



Dean Exits Xavier for TriHealth Role

Dean of Students Jean Griffin leaves Xavier for System Executive role at TriHealth

BY KAYLA ROSS

Staff Writer

Dr. Jean Griffin, Dean of Students, is leaving Xavier after working in student affairs for twelve years. She will be joining TriHealth as System Executive – Xavier Strategic Affiliation.

In October of 2012, Dr. Griffin began her career at Xavier as the Director of Student Integrity. This role soon changed into her current role as Dean of Students, although her original duties as Director of Student Integrity remained.

“I oversaw the student conduct process, but then little bits would get added that I would get to lead. There wasn’t a Dean of Students when I started in 2012, so in 2015, the university brought back the Dean of Students title. I continued in my Director of Student Integrity work but took on oversight of a few other departments. It kind of shifted my focus to student well-being and student support resources,” Griffin said.

Apart from being involved in students’ lives as the Dean of Students, Griffin was also involved as a leader in many other projects on Xavier’s campus, including the creation of Xavier’s student commitment.

“(My favorite aspect of working at Xavier) has for sure been the opportunities I have had to work with students on things that matter to them. One of the things I am so proud of was the opportunity to work on the student commitment,” Griffin said.

“The fact that it continues to this day, and you still hear it at SGA meetings every Monday, Manresa and grad-



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

uation is one of those great moments.”

The role of Dean of Students reaches beyond the scope of student conduct and student integrity.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Dean of Students role also has the ability to work on issues students may face on Xavier’s campus.

In her time as Dean of Students, Griffin worked with members of the Xavier community to make changes.

“There are policies that we changed because students came forward and said ‘this isn’t working for us,’ or new programs or new services. All of the ways I’ve been able to walk with students, hear what they need and use my leadership to make those changes have been some of my favorite things about working in this role,” Griffin said.

Another main area of focus for Griffin specifically as Dean of Students is the as-

pect of student well-being, in coordination with one of the Jesuit values being *cura personalis*; the idea of caring for the whole person.

“Over the past 12 years, we have dramatically changed the way we support student well-being. When I got to Xavier, student well-being was important because student well-being is synonymous with *cura personalis*, but the ways that we support that today and the teams that support that today are incredible. I am really proud of the ways we have advanced that work,” Griffin said.

“Xavier is really special when it comes to the way that we care for students. This is work that I know will continue to grow because the people I have worked with for the past 12 years are so committed to always responding to changing student needs,” Griffin added.

Although Griffin said that she “will miss being on Xavi-

er’s campus and engaging with the Xavier community,” her work in improving the well-being of members of the Xavier community is not ending but merely taking on a new form.

Griffin will soon be an employee of TriHealth but in a role that still focuses on student well-being. TriHealth and Xavier have had a long standing relationship, but the role Griffin will soon fill is intended to continue to build and strengthen this affiliation.

“Since 2016, I have been a part of a team that has been leading the ways Xavier and TriHealth work together to create a model of collegiate health,” Griffin said. “I will be able to help continue that work and take it in a new direction to figure out the ways we can improve student well-being, employee well-being; how we think about what Xavier students need to go out and be the next genera-

tion of employees. There was a recognition that we will be able to take this further if someone who understands where it’s coming from is focused every single day on figuring out where this needs to go.”

Griffin will always think fondly of her work with students directly as the Dean of Students and the opportunities she has had to work on student wellness. “I am so honored and so grateful for the opportunity I’ve had to be the Dean of Students at Xavier. To know I have been able to make a significant difference in students’ lives is something I will never get over. I’ve done work like this for over thirty years, but doing it at Xavier has been the pride of my career,” Griffin stated.

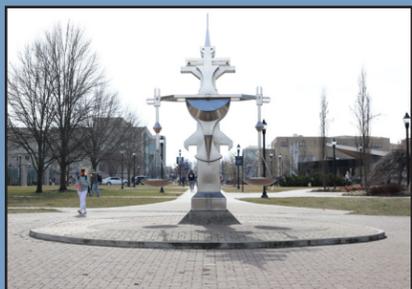
Griffin will begin working in her role as System Executive-Xavier Strategic Affiliation at TriHealth on March 11.

“I am so excited to lead it (this affiliation), and doing that is going to give the opportunity to bring in colleagues from Xavier and people from TriHealth, and bring them together to identify new strategies for teaching this (well-being), new ways of training students, new ways to help students and employees be well,” Griffin noted.

“I am so thrilled about it, and my kind of deep engagement with the building of the engagement over the past eight years will really help me for this next step. I know what the vision for this affiliation was, and because of that, I will be able to really help see this through. I want to help make sure that we are really living up to the goals the affiliation has,” Griffin concluded.

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Latina Sorority Joins XU Greek Life

Gamma Alpha Omega recruits inaugural members in the following two weeks

By GRIFFIN BRAMMER
*Arts & Entertainment
Editor*

Xavier has just accepted its first Latina-centered sorority to campus. Gamma Alpha Omega (GAO) applications have started as representatives are set to arrive on campus this coming weekend and beyond for the next two weeks.

GAO was brought to campus, in part, by senior primary education major Maddie Mercado. She worked with Xavier alum Gabriella Salazar and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI).

"I went to an all girls school, and there was already a low Latinx community there, so when I saw that some of my friends went to bigger schools and were getting involved in sororities, I just felt left out," Mercado said. "I just wanted a different community other than what (Hispanic Organization for Latinx Awareness) offered, so like, why not just start my own that was more female centered?"

GAO will mark the first non-Black cultural Greek life system on campus, something that will change the way Xavier's Greek life is presented on

campus.

"When I used to give tours, people would ask the question (about Greek life) and we'd be like 'Oh, the only Greek life we have on campus is our Divine Nine chapters for African American and Black students,'" Mercado said. "But now we can say we have multicultural fraternities and sororities."

"The graduation rate for Latinas is pretty high compared to other ethnicities, but I feel like it's still not really talked about," Mercado said. GAO places its emphasis on Latina academic success, as well as honesty, integrity, respect and community. These were all ideals that drew Mercado to GAO specifically.

"In general, it is Latina based, but it's multicultural. So you can be of any ethnicity and heritage to join," Mercado said. "(People) hear 'oh, it's a latina sorority, I can't join,' but I really want this to be a sisterhood."

"If you are passionate about academic success, you want to foster more close-knit relationships with other women at Xavier, you want a place to share your heritage and just join a community where you know someone is pushing

you... We'll support you every step along the way," she said.

While being an active member of HOLA, Mercado finds that HOLA does not always impose these same ideals of Latinx community as GAO.

"The thing about HOLA is, sometimes I feel like it's a battle between whose country is most popular or how many people of that ethnicity or nationality are on campus," Mercado said.

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Xavier LGBTQ+ Alliance Hosts Fifth Camp Queer

By MORGAN MILES
Staff Writer

Last weekend, Xavier's LGBTQ+ Alliance hosted its annual Camp Queer, engaging with the theme "Pieces of the Picture."

The LGBTQ+ Alliance began hosting Camp Queer in 2019 to build community and to provide queer students a momentary retreat in a safe, LGBTQ+ space.

Tied to the Jesuit value of *cura personalis*, Camp Queer's

purpose was built on the foundation of caring for the whole person.

The camp is a space where queer students can come together to discuss issues surrounding the LGBTQ+ community or relate and share their lived queer experiences.

This year's Camp Queer attendees stayed in an Airbnb less than a mile away from campus.

The LGBTQ+ Alliance chooses to stay in an Airbnb because of the comfortability it provides, promoting com-

munity-building and forming tight-knit connections.

Typically, about 15 students attend, including the executive board free of cost.

LGBTQ+ Alliance President Leo Fowler described the 2024 theme, "Pieces of the Picture," as the exploration of what it means to be queer and how it is only a portion of who an individual is.

"(The theme) emphasizes that our queer identities interact with our other identities in unique ways that makes each of us who we are," Fowler

introduction of GAO on campus was Tamara Serrano Chandler, the diversity and inclusion coordinator for the CDI.

Serrano Chandler worked closely with gauging interest and planning recruitment after the university approved GAO's Xavier chapter.

She focused on how the students would like to see GAO implemented and finding different communities on campus to interact with GAO.

"The fact that (GAO) is rooted in service and academic excellence and connecting with the community, I think it's something that's going to help Xavier flourish," Serrano Chandler said.

Despite Mercado and Salazar bringing up the idea to start the sorority summer of last year, when Salazar was a rising senior, it is currently projected that the sorority will not be set up until next year.

"Because of how long it takes to formally establish a chapter, I wouldn't be president," Mercado said, "I'm not even sure if I'll be a founder."

The process of getting the sorority set up first involved getting in touch with Vice President of Diversity and

Inclusion Ivy Banks.

During these conversations with Banks, Mercado encountered her first setback.

"It was getting to the point where I would look at the CDI schedule and find (Banks) in the CDI, supporting other events. And I would ask them, 'hey, you've gotten my email, can I get this information?'" Mercado said. "That was a year and a half ago... I was just left in the dark about a lot of things."

Mercado then had to meet with the Board of Trustees, where she experienced another challenge.

Mercado was relieved by support from administration.

"President Hancz liked the idea. There was no hesitation from her. It was really just the other members. We left the meeting, and we felt really good," she said.

Mercado, despite being sad she won't get to see GAO in action, is still hopeful about the impact she's made.

"If I'm not founder, it would stink a little bit because I started the whole process," she said. "But at the same time, at least I got to lay a foundation strong enough for other people to pick it up and take off where I left off."

Bellarmino Chapel last fall, led a reflection the first night. Fowler felt that it was very powerful to connect Bellarmino Chapel to a population historically excluded and ostracized from the church.

"(The connection to Bellarmino) helps remind me especially that there is a place for me at Xavier, and I can explore both my queer and religious identity here," Fowler said.

Last year, the LGBTQ+ Alliance's assessment of last year's Camp Queer attendees provided statistics showing that before and after Camp Queer, attendees' reported a 27% increase in their sense of belonging.

This year, 86% of participants reported that they "strongly agree" that they have a greater understanding of their identities after attending.

Additionally, 100% of attendees reported that they believe Camp Queer is a valuable experience for LGBTQ+ students at Xavier.

Students interested in attending should look for announcements detailing dates of the retreat and application deadlines near the beginning of the 2025 spring semester as Camp Queer takes place annually every spring.

This information is communicated at LGBTQ+ Alliance's general body meetings and through their email communications.

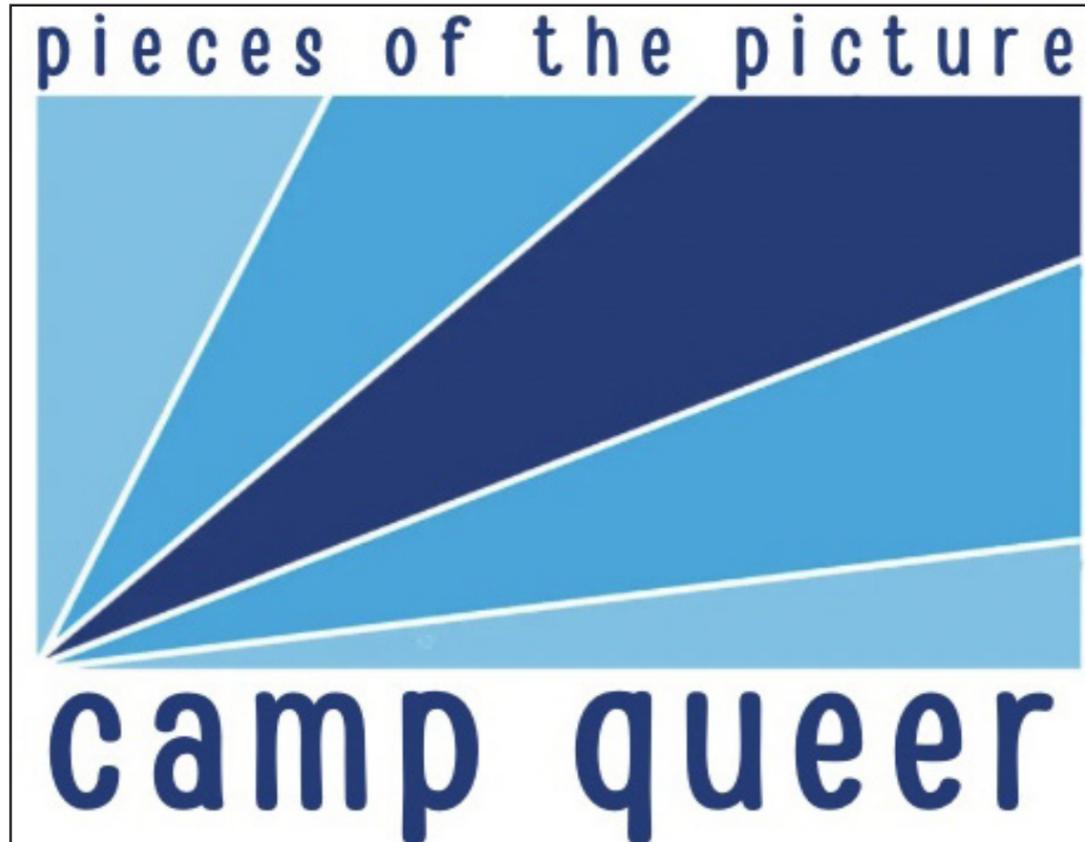


Photo courtesy of Georgia Larive

said. Integrating the theme into camp sessions, each member of the executive board plans a workshop that engages with the theme.

Fowler shared that the workshop he led involved creating tissue paper collages, mimicking the appearance of stained glass. The craft was used to spark reflection and allow attendees to translate their thoughts into a tangible, artistic form.

Other events and activities at Camp Queer included service work, crafts, readings and discussions, as well as community meals and games.

"My favorite part of Camp Queer is the discussions," Fowler said. "I love being in a space where we can have academic conversations about things like queer theory, discrimination and lived experiences... I don't often get a space to engage in the same kind of intellectual conversation and debate surrounding the LGBTQ+ community and issues we face."

Typically, Camp Queer attendees volunteer at Transform Cincinnati which provides gender-affirming clothing for transgender and gender non-conforming youth until the age of 25. However, due to inclement weather, the students were unable to safely do so.

Several speakers talked to the students. Father Torres-Botello, S.J., who joined

XU Addresses \$16M Budget Deficit

By Jackson Hare
Campus News Editor

Xavier administration has launched the Sustaining Excellence project, where the consulting firm McKinsey & Company will conduct an eight-week investigation into the university's performance. This will inform the university's response to its \$16 million budget deficit.

On Jan. 29, the Xavier administration, including President Colleen Hanycz, Provost and Chief Academic Officer Rachel Chrastil and Vice President for Institutional Strategy and Director of Athletics Greg Christopher hosted a town hall to launch this transformation project and inform faculty and staff what to expect in the coming weeks.

The goal of the Sustaining Excellence project is to conduct an eight-week diagnostic of the problems the university faces, their severity and then potential remedies.

Spearheads of this transformation process suggest that "strong headwinds against higher education as whole" are responsible for this budget deficit.

"In recent years, Xavier has faced challenging headwinds tied to several factors: a declining college-aged population, rising costs, a national narrative questioning the value of higher education and more. As a result, the institution's core operation has run significant and unsustainable deficits as a stopgap," the newly published Sustaining Excellence page on Xavier's website reads.

Despite this deficit, the administration's presentation highlighted that the university is still economically healthy.

"Xavier is annually ranked as one of the best universities in the nation, contributing close to \$1B to Ohio's economy in 2021-22, and our healthy cash balance, credit rating and strong endowment performance put us in the right financial position to pursue growth and cost efficiency," their presentation to faculty and staff read.

Christopher, who is chair-

ing this transformation process, stressed this point further.

"We currently have a structural or an operating deficit for the last two years, but come at it from an overarching position of institutional strength, we do have secure reserves that have been built up over time of organizational strong health. So, I don't want anybody to have this picture that Xavier is in finan-

ing through this diagnostic, which is first and foremost collecting mountains of data about where the university is and how the university is performing right now."

To help aid the university's diagnostic process, Xavier hired the management consulting company McKinsey & Company for their higher education practice, paid for by two donors. There were five firms considered, but Mck-

insey & Company's practice emerged as the best option.

"I want to express sincere disappointment and frustration with some of the clients McKinsey has served in the past and on the topics we have served on. Since those instances have occurred, McKinsey has made significant changes to its governance, client selection process and its standards globally...Neither myself, any of the members of the McK-

insey Xavier team members you will meet nor any members of the McKinsey education practice leadership are involved in the instances that have been reported," Pinder said.

During the last 15 minutes of the town hall, faculty and staff shared their concerns and asked questions. Of the three audience members who participated in the Q&A, two of them raised concerns about what potential outcomes may be for faculty.

Associate Professor in Sustainability, Global Cultures History and the Williams College of Business Suparna Chatterjee was one of the three.

"What I wanted to signal is that morale is low. There is a pay freeze. There is fear that jobs will be cut... So, I wish you success with this, but I do want (the administration) to speak to this general feeling of anxiety on campus and to address that in a very honest way. I think it has been addressed, but I just want to hear a bit more about what the administration is doing in terms of understanding the real fear that people on this campus have," Chatterjee said.

"The points she rattled off there are all valid, important and real," Christopher said in response. "And that's exactly what we're doing right now, standing up here and walking everyone through the process, and being as transparent as we possibly can."

Christopher spoke further on the concern about faculty losing their jobs in a later interview.

"I think it's way too early to jump to any kind of conclusion with this. Again, we're just in the middle of the diagnostic right now collecting where we stand. I think it's uncertain as to you where we stand relative to our peers in that way," Christopher said.

Hanycz also responded to Chatterjee's concerns following Christopher's response. "The flip side of that is not moving forward with change and uncertainty...Certainly not having improvement, certainly not being in a position to recognize the contributions of our colleagues properly, certainly not being in a position to better support the success of our students — students who come here with dreams and who are not able to meet those dreams here," Hanycz added.

Through the course of this eight-week diagnostic, administration and representatives with McKinsey & Company will meet and discuss with students and faculty on several occasions.

In an effort to help facilitate transparency and education throughout this process, *NewsWire* will continue to share details as the transformation proceeds.



NewsWire photo by Daniel Betz

cial trouble... This is about improving Xavier's overall performance and to put the university in a position to take advantage of future opportunities," Christopher said.

"I think our retention, freshman to sophomore year, right now is 85-87%, and that's just a tick below what we consider our institutional peers, say Dayton or Butler, some of the schools that look like us and our geography. So, where it jumps into the transformation work is this diagnostic work — the benchmarking exercise... What is it that we're doing or that they're doing that we could somehow improve in that space?" Christopher said. "That's why we are go-

ing through this diagnostic, which is first and foremost collecting mountains of data about where the university is and how the university is performing right now."

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Campus News Workshop

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Suspects Charged in Kansas City Shooting

The shooting allegedly stemmed from a dispute near the Chiefs parade, leaving one dead and 23 injured

BY ISAIAH MIESLE
AND JUSTIN MALONE
Staff Writer and
World News Editor

Two teenagers and two adults have been charged for crimes in connection to the mass shooting near the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory parade that killed one person and wounded 23 others last Wednesday.

According to the Jackson County Family Court, the two teenage suspects are being held at a juvenile detention center on charges of firearm violations and resisting arrest. The suspects have not been publicly identified since they are minors.

Dominic Miller and Lyn-dell Mays, two Missouri residents, were charged with murder in the shooting yes-

terday. Authorities say that the men began arguing near the city's Union Station as the parade ended, and their dispute escalated when both men pulled out guns and fired at each other, killing a bystander.

Both men are currently hospitalized. Police also said that several guns were recovered near the parade.

"I know more investigation and potentially further charges are ahead as we pursue justice for all impacted," Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas said following the announcements.

Missouri law currently has no age restrictions on gun use and possession, although federal law prohibits minors from carrying handguns.

The eruption of violence came as thousands of people gathered to celebrate the Kan-

sas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory over the San Francisco 49ers. Approximately 800 law enforcement officers were stationed in and around the parade for safety.

Many witnesses described the scene as chaotic as people fled in different directions to avoid the gunfire. The sound of gunshots sent crowds scrambling for cover, and many attendees said that it was hard to know where to go to avoid harm.

A widely circulated video shows Trey Filter, a Chiefs fan from Kansas, and another unidentified fan tackling an armed individual fleeing the parade.

"What happened was an unnecessary and horrible tragedy, and I offer my deepest condolences to those affected by the events of that day," Morgan Naranjo, a senior criminal justice major whose friends were at the parade when the shooting happened, said.

"I cannot describe the panic that sets in when you only know the last time someone was seen alive, have zero idea where they are now, and praying that they didn't get caught in the crossfire," she said.

Police said that the victims ranged in age from eight to 47, with half of the victims being under the age of 16.

Following the shooting, the Kansas City Fire Department transported the injured to



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

three local hospitals, including Children's Mercy Hospital where 12 children were taken. According to hospital representatives, all the injured children are expected to recover.

Lisa Lopez-Galvin, a local radio DJ, was killed in the shooting. Taylor Swift, who is currently dating Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, donated \$100,000 to a GoFundMe for the Lopez-Galvan family.

Many Chiefs players posted messages on social media telling their followers that they are praying for the victims. Chiefs running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire sheltered a child after the shooting and responded to a Facebook post thanking the child for trusting him.

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes posted on X that he was "praying for Kansas City."

The Chiefs worked with

a local branch of the non-profit United Way to create a \$200,000 emergency fund for victims, in conjunction with the Lamar Hunt Foundation and the National Football League.

President Joe Biden also called for more action and legislation to address gun violence, saying that the incident "cuts deep into the American soul."

The shooting marks the latest sports celebration affected by gun violence in the U.S., following a shooting that injured several people at the Denver Nuggets' championship parade and gunfire near the Texas Rangers' championship parade last year.

Kansas City was ranked in the top nine cities for gun violence in 2020. In 2023, the number of homicides due to gun violence reached a record high in the city.

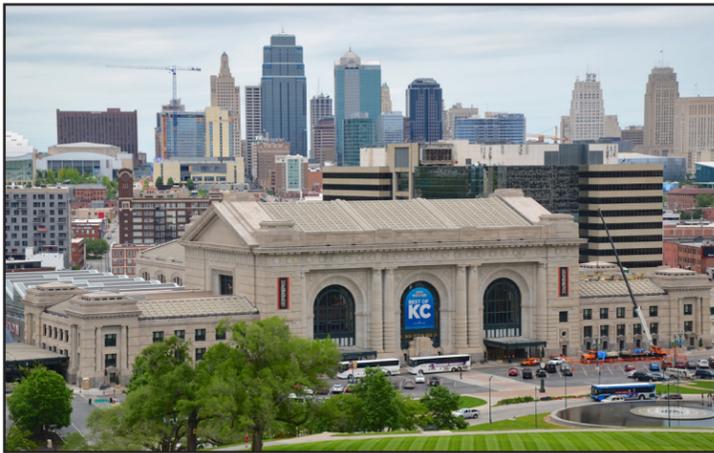


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Two teenagers have been charged in a shooting that occurred near the Chiefs' Super Bowl parade outside of Union Station last Wednesday.



Ice bath world record, Charlotte the pregnant stingray, lost money, local manatee rehabilitation & a legal loophole

BY GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

The health and wellness company One Life Live It set a Guinness World Record by creating an event where 509 people took an ice bath simultaneously on a beach in western Australia. The company set up large, inflatable pools on the beach, and the participants entered together. 12 people shared a pool and were required to be submerged up to their necks for at least three minutes. The 509 participants exceeded the previous record of 483 (Feb. 13).

Team ECCO, an educational nonprofit which focuses on science, has announced that a stingray at its North Carolina aquarium is pregnant either asexually or from sharks it mated with. The stingray, named Charlotte, is predicted to give birth within the next two weeks to four pups. Charlotte's pregnancy is possible through a process called parthenogenesis, which is an asexual reproduction method where unfertilized eggs develop, or from the stingray mating with one of the four young sharks added to her tank in July. The last time Charlotte was with a male of her species was eight years ago (Feb. 14).



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Two New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (NYMTA) employees returned a lost bag with \$30,000 inside to a train traveler who misplaced the bag. NYMTA assistant conductor Christopher Nocito found the bag left behind on a Long Island Rail Road train and gave it to NYMTA police detective Kristin Riker, who used the owner's planner in the bag to return it (Feb. 15).

Three Cincinnati manatees were released back into the wild. The Cincinnati Zoo hosted Calliope, Piccolina and Soleil, all of whom are baby manatees that were rescued in 2021 and rehabilitated at the zoo through the facility's food and veterinary care. The manatees gained over 250 lbs. before they were released into their natural habitat in Florida (Feb. 16).

Mickey Barreto, a New York resident, spent five years in the New Yorker hotel living rent-free after being granted a lease on technicality. The legal loophole, that allowed occupants of single rooms in buildings before 1969 to demand a six-month lease, helped Barreto argue that because he paid for a night in a hotel, he counted as a tenant. In 2019, he began legal proceedings to take ownership of the building. Last week, he was arrested and charged with fraud and criminal contempt (Feb. 16).

Trump Asks Supreme Court to Pause Ruling

Trump's decision to not appeal means other lawsuits around Jan. 6 events can go forward

BY GRACE HAMILTON
Opinions and Editorials Editor

A three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (D.C.) has rejected former President Donald Trump's argument that he cannot be charged for crimes committed while he held office. Trump has not asked the Supreme Court to reverse the ruling but has asked for a further delay in his lawsuits going to court.

The ruling pertains to the case against Trump for allegedly plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 election against President Joe Biden, ultimately resulting in the riots on the Capitol that occurred on Jan. 6, 2021.

The decision was unanimous among the three judges — one of whom was nominated by Trump — and found that his statements about the 2020 election to his supporters were made in his position as a candidate, not in his official office as president.

The Justice Department's special counsel Jack Smith has urged the Supreme Court to reject Trump's request to further delay the trial against him which has been on hold since Dec. 2023.

Last year, Trump was indicted on four felony charges: conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to obstruct an official proceed-



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

ing, obstruction of and attempt to obstruct an official proceeding and conspiracy against rights.

These charges were made on the prosecutors claims that, in between the 2020 presidential election and the Jan. 6 riot, Trump encouraged local election officials to overturn voting results in their respective states, pushed former Vice President Mike Pence to stop the certification of electoral votes and maintained that the election was stolen by the Democratic party.

The trial against Trump had been scheduled to take

place on March 4 but was delayed while the lower appellate courts decided whether or not the former president could be considered immune to the charges against him.

The court's ruling holds historic significance, as it was the first time an appeals court answered a question as to the level of accountability that presidents can be held to for what they do while serving in the executive office.

If the Supreme Court were to overturn the appellate court's decision, it would create "terrifying possibilities" for future presidents and

the usage of military force to maintain office, a group of anti-Trump Republicans claims.

The group, made up of 26 former U.S. Department of Justice attorneys, lawmakers and other formerly elected officials penned an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court opposing the delay in Trump's trial.

"No Court should create a presidential immunity from federal criminal prosecution, even for official acts, that is so vast that it endangers the peaceful transfer of executive power," the group stated in the brief.

In an application sent to the Supreme Court on Feb. 12 which did not request an appeal, Trump's lawyers stated, "Without immunity from criminal prosecution, the Presidency as we know it will cease to exist."

In the meantime, at least three lawsuits against Trump are moving forward to the next phase — that of a limited gathering of evidence. These lawsuits were brought forward by members of Congress and police officers affected by the Jan. 6 Capitol riots. They were brought forward in 2021 but had been delayed over Trump's claims of immunity being decided in the courts.

Last week, the Supreme Court heard over two hours of arguments as to whether they should uphold or overturn a ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court which decided that Trump cannot appear on the 2024 ballot because of his role in Jan. 6 — a role that they believe establishes him as an insurrectionist.

For now, the D.C. court's decision will stand as Trump and his legal team missed the deadline to file for an appeal to the Supreme Court. His team argues that he will continue to fight for presidential immunity, with many thinking that he will try for an appeal after this next phase of evidence-gathering is finished.

XU Students Attend Ohio Student Power Summit

The Ohio Young People's Platform's first-ever event hosts over 105 students at conference

BY CLARE MCKINLEY
Staff Writer

Last weekend, three Xavier students traveled to Columbus, Ohio to participate in the inaugural Ohio Student Power Summit (OSPS).

The summit was hosted by Ohio Young People's Platform (OYPP), a group dedicated to engaging Ohio's youth so they can have the skills to advance social and political change on their respective campuses.

The goals of the summit were to give students the opportunity to build a network of connections with other students across Ohio campuses, strengthen their political organization skills and launch the OYPP.

There were about 105 students in attendance, representing 15 campuses across Ohio. OYPP paid for every students' hotel stay, provided all meals and offered a limited number of gas cards for students who drove.

One of the Xavier students in attendance, sophomore political science major Teagan Fowler, shared her experience at the summit.

"I met people who care about the same issues that I care about, and now we're



Photo courtesy of @oyppc via Instagram

connected and not only can we be friends, we can work together for change... I met people from Bowling Green State University. I've never gone to Bowling Green. It's so far, but we got to meet and this never would have happened without the OSPS," Fowler said.

The weekend's itinerary was packed full of talks and presentations for students to learn more about how they can get involved with social justice topics they are

interested in. Students separated into groups for specialized discussions related to OYPP's identified pillars. These included upholding rights for bodily autonomy, promoting equitable higher education, protecting the freedom to vote, combating climate change, advancing racial justice and safeguarding LGBTQ+ rights.

"Not only did it give me an opportunity to get to know someone as an organizer and

an activist professionally, I got to know them personally as well. People would be hanging out in hotel rooms, going to the pool together or going and eating food together. So in this short time, we're not only getting to know each other's policies and beliefs, but we're building personal relationships, too, and that is the groundwork — the core of so much organizing and change," Fowler said.

Moreover, Fowler is look-

ing forward to collaborating with students from Bowling Green State University and the University of Cincinnati to discuss issues she cares about, particularly sustainability on campus.

A study conducted through OYPP's Ohio Student Listening Survey in 2024 found that when students were asked to affirm or deny the statement, "I believe young people can lead social and political change in our country," 91% either agreed or strongly agreed.

Fowler shared that with the help of OYPP and the OSPS, she thinks that number can be even higher.

"I feel like there's a lot of people, even if they don't feel like they're politically motivated or politically involved on campus, who share ideas and want things to be better," Fowler said. "But oftentimes they don't have an action step. It's like they have the will, but feel paralyzed and don't know what direction to go. The OSPS provides a direction and provides a framework and connection, and so much can come from that. You really can fix the things that you want to fix and change the things you want to change."

Tell Tuition Raise to Take a Hike

Xavier is becoming increasingly unaffordable, and the blame for that rests with our senior university administration and Board of Trustees members. With a 5.25% increase in tuition this year, this marks a 17.26% increase in tuition since 2021.

I chose Xavier because of the financial aid and scholarships I was offered. As a Community Engaged Fellow with the Eigel Center for Community Engaged Learning, I receive a very generous scholarship with a commitment to 10 hours a week of community service. This program is why I was able to attend Xavier. Without this, I would not be here.

Luckily, I will be graduating in December. As tuition increases, along with revoking the incredible incentive that is the free Day One textbook program by adding

a hefty fee, Xavier has made a clear decision towards making this university as exclusive and unaffordable as possible.

I love Xavier. I have made lifelong friends, made incredible connections and have had amazing opportunities. But if I were an incoming freshman looking at colleges, chances are I would not be able to choose Xavier due to the cost.

Students are struggling. We are in the midst of a mental health crisis, especially as we have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of all of that, Xavier has now decided to cut back on programs and resources that students rely on while increasing the cost to attend.

In an email to the campus community, Provost and Chief Academic Officer Ra-

chel Chrastil wrote, "Please know that everyone at Xavier understands and appreciates the tremendous investment that you are making to receive a Xavier education. We are committed to offering a quality, Jesuit Catholic educational experience that delivers on our mission to prepare graduates for an increasingly diverse and complex world while being mindful of costs for our students."

Chrastil was correct. This is a tremendous investment — one that many students are struggling to afford and that will likely deter many potential students from coming here.

If the university truly was "committed to offering a quality, Jesuit Catholic educational experience," then they would not be increasing tuition yet again.

What Xavier needs to do is fix tuition. Many universities around the country have already moved to a fixed tuition model, where the tuition you pay your freshman year is the same amount you pay all four years. This is a truly equitable model that protects the interests of students. Unfortunately, it has become abundantly clear that the university is not interested in protecting the interests of students.

Tuition raises harm to the most vulnerable students at Xavier and places an undue burden on low-income and middle-class students.

A fixed tuition model is already in place at many universities, including the University of Cincinnati, Purdue University, DePaul University, Ohio Wesleyan University, William & Mary, University of Dayton,

George Washington University, Ohio University and others.

In addition to the tuition increase and the additional fee for the Day One program, Xavier is also increasing the price of parking passes. With already limited parking options on campus and the problem of game day parking, why is the university making it even more expensive to have access to an already dismal parking experience?

Continuing to increase tuition is absolutely unacceptable, and increasing other standard fees that a good majority of students pay only adds salt to the wound. Our university administration should consider the real-world impact that this will have on our most vulnerable students.

American Dirtbag

The cheater is a curious figure in American culture. We hate them, sure, but we actually kind of love them.

We actually really love them.

It's the myth of the American cheater. We'll shame you when you're caught. You can make a statement and get booed off the stage for 15 minutes. Or you can never address it at all, and historically, that'll work better for you.

Broadly, and personally, Americans aren't fans of cheating. A 2022 survey from Gallup found that nine in 10 Americans think that marital infidelity is morally wrong. YouGov found that 63% of Americans who have been in a monogamous relationship have never cheated on their partner, 33% have cheated and 54% have been cheated on.

So, we say we hate cheating, the majority of us haven't cheated and more than half of us have actually been cheated on — so why are we a fan of

the cheater?

The most current and popular example is Ariana Grande. Allegedly, she has a history of — for lack of a better phrase — homewrecking other relationships, from Big Sean to Pete Davidson to her current beau Ethan Slater.

We know this, and we love her. We've shamed her a bit, made fun of her Spongebob boyfriend. Yet we listened to "Yes, and?" and still anxiously await the next album drop and the movie release. We know Ethan Slater was a married man with a newborn baby. We know his wife was shocked at the suddenness of the end of her marriage. And yet, #ApoloizetoAriana trended on Twitter only a few days ago. Ariana Grande and Ethan Slater cheated on their respective spouses with one another. But truly, the public response amounted to, "yes, and?"

And Ariana Grande isn't the only example of this. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie were

the picture-perfect Hollywood star couple for over a decade, and the beginning of their relationship was Pitt cheating on Jennifer Aniston with Jolie. We were mad at the time, but they made such a beautiful couple. They had such good chemistry in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. They adopted about a million children to mimic the perfect nuclear family. So, really, the cheating was worth it, wasn't it?

Ewan McGregor cheated on his wife of 22 years. We loved him in *Kenobi*. Kevin Hart cheated on his pregnant wife. The *Jumanji* movies are hilarious. Julia Roberts, America's darling, while in a relationship with another actor, had an affair with a cameraman on the set of her movie *The Mexican*. Said cameraman, Danny Moder, was married to makeup artist Vera Steimberg at the time. When Steimberg was reluctant to sign the divorce papers ending her marriage and allowing Moder and

Roberts to run off into the sunset together, Roberts wore a homemade shirt for the paparazzi with "A Low Vera" emblazoned on it, and later allegedly forced Steimberg to sign the divorce papers.

But Moder and Roberts are happily married today, so all is well.

Should cheaters be canceled? No. Should we boycott their films, publicly flog them, parade them naked through the streets yelling "shame" — à la *Games of Thrones*? Also no. People have complicated thoughts about monogamy. Not everyone believes in it or practices it, but those of us who do can no longer pretend that the American cheater is so abhorrent to us.

The reality is, if you're pretty enough or end up happily-ever-after, we don't really care how you got there.

Maybe we should acknowledge that cultural shift. Maybe we should acknowledge a shift in our morality. Do we love

the cheater when they cheat on someone else? When they cheat and end up with someone we like better? When they cheat and end up with us?

Cheating isn't black and white because relationships aren't black and white, but the myth of the American cheater teaches us that no matter the means, no matter the circumstances, we only care about the end.

The myth of the American cheater means we've forgotten about the cheated-on. Maybe because we haven't seen their movies, or never even heard their names. It says something about us that we forgive those who hurt others on behalf of the people who've been hurt, people we don't even know.

What does that say about what we're willing to do to the people we do know?

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

You Don't Really Get Us, Do You?

The Super Bowl is an occasion for people to come together and enjoy a fun show, on and off the field. The advertisements have grown into fan favorites, with some people watching the game for the sole purpose of enjoying the advertisements. Some years of Super Bowl ads go by simply with laughs, others cause us to groan and every once in a while, people get angry about a commercial.

This year, I am one of those people, and I am angry. As a religious individual, I have some words about the "He Gets Us" advertisements.

"He Gets Us" hit the scene a few years back with the intent of drawing people to Christ and religion. The general consensus, other than groans whenever one of these ads came on, was a feeling of hypocrisy.

"He Gets Us" is part of the same flavorful brand of Christianity associated with Hobby Lobby. It is quickly becoming the poster child for the American Evangelical's movement to bring people back into the fold as the flock decreases by day.

Nominally, "He Gets Us"

is about spreading Jesus' message of love and compassion while normalizing and packaging it in a modern format more suitable to the everyday American. In theory, it is not the worst way to spread Christianity; in practice, it's horrible.

With the requisite explanation of what "He Gets Us" is out of the way, we return to the ad from the Super Bowl. It draws on a story from the Gospels, where Jesus washes the disciples' feet to show that they are all equals and to encourage them to help one another, regardless of stature.

It is a beautiful story that shows how Jesus did not let division rule in His life, instead focusing on helping others. The ad depicts foot washing in a variety of situations, attempting to portray the same humility that Jesus showed us when He washed His disciples' feet.

The ad ends by displaying the words, "Jesus didn't teach hate; He washed feet." It's a fine ad whose message is, at its core, a good one. There is a major issue with it, however, as this ad cost northward of \$20 million.

My biggest criticism of "He Gets Us" emerges here: They spent more money than I may make in my lifetime on a minute long ad for the most famous person in all of history. There are so many better places their funds could go.

Churches in need of repair, parish food pantries needing to be filled, immigrants in need of help at the border, relief causes for those affected in the Middle East and many, many more. Instead, the money went toward the Super Bowl. That money was effectively burned. Given the public backlash, I do not think the ad achieved its goals of showing Jesus as approachable.

In fact, it just shows a disconnect between the work of the Church and the people performing it. Social media and media missionary work must be carefully done or else it feels superficial at best, or elitist, judgmental and a waste at worst — as in this case.

People are not discussing the greatness of God when this ad is brought around the water cooler but looking instead at the irony of spending boatloads of money that is needed elsewhere. "He Gets

Us" would have been better pressed using that money to fund missionary work around the world and making a material difference in people's lives.

I would even go to say there is a biblical cause for this. Matthew 6:2 says, "When thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites in the synagogues."

Commercialization of the Good News goes against what Jesus stood for and who He was. We should reach out in person, not through a screen. Do not let your works ring hollow with the callousness of a modern TV advertisement, but instead reach out in human connection with compassion and love, without judgment. That is true discipleship.

My tone may not have matched my anger in this piece. That is ok. As I mentioned earlier, I am a religious individual.

Jesus and the Church are the basis of my social action; I am commanded to love and to serve the poor. I am commanded to wash their feet, as the ad entails. I despise the increasing commercialization

of religion; it allows people to feel as though they have done what they should, when they have only achieved a semblance of their missionary work. We are meant to help each other in a more physical manner.

Jesus was not hoping that we would watch an advertisement, then suddenly start attending Sunday service. He wanted us to reach out to our fellow humans in a compassionate and caring manner. That money spent on the ad could have gone to so many other deserving places.

I am saddened that Jesus gets misrepresented so often in our society. Jesus is loving, caring and compassionate. And He would not spend \$20 million on a Super Bowl spot; He would be out in the world making a positive change, whether that be washing someone's feet, helping someone through grief or working at a soup kitchen.

Jesus is out in the world, not behind our phone and TV screens.

Is It Really So Radical to Care?

On Jan. 29, Xavier administration hosted a town hall inviting university faculty and staff to introduce the consulting firm, McKinsey & Company, that was hired to evaluate the university's performance in an effort to build a financially sustainable future.

The language and discussions around this process have sparked fear and anxiety for faculty, as they understand words like "transformation" to be code for cost cutting or minimizing programs, departments or jobs.

The administration's attempt to sufficiently inform and address these fears has been inadequate, and I believe that this is not accidental.

The town hall was an hour long, and 45 minutes of it was spent with vague, redundant summaries detailing the timeline of the transformation. This impeded how much time was apportioned to the Q&A, where faculty could ask questions or raise concerns.

In talking with the administration leading this effort, I have been told that right now there is a lot of uncertainty about what will

happen, which I think is totally natural and unavoidable. However, that should not be an excuse to allow faculty and students to go without answers and be burdened with fear. I think that allotting minimal time for faculty to bring forth questions is a move intended to maintain ambiguity around the issue, as the faculty will demand answers that the administration is not prepared to answer and admittedly so.

When one professor said that faculty are afraid and anxious about losing their jobs, and one could not say with certainty whether or not they should have that fear, I see a serious problem.

While there is uncertainty, the university could absolutely make assurances to the faculty. How the university responds to the diagnostic is up to them. They can commit to not reduce faculty salaries, to not cut programs or to not cut jobs. So, you have to ask why won't they make this commitment?

The effort to engage and inform students has been non-existent. It was by mere happenstance that a select few members of *NewsWire* were able to attend. I per-

sonally see no reason why a student organization whose mission is to inform students about important campus news and events was not explicitly invited.

As Campus News Editor, my goal is to help facilitate transparency and inform students and faculty throughout this process. I want to believe this is a shared goal, but this requires that student media be invited to events of this nature and administrators be accessible for information.

This transformation is expected to have significant implications on the student experience, so I think students ought to be informed and offered the opportunity to engage with this process.

With that in mind, the only mention of engaging students, I suspect, refers primarily to students who are part of the Student Government Association (SGA).

Now, by no means do I seek to discredit SGA and its members as student leaders. In fact, it is because of the commitment, time and effort required to be a part of SGA that I feel some student perspectives will not be heard. Not every student has the

capacity to take on that responsibility, but that should not preclude their qualification as student leaders and their value in this conversation.

While I believe student engagement is important, and as a student, I appreciate the student-focused rhetoric of "radical care" with this transformation, I feel it is the wrong approach.

Student-focused rhetoric with such an anxiety producing process is an easy path to take because it relates to a unifying goal of a university. However, in attending this meeting, I was shocked and ashamed to learn for the first time about faculty pay freezes that have lasted for several years, the growing burdens on faculty to pick up additional work as the university cuts costs and for them to still be asked to prioritize the needs of their students.

I credit Dr. Chrastil for explicitly addressing these issues, as I believe it was the only time during the town hall that the faculty's concerns were truly heard without a rhetorical performance of non-committal, idealistic and ambiguous nonsense.

Not to mention, realistically the results of this transformation will likely be inconsequential to me. So, I can resist and fight changes I don't want, but the university does not have to treat it with as much dignity because I will be gone after next year.

With this in mind, as a student, the professors and other faculty at Xavier have made me feel incredibly welcomed and cared for. It has been my experience that the faculty at Xavier is what constitutes the heart of Xavier, and the administration has explicitly agreed. The engagement and focus of this transformation should reflect that.

I think it's time that students and faculty treat their professors with radical care and hold ourselves accountable for treating faculty right. They have gone too long bearing the burden of the university's budget deficit. The university should not be allowed to thrive without its faculty thriving with it.

BY *Christian Cullen*
STAFF WRITER

BY *Jackson Hare*
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR



XU Baseball Seeks Omaha This Fall

Defending Big East champions open season at Clemson, visits Louisville today

BY SPENCER TRACY
Staff Writer

Baseball is back. As the 2024 College Baseball season premiered last Friday night including the Xavier Musketeers opening the season on the road against No. 9 ranked Clemson. The Tigers were the clear favorites coming into this weekend and left the three-game series undefeated holding off the Muskies.

Being the underdog was a familiar feeling for the Xavier baseball team coming off one of the most historic runs in program history, falling just one game short of a trip to their first ever NCAA College World Series. The momentum shifted over, just as Head Coach Billy O'Connor had hoped, after a Clemson error and two straight hits set up senior infielder Matt McCormick to race home on a wild pitch. Two batters later, sophomore infielder Connor Misch, skied a towering fly ball deep enough to put Xavier ahead 2-0, scoring senior catcher Matt DePrey.

Junior pitcher Luke Hoskins took the ball for the Musketeers but had a tall task ahead of him facing a dominant Clemson lineup. The Tigers presence was felt with three straight singles, followed by a grand slam by Graduate student Alden Mathes in his first at-bat with



Photo courtesy of Xavier Athletics

Xavier baseball's roster boasts a roster with four members of the Preseason All-Big East team- junior right-handed pitcher Luke Hoskins, senior first baseman Matt McCormick, senior third baseman Grant Stephenson, and grad student second baseman Jared Cushing.

the Tigers after transferring from the University of Richmond.

Dropping the season opener 14-3 is not an easy loss to shake, but Saturday was a new day with a new face in the Xavier pinstripes, junior southpaw Nolan Hughes. Hughes started off strong with two statement shutout innings. Then, with both offenses in a stalemate, junior infielder Luke Hammond smoked a high and tight fastball over the left field wall for the first Musketeer homerun of the season.

Nolan Hughes finished his day going 3.1 innings pitched and striking out six while only allowing three earned

runs. A four run fourth inning allowed some Tiger baseball fans to exhale as their offense began to heat up. Just before fans could grab a second hot dog, Hammond sent an echo throughout the stadium crushing his second homer of the game. Hammond played in 25 games last year and had 31 at-bats, none of which resulted in a homerun. Clemson added two more runs in the next two innings extending their lead to 8-2. Xavier fell to Clemson 8-3.

To avoid the three-game sweep, graduate student Jared Cushing, collected his first hit of the new season with an RBI single to score leadoff man and graduate student

Garrett Schultz. Trailing 3-1 going into the third inning, the top of the lineup found a rhythm with Schultz earning his second hit of the afternoon and DePrey drawing another walk. A promising bat for the Muskies this season in senior outfielder, Tyler DeMartino, came through with an RBI single collecting a hit in each game this series.

Even at three a piece in the fourth inning, the Muskies were threatening after junior Aedan Anderson and sophomore Donovan Canterbury pulled off an impressive double steal. In need of a clutch hit, McCormick lined a 2-1 fastball to left center field scoring two and giving Xavi-

er life. A fielding error paired by a throwing error revived a late Clemson rally taking an 8-5 lead. However, coming off the game of his life, Hammond roped a line drive down the right field line to bring Cushing home and the Muskies back within one run.

Despite trailing by just one, walks plagued the Xavier pitching staff allowing 11 free passes throughout the game. The Tigers added 3 more in the seventh completing the series sweep in a 11-7 victory. The Muskies will travel to the University of Louisville in a one game series today at 3 p.m. in hopes of capturing their first win of the new season.

Congrats, ASMA Musketeers!



Photo courtesy of Dr. Dominique Kropp

Last week, Xavier University Sport Management students attended the Applied Sport Management Association conference in Knoxville, Tenn., and competed in the undergraduate case study competition.

It was the first time Xavier University students competed in the event, and Xavier Team B took home first place in the Summit Division, defeating six other teams from universities across the nation. Team members include Matt Chafty, Hän-Ford-Traenkle, Olivia Zilliox and Gabe Ryan (pictured left in order.) The team was advised by Dr. Dominique Kropp.

Xavier Team A members who competed in the Land Division include Connor Brener, Ayanna Carpenter, Cooper Girolomo and Kacey Hilvert.

An Update on Xavier Women's Hoops

By ADDISON BURKE
Staff Writer

Big East conference play has continued to be a struggle for the Xavier women's basketball team in February. This month, they have faced off against four Big East opponents and have failed to get a win from any of those games.

This past Sunday, Billi Chambers' team faced off against the Providence Col-

lege Friars at Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence, Rhode Island. Senior guard Mackayla Scarlett (15) led the team, scoring 12 points with freshman guard Daniela López (44) just behind with 11 points. López has scored in double figures in three consecutive games

The team shot 14-51 in field goals and 9-27 on three pointers. The first and fourth quarters of the game were a close matchup between the Musketeers and the Friars, with the score being tied after the first quarter and Xavier only scoring one less point than Providence in the fourth quarter. The second and third quarters were where the Musketeers greatly fell short, only scoring 15 points in those 20-minutes, while Providence was able to accumulate 38 points in that same time.

On Valentine's Day, the Musketeers faced off against the #15 University of Connecticut Huskies and sensational senior guard Paige Bueckers at home. The Musketeers accumulated 40 points over the entire game while the Huskies scored 86. Over half of Xavier's points were scored in the fourth quarter. This was the teams lowest point total for the season.

The team was 36-69 on field goals and were only 9-26 on three-pointers. Freshman guard Aizhanique Mayo was the leading scorer for the team with 14 points and López was next in line with 10 points. López and senior guard Tae'lor Purvis, who transferred from Houston, led the team in rebounds with four each.

On Feb. 10, the team faced off against Seton Hall University Pirates in Orange, New Jersey. Scarlett once again led the team with 19 points, and Mayo was close behind with 16 points. Junior guard Aanaya Harris led the team in rebounds with five.

The Musketeers once again found themselves facing a loss after shooting 14-51 on field goals, 9-27 on three pointers and 5-9 on free throws. The final score of the game was 62-86 in favor of the Pirates.

The Musketeers started the month on Feb. 6 with a loss against Associated Press #20 Creighton University with a score of 46-77. Scarlett dominated point scoring for the team, accumulating 26 points, over half of their total score. Senior guard Taylor Smith led the team in rebounds with seven. Overall, the team was 17-56 on field goals, 6-20 with three pointers and 6-9 from the free throw line.

The Musketeers currently sit in last place of the Big East with a conference record of 0-14 and a 1-22 record overall for the season, with the lone victory over SIU-Edwardsville. During the non-conference slate, the silver and navy were forced to cancel games against Arizona State and Oakland due to a lack of available players. After the regular season concludes, the Big East tournament will take place from March 8-10 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. The Musketeers are slated as the 11-seed and will play the sixth-place regular season finisher, currently projected to be Seton Hall.



Photo courtesy of Xavier Athletics



Photo courtesy of Xavier Athletics

Xavier Men's Golf Tees Off

By BRIANA DUNN
Staff Writer

The spring season is in full swing as the Xavier men's golf team "putts" their best foot forward for their remaining eight tournaments.

The Musketeers began their season with Big East Match play in Florida, topping Villanova (5-2) in the morning but later falling to Seton Hall (5-1-1) on Feb. 5. Xavier competed against Creighton on Feb. 6, defeating the Blue Jays (4-3) to secure third place in the tournament.

On Monday, the Musketeers traveled to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina to compete in a two-day tournament at the Wexford Intercollegiate. Competing against 17 other teams, Xavier's five competitors vied with a course par of 72 and 6913

yards.

The Musketeers will have a two-week break before heading to St. Simons Island, Georgia to compete in the Sea Palms Invitational on Mar. 7 to 9. The course is 6,658 yards, and 17 teams will compete for the top spot.

Two days later on Mar. 11 and 12, the Musketeers will travel to Southern Pines, North Carolina to compete at the Fourth Annual Ross Intercollegiate. Hosted by the Mason Patriots, the tournament will occur at the historic original Donald Ross Course, with a par of 72 at 6,763 yards.

Closer to home, the Musketeers will compete at The Indy at the 6,659 yard - Boone's Trace National in Richmond, Kentucky on March 17. The one-day tour-

namment will be played the Gibson Bay Golf Course, which is 7,100 yards and a par-72 course.

Apr. 1 to 3 ushers in the Golfweek Intercollegiate tournament, where the Musketeers will compete in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

Upon returning from South Carolina, the Musketeers will have a stint of tournaments in the region. From Apr. 6 to 7, Xavier will travel to Batavia to compete in Northern Kentucky's The Jewell tournament. On Apr. 14 and 15, the Musketeers will visit Springboro for the Wright State Invitational. During their last appearance, the Musketeers finished seventh out of 13 teams in the Invitational with a 35-hole total of 602, 34 strokes over par.

However, Xavier will also compete in the Mountaineer Invitational in Bridgeport, West Virginia on April 15 and 16. Will the team split to attend both, or will some players arrive later to West Virginia? We'll have to keep our eyes out "fore" this one.

The Musketeers will wrap up their spring season competing in the Big East Championship in Hardeeville, South Carolina. The tournament will occur from Apr. 27 to 29 where the Musketeers wish the Xavier Men's golf team good luck as "par" usual as they progress with their season.



- Lacrosse marked the Radford University-Highlanders on Saturday by a score of 17-10. Freshman Colby Wasson was named Big East Defender of the Week, Sophomore Lola Mancuso was named Big East Midfielder of the Week and Freshman midfielder Megan Droney was named to this week's Big East Honor Roll.
- Men's basketball, currently 13-12 and seventh in the Big East standings, looks to trounce Providence for the second time this season. Tip-off is set for tonight at 8 p.m. in Cintas Center.
- Women's golf opens their spring season on Friday in Rio Verde, Ariz at the Western Michigan University Rio Verde Invitational. The Musketeers finished 11 over-par in last year's tournament, taking victory by 17 strokes.
- Intramural basketball championships take place tomorrow night at the HUB.

Photo courtesy of Xavier Athletics



Art on Vine Brews Up A Vibrant Community

BY AUDREY ELWOOD
Staff Writer

Cincinnati's monthly flea market Art on Vine — a tradition that has been in place since 2012 — was hosted by Rhinegeist Brewery for the first time last weekend.

This monthly tradition began when James Jenkins, who created Art on Vine, pitched his idea to Proctor and Gamble and Western Southern, among other companies. The first Art on Vine in 2012 hosted eight small local businesses. Now, over 80 vendors participate each month. Art on Vine occurs in Fountain Square or Washington Park in the warmer months and Rhinegeist Brewery in the winter.

With large vats of beer brewing right behind the dining tables, bars were placed throughout with Rhinegeist on tap and cans of different IPA's to sample.

Despite the large size of the brewery, it was bustling with people selling a wide variety of products. Some of the most commonly-sold products at Art on Vine were personal care items, with around 20% of vendors selling everything from chapstick to scrubs to

soap.

Artists focusing on Cincinnati sports were also heavily represented at the market, with paintings of Joe Burrow

and Joey Votto in tow. In addition to the art, there were also heavy amounts of sports memorabilia and clothing.

Andrew Schmidt, a first

year mathematics and economics major, showed an appreciation for the vintage sports clothing available.

"There was a lot of old-

er local stuff, stuff that I wouldn't normally see in my hometown," he said. "I found a Liverpool jersey and Manchester United jersey. It's hard to find that in stores and online, so it was cool to see it out in Cincinnati," he said.

One of the more interesting items that was sold was permanent jewelry. There were multiple booths offering the service, which includes welding, or "sparking," a piece of jewelry onto someone.

Other forms of jewelry were also sold, from beadwork to spoon rings.

The food options mainly consisted of deserts. The sole pizza line always had a line, never seeming to satisfy the large amount of hungry shoppers.

Other stands sold smaller snacks and other products like farm-fresh honey and freshly-roasted nuts.

Emily Boggs, a first-year biomedical sciences major, found appreciation for how Art on Vine helps build community in Over the Rhine.

"The overall experience changed my view of the area. It's really nice to see that whole community bustling," she said.



Newswire photo by Daniel Betz

Cowgirl Take Me Away: Country's Sexist Struggle

BY KAYLA ROSS
Back Page Editor

Circa 2012, country music died. It entered an era of extreme unoriginality that my father, a lifetime die-hard country music fan, began calling "beer truck truck." Although we've been in a dark period of country music for more than 10 years now, the genre as it was originally intended is rising from the dead. Or rather, "beer truck truck" is about to die a suffocating death.

During the Superbowl, Beyoncé released two new country singles with great success. Queen B previously wore cowboy hats to the Grammys, to several *RENAISSANCE* tour performances and in several Instagram videos and photos. Beyond the obvious recent clues in her styling choices, *RENAISSANCE* was always noted as Act I by Beyoncé. Not to mention that in the album art for *RENAISSANCE*, Beyoncé poses atop an illuminated horse. So, to fans, country was no surprise.

She became the first Black woman to ever land at the top of Apple Music Country charts. Even though one of her new singles, "TEXAS HOLD 'EM," reached immediate streaming popularity on all music streaming platforms and TikTok, the release of the single from Columbia Records to country music radio stations was met with hesitation.

One Oklahoma radio station particularly refused to play both "TEXAS HOLD 'EM" and "16 CARRIAGES," claiming that these singles were not country music. They quickly reversed the decision after thousands of complaints to the radio station.

This is not the only time Beyoncé has been met with similar exclusive attitudes towards her more country-leaning music. In 2016 with the release of the album *Lemonade*, the song "Daddy Lessons" was released to country music radio stations and received some airtime, although the song was firmly rejected by the Recording Academy for consideration of a Grammy in country music categories for the 2016 award show.

The incident with the Oklahoma country radio station is the second country radio incident to make news this

year and is just another sign of the country world's rigidity to change.

About a month ago, Tyler Childers entered the top 50 charts for country radio with his song, "In Your Love," which came with its own controversy in the country music atmosphere due to the music video featuring a queer couple.

Fellow country singer Zach Bryan took to X to congratulate Childers, saying, "Imagine being radio (whoever the hell that is), hearing 'Shake the Frost' and being like 'no no let's go with the Applebees song.'" This led to a few tweets back and forth between Bryan and "Fancy Like" singer Walker Hayes, whom Bryan's tweet was referencing. Following

X (formerly Twitter) battle between Bryan and Hayes, Hayes ultimately posted a diss track song clip to Instagram.

Even beyond Beyoncé, country stations nationwide have continuously let the girls down, even those who have always been part of the genre.

After Kacey Musgraves received the Grammy for "Album of the Year" for her album *Golden Hour* in 2019, Musgraves was continuously asked why the country music radio stations wouldn't circulate her music. Her answer? "A program director got really mad at me because I wasn't paying enough attention to him, so he

cancelled a radio dinner I was supposed to have."

Country music radio has always censored artists that did not fit the typical mould. This is no new phenomenon, and female artists in particular have notably had to work twice as hard for their work within the genre.

In 1999, The Chicks' song, "Goodbye Earl," was removed from country radio in extreme bans, some being statewide, amongst claims that the song would incite violence from women in unhappy marriages. That was the whole point. Their music, along with music from singers like Shania Twain and Jo Dee Messina, explores female independence, empowerment and sexuality in a way that had rarely been popularized within the country music genre. The late 1990s new wave of female empowerment through country music was revolutionary.

It's clear that most of the current music being played on country music radio is absolutely horrible. But, the women of country music have always persisted. Its roots are in strong women who pioneered the genre, women like Patsy Cline and Linda Martell. Country music radio, whoever the hell that is, can continue to attempt to silence women and the progress of the genre. Real country music fans will always know that country music is truly an outlet for women to make headway.



With radio stations refusing to play their music or just banning it, Beyoncé, The Chicks and Kacey Musgraves are only some of the several female singers misrepresented and mistreated by the country music industry.

XU Theatre Shines in Student Spotlight

BY ADDISON BURKE
Staff Writer

Over the past two weekends, Xavier theatre put on their annual student showcase with three productions: *The Moors*, *Non-player Character* and a Choreographers' Workshop.

I had the opportunity to see *The Moors*, directed by senior English and Theatre double major Tessa D'Errico, which follows the lives of two sisters, their maid, their dog and the arrival of a new governess along with a moorhen.

Plays are typically not my preferred choice of theater to see, but I greatly enjoyed the show and found myself laughing throughout. I had never heard of *The Moors* before seeing this production, but I absolutely fell in love with the show. I was wowed by the talent of all the actors.

My favorite moment was Huldey's power ballad after (spoiler alert) murdering her sister Agatha. Mattie Cieplak (who played Huldey) made this number so hilarious because of how boisterous and passionate she was about the song.

For that matter, all three of the actresses who sang in the show did so beautifully. Both Agatha (played by Sarah Malarney) and Emilie, the governess, (played by Molly Franzen) sang soft ballads in the show, and they both had such beautiful voices that made the moments even more special.

At the end of the show, there was a talkback hosted by English Department Chair Dr. Jodi Wyett along with D'Errico, Cieplak and theater professors Carolyn Guido Clifford and Bridget Leak. In the talkback, they discussed the themes of the show, including the female influence and characteristics within the show, the queerness present and the gothic nature of the show. This was a great opportunity to hear from this group and what they loved so much about *The Moors*.



Photos courtesy of Mikki Schaffner

BY MATTIE CIEPLAK
Staff Writer

This year's student showcase saw Xavier Theatre's first-ever Choreographers' Workshop.

Five student choreographers developed two original pieces and taught them to four dancers throughout a four-week rehearsal process. Styles included hip-hop, tap, contemporary, jazz, ragtime, ballet and more.

The choreographers were seniors Abigail Dirr, Anthony Frederickson, Sienna Glaze and Alexis Pinto, as well as junior Tierra London Rush.

The production was impressive. Dancers were in up to eight dances with minimal time offstage for costume changes, but an audience member would never have known. These dancers conveyed storytelling in all that they did, each shaped by the choreographer they worked with and the style of the dance they were performing.

It was clear that all who were involved in the production wanted it to succeed as costuming and lighting were also stellar. This was meaningful to see as an audience member, especially with it being entirely student-driven.

Throughout the show, choreographers had an opportunity to share a speech about their work. Each emphasized their love of dance and their inspirations. Some were inspired by a specific cause or theme; others were inspired by the lyrics of their song, and some were looking to create choreography that generated a certain emotion for all who witnessed it.

An art talk was held after with dance faculty member Teresa VanDenend Sorge and the choreographers. Audience members learned more about the environment that the choreographers wanted to facilitate and the benefits and challenges of the overall process.

I'm hoping this will be a new Xavier Theatre tradition for years to come.

BY MATTIE CIEPLAK
Staff Writer

Non-Player Character (NPC) was gut-wrenching. The title, which references NPCs in video games who move the story of the player along, implies a plot without emotion. The opposite is true.

Act I is full of humor and fantastical worlds. Audiences experience Katja's game, *SpearLight* (a video game the characters play), *The Social* (social media), and the *Real World*. Act II is much more sinister. *SpearLight* is abandoned, *The Social* and Katja's game become darker, and the *Real World* seems more... real.

NPC was directed by senior Anna Verderber.

The sound and lights were immersive, and the props and costumes felt natural and well-placed.

My main critique is how easy it was to lose important plot points, a fault of the script.

Playwright Walt McGough introduces important information quickly, without referencing it again. This can cause audiences to miss information if they are not paying attention to the right thing at the right time.

However, the actors' commitment led the story and showed audiences the stakes of the situation, even if the context was not clear.

After the Saturday night performance, Xavier Theatre held a talkback moderated by junior Tierra London Rush. Panelists included Verderber; junior Erin Bonham; senior Jordan Marro, BRAVE Peer Educator; and Christina Bolden, a psychology graduate student. They discussed *NPC*'s themes, cyberbullying and internet sexual harassment and how we can help prevent the cycle from continuing.

"It's wonderful to see how art can heal communities. Humans are meaning makers, and using art to give meaning to our experiences provides catharsis," Bolden said.



BY GRACE HAMILTON
Opinions & Editorials Editor

- **Lea Cayanan becomes the first active *Bachelor* contestant to lose followers on Instagram after the latest episode aired (Feb. 15).**
- ***Outer Banks* star Austin North was arrested after assaulting ER staff at a Las Vegas hospital. The assault was allegedly caused by a severe anxiety attack, North claimed (Feb. 16).**
- **Sony's *Madame Web*, starring Dakota Johnson and Sydney Sweeney, received a Rotten Tomatoes score of 13% — the lowest of any major superhero film in 10 years (Feb. 19).**
- **The interactive musical comedy *Gwyneth Goes Skiing* (based on Gwyneth Paltrow's 2016 trial from a skiing incident) is moving to the U.S., where Darren Criss, Cat Cohen and Trixie Mattel will join the cast (Feb. 19).**



Aries: You are Michelle Obama: true queen and extremely healthy.



Taurus: You are Mamie Eisenhower. You are a princess in real life.



Gemini: You're Mary Todd Lincoln. You're insane, but you keep it interesting for everyone else.



Cancer: Heed the wise words of Nancy Reagan. Just say NO to drugs and alcohol!



Leo: You're Melania Trump. You really aren't problematic, but you always find yourself in the midst of the drama.



Virgo: You're Jackie Kennedy. "Me eat sheet metal."



Libra: You're Lucretia Garfield: an artisan and a cozy introvert.



Scorpio: You're Eleanor Roosevelt: classy, floral, elegant, well-spoken and a little incestuous. You heard me. Stop trying to get with your friend group.



Sagittarius: You're Martha Washington. You're a trendsetter, a pioneer, and a true influencer.



Capricorn: You're Edith Roosevelt: the constant second choice. Please, do not name your child Kermit.



Aquarius: You're Rosalynn Carter. You are always dressed to the nines.



Pisces: You're Hillary Clinton: true icon and perhaps even a Sabrina Carpenter lookalike. Also, maybe you should break up with your partner.

The Top Ten First Ladies

BY MORGAN MILES, STAFF WRITER

10. Melania Trump

Deep inside me, there's a fantasy where I rescue Melania from the Trump Towers, and all the NDAs she had to sign for Trump that keeps her shackled, like a botox-ed Disney princess.

9. Jill Biden

Can't lie, Jill Biden is kinda cute. She's good with kids — and has probably gotten good at taking care of her husband — so a part of me feels like she's great wifey material to be so patient with the toddlers and grown men in her life.

8. Eleanor Roosevelt

Franklin cheated on her. If I had a time machine, I'd swoop in, force him to sign the divorce papers and show the tall, liberal activist of my dreams how women are supposed to be treated.

7. Priscilla Tyler

She played Desdemona in a production of *Othello* and has the most perfect ringlet curls. But would I declare loyalty to the Confederacy for her? No. I don't do crazy anymore...not after my last two exes. That's why she's so low on the list.

6. Helen Taft

If Helen Taft could keep up with the ginormous load that was her husband, she could definitely deal with all my mental, emotional and physical baggage. Plus 10 sexy points for rocking the tallest, most extra hat I've ever seen— there's something about being able to pull off any hat that immediately wins me over.

5. Hilary Clinton

Not Hilary now, but a few decades ago. Just look up young Hilary Clinton. Trust me. If she ran for president then, she would've blown Trump out of the park.

4. Frances Cleveland

Such a sturdy-looking woman. It's a shame she was pro-war, but I'm sure I could look past it given her immaculate fashion sense and party-throwing record. I think I would feel safe in her arms.

3. Sarah Polk

A stunning First Lady. It's apparently legend that Andrew Jackson thought she was hot too, which is the biggest honor ever, and yet another unattainable beauty standard I can only dream of meeting. This is the history I should've been taught in high school.

2. Martha Washington

I'd ask Martha any day if she'd like to get away from Mount Vernon and climb Mount Morgan instead. I could easily one up George: buy a bigger house, get more cats, have real teeth.

1. Michelle Obama

There's nothing better than putting a woman who looks like she could knock me out with one punch in charge.



Mamie Eisenhower