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Campus Cleaning Services Rolled Back

Trash collection and other custodial services have been swept away by budget cuts

BY JACKSON HARE
Campus News Editor

Following updates made to cleaning services that have been in effect since Sept. 1, discussion has ensued regarding Xavier's prioritization in the face of budgeting and cost cutting.

On Aug. 30, Office of Physical Plant sent a memorandum that detailed a number of changes that they would be making to cleaning practices and trash collection on campus. According to the memorandum, these changes were necessary to continue providing the best service possible while adhering to new budget constraints.

"We were given our budget for the fiscal year and... in order to meet the budget, we had to reduce some of our expenses," Vice President for Facilities Bob Sheeran said.

Physical Plant reduced its staff, with collection of trash and recycling in private areas being discontinued. Instead, trash will be collected daily from central locations within buildings. Individuals will be responsible for bringing their trash to these locations.

According to Sheeran, an audit was done that identified over 4,000 return receptacles on campus being emptied every day, requiring a great deal of labor on a campus with two and a half million square feet. He feels cutting back on the amount of receptacles is a sensible solution.

"This is what I do at my house. I don't have wastebaskets in every bedroom, in the family room and in the kitchen. I've got something in the bathroom, I've got something in the kitchen, and when I get finished, I just go there and

dispose of it," Sheeran said. "I'd be hard pressed to see if any of these changes will impact people's day-to-day lives," he continued.

According to Associate Professor of Sustainability and Global Cultures History at Xavier Dr. Suparna Chatterjee, this is indicative of a bigger issue.

"Cleanliness practices have cultural and political resonance," she said. "In fact, the history of sanitation and disease in colonial Africa and Asia shows that cleanliness infrastructures were often strategically installed to reproduce entrenched social hierarchies. In this sense, what gets to be 'clean' and what remains 'unclean' are issues related to power and privilege," Chatterjee continued.

During University Convocation on Oct. 11, administration announced that they will be hiring an outside consultant to address the budget deficit and to make Xavier more fiscally sustainable. This involves cutting wasteful spending.

With respect to changes seen as a result of this initiative, Chatterjee suggested that it is telling of the university's priorities during a time of financial uncertainty.

"Within postcolonial literature, management of garbage has everything to do with societal priorities and commitments. Indeed, lack of cleanliness infrastructures have often signaled a coming of crisis — a sign of social and political brittleness. In a similar vein, at an institutional level, when trash becomes visible it appears to portend a certain crisis that is yet to come," she said.

Recognizing this priori-



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

A memorandum sent in August detailed changes to custodial services by Physical Plant due to cuts to the department's budget. For example, professors must now remove their garbage instead of having it picked up.

tization, Sheeran added that within Physical Plant's budget, cleaning services are by far the largest expense, making it an easy target for budget cuts.

"I think often, facilities are kind of a low hanging fruit when you're at an institution of higher education... President Hanycz talked about the transformation process. We're gonna be looking at all aspects of the university to try and squeeze out the waste, and we're totally supportive of that... At the end of the

day, we're all here to support the students. And if we're just spending money picking up garbage that doesn't need to be picked up every day, that isn't serving students. I don't think it's too much to ask," he said.

"The roll back of cleaning services evidenced in uncollected trash, unclean bathrooms, stained carpets in offices and elevators and the stench in hallways are all part of what might be called the 'geography of crisis,'" Chatterjee said.

"While not intentional, the lack of cleanliness practices can signal neglect and devaluation. Indeed, if it becomes part of our everyday experience, it can become a sign of institutional fragility and instability. In short, cleaning practices are important. Growing up, I have heard that 'cleanliness is godliness.' By that token, Xavier must address the issue of cleanliness not only as a matter of cost cutting but as a matter of morale, care, and love for its community," Chatterjee said.

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Staff writer Joseph Nichols names his definitive best meals at campus restaurants.



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FC Cincinnati wins their first playoff game and looks forward to the conference semifinal.



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Priscilla fails to meet expectations and is labeled one-dimensional by one reviewer.



Caf Chef Reflects on Life of Service

Larry Ward discusses the intersection of his military service and time at Xavier

BY BEN DICKISON
Sports Editor

One of the first people a Xavier student sees when entering the Hoff Dining Commons is a jubilant cook, Larry Ward, serving at the gluten free station.

On Veteran's Day last Friday, Walnut Hills and Blue Ash both held citywide celebrations including parades and art exhibitions. As a veteran, Ward gratefully welcomes these honors, but simplified his decision to serve as a desire "to travel and see things from another perspective."

Ward has worked for Xavier Dining for 33 years, but has been cooking since he was nine years old. He earned an apprenticeship after graduating from the Army Food Service Specialist Course in 1984. He worked in administrative roles, ordering food for battalions and bases he lived on and also prepared meals for his fellow troops.

"I do a lot of soul cooking and Italian cooking," Ward said of his cooking prowess, "but if I have the time to sit down and study it, I can do anything you want."

As a homage to the three years and nine months he

spent in Hawaii, he hosted a luau for students in the cafeteria, then located in Cintas Center.

Ward dutifully fulfilled the roles of Food Service Specialist, Personnel Records Specialist, Administrative Specialist and ADA Chaparral Missile Crewmember over an illustrious 21-year career that saw him cross the pond to serve in Germany and Egypt.

Perhaps one of the most vivid recollections Ward has is from his time in Korea.

"I served at Fort Stanton, about 15 kilometers from the DMZ (demilitarized zone on the border of North and South Korea)," he said.

He remembers communicating with North Korean soldiers: "They didn't understand us and we didn't understand them, but they didn't want to be there and we certainly didn't want to be there either. So we'd point across and share a cigarette."

Ward, who shipped off to basic training when he was 19 years old, found a deeper appreciation for the American experience during his deployments abroad.

"There were no opportunities for a lot of people there to live their lifestyle. People have no freedom of speech. In

some places, a woman cannot walk beside a man down the street. It's really just a liberty thing," he said, reflecting on the differences between domestic life in places such as Egypt, Korea and Germany.

During his tenure, Ward earned the Army Commendation Medal, which recognizes consistent acts of heroism and meritorious ser-

vice.

In addition, he earned the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal four times over, the National Defense Service Medal, two NCO Professional Development Ribbons, an Army Service Ribbon and two Overseas

Service Ribbons.

He also earned the rank of both Sharpshooter and Marksman when serving in a non-combat role.

Ward served domestically in Hawaii, at Fort Bliss in Texas, Fort Stanton in Georgia and in Saint Louis for the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC).

His duties ranged from recruitment and record keeping for retired veterans at CPAC to being part of a battalion in Fort Stanton.

As Ward reflects back on his life of service, both in the capacity of the Army and Xavier Dining Services, he notes, "It's all been an absolute privilege. It's an achievement, but it's also a learning experience. In my case, I got the chance to get away from home. Now meeting with students and laughing and sharing stories makes my day, every day."

From how to prepare the perfect slice of crispy bacon, to how to cultivate a sense of gratitude for American life to how to serve at the highest level of honor and valor, Ward has granted the Xavier community a surplus of lessons and blessings for over three decades.

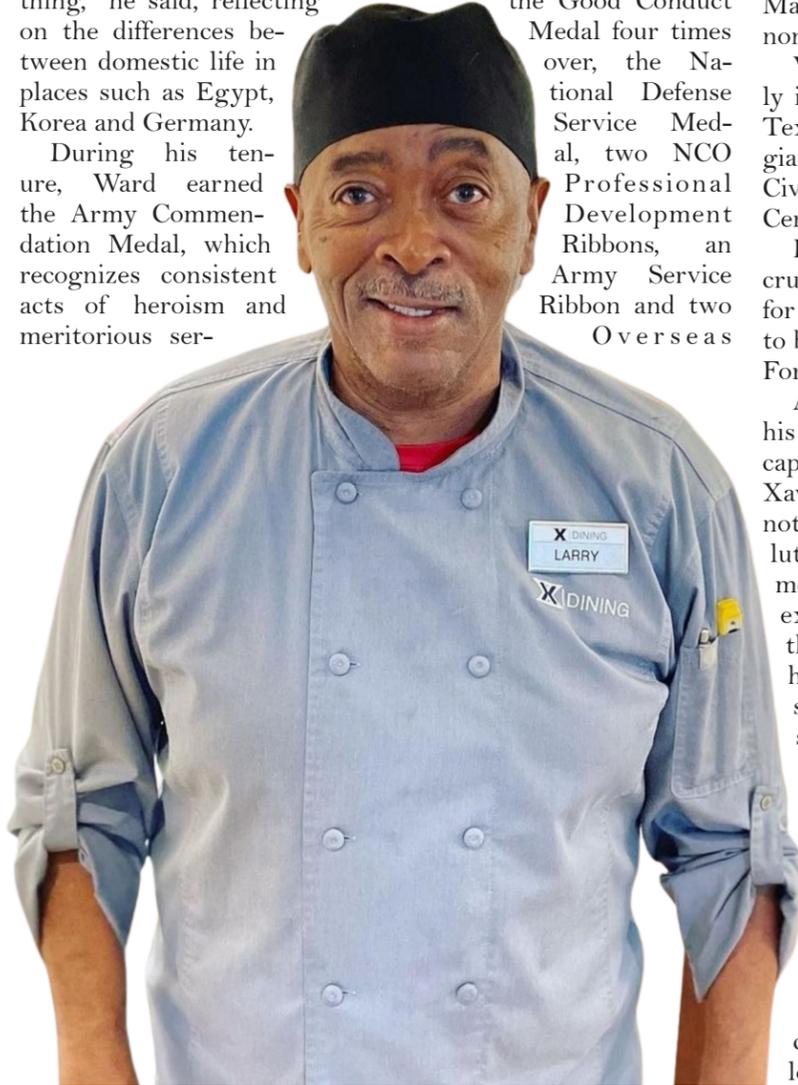


Photo courtesy of @xavierdining via Instagram

Campus Dining Review: Best Food on the Menu

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

One of the most common complaints raised at Xavier is the lack of on-campus dining. In my humble opinion, the amount of options is fine, you just have to know which meals are the most cost-effective and when to strike.

Burger 513: Caesar Wrap

After pumping iron at the Health United Building (HUB) from open to close, sometimes I feel a little rumbly in the tummy. For this, the Caesar wrap is essential.

The

TikTok girlies were right: Caesar wraps are good, and at only \$7, they are one of the most inexpensive meals on campus.

The cost-effective nature of the Caesar wrap combined with how quickly they are prepared helps its case for potentially the best all-around meal on campus. The choice of grilled or fried chicken in the wrap gives it a level of variability, but those house-made croutons hit the spot no matter how

minds me of *The Hangover* trilogy, and I don't know why. I'd highly recommend the chicken for protein, and paired with the cilantro lime rice, slivered almonds and peanut sauce, you are left with a beautiful, nutty creation. Heed my warning, though. At \$12, Bangkok bowls are the most boom or bust option. It is more expensive compared to the other three alternatives on this list, but it has such an immense upside.

The entire meal is dependent on when you go. After a basketball game is an absolute no-go. Aside from the line outside Currito rivaling the Great Wall of China, you'll most likely receive small portions not worth the \$12 price tag. Weekdays a little bit before dinner is the best time to go; the workers will typically give you unparalleled portions that make for an extraordinarily filling meal on campus.

Jersey Mike's: Chipotle Chicken Cheese Steak

You can't go wrong with da' Mike's, as I like to say. The chipotle chicken cheese steak is a certifiable classic, but do be warned that the hot subs take a few minutes longer. If you are in the dinner rush, a



Photo courtesy of @xavierdining via Instagram

cold sub is vital to getting in and out quickly.

At around \$8-\$15 depending on the sub size, Jersey Mike's does lean a bit into the more expensive food range when compared to other on-campus dining options, but the subs are solid nonetheless.

Absurd Bird Ghost Kitchen: Fried Chicken Sandwich with Comeback Sauce

Absurd Bird is criminally underrated on campus. Although the Mr. Beast Burger has yet to make an appearance, the ghost kitchen gets props for its late hours. Say you're coming back from a Friday

adventure and you've got the hungries. Pop in an order on the mobile app and pick it up in just a few minutes. With the ghost kitchen closing at 2 a.m., Absurd Bird is absolutely prime in the wee hours of the morning.

The fried chicken sandwich is on par with Chick-fil-a and the Comeback sauce rivals Cane's sauce. Yes, you heard me right. I don't know what Walter White at Absurd Bird concocted with this savory sauce, but it is the bomb. At \$6, the fried chicken sandwich is by far the safest bet, and the \$1 for comeback sauce is worth every penny.

the chicken is prepared. Additionally, if you put an order when Yonas Semere is working, he will absolutely load you up with a wrap fit for a king.

Currito: Bangkok Bowl with Protein of Choice

Yes, yes, yes. Something about the Bangkok Bowl re-



Newsline photo courtesy of Joseph Nichols

St. X and XU Announce Partnership

BY AUDREY ELWOOD
Newswire Intern

Xavier has introduced a direct admissions program with St. Xavier High School (St. X).

Within this partnership, any graduate of St. X in good academic standing will be automatically admitted to Xavier with a \$1,831 scholarship, recognizing Xavier and St. X's founding year of 1831.

St. X is an all-boys Jesuit high school in Cincinnati that was once a part of Xavier. They split into separate institutes in 1934. Of St. X graduates, 99% attend college, with a majority attending the University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University and Miami University.

This new partnership will

create opportunities for St. X students seeking higher education, according to St. X President Tim Reilly.

"This is a historic agreement, providing each and every St. X graduate with the immediate opportunity for an excellent college path, including scholarship dollars to support their next step," Reilly said.

"It is a testament to the hard work that each of our students puts forward academically, spiritually and morally, every day through their high school efforts," he continued.

Xavier President Colleen Hanycz agreed, citing St. X students' commitment to the Jesuit values.

"This agreement offers the young men at St. Xavier High School an opportunity to continue their Jesuit tradition through

college. Guided by Jesuit values and through our very long histories together, we know St. X students to be young men of rigorous academic preparation who show care in their support of each other and those around them."

Meanwhile, this decision has sparked controversy among Xavier's student body. Senior biology major Millie Hinds points specifically at the demographics of St. X and how this will impact diversity at Xavier.

"I could see it being more, you know, they want more men on campus. But men have been on campus for a long enough time," Hinds said. "If you want to hold the fact that we want to push women into STEM — we want to push women into the business field — having more women on college campuses does that for you."

First-year marketing major and St. X graduate Will Sicking suggests this decision will be inconsequential to St. X graduates' chances of admission.

"I think there won't be much of an impact really. I think most of the guys at St. Xavier's that want to go to Xavier would be able to get into here on their own," Sicking said. "I do think there's a lot of diversity (at St. X) and I do think I saw some people saying like, 'oh, it's just they're giving handouts to rich candidates.' It's definitely not one of those."

Speculating on the reason behind the decision, Hinds suggests this may be related to the university's budget deficit.

"I know that the schools are having some financial troubles recently and

they've been making some very questionable decisions," she said. "I think that it's a good idea in the short run to try and get some more money for the school by auto-admitting St. X boys for a wealthier demographic than most and they would pay tuition."

Sicking suggests this is more so an attempt to increase admissions generally.

"I personally just think that it's kind of a marketing campaign to get more kids to look into Xavier because we had a lot of kids go to SEC schools, to Dayton and Miami of Ohio, so I think it's just gonna get more kids," he said.

The direct admission program will begin in Fall 2024 with the St. X class of 2024 being the inaugural class of the partnership.

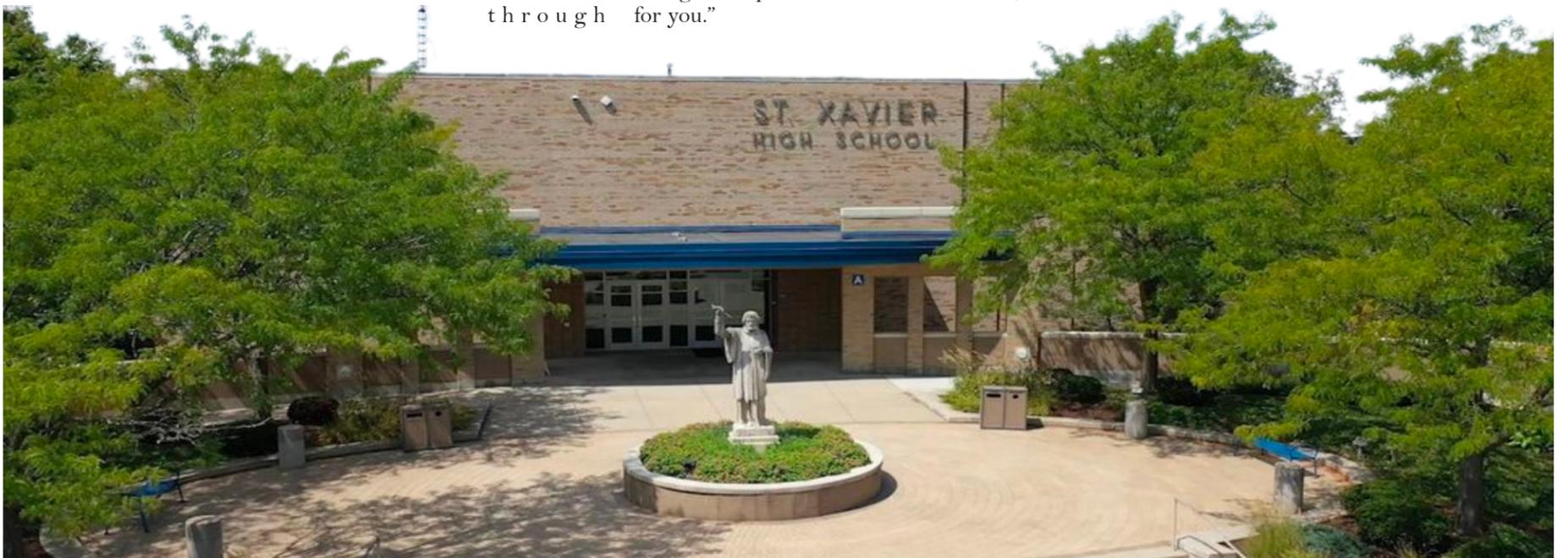


Photo courtesy of St. Xavier High School via Facebook

Xavier Caf's-giving Preview

BY JACKSON HARE
Campus News Editor

This Thursday, Xavier students will celebrate a beloved annual campus tradition at the Hoff Dining Commons: Caf's-giving.

During the Caf's usual dinner time, students will be served traditional Thanksgiving cuisine to celebrate the holiday prior to students leaving for break.

Here's what food items you will find on the menu:

Herb Roasted Turkey Breast

Of course, a staple of a Thanksgiving meal, you will be able to enjoy herb and gar-

lic roasted turkey breasts. You may also choose to top it off with some delectable gravy.

Cornbread Stuffing

Obviously, you'll need some sides to go with the main dish. Of the variety of sides, you can enjoy a serving of cornbread stuffing.

Mashed Potatoes

Ah, mashed potatoes. The versatile vegetable. Fried, boiled, baked or mashed, potatoes ought to make their way onto your plate this Thursday.

Green Bean Casserole

Another common side dish for a typical Thanksgiving dinner, green bean casserole will certainly delight your taste buds with creamy mush-

room soup contrasted by the crunch of fried onions.

Candied Yams

Add a sweet and sugary burst of flavor to your Caf's-giving. Enjoy some sliced sweet potatoes and apples.

Side Dips

As you fill your plate, it would be wise to save some space for the spinach artichoke or creamy buffalo dip to round out your flavorful meal.

Ultimately, it is certain students will be leaving — or perhaps rolling out of — the Caf this Thursday with bellies full of Thanksgiving staples.



November 13, 2023
Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY JUSTICE DICKEY

- Fr. Eric Sundrup addressed the restructuring of the Center for Faith and Justice and announced Colleen Ryan Mayrand as the new director.
- Sen. Noelle Delumpa introduced a motion to approve the revised Board of Election code as presented by President of the Student Government Board of Elections Cheyenne Schick. The vote has been scheduled for next week.
- Sen. Jordyn Horne and the Student Organizations Committee made a motion to officially recognize Buffalo Club, Students Demand Action and Minorities in Business as full-status clubs as their conditional period has ended.
- Representatives from X-treme Fans spoke about bringing back the Crosstown Campout. President of X-treme fans Caden Seraphine outlined the steps and precautions planned to ensure that the event will be enjoyable for all involved and creates a greater sense of community among Xavier students and organizations.

Ohioans Vote on Issues and Candidates

Issues targeting reproductive rights, marijuana, and selling the Cincinnati Southern Railway pass

BY LUCA FILIGENZI
Staff Writer

Voters across the state of Ohio voted in a statewide general election on Nov. 7, making their voices heard on controversial ballot measures and candidate races. Proposals to enshrine reproductive rights in the state constitution and legalize marijuana were approved, with some Republicans joining Democrats to pass these measures.

With the passing of Issue 1, the “Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion Initiative,” access to reproductive healthcare will now be enshrined in the state constitution, with 56.6% of voters casting their ballots in favor of the amendment. Ohio has now become the seventh state that has legalized access to abortive services since *Roe v Wade* was overturned last year. Ohio was the only state to consider a statewide abortion rights amendment this year.

The new amendment assures the right to “make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions,” which applies to abortions performed before the point of fetal viability and to protect the health of the mother, as well as contraception and fertility treatment. Those rights will officially be placed in the state constitution 30 days from its passing.

First year Philosophy, Politics and the Public (PPP) major Megan Cooper discussed Issue’s 1 passing, stating, “My initial reaction was relieved... overall the people spoke their opinion on reproductive rights and the ability for women to make their own decisions.”

Republican legislators in the state have now discussed ways to combat the passage of the proposed amendment, with talks of allowing the Ohio General Assembly to have the sole authority to implement Issue 1. Draft legislation that has emerged in the Ohio legislature from some Republican members following the election would “immediately dismiss” all lawsuits or claims in court and would “vacate” all decisions made by a court.

Issue 2, the “Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol Initiative,” passed with 57% of the vote in favor. Ohio will be the 24th state to legalize recreational marijuana. The law protects the sale and purchase of up to 2.5 ounces of recreational marijuana for Ohio residents 21 years of age and over at a 10% sales tax.

Employers still retain the right to drug tests and are entitled to create drug-free workplaces, and the wording of this amendment may be changed in the upcoming weeks before it becomes a part of the Ohio constitution on



Photos courtesy of flickr.com

Dec. 7.

Voters in the city of Cincinnati also cast their votes on several additional issues, including the controversial Issues 22 and 24. Issue 22 decided whether or not the city would sell the Cincinnati Southern Railway to Norfolk Southern for \$1.6 billion. With 51.6% saying “yes” to 48.4% saying “no,” the issue passed.

Issue 24 proposed an income tax increase that would allocate funds for affordable housing. With a vote of 69% against the income tax, this issue did not pass.

City voters also voted for all nine members of the City Council. Council Members are elected at large, meaning all nine members are elected to serve the same jurisdiction. Candidates run for election to all nine seats every two years, with the top nine vote getters winning two-year terms.

This year there were 10 candidates, and current Council Member and the only endorsed Republican to run, Liz Keating, was the only candidate to lose. Keating won 3,774 fewer votes than the ninth place finisher, Seth Walsh, which was the great-

est gap between two consecutively-ranked candidates in the race.

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney received the most votes in the election, earning 11.06% of the vote, or 54,000 total votes from citizens who participated in the election.

Several Xavier students worked on City Council campaigns. Sophomore PPP major Margie Allerie worked on the Keating Campaign and stated, “We did a lot of different things... I got my chance to work on and review some communications from the campaign to the voters.”

Mexican Congress Holds UFO Session Over Mummies

BY ISAIAH MIESLE
Guest Writer

The Mexican Congress heard testimony from researchers on Nov. 7 who declared a set of recently discovered three-fingered Peruvian mummies as potential evidence of extraterrestrial life during their second session regarding unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

In the hearing, the Chamber of Deputies spent three hours listening to Mexican journalist and UFO enthusiast José Jaime Maussan and several scientists who argued that the mummies were authentic, once-living organisms. The scientists did not discuss whether the mummies had any extraterrestrial origins.

In the latest session,

Maussan did not rule out the possibility of potential extraterrestrial origins. More studies came out before the hearing claiming evidence pointed to the two specimens as being non-human life forms. “None of the scientists say (the study results) prove that they are extraterrestrials, but I go further,” Maussan said.

“There was absolutely no human intervention in the physical and biological formation of these beings,” Roger Zuniga, an anthropologist at San Luis Gonzaga National University in Peru, said. He, along with other researchers at the university, had done experiments on five similar specimens over several years after the discovery of the bodies.

During the hearing, Zuniga presented a letter to the Mex-

ican lawmakers declaring the same stance from these previous studies, which was signed by 11 researchers from the university.

Argentine surgeon Celestino Adolfo Piotto also testified during the hearing, claiming after reviewing the test results and images of the bodies that they were “our descendants” and an evolved version of human beings.

Dr. Daniel Mendoza showed pictures of the bodies and x-rays of what he claimed was a “non-human being” similar to the bodies in the case and argued that they were a “new species” that did not contain lungs or ribs.

Maussan previously appeared in the Chamber of Deputies on Sept. 13, when he presented the specimens during an unprecedented congressional session on UFOs, which garnered international criticism for featuring a spectacle already debunked by the scientific community. Skeptics pointed to studies on similar remains that concluded the specimens were modified using animal and human bones.

Maussan claimed that the bodies, which were believed to have been found near Peru’s ancient Nazca lines around 2017, were “non-human beings that are not part of our



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

On Nov. 7, the Chamber of Deputies in Mexico heard testimony from UFO enthusiasts and researchers about the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

terrestrial evolution.”

The two mummies, displayed in cases during the session, were shown to have three fingers on each hand and elongated heads. Maussan said that they were about 1,000 years old and were analyzed through carbon dating conducted by Mexico’s National Autonomous University. Similar findings in the past have turned out to be the remains of mummified children. This case happened just two months after the U.S. Congress had a report about a UFO sighted by NASA.

Back in 2017, Maussan presented similar findings to a Peruvian court, but the country’s prosecutors said the alien corpses were “recent-

ly manufactured dolls, which have been covered with a mixture of paper and synthetic glue to simulate the presence of skin.”

Lawmaker Sergio Gutiérrez Luna from the governing Morena Party said that he hoped the hearings of UFOs would be the first of many other events in Mexico. He also said that the country was left with thoughts, worries and a way to carry on the conversation about the matter. He also called for a reform to Mexico’s lawmaking to make all the information about UFOs public.

“All ideas and all proposals will always be welcome to debate them, hear them to agree with or not,” he stated.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Cincinnati Women Elected to Local Offices

City councilmembers and judge share their campaign experiences and goals for office

BY KAYLA ROSS
Back Page Editor

The Ohio Secretary of State's office reported that around 3.9 million state residents voted in last week's election, nearly setting a record high for an odd-year election. In this high turnout year, Cincinnati voters elected several women to local offices.

Public defender and clinical professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law Samantha Silverstein was elected as Hamilton County's District 4 municipal judge last Tuesday. District 4 includes Norwood, Fairfax, Newtown and Anderson Township.

Before running for municipal judge of District 4, Silver-

stein worked at Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio. She currently serves as a director of the Law Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender. Her experiences in these roles inspired her to run for public office, especially in advocating for others.

"My experiences have been in advocating for people facing domestic violence, eviction and other crimes. I have an intimate knowledge of how these decisions affect people's ability to prosper and succeed, and this can affect the prosperity of the whole community," Silverstein said.

Silverstein was the only candidate in Hamilton County to run against an incumbent for municipal court judge. Sil-

verstein shared the challenges she faced throughout the campaign experience.

"I had to think about if I looked judicial or what I was wearing in a way male colleagues don't," Silverstein stated.

Anna Albi, the current local group lead for Moms Demand Action in Cincinnati, was elected as one of nine City Council Members. Albi was the only candidate who was not an incumbent. Her past experiences in gun violence advocacy influenced her platform.

"We've just experienced a mass shooting involving kids. I've already started discussions with the Mayor and the Vice Mayor around additional gun safety legislation. We passed two gun safety ordinances earlier this year," Albi stated.

"In addition to legislation, I think we should talk about the response and support for survivors after a shooting takes place. We have to look at what resources we are providing for survivors of all ages and make sure people have access to mental health resources and grief counseling," she said.

Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney was one of eight incumbents to be elected to keep their City Council seat, earning 11.06% of the total vote during the election.



Photo courtesy of Kayla Ross

Kearney looks to continue and expand upon her priorities in her second full term on City Council, especially in regard to improving community safety throughout Cincinnati.

"I want us to focus on significantly decreasing gun violence — which includes passing gun sense legislation — initiating trauma-informed policy to deal with the violence that plagues our communities, creating more opportunities for our youth, pushing for equitable opportunities for our women-owned and minority-owned businesses so that they can grow and prosper and increasing affordable homeownership and housing," the Vice Mayor said.

Kearney shared some of her takeaways from the cam-

aign experience as a woman.

"Stacy Abrams challenged women to have the 'audacity to say yes' when the opportunity to serve in elected office arises. I was one of those women. I was reluctant to serve on the City Council when asked to fill a vacant seat in 2020. I had no experience in politics, but I decided to have the audacity to say yes," Kearney said.

"When I joined Cincinnati City Council, there was only one other woman. She was a Republican, and I'm a Democrat, and she had just taken her seat one week before I did. We bonded. Although we were on opposite sides of the aisle, we found common ground. Women are like that — we are collaborative," she continued.



Photo courtesy of Keep Kearney on Council

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney was reelected to the Cincinnati City Council. She plans to continue her work in decreasing city gun violence.



Gold toilet thefts, pink ponds, missing plane windows, lost tool bags in space & studies on secrets

BY GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

Four men were charged with the theft of an 18-carat gold toilet from Blenheim Palace in England — the mansion where British wartime leader Winston Churchill was born. The toilet, valued at \$5.95 million and titled "America," is an art piece by Italian conceptual artist Maurizio Cattelan created as a satirical commentary on excessive wealth in the U.S. (Nov. 6).

A pond in Hawaii's Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge mysteriously turned fluorescent pink in a bizarre phenomenon. Scientists say that the pond is likely pink from the area's recent drought conditions. The lack of water has made the salinity of the pond habitable by halobacteria, giving the water its pink color (Nov. 10).



Photo courtesy of flickr.com



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Investigators at the U.K.'s Air Accident Investigation Branch have revealed the cause of a U.S.-bound plane departing from London in October with four damaged window panes, including two that were completely missing. The missing windows were not discovered by flight crew members until the plane, an Airbus A321, was climbing at 13,000 feet and passengers stated the cabin seemed colder and louder than normal. No one was injured by the window malfunctions, which appeared to have been caused by high-powered lights during a film shoot (Nov. 10).

NASA announced that a tool bag worth \$100,000 is now floating in space after two astronauts inadvertently lost the items during a spacewalk around the International Space Station on Nov. 1. Astronauts Jasmin Moghbeli and Loral O'Hara spent six hours and 42 minutes outside the station on a spacewalk replacing a bearing and removing a handling bar fixture before noticing that the bag eluded them. The bag is now floating about 250 miles above Earth (Nov. 12).

A Columbia University study has found that keeping secrets can be "energizing" to individuals, as long as the news is positive. The study involved roughly 4,000 participants in five different experiments, mainly focusing on giving individuals good secrets and asking participants if they would keep them private or share with others (Nov. 13).

Obsolete? Smell My Feet!

As the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas approaches, it is once again the regifting time of year. If you are anything like me, you have either given or received a well-intentioned gift that turned out to be a curse in disguise. One such instance that I can recall was that of my first laptop. It was gifted to me during Christmas, and it served me throughout the later half of my high school years. Beyond that, the computer started to fail me, eventually resulting in my purchase of another laptop.

One might suggest that this is because I did not take proper care of my laptop, or that it is the natural course of technology. Both of these objections have some truth to them, but the second objection is of particular interest to me. My old computer parts were soldered, meaning that they were fixed and non-modular. For devices — especially mobile devices like laptops with their battery restrictions — it is not uncommon to have soldered parts that cannot be removed or exchanged.

What this lack of modu-

larity leads to is a device that is eventually outpaced by the demands of modern technology. This takes the choice away from the consumer to upgrade their devices on their own. This in turn forces the consumer to pay for practically the same product at a dramatically increased price.

This is the natural extension of the product policy of planned obsolescence. The policy of planned obsolescence revolves around the idea of creating a purposefully frail or artificially limited product that will eventually become obsolete, forcing the consumer to buy more in the long run. Long-running examples of planned obsolescence can be found in the auto and electric industries.

Both cars and lightbulbs were found to last too long and failed to bring back returning customers. Cars, like those of the early Ford Model-T, were supposed to be work horses which lasted for long periods of time. Eventually, most families that could afford cars purchased them, which created an issue for Ford and their competitor, General Electric.

This issue was solved by General Electric, who partnered with the paint company Dupont to create cars of various colors to make consumers feel as though older models were obsolete.

Through this method, which General Electric called dynamic obsolescence, car companies and those that copied them were able to ensure that customers kept returning to them for new products. This form of obsolescence did not depend on the breakdown of the old car, but rather on the advertising of the new car. This method is something still seen in the modern car industry, as similar products are sold each year with marginal differences or new gimmicks in order to make the consumer feel as though the car they already purchased had become obsolete.

Even more malicious than the auto markets' planned obsolescence is the electric industries' planned obsolescence. Similar to the auto industry, lightbulbs in the 1920s were increasing in lifespan. Though many companies across the world realized that

they would have an issue if they continued in the direction of increasing the lifespan of lightbulbs, instead of working towards the benefit of society, the electric companies reversed the technology to force the consumer to purchase more of their product.

The tendency of technology to advance only to a point where it can be profitable is a common occurrence. In some ways it is as though the point of technology — to better human life — is entirely incompatible with the capitalist nature of open markets.

Planned obsolescence is often the result of monopolistic or oligarchical control of markets combined with general unawareness. The way to combat the power of centralization of markets and the uninformed nature of the public on technology is to educate. It is therefore important to recognize the value of the idea behind the right to repair movement.

The right to repair is a heavily debated topic in many states as a result of the greedy actions of companies like Apple and Microsoft. It

argues for giving consumers the option between repair and the purchase of a new product, rather than forcing them to do the latter.

Though the greed of society may weigh heavy on you after reading this article, remember that it is not evil to participate in the market. You should make sure that you participate in the market responsibly, however, as there are always those looking to exploit you.



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Swish or Swait: The Lowdown on B-Ball Lines

It is everyone's favorite time of year again: Xavier basketball season — nights spent in Cintas going absolutely crazy when Desmond Claude brings home another dunk, roaring every student chant, throwing confetti in the air.

We got a new hype up video, Xavier has an absolutely stacked out-of-conference lineup and the good times are starting to roll at this point in the semester. However, all of this comes at the expense of our school days, because for the third year in row, the lines for the basketball games are beyond insane, in spite of attempts to finally tame it.

I had seen the recent emails about the "Blob's Block Party," and felt there was a ray of hope. Finally, the line would be solved. Instead of waking up at 8 a.m. for an 8 p.m. game, I could just show up at the

block party a few hours before the game starts. As I walked to a 2 p.m. class, knowing that wristbands would be passed out when the party started at 4 p.m., I saw a small line forming, but still felt solid about getting a spot. After my class ended an hour later, the line went from right by the doors to around the corner and halfway down the R2 lot. I won't say that the wristbands have not helped a bit with the line crushes that have occurred in the past — such as before the game against Indiana last year — but there are still some issues to iron out.

One major thing I noticed is that people with a wristband get to go to the front, even if they show up after the doors open. Admittedly, I did not get a wristband for the game against Jacksonville. It was still quite annoying to go to the back, slowly make

my way toward the door and just have someone who got a wristband skip to the front. If you are not at the doors when they open, you should not get the benefits of having a wristband.

Secondly, X-treme Fans should institute a system where if you are waiting for a wristband — say more than 30 minutes before the block party officially starts — then you do not get a wristband. It'll make it so that people are no longer mass skipping class for the hope of getting a good spot in line.

The wristband system has been tried before, only to be abandoned pretty quickly after the West Virginia game. It seems odd that they would revert back to a system that seemingly did not work just last year. One idea that did seem to work somewhat well is that you could reserve your

place in line when you got your ticket depending on your place in the Top 500. This system could certainly bear to see a return with some likely reworks. Whatever the case, it is going to be a big year for Xavier basketball — it is important that they get the line right.

This weirdness of the wristbands has led to a deeper concern: the Crosstown Shootout. As a junior, I will only ever have one Crosstown game on campus: this year. When I was a first year, we were sent home early for break, so not very many people in the senior and junior classes went to the game. I am very worried about the chances for the upperclassmen who deserve to be in the student section for their only Crosstown game. I would rather not have to miss class, but I also now have to deal with

people getting in line for the wristbands at all hours of the morning.

I will not claim to have a full solution to the line. It will likely always be an issue that Xavier students have to grapple with. But there has to be something that is equitable while also not necessitating that we all have to skip class to see our beloved Muskies play the great sport of basketball.



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Abstinence Sometimes Is the Answer

Like a liberty bell ringing in my ear, I'm told to vote, to tell my friends to come to the student center to vote and even to drive friends to the polls every Tuesday on which an election falls. It's one of the most beautiful social behaviors that we have constructed — voting. But there is merit in voting only if one has taken the time to properly educate themselves on the impactful choices in their hands and the ramifications that the passing — or lack thereof — of a proposal will have.

I'm biased, yes, and maybe a little salty, as the kids say these days; I canvassed for the "Yes for Truly Affordable Housing" campaign organized by Cincy Action for Housing Now. Cincy Action for Housing Now is the group behind a proposed City Charter amendment called as Issue 24 on ballots within Cincinnati city limits. Issue 24, had it passed, would have simply put a tax levy on the 2024 ballot to raise the City Earnings Tax from 1.8% to 2.1%. This would fill the Cincinnati Affordable Housing Trust Fund with \$50 million more per year in an effort to provide rent assistance, mortgage assistance and fund more affordable housing as needed

by those most affected by the inequities and gentrification stemming from the revitalization of Over-the-Rhine.

A concerning theme emerged as I spent over 50 hours venturing from door to door and working the polls on Nov. 7: Damn near every person I spent time with was slow to emphasize the research and discernment a voter should take on before casting a ballot. Not only this, but they were lightning quick to make assumptions regarding legislation they either had only heard about from my pitch or heard nothing about at all.

On multiple occasions while canvassing for Issue 24, I was met with the question, "Is it liberal?"

I responded on each occasion with something along the lines of, "It's very progressive in that-," only completing about half of my sentence before the voter had made their decision.

I remember specifically one individual cutting me off at that point, quipping, "Progressive is all I needed to hear. When it comes to supporting progressive legislation, I'm like Flo." That comment gave me a hearty chuckle, but in practice is quite problematic. And this is not an isolated in-

cident.

Regardless of my pitch, an implicit yet unconditional support of Issue 24 was invoked at the mention of affordable housing. Without understanding any logistics of the bill, like where the \$50 million came from, they told me they were voting in favor of the amendment. I acknowledge that the Issue 24 campaign benefitted from the willingness of voters to be logistically ignorant in regard to the bills they support.

However, on election day, I realized the "Yes on 24" campaign may have been akin to the resistance against the Empire that is the Hamilton County Democratic Party. Let me be clear: The Democratic Party of our county did nothing outside the parameters they are designated to operate within, and I was participating in essentially the same distribution of media the Party representative was. The one difference: the Dems handed out an endorsement sheet listing names and "yes" or "no" next to each of the issues on the ballot with no elaboration. N

Not to my surprise, the results of the vote matched the instructions of the ballot. Cincinnati is a blue city, and as

the Democratic establishment wishes, things tend to go. The lone City Council candidate that was not re-elected was the one left off the endorsement sheet: Republican Liz Keating.

I tend to side with Hamilton County Democrats when it comes to most elections, but having a City Council in which almost every member publicly took the same general stances on legalizing marijuana, selling our city's most valuable asset (the Cincinnati Southern Railway) and Issue 24 will lead to an echo chamber at the city government level.

The person handing out endorsements, by the way, commandeered multiple people into voting for a school board candidate simply by uttering the phrase, "Kendra Mapp for School Board." She did show impartiality as she also vocally supported Bryan Cannon, who was not on the endorsement sheet, and convinced a passerby to vote for him by the end of their conversation.

As a Kentuckian, I am used to seeing straight ticket voting on my ballot. Straight ticket voting is an insult to the democratic process, undermining the amount of research one should conduct

before electing someone to represent their "best" interest and to be paid by them. If we simply vote to appease one party, we will make short-sided decisions and lose interest in following the impact of the votes we make. The people in government should not be the only people aware of the impact of their legislation. The key issues in Cincinnati are in our hands just as much as theirs.

If the failure of Issue 24 was genuinely what most Cincinnatians rendered best, I can accept that. If the failure of Issue 24 was a manifestation of an assimilation of voters in service to the "R" or "D" that appears next to their name, it is a problem that will only become more dire if not confronted.



Ben Dickison is the Sports Editor for *News-wire*. He is a sophomore social work major from Louisville.

Good God, Someone Please Pop the Bubble

This past week, Xavier University and St. Xavier High School (St. X), an all-boys Catholic high school in Cincinnati, announced a direct admissions program for all St. X students.

The decision to provide direct admissions for an all-boys, exclusive, largely-White private school is deeply troubling. The student body population of St. X is over 80% white, according to demographic data from 2021.

Beyond simple direct admissions, all St. X students will also automatically receive a scholarship to attend Xavier University. The tuition at St. X is over \$13,000 a year.

The argument in favor of utilizing direct admissions for St. X goes back to the historical relationship between the two schools. Both schools used to exist together, under the name "The Athenaeum." The two schools have not shared a campus or administration in decades. They are two dis-

tinct entities.

Now, I have nothing against St. X. I think it's great that students from St. X may wish to continue their Jesuit education at Xavier. But Xavier University sits in Norwood and Evanston, two incredibly diverse communities that do not experience the amount of institutional support and investment that schools like St. X receive.

In the press release Xavier put out, it boasted that Xavier recently "enrolled its most diverse class ever." I find it a bit ironic that they include this in a statement announcing direct admissions and financial support for an overwhelmingly White private high school.

Another slap in the face is that St. X accepts school choice vouchers, an antiquated system that redirects state money from already underfunded public schools to private schools.

Xavier has a historically poor relationship with many of our surrounding communities. We often hear people

talk about the "Xavier bubble," which refers to the ways in which Xavier remains isolated and disconnected from Norwood, Evanston and our other surrounding neighborhoods. This problem dates back decades.

Many students never get the chance to truly experience Norwood or Evanston because they are unaware of how many amazing businesses, restaurants, parks and more are within walking distance or a short drive from campus. Xavier does little to encourage students to use public transportation, Wasson Way or even get off campus and into Norwood and Evanston at all.

Extending direct admissions to a largely white private school only serves to strengthen this bubble. Why has Xavier not extended direct admission to students from Norwood High School, Evanston Academy or one of the many other schools mere minutes from campus?

These students from Evanston and Norwood are

also the students most likely to need financial support to attend a university like Xavier. But instead of offering opportunities like this to support and encourage students who actually reside within our communities to continue their education at Xavier, we are offering direct admissions and scholarships to an exclusive private school.

Xavier should reconsider its usage of direct admissions and instead find ways to support and encourage students from more diverse schools and students that actually need the support, to attend Xavier. We have an obligation as a university to support the communities that have been negatively impacted by Xavier in the past.

I'd encourage all Xavier students and faculty to rethink the ways in which we engage with our surrounding communities. Find ways to get off campus, find ways to engage your classmates — and students if you're

a professor — in off-campus activities, support local businesses and consider the language we use to describe these communities. It's on us to hold our university accountable and ensure that we are doing everything we can to support and give back to these wonderful communities that surround us.

Let's pop the Xavier bubble.



Ethan Nichols is a staff writer for *News-wire*. He is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and English double major from Cincinnati.



XU Men's Soccer Conquers Big East

XU women's soccer appears in Big East Championship, hosts NCAA First Round

BY PAT GAINOR
Staff Writer

The Xavier men's and women's Soccer completed their conference tournament schedule over the week, with the women earning a Big East Championship berth for the second straight year and the men's side capturing the first Big East Championship title in program history.

Both squads, who have been excellent on the pitch late in the season, navigated their way into Boyds for their respective tournament championships.

The Xavier women's team, who won a share of the Big East title for the second time in three years thanks to a 6-0-4 record, was selected as the #1 seed in the tournament via tiebreaker.

In the semifinals, the Musketeers used a Sonia Vargas strike and Shelby Sallee header to propel them back to the championship game as they downed the Friars 2-0. They eventually fell to Georgetown in the Big East Championship and Tennessee in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

For the men's team, Xavier was selected as the #2 seed in the Big East Tournament and hosted the Akron Zips, who

despite being ranked #21 nationally came in as the #7 seed due to a late-season skid.

With the top goal scorer in the country opposing them, Xavier had their work cut out. But just like their meeting in the regular season, Xavier's world-class defense would hold strong, keeping the Zips off the board for the second straight meeting.

Both teams went toe to toe all game, going nearly even in shots. Xavier's counterattack finally broke through early in the second half, as a beautiful cross from back midfielder Ernest Mensah connected with freshman Grayson Elmquist to score the opening goal.

Following a second yellow card disqualifying the Zips' Ashton Kamden, Xavier was able to put the game on ice as they won their first playoff game under John Higgins.

The following week, Xavier made the trek to Boyds to take on the Providence Friars for the first time this season. The Friars dominated shooting all game, finishing the game with 19 total, but a Herculean effort by first-year

keeper Jonny Mennell kept them off the board. A loose ball in front of the goal

knocked in by striker Taylor Rhinehart gave Xavier the lead and a dramatic penalty kick save by Mennell in the final ten minutes sealed the win for the Musketeers.

For the championship, Xavier squared out with the Georgetown Hoyas, both the favorites in the Big East and the #3 ranked team in the nation.

With two elite defenses going at each other, the game went to overtime with no score.

The Hoyas threatened a few times, but excellent defense by Makel Rasheed and a phenomenal double-save by Mennell kept the sheets clean and sent the game to penalty kicks.

A save in the first round gave Xavier the early edge, but Georgetown drew even in the 4th round thanks to a save by Ryan Schewe. But in the 6th round of PKs, Lotem Ben Dov would easily knock his shot through in

the top of the row and Mennell made an incredible save to end the shootout and win Xavier their first Big East title in program history.

"I really can't describe it right now," said Jonny Mennell after the victory, "Nobody picked us to be here and we showed them that we don't give up... it's just a culmination of all the work we did this entire season."

Mennell, who was not named to any of the three All Big-East Team this year, was unanimously named Most Outstanding Defensive Player. Over the three tournament games, he recorded a total of 16 saves and was the only keeper in the tournament to not allow a goal.

Striker Taylor Rhinehart (pictured left) was named Most Outstanding Offensive Player and defenders Makel Rasheed and Dylan Kropp were named to the All-Tournament Team as well.

Xavier was projected to finish in 9th place in the Big East by the preseason poll and to be one of four to miss the tournament entirely.

Now, they will host the Kentucky Wildcats at Corcoran Field this Thursday in their first NCAA Tournament game since 2014. Kick-off is set for 7 PM.



Newsire photo courtesy of Emily Croft

Could the Kings of MLS Hail From the Queen City?

FC Cincinnati looks to make run in first rendition of new MLS Cup format

BY ADDISON BURKE
Staff Writer

FC Cincinnati (FCC) is continuing its regular season dominance into the postseason after winning the first round of the playoffs with a clean sweep against the New York Red Bulls.

This year, Major League Soccer (MLS) adopted a new playoff format which includes two wild card games, and the first round was a best-of-three games format. For the first round, each team is guaranteed to play one game at home, and if a third game is necessary, the higher-ranking team would get the final home field advantage. The still-to-come conference semifinals, conference finals and MLS Cup will be single elimination matches.

FC Cincinnati faced the New York Red Bulls, who advanced into the playoffs after a wild card game win, with the first game being held in Cincinnati at TQL Stadium on Oct. 29. The orange and blue proceeded to win the game 3-0. Midfielder Álvaro Barreal led the team to their first goal in the 23rd minute of the game. Midfielder Luciano Acosta scored the team's second goal during the 35th minute, giving FCC a



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

The new MLS Playoff bracket consists of the top nine seeds in each conference. The first round consists of a best-of-three first round, single game elimination conference semifinals and finals, and Cup Final.

strong lead heading into the second half.

After receiving a yellow card in the beginning of the second half, Barreal scored the team's final goal of the night in the 89th minute, sealing their victory.

Cincinnati and New York faced off once again on Nov. 4. The Red Bulls struck first with a goal in the 45th minute of the game by forward Tom

Barlow, securing the lead heading into the second half. The orange and blue fought back in the second half with a goal in the 75th minute of the game by forward Aaron-Salem Boupendoza. With the score standing still at 1-1 at the final whistle, the game went into penalty kicks to determine whether a third game would need to be played or if FCC would be moving on to

the conference semifinals.

FC Cincinnati started off the penalty kicks with Acosta scoring the first goal. Red Bull followed suit with a goal from Omir Fernandez. It wasn't until the third round when FCC fell first with a save by Red Bulls goalkeeper Carlos Coronel. New York was close to securing the win in the fifth round, but midfielder John Tolkin hit the

right post, leading the penalties to continue. Five more shots from each team ensued with both Cincinnati's Yerson Mosquera and New York's Segre Ngoma missing in the ninth round.

Cincinnati started off the 10th round of penalties with a goal by Junior Moreno, and for the Red Bulls to stay alive, defender Andres Reyes had to make his goal in the 10th round.

Victory belonged to the orange and blue after a save by Cincinnati goalkeeper Roman Celetano sealed the teams advance to the conference semifinals.

In their fifth season in the MLS, FC Cincinnati led the eastern conference with a 20-5-9 record. During the regular season, the orange and blue won the MLS Supporters' Shield, designated every year to the team with the best regular season record. Because of the Supporters' Shield victory, FC Cincinnati will have the home field advantage in all remaining playoff games, including the MLS Cup.

FC Cincinnati will face the Philadelphia Union in the Eastern Conference Semifinal on Nov. 25 at TQL Stadium, with kickoff set for 8 p.m.

Done Dill: Pickleball Club at Xavier

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

Pickle me this: What's a club on campus where students of all abilities and skill levels can be active together in a friendly competition? Well, look no further than Xavier's new pickleball club as the racket sport is gaining traction with the Musketeers.

The club, XU Pickleball, is the brainchild of third-year communications major and pickleball aficionado, Michael Daley, who stated, "I just hope to achieve a really nice community here at Xavier. I'd like to teach more people how to play the game."

The sport, described as if "tennis and ping pong had a baby" by Daley, is regarded as the fastest-growing sport currently in the United States by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. Players utilize rackets to volley perforated balls across a net on a badminton-sized court; there are unfortunately no pickles involved.

Although the university itself does not have pickleball courts, requiring the club to play at nearby Woodford Park, it is the hope of the club's founder that Xavier will someday invest in courts on campus: "By the end of my senior year, I want to make sure



Newswire photo courtesy of Emily Croft

XU Pickleball President Michael Daley has been playing pickleball for over two years, often spending weekends at playing tournaments at Sawyer Point Park on the banks of the Ohio, which boasts 24 courts.

there are designated pickleball courts at Xavier... that can be a huge deal and get to the level of all the other sports we see at Xavier."

Despite the fact that the vision for on-campus courts is a long-term objective, Daley did state that the University

administration informed him that the Multi-Sport Court in the HUB will soon have pickleball lines on it. This will allow Xavier students to pickle recreationally on campus without having to make the trek to Woodford Park. With winter fast approaching,

the ability to pickle out in the comfort and proximity of the HUB is a substantial step for the club.

While permanent and pickleball-specific courts would be a sizeable cost for the university, Daley calls on the student body to simply show

up to events and help boost numbers. He wants the Xavier community and administration to recognize the viability of the club on campus. Is the university going to have a pickle revolution on its hands?

Both the grizzled pickleball veterans and the rookies alike on campus have turned up to the club events at Woodford Park. With the Pickleballers being around thirty-strong at any given meeting, XU pickleball is an unlikely yet legitimate contender to intramural sports on campus.

Although Daley's plans do not involve conquering the Tri-State Area anytime soon, he does note the potential for the club to expand to matches and events with other universities in the region.

He envisioned, "I want to do some events with some other clubs in the Cincinnati area...I know Miami does some events, and growing with them to do combined events would be fun."

With a club meeting taking place once a week, Daley encourages anyone who has an interest in trying the sport, regardless of skill level, to participate in the pickling. Details for meeting times, equipment, and transportation can all be found on the club's Instagram account, with the handle @xupickleball. Keep calm and pickle on!

X-Men in the Pros: Where Are These Stars Now?

BY CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Where are they now? These former Musketeers are still ballin' out. Here's what these five players have been up to since they left the hallowed halls of Xavier University.

Naji Marshall

Marshall was a member of the Xavier men's basketball team from 2017 to 2020. Despite going unselected in the 2020 NBA draft, Marshall signed a two-way contract with the New Orleans Pelicans. With the Pelicans, he made his first start in 2021 against the Lakers and later that season received consistent minutes for the squad. In May 2021, the Pelicans signed him to a multi-year contract, and he has continued to play for them ever since. So far this 2023-2024 season Marshall has averaged eight points, two rebounds, two assists and is 66.7% from the field.



Naji Marshall, New Orleans Pelicans



Souley Boum, Grand Rapids Gold (NBA G-League)



Adam Kunkel, Astana (Kazakhstan)

Colby Jones

Jones graduated from Xavier a year early, and as a rising senior, declared himself for the 2023 NBA Draft. On the night of the draft, he was selected by the Charlotte Hornets in the second round of the 2023 NBA Draft with the 34th overall pick. Later that night, he was traded to

the Boston Celtics, but ultimately ended up with the Sacramento Kings. Earlier this month, he made his first start with the Kings. He played for about 17 minutes, managing four points, three rebounds, one assist, one steal and one block. Since the start of his NBA career, Jones has averaged 3.8 points and 0.4 assists

per game, 2.4 rebounds and is shooting 47.1% from the field.

Jack Nunge

After six years of college basketball, Nunge hung up his college uniform in order to get his professional career underway. After going undrafted in the 2023 NBA Draft, Nunge joined the Detroit Pistons'



Colby Jones, Sacramento Kings



Jack Nunge, Givova Scafati (Italy)

Newswire photos courtesy of Desmond Fischer

Summer League Roster as a free agent. In his first game he hit two threes and had a total of eight points, three rebounds, three steals and two assists. When his summer season came to a close, Nunge signed with the Italian basketball club Givova Scafati. Givova Scafati is located in Scafati, Campania and competes in the

top-level Italian professional basketball league, the Lega Basket Serie A. Since the start of his professional career, Nunge has averaged 11 points per game, 5.3 rebounds, and is 57.5% from the field.

Adam Kunkel

This past summer Kunkel joined the Golden State Warriors' NBA Summer League roster. Sporting number 55 in his first game in blue and gold, he played a total of 14 minutes, knocking down three baskets from downtown to amass nine points. After the summer ended, he went across the pond to play for Astana in Kazakhstan. Since his time in Astana, he has averaged 6.6 points and is 52.9% in two-point attempts and 32% from the three point line.

Souley Boum

The heart and soul of the Xavier offense went undrafted in the 2023 NBA draft. As a free agent, he joined his fellow Musketeers Colby Jones and played summer ball for the Sacramento Kings. In his first game for them, he had 16 points and was 100% from the free throw line. At the end of September, Boum signed with the Denver Nuggets, but was waived earlier this month. Boum is now on the G-League of the Nuggets, the Grand Rapids Gold.

Grad Puts the Queen in Queen City

By **JOSEPH NICHOLS**
Staff Writer

Anthony Contreras, a Xavier alumnus from the class of 2023 has joined drag bar Bloom OTR in a long line of Cincinnati drag queens, donning the name “Rockelle Woods” to pay homage to a film character so impactful on his career as a performer.

Contreras graduated from Xavier this past spring with a degree in musical theatre and a desire to begin performing professionally. He immensely credits Xavier Theatre Ad-

junct Professor Bethany Xan Kerr for preparing him for life after university.

“She really contributed to us recognizing what kind of market we serve, where our strengths really lie,” Contreras said.

Xan Kerr’s experience eventually helped Contreras to land his first gig.

“Her connections really helped me culminate the entire four years that I had (at Xavier) and put an exclamation point on it,” Contreras said.

It was at this first show, a

production of *Kinky Boots* at The Carnegie in Covington, that Contreras first began to develop his drag identity.

“I’ve always been interested in drag, but it wasn’t until being mentored by Bethany that I realized this is something I could actually, like, pursue,” he said.

Kinky Boots is a show that heavily features the art of drag, so to prepare, Contreras was mentored by a local drag queen, Kora Sline.

Contreras explained how this was not his first time interacting with Kora.

“(When) I went to my first drag show, Kora Sline was the queen that was there,” Contreras said. “So it was kind of ironic getting in the same room as her and being like, ‘oh my gosh, you are the first drag queen I ever met and now you’re mentoring me!’”

However, professional mentoring is not where the job ended for Kora Sline, who helped Contreras perform at her home base, Bloom OTR.

“(Bloom OTR does) open stages the first Thursday of every month, so I’ve been going down and doing that to know all of the Cincy and Dayton drag queens that go,” he said. “I’ve been trying to do it as a side hustle, but more and more I’m trying to dip my feet into the water and see if I can plunge permanently.”

As for a drag name, Contreras looked no further than childhood hero and *Legally Blonde* protagonist Elle Woods.

“Because of my fascination with *Legally Blonde*, (Kora) actually mentioned the name when I was asking her what my drag name should be,” Contreras said. “She said ‘Rock Out Woods,’ spelling it out. Oh My Gosh: Rockelle Woods! I want it to be Rockelle Woods. I just think it’s full circle that it ended up being my drag name.”

The connection to *Legally*

Blonde is particularly important to Contreras as it was among the first shows he auditioned for post graduation.

“I actually auditioned for the national tour of *Legally Blonde* and got a callback for Emmet,” Contreras said. “I went through the entire callback process and would have dropped out of college had I gotten it.”

While Rockelle Woods can be seen performing at the open stage night at Bloom OTR on the first Thursday of the month, Contreras is making an endeavor to secure a spot close to home as a drag base for local and Xavier queens.

“It’s not set in stone quite yet, but we’re working with bringing more events to Listerman’s,” he said. “I know Xavier Theatre just did something there, and that’s definitely the effect of Bethany pushing our class out there. It’s going to be a place we’re going to want to go often, especially with it being right next to Xavier.”

Contreras emphasized that, while new to the art, he has already found much to love about performing as Rockelle.

“It’s a very tight knit community. Everyone supports each other and everyone is there to rely on each other and make money,” he said. “There’s such a cool community being built in the city.”



Newswire photos courtesy of Anthony Contreras and @rockellewoods on Instagram

Alumni Musical Theatre graduate Anthony Contreras (left) has begun to use his career in the performing arts to start a budding career in drag. His persona, Rockelle Woods (right), is based on Contreras’ childhood hero.

The Memoir is Turning Unmemorable: An Analysis

By **MICHAEL COLGLAZIER**
Staff Writer

Last month, Jada Pinkett Smith released her long-awaited memoir *Worthy*. Preceded by a number of bombshells dropped by Smith, including the fact that she and her husband Will have been separated since 2016, *Worthy* was expected to be the talking point of the year.

Except, it wasn’t.

Selling just over 21,000 copies in its first week, *Worthy* performed well below expectations, especially considering how big the name attached to it is. It is possible that the amount of stories Jada shared during promotion left possible readers thinking that they had heard everything she had to say. It could be possible that Pinkett Smith has fallen from grace in the public’s eye in recent years. It could be possible that readers are tired of celebrity memoirs, although this theory was seemingly proved false just a few days later.

Towards the end of October, Brittany Spears released her memoir *The Woman in Me*, which is proving to perform significantly better than *Worthy*. Selling 1.1 million copies in its first week, *The Woman in Me* has proven to be the phenomenon that *Worthy* strived to be. This begs the question:

Are readers truly starting to be fed up with celebrity memoirs?

Celebrity memoirs seem to be an ever-growing empire. Pinkett Smith’s (former?) husband Will Smith’s memoir, *Will*, had a very successful release in 2021. Not only did it open very well, but it re-entered the bestseller list months after its publication after Smith made headlines for a, shall we say less than fortunate occurrence at the Oscars.

It may be easy to attribute *Worthy*’s low sales to Jada’s public image, but that may not be the case either. Comedian Amy Schumer’s 2016 foray into the memoir scene, *The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo*, managed to be No.1 on the US bestseller list, despite Schumer’s constant criticism. Although the book was review bombed upon release, it managed to tell a series of intimate and charming tales very successfully.

Schumer is not the only co-

median to jump on the memoir train. Jerry Seinfeld’s *Is This Anything?*, Seth Rogen’s *Yearbook* and Jamie Foxx’s *Act Like You Got Some Sense: And Other Things My Daughters Taught Me* have all proved to be successful books. Child stars such as Josh Peck and Jenette McCurdy even joined in, with McCurdy’s *I’m Glad My Mom Died* making headlines for detailing the tragic shortcomings of being a

Nickelodeon actor.

The most successful of these celebrity memoirs prove to be the most honest and least self-indulgent — at least, as much as a book solely about one person written by that person can avoid being self-indulgent. Jamie Foxx writes about his shortcomings as a co-parent and focuses on the ever-changing relationships he has with his daughters. He shares his experiences, but

never talks down to the reader as if he is better than them. In his book *Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing*, Matthew Perry writes about his struggle with drug and alcohol addiction throughout his entire life. Although his writing at times proves to be clunky and unfocused, the memoir as a whole reads as someone making peace with their imperfections and wanting to help people as best he can.

Will, although well received, feels as though its author is speaking from a position of authority. As if, despite his imperfections, he is somehow more enlightened than all of us. He does not write with the humility of Jamie Foxx, but rather with the cocky confidence of one of the biggest movie stars of all time.

This is likely the issue that *Worthy* faces. As big as the celebrity memoir fad has become, readers do not want to read a book by someone incredibly full of themselves. As this trend continues to grow, authors must remind themselves what readers want: an honest portrayal of someone in the public eye, not a description of how great a celebrity is.



Newswire photo courtesy of Griffin Brammer

Fashion Advice Picked in Time for Fall

Tumble into the autumnal with these choice tips to make Christmas a breeze

BY KAYLA ROSS
Back Page Editor

It's that time of year: Fall fashion is at its peak and parents are asking for Christmas wish lists. Here are some of the biggest trends of the fall 2023 season.

The Gracie Abrams Look

Gracie Abrams has not only made her mark on music, but also on a whole new aesthetic for fall. Gracie wears long, classic A-line dresses with big bows in her hair. It's cute, easy, slightly coquette and an easy way to look elegant this holiday season. Put together a midi or maxi black A-line dress, a white long sleeve tee and a black hair bow for your Thanksgiving fit this year. Target has hair bows in cream and black for only \$8.



Camo and Cargo

Cargo is all over the

place — pants, sweatpants, skirts and jumpsuits. Cargo pants can be paired with a hoodie, baby tee or oversized jacket for a simple fall outfit. Camo print is a fun way to add some dimension to your outfit if you want to add a little visual interest. If you want to try this look, the Carhartt Loose Fit Washed Duck Utility Work Pant is on Amazon for \$49.99.

Uggs

Uggs have been creeping into the cozy casual scene, but this year they're officially back. We're not talking about your Bailey Bow Uggs from 2016. The mini Uggs are the grown-up, cute new way to be comfortable on your way to class this winter. If you don't feel like shelling out \$150 for this trend, Target has platform Ugg look alikes for \$40 in black or tan.



Newswire photos courtesy of Kayla Ross and Ryan Hulligan

Oversized Jackets

Following the trends of the past few years, we're still layering every outfit. My favorite outer layers right now are either black leather

bomber jackets or the Levi's denim Trucker Jacket. A slightly oversized, versatile jacket is a perfect staple for your Christmas wishlist this year as you can wear these with just about any outfit. Kohl's has the Levi's Trucker Denim Jacket on sale for only \$62.50 right now.

Sweater Dresses

The H&M bell sleeve sweater dress that took everyone's TikTok for-you page by storm is officially sold out — but don't fret, Hollister has a very similar sweater dress if you didn't get one. The sweater dress is this year's take on Christian Girl Autumn — simple, feminine and warm. Pair your sweater dress with some tights and tall boots and layered gold jewelry for a put-together holiday look this season. If you'll be outside, put a midi pea coat on top for the Rachel Green vibe.

Loafers

These will definitely leave you looking a little business casual, but the loafers are here to stay this fall. I've seen a variety of colors this year from black and white to burgundy, but patent leather loafers with a metallic accent on the toe are a very versatile piece that can help elevate your look in the winter weather. I love to pair mine with straight leg jeans and a sweater vest — a look that's perfect for class or a Saturday of window shopping downtown.



Collared Sweaters

Ribbed, collared sweaters are taking over men's fashion this year. This look has an early 80s vibe, especially if you pair it with a pair of pleated, high-waisted pants. This ensemble is flattering on almost every body type. Try Abercrombie and Fitch if you want to cop this outfit.

For I Can't Help Falling Out of Love with Priscilla

BY HANNAH KREMER
Newswire Intern

Since *Priscilla* hit the box office on Oct. 27, it has turned curious moviegoers into Elvis haters in just an hour and 50 minutes, and I was certainly no exception.

Director Sofia Coppola tells the story of Priscilla Beaulieu, who at 14 years old finds herself living in Germany where her father is stationed. Quiet and lonely, she is invited to Elvis Presley's party, where they find love and common ground in their homesickness.

I went into this experience hoping I would learn more about Priscilla and her perspectives on the relationship, as well as understand Elvis on a level that wasn't dominated by depictions of his fame.

Coppola delivers this with beautiful cinematography and switches up the way Elvis has been viewed since the movie starring Austin Butler came out a year before. However, this is where my compliments end.

Jacob Elordi was a poor casting choice for Elvis. He simply does not compare to other portrayals of Presley. While his voice is remarkably similar to Elvis', it is so thick that most of the time, I was just trying to figure out what he said. It was criminal that this film doesn't have captions provided. On top of that, the way he and Cailee Spaeny (*Priscilla*) played their characters felt one dimensional.

The cultural idea of how the couple was viewed was there, but there was little emotional value to their act-

ing, even when certain scenes required it. Elvis's sole personality trait during the whole thing was the way he always referred to Priscilla as "little one" or that she always needed to stay home to "keep the home fires burning." And his drug addiction, of course.

Priscilla's psyche is also left as a mystery to us because there is so little intensity to her reactions even when it was warranted. There was too much focus on her being just a shy, naïve girl who did not yet understand the kind of person the superstar was.

The slow pacing also drove me crazy. The movie only starts when Priscilla meets Elvis, and ends the exact moment when she leaves him. You would think the whole point of a movie about Priscilla is to get the full picture of her. Instead, we were fed with the highs and lows of their relationship. Nothing was new information, and the movie lost all of its potential by becoming a disjointed collection of the couple's toxicity.

The ending was probably the worst part of this movie's pacing, though. I watched Priscilla drive away from Graceland, taking in her realization that there was more to her life than Elvis, and just as I began to sit with her character transformation, the movie ended. Of course, if you're a film buff, you might argue this is intentional as it demonstrates how it symbolically highlights her new life without Elvis. Whatever.

If you're like me and really don't care to analyze a movie,



BY KYRA HUDSON

Staff Writer

- Dua Lipa debuted her new single "Houdini" alongside the announcement of her upcoming untitled album (Nov. 10).
- Timothée Chalamet hosted *Saturday Night Live* for the second time with musical guest boygenius (Nov. 11).
- Travis Kelce was spotted in the crowd during Taylor Swift's Eras tour in Buenos Aires (Nov. 11).
- Jeff Bezos and fiancée Lauren Sanchez hosted their engagement party, attracting attendance from celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and Oprah Winfrey (Nov. 13).



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

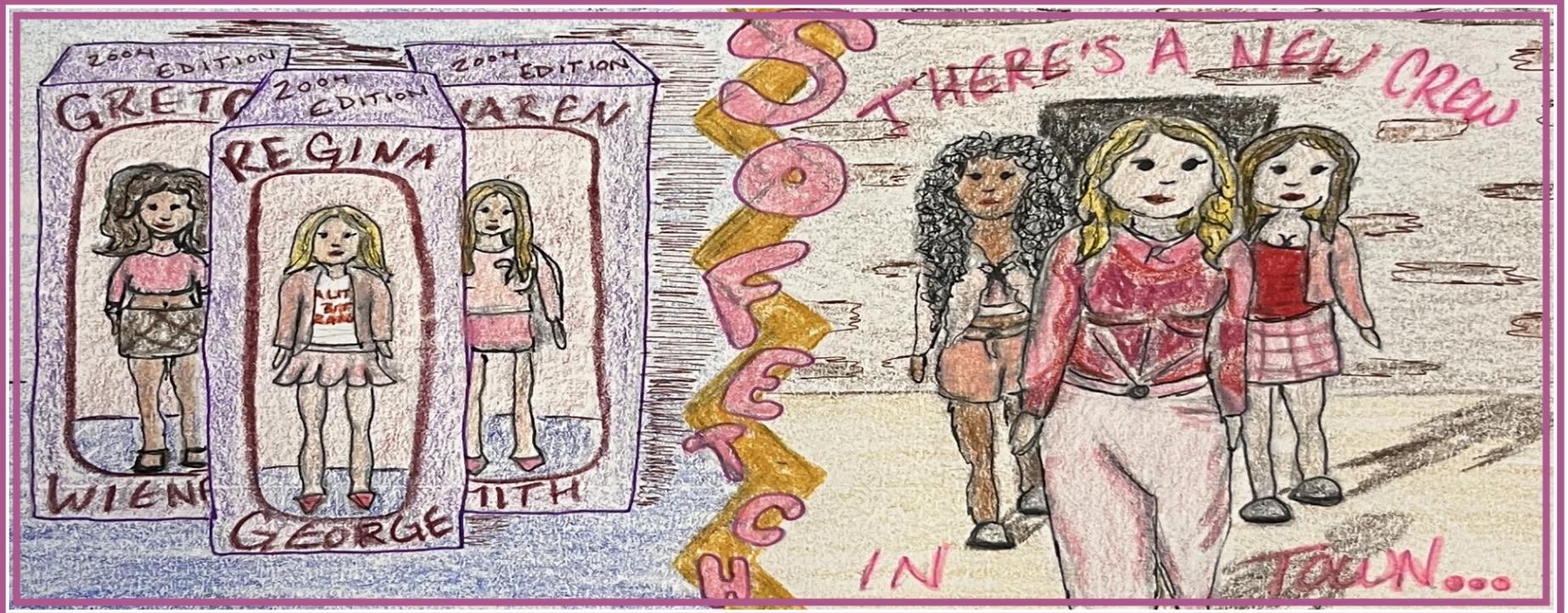
Our writer pans Cailee Spaeny for her bland portrayal of titular Priscilla.

then you too would come to the conclusion that it sucked. It felt rushed and unsatisfying, and there was little time to digest her character. The opportunity to understand what her life was like after she left was not given, and it was disappointing.

In short, you should go see *Priscilla* if you are looking for a movie that offers little

nuance to Priscilla's story, or just want a straightforward memoir of her life.

However, I feel that this movie missed a key opportunity to breathe more life into the couple's story and downfall. Instead, what we got was an incomplete story that will make you wish you saw *Five Nights at Freddy's* rather than this.



The Girls Are Back in Town

BY DYLAN PAULSON, NEWSWIRE INTERN

Mean Girls is one of the most iconic movies in recent history. For a movie that came out in 2004, countless references are still made to it. I can guarantee that on a daily basis you hear at least two or three. So naturally, like all other iconic movies made in the late 90s and early 2000s, Hollywood sat all its best writers and creative minds together in a room and decided that they should revive as many of the original actors from *Mean Girls* and have them act in a horrible remake.

The latest victim of the remake antics is a new *Mean Girls* movie set to release in 2024, with the trailer for the remake dropping this last Wednesday. After watching the trailer, all I have to say is this: What in the world are we doing? First of all, trailers are supposed to make the movie look good. Trailers are designed to take the best parts of the movie and compile them to make people want to hit the theaters. If those scenes are the best that the modern remake has to offer, then I highly suggest that the writers run and hide.

The one thing I cannot get over is the egregious lack of what made the original *Mean Girls* so good. I recognize that I'm a dude, and the movie isn't marketed toward me. But even still, while watching the original movie, I found myself quite entertained and I marveled at the movie's ability to mix together some pretty hilarious bits while also containing an underlying theme of "hey, we're exaggerating and making jokes, but a lot of girls do go through a lot of these stresses in their adolescent years." It blends a serious topic with some well-timed humor, and so even though the movie isn't directed at someone like me, I can still appreciate it and have fun watching it.

The remake seems like all the creative minds collectively decided to throw out everything that made the original movie so fun and entertaining in favor of replacing it all with some really bad humor, all the while making itself seem like a glorified sex ed class. There is nothing fun about the new trailer. There is nothing comedic about the new trailer. The charm of the original movie has been ripped to shreds and it seems like it wasn't even worth their time to replace it with something. The best thing about the trailer is that now I know that I shouldn't even bother watching the whole film itself because if these were their best bits, then I don't even want to imagine their worst. Hollywood, do better.

WATER SIGNS

You are Karen Smith through and through. You are lovable, go with the flow and effortlessly gorgeous.

AIR SIGNS

You are Gretchen Weiners. You are loyal, need a little help with your fashion sense and you are always down for a party.

FIRE SIGNS

You are the one and only Cady Heron. You want what you want and you know how to get it. You are the cunning underdog.

EARTH SIGNS

You are Regina George. You are THE plastic. Everyone is scared of you, but you act like the intimidation factor is unintentional.