



## O'Keefe Joins Brueggerman Center

*John O'Keefe has been hired as the new Director of the Brueggerman Center*

**BY BRIANA DUNN**  
*Staff Writer*

The Brueggerman Center welcomed Dr. John O'Keefe as its new director on July 1, 2023.

O'Keefe earned a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Weston Jesuit School of Theology and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Early Christian Studies from The Catholic University of America.

Prior to Xavier, O'Keefe worked at Creighton University for 31 years as a faculty member where he served as the chair of the Theology Department.

"I got to a point where I was feeling that I didn't want to be a full-time teacher anymore. I wanted a different set of challenges, and this opportunity really seemed to line up with my background and skills and things like that," O'Keefe said.

As the Brueggerman Center director, O'Keefe is tasked with allocating and investing in initiatives, activities and programs consistent with the center's mission. O'Keefe not-

ed that he focuses on the three main sectors of the center's work.

Community outreach is especially focused on the interfaith community, but O'Keefe noted their focus on other areas of historical engagement, such as the sustainability community, as well. O'Keefe is not only focused on getting to know the different leaders in the Cincinnati faith community and visiting interfaith centers but also working with organizations.

"I've been working with the organization Green Umbrella. They do an annual conference called the Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit," O'Keefe mentioned. "I'm on the planning committee for that event."

Another task is sponsoring events, conversations and dialogue internal to the university. O'Keefe notes this can include speaker events and film events but plans to expand the Center's reach by incorporating book reading groups next year followed by small group discussions within the univer-

sity.

"That piece of the job is probably the least developed at this point," O'Keefe noted. "I've been spending a lot of time talking to people, and hopefully they're going to be rolling things out in that area this semester."

O'Keefe also has a background in filmmaking and documentary work and is interested in partnering with the Digital Innovation, Film and Television (DIFT) program to produce video projects. The Center has partnered with other campus organizations in the past, such as Bellarmine Chapel, and O'Keefe wants to do more partnerships and collaborations, such as with the Theology Department and Undergraduate Research.

"I'm open to conversations with anybody on campus about partnerships that make sense with the Mission Center," O'Keefe stated.

The last point of emphasis is the Brueggerman Fellows program, which sponsors up to eight graduate or undergraduate students to do a year

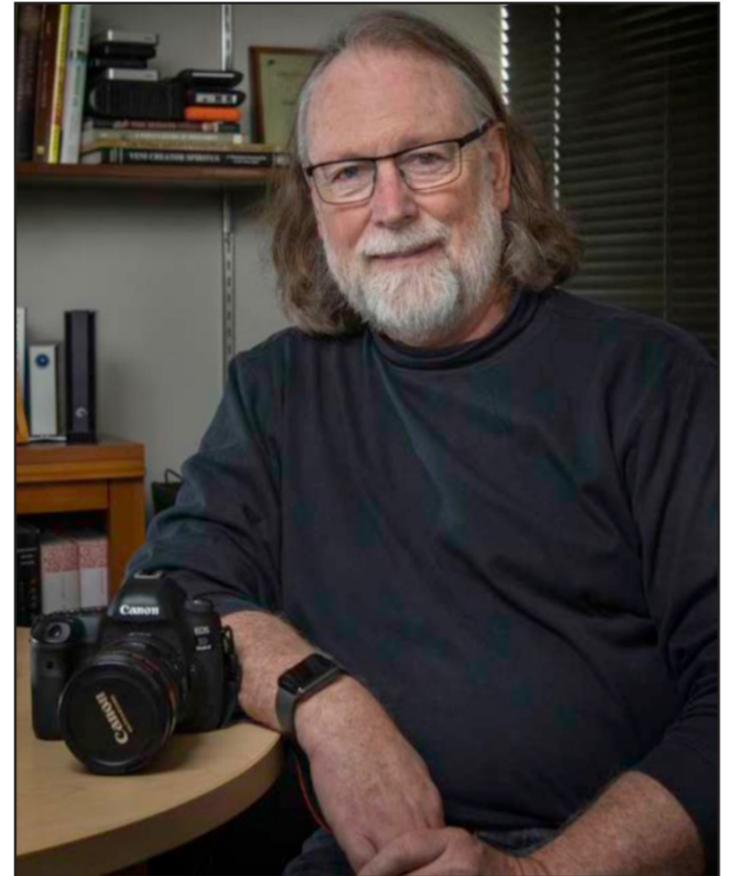


Photo courtesy of John O'Keefe via LinkedIn

**Pictured above is the new Director of Xavier's Brueggerman Center, Dr. John O'Keefe. He officially started his position on July 1, 2023.**

of independent research culminating in some type of immersion experience abroad. O'Keefe's role involves meeting with these students once a month over the course of the year.

"We've been really wanting to get the word out to students that this is really to empower students to follow their own intellectual passions," O'Keefe said. "It's not limited to any one major as far as I'm concerned. Any student who has an intellectual passion that they'd like to explore should consider applying for the fellowship."

The Brueggerman Fellows program is one of the primary student facing initiatives

of the center, but O'Keefe hopes to expand their offered activities. O'Keefe hopes to meet with student organizations, like Xavier Student Sustainability, in the future.

O'Keefe doesn't find any of the three main sectors more exciting than the rest, but he has big aspirations for the Center.

"My hope is to raise more funds for the endowment so that the financial funding of the Center is even stronger than it was when I came in here," O'Keefe said. "The founding director, James Buchanan, left the thing in pretty good shape, so I want to make sure I leave it in good shape as well."

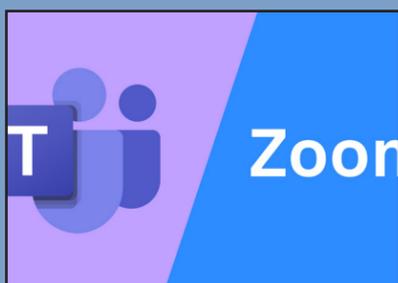


Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

### In this issue...

#### Campus, Page 2

Xavier makes their video call software shift from Zoom to Microsoft Teams.



#### World, Page 4

The Ohio Senate overrides Gov. DeWine's veto of House Bill 68 in a 24-8 vote.



#### Sports, Page 7

The ECHL Cincinnati Cyclones team makes their push to the playoffs.



#### A&E, Page 8

Four separate Cincinnati chefs have been nominated for the James Beard Award.



# Xavier Switches to Microsoft Teams

## Due to a \$432,000 price increase of Zoom's services, Xavier opts for a change

BY JESSE DOLOJAN  
*Education and Enrichment Coordinator*

At the start of the fall semester, Xavier will be switching from using Zoom to Microsoft Teams as the predominant virtual meeting format due to Zoom's \$432,000 increase in pricing.

Xavier's administration first heard about the pricing increase in Aug. 2023, prompting discussions regarding switching from Zoom to Microsoft Teams.

Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer of the Xavier IT department Sheri Thomas has been attending meetings with President Hanycz and Provost Rachel Chrastil regarding the shift in virtual meeting format.

Thomas noted the substantial increase in pricing was the main reason Xavier considered making the switch.

"Xavier has what we refer to as a legacy contract. So the contract is up for renewal. We've had it for five years, and we have been notified that our current contract scenario is \$48,000 a year," said Thomas.



*Newsire photo edited by Jackson Hare*

"They're expecting that when we renew with the exact same licenses, that will be \$480,000. So that's a \$432,000 increase, and I don't know about you, I do not have those types of funds in my budget."

Xavier's current contract with Zoom concludes on Aug. 31, 2024. Xavier aims to have the transition complete at the start of Fall 2024 so faculty will be able to use Teams for their classes.

Sophomore English, French and Digital Innovation, Film and Television triple major Tricia Barker is a student tutor at Xavier's

Writing Center. She noted how the transition from Zoom to Teams could help simplify the tutoring process on her end in virtual appointments.

"I think that it's made it a little more streamlined since at the Writing Center, we already use Microsoft Outlook and the calendar for a lot of our work," said Barker. "So doing something that's also related to Microsoft makes it one step easier."

As a part of this transition, the Zoom kits in conference rooms and classrooms will be replaced by Teams kits for faculty.

Xavier has started the process of changing the Zoom kits to Teams kits in various conference rooms across campus.

Thomas also noted that completing the transition for classrooms will be different due to the fact that they are always being used.

"The classrooms are interesting because they're actively being used at all times. We are going to convert what we refer to as the Zoom kit, that is the technology in the classroom, we're gonna now call it a Teams kit," said Thomas.

Barker noted how the tran-

sition was not known by many students.

"I actually haven't heard a lot. I haven't heard any reason why. I know that sometimes Zoom has problems, but I assume Teams also has problems. So I guess, I don't really know," said Barker.

Thomas stated that Xavier is focused on ensuring that faculty is up to speed first, allowing Xavier to function properly.

"And then we want to approach the students, and if they would like to be trained I think there's knowledge articles that we've written that are out there, and a knowledge base if you're familiar with the Service Desk offerings," Thomas said.

Thomas emphasized how important it would be for her to have the transition be as smooth as possible for the Xavier community.

"One thing I'd like to just say is if there is any use, case or a technology need that people, students, faculty, staff that are reading this article feel that Teams will not satisfy, I would love for them to reach out to me," said Thomas. "I want to hear from them, because we want this to be a success."

**Black History Month February**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
				TRiO Seminar 1: Unlocking Study Success	Skiing at Perfect North	Xavier Men's Basketball v. DePaul
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
JCPenney Suit Up	VegOut with CFJ	TRiO Seminar 2: Career Catalyst	Newsire Weekly Meeting	CDI: Black History Month: Embracing Mindfulness Through the Arts	Lunar New Year with ASIA	Book Club Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Super Bowl	Valentine's Day Cards and Roses with the CIE	Italian Valentine's Day Party	Newsire Weekly Meeting	CDI: Live After 5	Approach Retreat	Celebration of Xavier Poetry
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CDI: Black History Month Norwood Parade	VegOut with CFJ	Brockman Farmers Market	Newsire Weekly Meeting	TRiO: Lunch 'N' Learn	Stardust Soirée	48th Annual Antonio Johnson Gala
25	26	27	28	29		
CUTIE PIE	CDI: Barber Shop Talk	Grad Fair 2024	Newsire Weekly Meeting	Ignatian Leaders Celebration		

# Consultant Chosen for Cincy Railroad Sale

UBS was selected by the Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees to manage the sale's proceeds

By **BEN DICKISON**  
*Sports Editor*

The Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees unanimously selected international financial management firm United Bank of Switzerland (UBS) to oversee the \$1.6 billion trust fund that will be created as the Queen City sells its control of the railroads within city limits on Jan. 22.

The board is composed of former Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken, Certified Public Accountant Paul Sylvester, local attorney and chairman Paul Muething, former Mayor Mark Mallory and former City Councilwoman Amy Murray. The Board of Trustees decided on UBS over 16

other applicants, including local firms Fifth-Third Bank and FEG Investment Advisors. The Board narrowed the list of 17 firms to a shortlist of five for the final decision. Fifth-Third and FEG made the shortlist, while Ascension Wealth Management, located in Sycamore Township, did not. Ascension Wealth Management was the only minority-owned firm to place a bid for the role.

While Ascension was not selected to the shortlist, the Board Of Trustees is adamant that one of the core tenants of USB's new role will be to ensure equitable development of infrastructure and fair distribution towards un-

dereserved neighborhoods.

"I want to have as much impact on the African-American community as we possibly can with the investments of this money," Mallory, the only Black trustee on the current board, remarked.

Mallory believed this impact can be more effectively achieved through the consultation of portfolio managers, Black-owned banks and impact investment in addition to UBS, expressing concern that the chosen firm will not effectively represent minority interests.

"If there is an opportunity (to collaborate with portfolio managers and Black-owned banks), I would like to explore that opportunity in addition to money managers, in addition to impact investors," he said.

The funds generated by the sale of the city's railroads to Norfolk Southern will translate into revitalization of the city's infrastructure. The budget will be divided as follows, according to the Cincy on Track infrastructure plan: \$101 million for streets and sidewalks, \$49.6 million for public services, \$40.7 million for parks, \$31.1 million for health and \$27.6 million for recreation.

Amid the transition from leasing the railroad to annual returns generated from Norfolk Southern, people antici-



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

pate uncertainty on how these funds would be used. Luken noted that, "There may not be a perfect comfort level on day one."

"But I don't see anyone better in this (group) that gives me a better answer than UBS," he stated.

The division of UBS that will control the trust fund for Cincy on Track currently manages over \$91 billion in global assets. UBS estimates a 6.5% return on investment for their service and proposed to charge fees between .06% and 1%.

"(2026) is the year we should see a nice, hefty return on our investment," said Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney. Cincy on Track is a plan for a return of \$250 mil-

lion over 10 years.

Some specific investments slated to take place as a result of this newly generated revenue include the construction of more speed bumps, converting electric traffic signs to LED lights, the rehabilitation of Mill Creek road's bridge and renovations to fire and police stations.

Local common areas such as Smale Park, Mt. Echo Park, Ault Park and Fairview Park will receive upgrades to playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts and baseball fields.

The Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees will remain intact to manage the revenue generated by the sale, as opposed to their previous role of managing the railroad itself.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



## Fishy antics, disco bathrooms, the Mona Lisa splashed with soup, a highway rider & a Canadian shipwreck find

By **GAVIN STEELE**  
*Staff Writer*

A 17 year-old in Utah is in hot water after allegedly taping fish to various ATMs and other objects in Provo and documenting his actions on social media, facing two charges of property damage. The fishy actions were uploaded on Instagram by user @fish\_bandit84, which has more than 52,000 followers and an account bio reading, "Live, laugh, tape fish on ATMs." The Provo Police Department said that there were roughly 13 instances where the teenager taped fish to surfaces (Jan. 24).

Rendon Dietzmann, known as Gixxer Brah on YouTube, became wanted on multiple charges from a September 2023 video that allegedly shows him accelerating to speeds over 150 miles per hour on a Colorado highway by squeezing through traffic and traveling on the road's shoulder, which has since been deleted from YouTube. He has allegedly posted similar videos from other parts of the country (Jan. 24).

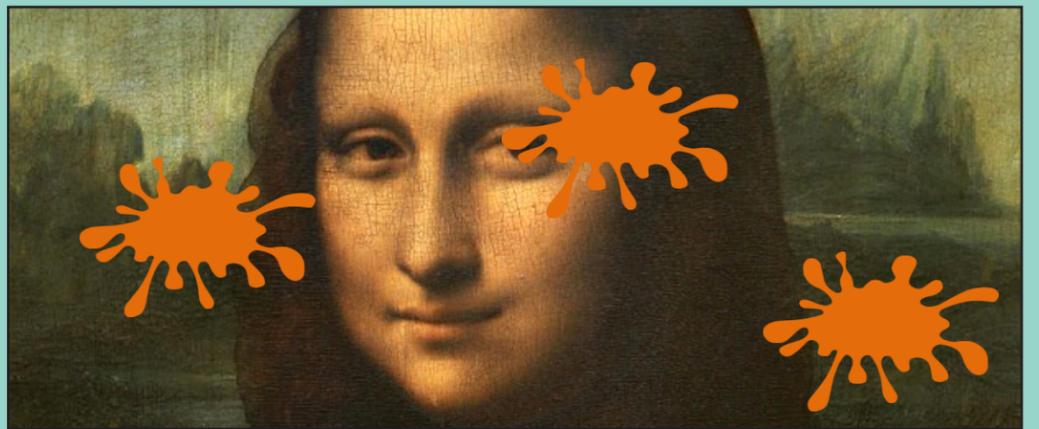


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

The Kentucky convenience store retailer Hop Shops has installed disco effects in their Florence location's bathroom earlier this month, which marks the company's sixth store with this feature. Customers have the opportunity to convert the bathroom to a "hopping" dance floor by pressing a large red button near a sign that reads "Do Not Press This Button," which dims the lights, plays music, and reveals spotlights and a spinning disco ball (Jan. 26).

Two climate activists splashed canned soup at the iconic "Mona Lisa" painting, which was protected from damage by its glass casing and eventually reopened to the public. In a video showing the action, the protestors — who are from the environmental group Riposte Alimentaire, roughly translating to "Food Response" — are seen throwing orange-colored soup from bottles before ducking beneath a protective barrier (Jan. 29).

Researchers from Canada discovered a shipwreck believed to be from the 1800s that washed up in Newfoundland. Residents in Cape Ray discovered a large chunk of an old wooden hull in shallow waters, as well as several pieces of wood that appeared in the sand. Experts believe that the shipwreck was likely buried for over a century before storms unearthed it from the ocean floor (Jan. 30).



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

# Ohio Senate Overrides House Bill 68 Veto

*The vote, which was largely along partisan lines, means the law goes into effect in 90 days*

BY JACKSON HARE  
Campus News Editor

The Ohio Senate has voted to override Governor Mike DeWine's veto of Ohio House Bill 68, banning some gender-affirming care for minors and restricting transgender women's and girls' participation on sports teams throughout the state.

With the 24-8 vote in favor of overturning DeWine's veto, which occurred last Wednesday, Ohio joins nearly two-dozen other GOP-led states that have adopted similar laws after the Ohio House also voted to overturn DeWine's veto of the bill earlier this month. A three-fifths majority of both the Ohio House and Senate were required to overturn the veto.

Since both chambers passed the override, the bill has been delivered to the secretary of state's office and is set to go in effect in 90 days, or around the end of April.

Democrats said they supported the veto, while Republicans expressed their disappointment in the governor's action. State Sen. Nathan Manning was the sole Republican to vote against overriding the veto of the bill, which included the Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

The SAFE Act restricts gender-affirming medical care



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

**In a 24-8 vote last Wednesday, the Ohio Senate overturned Governor Mike DeWine's veto of House Bill 68, which restricts transgender medical care and transgender athletes from competing in women's sports.**

for transgender minors and requires K-12 and institutions of higher education to designate sex-segregated sports teams, while also banning transgender girls from participating on women's and girls' sports teams. House Bill 68 also contained a grandfather clause that would allow doctors who started treatments to continue working with patients.

The law means doctors who offer minors gender affirming care, such as puberty blockers, hormone therapies and gender reassignment surgery in an effort to further align them with their gender identity can face legal consequences and could lose their

license to practice.

Following the override of DeWine's veto, bill sponsor Rep. Gary Click released a statement commending the Ohio Senate.

"The SAFE Act and Save Women's Sports Act are the civil rights issues of our day, ensuring that children have the right to grow up intact and that women are no longer subject to men invading their spaces," Click said.

Meanwhile, opponents of the SAFE Act have criticized the bill. Sen. Kent Smith described the bill as "state-sponsored bullying of trans youth."

Parents of transgender youth across Ohio have advo-

cated against the bill since its conception. Minna Zelch, with Trans Allies of Ohio, said she was "fluctuating between rage and complete despair."

"I've never been so grateful our daughter is over 18, and my heart is breaking for all the parents and kids I know who are now packing boxes or traveling hours out of state just to get medical care," Zelch said.

The American Civil Liberties announced plans to file a lawsuit that challenged the ban on gender-affirming care for minors and to halt the law before it goes into effect.

Leo Fowler, the president of Xavier's LGBTQ+ Alliance, was disappointed by the

vote to override the veto.

"I was hoping that when Governor DeWine vetoed it, it would stay dead. It's disappointing to me as a transgender man," he said.

"It (was vetoed) because it's popular. Ohio is not the first state to do it and is definitely not the last, but it doesn't come out of a place of genuine care for the community, because if they did, they wouldn't be going about it this way," Fowler said.

While LGBTQ+ advocates and organizations are speaking out and initiating legal challenges against these pieces of legislation, Ohio GOP and Michigan legislators have publicly discussed an "endgame" of transgender care, even for adults, during an on-line forum.

"Why would we stop this for anyone under 18, but not apply this for anyone over 18? It's harmful across the board, and I think that's something that we need to take into consideration," Michigan Rep. Josh Schivers said.

Among the 20 other states that have passed similar bills, Arkansas' ban on gender affirming care for transgender minors, which is paralleled by House Bill 68, has been struck down by U.S. District Judge Jay Moody. Similar bills have met the same fate in other states, including Alabama, Indiana and Florida.

## Turkey Approves Sweden's NATO Membership Bid

BY GRACE HAMILTON  
Opinions and  
Editorials Editor

Sweden is now one step closer to gaining membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after Turkey's parliament ratified its approval on Jan. 23.

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey voted 287-55 to approve Sweden's application, clearing a major hurdle in expanding the military alliance. Initially, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan opposed the nation joining, but his majority ruling alliance approved the endorsement in the parliament.

Sweden, which has remained neutral in military conflicts for over two centuries, decided with Finland to make the move to join NATO

after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and applied for a membership bid in 2022.

The parliament's endorsement of Sweden's membership and a presidential decree from Erdogan approving the country's accession were published in Turkey's official gazette last Thursday.

"Welcome Türkiye's approval of the ratification of Sweden's NATO accession," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on X.

"With this, a key milestone has been reached in Sweden's path towards NATO membership," he said.

Turkey's opposition to Sweden's membership — led by Erdogan — lasted around 20 months and was based on its demands that certain conditions be met by Sweden. These demands included

Sweden having a more severe stance on Kurdish militants and the organizers of a failed 2016 Turkish coup.

While Sweden's government worked to meet these conditions by lifting an arms embargo and swearing to help Turkey fight terrorism, public demonstrations supporting the Kurdistan Workers' Party, as well as anti-Islamic burnings of the Quran, impeded the deal.

International pressure from NATO members over the past year pushed Erdogan to reconsider the conditions, until at last year's summit he said he would send the necessary documents for approval to the Turkish parliament.

In April of last year, Finland was granted acceptance to the alliance — becoming its 31st member. Sweden has made slower progress, with its efforts having been blocked by Turkey and Hungary, whose leaders maintain working relationships with Russian president Vladimir Putin.

The final vote required for Sweden's ascension to the alliance has to come from Hungary, who has shown reluctance to approving Sweden on the basis of its "openly hostile attitude" towards Budapest and its criticism of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

**The Grand National Assembly of Turkey ratified the approval of Sweden's NATO membership bid by a 287-55 vote on Jan. 23.**

Orbán has reportedly invited Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson to negotiate terms, stating in a letter, "I am convinced that strong mutual trust must be the foundation of any political and security arrangements between Sweden and Hungary."

Sweden's Foreign Minister Tobias Billström replied that he doesn't see "any reason to negotiate," but that he does want to encourage dialogue between the two countries. Should Hungary vote to allow Sweden's acceptance to NATO, the new member country will be able to support aid to Ukraine in the ongoing conflict with Russia, as the current members are hav-

ing difficulty in continuing to supply arms to Ukraine.

Sweden's membership would also mean that the Baltic Sea would be surrounded by NATO members, as it is Russia's point of access to St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad Oblast.

If they become a full member, Sweden has promised to increase their defense spending in order to meet NATO's target of 2% of GDP. Hungary's vote will not be decided until at least Feb. 26, the day of its next scheduled parliamentary assembly.

Unless an emergency session is called, Sweden's NATO membership will not be decided until then.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com



# SUBMISSIONS DUE FEBRUARY 23

send your poetry; prose; art; and photography  
to @theclocktowerreview



## THE STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Chloe Salvesson

**Print Managing Editor**  
Marty DuBecky

**Multimedia Managing Editor**  
Spencer de Tenley

**Campus News Editor**  
Jackson Hare

**World News Editor**  
Justin Malone

**Opinions & Editorials Editor**  
Grace Hamilton

**Sports Editor**  
Ben Dickison

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
Griffin Brammer

**Back Page Editor**  
Kayla Ross

**Head Copy Editor**  
Tess Dankoski

**Copy Editors**  
Stella DeMarco, Peter Melahn, Laney Konz, Addison Burke, Mecca Sewell

**Education & Enrichment Coordinator**  
Jesse Dolojan

### Staff Writers

Logan Davis, Spencer Tracy, Christian Cullen, Audrey Elwood, Owen Miguel, Briana Dunn, Gavin Steele,

### Advisor

John Stowell

### For Your Information

Xavier Newswire is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207.

### 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.

### Advertising

All inquiries should be directed to the Business Manager, Savanna Riley, by email at [newswire@xavier.edu](mailto:newswire@xavier.edu) or at [www.xaviernewswire.com](http://www.xaviernewswire.com)



# We Need a New Kind of News

It is ironic that I am writing about the state of news media in a newspaper, but it is still worth talking about. Simply put, we are in a bad place when it comes to where we get our news.

Over the past 20-30 years, we have shifted from reporting on issues in our world to figuring out how to maximize the entertainment value from the issues. It is less news at this point than infotainment.

Think of the major news networks in America today. CNN, FOX, MSNBC and the like have become less and less focused on pointed discussions based in fact and instead moved towards debate style shows, while also capitalizing on the incredibly fast way that news cycles work nowadays. It is less about who is the best or who we can trust and more about who had the best ratings last quarter.

Our parents' generation grew up with Walter Cronkite at the helm. There was an implicit trust in the news back then. There was another item of that older generation that held more social prominence: the local newspaper.

At risk of sounding like a cranky old man, newspapers

used to not just be something your grandparents read but pillars of a local community. The decline of newspapers is a complex issue well beyond the scope of this little opinion piece. What can be noted is that they are in a mass decline.

With cable news and the internet, the need for a paper boy to throw the newspaper at your door everyday is no longer there. On the surface it seems to be evolution. The newspaper is a relic of a by-gone era that will go the way of the dodo.

However, these local newspapers make up an important part of the national news ecosystem; to get rid of them is to throw the ecosystem into chaos.

Think about the big, popping headlines you see on networks like CNN or FOX. What is often in a smaller font is a credit and acknowledgement being given to a local newspaper. While on their face, your local "Gazette" or "Journal" just seems to be a holdover, they are actually quite important, and even more overlooked.

As newspapers continue to struggle, it is only a matter of time until either private inter-

ests start buying newspapers or national news declines due to the death of local papers to draw from.

While option one does not seem so bad, I have massive worries. For example, you can see the change in tone from the Washington Post after Amazon bought the paper a few years back. The Op-Ed section seems more and more to be representative of the neoliberal order and maintaining the economic status quo. While it is the Op-Ed section, it is still worrisome; this is compounded by the recent one-day strike by the Post staff. It should not be controversial to desire to keep newspapers from being bought by big corporations.

This decline of news into infotainment is especially seen in sports media over the last decade.

In combination with the rise of social media, sports shows shifted from discussions of what happened on the field to who could say the most outlandish thing to go viral on social media. This is most seen at ESPN, as their talk shows are rarely focused on the actual sports, and instead, we have sports talk

guys like Kendrick Perkins or Chris Russo just spitballing whatever they can.

Sports media is less about sports now, and instead just wants to maximize the entertainment value of their on air talent. First take, first and foremost, is a show, not a place for information.

There have even been more examples of ESPN caring more about their on-air talent than journalistic rigor. Pat McAfee, who's podcast is licensed by ESPN, said he would not bring Aaron Rodgers back onto the podcast for the rest of the NFL season as Rodgers had incorrectly insinuated that Jimmy Kimmel was on the Epstein flight logs. Rodgers was back on the show the next day, and ESPN has not seemed to take necessary steps to punish McAfee. ESPN seems to be more focused on the ability of their on-air talent to influence headlines and coverage than the company itself to pursue rigorous and engaging reporting on topics in the world of sports.

Clearly there are some problems. I honestly do not have a specific answer, outside of being sure to support your

local paper, wherever that may be. We should also try to hold corporations, whether that is ESPN or CNN, to a higher standard of journalistic rigor than they have shown as of late.

I just hope one day to be able to tell my grandkids about a news anchor like mine did about Walter Cronkite. I will definitely not be telling my kids about Jake Tapper, Sean Hannity, Stephen A. Smith or any of the like. Infotainment will be the death of true news reporting, and I hope we can figure out a way to keep information separate from entertainment.



Christian Cullen is a staff writer for *News-wire*. He is a psychology major from Louisville.

# Streamline Streaming

It is evident that the streaming service bandwagon has been one of the largest in the world of entertainment in the past five to 10 years. Most entertainment companies have been trying to dip their toes into streaming for the sake of acquiring a new audience and keeping their current one on the edge of their seat. Whether it is Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Peacock or so forth, it acts as both a money making technique as well as an attempt to get more people to use the service for present and future releases.

Many classes from elementary school to university will often assign watching a video or movie as an assignment for students so that they can better understand a subject or be exposed to something new through the movie's content. However, with the rise of streaming service exclusives, websites like YouTube

having strict copyright laws, and the recent scarcity of physical media, many movies either stick to these streaming services or fall into obscurity. This is where the line can't be drawn as easily as others make it sound.

Many professors I have had tend to check video websites such as YouTube to see if anyone uploaded the content for convenience. Despite that, searching for a specific video or movie on YouTube is like a game of roulette, where the professor has to hope that someone uploads the specific movie they are looking for. Herein lies the struggle I deal with as someone who doesn't carry every streaming service subscription known to mankind.

When I was taking a photography class last year, one of my assignments was to watch the documentary *Endangered*. However, when I

went to check to see where I could watch the documentary, it appeared to be exclusive to HBO Max, a streaming service that I did not subscribe to. Luckily for me, I had a roommate with HBO Max who let me use his subscription so that I could do the assignment.

Although I was able to find an easy solution to this struggle, I know that others might not be able to do so. The process of free trials does not necessarily make it easier, with having to sign up for one and then cancel it quickly afterwards. Plus, having so many streaming services can give a wallet an existential crisis and can make bill prices skyrocket.

I can imagine some people telling me that provided you have all of the streaming services, or at least, access to their free trials to turn on and off at your fingertips, you won't have to deal with streaming service exclusive

movies for class assignments as an obstacle. From the way I see it, that opposing remark is not wrong, but for people like me who grew up in a household where having so many streaming services was not the norm, it is easier said than done.

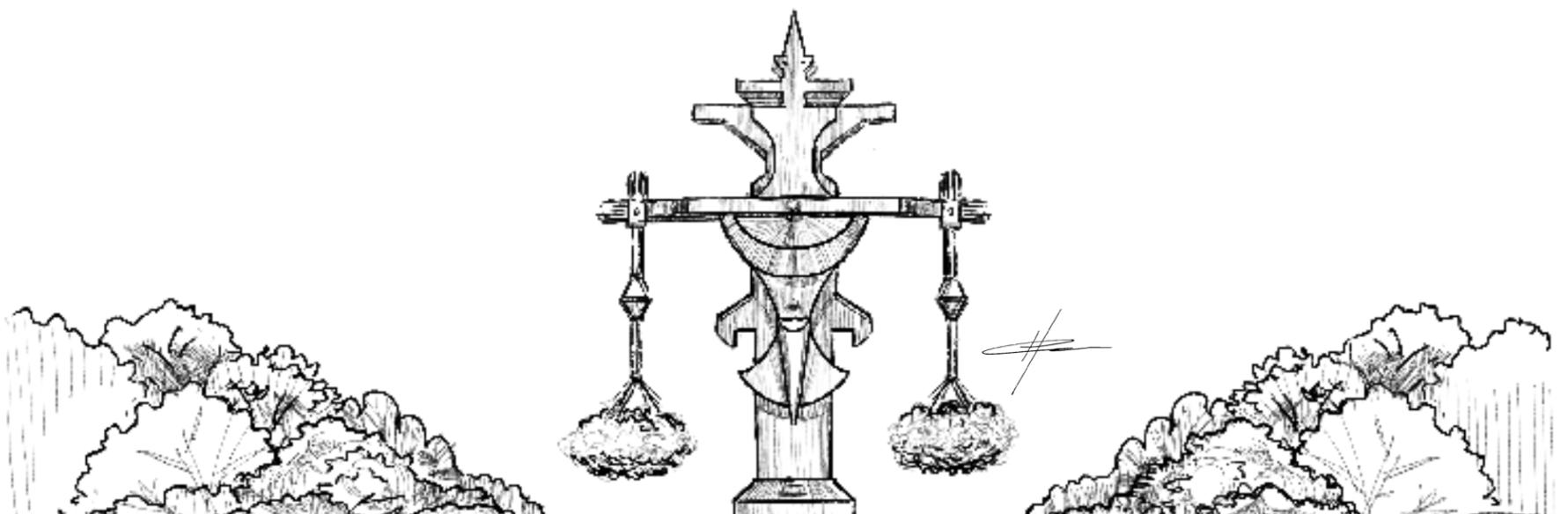
Does this mean that I think that schools and universities shouldn't have assignments where you have to watch a movie or show that is exclusive to just one streaming service? No, absolutely not. What I think should happen is that if the professor is aware of this, they should offer a heads up that a specific streaming service is required to watch the source material. Fortunately, that photography class is the only time I have found myself in such a paradigm, but I say this as something that should be considered for assignments done in the future.

Perhaps, addressing it

ahead of time will help students prepare their free trials or use of the streaming service when they are officially doing the assignment and help make the situation less confusing.



Joseph Hammann is a guest writer for *News-wire*. They are a junior graphic design major from Columbia, Md.



# XU Basketball Completes Road Trip

BY SPENCER TRACY  
Staff Writer

Coming off a promising three-game win streak, Xavier basketball dropped a rough two-game road trip to Creighton and University of Connecticut this week. A game winning dunk by Xavier forward Dailyn Swain erupted Cintas Center, but it wasn't enough momentum to turn the season around after a nail-biting loss to Creighton and a forgettable loss to UConn.

Headed into Omaha playing their best basketball of the season, Xavier had Associated Press' No. 17 team Creighton on upset watch. A seesaw of a first half was all the Musketeers could ask for playing the underdog last Tuesday night. Perfect from the free throw line and 46% shooting from the field was a good start, but it didn't match Creighton's 51%. A slow start for Creighton from the 3-point line kept Xavier within striking distance; however with the offensive weapons the Blue Jays have, it was only a matter of time before they got hot.

Right on cue, Creighton forward Trey Alexander splashes one from behind the arc to open the second half. The first of eight to fall in the half forcing the Muske-



Photo courtesy of Isaac Fiely/Xavier Athletics

Senior forward Abou Ousmane leads the Musketeers in rebounds, averaging 6.8 per outing. In last week's games at Creighton and UConn, Xavier was outrebounded by an average of eight boards per game.

teers to counter with new fan favorite senior guard Quincy Olivari, to hit some of his own. However, neither Olivari nor freshman floor general Trey Green were making it rain from three in Omaha, but senior guard Dayvion McKnight, sunk four of his five attempts, finishing with 20 points.

Neck and neck headed into the final two minutes, the

Muskies only trailed 74-76, bringing hope to Xavier Nation from afar. However, back-to-back missed jumpers by sophomore guard Desmond Claude opened the door for Alexander and senior wing Baylor Scheierman. Desperate to switch the momentum at the CHI Health Center, the clutch factor wasn't activated as Xavier went on to drop a crushing loss to the Blue Jays,

85-78.

The loss to Creighton on the road was frustrating but competing with a team who appeared in the Elite 8 last year and three of their five starters returning, hope was still in the air facing the number one team in the nation. This hope did not last long.

On Sunday, the defending NCAA champs and current top-ranked Associated Press

team, opened on a 38-7 run. Xavier players were shooting at a hoop with a lid while watching UConn forward Donovan Clingan put together a dunk show.

What I could only imagine, a whiteboard replete with halftime adjustments as Sean Miller and his team headed into the lockerroom down 48-22. A 26-point deficit at half is a tall task to ask from any team in the country. But on the road, against the best team in the country, is near impossible when there's a 34% gap in shooting percentage.

Adjustments were made offensively presenting more fight, but the number three scoring offense in the country didn't take their foot off the gas. A 51-point second half was the nail in the coffin for the musketeers, if it hadn't been hit already. To put it simply enough, it was UConn's day Sunday afternoon. 17 three pointers, 28 points off turnovers and holding Xavier to just 34% shooting is a textbook blowout.

Looking forward, Xavier hosts St. Johns, coached by legend Rick Pitino tonight in hopes of splitting the season series after losing on the road at Carnasessa Arena on Dec 15th. The Musketeers won both of their outings against the Red Storm last season.

## Storm Chasers: Cyclones Making Push for Playoffs

### Cincinnati's ECHL Team Hosts Wheeling Nailers Tonight for Famous \$2 Beer Night

BY LOGAN DAVIS  
Staff Writer

The Cincinnati Cyclones have been a team of many mysteries this year. It seems as if they're stuck in a loop of mediocrity, with a record of 19-18-4 and currently 9th place in the ECHL standings.

Last year, the Cyclones boasted a 47-16-6 record, finishing second in the Western

Conference division of the ECHL. Promptly following the 2022-2023 season the Cyclones, previously affiliated with the Buffalo Sabers, became affiliates with the New York Rangers.

So far one of the weaknesses for the Cyclones is a lack of consistency from their defensemen, Jalen Smerack. Smerack looked to be a stout defender last year with a sol-

id plus/minus of 27. He has seemed to be a shell of himself this season, putting up a -5 plus/minus. Plus/minus is a good indicator for evaluating the presence of a defender and what they bring to the table. It is determined by giving the player a "plus" when their team scores a goal and a "minus" when the other team scores.

Another reason for the Cyclones giving up an increasing number of goals could be the fact that they have been forced to field four different goalies. In 2022-23, goalies Mark Sinclair and Beck Warm had a .900 save rate or higher meaning they saved around 90% of shots.

Another statistic vastly different than last year to show the defensive woes is GAA (Goal Against Average). This year, the Cyclones' best goalie, Olof Lindbom is putting up an uninspiring 3.26 GAA with 22 games under his belt.

On the contrary, Julian Sime's GAA is 5.14 with five games.

Offensively, Zach Andrusiak (pictured right) is playing absolutely lights out. The forward from Yorkton, Saskatchewan is looking to be the points leader for the team in back-to-back seasons. He currently sits

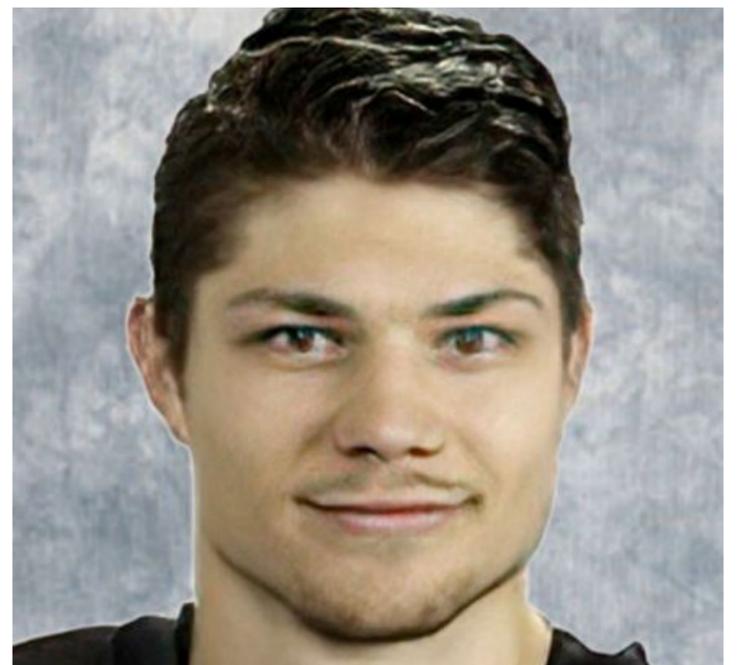


Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

at 45 points this season. The team as a whole is averaging around four goals per game.

If the Cyclones can figure it out defensively, they could still make a run to the playoffs. In their last affair against the Toledo Walleye, which took place on Jan. 26, the Cyclones gave up a staggering nine goals and put up just one. All is not lost for the Cyclones' this season, however. They sit just one spot away from a playoff spot, in arms distance of the Tulsa Oilers and Kalamazoo Wings.

The boys in black and red have dropped three of their last four matches, which places them ninth out of fourteen teams in the West. The Cyclones look to make up some ground on the standings by playing the number five Wheeling Nailers tonight.

Upcoming promotions include tonight's "\$2 Beer Night," "Cyclones Fight Cancer" night this upcoming Saturday, a "Crossbody Bag Giveaway" on Feb. 16, and an "Aluminum Koozie Giveaway" on Mar. 1



Photo courtesy of Vector Ports

# Who to Watch for at the 2024 Oscars

Hot predictions on the winners from Xavier's experts: DIFT and music majors

BY MARTY DUBECKY

Print Managing Editor

## Best Picture

"I'd choose *Killers of the Flower Moon* all day, every day. Scorsese really subverted expectations with *Killers*. The movie was long but never felt like it was plateauing."

-Logan Herrera  
Senior DIFT major

## Best Actress

"For best actress, I do think Margot Robbie was snubbed. I thought she did a great job in *Barbie*. But I do think Lily Gladstone had one of the best performances of the year in *Killers of the Flower Moon*."

-Abigail Horn  
Junior DIFT major

## Best Supporting Actress

"America Ferrera has a good chance of winning the Best Supporting Actress category for her empowering monologue in *Barbie*."

-Nick Namyar  
Senior DIFT and graphic design double major

## Best Actor

"I'm stuck between Paul Giamatti and Cillian Murphy. If I had to guess realistically, I think it's Cillian Murphy for how well *Oppenheimer* did in the Box Office. However, Giamatti in *The Holdovers* is very underrated and I'm rooting for him!"

-Robbie Stephens  
Senior DIFT major

## Best Supporting Actor

"I think best supporting actor will go to Ryan Gosling in *Barbie*. Ken was such a funny character to watch throughout the whole movie. I watched *Barbie* four times and enjoyed hearing Gosling sing and laughed every time his character made a joke."

-Alex Sepulveda  
Junior DIFT major

## Best Original Score and Best Original Song

"For the original score, I think *Killers of the Flower Moon* is awesome! For original song, I am going to go with 'I'm Just Ken' for popularity reasons!"

-Raquelia Ramlogan  
Senior music major

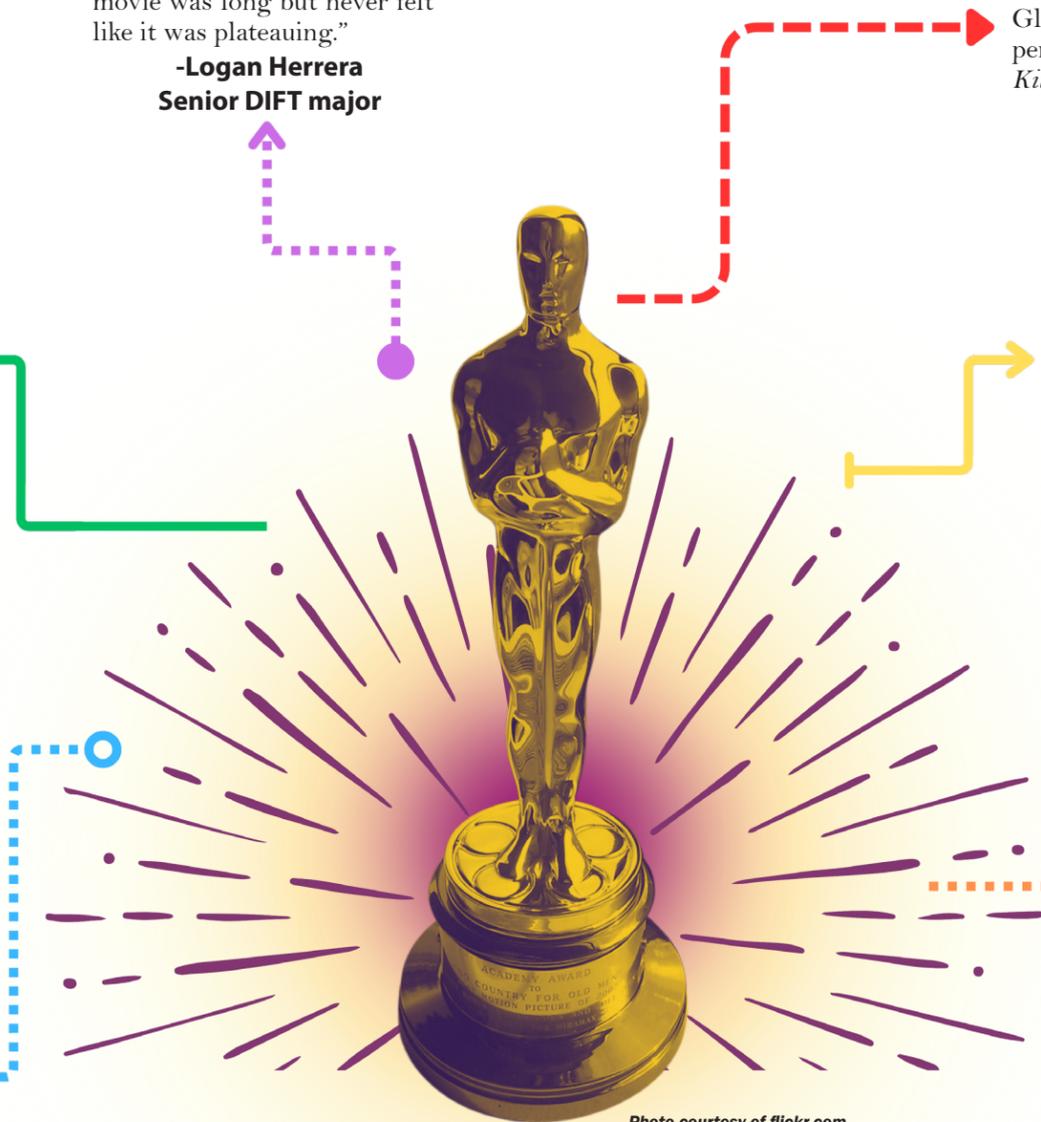


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

# What's Eating You: An Analysis and Explanation

What's up with cannibalism in media and why does it leave us hungry for more?

BY AUDREY ELWOOD

Staff Writer

"I am hungry / I have been hungry."

Those lyrics from Mitski's "Abbey" have recently flooded TikTok slide shows alongside poems and prose focused on love and devouring. But what is this hunger in question? What are all these writings about?

What is it about eating other people that has captured the media's attention? In the last three years, we have gotten a plethora of new movies, TV shows and books on this topic. From *Yellowjackets* to that one scene in *Saltdorn*, it begs the question: Why now? And why can't we look away?

In Ethel Cain's 2022 *Preacher's Daughter* album, we are told a story about how a young, fictionalized Ethel runs away from home, is seduced by a man and is ultimately killed. In the final song, "Strangers," we hear the grotesque depiction of Ethel being eaten by her past lover.

"Freezer bride, your sweet divine / you devour like smoked bovine hide / How funny, I never considered myself tough."

The song is about longing for the approval of the lover and is told through the symbolism of cannibalism.

Romance and cannibalism have been linked heavily in modern media. In the movie *Bones and All* (2022), we see the main character eat her love interest. So, why is there such a romanticization of cannibalism?

In my opinion, it is the desire to be needed so deeply by another person that you literally sustain them. You are their sustenance. What is love, but the consumption of your partner's love and entire being? Like an obsession gone wrong, cannibalism signifies just how consumed one is in a relationship, by the consumption of human flesh.

Harkening back to the vampire mania of the early 2010's, people want to be needed by a partner on the deepest level, and within the context of these stories, are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their partner. It plays into the toxic relationship roles people love to consume but don't love to live (if you don't think Bella and Edward were toxic, I am genuinely concerned, and yes drinking blood is canni-

balism). Cannibalism as a trope, in a way, is just extreme people pleasing, but this only applies in cases of consensual cannibalism.

I also must remark on how in most cannibalism media centered around romance, the eaten is usually a woman being eaten against her will. In the movie *Fresh* (2022), a woman goes on a date with a charming man, only to later find out that he eats and sells the meat of women he goes on dates with. With this in mind, one can also make the argument that cannibalism

use to society is gone, because they're too "ugly" or "old."

Cannibalism is used as a political act within the media, and it almost always involves the destruction of female bodies. The spike in cannibalism is not a random media trend, but one that relates to current societal pressures. With *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, many women feel stripped of their rights. Their bodies have been taken away just like a carcass in a slaughterhouse.

The rise of normalization of violence in relationships could be another reason this media has become so prevalent. From the objectification of women through social media "alpha males" and incels, cannibalism is the objectification of a person as consumable, which often is what a person is reduced to, especially in the age of social media.

So maybe cannibalism is less about love and more about desire. After all, deep desire can't be expressed as well as through the carnality of cannibalism.

The rise in cannibalism media is a reflection of ourselves and our deepest, darkest desires... guts and all.

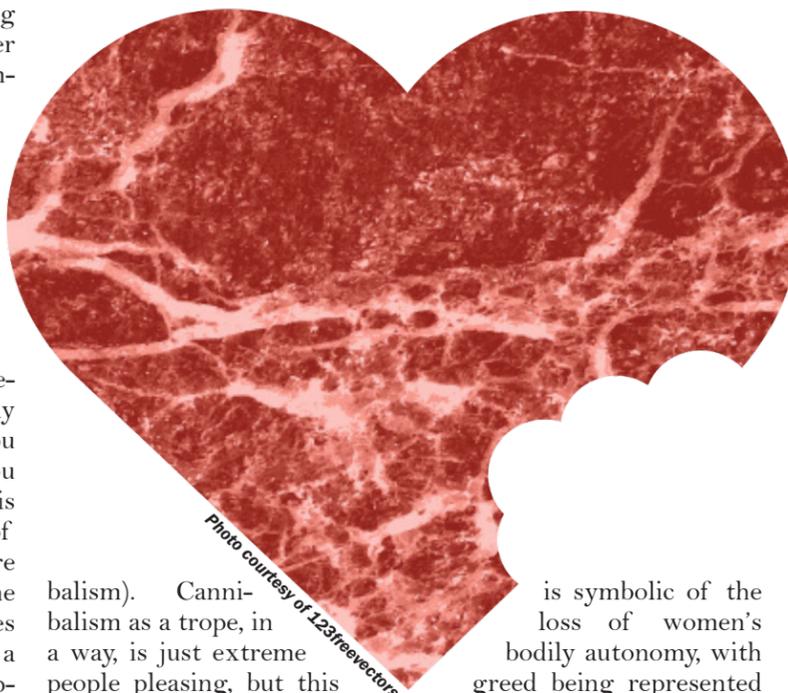


Photo courtesy of 123freectors

# Cincy Serves in James Beard Awards

BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER  
*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

Three Cincinnati restaurants were named semifinalists for the national 2024 James Beard Awards this past week.

Each restaurant's chefs were nominated for the "Best Chef in the Great Lakes region" category, which includes all of Ohio, as well as Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. The nominees include Jeffery Harris of Nolia Kitchen (Over-the-Rhine), Erik Bentz and Elaine Uykimfang Bentz of Café Mochiko (Walnut Hills) and Jose Salazar of Mita's (Downtown).

The James Beard Awards are widely considered to be some of the most prestigious awards for the culinary arts. According to the James Beard Foundation (JBF), "The mission of the James Beard Awards is to recognize exceptional talent and achievement in the culinary arts, hospitality, media and broader food system."

Harris, who is also the owner of the New Orleans-inspired Nolia Kitchen, expressed his gratitude to his staff for the nomination.

"I always tell my staff, my crew, that anytime they nominate Nolia for anything, it's us," Harris said during a podcast for the Cincinnati Enquirer. "It's not just me. Because I can't do anything without

them. And I want to say thank you to them."

As for the other nominees, Mita's is one of two Cincinnati-based restaurants for chef Salazar, and focuses heavily on both traditional and new Latin-American and Spanish recipes.

Café Mochiko was created by the chef husband-and-wife duo after merging their pastry and ramen pop-up shops. During the day, the restaurant caters coffee and baked goods, which then transitions into an Asian-American comfort dinner menu at night.

Maddie Cmolik, a junior Life Sciences for Business major, is a frequent patron of Café Mochiko. She expressed her love for the restaurant and her hopes for their success in the awards.

"I don't know anything about restaurant awards, but from my experiences I've had there, it doesn't surprise me that they've been nominated," she said. "It makes me excited that it's a small business outside Cincinnati (getting nominated)."

This year isn't the first time all three restaurants have received a nomination from the JBF. Just last year, Mita's placed in the finals for the "Outstanding Restaurant" award nationwide. Meanwhile, Nolia Kitchen placed in the top 10 for "Best New Restaurant," and chef Uykimfang Bentz from Café Mochiko claimed a finalist position

in JBF's "Best Pastry Chef or Baker" category.

Outside of Cincinnati, three other Ohio restaurants will be represented in the same category as Harris, Salazar and the Bentzes. Eat Market of Columbus, Cordelia of Cleveland and Joya's of Worthington have all had their chefs nominated as well.

Finalists for the upcoming awards will be announced early April, with the winners being announced during a ceremony in June in Chicago.



BY GRACE HAMILTON  
*Opinions & Editorials Editor*

- Nicki Minaj started a feud with fellow female rapper Megan Thee Stallion after Stallion released her new track, "Hiss" (Jan. 25).
- Kim Kardashian is executive producing and appearing in a docuseries about Elizabeth Taylor, called *Elizabeth Taylor: Rebel Superstar*. The show is already in production at BBC Arts (Jan. 29).
- Celine Dion has announced a new documentary about her struggle with stiff person syndrome (Jan. 29).
- Reba McEntire has announced she will be starring in and executive producing a new sitcom for NBC Universal (Jan. 29).

Photos courtesy of The Cincinnati Enquirer  
Cincy chefs Jeffery Harris (top), Jose Salazar (middle with his wife Ann), Erik Bentz and Elaine Uykimfang Bentz (bottom) have been nominated for a national James Beard award for Best Chef in the Great Lakes area.

## New Listermann Kitchen Brews Up Mixed Feelings

BY OWEN MIGUEL  
*Staff Writer*

There is no place that screams Norwood quite like Listermann Brewing Company. Operating since 1991, it has been the place to kick back and relax for townfolk and students alike. If you've taken a walk on the outskirts of campus on Dana Ave., you've probably seen the "Super Listermann Bros." mural on its side wall that is (most likely) subject to copyright infringement. You may have even gone inside to do some homework, hang out with some friends, or, if you are 21 years old or older, to get one of their award-winning beers that they brew in-house. Bottom line, it is a cozy and friendly place that's been a staple of the community for a long time.

Some students might remember Tickle Pickle, a Northside Burger Restaurant, opening a kitchen inside Listermann in the summer of 2022. It was a welcome addition to the brewhouse, and it gave an incentive for younger students to come in and have a bite, not to mention the food was incredible. Unfortunately, they closed down their kitchen

en this past summer, leaving all of us wondering what Listermann will do to replace it.

Listermann has rolled out their own new menu for us to try. This isn't their first attempt at the culinary arts — as even older students might remember the Listermann's Trail House just down the road from the main brewery. Although it closed only a year after it opened, it had some

quality food that was prepared with passion and love. Just like their Trail House, Listermann's new menu offers a variety of food options to choose from, including shareables, salads, sandwiches and flatbreads. It also features some sauces made with some of their beers, like their Chickow! BBQ sauce.

So, does this new menu live up to its predecessors?

For this review, I ordered

their "Cordon Bleu" sandwich with chips and their "D'artagnan Dunkel" Lager, totaling \$20. I was given my food, and I could tell right away that the sandwich was not worth \$15. The portion was very small, and the sandwich looked like it was thrown together and tossed in a cheap toaster oven.

The taste was decent, however. The Nutcase Mustard, one of their other beer sauces, was the star of the show,

with the spice of brown mustard and bits of nuts in it. The chicken and serrano ham were adequate, although I feel like I could find them in the Kroger cold cuts section. Overall, the sandwich was good, but a bit disappointing given its \$15 price.

Is this indicative of the whole menu? I do not think so. Although its cheap presentation has me worried about their other sandwiches and entrée style food items — especially the flatbreads — their shareables did have me intrigued. The pretzel bites and chips with spinach artichoke dip looked very promising, and with their price, it justifies getting multiple orders of them to share with your friends.

The final verdict? I have conflicted feelings.

I have hope that their other food items are good, but I would recommend staying away from their entrées, as their presentation and taste do not justify their high price.

Will that stop me from going in after a hard day's work and chatting up the bartenders and locals? Absolutely not.

Will I be hungry while I do it? That just might be the case.

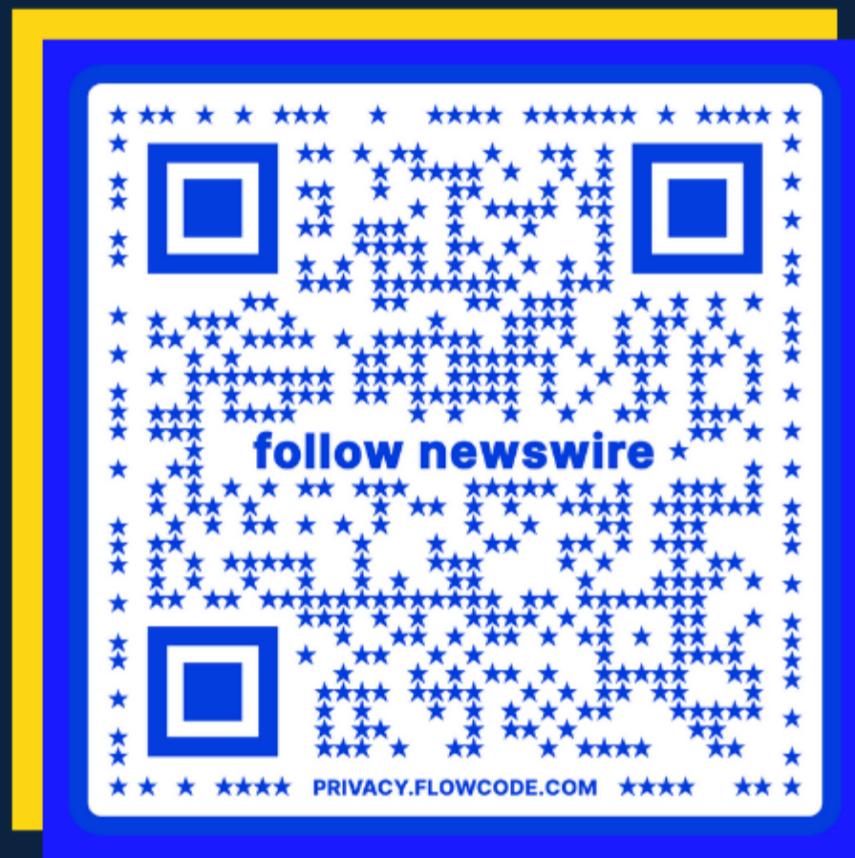


Newswire photo courtesy of Owen Miguel



SCAN HERE TO FOLLOW US

**xavier.newswire**



GIVEAWAY COMING SOON!

