccoon Tour.

The band's songs are geared toward both the Halloween season and the nostalgia of our childhood during fall, meaning I blast them this time of year.

Sure, it sounds a little odd, but hear me out. It's far too easy to get burnt out on the same songs and feel that we are cycling through carbon-copy playlists on repeat. Sectioning off the same time of the year to listen to their songs feels like visiting an old friend.

The band, which originated in Boise, Idaho as a senior year school project, has an eccentric sound. It feels like a beautiful blend of alterna-

tive indie, a sprinkle of '60s garage bands and just a taste of Barenaked Ladies' existentialism.

Lead vocalist and band founder Nathan Burr stated, "Yeah, that stuff (the beginning of school) really bleeds into making the fall an emotional and volatile period along with the aesthetics of the season, the falling leaves starting to slow down as a kid. You kind of fall back into the routine."

Like Burr, fall is a time of immense nostalgia for me. I reread a few of my fall-favorite short stories and watch a couple of movies to really get into that fall spirit. However, when I go home during fall and Thanksgiving break, the nostalgia really hits me like a wall and I remember a simpler time: Backyard football after school was always a must, only to be followed by leaf piles and some *Gravity Falls*.

Listening to Raccoon Tour when I'm already in a wave of nostalgia, really plucks at my heartstrings. There's a unique dichotomy of remembering all those emotions, especially the dread of just wanting to make it to the next break.

A lot of Raccoon Tour's music does have that sense of back-to-school mania; there's

always the good and the bad with the season.

On Burr's own experience with how the emotions of fall led to the development of the band's songs, he stated, "I have a well right here of these cherished memories, so why don't I turn those into songs, since it comes from a place of sincerity? Hopefully, people will be like oh sh\*t, this is real."

Nowadays, fall seems to have undergone a divergent transformation: It's not sincere. Halloween, for most college students, is a time to booze and forget about classes for a little while. Pong reigns supreme, and house parties try to escape the night without Norwood PD showing up. Sure, that's a good time in my book, but sometimes it feels that we lose sight of the true meaning of fall spirit because we're too preoccupied with what college students should be seen doing.

Raccoon Tour feels real and heartfelt; it's a breath of fresh air during the Xavier Halloween season, which seems like it's trying too hard to be Animal House.

College students specifically are at an awkward time where we're not the directionless kids we were in high

school, but the vast majority of us aren't self-sufficient adults. Perhaps that's why Raccoon Tour is so enjoyable: The band allows its audience to indulge in that middle ground. We're not real adults yet, no matter how much we want to think so. Most of us still go to the Caf, after all.

Remembering and honoring that fascinating time in life when we could just exist in the world is a nice sentiment. We're not kids — let's not try to be. We're also not adults, so let's not try to be that either. Embrace that state of limbo we're in for only a few years.

That class you feel you absolutely have to get an A in or that internship you're gunning for? Stop worrying so much about it. Take a step back and probably drink more water. Let's not worry about every seemingly insurmountable goal ahead of us and instead just enjoy this single moment right now.

Listen to Raccoon Tour. Their sole album, *The Dentonweaver*, is an ideal starting spot ahead of their singles. The music is an ode to an age past, our childhood and the numerous aspects of it we have forgotten about: namely the tenderness and warmth of the fall season juxtaposed

with the back-to-school mania.

Raccoon Tour allows me to look back on those memories while also existing in this current state of existence in suspension between two points, with the band validating that space we find ourselves in: an amalgamation of counterculture, as well as "unpretentious Halloween-inspired nostalgia and coming-of-age shenanigans."

So, let's not be a counterfeit copy of ourselves and just embrace this fanatical hodgepodge of a world. In the words of Nathan Burr, "The world sucks. Everything costs way too much money. We're all gonna die someday." It seems like crap hits the fan just about every day; let's mess around and find out.



Joseph Nichols is a staff writer for *Newswire*. He is a junior English and history major from Cincinnati.

## We Require More Than Just Respect *A response to: Respect Requires Real Understanding*

Over the past few weeks, the world has seen a bounty of opinions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Countless takes, informed or otherwise, have been made on the topic, and it feels like every other Instagram story I see is an infographic about the situation in Gaza and Israel. Problematic issues with the compression of massively nuanced information into Instagram stories notwithstanding, I feel it is important to be mindful of how we are voicing our opinions and the implications we implicitly assert within them.

The general point of the article "Respect Requires Real Understanding" is innocuous enough: America must work to heal its political divides on the basis of respect and a mutual understanding with each other. However, the process towards this faulty conclusion is somewhat problematic. The impetus for this discussion is the current events unfolding in the Gaza Strip. This conclusion brings about two issues.

Firstly, the need to contextualize world events in an American lens instead of

separating the conflict into its own light speaks to Western prioritization. Secondly, the conflict itself is nowhere close to the events unfolding in America today.

There is a tendency within the West to take our biases to an extreme point when discussing world events. This tends to create an implicit superiority complex that admittedly many of us — myself included — may not notice. The line "I appreciate living in a country where speech and assembly are protected in the country's Constitution" from the article distracts from the conflict itself and the necessary discussions about them.

We consistently take world events and compare them to America, as the author does. The Troubles, the Yugoslav Wars, the Rwandan Genocide and the Serbian-Austro-Hungarian conflicts are not just mere divides, but rather the endpoints of centuries of nationalism and racism, beliefs in superiority and oppression. They should not be used as examples or correlates of the American political scene because to

do so is to equivocate them. They each deserve their own context of discussion without the Western influences or need to Americanize the problem. We must respect the boundaries of a conflict and strive to understand the deep roots behind them before we rush to compare it to our own situation.

The author of the previous article takes the current conflict out of its own deserving context. The dynamics of the region are not merely what happens "when division is allowed to run rampant," but instead the culmination of centuries of political, social, economic and religious turmoil. There is a stark divide between the degradation of American political discourse and the conflict between Israel and Palestine. There is a difference in reaching across the political aisle and the oppression people in Gaza have experienced. There is a difference between the performative actions of congresspeople to rile up their base and the reality that Israelis deal with everyday fears about terror attacks. These two situations

are not in the same ballpark of discussion. Division does not make a comparison. Israel and Palestine are not treating each other as "inconveniences," but both sides believe they are locked in a war of survival. The prior peace that had been achieved in Palestine did not erode because people lost the ability to have rational political discussions.

There is also the matter of the article's conclusion. The author asserts that the path to political peace for America is upon the road of "challeng(ing) viewpoints" and that we must not let "the disagreement in opinion or ideology... divide or separate our society into an us versus them." This line of reasoning works when you are discussing matters of things like trade or tax policy. However, that's not the case that America is dealing with. The rise of right-wing authoritarianism in elements of the American political system is one of the major causes of the rusting of the American political machine.

You cannot try to find a common ground with a political foe that may not even

assert your right to exist, in the case of transgender people in their fights against many state legislatures. You cannot argue your way out of a discussion with an authoritarian. We can strive for idealistic values of respect and understanding; they have their place in a functioning society. However, limitless tolerance breeds a ground for intolerance, against which we must be vigilant.

History is rife with examples of descents into totalitarianism due to a lack of forceful response used against those wishing to subjugate and bring American democracy to its knees.



Christian Cullen is a staff writer for *Newswire*. He is a junior psychology from Louisville.



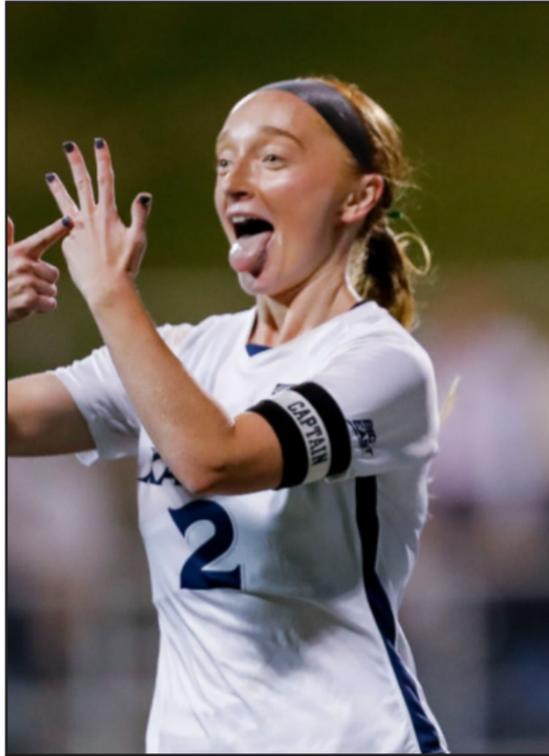
# Regal Regular Seasons for XU Soccer

BY ROBBIE DZIERZANOWSKI  
Staff Writer

Finishing yet another accolade-filled regular season, Xavier men's and women's soccer teams have begun to shift their focus to the Big East Tournament and other postseason opportunities.

Finishing the season as the Midwest Division Champions of the Big East Conference, the Men's team capped off the regular season on the road against Connecticut with a 4-0 blank of the Huskies. The win brought the Musketeers to a whopping 7-3-5 and 4-1-3 in the Big East, subsequently assisting them in capturing the Midwest Division Title. This feat secured the Musketeers the No. 2 seed in the Big East Tournament, which will begin this upcoming weekend on Victory Parkway when the Muskies take on Akron, an affiliate member of the conference for men's soccer, on Saturday.

The men's team began the season at a 2-2-1 non-conference record and marched right along into the conference play, winning two of their first three conference games. They continued their winning fashion for the rest of the season, going 3-0-4 to finish the season at 7-3-5.



Senior defender and team captain Jane Olcott (pictured left) transferred in from Villanova this season to join a Xavier backline that has recorded six consecutive shutouts.

"We feel like we still have a lot left to prove and we hope to bring a Big East championship back to Xavier and then make a deep run in the NCAA tournament," sophomore defender and two-year starter Dylan Kropp (pictured right) said.

As far as the women's side, the nationally-ranked No. 17 Musketeers shutout the Golden Eagles of Marquette

3-0 this past Thursday to finish out their regular season and clinch the No. 1 seed in the Big East Tournament. The stellar end to the season also helped the Musketeers clinch a share of the Big East Regular Season Championship.

The Regular Season Championship share is the second time in the previous three seasons that the wom-

en's team has captured the top spot, with 2022 being the outlier. The Musketeers didn't shy from the competition in 2022 though, finishing only behind Georgetown in the Big East Regular Season last year.

"I think now is the time to show that we are capable of winning the Big East. Then we can move on and focus on the NCAA tournament and

take our talent to the next level," Sophomore winger Regan Dancer said.

The women's team roared to life from the beginning of the season, winning seven of the first nine games to jump to 7-2-0 in the non-conference play. This run included victories over No. 22 Pitt, Louisville and No. 19 Saint Louis.

From the beginning of conference play until the end of the season, the women did not lose a single game, going on a 6-0-4 run to end the regular season at 13-2-4.

"(The) postseason is very important for us as it is our chance to show the Big East and other conferences what we are capable of. We deserve to honor all the work we have put in through our entire season and seal the deal," sophomore goalkeeper Maria Galley said.

"We want no regrets going into the spring and plan to stick to our values and what we know best going into our next big games," Galley added.

The women's team will be back in action when they take on No. 4 seed Providence, who defeated No. 5 seed St John's, at the Maryland Soccerplex in Boyds this Thursday.

Photos courtesy of Xavier Athletics



# NASCAR Revs Up to Make Final Left Turns of 2023

BY JUSTIN MALONE  
World News Editor

After an unusually chaotic nine-race playoff series, the 2023 NASCAR Cup Series championship race is set to roar into full gear this Sunday at Phoenix Raceway.

The final four drivers emerged to vie for the Bill France Cup and a chance to put their names in NASCAR history following a grueling two months of high-stakes playoff racing. Ryan Blaney, Christopher Bell, Kyle Larson and William Byron advanced to the Championship 4 following the Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway last week.

Now with a significant trip to the Valley of the Sun looming for four of NASCAR's most talented drivers, here's a preview of everything to know about each driver fighting for the title and their road to the Championship 4.

### Ryan Blaney (#12)

Blaney enjoyed a breakout 2023 campaign with Team Penske, accelerating himself into the upper echelon of the Cup standings while also snapping a 59-race winless streak during the season. However, he still made the Championship 4 as an underdog, entering the playoffs with only 1 win under his belt in the regular season and



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

number 12 in points.

Blaney established himself as a title contender in the #12 Ford car following a first-to-the-checkered-flag finish at Talladega in the Round of 8.

Blaney had a controversial sixth-place finish in Las Vegas after he was disqualified following a post-race suspension that NASCAR eventually rescinded.

A second-place finish at Homestead-Miami and a win at Martinsville solidified his spot in the Championship 4 for the first time with the largest number of points among the remaining drivers.

### Christopher Bell (#20)

Bell has officially returned to the championship for the second straight year following a win at Homestead-Miami. Though he only emerged victorious at the Bristol dirt race, Bell still torqued up a solid season, finishing with 10 top-5 and 17 top-10 finishes during the year.

Bell has also continued to maintain his reputation for coming through in pressure-packed races throughout the season. The #20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota driver used his extensive driving experience to show impressive resiliency during the race, rebounding from 22nd place after the Stage 2 finish to win the Homestead-Miami race. This year, he seeks to finish better than his third-place podium in 2022.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

### Kyle Larson (#5)

Larson has continued his momentum from the regular season in the playoffs, remaining as one of the fastest cars on the track. The #5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevy driver is the only Championship 4 racer to have ever captured NASCAR's preeminent prize, hoisting the trophy in

2021.

Larson's willingness to take daring risks in races has resulted in four victories this year — two of which are in the playoffs — and a series-best 14 top-5 finishes. However, those same bold moves have also led to seven DNFs, the most among any driver in the championship series. These same strategies will likely be used in the championship race, in which he secured a spot in following a victory at Las Vegas.

### William Byron (#14)

Byron sped into the playoffs with heavy momentum, continuing to show his excellence on the asphalt with a NASCAR series-leading six victories during the course of the season. The #24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevy driver added to his well-rounded resume with wins at intermediate, high tire wear, drafting, and road course tracks, including Phoenix. He has also finished in the top 10 in all but one race during the playoffs.

Despite these wins, Byron had to rely on points to enter the Championship 4. He placed a dismal 13th at Martinsville, which was enough to fend off a strong challenge from 16-time playoff qualifier Denny Hamlin, who just missed the cutoff line for the 2023 playoffs.

# Flock to Birdie's for Quality Coffee

BY OWEN MIGUEL

Guest Writer

I believe it's safe to say that if you are a Xavier student and want coffee, there really are only three options: Starbucks, Victory Perk or the Hoff Dining Commons.

All these options have their merits and faults, and while everyone has their favorite, these few options can get dull after a while. Luckily, there's a new coffee house in Norwood to help boost your mornings.

Birdie's Coffee Co. opened up on Oct. 7 on the corner of Williams Ave. and Forest Ave. and might just be the new hot spot for students and Norwood residents alike.

Before you even walk in, you are greeted by a building that doesn't try too hard to stand out, but still makes you feel welcome and relaxed. It's classic in every sense of the word. Inside, you're greeted by a sleek countertop showcasing their bagels, pastries and coffee machines. The dining area features a

modern interior design style including beautiful artwork, diverse seating and tables and gorgeous leaves hanging from the ceiling.

They also have a pretty patio section on the second floor that overlooks Norwood's breathtaking autumn landscape. The patio is perfect for photoshoots and feeling like you're a main character in a town that just doesn't understand you.

In terms of appearance and overall vibe, Birdie's is the spot to take your friends and relax, but also the spot to sit down and get work done before the day starts.

However, none of the things I just said matter if the coffee and food aren't good.

Birdie's has a wide selection of different coffee styles and flavors and their pastry and bagel selection were diverse too, although I wish there were more cream cheese options.

I got their iced caramel macchiato and a plain bagel with cream cheese, which totaled \$10.47. The macchiato was just what I expected. The caramel and cream were delicious, and the coffee itself was high quality. The bagel was pretty good too and was toasted the right amount. The cream cheese was very delicious.



Newswire photo courtesy of Owen Miguel

I will say that the prices are a tad high, even though the quality of the items are good. This is definitely not a place to go if you are trying to budget. It is also about a 25 to 30 minute walk from campus, which is a bit out of the way unless you have a car.

Even though the look and

feel of the shop are great, these qualities make it hard for me to recommend to students who don't have the means or budget.

However, if neither of these factors are a problem for you, I would have to recommend, and give Birdie's my seal of approval.



Newswire photo courtesy of Owen Miguel

# The Fall of the House of Usher Falls Just Short

BY GRACE HAMILTON

Opinions & Editorials  
Editor

Mike Flanagan makes a stunning return to form in his new series *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Or does he?

With his usual style and engaging way of storytelling, Flanagan introduces the story (based loosely on an Edgar Allan Poe story of the same name) marvelously. It has mystery, it has horror, it has Carla Gugino.

What it may be missing is ensuring that the audience can stay hooked through eight hour-long episodes.

*The Fall* follows the rise and eventual fall of a family's empire: the Ushers, who became the rulers of a pharmaceutical dynasty, eventually find that all their wrongdoings have consequences. These consequences are ex-

hibited fantastically by the harbinger of death, Verna (Carla Gugino of Flanagan's *Haunting of Hill House* fame).

The emperor himself, Roderick Usher (Bruce Greenwood), recounts his sordid history and the events leading to all six of his children's deaths to Auguste Dupin (Carl Lumbly), the man who actively tried to pursue the Ushers in a court of law.

It's a great story — it's just a long one.

Flanagan tells this story through flashbacks — and more flashbacks. By four episodes in, I was a little tired of the tale.

All of this is okay, however, because of how good Mike Flanagan is at telling a story.

He knows how to weave together a compelling narrative, which is only improved because of the immense talents of his casts. He largely uses the same actors for his projects, and it's a genius decision because of the sheer amount of talent in them. For *The Fall*, Flanagan added Mark Hamill to his cast, and it's a decision that pays off many times over.

I can't praise the acting enough. Every time Hamill or Gugino were on the screen, I wanted them to stay on the screen.

It's not necessarily that I was disappointed by a

lack of horror, either — there were good scares accompanied by masterful effects.

While all of Flanagan's projects fall under the genre of horror, not all of them are actually scary. *The Haunting of Hill House* was terrifying, *The Haunting of Bly Manor* was less so and *Midnight Mass* wasn't scary at all. *The Fall* falls somewhere comfortably between *Hill House* and *Bly Manor*.

The effects are good. The acting is great. It's a good story. So why does it still fall kind of flat?

I did enjoy *The Fall of the House of Usher* — don't get me wrong. I like anything that Mike Flanagan does because I think he's good at what he does. I was invested in the story, in the secrets behind what made the Usher family so successful — and so cursed.

I think, however, that the story sometimes got lost in itself. It feels a bit like it had to be stretched out to fill the runtime with unnecessary scenes or scenes that dragged on just a little too long.

Despite my small complaints, it's still good television. Does it fall flat the further you go in? Sure, absolutely. But, it at least makes up for its faults with its visual triumphs and a stunning cast.



Photo courtesy of pxhere.com



BY KYRA HUDSON

Staff Writer

- The *Five Nights At Freddy's* movie was released in theaters (Oct. 27).
- Taylor Swift released *1989 (Taylor's Version)*, with five new songs from the vault (Oct. 27).
- Megan Thee Stallion has teased her new single "Cobra," to be released Nov. 3 (Oct. 27).
- *Friends* star Matthew Perry died at age 54 (Oct. 28).



Photo courtesy of pxhere.com

# Don't Dilly Dally on this XU Alum Band

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS  
Staff Writer

"You have to take advantage of the time and places the universe gives you," recent Xavier graduate Dylan "Dilly" Waters said.

After their college career comes to an end, the majority of college students apply for internships, jobs or graduate school. However, Dilly Waters, a 2023 Xavier graduate, had a different plan. A veteran of Xavier's theater department, Waters has utilized his musical talents to form the band Dilly and the Doves.

Dilly and the Doves was originally a joke proposed during Waters' production of *American Idiot: The Musical* during the Xavier 2021-22 theatre season, but is now where he finds himself after graduation.

"I didn't go to college thinking I would walk out as leader of a band... I wouldn't have expected to be where we are now off of a semi-joke," Waters said.

Waters stated that the band was initially named Milque-toast, but

they did not have the exclusive rights to the band name because it was used by other bands. However, Waters recalled how they reached their current name.

"Throughout college, my best friend Zac always called me Dilly, and I wanted it to stick as a stage name to separate myself from the performer. 'Dilly and the Doves' came as naturally as writing a song. I liked it. The band liked it. And it's been who we are ever since," Waters said.

Although it might have started as a one-off comment, Waters now finds himself as the frontman of the band. Waters said Xavier undoubtedly helped kindle his love of music and showmanship.

"I would say the performer in me has been influenced by many people over my four years at Xavier," Waters said. Waters named Stephen Skiles, Bridget Leak, Nathan Gabriel and Jeremy Dubin in the Xavier music and theatre departments as people who influenced his budding music journey.



Newswire photo courtesy of Nicholas Namyar

Senior Nicholas Namyar (left) helped produce Xavier graduate Dylan "Dilly" Waters' (right) music video for his first single, "Love from Versailles." The song is the first from the alumnus' band, Dilly and the Doves.

Waters, a Cincinnati native, also credits his music roots to the city. "I grew up on the West side of Cincy and moved from home to home for a good portion of my life. In that exposure to many different environments and walks of life, I listened to a lot of different music," Waters said.

The band just released its first single, "Love from Versailles," which can be found on Spotify and YouTube this month.

"Love from Versailles" is a hard song to assign a specific genre to. By definition, it is indie, but it is also a fusion of numerous different styles, sounds and concepts. At its root, though, it is an entertaining piece of music,

designed to get you on your feet and dancing, according to Waters.

The music video, produced by current Xavier students, helped to bolster the song's attitude.

Throughout the music video for "Love From Versailles," Xavier students will recognize Schmidt Hall, Fr. Graham's Labyrinth and stretches of the Academic Mall as different filming locations across campus. "I wanted the video to feel like you were somewhere that looked like Versailles," the music video's director and senior Digital Innovation, Film and Television major Nicholas Namyar stated.

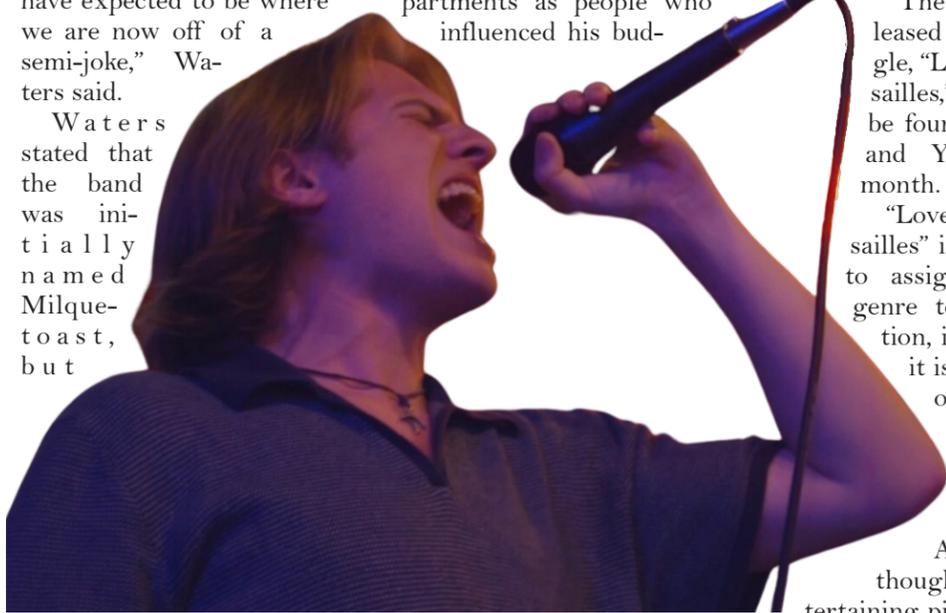
Namyar researched the Palace of Versailles' architecture and looked for similarities across campus. "The little archways between Schmidt and Edgecliff I felt were similar enough to the Palace architecture...I chose the Fr. Graham Labyrinth because it resembles the large labyrinth in front of the Palace," he said.

Waters and Namyar also traveled to the historic Belvedere building to film sections of the music video. The painted, domed ceiling pops while there are quick cuts of Dilly and the female love interest dancing in Edgecliff, helping to create a mental image of the pair dancing in Versailles.

"He's taking her on a journey through the palace of Versailles. That was the concept that struck with (Waters): them frolicking through the palace to match the upbeat and happy song," Namyar said.

Although their first song has been released, Waters doesn't know what's next for the band.

"I'm a pretty spiritual person and nothing makes me feel closer to the divine (or) the universe than writing a song... to tell you what's next would be undercutting that process," Waters said. "It's the muse. It comes and goes as it pleases. I need only listen for when it calls."



Newswire photo courtesy of Nicholas Namyar

# Returning XU Professor Reveals New Poetry

BY MARTY DUBECKY  
Multimedia  
Managing Editor

Last Wednesday, English professor emeritus Dr. Norman Finkelstein took to the podium in McDonald Library to read from and converse about his new poetry collection *Further Adventures*.

Dr. Finkelstein taught English at Xavier starting in 1980 and retired in 2020 to work on his poetry.

Throughout his career, Finkelstein has penned and published 13 books of poetry and six volumes of literary criticism. His most recent work, *Further Adventures*, was published by Cincinnati publisher Dos Madres Press this Sept.

As a part of the Humanities Reading Room series of poetry readings and speakers, Finkelstein was invited back to Xavier to read from his most recent collection and engage in conversation afterwards.

Xavier English professor Dr. Kristen Renzi moderated

the event. She introduced Finkelstein and his work, noting that a longer and more intensive introduction was needed to describe this new collection.

When asked to summarize Finkelstein's work in a sentence or two, she provided her own interpretation.

"Norman's work in these most recent collections has been loosely interested in telling this story about a foundation and the motley crew of characters who live and work within it. And it's a fantastical place," Renzi said.

She explained that this poetry is not typical rhyming, narrative or lyrical poetry. It tells the story of an androgynous character Pascal Wanderlust, who is tasked with putting back in order an abstract, science fictional foundation called the Imminent Foundation.

"A dark, fragmented narrative weirdly illuminated by sudden bursts of lyricism," Finkelstein said when asked to put his own work into words.

According to both Finkel-

stein and Renzi, poetry is difficult to understand, especially contemporary poetry. Both Renzi and Finkelstein spoke on their beliefs regarding the importance of poetry in our university.

"A lot of modern poetry is difficult, and a lot of poetry of any sort is not easily understood upon a first hearing," Finkelstein said. "Studying poetry can be of enormous benefit to all undergraduates, regardless of their major or personal interest. It heightens our awareness of linguistic expression. It gives us a deeper sense of inwardness.

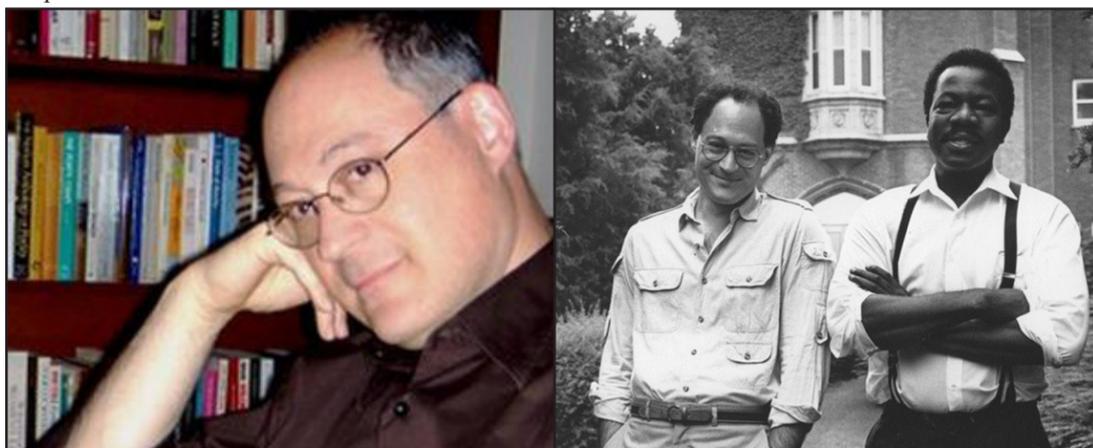
It renews our understanding and appreciation of the world around us."

While suffering humanities departments are on her mind as an English professor, Renzi admitted, she sees the challenge and importance of poetry now more than ever.

"Xavier is also undergoing transformation. What that will mean is yet to be seen. There is worth in holding out space and time in one's life to read the words, ideas, thoughts, emotions and experiences of other people and to take those seriously," Renzi said.

Both Dr. Renzi and Dr. Finkelstein plan to hold more events, poetry readings and conversations as a part of the Humanities Reading Room series. With local publisher Dos Madres Press celebrating its 25th anniversary soon, Renzi and Finkelstein hope to include them in an upcoming event.

As for the near future, Dr. Finkelstein continues to work on new, more lyrical poetry. Dr. Finkelstein announced he will also return to Xavier, teaching a class entitled "Reading Freud" next semester.



Photos courtesy of xavier.edu



**Aries:** It's okay to go feral on Halloween. Just don't let hangxiety get the best of you.



**Taurus:** Did you go out last night? You know it was a Tuesday, right?



**Gemini:** I hope you got the double-header White boy tickets from OSI!



**Cancer:** I know Matthew Perry's death made you sad. Watch some *Friends*.



**Leo:** Stop complaining about being depressed when "lacy" by Olivia Rodrigo is your number one song this week.



**Virgo:** You might need some rot time this weekend after your actions from last weekend.



**Libra:** Do you ever think about dropping out to become Sandra Bullock? No, me neither.



**Scorpio:** I think you should talk to your mom more — once you make peace with the fact that you're turning into her.



**Sagittarius:** Only three weeks until Thanksgiving break. You'll get to eat food that isn't from the Caf!



**Capricorn:** The TikTok tarot card gurlies led us on. This weekend was not life-altering. It was rather uneventful.



**Aquarius:** Listen to the 1989 (*Taylor's Version*) vault tracks again.



**Pisces:** You do have rizz. You just have to believe in yourself. You're hot! Just talk to them!



**WE FELL IN LOVE IN OCTOBER. ALSO BECAUSE OF FARMERSONLY.COM**

# Thanksgiving All the Way

BY HANNAH KREMER, NEWSWIRE INTERN

Thanksgiving gets a lot of disrespect compared to all of the other holidays. As soon as Halloween ends, everyone ignores turkey feasts and family gatherings for a strange man with a white beard who breaks into your house and does the exact opposite of stealing. Additionally, Halloween is just as weird because on any other day, going up to someone's house to beg for candy would get you a free ride in the back of a cop car. In theory, Thanksgiving is perhaps one of the most normal holidays there is. It's a wonder to me why we would ever listen to Christmas music before Thanksgiving, let alone ignore all of the music this holiday has to offer.

For example, who doesn't enjoy reciting the lyrics of "Beans, Greens, Potatoes, Tomatoes" by Sirealz over their Thanksgiving meal? Or listen to the Thanksgiving tracks from Charlie Brown while making hand turkeys? Or just argue about politics with your drunk uncle while "Let's Turkey Trot" by Little Eva plays in the background? We are sleeping on some seriously good music, people.

By playing Christmas music well before December, it feels like we're just trying to speed our way through the end of the year without savoring the two months we have left of 2023. On top of that, who wants to hear "Jingle Bells" in late October all the way until Christmas over and over again every time they go shopping or turn on the radio? I totally respect wanting to be in the holiday spirit. But do we need to broadcast it for everyone to hear? All the time? Mariah Carey can wait to defrost, because while I love "All I Want For Christmas Is You," I will hate the song by the time winter break rolls around.

As a fall lover, listening to Christmas music also feels like we're trying to disregard the fall season. I know my PSL gurlies want to maintain those good autumn vibes no matter how tempting the Christmas season may be. For my favorite time of the year, I want to cherish it for all that it is. I don't want to be mentally transported into a winter wonderland so soon when I barely need a coat for my walk to classes.

This season, let's slow down with our early Christmas traditions and take the time to be grateful for all that we have. Enjoy the company of your family, whatever that may look like for you. Put on Adam Sandler's "Thanksgiving Song" or *Veggie Tales'* iconic "Thankfulness Song Medley." Christmas can wait another month to be enjoyed.



## Let Me Be Holly and Jolly

BY AUDREY ELWOOD, NEWSWIRE INTERN

You wouldn't tell a dying child that they can't celebrate their favorite holiday. The holly, the jolly and all of that wonder that comes only with Christmas — what if I told you that I was that child, and I was dying of final grade stress? Would you still deny me the joy of Christmas? Listening to Christmas music before Thanksgiving hurts no one and greatly benefits others.

What even qualifies as a Christmas song? The category is so incredibly broad and undefined, similar to your waistline after Thanksgiving. I listen to "Glittery" by Kacey Musgraves and Troye Sivan year round. While the lyrics contain references to Christmas trees and snow globes, the subject matter could not be farther from the Christmas motifs sprinkled throughout the song. While a person without class and taste will tell you that this disqualifies the song from year-round happiness, Reds fans don't change their identity in the off-season, so you need to pick your battles.

With seasonal depression nearing the corner, everyone needs something to raise their spirits. While some people will choose actual spirits, I would much rather not be drinking before my 8:00 a.m. classes, so "Jingle Bells" will do.

The Pinterest girls will tell you to romanticize your life. Christmas music will make the most mundane tasks filled with Christmas joy. Getting a package from the Mail Center will feel like running down the stairs on Christmas morning, except, you ordered a disco ball at 2:00 a.m. with money you do not have because your dorm feels like a cold prison (the puke gray walls are not helping, Kuhlman). The Caf chicken will feel like your grandma's rotisserie; both are overcooked and bland, but it will taste like home for once. Life will just be better.

The cynics and grinchers will tell you that listening to Christmas music overshadows Thanksgiving, the holiday of family fights and gluttony. While the holiday is supposed to be about gratitude, it ends up being about an outdoing of who can make the best casserole (spoiler: there is no such thing as a good casserole). What dissolves the stress? Ah, yes, Christmas music. When grandma goes on an incoherent rant about politics, you can pop in your headphones and dream of a time where she is run over by a reindeer.

In a society that judges us for everything, I just want to listen to songs that remind me of a better time. There is no time limit on that. If you want Christmas in July, or in those three weeks between Halloween and Thanksgiving, only God can judge you. Not Hannah Kremer.



**THIS BARBIE ENGAGED IN SOME SERIOUS RETAIL THERAPY FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT TARGET THIS MORNING! SHE JUST WANTED TO FEEL SOMETHING AGAIN.**