



Students Embark On Icy Escapade

Xavier Professor Dr. Leon Chartrand leads inaugural Xavier Expedition to Antarctica

BY CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Over winter break, 14 students became the first Xavier group to travel to Antarctica, the newest destination of the Xavier Expedition Program.

Previously, the program offered opportunities to explore Yellowstone, Uganda, Namibia, Greenland, Iceland and more. They have now added Antarctica to the list.

Founder of Xavier Expeditions Dr. Leon Chartrand says that a lot of work went into making it possible. It's not an easy place to get to but that's the point.

"The Antarctic Treaty Alliance allows a limited amount of visitors to get there in terms of stepping on the continent... and you need a supportive university to trust that you are gonna get students there and back safely," he said.

"But the goal is to take students to these hard to reach places that very few people go, or if they do it's a trip of a lifetime" he continued.

Sophomore digital media major Quinn Healy went on the Yellowstone expedition but explained that it was vastly different from his experience in the Arctic.

"The biggest difference is, at least for Yellowstone, we were still in America and we still knew mostly where we were, but being in the middle of Antarctica it was unique. We had no connection to the outside world because we were on a boat in the middle of the ocean, no Wifi, nothing like that, just us on a boat with a few other people from around the world," he said.

In order to get to the southernmost part of the globe,



Newswire photo courtesy of Hallie Sands

students first had to take a series of flights to Ushuaia and Argentina before they could set sail for Antarctica.

Sophomore advertising major Hallie Sands expressed gratitude for the ability to build friendships with the people she met along the way.

"I still talk to them. There were people from 26 different countries, and there were like 85 people on the boat including our group, so we got to talk with and build relationships, bond and create friendships with everybody in such a tight place and in such little time," Sands said.

They traveled by boat for about two days through the Beagle Channel until they began crossing the Drake Passage, some of the most dangerous waters in the world.

Sophomore public relations and advertising double major

Owen Gorsuch remembers how treacherous it seemed.

"It rocked us considerably. There are times when the ship would tilt six degrees one way and then six degrees the other direction. It was crazy. There were several times where people would go to sit down but then fall over because the ship rolled away," he said.

After days at sea, one of the most memorable moments for Sands was when she was one of the first people to spot land after rocking around in the boat for so long.

"When we saw it, it was the first time we'd seen land in three days. Then there's this really beautiful image in my head of all of the mountains that are just covered in snow, and it looks cinematic. It didn't look real. It looked like it came straight out of a

movie," she exclaimed.

Once they made it to land, they spent four days in Antarctica exploring the waters on Zodiac boats and learning about the wildlife. Sands vividly recalls some wildlife that she saw, her favorites being the dolphins.

"On our last day, we saw dolphins on the way back, and there were about 50 just around the boat. The day was so clear that you could see them under the crystal blue water and closely look at all their mannerisms because they were all swimming to keep up with the boat. So that was insane," she recalled.

In addition to dolphins, they also saw seals, penguins, brown scuba birds and whales.

After returning to the U.S. and to fulfill core curriculum requirements, students were

given assignments to help them put into practice what they experienced and learned about in Antarctica and how it connects to the bigger picture. Their assignment from Chartrand is to research a topic assigned to them ranging from Adelie penguins to Weddel seals, Orca killer whales, glaciers and more.

"For all these different topics, each student has to address statistics about biological behavior, like mortality or reproduction, or how they are dependent on the environment," Chartrand explained.

"They also have to address how climate change is directly or indirectly impacting their future. And then they have an ethical component as well where they ask, 'What can each of these beings tell us about a vision for our future?'" he continued.

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New Senators Join the Ranks of SGA

The Student Government Association is joined by 10 new members this year

BY GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

In addition to Nick Jebson and Noelle Delumpa beginning their terms as president and vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA) with the start of the new year, 10 new senators have joined the organization.

All of the new senators ran unopposed or were appointed after the election.

Half of the new senators are Philosophy, Politics, and the Public (PPP) majors, adding to a total of 12 out of the 22 members of SGA being PPP majors.

First-year public relations and communication studies double major Niyah Spruill said she was drawn to SGA as an opportunity to get involved.

"I ran for SGA because I enjoy being an advocate for voices that tend to be muted. I also love being involved in a community and being able to make a difference," Spruill said.

"My goal within SGA is to

give students not only what they need, but what they deserve. College is stressful enough, and I believe SGA is one of many ways to lessen the stress on students," she said.

First-year PPP and history double major Nick Watts reflected on his time on student council in high school and the experience he gained from it.

"I had an awesome time from eighth grade to my senior year," Watts said. "Student government empowered me to make a difference and lead events."

Addressing ticket scalping of student tickets for men's basketball games is a high priority for Watts now that he is part of SGA.

"Ticket scalping is annoying and wrong. I believe that tackling this issue will bring credibility to SGA," he said.

He also hopes to investigate allowing Xavier students to bring guests into the Health United Building's recreation center.

As for the priorities of SGA's executives Jebson and

Delumpa, they campaigned with the goal of remodeling the line system for basketball games.

"We believe the Cintas environment is already incredible, but assistance from the administration would be beneficial in promoting a more relaxed, community building, tailgating culture before games rather than the stress of lines and seat acquisition on gameday," their candidate profile reads.

The pair also campaigned on an initiative for better night life consisting of "building a constructive rapport between the student body and the Norwood Police, with the twin objectives of fortifying student safety and devising strategies for handling sizable social gatherings without requiring police intervention," according to their candidate profile.

New and returning SGA members have already begun meeting and planning this semester and will continue to meet every Monday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

January 22, 2024

Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY DOMINIC DEGRINNEY

- Thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles have declined, but XUPD still offers anti-theft devices. Students are advised to remain wary. The break-ins have mostly occurred near Smith Hall off of Dana Avenue and in long-term parking.
- Residence hall vandalism has persisted despite the installation of cameras. XUPD recommends witnesses coming forward as the best way to counter vandalism. The vandalism has led to increased XUPD presence.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) has formed the Ticket Scalping Committee to address ticket scalping, especially after the influx of scalping for the Crosstown Shootout. The committee is in the process of getting more members from SGA. They intend to meet with Xavier Athletics and X-treme Fans before coming to a resolution.

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Supreme Court Weighs Regulatory Power

The case, *Relentless, Inc. v. Department of Commerce*, could change a nearly 40-year precedent

BY GRACE HAMILTON
Opinions & Editorials
Editor

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case *Relentless, Inc. v. Department of Commerce* last Wednesday, which will decide whether a 40-year-old precedent concerning federal regulations is overturned.

The case comes from herring fishermen from Rhode Island and New Jersey who are concerned about recent regulations directing them to pay a fee — about \$700 a day — for workers to observe their fish intake and ensure they are following other regulations. The 2020 rule was put in place by the National Marine Fisheries Service, based on its interpretation of a law from 1976.

Relentless, Inc. draws importance from the legal question at its center: the decision from *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*. Ruled on in 1984, the decision of *Chevron* set the precedent for a system of how judges assess challenges to federal regulations — referred to as the *Chevron* deference.

The original case concerned the National Resources Defense Council challenging new definitions regarding sources of air pollution employed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Supreme Court ruled that deference fell to the EPA's interpretation of the word "source."

The resulting *Chevron* deference decreed that judges, when confronted with these

challenges to federal regulations, should consider whether or not the law is clear. Then, if the law is found to be ambiguous, the judge is supposed to concede to the agency's interpretation of the law, if reasonable.

Relentless, Inc. is challenging the *Chevron* deference. Conservative legal foundations and business groups, such as Gun Owners of America, have taken interest in the case as well, backing an overturning of the 1984 precedent by arguing that it hands too much power to federal agencies at the expense of Congress and the judiciary.

"When the statute is ambiguous, and the tie has to go to someone, we think the tie should go to the citizen and not the government. And one of the many problems with the *Chevron* rule is... the tie goes to the government," Paul Clement, a former solicitor general representing the fishermen in *Relentless, Inc.*, said.

The Supreme Court has heard three and a half hours of arguments regarding the case. Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh have led the conservative majority on the court in opposing the *Chevron* decision, followed by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

Roman Martinez, speaking on behalf of *Relentless Inc.*,

conveyed the main concerns with *Chevron*, that of judicial bias and agency overreach. This argument has been backed by mostly conservative groups concerning guns, e-cigarettes, farming, timber and home-buildings.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, defending *Chevron* on behalf of the Biden administration, wrote in a Supreme Court filing, "*Chevron* gives appropriate weight to the expertise, often of a scientific or technical nature, that federal agencies can bring to bear in interpreting federal statutes."

David Doniger, a senior attorney at the Natural Resources

Defense Council, believes that overturning *Chevron* will remove powers from the federal government so that "billionaires and big companies" can act without repercussions or regulation.

The decision regarding *Relentless, Inc.*, and ultimately the *Chevron* deference, is predicted to come down in the early summer and depends on the final opinions of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Both lean conservative, though Barrett has expressed concern over a potential "flood of litigation" should the precedent be overturned.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

The case centers around a group of herring fishermen who are concerned with regulations directing them to pay daily fees to agency workers.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

FAFSA Changes to Simplify Process

BY BRIANNA DUNN
Staff Writer

A new version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available for college students for the 2024-2025 school year. This version is designed to be a simpler application process for students and parents and to increase their eligibility for funding.

The FAFSA form, usually available beginning in October, became available on Dec. 31, 2023. This version was shortened from 108 questions to somewhere between 36 to 46 questions, and will be available in the 11 commonly spoken languages, among other key changes.

These alterations were made based on the FAFSA Simplification Act that was passed into federal law by President Joe Biden in 2020. The act expanded the Federal Pell Grant to more students and eligibility to family size.

Anyone who provides information on an individual's FAFSA form is considered a contributor. The form will tell students who needs to be a contributor based on a respondent's responses to certain questions.

Previously, only the applying student and one parent were required to have an FSA ID. FSA IDs are now required

for all contributors, such as a student's biological or adoptive parent, a stepparent or the student's spouse. Students or users must have their own ID and StudentAid.gov account to access, share information for, sign and submit the form.

The Student Aid Index will replace the Expected Family Contribution to determine the amount a student may receive in financial aid. This calculation will account for a larger Income Protection Allowance, lowering the amount of student or parent income considered available to pay for college.

The new Student Aid Index formula does not include a sibling discount, and families with multiple students in college may receive less aid. Students from families not required to file federal income taxes will automatically be considered for higher aid.

Although the application will have fewer questions, all contributors must consent to using the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool to directly import their IRS information into the FAFSA. In previous years, the tool was optional, but all contributors must consent for students to be eligible for aid.

The Department of Education estimates 610,000 new students will be eligible for federal Pell Grants with the

new form. It allows 1.5 million more students to receive the maximum Pell Grant award, which was \$7,395 last year.

The FAFSA Submission Summary is replacing the Student Aid Report. This is not an aid offer but is designed to highlight a student's eligibility for federal student aid, including Federal Pell Grants and eligibility for federal loans. The summary will include the answers submitted on the FAFSA form and the Student Aid Index, while providing verification selection.

The relaunch was supposed to include the most recent inflation data in the Student Aid Index. However, the inflation level was not updated for the new FAFSA and remains at that of April 2020. This exclusion can make some students eligible for smaller aid awards.

The Department of Education has not stated whether these numbers will be updated for the 2024-2025 FAFSA but doing so could cause more delays for students to receive their aid offers, which many groups have faced from user issues with the form.

The Department of Education reports that the relaunch will increase low- and middle-income students' eligibility for financial aid awards and provide a smoother application process for all applicants.



BY GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

The San Antonio Zoo has announced their Valentine's Day fundraiser plans, which includes the "cry me a cockroach" fundraiser, where people can "symbolically name a roach, rat or veggie after your ex or not-so-special someone and the San Antonio Zoo will help squash your past, a true heartbreak healer, by feeding your selection to an animal resident." The zoo also provides the opportunity to buy poop-scented Hippo Love candles for those who "are looking to turn up the heat and attract that special someone" with "the rizz you need" (Jan. 15).

The Italian province of Bolzano will be mandating all dog owners to submit their pets for DNA testing, in an effort to crack down on dog poop in public areas. The Bolzano veterinary department is creating a DNA database of 40,000 dogs so that police can reference to search for potential culprits. The province's police will charge owners around \$70 for the testing and owners who refuse DNA testing on their dogs will be fined \$318 - \$1,143 (Jan. 17).



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

U.S. Redesignates Houthis as Terrorists

BY DOMINIC DEGRINNEY
AND JUSTIN MALONE
*Staff Writer and
World News Editor*

The Biden administration has officially declared the Houthi rebel group as “specially designated global terrorists” (SDGT) in a move that comes amid the Yemen-based militants continuing to execute drone and missile attacks on military and commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

The designation, which was officially announced by the Department of State and the White House last Wednesday, reverses part of an earlier decision by the U.S. government to remove the Houthis’ SDGT designation in February 2021. The group, also known as An-

sar Allah has been relisted as an organization that is considered to “threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy or economy of the U.S.”

The decision to make the SDGT designation emphasizes the administration’s pressure campaigns against the Yemeni group, which functions as the de facto government in parts of Yemen.

The SDGT tag means that it is illegal for American citizens to provide any financial or material support to the group. It freezes any assets the Houthis could have in the U.S. that could financially support the group.

The U.S. has urged the Houthi to stop the attacks and has given a period of 30 days

until the new designation and sanctions are implemented.

“These attacks fit the textbook definition of terrorism,” National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement following the Department of State’s announcement.

“They have endangered U.S. personnel, civilian mariners and our partners, jeopardized global trade and threatened freedom of navigation,” he added.

The Houthis began attacking ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in response to the conflict in Gaza and said that they would continue attacking targets until the conflict between Israel and Palestine stops.

“We will not give up targeting Israeli ships or ships heading towards ports in occupied Palestine ... in support of the Palestinian people,” Houthi spokesperson Mohammed Abdelsalam said.

Officials said that they designed the financial penalties of the agreement to minimize its impact on Yemen’s 32 million people, who are among the world’s poorest after years of wars between the Houthi group and another Saudi-led coalition.

Other groups noted that the decision risked accelerating Yemen into widespread famine, with Oxfam Associate Director Scott Paul noting that the threat was on “another level of uncertainty and threat for Yemenis who



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

are still caught in one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises.”

President Biden has stated that despite the new sanctions against the Houthi, supplies will still be provided to the nation whose people depend on humanitarian aid.

“The people of Yemen should not pay the price for the actions of the Houthis. We are sending a clear message: commercial shipments into Yemeni ports on which the Yemeni people rely for food, medicine and fuel should continue and are not covered by our sanctions,” Biden said.

Despite U.S. and allied efforts to retaliate against the attacks the conflict in the region has led some shipping lines to reroute their ships, threatening a wider regional conflict.

The U.S. and the U.K. conducted a further round

of strikes Monday against 14 targets in Yemen which were controlled by Houthi — marking the eighth time in nearly two weeks the U.S. has attacked Houthi sites — in an attempt to stop the group from targeting shipping routes.

Conflict in the Red Sea has affected commercial activity and the oil trade, as the Suez Canal and the Red Sea connects Europe to Asia.

According to the Suez Canal Authority, 55 ships have rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope since Nov. 19 from the attacks. Two major freight firms, including the Mediterranean Shipping Company, which is the world’s biggest container shipping line, said that they would avoid the Suez Canal to avoid the risk of their ships being subject to Houthi attacks throughout their shipping routes.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

The Houthi group has continued attacks on commercial and military vessels in the Red Sea, which has led to 55 ships being rerouted.

Trump Achieves Historic Victory in the Iowa Caucus

The former president has become the frontrunner to win the 2024 Republican presidential nomination

BY JESSE DOLOJAN
*Education and
Enrichment Coordinator*

Former President Donald Trump won the Iowa Republican caucus by earning 51% of the total votes, cementing himself as the frontrunner to once again earning the Republican presidential nomination.

The victory in the Iowa caucus, which was called on Jan. 15, grants Trump momentum moving forward in the race to earn the Republican nomination, as each of his rivals garnered less than 25% of the remaining votes.

Ron DeSantis earned

21% of votes and Nikki Haley earned 19%. Vivek Ramaswamy, an Ohio native and graduate of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, earned 8% of the total votes, coming in fourth behind DeSantis and Haley.

On Jan. 15, soon after the Iowa caucus, Ramaswamy suspended his bid for the Republican nomination. Last Sunday, leading up to the New Hampshire primary, DeSantis also suspended his bid for the nomination.

Temperatures were recorded around -10 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill of -40 degrees Fahrenheit, and

the bitter cold and snow kept many voters at home. The caucus had the lowest turnout in over a quarter-century. Trump won the most votes in all but one of 99 counties in the state and only lost one county to Nikki Haley by a single vote.

Senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public (PPP) and Public Relations double major Ella Anich noted that the Iowa caucus emphasized how strong Trump’s base supports him.

“I think I read that in the past year, he’s only gone to Iowa 12 times, which in comparison to other candidates is staggeringly low. And so even despite that, he is winning the majority and the highest margin that anyone’s ever won in Iowa,” Anich said.

Interim PPP Director and Xavier political science professor Dr. Mack Mariani noted how difficult it would be moving forward for DeSantis and Haley and how important doing well in the primary will be for both candidates.

“The thing about these primaries, momentum is really important. So, if you do exceptionally well in a primary, that’s gonna give you an influx of money, that’s gonna give you a lot of free

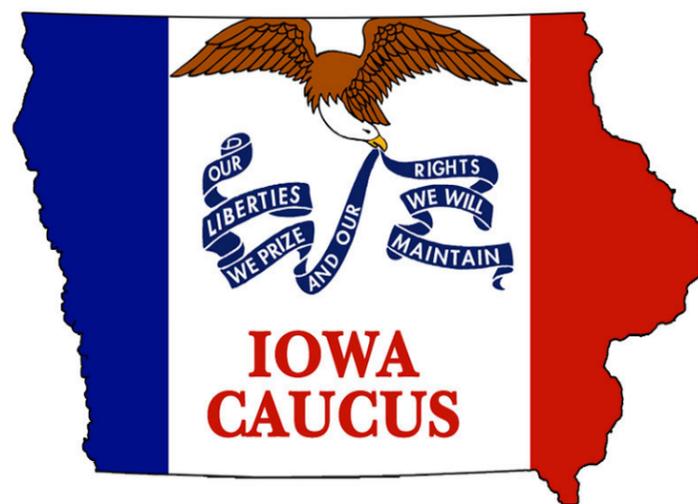


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publicity. It’s going to sort of boost your campaign going forward,” Mariani said.

Haley is projected to perform well with independents within New Hampshire as she was popular among moderate Republicans and independents. Both of these groups are more common in New Hampshire in comparison to Iowa.

Beyond Iowa and New Hampshire, Anich observed how Ohio does have a similar demographic to Iowa in relation to voting. “I think Ohio is a pretty similar state to Iowa, we are definitely not as rural. But Trump has a pretty strong base here. He won it in 2020,” Anich said.

“And so I think it’d be really interesting to see how Ohio votes moving forward, knowing that we have that history with Trump,” she added.

Mariani stressed the need to be ready for another Trump-Biden race, and that as a community, Xavier needs to be ready to have these conversations leading up to the presidential election.

“I think that we’re going to have to be prepared as a campus to have conversations with people who are voting for Trump and people who are voting for Biden and to try to figure out ways to make sure that that happens and in ways that are productive, civil, informative,” Mariani said.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

My Existence: Not Up for Debate

At Xavier, when posed with difficult conversations and divisive issues, we idolize engaging in open dialogue, welcoming these challenging discussions with respect for those who may differ in their perspective and we are told to do so in every space. But I am tired of it. I am tired of it being used as an excuse to entertain ignorant and discriminatory “opinions.”

Of course, this theme emphasizing open dialogues and respect for one another is one that is persistent across our lifetimes, drilled into our minds beginning as an anti-bullying campaign in our grade schools. I find this approach faulty and basic.

Now, I am not trying to say we shouldn't respect each other and we shouldn't seek to understand each other with open minds. We absolutely should. However, there are times when people's “perspectives” do not warrant your respect, and engaging with their ideas is a dangerous game.

For instance, as a gay man, I have fought with people end-

lessly since coming out about social issues involving the LGBTQ+ community, and I have grown tired of being told that I need to meet people where they are at or be patient with people as they learn to accept me.

Being asked to compromise or meet someone in the middle when discussing a topic like LGBTQ+ social and political issues requires that I compromise my self worth and my identity. Not that I will ever stop, but I have become so tired of arguing about LGBTQ+ issues entirely. Opening up that discussion suggests that it's still up for debate whether or not queer people are deserving of respect, rights and happiness. Call me radical, but I think queer people deserve respect. They deserve the same rights as anyone else and they deserve to be happy and safe.

So, no. Let's not talk about whether gay marriage should be legal, whether transgender people deserve healthcare or if queer students should see themselves included and rep-

resented in their education. Those are a given. That's not up for debate, and I don't want to engage in dialogue with you about that unless we plan to talk about how to make sure those things never find themselves at the will of a small group of majority White, old men, otherwise known as Congress.

The dialogue and conversations about these issues don't consist of a real debate, anyway. It is really just queer people and allies trying to dispel the mischaracterizations and falsities promoted by right-wing media sites and candidates taking a cheap shot at a minority community for attention.

That said, please do keep having civil political discourse about important societal issues, but choose carefully which debates you have. To open up something for a debate is to characterize the subject as uncertain. However, I am quite certain queer people deserve rights and I don't find it worth my time to try to convince someone of that,

skin-perfecting brands. Influencers are equally responsible for paying attention to their audiences, especially if their fan base is impressionable. There is great short-term profitability for the influencers and long-term profitability for the beauty industry, which likes to “start them young.”

However, if we rewind to just a few months ago, the answer to this ongoing problem comes back to the parents. Does anyone else remember iPad kids, who could be found playing games, surfing the internet etc., all while lying or sitting in obscure positions? While I hate to sound like my parents, perhaps the problem stems from introducing kids to technology at a young age. When talking with my friends, most agreed they got phones for the first time in middle school. Now, Generation Alpha is receiving iPhones or iPads well before we (Generation Z) ever did, resulting in being more receptive to advertising and branding on social

because at that point it is not just a difference in perspective or civil disagreement. It is personal.

Hopefully, you can understand why I might respond with a heavy and disappointed sigh when someone says I need to meet people where they are at. Because I am holding an “extreme” position, somehow that means my opinion must be lacking or ignorant, but this is merely because our society operates on the fallacy that moderate perspectives suggest more nuance and maturity. We often believe it suggests an understanding informed by opposing perspectives, both sides of the story; an understanding that transcends the polarization of a complicated and controversial issue. Now of course this can be the case, but it shouldn't be something understood so automatically.

Taking extreme or immoderate positions on an issue is not always foolhardy, rash nor immature. Of course, it can be, but we should be cautious to dismiss radical ideas under the assumption that moderate views are more nuanced.

media. They were not taught to understand the manipulation behind some marketing tactics and, therefore, are also unaware that some products are not made for their age range or budget.

What we are seeing are the results of these combined phenomena. Rather than playing and doing what kids do, they are anxious about matching beauty standards and emulating their mentors. The result is angry little girls convinced that they must treat fine lines and wrinkles despite their remarkable absence on their faces. Children are growing up too quickly, and we blame social media as if the situation is entirely out of our control.

There is some truth to that. You can't stop influencers from influencing, brands from marketing and consumers from consuming. However, as a parent, you can choose what your child sees. Of course, it is more than okay for any kid to enjoy doing art with makeup and exploring a new interest, but not if it is based on

Believe me, having taken a number of philosophy and PPP classes at Xavier, I could probably write several books offering people a nuanced line of social, cultural, legal and philosophical reasoning for why queer people deserve rights, but it would be a supreme waste of time.

No one who would want to debate that subject is deserving of my respect or time. I'd much rather spend time building a community where issues like that are not up for debate, and those who want to be a part of that community will understand that. And for those who don't, we'll breathe a sigh of relief when they're gone.



Jackson Hare is the Campus News Editor for *NewsWire*. He is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and psychology double major from Chardon, Ohio.

Opening Sephora's Box

Many college students, like me, may have fond memories of their first experiences with makeup. I remember walking timidly into Claire's for the first time, holding on to the cash I had saved up in my allowance and picking out a lip gloss palette in the shape of a plastic cell phone. At age 10, I couldn't even fathom going into Sephora and dropping hundreds of dollars on makeup and skincare products. However, the new year has unleashed a new brand of pre-teens. They are armed with their millennial mom's metal American Express cards and a hunger for lip oils and perfumes that must be satiated lest workers face their wrath.

Now, plastered all over TikTok, users can observe children overhauling displays, searching for the next Drunk Elephant or Rare Beauty product. Story-time style videos relate to the terror customers experience when ele-

mentary schoolers want the same retinol serum they came in for and snatch it in an air of entitlement. The whole situation is absurd, to say the least.

The honest debate, though, is who is at fault? Parents, of course, are blamed for being too lenient with their children: not disciplining them on proper conduct when talking to employees, providing them with an unlimited budget to purchase whatever they want and allowing them to buy things that could harm their skin. Since when does a 12-year-old need to be concerned with the effects of aging? Use some damn sunscreen.

Others suggest that the root cause is influencers constantly promoting “trendy products.” The epidemic of children prematurely being exposed to social media could be breeding unnecessary insecurities amongst kids, fueling the necessity to purchase from

concealing their

insecurities rather than enjoying their youth in the present moment, let alone spending upwards of \$500 dollars on it.

The question isn't if beauty stores should impose an age limit, as most TikTok complainers suggest, but rather, what have we done as a disservice to future generations? We owe kids the joy of receiving Coca-Cola-flavored Lip Smackers, Bath and Body Works mists and expandable (though admittedly sh*tty) eyeshadow palettes, not imposing insecurities on them.



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Ignoring Women's Basketball is Foul

It's a well-known idea that when a team plays at their home field, court, etc., they have better odds of winning because they have their fan base present. But for the Xavier women's basketball program, this is not the case.

For the past five seasons, the team has had a negative record. Even over the past decade, they have only had two winning seasons. This season looks no different.

In the past six years, the program has gone through three different head coaches. Some may say this is the reason for the negative records. Some say it is because of player retention. But to me, a major contributor to the team's lack of success is the lack of support they receive.

While this year is only the second season I have been watching the women's basketball program, I've seen at most 100 students actually sitting in the student section during a game. And even that may be an overestimation. The only ones who are consistently showing up to the games are the members of

the pep band. As a member of the band myself, some say we are required to be there and, sure, that may be true. But if we as individuals didn't want to show up, we wouldn't be penalized for it.

I get it. It's no fun to watch them lose game after game. But I bet it feels even worse for them to lose with no students there to cheer them on. They deserve our support just as much as the men's team does.

I'm not asking for everyone to show up and fill the student section to the brim. But the games last two hours max. Come for the first half. Come for the second half. Or even better, stay for the whole game. Hang out with your friends. If you need more of an incentive to go to their games, you can get your top 500 spot for X-Treme fans.

But I shouldn't be the one trying to get you to go to the games. This should be the role of the X-Treme Fans. On the athletics website, it states that X-Treme Fans' "primary goal is to support student-athletes by getting the Xavier student

body engaged at sporting events." Sporting events plural, not just men's basketball. In the fall semester, they are always doing giveaways to get students to go to soccer games or volleyball games. If my memory serves me right, there have been two giveaways during the women's basketball season so far. I'm in no way saying there should be giveaways every game, but if their role is to get students involved in ALL sporting events, then they need to be doing something more.

Another thing with X-Treme Fans is that on their own website, it states that their board of directors are required to attend all Xavier athletic events. Most women's games I see about three to five of them in attendance, unless there's a giveaway, in which case typically more of them are present. But regardless of there being a giveaway or not, sometimes I see them doing their homework during a game, which, to me, is rude to the team. Like I said, it sucks to watch them lose, but the least students can do is show

up for two hours and cheer them on so they feel as though they have support from students other than those in the band.

Regardless of what X-Treme Fans does or doesn't do, we need to do better for our women's basketball program. Coach Chambers and the rest of the coaching staff have clearly put in a lot of effort and work to help the players want to be winners. I feel for this team so much because they truly deserve some wins, and getting some wins under their belts may be what they need to have a successful future.

While those wins may not currently be coming, I believe that the future for this team is bright. Whether those successes come this season or next season shouldn't be something that is a deciding factor for what games to show up to and which ones not to show up to. Our women's basketball team deserves just as much love and support as men's basketball, men's soccer, women's soccer, women's volleyball, baseball and wom-

en's lacrosse. Sure, men's basketball is our draw here, but we are a whole lot more than just men's basketball. All of our teams deserve equal fan support no matter if they are losing more than they are winning.

The women's basketball team has six more home games left this season. I'll be there, and I hope you all will be, too.



Addison Burke is a staff writer for *News-wire*. She is a junior English major from Akron, Ohio.

Staring Down the Barrel

Students are taught to love a country that values guns over our lives.

Some of us hear the sound of gunfire when we watch fireworks on the Fourth of July or when we watch a drumline performance at halftime. But all of us have heard the siren of an active shooter drill and fear that one day our campus will be next.

By painful necessity, we have grown to become much more than students learning in a classroom — we have shed every last remnant of our childhood innocence. The steady silence of Congress is as deafening as gunfire.

We will not wait for individual trauma to affect all of us before we respond together — our empathy is not that brittle. Our generation responds to shootings by bearing witness and sharing solidarity like none other. We text each other our last thoughts, and we cry on each others' shoulders and we mourn with each other at vigils. We convene in classrooms and we congregate in churches and we deliberate in dining halls. We're staunch and we're stubborn and we're steadfast.

Our hearts bleed from this uniquely American brand of gun violence. Yet, we still summon the courage to witness firework shows and remind ourselves that we love our country so much that we expect better from it.

We believe that our country has the capacity to love us back. There are bullet shaped holes in our hearts, but our spirits are unbreakable.

History has taught us that when injustice calls students to act, we shape the moral arc of this country.

Students in the Civil Rights Movement shared their stories through protest, creating the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) that organized Freedom Rides, sit-ins and marches. In demanding freedom from racial violence, this group's activism became woven into American history.

Students across America organized teach-ins during the Vietnam War to expose its calculated cruelties — in doing so, they rediscovered this country's empathy. Their work, in demanding freedom from conscription and taxpayer-funded violence, is intertwined with

the American story.

This fall, UNC Chapel Hill students' text exchanges during the Aug. 28 shooting reached the hands of the President. The nation read the desperate words of our wounded community as we organized support, rallied and got thrown out of the North Carolina General Assembly. We demanded freedom from gun violence, just as we have in Parkland and Sandy Hook and MSU and UNLV.

For 360,000 of us since Columbine, the toll of bearing witness, of losing our classmates and friends, of succumbing to the cursed emotional vocabulary of survivorship, has become our American story.

Yes, it is not fair that we must rise up against problems that we did not create, but the organizers of past student movements know from lived experience that we decide the future of the country.

The country watched student sit-ins at Greensboro, and Congress subsequently passed civil rights legislation. The country witnessed as students exposed its lies on Vietnam, and Congress subsequently withdrew from

the war.

In recent years, the country watched student survivors march against gun violence, and the White House subsequently created the National Office of Gun Violence Prevention on Sept. 22, 2023.

So, as students and young people alike, we should know our words don't end on this page — we will channel them into change.

We invite you to join this generation's community of organizers, all of us united in demanding a future free of gun violence. We understand the gravity of this commitment because it's not simply our lives we protect with prose and protest. It is our way of life itself.

We will not allow America to be painted in a new layer of blood. We will not allow politicians to gamble our lives for NRA money.

Most of all, politicians will not have the shallow privilege of reading another front-cover op-ed by students on their knees, begging them to do their jobs — we do not need a permission slip to defend our freedoms. They will instead contend with the reality that by uniting with each other

and among parents, educators and communities, our demands become undeniable.

We feel intense anger and frustration and sadness, and in its wake we search for reaffirmations of our empathy — the remarkable human capacity to take on a part of someone else's suffering. We rediscover this fulfillment in our organizing, in our community, in not just moving away from the unbearable pain of our yesterday but in moving toward an unrelenting hope for our tomorrow.

Our generation dares politicians to look us in the eye, and tell us they're too afraid to try.



Signed by 144 student leaders representing multiple groups across the nation, including Ethan Nichols, a staff writer for *NewsWire*.



XU Track Making Leaps & Bounds in 2024

BY PAT GAINOR
Staff Writer

The Xavier track and field teams collected a royalty of accolades during their stint at the Bellarmine Open in Louisville over the weekend, including a new program record for time in the 60-meter dash.

In their season debut, Xavier's return to the track was headlined by twelve top-10 finishes and six top-10 program records across both the men's and women's squads. Set on an indoor 200 meter banked track, the Musketeers were headlined by the return of All-Big East member and NCAA participant Trevor Nolan.

Nolan kicked off his season with an 8:28.37 time on the 3,000 meter run, earning the third best time in program history as he rallied to a sixth place finish out of 52 runners. This is his second spot on the program top 10 for the 3,000 meter run, with Nolan holding the number eight spot set last season.

But headlining the event was Charlotte native Laila Hankerson, who made a splash in her collegiate debut as she set the program record for the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.62 seconds and finished with a 25.37 time on

the 200-meter dash, good for fourth best in program history.

Among the other high-ranking finishes from this meet was Ashleigh Prugh, a senior who notched the 10th best 3,000-meter run in program history over the meet with her 9:54.68 time. Senior Audrey Bishop finished just two seconds and change away

from breaking her career goal of running the 400-meter dash in under a minute.

"I get nervous when I step into the space, so I sit there for a second and evaluate how I feel, y'know?" Hankerson said.

"I enjoy watching meets, so I watch the field events and stuff... then when I'm sitting on my block, I tell myself 'You have to remember to push, drive, look straight forward.' That's what I'm going through."

Hankerson's finish earned her second overall in the women's 60-meter dash, only behind Louisville's Olivia Jenkins. Both runners bested the previous Bellarmine Open 60-meter dash record of 7.70 seconds, set on Jan. 20, 2023. The freshman's split at the 200-meter dash earned a fifth place finish overall in the event.

When asked about goals for the next meet and for the rest of the season, Hankerson said that she "hopes to improve on (her) 200 time from last week. Then (her) goal for the season is to make the podium for the Big East, cause right now for (the 60-meter dash), (she is) number two in the Big East."

Amid all other results, Xavier's Madison Rivera picked up a ninth place

finish out of 24 participants in the 400-meter dash with her time of 1:01.11. Xavier's 4x400 "A" squad (Francis, Rivera, MacKinnon, Spruill) finished sixth in the relays with a final time of 4:11.33. Finally, Xavier had four top-10 finishes in the 3,000 meter run by Amy Prugh, Ashleigh Prugh, Myla Toole and Grace Zdankiewicz; Amy Prugh led the way with a third place finish courtesy of a 9:52.82 finish, ranking ninth in school history.

"I think the program is looking up. A lot better finishes this year than what we came out with last year," said Bishop, who placed eighth in the 400-meter dash at the Mount St. Joseph's invite on Saturday.

"I was impressed even at time trials this year — that's the practice where

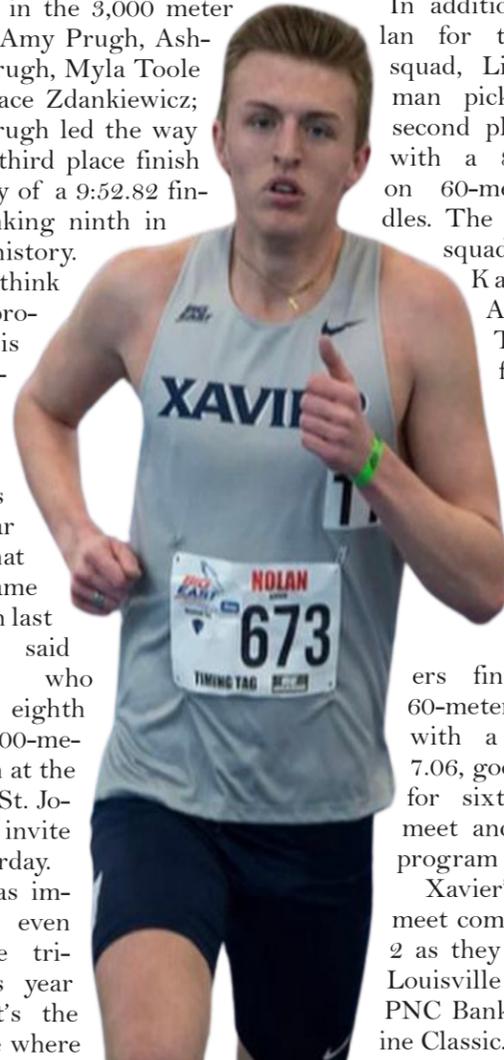
we pretend like it's a meet and get good marks — and when we came out at time trials this year, that was the fastest I've ever seen the women come out; same for the men, too. We're on the up," Bishop continued.

In addition to Nolan for the men's squad, Liam Willman picked up a second place finish with a 8.44 time on 60-meter hurdles. The 4x400 "A" squad (Beam, Kamaruts, Avenel, Thimons) finished in sixth place with a 3:27.92 finish overall. Finally, Josh Myers finished his 60-meter dash with a time of 7.06, good enough for sixth in the meet and sixth in program history.

Xavier's next meet comes on Feb. 2 as they return to Louisville for the PNC Bank Bellarmine Classic.



Laila Hankerson



Trevor Nolan

Photos courtesy of Greg Lautzenheizer/Xavier Athletics

Looking Forward to Another XU Tennis Season

Both Musketeer tennis programs split their respective meets on opening weekend

BY ROBBIE DZIERZANOWSKI
Staff Writer

The Xavier men's tennis team continued their opening to the 2024 spring season with a trip to Ohio State and the women's team is off to a 1-1 record to start the season.

The men dropped the match at a final score of 0-7 versus the Buckeyes, and now drop to 0-3 on the season. The trouble comes as the Muskies drop the third match in just the last two weeks, after an above .500 record finish last season.

The men march on to take on the Cardinals of Ball State today (Jan. 24) in Cincinnati. The Cardinals are 11-3 against the Muskies since 2005, with the last match-up occurring earlier in 2023 where the Musketeers fell in a final 1-6 score.

The slump comes as the men's Head Coach Ryan Rasco announced during the fall recruiting period that the Musketeers would be adding a four-star recruit Alex Kotarski from Hinsdale, Ill. Kotarski has been ranked as high as 124th nationally in his class and is currently ranked at fifth in the state of Illinois. At his high school, Hinsdale Central, he helped the Red



Photo courtesy of Xavier Athletics

Senior Imani Graham is the reigning Big East Player of the Year and 2023 All Big-East first team selection. The Florida native has competed in five Women's Tennis Association matches.

Devils secure the 2022 IHSA State Championship with his talents.

In addition to Kotarski, Rasco announced the addition of another recruit during the recruiting period, this time a five-star and top 100 recruit nationally.

Andrew Spruck is ranked 53 nationally and is the number three ranked player in the state of Illinois, attending Kotarski's neighboring high school called William Fremd High School.

In his time being ranked, Spruck has been ranked as high as 36th nationally. Spruck also boasts loads of experience and assistance to

his high school team, as he won the IHSA Class 2A Singles State Championship, and in the act helped Fremd High School to a third-place team finish. He also placed third in the state singles championship in 2022.

On the other end of the block, the Xavier women's tennis team opened their season last week, going 1-1 in their two matches. The women opened the season with a 7-0 sweep of neighboring Northern Kentucky, with Xavier picking up wins on all three courts.

Specifically, senior Imani Graham and redshirt senior Anna Roggenburk paired

up for a 6-1 win on the No. 1 court. Sophomore Emily Flowers and freshman Sofia Mazzucato took a 6-3 win on the No. 2 court and senior Blessing Nwaozuzu and sophomore Abigail Siminski earned 6-1 win on the No. 3 court. As a large piece to note, Xavier swept all six singles courts in two sets.

This week, the women traveled up to West Lafayette, In. to take on the Boil-makers of Purdue. The team couldn't get much generated, as they fell by a final score of 0-7 verses Purdue.

Xavier returns to Cincinnati from Purdue to host a pair of matches at Eastern

Hills this weekend, beginning with Yale on Friday, Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. The Musketeers wrap up the weekend on Saturday, Jan. 27 against Toledo at 4:30 p.m. at Eastern Hills.

Women's head tennis coach Doug Matthews announced a transfer commitment from Cincinnati — sophomore Elizabeth Pendergast — in December 2023. Pendergast, a Cincinnati native, was the Cincinnati Enquire Women's Tennis Player of the Year in high school and is coming off of an American Athletic Conference (AAC) All-Conference performance at UC. In her career for Cincinnati, Pendergast collected 35 combined wins in dual matches in two spring seasons including 17 singles wins in the No. 1 spot.

She earned AAC All-Conference honors after earning a combined 18 wins during the dual season, including nine wins in the No. 1 singles spot and nine doubles wins.

The women's roster also adds freshman Ellie Brotherton, who has split her singles matches this season, and retains reigning Big East Freshman of the Year Abby Nugent, who is yet to play a match this spring.

Is *Echo* an Echo Echo Echo of Old Marvel?

By JOSÉ MARÍA GÁMEZ-LAMADRID
Staff Writer

It is Nov. 4, 2023. Disney and Marvel Studios announced the “Marvel Spotlight” banner for television, featuring grounded, character-driven shows that are disconnected from the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), allowing viewers to enjoy without worrying about missing context. The frontrunner of this banner, *Echo* (2024), stars the deaf superheroine and the villainous Kingpin in a TV-MA miniseries with street-level stakes.

It is Nov. 7, 2013. Disney, Marvel Studios and Netflix announced a licensing deal providing the streaming juggernaut with grounded, character-driven shows, disconnected from MCU continuity. The frontrunner of this initiative, *Daredevil* (2015), stars the blind superhero and Kingpin in a TV-MA narrative with street-level stakes. Déjà vu, much? I wouldn’t disagree with you, but while *Echo* appears to match the tone and maturity of Marvel’s first attempt at prestige television, it left the substance behind in 2013.

While advertised as a standalone miniseries, *Echo* pulls from Maya Lopez’s (Alaqua Cox) character arc in *Hawkeye* (2021) after she’s taken revenge against her adoptive uncle Wilson Fisk — “The Kingpin” (Vincent

D’Onofrio) — for killing her father. Wounded and marked for death, she escapes New York City to her hometown in Oklahoma with ambitions to seize Kingpin’s criminal empire. Along the way, Lopez reconnects with family and her Choctaw Nation heritage, unaware that her father’s killer might still be skulking in the shadows.

Echo takes a much darker and more serious spin than its other TV sistren. We can see that right away in the opening alone. There’s no classic MCU introduction with fanfare and clips from past movies like what we’re used to. Instead, we get black-and-white Marvel Studios and Spotlight logos, accompanied with a sophisticated piano score by famed composer Michael Giacchino.

Viewer discretion advised; this really is one of the gorier MCU shows. “TV-MA” means “adults only.” Don’t show this to your kids. The five-episode structure means all killer and no filler, but this fast, blood-tinged pacing creates a consistent balance of character drama and a showcase of Choctaw culture and mythology.

Echo offers some other aspects worthy of praise. The show offers tidbits of some creative camerawork that’s become rare in recent MCU productions, such as a tribute to the silent era of cinema for an episode opening. During moments of tension, audio fades out to immerse the viewer in Maya’s perspective

as a deaf combatant, limited to strictly vibrations and the sights around her. Cox puts in a captivating performance using facial expressions and American Sign Language, and D’Onofrio recaptures his stellar performance as Kingpin from previous Marvel entries.

Echo makes an attempt to present itself as prestigious television. It reminds me of the classic comedy gag in which one kid stands on the other’s shoulders, disguised with a trench coat and a top hat to pass as an adult.

For the most part, this disguise is convincing enough. However, swipe off the hat and open the trench coat, and you’ll notice this isn’t much different than any other MCU show made for Disney+. The cinematography wastes the opportunity to be more experimental with fight choreography and embrace the mature rating, presenting only a few blood splatters on top of generic blockbuster action sequences. Lopez’s supporting cast of relatives is made up of undercooked family archetypes including the “well-meaning-but-naïve-cousin,” “ex-best-friend-other-cousin,” “distrusting-grandmother,” “good-humored-grandfather” and “exhausted-uncle.” Most of their characterization is held up by the shared trauma stemming from Maya’s tragic origin.

The powers she unlocks are vague and undefined, and only become relevant in the “remember-who-you-are” final battle in which she rejects

the monster she’s become, and uses the power of family to produce an anticlimactic ending that sets up the mandatory post-credits scene.

Echo is fine when it comes to the grand scheme of the MCU and is slightly more enjoyable than recent Disney+ ventures. But in a period of diminishing returns for Hollywood superheroes, “fine”

doesn’t cut it anymore, and there’s a squandered opportunity to create something fresh under a new Marvel banner.

It’s a shame, really, because instead of reaching the heights of the Netflix era of Marvel television, the first entry under the “Spotlight” banner only serves as an echo of a past attempt at prestige television.



By KAYLA ROSS

Back Page Editor

- Elle King is being slammed for being “hammered” and “disrespectful” during her Dolly Parton birthday tribute at the Grand Ole Opry Friday night (Jan. 19).
- Alec Baldwin has been indicted for involuntary manslaughter in New Mexico. No trial date has been set (Jan. 19).
- Fans are suing Madonna and Live Nation after Madonna took the stage more than two hours later than scheduled at a concert in December (Jan. 20).

Salt(burn) on the Rim: A Recipe Collection

By GRIFFIN BRAMMER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Inspired by the consumption and excess of everyone’s favorite, slutty, sleazy 2006 sex-fest, *Saltdrop*, we’ve compiled a plethora of delectable drinks based on everyone’s favorite scenes. So whether you’re hosting a watch party and want to drink along, or simply want to have a party of Oliver’s-birthday-proportions, we have the recipes you need to have a murder on the dancefloor.



THE “VAMPIRE” SCENE

Here’s a beverage fruitier than Elspeth the summer she was a lesbian. Men really ARE so nice and dry, take it from experience. In any case, this drink is a bloody good time. **Period!**

Ingredients:

- 1.5 oz vodka
- 1 oz raspberry liqueur, like raspberry Bacardi
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- 2 oz cranberry juice
- 2-3 oz sparkling white or rosé wine

Instructions:

1. Combine vodka, raspberry liqueur, lime juice and cranberry juice to a shaker half-full of ice and shake to combine.
2. Strain into glass and top off with sparkling wine.
3. Optional: garnish with tampon swizzle stick.

For non-alcoholic enjoyment, replace vodka AND raspberry liqueur with raspberry soda (like the Raspberry Rose flavored Poppi, which can be found at Target or Kroger). Replace the sparkling wine with sparkling grape juice.

The Bathtub Scene

The *real* salt burn was the salty aftertaste of that bath water in Barry Keoghan’s mouth. So, let’s add a little sweetness with this viral TikTok recipe that will leave you gulping for more!

Ingredients:

- 2 oz light rum
- 2 oz pineapple juice (you know why...)
- 1.5 oz cream of coconut + additional for rim
- Juice from half a lime

Instructions:

1. Rim glass with cream of coconut and let... it... DRIP.
2. Combine rum, pineapple juice, cream of coconut and lime juice into a shaker half-full of ice and shake to combine.
3. Strain into rimmed glass and make the most egregious slurping noise known to man.

For non-alcoholic enjoyment, replace light rum with coconut water. Mmm... nut water.

THE GRAVE SCENE

For the scene that puts a whole new meaning to the phrase “love you to death,” here’s a refreshing take on the classic Mudslide cocktail.

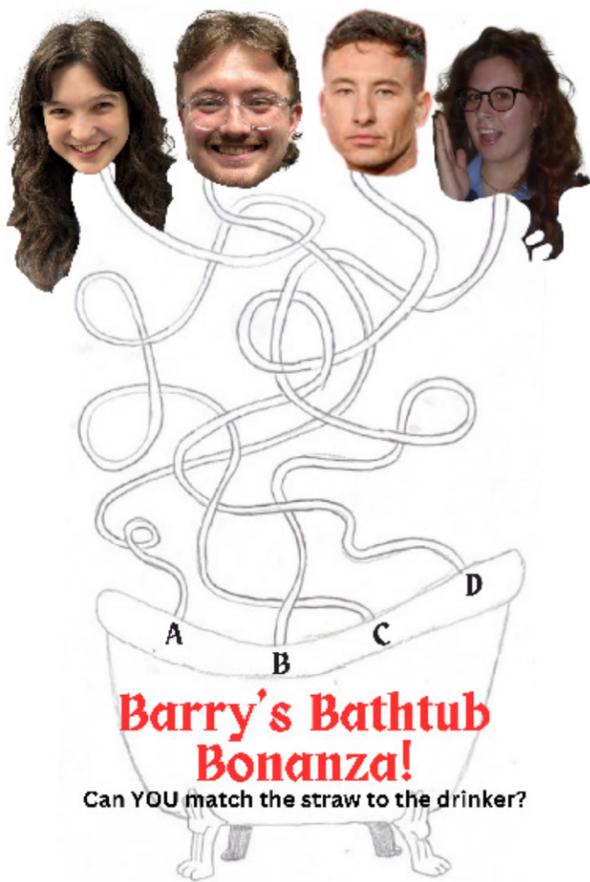
Ingredients:

- 4 oz RumChata
- 3 oz vodka
- 2 oz Kahlua or other Coffee Liqueur
- 1 oz white chocolate syrup, + additional for rim and garnish
- Crushed Oreo cookie

Instructions:

1. Rim glass with white chocolate syrup and set in fridge to chill
2. Combine RumChata, vodka, Kahlua and white chocolate syrup into a shaker half-full of ice and shake to combine.
3. Strain into chilled glasses, and top with crumbled Oreo.
4. Finally, dig a hole in your Oreo “dirt” and generously fill with additional white chocolate “garnish” until you’ve come to terms with Jacob Elordi’s death. You never *really* loved him, anyway.

For non-alcoholic enjoyment, replace RumChata with Horchata. Swap Kahlua and vodka with iced coffee.



COMIC BY GRIFFIN BRAMMER



Aries: You are Farleigh Start. You never fail to serve as the comedic relief. You're very short with people, but only because they are in desperate need of the truth.



Taurus: You are Venetia Catton. You are stunning, glittering and deeper than people give you credit for.



Gemini: Darling, you are Rosamund Pike. You are easily influenced but also very likable if we ignore the overly personal questions.



Cancer: You are Pamela. You're beautiful and interesting to look at but painfully dreadful to talk to.



Leo: You are the lucky lady who got to be perched on the Minotaur statue with Jacob Elordi in the maze scene. Everyone is jealous of you.



Virgo: You are Oliver Quick's father. Not gone but definitely forgotten.



Libra: You are the professor who "knew" Farleigh's mother at the start of the movie. You have many campus celebrity crushes that feel like your best friends.



Scorpio: You are Sir James Catton. You trust no one. You're a little slow. And, you would do anything to get rid of someone you dislike.



Sagittarius: You are the bathtub drain. No further comments.



Capricorn: You are Oliver Quick. Capricorn = capricious. Everyone should be both scared and impressed by you.



Aquarius: You are Felix Catton. Everyone wants you, few can have you. Your charm can get you just about anywhere.



Pisces: You are Duncan. Your friends need to start listening to you very carefully when you say you don't like someone.



BY GRACE HAMILTON, OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS EDITOR

Article by Chad Thadeus Bradley III

Let me just start off by saying that I am not gay. I have never been gay, and I will definitely never be gay. Anything done in the showers at Planet Fitness doesn't count.

I am horrified. I am distraught. I am seeking medical attention for the trauma inflicted on me by Barry Keoghan's bouncing penis and Jacob Elordi's bath water. Is this what gay people do in their free time? I've made it a firm point in my life to avoid all interactions with dudes I smelled the G on. I went into sports marketing. I strictly drink at bars that have a 90% female customer base. I've never listened to a male singer, because a man crooning in my ears is gay. I've never ridden a roller coaster, lest I squeal. I've never even pumped gas. I siphon it directly into my mouth and spit it into my tank – it's far manlier than handling anything shaped like a certain kind of genitalia I shudder to even say. All this to say, I thought *Saltburn* was about two guys being rich and gettin chicks on an estate.

That, to me, is the perfect summer—kind of like the gap year I took in the Maldives with my bud Rock Salt. And please, let's talk about—and then not talk about— about the vampire scene. First of all, I'm pretty sure it's written somewhere in the Bible that it's not right for a dude to go down on a girl. Or maybe I just got that from DJ Khaled. Either way, it's scripture. And a girl...on her...thing. You know, her...bloody...thing. Like that's contagious or something dude. I was in a theater full of people practically foaming at the mouth, but me? I've got nightmares now. I baby-barfed on myself—and I'm man enough to admit that.

As a full-blooded alpha male standing at 6'2" (if you just squint man, I swear), I pride myself on my ability to smell a girl on her period. It's why I've never had sex; women are basically always on it. To me, *Saltburn* proves once and for all that the only place a period belongs is in a sentence.

The saving grace of this film? Emerald Fennell's clever directing and the perfect score. I mean it really underlines the true meaning of the film. Every scene, every angle highlights exactly what you are supposed to notice, and boy did I notice. Here's what it all boils down to—and not to brag, but I do consider myself quite adept at analyzing films: Being rich is awesome. What else is there to say? Skip the gay sh*t, and you know they say, mo' money...mo' money. I don't actually know how it goes, but that sounds right.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN



I Need to Talk to a Gay Person.

BY HANNAH KREMER, STAFF WRITER

Finally, a movie about an unhinged bisexual eating the rich by taking one family member's life at a time. *Saltburn* marked the first time I sat in a theater, dazed and lost for words, 15 minutes after the film ended. For several reasons, this movie was one of my favorites of the year despite its morbid and, frankly, hypersexual themes.

There was something mesmerizing about Oliver, who was a freak by definition but still managed to make his way to the top. Honestly, there wasn't a better casting choice than Barry Keoghan for his role. Leave it to him, with all of his experience of playing weird characters, to improvise some of the movie's most jaw-droppingly graphic scenes. The shock factor alone had me hooked. That is if we weren't focusing on the rest of the cast. You are told about Jacob Elordi with an eyebrow piercing. You see images of what the character looks like on TikTok, but nothing ever prepares you for seeing him on the big screen. My. God. I get the infatuation with his character, Felix; I really do. Would it be to the point that I would drink his bathwater? Oliver would. As for me? Maybe not, but I would probably combust into flames if I saw him in public.

And, as per usual, actress Rosamund Pike rises to the occasion of playing yet another MILF, Felix's mom. Of course, Elspeth was most definitely problematic, but she delivered hilarious lines and slayed in a lavender metallic gown, AND CAPE, MIND YOU. She could insult and degrade all I am, and I would thank her because she is perfect, talented and stunning. Every scene, from the beginning at Oxford University to the party at the Saltburn estate, was breathtaking and cinematic. Although you are looking at a clearly problem-riddled family, you begin to understand Oliver's yearning to have their lives, as everything about this upper class British family made me want to live in that very mansion as well. Cinema is lying naked in a wheat field. Cinema is dancing at a Midsummer Night's Dream-themed party. Cinema is Elordi smoking a cigarette. This movie is disturbing yet beautiful all at once. And as the film nears its end as Barry dances naked about the estate to "Murder on the Dancefloor", it's hard to grapple with what you just saw when all you really want to do is dance with him—the soundtrack will forever be embedded in my mind. At the end of the day, maybe Oliver needed therapy. Maybe I need therapy for enjoying *Saltburn*, but it is definitely a must-see film. Just give yourself 5-10 business days to process it afterward.