



# Goodbye, Saints!

Father B. bids farewell to the Xavier community after more than 50 years of servitude

BY ADDISON BURKE AND  
BRIANA DUNN  
*Staff Writers*

Last week, it was announced that Father Al Bischoff, S.J. (Father B.) will be retiring from his duties at Xavier after 27 years.

Father B. started at Xavier in 1998, but he has been a part of the Xavier community for more than 50 years. Father B. is a Cincinnati native, having attended St. Xavier High School. He attended Xavier University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in education.

Father B. originally joined the Jesuits fresh out of high school but decided he was not ready for the commitment. He was ordained in 1956 and entered the Jesuit order in 1979. Before his permanent return to Xavier, he found himself coming back multiple times, working closely with campus ministry as a residence hall minister and being in close contact with students as a spiritual advisor.

Since 1998, Father B. has always been very popular with students, serving as a resident minister and presiding over weddings of students in Bellarmine Chapel.

In 2003, Xavier alumni from 1969 to 1974 created a scholarship in his honor as a gift for his 75th birthday.

In recent years, students could find Father B. sitting on the bench outside of Bellarmine Chapel or walking from his residence to Gallagher Student Center saying, "Hello, Saint" to anyone who conversed with him. He had

also been a regular presider over daily masses and often attended the 4 p.m. student lead mass on Sundays.

"I am really going to miss Father B. He never fails to brighten everyone's day," Sophomore nursing major Pamela Olivas said. "I'll never forget the first time I saw him during my first year and he said his famous 'Hello, Saint.' It made me feel so welcomed and happy to be included in the Xavier community."

Junior marketing major Ander Wyatt reflected on an interaction he had with Father B.

"I was giving a tour once and saw Father B., so we stopped to say hello to him. He proceeded to talk to the family for 20 minutes, and he told the girl that he'll pray for her no matter where she goes, but if she comes to Xavier, he'll make her a saint," Wyatt said. "I loved this interaction so much because it made me realize how much he means to everyone in the Xavier community, even those that weren't here yet."

"One time I saw Father B. while walking to the Caf, and there was an ambulance outside and he asked us if we knew what was going on," Senior primary education major Maddie Mercado said. "Before we parted, he called me a saint, and this short interaction made me realize how much he cares for everyone and how precious he is to our community."

Father Eric Sundrup shared his experience

with Father B. as his student and again as a fellow pastor noting the legacy he has created.

"I'm just so amazed at someone who's capacity to love is that great. And that's a great inspiration for me," Sundrup said.

This past weekend, Sundrup read Father B.'s mission letter and he described the experience as "very moving."

"To read that to him, and then hold his hand — me and another Jesuit Jim McCann were there — and pray with him. (Father B.) talked about how he's just so at peace and this is the right moment in time," Sundrup said.

Matthew Zurcher S.J. reflected on Father B.'s presence at Xavier for decades.

"It's rare for a Jesuit to be anywhere for more than a decade, so what a gift it is to have Father B. around for so long," Zurcher said. "He didn't only remind us of who we are individually, his extraordinary devotion to Xavier University reminds us of who we are as a community..."

that we are committed to one another, that we depend on one another, that we don't live for ourselves alone."

Rabbi Jennifer Lewis reflected on her interactions with Father B. related to Interfaith work.

"I especially appreciated when Father B. made it a point to attend a small interfaith prayer service that I led on campus on Holocaust Remembrance day a couple of years ago. He shared openly from his heart about why each person's actions matter and why and how we can see God in one another and must protect one another from evil actors in the world," Lewis said.

Lewis also attested to Father B.'s dedication to his work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"He contin-

ued to have visits by parishioners and students seeking guidance and never missed a day of work, unless it was snowing," Lewis said.

Father B. will now be on a new mission, joining a community of retired Jesuit priests and brothers in Clarkston, Mich.

"He has made such a big impact on the Xavier community in everything he has done. After all his time spent here, it will be hard to imagine campus without him, but Father B. will always be the greatest representation of what it means to be a musketeer," Olivas said.

While campus may not be the same without Father B. around, faculty, staff and students of past and present will forever remember his lasting legacy.



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

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# WVXU Builds New Home on Dana

## Cincinnati Public Radio relocates headquarters neighboring Xavier's campus

BY CLARE MCKINLEY  
Staff Writer

Cincinnati Public Radio WVXU and WGUC's new building has begun construction near campus on Dana Avenue.

After outgrowing their current space, Cincinnati Public Radio began looking for a new place to set up their headquarters. The new location is just west of I-71 on Dana Avenue, a walkable distance from Xavier's campus.

Cincinnati Public Radio CEO Richard Eiswerth said that many factors went into the decision to relocate, closeness to Xavier being one of them.

"The reason we're moving to the location in Evanston is because it's a diverse area, and it's up-and-coming. It is a neighborhood as opposed to where we are right now, which is developing more and more along the lines of a commercial marketplace and sports complex. So, we wanted to be part of a neighborhood, and of course, its proximity to Xavier is a plus," Eiswerth said.

With the radio station so close to Xavier's campus,



Newswire photo courtesy of Clare McKinley

there have been discussions of potential internships.

"We do have internship programs with each of the major local universities... We have a close relationship with Xavier, and we intend to maintain that. And certainly, just as we've had the student interns from Xavier in the past, we were hoping that being so close will make it even easier for more students to

participate," Eiswerth said.

Sophomore Digital Innovation, Film and Television major Hailey Lemire shared her thoughts on the relocation.

"It will be nice to have something so accessible and close for students to have internships especially for arts majors. I feel like sports majors and nursing majors get all of that in close proximity and they can work on campus,

but for us it is very difficult. I mean, you essentially need a car for our major," Lemire said. "And honestly I think it could help get enrollment up for the arts programs here if we have that resource so close."

Cincinnati Public Radio plans to extend its reach by engaging with the local community in Evanston. The new building will contain a free

podcast studio that will be available for Xavier students and the public to use.

After working with the Evanston Community Council and attending their council meetings, Eiswerth and Cincinnati Public Radio are looking forward to sponsoring events and cultivating community engagement.

"We will be immediately adjacent to Evanston Park. We want to be able to sponsor celebrations not only inside the building because we have a large gathering space, but because it is immediately proximate to the park, we can literally open up the building and have events spill into the park next door," Eiswerth said. "We plan to be able to be in conjunction with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, sponsor festivals, and concerts in the park and I think the neighborhood will enjoy that."

After six years of searching for the right location, construction is anticipated to be completed in March of 2025.

"Once we move in, we'll have an open house and invite the neighborhood and certainly encourage everybody from Xavier to stop by as well," Eiswerth said.

# SGA Responds to Men's Basketball Ticket Scalping

BY HANNAH KREMER  
Staff Writer

With the persistence of ticket scalping of student tickets for men's basketball games, the Student Government Association (SGA) has formed a ticket scalping committee to discuss solutions to resolve the issue and prevent students from falling prey to scams.

Due to their popular demand and first-come-first-served availability, students who obtain free tickets to see the Xavier men's basketball team play from the Cintas Center student section have been selling them on popular campus platforms, including Campus Groups and class stories on Snapchat.

Their limited availability, especially compounded with highly anticipated games, such as the Crosstown Shootout, often results in a high resell price. There have been prices and bids as high as \$300.

First-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major Megan Cooper expressed her discontent with students who participate in this practice.

"Students who purchase tickets with the immediate intent of selling them are hindering people who actually want to go to the games," Cooper said. A frequent men's basketball game attendee, she now purchases her tickets directly from Xavier rather than purchasing tickets from Xavier students.

With growing frustration

among the student body, SGA has taken particular interest in the issue and discussed how they can intervene in recent meetings.

Sophomore SGA senator Jake Galvan, who spearheaded the creation of the ticket scalping committee, has made this issue a priority.

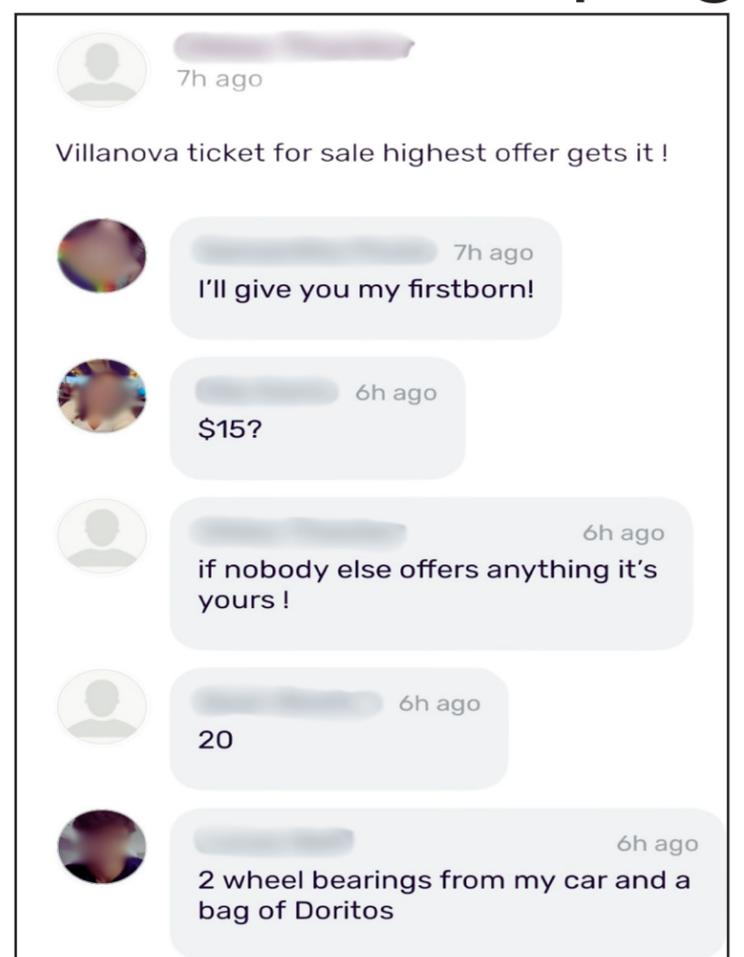
"It's really great that we have a vibrant community that is willing to pay money for basketball games. Still, with scamming and scalping, it is a problem that must be stopped," Galvan said.

With the problem resurging this past fall with the start of the basketball season, Galvan felt urged to address the issue.

"By the end of the term, most senators like me were ready to dive right in and pursue other opportunities. My first thought was to address this problem when we had the time and political capital needed to release a project on ticketing," Galvan said.

Two weeks ago the ticket scalping committee began contemplating different solutions to the issue, which the student body may see as soon as the end of February. However, these plans have yet to be voted on.

One proposed solution being developed is a reporting system, in which those who catch someone scalping can report them. The scalper would be required to appear in front of SGA, each case



Newswire photo courtesy of Jackson Hare

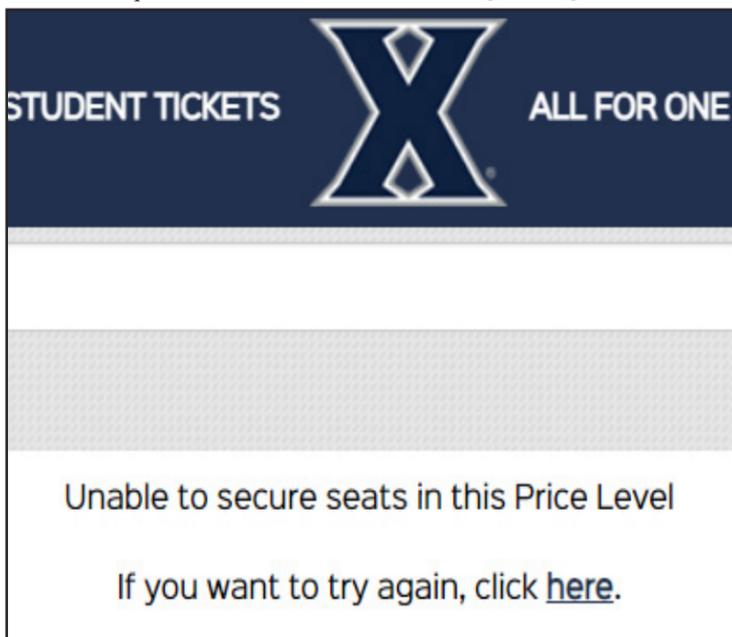
judged based on the perpetrator's circumstances.

Coinciding with this system, a policy has been proposed to be added to the terms and conditions of the Xavier ticketing website.

When a student signs up to purchase tickets, they are to agree to a set of conditions to have access to formal tickets, and the proposal seeks to add a clause on ticket scalping.

"No one actually reads the terms and conditions. Or at least I don't," Galvan said. "We are proposing something to compliment it as well. This would be a little box at check-out that says 'I agree to the terms and conditions,' and it could be a statement specific to ticket scalping."

Whether either of these proposed solutions are implemented is still up for debate.



Newswire photo courtesy of Jackson Hare

# Mayrand Steps Into New Role at CFJ

BY BEN DICKISON  
*Sports Editor*

Since Nov. 2023, former Director of Retreats and Campus Ministry Colleen Ryan Mayrand has served as the new Director of the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ).

The CFJ invites all students to deepen their spiritual life and form themselves into advocates for social justice through worship services, spiritual counseling, retreats and community building.

“I think the CFJ has a high impact on students. I think we’re at the heart of the mission of Xavier,” Mayrand said, reflecting on her previous four years in the office.

A native of Poughquag (pronounced Po-kway-g), N.Y., Mayrand grew up with access to a plethora of sites that proved significant to American history. These sites include the birthplace of legendary poet Mark Twain and the eighth President of the United States, Martin Van Buren.

“There were a lot of historical sites near where I grew up, so American Studies with a minor in public history seemed like a really good fit,” Mayrand said.

Mayrand worked at histor-

ical sites during each summer between academic years, hoping to get into the space of education after she graduated in 2009.

In fact, Mayrand took her first career step, after trotting through four years of undergrad as a Red Fox at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., south of the Mason-Dixon line. She found herself called to serve with Glenmary Home Missioners.

The organization’s mission revolves around bringing the Gospel to rural Americans. Mayrand found herself managing a tree farm among the peaks of Appalachia in Lewis County, Ky. for her first gig out of college and developed a passion for nurturing God’s creation.

“I think we have a lot of ways to grow our attention to ecology and sustainability on campus,” Mayrand said. “I’m currently planning some ecological and spiritual activities to help create prayer and reflection experiences that help people remain more committed to nature.”

Following Mayrand’s year-long stint at Glenmary Farm, she crossed the Ohio River once again to obtain a graduate degree in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Dayton.

While completing her

studies, Mayrand also served as Graduate Student Campus Minister for the student neighborhood, mostly providing spiritual direction and facilitating community building opportunities for junior and senior students.

“At Dayton, I learned how the Marianists (order of priests) organized retreats, reflection, spirituality programs, liturgy and immersion experience. One thing I particularly appreciate about the Marianists is their intentionality in making sure everyone has a seat at the table and everyone’s voice is heard,” she said.

Additionally, during her time at Wheeling Jesuit University in northern W.Va., Mayrand served as Director of the university’s Social Mission Center and Mentor at the Mother Jones House.

“Mother Jones was a center of intentional community off-campus, similar to the Summer Service Internship here at Xavier,” Mayrand said.

“We also had a program called Appalachian Immersion where students from outside schools could come experience the injustices of Appalachian West Virginia, which was kind of unique to that particular school and place,” Mayrand added.

In her nearly five years in roles in the CFJ, Mayrand has leaned into lessons to be learned from Catholic social justice pioneers such as Oscar Romero and Dorothy Day, both of whom are memorialized in various areas of Xavier’s campus and mission.

She also quoted former Jesuit Superior General Peter Hans Kolvenbach, who said, “As Jesuit Institutions, we are

who our students become.”

As a lay affiliate of the congregation of St. Joseph with a background in Jesuit and Marianist community building, Mayrand will seek to continue to cultivate the CFJ into a place where all students are loved as dear neighbors without distinction, and that the love granted to each student will provide care for the whole person.



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## The Clocktower Review



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**February 5, 2024**

### Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY DOMINIC DEGRINNEY  
*SGA Correspondent*

- Current Dean of Students Jean Griffin has announced that she will be leaving Xavier.
- After a state grant for mental health services has gone into effect, Xavier is seeking to hire staff and provide new programs. They specifically aim to reach out to underserved demographics, particularly women of color, to create a new doctoral team to reduce barriers for minority students and work to embed doctoral staff across campus to improve access to students.
- Sen. Jake Galvan met with X-treme fans discussing potential ticket scalping solutions. They arrived at two potential solutions: A report system and creating a terms and conditions describing that ticket scalping is prohibited. The ticket transfer system may be revoked in the coming weeks until a more permanent solution has been found.

# Cincinnati Museums Remove Artifacts

New regulations to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act affect local museums

BY JESSE DOLOJAN  
*Education and  
Enrichment Coordinator*

On Jan. 12, the Biden administration put regulations on museums across the U.S. preventing them from displaying or conducting research on Native American artifacts and remains until they gain consent from Indigenous tribes or their descendants who are connected to these objects.

The goal of these regulations is to ensure that tribes are able to retain remains, artifacts or cultural objects as soon as possible. Many U.S. museums will be affected by the regulations, including local museums like the Cincinnati Art Museum and Cincinnati Museum Center.

The regulations are being implemented after the 1990

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was updated. NAGPRA is a federal law which requires for the remains of Indigenous people to be identified and for the repatriation of skeletons, bones or cremations to their tribes.

The law was updated in December to require institutions or museums to obtain consent from tribes in order to display or conduct research on human remains and cultural items.

Xavier history professor Dr. Frank Rzeckowski, who specializes in Native American history and the history of the American West, was surprised at the updates to NAGPRA.

“I think that this executive order ... is giving a little bit of a push, and there might be places where that push is needed. There might be other

places where that push isn't as necessary and things are being done the way they should be done,” Rzeckowski said.

He also stressed how important it is to recognize how harmful it is when people violate the graves of Native communities.

“It would be kind of like somebody digging up your great grandmother and taking the jewelry off of her, which she was buried with, and then putting it in a museum display case,” Rzeckowski said.

The Cincinnati Art Museum does not currently have any artifacts or remains related to Native American tribes and cultures on display. Darcy Schwass, the Cincinnati Art Museum's director of marketing and communications, noted that the museum has previously taken “sacred or cultural Indigenous objects off view” proactively, even before the updated regulations went into effect.

The Cincinnati Art Museum issued a statement stating that they take their responsibility to work with tribal communities seriously and maintain a deep respect for their culture.

They plan to connect with Indigenous tribes in order to ensure that their voices are heard in the museum and to display the artifacts as respectfully as possible.

The Cincinnati Museum



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Center has also worked closely with various Indigenous communities and removed artifacts from display at their request. Those artifacts are in the process of being returned to tribes as well.

Rzeckowski believes that museums should inform people about their collaboration with Native communities and to stress that there are still Native Americans around.

“Most Native Americans even today don't live on Indian reservations anymore. They live in the same places other Americans live because places like Chicago, places like Los Angeles, because that's where the jobs are. That's where the schools are. That's where the social, economic and cultural opportunities are,” Rzeckowski said.

“And I think that's part of recognizing Native Ameri-

cans as people who are distinct from other Americans in a lot of ways, but you're also part of American society,” he said.

Other museums across the U.S. are following similar protocols by removing artifacts from display and working with indigenous communities to return these artifacts to them.

Rzeckowski believes that museums can play a key role in teaching people about Native American culture and reminding them that they are still present throughout American society.

“I think there is actually a real need for places like this insane (Cincinnati) Museum Center to educate people in Ohio and Cincinnati about Native Americans. Because the blanket assumption is well, they're gone,” he said.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

The Cincinnati Museum Center has removed several Native American artifacts following updated regulations to the 1990 NAGPRA law.



*Punxsutawney Phil's prediction, sauna rescue, Cold War rocket discovery, suspected pigeon spy & tank protest*

BY GAVIN STEELE  
*Staff Writer*

Punxsutawney Phil predicts an early spring this year. On Groundhog Day, the infamous groundhog did not see his shadow in front of thousands of spectators in the annual tradition. Punxsutawney Phil has guessed an early spring 36% of the time from 2013-2023, and historically has only been correct around 39% of the time (Feb. 2).

Patrons aboard a floating sauna rescued two people after their car plunged into a fjord in Oslo, Norway. A witness reported that the car was stationary before it accelerated quickly and ended up in the water. The driver and passenger climbed onto the car's roof as the vehicle sank, and the sauna raft sped over to help. Several sauna guests who were only wearing towels helped pull them into the raft (Feb. 2).



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

An inert Cold War era rocket was found in the garage of a deceased Bellevue, Wash. resident after an Air Force museum in Dayton, Ohio had called to report an offer to donate the item, which was allegedly purchased at an estate sale. The local police department's bomb squad determined that the object was a Douglas AIR-2 Genie with no warhead or rocket fuel attached. According to the Air Force Armament Museum Foundation, the unguided air-to-air rocket was used by the U.S. and Canada to carry 1.5kt. W25 nuclear warheads during a period of the Cold War when the interception of Soviet bombers was a concern (Feb. 3).

Indian officials released a pigeon suspected of being a Chinese spy. After being held for eight months, the bird was found to be an open-water racing bird from Taiwan. The bird was originally suspected of being a Chinese spy because of a message written on the pigeon's wings in words that appeared to be Chinese (Feb. 4).

Paul Gibbons, an unhappy customer of the Wickes home improvement store in the United Kingdom, parked a tank warning customers of the “poor-quality” work. The company completed a \$31,000 kitchen installation for Gibbons in Feb. 2023, which allegedly had mold issues and a cabinet collapse. The tank held a sign that said, “Warning Incompetent Complacent Kitchen Equipment Supplier.” He moved the tank yesterday but says that the “battle is not over” (Feb. 6).

# Let's Chat About The Caf

As Xavier University students, we are fortunate to attend an institution that places a strong emphasis on community, values, and holistic education. One integral aspect of our daily lives on campus is the Xavier University cafeteria, a bustling hub where students gather to fuel their bodies and connect with peers. While the cafeteria experience may not always receive the attention it deserves, it is a crucial component of our shared university experience.

The Xavier cafeteria is more than just a place to satisfy hunger pangs; it is a melting pot of diverse culinary experiences that reflect the rich tapestry of our student body. From comfort foods that evoke a sense of home to international cuisines that broaden our palates, the cafeteria caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences. It serves as a microcosm of the multicultural community that defines Xavier, fostering an environment where students can come together over a shared love for good food.

One of the cafeteria's strengths lies in its commitment to accommodating various dietary needs and preferences. As the awareness of

diverse dietary choices grows, the cafeteria has risen to the occasion, offering vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options that ensure no student feels left out. This inclusivity not only promotes a healthier lifestyle but also reflects the university's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of its students.

However, like any institution, the cafeteria is not without its challenges. Long lines during peak hours and occasional fluctuations in food quality may leave some students frustrated. Yet, it's important to recognize that these hurdles are part of the ebb and flow of a dynamic and vibrant campus life. Constructive feedback and open communication with cafeteria staff can be valuable tools in addressing these challenges, fostering a sense of collaboration between students and the individuals who work diligently behind the scenes.

Everything you just read was AI-generated. I prompted ChatGPT with the phrase, "Write an opinion piece about the Xavier University cafeteria" and this was the response. Did you realize it was not written by a person? Or did you catch anything odd early

on (everyone knows it's not a cafeteria; we all call it "the Caf")? I am writing this article with two major ideas in mind. Firstly, if you did not catch that it is written by AI, then you may need to look at your own media literacy skills. Secondly, the improvement of writing from AI models is a reason for worry in a variety of fields, especially journalism.

We live in an evolving news landscape. There are endless stories and endless new things happening in the world. In this new reality, we must grapple with our ability to actually read the news. The dissemination and dissolution of news into headlines or easily accessible short form media formats like TikTok videos is increasingly discouraging. This phenomenon causes people to lack an accurate sense of different geopolitical or national news situations. We do not actually read the news anymore; we just shout headlines or one-liners at each other. In the first 300 words or so, how closely were you reading? What were you taking from the story being told?

Another worry is what AI will do to journalism. Looking at the AI-generated bit of

this article, it does not sound horrible. The writing is a bit basic, and there is not any distinctive style. It reads like a high school student's attempt at talking about the Caf. But it does read. There were not any major grammatical errors or paragraphs in disrepair. It was just a meh *NewsWire* piece.

But AI is continually improving. In its current state, it can likely skate by for low tier news sites or different websites on the internet. However, I cannot help but wonder when we will see an AI article sneak through the gates in a respected paper. It may have already happened, as the website *Futurism* accused *Sports Illustrated* of using AI-generated pictures and writing for their authors and articles. The door to an AI journalist may already be open, and we should try to shut it.

Here is how ChatGPT ends that article about the Caf:

"In our fast-paced lives, it's easy to overlook the significance of the places where we break bread together. Hoff Dining Commons is more than just a refueling station; it is a reflection of our collective identity, a space where diverse individuals come together to share in the simple joys of a

meal. As Musketeers, let us appreciate the role the cafeteria plays in our daily lives and recognize the potential it holds to enhance our sense of community and connection. Through open dialogue and a shared commitment to making our culinary experience better, we can ensure that the Xavier cafeteria remains a cornerstone of our university experience, leaving an indelible mark on our memories of Xavier University life."

It is not horrible, but it lacks any real substance. It is just average. In news reporting and journalism, the expectation should be above average. There is a public responsibility that large news corporations cannot shirk as, ultimately, people trust them for information about what is going on in the world. Hold news media to a higher standard, so that you do not wake up one day to a newspaper written by the newest version of ChatGPT.

# Is It Liberal Arts Without the Arts?

Xavier advertises itself as a private Jesuit university focused on the liberal arts. Recently, it seems Xavier has abandoned what it once was in favor of for "financially secure" fields such as business and STEM in hopes of receiving donations from graduates.

One might think liberal arts institutions such as Xavier would support the humanities, particularly philosophy and theology. Despite this, the fact that the so-called "liberal arts university" that was advertised to us is seeking to squeeze out these departments is alarming, especially when we are getting into the discussion about the usefulness and money-making aspects of the majors.

Typically, when I tell people that I am a philosophy major, the usual response I get is either, "What are you going to do with that?" or

"Good luck finding a job," — which then gets into the discussion of the usefulness of a major, especially with how much money a major can make. As seniors in high school, there was this pressure of what major the prospective applicant would want to choose. But they would likely choose between a business or STEM-related major, as we have been groomed to have the mindset that when we graduate with either of these majors, it will be easier to find a job right after graduation.

The underlying issue is that if we continue equating what we study with the amount of money that will be made because of it, we are devaluing what an education is. This means something, especially with an institution such as Xavier where we have advertised ourselves as a small-liberal arts university with an emphasis on a

Jesuit education. Such an education includes aspects of the arts and the humanities — yet that seems lost now.

Xavier, like many American universities, has subscribed to the notion that education is a business where the emphasis is on how much money can be made after graduation. That is not what an education should be.

If in the near future universities decide to cut these humanities programs, we will raise a generation that will not be able to critically think about the world around them; this is why Xavier should continue stressing the humanities instead of cutting it in favor of an easier route and with the goal of graduates making money.

We have to end this outlook that our respective choice in a major will equate to how much money can be made. The rebuttal to this argument would be that col-

lege is expensive, so it is a waste to invest in a major and not get a six-figure return on that investment.

I will concede to the fact that yes, college is a huge investment in a person's future — even when we need a job to survive in the United States. But my response is that maintaining programs that encourage critical thinking, writing and oral communication to get ideas across is crucial within our society. They prepare students, whether they are studying the humanities or not, for their future. If we were to cut that because it is not "financially smart" or "useful in society," then we are setting a foundation for future graduates not being able to spell out their ideas within a practical setting.

For those who are not studying the arts or humanities, I sympathize with you all if you are taking Xavi-

er's core and it conflicts with your schedule; I have been there. But these classes are necessary for understanding ourselves. Additionally, it prepares you with the skills needed for your future.

Xavier's own website on the liberal arts states that, "A liberal arts education emphasizes knowledge and the ability to analyze knowledge meaningfully, to organize it and integrate it, and to break out into new areas."

If Xavier continues down this subscription of devaluing the liberal arts, ironically as a liberal arts institution, then it has shown itself to be hypocritical about its emphasis on a Jesuit liberal arts university.



# Tortured Editors Department

Taylor Swift is a climate criminal.

We could dance around the topic. We could talk about the announcement of *The Tortured Poets Department* or the Grammys she just won. We could talk about her political activism — which cropped up once and then never again.

Or, we could talk about how she's a climate criminal. How she hasn't made any statements about Palestine — though the actor ex-boyfriend we're all so willing to trash showed his support back in December. How her feminism seems to exclude women of color and show its main support for capitalism.

None of these topics — or my desire to talk about them — mean I hate Taylor Swift. I actually love her and her music. I went to the Eras tour, I own a couple of her records

and I've waited for the album rereleases along with everyone else. There is no denying that she has made a massive impact on pop music and culture. There is no denying that she is a smart businesswoman. I also happen to think she's a good vocalist and lyricist — though that's far more subjective.

Here's where the issue lies: Taylor Swift is a massive figure within our culture. That means her actions have impact, and some of those actions deserve criticism. I find that most of the time, however, criticisms of Taylor Swift are not rooted in concerns for the environment or more intersectional feminism. I also find that Taylor Swift — her team, her fans, herself — spin accurate and deserved criticisms into insults directed at her as a woman.

The world is full of slut-shaming misogynists: True.

Taylor Swift is a very sore winner: Also true.

She has, undeniably, risen to the very top. She's broken the records, won the awards, won the acclaim. She battled and defeated the haters. But it's not enough. According to her, it's because she's not a man — which is true. However, she's also a billionaire, which I think takes top spot over gender. Her song, "The Man," bemoans she could go much farther and be more respected if she were a man — still operating under capitalism.

I can't help but wonder if she feels that she could still be a climate criminal if only she were a man. If she could date racists who throw up Nazi salutes and watch porn brutalizing Black women. She's prob-

ably right, but that doesn't mean the situation itself is right.

Look, Taylor Swift isn't a politician or elected leader, she's not an activist or the head of a movement. She's just a singer. She hasn't explicitly claimed to be anything but. We don't need to look to her as an example for our opinions and actions politically, economically or socially. But neither can we pretend that pop culture and its influences are entirely separate from the actions we take and the opinions we hold. Taylor Swift told young people to vote, and so they did.

We're supposed to care about the climate, but Taylor Swift is running back and forth across the country visiting her boyfriend and emitting 8,300 metric tons of carbon. We should care about the

wealth gap, but Taylor Swift is a billionaire. We should support other women, but Taylor Swift only collaborates with women of color when the woman in question was insulted by Taylor's boyfriend.

We can and we should criticize Taylor Swift. She deserves it. Not because she's a successful woman in an industry built for men. Not because she's supposedly dated a lot of men and writes songs about them. We should criticize Taylor Swift because she's a capitalist upholding a capitalist system, killing the climate and excluding women of color from the feminism she weaponizes. She definitely deserves that.

11:30 am on february 17th  
clocktower lounge  
refreshments provided

Celebrating Xavier  
Poetry

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## Mission Statement

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

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# Xavier Athletics Hires New Dean of Soccer

*New XU Coach Dean Ward looks to build off successful stint at Division II Lenoir-Rhyne*

BY PAT GAINOR  
Staff Writer

Following the departure of former Head Coach Nate Lie, Xavier women's soccer has selected standout Head Coach and Recruiting Specialist Dean Ward to take the helm of the program.

Ward succeeds Lie off the back of one of the most decorated tenures in program history that has made Xavier a consistent contender in the Big East, compiling an 82-37-20 record over seven seasons with three regular season titles, four NCAA tournament appearances and a Big East Championship in 2019.

"The history of success has been prevalent over the last few years," Coach Ward said. "I think that was a huge pull for me. I'm competitive. I want to play for championships — that's where I want to live," he continued.

Ward, who served under staff of the great Brian Pensky, worked as the recruiting coordinator for the University of Dayton from 2017-2022, where he recruited 15 All A-10 Conference Award Winners over five seasons as well as two A-10 Player of the Year recipients. In 2022, he took the helm at Division II Lenoir-Rhyne, where he led the Bears to a 29-5-8 record over two seasons — with this past season including a perfect 11-0 record in conference play. His tenure included two SAC conference titles, two NCAA DII tournament appearances and a run to the Elite Eight this past year.

On Ward, Pensky commented, "Dean is the complete package. He has an eye for talent and his emotional

**"I'M COMPETITIVE. I WANT TO PLAY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS. THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO LIVE."**

— Xavier women's soccer Head Coach Dean Ward (pictured right)

intelligence ranks up there with the best of them." Pensky is now the head coach at Florida State University.

Ward sourced the majority of his success throughout his career on recruiting.

"It's a core piece of everything, where you've got to get the right people in the right places," he said. "From a soccer perspective, it's having talent — that can come in many different forms, whether it's athletic ability or tactical or technical side of things. Then just the way people are wired: Are they competitive? Are they driven? Are they continually looking to get better every single day? And I think if you have those kinds of people in your program, combining with that kind of mindset, things just snowball from there."

Following Ward to Xavier are Elin Hansson and Ella Garner, two marquee players critical to Lenoir-Rhyne's success. Hansson, a sophomore attacking midfielder from Sweden, was named SAC Offensive Player of the Year after notching 44 points — 26 goals and 17 assists — through 22 matches. She was also named the Southwest Region Player of the Year by the Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA) and was named to their All-American First Team.

Garner, a freshman defender from Martinsburg, Pa., tallied four goals in 20 matches as she put together a campaign culminating in a spot on both the All-SAC First Team and D2CCA All Southeast-Region First Team.

Finally, in a splash acquisition, Dean Ward landed former Syracuse defender Zoé Van de Cloot. Van de Cloot, hailing from Zoersel, Belgium, started in all 16 appearances she had for the Orange, averaging 86 minutes per match. She has been invited to train with the Belgian National Team for two straight years, including participating in a friendly as a member of the Belgian U23 squad.

"I'm pleased with the additions we've been able to bring in so far," Ward said, "And I say we're still active, always looking at every avenue so we can bring quality players into the program, whether that's freshmen, transfers or international players — all of the above. Getting the right fit is very important and making sure they want to be here."

As for putting his foothold into uplifting a winning culture for the program, Ward emphasized "getting the right people on the bus.

And we've already got lots of great players on the bus already. Now it's about pushing them to maximize and

challenge themselves. I want an environment where iron sharpens iron and our training sessions are harder than any games we're going to play against. I think that environment can develop people and push them to be better as well."

When discussing his plan, Ward mentioned how he looks to carry over Lie's aggressiveness into his own regiment. "I want to score goals. I want to attack and dominate in a way that puts teams under pressure and makes them uncomfortable," he said. "I want to entertain and be aggressive on the defensive and in transition, but I also want to control the game; sometimes that means owning the ball and dictating the game by having it."

Ward helmed one of the best offenses in Division II, with Lenoir-Rhyne scoring a total of 64 goals over 23 matches — good for 6th most in the country.

"I know what I'm coming into,"

## NEWCOMERS TO VICTORY PARKWAY

**ELIN HANSSON**  
TRANSFER FROM LENOIR-RHYNE  
SOPHOMORE FORWARD  
SWEDEN

**ELLA GARNER**  
TRANSFER FROM LENOIR-RHYNE  
FRESHMAN DEFENDER  
MARTINSBURG, PA.

**ZOE VAN DE CLOOT**  
TRANSFER FROM SYRACUSE  
SENIOR DEFENDER  
ZOERSEL, BELGIUM

**McKINLEY BERRY**  
HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL  
DEFENDER  
SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH,  
MICHIGAN

Coach Ward said regarding expectations for the upcoming seasons. "You know, the standards and the expectations to win. That's been the case everywhere I've been to and I'm kind of used to it — I'd rather be having the pressure to win and compete for championships then being middle of the pack and playing just to play. I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think we could compete for championships, make the NCAA Tournament and go as far as we possibly can. It's not an easy place to be by any stretch, but that's what I want to live on."

This spring, the Musketeers will travel to the largest city in Kentucky on April 7 as they look to build on a duo of regular season victories against the Louisville Cardinals over the course of the last two campaigns. Before that match, the Musketeers will face a test from the Kentucky Wildcats at Corcoran Field on March 27. These games take place as part of the Spring Cup, which will culminate this year with final games at Grand Park Events Center in Carmel, Ind. on April 13. Xavier's opponent will emerge from a pool of the sport's elite.

In the 2023 rendition of the Spring Cup, Xavier came in as the runner-up after falling to the eventual national semifinalist Michigan State Spartans in a penalty shootout.



Photo courtesy of Lenoir-Rhyne Athletics

# Greatest Moments of the Grammys

By KAYLA ROSS  
Back Page Editor

At the 66th annual Grammy Awards show last Sunday, there were certainly some surprises, a few tears and a whole lot of Taylor Swift. Here's my take on the 10 most notable moments of the evening.

## Tracy Chapman Performs "Fast Car" with Luke Combs

This moment was so tender. Their voices blended beautifully, while aspects of each of their production styles played to accompany them. I was pleasantly surprised by this duo, and it was extremely necessary for all the country fans who thought Luke Combs was the original singer of this iconic song to be proven wrong.

## Olivia Rodrigo has a Half-Hearted Carrie Moment

Every time, I hope she improves her live vocals so I do not have to watch the TikToks clowning her. Every time, I am disappointed.

I want her to do well. I want her to give us something to lean into. She gave us a blood smear on her sternum.

## Miley Wins Her First Grammy

Miley Cyrus won her first and second Grammy at this award show. She also sported a very Dolly meets Tina Turner hairdo. However, in case you missed it, Cyrus inadvertently confirmed the rumors that she is no longer speaking with her father, Billy Ray Cyrus, after thanking every member of her family individually except for her father.

These rumors began after reports of Billy Ray Cyrus being in a relationship with Australian musician, Firerose. Billy Ray and Firerose met on the set of *Hannah Montana*. Firerose (34) is only three years older than Miley Cyrus (31).

## boygenius Takes Home Three Grammy Awards

boygenius won three awards after just announcing that they will be going away for the "foreseeable future." Hopefully the wins will make them strong enough to not hibernate? If not, many fans are speculating that more solo music from each member is coming soon.

## Travis Scott...Performs?

Travis Scott sang majestically while throwing chairs around a miniature, spherical set reminiscent of *Gotham*.

## Taylor Swift Announces Upcoming Album

Instead of announcing *Reputation (Taylor's Version)*, as most fans were anticipating, Taylor Swift announced her upcoming album, *The Tortured Poets Department*, coming out April 19. She also took home "Album of the Year" for the fourth time in her career; she is the first artist ever to achieve this.

## Beyoncé's Husband Fails to Thank Her

Jay-Z took home the "Dr. Dre Global Impact Award." He brought his daughter, Blue Ivy, on stage with him. He did not, however, bring one ounce of gratitude for his wife on stage with him.

He talked for five minutes about various people who helped him achieve his career milestones, including Will Smith, but did not include Beyoncé in his speech... except for when he hinted

at her not yet winning Album of the Year.

## Fantasia Remembers Tina Turner

I forgot about Fantasia, and what a shame I did. She absolutely gave Tina Turner the best tribute possible through a glittering, sensational performance of "Proud Mary." I was hoping for a mash-up with "Simply the Best," but it was an incredible tribute.

## Billy Joel Releases New Song

Billy Joel performed his new song, "Turn the Lights Back On," at the end of the Grammys. This is his first release in seventeen years. The song is amazing, and sounds like it would fit perfectly on *The Stranger*.

## Trevor Noah Solidates Role of Professional Host

Trevor Noah did not say anything cancellable during his role as host of the Grammys. His stress of hosting was likely extremely alleviated after watching the Golden Globes.



# Percy Jackson Loses Plot, is only Demi-Good

By CLARE MCKINLEY  
Staff Writer

Look, I didn't want to be obsessed with a series about 12-year-olds going on adventures intertwined with Greek mythology, but now I am. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* released its final episode of its first season on Disney+ last week, and it still has me in a chokehold. My advice is this: read the books, and don't expect much from this adaptation.

In a nutshell, *Percy Jack-*

*son and the Olympians* follows the story of Rick Riordan's book series of the same name. Season one, in particular, follows the plot of book one, *The Lightning Thief*. It tells the story of the demigods Percy (the son of Poseidon), Annabeth (the daughter of Athena) and Grover, a satyr protector (a half human-half goat) as they embark on a quest to recover Zeus' stolen master lightning bolt from the underworld. Oh, and if they fail, a war between the gods will break out, and the

world will end. It's no biggie, just a couple of 12-year-olds tasked with saving the world. Should be fun, right?

It actually is!

The show does a good job sprinkling in some funny one liners here and there to avoid complete doom and gloom. But the overpowering serious tone of the episodes overshadows the light hearted moments and fails to capture the essence of Percy Jackson's ridiculous internal monologues and funny moments.

It feels like they cut a lot of moments that were actually super relevant to characterization and the characters' relationships. How hard would it have been for them to spend two minutes talking to the poodle to lighten the mood? Do we ever get to see Grover eat a tin can, Percy talk to a zebra or Annabeth's love of architecture (which is actually super important to who she is and is a recurring theme throughout the rest of the series)? No, we do not.

It's not just the small details that got lost in translation. Each episode was like a bullet pointed list. They covered the basic plot point of how things were supposed to go and then changed every other major detail and sequence of events. Until of course they decided to change arguably one of the most important defining moments of the series, making it no better than the wildly inaccurate movies in that regard.

Infidelity to the original source material aside, the pac-



Photo courtesy of @PercySeries on X

ing of the show also fell flat. It felt rushed at times and painfully slow at others. Now, that could be because they were trying to fit a 400-page book into eight episodes, but they did not make very effective use of their limited time. If a monster is chasing you, you should be running.

One of the biggest recurring problems with the show is that they tell you everything that is going to happen instead of showing you. They spent half of the series providing exposition through dialogue as opposed to action. By the last few episodes, it made the show predictable and sucked the mystery and suspense out of everything.

I mean, any 12-year-old who walks into a waterbed emporium after not getting a good night's rest in a week and isn't tempted to hop from bed to bed and then take a nap should be up in Mount Olym-

pus running things because that takes a lot of willpower. On multiple occasions when presented with a "trap," the kids proceeded to explain exactly what was going to happen and tell us how they planned to avoid the trap, instead of showing us how resourceful and intelligent they were by escaping the dangerous situation.

All that being said, do I still want them to make a season two? Yeah, actually I do. The actors did a great job getting the characters from the page to the screen and the imaginary world of Rick Riordan was brought to life. There's a reason this show could be made 20 years after the books were written: because it's good. Hopefully when they get a season two, they can stay true to what makes the *Percy Jackson* series so loved... and consult me before making any major changes.



By GRACE HAMILTON  
Opinions & Editorials Editor

- **Carl Weathers, *The Mandalorian* and *Rocky* actor, is dead at 76 (Feb. 2).**
- **Dove Cameron and Måneskin's Damiano David confirmed their relationship at a pre-Grammys gala (Feb. 4).**
- **Jacob Elordi is under police investigation after he allegedly assaulted a radio producer for making a joke about bath water (Feb. 5).**



**Aries:** The weather is great, but there are flowers blooming in Antarctica. Protect our planet.



**Taurus:** Listen to "Fast Car" by Tracey Chapman one more time, for good measure.



**Gemini:** Stop watching those couple-y TikToks. Valentine's Day is next week; protect your peace.



**Cancer:** Don't stress about finance. It will all be okay. Put your faith in that formula sheet.



**Leo:** Jersey Mikes is basically really healthy if you think about it. Every food group is covered in just one big bite.



**Virgo:** Try the Crest 3D whitening toothpaste. Your friends will thank you.



**Libra:** Buy the new spring dress you don't need. The sun will warm us very soon.



**Scorpio:** If you immediately looked up Miley Cyrus's gym routine with no intent to follow through, you're so real for that.



**Sagittarius:** Make sure you get your chips and dip for the Big Game on Sunday!



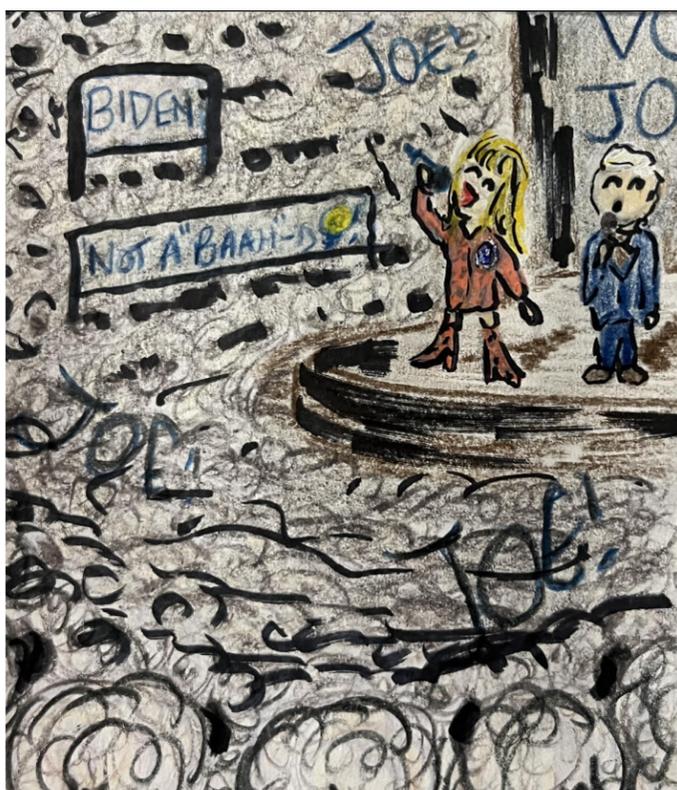
**Capricorn:** Stop stalking your ex. Stop tearing down his new girl. (I do it too, but I'm hoping if I write it down I'll stay accountable.)



**Aquarius:** Please, please go to a women's basketball game.



**Pisces:** Dye your hair! Cut the bangs! Cut a bob, for all I care! Life is short. Hair grows back.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN

# Swift/Kelce 2024

BY LUCA FILIGENZI, STAFF WRITER

BY TOPHER CLICKER

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Americans, good people of Xavier University. Our nation is currently caught in the grips of a frightening and unprecedented time. People are unable to find jobs and support their families, groceries continue to become more and more of a privilege instead of a standard and many are afraid for the future of our planet's safety as a whole. But above all this, the most important thing that I, as your narrator, can bring to you is the deceit in front of our very eyes! With all the terror and worry in the world, I will share the going ons of the personal lives of celebrities I've never met. The factual retelling of this article is that a one Taylor Alison Swift and one Travis Michael Kelce are working for the Biden administration as liberal agents for the Big Game.

I make no secret of this article's current opinion of the political landscape in America as of February 2024. The current federal administration has failed to take sufficient action in the face of genuine problems. The Democratic Party knows that President Joe Biden cannot even finish a coherent sentence; it's uninspired garbage that excites the voters as much as dental wax. So to account for this, what does the Biden administration do? They infiltrate the largest audience in America: The Super Bowl.

Now, I love football. I love playing with friends, getting a little messy, running around. It's as American as it gets. But this year has been plagued by Taylor Swift, a semi-popular singer who has drawn attention from certain parts of the country. She is currently dating Travis Kelce, the tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs, last year's Big Game winners. Now I'm sure they're very happy with each other. It's not like one of them has a habit of breaking up then following it with profitable songs, or that the other has failed drug tests in his college football days. Regardless, they are the most searched "power couple" in America right now.

So it is therefore, the Biden administration, seeing the popularity of this couple, have spoken to them about promotions and future endorsements. It's not a stupid idea, but undermining a non-partisan pastime with a political agenda is wholeheartedly un-American. Now I don't want to sound conspiratorial, but is it a coincidence that Kelce and Swift are from Ohio and Pennsylvania? Both prevalent swing states for November? Could be, but if the Super Bowl comes and goes, and the Kansas City Chiefs get their fairy tale ending, capping it off with a Joe Biden Salute. Football will become one more aspect of American life defined by political opinions.