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Get to Know the Class of 2028

942 students from around the world make up the smaller-than-usual first-year class

By ADDISON BURKE

Sports Editor

The Class of 2028 has been officially welcomed to campus and have gotten to know the lay of the land. Unlike many classes before them, the Class of 2028 is smaller than what may have been expected.

Compared to the 1,250 member Class of 2027, which was welcomed to Xavier last fall, there has been a 24.64% decrease in first-year enrollment for this academic year.

This year, there are 942 first-year students. 110 students are commuters and 832 live on campus.

The Class of 2028 has 184 first-generation students, making up around 20% of the class. There are 203 first-years who identify as students of color, and there are 524 female-identifying students and 416 male-identifying students among the class.

56% of first-year students come from outside of Ohio. The class represents 41 states, the top five outside of Ohio being Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York and Maryland. They also repre-

sent 27 different countries outside of the U.S., the top five being Spain, India, Vietnam, Ghana and Canada.

Among the 942 first-years, the most popular majors are nursing, business undecided, biomedical sciences, finance and psychology.

Due to the decrease in the Class of 2028's size, some of the four freshman dorms have empty wings or even wings housing sophomores that have not historically been open for them.

In 2018, Xavier welcomed 1,421 first-year students to campus, the largest first year class in the university's history, who later graduated as a part of the Class of 2022. Since then, enrollment has seen small fluctuations each year, but the Class of 2028's enrollment is the largest decrease the university has faced in recent years.

This enrollment decrease comes as the university faces major budget deficits. If the next few years of incoming classes are of similar size or also decreasing, this could continue to impact the university's financial health.

The Class of 2028 by the Numbers

942 First Years

110 commuters

832 residential

56% coming from outside of Ohio

Representing 41 states and 27 countries

Top 5 Majors:

1. Nursing
2. Business: Undecided
3. Biomedical Science
4. Finance
5. Psychology

184 first generation students

203 students of color (21.5%)

Most Popular Names:

Lauren
William
Alexander
Ella
Luke
Samuel



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Read more about the class of 2028 @ xaviernewswire.com

A Note From the Editor

This year, *Newswire* is transitioning away from a traditional weekly PDF newspaper style in favor of adopting a more modern, accessible website and social media-based method of news distribution. This was done to focus our efforts on the most effective forms of reaching our student audience. However, we will continue to produce a newspaper in this traditional format on a monthly basis. Please enjoy a curated selection of stories from our August and September weekly editions. You can find all published stories on xaviernewswire.com. Thank you for reading *Newswire*!

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Staff writer Kyra Hudson has sweet things to say about Sabrina Carpenter's new album.



Better Blend Has Smooth Grand Opening

A new student-run smoothie shop in Smith Hall began service this semester

By **DOMINIC DEGRINNEY**
Staff Writer

Taking over the vacant space previously occupied by Bull Market, Better Blend is located on the first floor of Smith Hall. The student-run restaurant serves a variety of smoothies (called blends) and smoothie bowls, providing another on-campus dining option for the Xavier community.

Better Blend Xavier offers a rotating assortment of blends mimicking several popular flavors, ranging from Cinnamon Toast Crunch to

Reese's Peanut Butter Cup to birthday cake. The blends also provide the option for various booster add-ins, which allow the customer to customize their drink, make the product sweeter and add in supplements that are advertised to improve gut or increase protein intake.

Better Blend Xavier itself is more than just a new dining option. For many involved it is also an educational experience in small business operation, allowing students to get first-hand experience working with an outside franchise,

as well as working closely with Xavier University.

Supported by the Sedler Center for Experiential Learning, junior management and marketing double major Jackson Fry and senior marketing major Caleb Smith have been able to see their idea become a reality.

"We're literally learning every aspect of how a business is run. Jackson and I spent our summer working with the general contractor, working with architects, the health department, Cincinnati's Metropolitan Sewer District, the

directors and heads of departments around Xavier. It's just something that I don't think I could have experienced in an internship," Smith said.

From painting the walls and designing the shop to interviewing and narrowing down a list of 100 applicants to 18 crew members, the two were immersed in learning opportunities that expanded beyond the classroom.

"I could have taken an internship where it was more marketing or more management focused... but I wasn't branching out in all aspects

of business. This has truly allowed me to not only grow in marketing, in leadership and in my emotional intelligence, but also grow in the operations side of things, learn inventory, learn ordering and learn the back end of things that I needed to understand," Fry said.

This opportunity for experiential learning is not just limited to students in the business school. The crew of Better Blend Xavier ranges from marketing to nursing to exploratory majors.

The two general managers admire the effort that their crew has put in, learning how to function and work together in the first week of operation after just a few summer Zoom calls.

In addition to the day-to-day operations, the crew of Better Blend has also taken initiative in weekly meetings where they have divided themselves into departments such as analytics and outreach. The goal of the outreach team is to expand the patronage of Better Blend Xavier beyond the business school and embed itself into every aspect of the Xavier community.

"I remember the first couple meetings from day one, we decided as a team that we're not going to be another restaurant on campus. We want to be Xavier. We want to be part of the community. And I think so far, we are doing that," Fry said.



Photo courtesy of Jackson Fry

Led by Xavier upperclassmen Jackson Fry and Caleb Smith, Better Blend serves a variety of customizable smoothies and smoothie bowls.

Campaign and Political Expression Policy Revamped

By **CHARLIE GAINOR**
Staff Writer

Dr. Kimberly Moore, Vice President of Xavier Student Affairs announced a new policy last week that details guidelines for campus expression that students and clubs must follow.

"This fall will have a unique backdrop given where we are in our country's presidential election cycle," wrote Dr. Moore in a campus message to all Xavier students last Wednesday. "Elections and campaigns are wonderful times to, of course, exercise your right to vote, but also to make your voices heard and engage in expression on campus."

The website included in the email has links to a series of resources, including a revised Student Lobbying, Political and Campaign Activities Policy which details guidelines on candidate endorsement, fundraising and advocating for voter registration.

"Students are encouraged to express their individual and collective political views

provided they understand and make clear they are not speaking for or in the name of Xavier University," the preamble of the policy reads. Seven sections follow that elaborate on interactions with elected officials, political candidates and political parties in regards to endorsement and hosting events.

"The Office of Student Involvement worked with the Director of Government Relations and our Chief Legal Counsel to make sure that we are in compliance with IRS regulations," Dr. Leah Busam Klenowski, the Senior Director for Student Affairs said. "The updates to the policy are a result of that review."

Section two of the document goes into detail on the rules behind club endorsements, whether it be parties, candidates or official ballot issues. Clubs are allowed to endorse or take a position on any of the three with clarification that the political views do not reflect the views of Xavier University. Clubs are not allowed to place signs, engage in on-campus solicitation, engage in fundraising

or use University materials on behalf of an outside organization. This section of the policy is unchanged from the original release of the policy in 2021.

Major changes are detailed under section six "Voter Education and Registration," which reads that all campus voter registration drives now "must be conducted in a non-partisan manner," with the presence of a candidate or campaign-related material not allowed at on-campus drives and all activities subject to the Hamilton County Board of Elections. The policy also forbids questionnaires "skewed to the advantage or disadvantage" of parties, candidates and ballot issues, as well as stating that all resources must be linked to non-partisan sites.

"Voter registration may not suggest who or how a person should vote," Klenowski said. "Clubs can endorse candidates and participate in campaign related activities, but when clubs host voter registration, they cannot share an endorsement during that event."

Klenowski named the website for the Board of Elections and the League of Women Voters as viable non-partisan resources to bring up at voting drives.

Klenowski also clarified that "ballot issues" simply mean official issues and not general points of contention. Under the policy, clubs are allowed to take a position on the issue, but are not allowed to bring that opinion to voting registration events.

"Clubs can and should discuss campaigns and create a space for students to reflect their views about the campaigns," Klenowski said when asked about the scope of "non-partisanship" being enforced. "This is great to do in club meetings or events. The key shift is that any voter registration event has to be non-partisan."

Also linked in the website sent out by Dr. Moore and the Student Affairs team are Xavier's "Principles of Free Speech and Expression," which prohibit the suppression of free speech on the basis of content or viewpoint, allow for the peaceful protest

against speakers and campus views and encourages students to evaluate ideas "not by seeking to suppress speech or by engaging in ad hominem attacks, but by candidly and vigorously challenging the arguments and ideas they oppose." The policy also clarifies that Xavier may restrict speech if it "violates the law, incites violence against individuals, groups or property," violates the university's policies against harassment and discrimination or "unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests."

The literature of these principles has not been updated since their approval in 2022.

Dr. Moore encourages those who have questions to reach out to the Xavier Student Affairs team. "We want to make sure you know the practice of sharing your values, ideas and beliefs is encouraged and a valued part of the ethos of our University, as we deeply believe in free inquiry and engagement of diverse viewpoints and ideas on our campus," Moore said.

Zolides Departs from Take it On

BY KATIE SANCHEZ
Editor-in-Chief

Xavier's Take it On initiative is beginning the school year without a faculty director after communications professor Dr. Andrew Zolides left the position in May.

Zolides became the organization's faculty director during the Fall 2023 semester. He stepped down from the role in May several weeks after he voiced frustration over the University and Xavier University Police Department

(XUPD)'s actions in the arrests of two former students protesting Israel's involvement in the war in Gaza and demanding Xavier's divestment from Israel-affiliated companies.

Founded in 2020, Take it On is a nonpartisan initiative at Xavier aimed at promoting Ignatian civic engagement and has held events for students, faculty and staff about current events and election education. Take it On is overseen by the Office of the Provost and is run by a faculty

member.

Zolides discussed the planned protests via email with members of Xavier's Executive Cabinet several days before Commencement. The University and XUPD Chief Robert Warfel were aware that a group under the name "XU Free Palestine" had posted online about the planned protest. XUPD and members of the Executive Cabinet had developed a plan for responding to the protests that involved arresting protestors who were outside of the designated protest area — the Husman Stage.

"The directive from the President's office was that (Commencement) needed to occur, and it needed to occur without incident," Warfel said.

Responding to this plan, Zolides decided to be present for the protest and offer to help facilitate dialogue as director of Take it On. "To me, that's part of the role of the Take it On director. If our goal is to encourage productive, respectful civic engagement, then this is a form of civic engagement, so how can I help it go well?" he said.

When two individuals arrived outside Cintas Center, Zolides approached them. "I said, 'I'm not going to be with you, but I'll be over here watching. Let me know if you need me and I will do what I can to help,'" Zolides recalled.

After being told that they were not permitted to protest outside of Husman Stage, the

two protestors were arrested. Zolides attempted to intervene during the arrest and encourage the protestors to move to Husman Stage, but the protestors declined.

"We're a private entity, a private institution," said Warfel about the arrests. "The designated protest areas were made clear."

After the protests, Zolides attended Commencement. As Dr. Colleen Hanycz, President, exited the stage, Zolides said he shouted, "Please release the students and drop the charges!" It was unclear if Hanycz heard Zolides' plea.

Zolides made comments to news publications about the arrest, telling the Cincinnati Enquirer that he believed a "strong show of force" had been made against the protestors and that he believed it could have been handled more peacefully.

In the weeks after the arrests, Zolides contacted Associate Provost for Academic Engagement Dr. Christian Mastilak, who oversees Take it On from the Office of the Provost, and Provost Dr. Rachel Chrastil, expressing a desire to discuss the events and the University's response. Mastilak organized a private meeting between himself and Zolides, during which Zolides said Mastilak told him that senior leadership had taken issue with his actions during and after the protests, especially his discussing the matter with journalists.

Zolides said that Mastilak

discussed leadership's concerns about his position as Take it On Director, noting that if he continued in the role he should no longer make comments to the press or make public criticisms of the University.

"They made it quite clear that I would be on a shorter leash," Zolides said.

As a result of this conversation, Zolides decided to step down as Take it On Director, believing that he could not continue to act in the role under University leadership's vision of Take it On.

"I want senior leadership, especially President Hanycz, to be more open to not just hearing these kinds of criticisms, but actively responding to them in public university forums," Zolides said. Zolides also submitted an opinion piece on this topic to Newswire that will be published alongside this article.

Mastilak declined to confirm or deny the details of this conversation or provide further comment on the matter.

Mastilak has put out a call for the next faculty director of Take it On but has not yet determined a field of candidates. He has no set deadline for when the next director will assume their role, but hopes to do so as soon as possible. He said that Take it On will continue to work publicly and internally to promote dialogue on campus, particularly as the 2024 presidential election approaches.



Newswire photo by Katie Sanchez

Xavier Ohio Innocence Project Hosts Exoneree

BY BEN DICKISON
Back Page Editor

"It was just me killin' time in a situation I shouldn't have been," said Dean Gillispie to a room of Xavier students and faculty last Wednesday. That situation: making art during a 20 year stint in prison for crimes he did not commit.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11 Xavier's Chapter of the Ohio Innocence Project (OIP), a non-profit organization that fights to get innocent people out of prison, invited Dean Gillispie to speak to students and screen his documentary, "Spiz," directed by Barry Rowen.

"Spiz," the nickname Gillispie's father gave him as a child, sheds light on Gillispie's journey through his wrongful conviction due to corruption within law enforcement and neglect of proper investigative procedures.

After the event, Gillispie answered questions about topics ranging from his experience in prison to his journey re-entering society after 20 years. The way Gillispie was able to remain hopeful while

serving his life sentence was to pour his energy into art. His first creation in prison was a tiny house made out of manilla envelopes, which was confiscated from him immediately.

After assuming his paper house ended up in the trash, Gillispie gave up on his crafting. That is, until he took a trip to the warden's office and saw it displayed on his desk. After that, Gillispie found any materials he could and transformed trash into art.

Using soda cans, card stock and corrections officers' old flashlight bulbs, Gillispie created miniature structures of fantasy businesses along route 66 such as Spiz's Diner or Spiz's Ice Cream Shop. Since he had to be physically trapped inside four dingy walls, he used his imagination to take him far away.

After being moved to another prison, Gillispie had to stop his model building, but was able to keep his creative gears turning and take up painting, something he'd never had time to try before.

Gillispie's art has been featured in Cincinnati Flow-

er Festival, the warden's office and even the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. At first, the significance of having a featured exhibit in MoMA was lost on him, but his gallery of work featured there is worth at least 600,000 dollars.

After the exhibit was over, Gillispie had his pieces shipped back to his parent's house where they are now stored in the garage.

"I could never get rid of my art because of what it represents," Gillispie said. To him his art is everything he has to show for all the years that were taken from him. Gillispie has been a client of OIP since its founding in 2003. Since Gillispie's release from prison in December 2011 and exoneration in 2017, he joined the board of OIP and has dedicated his life to continuing the work of lawyers, law students and volunteers that got him free.

Gillispie's work now includes traveling to places in Ohio to represent OIP's fight against what he calls an "epidemic" in America. He wants to help OIP accomplish their

mission.

"The mission of OIP is to free every innocent person in Ohio for crimes they didn't commit. Going about doing this includes both the legal work that helps make lasting change to the criminal judiciary system in Ohio, and, of course, advocacy," President of Xavier's OIP chapter Molly Babcock said.

Xavier's chapter of OIP hosts a variety of events that feature testimonies from peo-

ple who have been exonerated from prison in Ohio and educational information from psychologists, lawyers and justices who are all part of the movement to bring awareness to the realities of wrongful convictions.

In October Xavier's chapter of OIP plans to host a letter-writing event advocating for an end to capital punishment in Ohio to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty.



Photo courtesy of Molly Babcock

New Jesuit Academy Founded in Cincy

By BEN DICKISON

Back Page Editor

This month, the nativity of the Xavier Jesuit Academy (XJA) has brought “More Xavier” to the greater Cincinnati community.

XJA is an all boys school located on California Ave. in the Bond Hill neighborhood.

In July, XJA’s inaugural student body was on Xavier’s campus during the “Xavier Jesuit Academy” Summer Institute, during which students took on academic challenges, and even held a practice Mass with their future classmates. Classes began on August 14, less than a year after ground was broken for renovations to the old St. Agnes School, which has now become the campus for the new academy.

“Xavier Jesuit Academy is in partnership with St. Xavier High School, and is in partnership with Xavier University. In that brotherhood, my hope is that you get to see things beyond what you thought possible,” Founding Principal Kyle Chandler said in a video.

In the Bond Hill neighborhood, over 96 percent of the population of roughly 7,000 residents identify as Black. The aforementioned St. Agnes School closed its doors in 1993, creating a drought in educational opportunities for



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

elementary-aged students in the community. To break down financial barriers for the families XJA hopes to serve, tuition is entirely scholarship-funded through the Jesuit order, independent donors and Ohio’s EdChoice program. Annual tuition per student currently sits at \$12,500.

“The Xavier Jesuit Academy will focus on breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty by providing a meaningful life path of education,

employment and adulthood for males from low-income communities,” said of XJA, Fr. Nathan Wendt, SJ.

The school’s Jesuit mission states that it will “accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future” and lean heavily into curriculum focused on service and justice. In addition to these foundational principles, XJA seeks to explore ways to avoid the “glued-to-seat” sensation many young students feel in

their elementary years, according to their media outreach. Renovations costing approximately \$9 million are being applied to the building.

The school received funding and volunteer labor from the Cincinnati Reds’ Community Makeover program, the Cincinnati Zoo, Procter & Gamble, FC Cincinnati, GE Aerospace and Kroger.

“They pushed us to kind of dream outside our own budget,” said Chandler.

As a result of the makeover, XJA hosts an on-campus urban garden, STEM lab and improved medical and art spaces. A brand new turf baseball field and new recreation area also sit directly behind the school building.

XJA currently is offering classes for boys in third through fifth grades, and plans to add a grade at the dawn of each school year until sixth, seventh and eighth grade are fully integrated.

NKU Closes Office of Inclusive Excellence

By JESSE DOLOJAN

Staff Writer

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) closed its Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE) on Aug. 29. The OIE aimed to ensure that diversity, inclusivity and equity were involved in various aspects of NKU’s activities such as the admissions, hiring, and promotional processes, NKU’s student curriculum and the

administrative structure.

Earlier in the year, the Kentucky Senate attempted to pass a bill which would lead to the dissolution of their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) offices in public universities in Kentucky. Despite the fact that the bill did not pass. Some universities have shut down their own DEI offices due to pressure from Kentucky policymakers. UK President Eli Capilouto made the

announcement on Tuesday, via email to the UK community.

Ryan Canterbury, a senior English major at NKU, believes that funding was an additional issue in sustaining the OIE at NKU. “So We don’t know exactly what happened, but the story around campus is that they wanted to use the offices for things that are more beneficial to the entire university,” said Canterbury,

“which makes sense, because NKU doesn’t have, famously, that much money for stuff like that.” UK and NKU closing down DEI offices is part of a nation-wide trend of various state legislatures passing legislation to limit DEI efforts. Florida and Texas have eliminated DEI related jobs on college campuses, and Alabama and Utah have pushed to further limit DEI efforts in K-12 schools and in state gov-

ernment.

Christopher Sumo is a Xavier senior marketing major who is the treasurer for Minorities in Business and treasurer and social media personnel for the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. When Sumo heard that NKU dissolved their OIE, he stated he would be upset if something similar happened at Xavier. “Once you close those DEI offices, boom. There goes funding for the diverse and multicultural clubs and Greek organizations,” Sumo said.

“Once the funding goes down, the clubs are often left to fend for themselves if they don’t have a strong base or a reoccurring source defined but they’re going down as well. The diverse population probably follows, because there are no more safe spaces on campus to be themselves,” he said.

Sumo has faith that even if Xavier were forced to shut down their DEI offices, students and faculty are passionate enough to continue DEI efforts on campus. “I do think it’s definitely possible. Now, will it be easy? Of course not. Because anything worth having, worth keeping, more worth keeping, more worth working to is never easy,” Sumo said.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Oktoberfest Zinzinnati Comes to Sawyer Point

BY GIULIA GUTZWILLER
Newswire Intern

The annual and highly anticipated Oktoberfest Zinzinnati was held downtown from last Thursday through Sunday. From lively musical performances to traditional German cuisine, people of all ages experienced the various wonders German culture has to offer.

As the largest Oktoberfest celebration in the country and second largest in the world behind the celebration in Munich, Germany, Cincinnati Oktoberfest regularly draws in hundreds of thousands of festivalgoers each year.

Because crowds have continued to increase annually, Oktoberfest Zinzinnati was held at Sawyer's Point and Yeatman's Cove this year. This new venue made room for even larger crowds and created a completely different atmosphere.

Senior chemistry major Kiki Lappin expressed concern about the new location. "It used to feel safer walking around at night, but here you had to walk through underpasses with cars zipping by you to get there," Lappin said. She also shared how the large crowds "made it a lot more difficult to find people and stay in a group."

Oktoberfest is well known for its selection of German food. Long lines formed in front of stands serving



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

bratwurst, schnitzel, pretzels, sauerkraut, and other German delicacies. There were also myriad non-German food options such as Catch-a-Fire Pizza, Crumbl Cookies and Graeter's Ice Cream.

The main attraction of the celebration is the variety of beer they have to offer. This year, there were over 25 different breweries represented at Oktoberfest beer stands, with Samuel Adams sponsor-

ing the event. Many of the stands served traditional German beers such as hefeweizens, dunkels, märzens, festbiers and lagers.

"The German beer is very strong and rich," Lappin com-

mented. "As someone who isn't a big beer person, I liked it."

The four day celebration featured a wiener dog race, numerous musical performances of Polka songs, and Cincinnatians wearing traditional chicken hats and German outfits.

Xavier's proximity to downtown Cincinnati gave many students the opportunity to spend their weekend indulging in various activities at Oktoberfest. On Saturday, the Office of Student Involvement provided buses to take students to and from the event.

Although Oktoberfest has become a global sensation, it originated as the celebration of marriage between King Ludwig I and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen in Munich, Germany in October 1810. Due to the significant presence of German culture and heritage in Southwest Ohio, Cincinnati began its own Oktoberfest celebration in 1976.

First year special education major Ava Konecki called her first Oktoberfest Zinzinnati experience was memorable:

"I really enjoyed seeing people all dressed up in their outfits and hearing the polka music because it really contributed to the fun environment," Konecki said. "I'll have to go back next year because I feel like there was still a lot I didn't get to see."

Cincinnati Pride Celebration Endures Extreme Heat

BY JACKSON HARE
Education and Enrichment Coordinator

Amid unprecedented heat and the backdrop of shifting political landscapes, this year's Cincinnati Pride brought into focus the ongoing challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community. With participation from local organizations, including Xavier University, the festival navigated political tension and logistical hurdles while continuing its tradition of celebration and visibility.

One of the most pressing challenges this year was the extreme heat. The pride cel-

ebration, which took place on June 22 from noon to 9:00 p.m., occurred during a week-long heat advisory, and the temperature reached a high of 95 degrees the day of.

According to Festival Co-Chair and Xavier Senior Associate Director of Student Involvement Dustin Lewis, the heat became particularly challenging for those who march in the parade. The parade kicked off the event at 11:00 a.m. and ended around 2:00 p.m. leaving seven hours remaining festivities, including performances from local artists, drag performers and LGBTQ+ choirs.

"We have folks who are

involved in community organizations and businesses like Xavier who march in the parade, and they might be out walking to get in line for the parade as early as 9:00 a.m.," Lewis said. "By the time they get to the end of the parade, we had people that have been on their feet and in the sun for three to four hours, which can be really exhausting."

During the event, Cincinnati Pride offered free water, Liquid IV packets and sunscreen to attendees. They also set up a "Chill Zone," with fans and misters for people to cool off and hydrate before continuing to enjoy the event.

With this being a consis-

tent topic over the past few years, Cincinnati Pride has been discussing how they will continue to deliver events in ways that are conducive to more engagement with the event programming, while ensuring the safety of the pride event's attendees.

The event is typically held on the fourth Saturday of June, but event organizers are considering changing the date on account of the mid-summer heat.

As the festival navigated these extreme weather conditions, the festival also became a focal point for broader social and political issues. Notably, Pro-Palestinian protests, which have gained prominence since the escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in early October, were a present feature of this year's Pride.

"Fundamental to Pride as an idea and as an event is protesting and standing up for things that you believe in," Lewis said. "How we addressed and handled demonstrations and protests was making sure that groups did not endanger other people... like if they tried to interrupt or disrupt the route of the parade in a way that would block traffic or that would prevent emergency response."

Lewis also observed that organizations representing specific viewpoints on the matter were present at the event in the form of booths or tables. There were also individuals wearing shirts or holding up signs marching in the parade.

As these diverse viewpoints were represented, local institutions also played a significant role in the festival. Xavier University, among other local entities, contributed to the vibrant tapestry of the event.

Xavier's LGBTQ+ faculty affinity group ProudXU and the student organization LGBTQ+ Alliance (Alliance) attended the event and marched in the parade.

Events Coordinator for Alliance Ian McIlvan reflected on this year's event.

"It's a great environment because we have both students who identify as LGBTQ+ and allies all coming together to celebrate," McIlvan said. "Every year, it seems to get bigger as more people are there celebrating and having a fun time cheering."

As discussions around future improvements and community involvement continue, the event remains a significant occasion for local and national dialogue.



Photo courtesy of Molly Dugan

XU Leadership Buried the Dialogue

In a Campus Message from May 12, 2024 following XUPD's arrest of two peaceful, nondisruptive Xavier community members protesting in support of Palestine, President Colleen Hancz lamented, "Where is the dialogue?" The answer, Dr. Hancz: you and your administration are burying it. The dialogue on this campus is being snuffed out through silencing and intimidation perpetuated from the highest levels of leadership.

As the Director of Take It On (Xavier's supposed civic engagement initiative) from October 2023 until this past June, I was privileged to meet people across campus: students, faculty, staff, and alumni of various backgrounds, experiences and political ideologies. And all of these different people shared a common goal: to create more spaces for productive, challenging dialogue and robust civic engagement. Unfortunately, the only group that did not actively share that goal while claiming they do was Xavier's Executive Cabinet (EC).

"Where is the dialogue?" It is happening outside Schmidt Hall.

Repeatedly, Xavier's EC, ultimately under the direction of Hancz, made choices that did not simply fail to build spaces for free, open, civic expression and dialogue, but ac-

tively worked in opposition to those goals.

Two peaceful, silent protestors were arrested in less than 60 seconds after being asked to move to a "designated demonstration zone." Of course, this location was literally out of sight and out of earshot of literally anyone else on campus. EC may as well have told protestors they could civically engage in a closet inside McDonald Library. After their arrests, the protestors, both of whom were Xavier community members, were mistreated, demonized and charged with an outrageous anti-KKK felony. They certainly were not treated as part of the "Xavier family" we have been told we are all part of.

"Where is the dialogue?" You relegated it to a "demonstration zone," out of sight and out of mind.

Leading up to the arrests, while faculty, staff and administrators at this university failed to create any meaningful space for productive engagement and discussion around the Israel-Palestine conflict, students took the lead. Students from Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) (a partisan organization and thus working without Take It On sponsorship) put in a tremendous amount of effort to plan, research, recruit, and organize an informative panel

on the topic with the express purpose of simply becoming more educated on the topic. YDSA did what Xavier's values and classrooms encouraged them to do and have a difficult dialogue. Such drive and humility should have been celebrated.

Instead, they faced weeks of intimidation, threats and backlash from faculty and administrators trying to shut down the panel, and yet they persisted. Even when Xavier community members agreed to participate on the panel to lend their knowledge and perspective, EC forbade those members from participating. Forbade them from even speaking, silencing their opportunity to speak in dialogue with others.

"Where is the dialogue?" You told it to remain quiet.

Previously, when students wrote compellingly and courageously criticizing Hancz's decision to name Ohio Supreme Court Justice Joe Deters as a "Justice in Residence," they were attacked by politicians and operatives in the public press and even by Hancz herself. Students raised thoughtful concerns about Deters' stance on sexual assault, the death penalty and comments on Black citizens. In response, Hancz patronizingly said students needed to be "forced to encounter ideas and views and perspectives

that not only make us think but ideally make us uncomfortable." Instead of engaging students' legitimate critiques through dialogue, Hancz dismissed them.

"Where is the dialogue?" You told it you know better.

Most troubling, several faculty members on this campus, including myself, have been reprimanded and threatened for speaking out critically against the decisions and policies of this administration in opposition to the principles of academic freedom. We have been told that public critique of the University will not be tolerated. And yet there are also no opportunities for meaningful private critique.

Promised meetings are not scheduled or canceled. Public forums have disappeared. Q&A sessions are fewer than ever. Honest dialogue is not one-directional lecturing from our 'leaders.' EC continues to become less transparent, less accessible, and refuses to meaningfully engage with the Xavier community or truly listen to concerned constituencies.

"Where is the dialogue?" You threatened it and hid from it.

There is an ongoing pattern of decision-making from this administration forming a culture of intimidation, repression, authoritarianism and ultimately disrespect for

the Xavier Mission and Ignatian values. We are also certainly not going to "set the collegiate standard for Ignatian Civic Engagement," a key goal of the Xavier 200 Strategic Plan.

But this is not the end for productive, engaging, and respectful dialogue on this campus. We, the members of the Xavier community – its students, its faculty, its staff – can still make truly open and democratic civic engagement and dialogue thrive here at Xavier.

"Where is the dialogue?" It's still here, it always has been, amongst the Xavier community! We must, however, speak loud enough to be heard by those in SLC.

I acknowledge I am speaking as a citizen and am not speaking for Xavier University as an institution.



Dr. Andrew Zolides is an associate professor in Xavier's communications department. He teaches digital media, internet culture, and media analysis.

The Wombat Way of Life

In my humble opinion, the wombat is the greatest creature in our world.

The little guys just go around living life doing whatever they want. In addition to being free spirits, they are absolutely adorable. They burrow holes in the ground for shelter; whenever there is a natural disaster, they let other animals join them in their wombat holes. So selfless and loving. Inspirational even. If that wasn't amazing enough, they are the only animals to poop in cubes. What can they not do?

Now, you may be asking why I love wombats so much. In response to that question, I would say they are perfect. However, I think it goes deeper than that. I think it is because, if you consider it, they live the perfect life, and while doing whatever they want, they just go around eating grass and sleeping all day.

It makes me wonder what my life would be like if I dropped everything and became a wombat. I'm not sure if I would like to eat grass, but I know I would love the sleeping part.

The stone-cold literary classic, *Diary of a Wombat*, was written by the verbose and erudite Jackie French and illustrated by the illustrious Bruce Wheatly. The book is where my love for wombats blossomed. It details the life of a wombat who goes about his business until a human family moves into a house nearby.

Insane adventures ensue, such as defeating a furry "monster", their rug, and burrowing a hole into their home to connect with them so he can eat their carrots and oats.

I am not ashamed to say it: this book is why I am an English major. I owe my life to wombats. In all seriousness, what captured me as a child was both the hilarity and simplicity of the wombat's life. The narration is told from the wombat's view, so from his perspective, he is enjoying life until the family comes. While he is disruptive to the family, he finishes his diary, declaring he is glad he burrowed into their home because he is now closer to them.

That always struck a chord with me. I ended up rereading

the book a few months ago when I was helping my parents pack our home. I slipped down a rabbit hole of wombat videos and searched for facts about them after re-reading the book, reigniting my love for the furry marsupials.

I said earlier that they live a perfect life, and what I think is so perfect about them is how uncomplicated their lives are, specifically compared to ours. As college students, we spend our time focusing on studies or clubs, or we just stay in our rooms scrolling on our phones.

What if we could just relinquish our responsibilities and live like a wombat?

There is a sense of wisdom in this simplicity, the straightforward nature of a wombat's lifestyle. It seems like they figured it out, while many of us have no idea what we want to do with our lives. Maybe the wise nature of wombats is why a pack of them is aptly named a "wisdom."

Learning to let go or taking a back seat to the stresses of life can be challenging, but as a wombat would say, we owe it to ourselves to relax. If

we are overworked, we cannot be happy and enjoy the little things in life. It's impossible for us to let go of all our responsibilities in life, but we can determine which responsibilities are essential. Also, I do not want my diet to consist of fresh grass, carrots and oats.

So, instead, we should aim for balance in our lives, but more importantly, we should not be defined by our roles in society. Being willing to take time for ourselves and avoiding burnout is important to simply living, and with that downtime, doing what interests us is just as important. Having fun with a hobby, hanging out with friends or sleeping are all great ways to decompress and rejuvenate yourself.

Developing yourself outside of work and not being defined by your accomplishments will make you feel more complete as a person.

For those such as myself who are more interested in living like a wombat, I have news: I have located a potential job titled "Wombat Walker," where you walk wombats

like a dog. Needless to say, I am already booking my ticket to Australia to pursue my future career.



Jesse Dolojan is a staff writer for *News-wire*. He is a senior English major from Fort Washington, Maryland.

Too Swift to Praise Taylor's Endorsement

With the 2024 presidential election on the horizon, Taylor Swift made headlines last week after endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris after the debate. While I applaud her decision to utilize her platform for good, fans have been quick to offer her undeserved praise.

I'm sure we are all somewhat tired of hearing that this election year has high stakes. However, Swift's use of her massive following has been incredibly valuable in encouraging people to vote. While valuable, I would disagree that she has done something particularly remarkable.

As internet celebrity and activist Matt Bernstein pointed out, Swift's political engagement has been rather limited or subtle in the past. This election, Donald Trump's social media team forced her to speak out against him using A.I.-generated images of her

as false endorsements.

It's time we reevaluate how much praise we give Swift for her political involvement. Yes, she's speaking out in a political climate that punishes many public figures for doing so, but Swift is not taking the same kind of risks that more marginalized groups face when they advocate for change.

She is a billionaire and a White, straight, cisgender woman who has built her platform in a world that already offers her a significant amount of privilege.

When she speaks, people listen. When she endorses a candidate, it makes headlines. In many ways, she embodies first-wave feminism — focused on the struggles of women like herself while still benefiting from the systems of privilege that exclude women of color, queer women and other marginalized groups. Consider the fact that

Trump's team tried to use her to endorse himself. He didn't do this only because she has a significant following. He did it because she's a White woman who has an appeal to some of Trump's supporters. I suspect A.I. generated images of a queer artist or artist of color endorsing Trump would have been far less effective.

Taylor Swift's struggles, while real, are still ones cushioned by wealth, Whiteness and social acceptance. Her challenges in the music industry, though significant, are not comparable to those faced by women of color or queer women who must navigate racism and homophobia, in addition to sexism. Yet, her political involvement often seems to take up all the oxygen in the room, diverting attention from activists and advocates from underrepresented groups.

In fact, even the timing of

her endorsement seemed to cast a shadow over Harris' success in the debate. Without intending to, Swift's endorsements and activism can overshadow the voices of those who need to be heard most.

I'm not suggesting that she should stop speaking out. However, as her audience, we need to stop giving her disproportionate credit. We should be listening to queer women, women of color and queer women of color who are doing the same — often more radical — work without the safety net of millions of dollars or legions of adoring fans.

It's time to put Swift's actions into perspective. Is it good that she's speaking out? Absolutely. Is she brave for doing so? Not particularly. Courage in activism is found in those with something to lose, in those who face real backlash and marginalization

for speaking their truth.

Let's elevate the voices of women who aren't being handed microphones and who don't have millions of followers ready to amplify their every word. Let's stop acting like Swift is at the forefront of radical change when she's largely a benefactor of the status quo.



Jackson Hare is the Education and Enrichment Coordinator for *NewsWire*. He is a senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major from Chardon, Ohio.

Home Sweet... Ohio?

The first question I get when I tell people where I am from is always, "Why did you move... here?"

I could tell them that I came for a special program that I later switched out of. I could tell a lie that I knew people when I came here. Or I could tell the truth — that I wanted to go as far away as physically possible. Moving away is the best thing I have ever done for myself, and I believe everyone needs to do it at some point in their lives.

I was born and raised in Everett, Washington, which is perhaps best known for having the largest building in the world by square feet, having the first case of COVID-19 in the country (my high school had the first case in any U.S. high school, fun fact) and being the birthplace of the OceanGate submarine.

Truthfully, I loved spending my days in the trees and walking to the beach. What I hated about it was the sameness.

I have known most people in Everett since my adolescence. While there is something poetic about this, there is also something terrifying about it. Most of my friends' parents worked in tech, drove Subarus (guilty) and went hiking on the weekends. When you stay in the same place forever, you assimilate, whether it's intentional or not.

When I came to Xavier, I was overwhelmed, I knew no one and had the privilege of completely reinventing myself. No one knew about my past or the embarrassing nicknames I had in middle school. I was a different, cooler person from just outside of a well-known city. When I got

the chance to restart, I felt free in a way that was truly once in a lifetime. I learned perspectives that were uncommon back home, and I had friends that I never would have had in Everett.

It transformed me as a person. I have had a 10-year plan since I can remember, which involved working on Capitol Hill and being in the depths of electoral politics. That's how I convinced my parents to let me move 2000 miles away: there was this amazing program.

What I could have never imagined was falling in love with the one thing I swore to never major in: business, or finance and economics, to be more specific. We should evolve, and if we choose to remain stagnant and never leave our comfort zone, we will never grow.

Don't get me wrong. I understand why people stay. A strong support system is vital to a person's well-being. Financial reasons are also a huge factor. The accessibility of moving away is a very real reality. A new job in a new city, study abroad or even just working a summer in a different city can completely change the very fiber of your being.

I will never regret my decision to leave. I may not stay in Cincinnati forever, but I will deeply cherish the moments and experiences I have had here. It was terrifying to leave, but I developed in ways I didn't know was possible.

Leave your hometown, even just for a month or a year; it will be waiting for you. Sometimes, you need to take a leap of faith and book a plane ticket. I hadn't even

been to Cincinnati before I moved here, but now a part of my soul will be in Cincinnati for a lifetime.



Audrey Elwood is the Arts & Entertainment Editor for *NewsWire*. She is a junior finance and economics major from Everett, Washington.

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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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Women's Soccer Dominantes Early

By CHARLIE GAINOR
Staff Writer

Xavier women's soccer entered this season with a lot of questions on how they could stay on the level at which they finished last season. Heading into the middle of September however, the only question on the minds of fans is how far can this team go.

Last week, the Muskies closed out their arduous five-game road trip with a stop in Indiana to take on the reigning Missouri Valley Conference champion Valparaiso University before they returned to Corcoran to host the maligned University of Cincinnati Bearcats.

Remaining firm at No. 15 following their dramatic 2-2 draw on the road against No. 4 Michigan State University, the Musketeers wasted no time cashing in their momentum against Valparaiso in a historic offensive onslaught. A header by junior defender Natalie Bain off their first corner kick of the match would set the tone less than five minutes into the game.

Within a span of 22 minutes, the Musketeers scored five more times, with Bain scoring a second goal alongside first-year defender McKinley Berry, first-year forward Samantha Erbach, sophomore forward Olivia Baca and graduate defender Olivia Lawson. When the halftime whistle blew, Xavier



Newswire photo by Daniel Betz

led Valparaiso 6-0 and junior goalkeeper Maria Galley, who faced just one shot in the half, was pulled for the rest of the game.

Xavier scored two more times at the beginning of the second half, with junior forwards Regan Dancer and Emma Flick both netting goals of their own. Across the 22 players that saw the pitch in that match, the Muskies finished outshooting Valpo 35-1 en route to an 8-0 victory.

The eight goals are the most scored in a single match

since October 1992, when Xavier defeated Loyola University Chicago 10-0.

Though the scoresheet was not nearly as lopsided, in their next game, the Musketeers followed the same song and dance against their crosstown rivals the Cincinnati Bearcats. Not a single moment passed where the Muskies weren't in complete control of possession and tempo, with Samantha Erbach scoring the only goal Xavier needed in the first half and the Muskies taking the 1-0 victory to extend their unbeaten streak to

eight games.

"We've talked about winning games in different ways and how to break teams down in different ways," Coach Dean Ward said after the game. "[The Bearcats] are disciplined and well coached, but I thought we were able to kind of chip away and control the game, not get frantic, be patient in our attack and ultimately come out with a win."

Xavier held Cincinnati to just one shot in the entire match – their second straight holding an opponent to one shot – and outshot the Bear-

cats 16-1 with a 10-0 advantage in corner kicks. Before this week, Xavier had not held an opponent to only one shot since 2019. Maria Galley picked up her 35th win in net to extend her record as well as her 26th career clean sheet with the Musketeers, which ties the school record set by Kelcey Ervick in 1993.

After their 2-0 week, Xavier moved down one place to No. 16 on the United Soccer Coaches Poll. They remain the only undefeated team in the Big East so far in non-conference play.

Natalie Bain was selected as the Big East Defender of the Week thanks to her two goals against Valparaiso and her defensive work to hold both opponents faced to a combined two shots with one shot on goal. Samantha Erbach was named Big East Freshman of the Week with her goal against Valpo and the game-winning goal against Cincinnati, and she currently leads the Musketeers in points with 14. Emma Flick was also tabbed to the Big East Honor Roll for her five point week, where she scored one goal and collected three assists.

The Musketeers close out non-conference play on Thursday against program rival Saint Louis University before welcoming DePaul University to Corcoran Field on Sunday to begin conference play.

XU Men's Soccer Battles Foes in Non-Conference Play

By ADDISON BURKE
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, Xavier men's soccer knocked down the No. 2 team in the country, Marshall University, after a 2-0 shut out. The win was secured for the Musketeers four minutes into the second half with a goal by junior defender Matthew Senanou, and the team then saved all seven shots the Thundering Herd made that half.

In the first half, junior defender Dylan Kropp attempted and scored the first penalty kick of his college career. The Musketeers' two goals were their only shots on goal throughout the game compared to Marshall's five shots.

Junior goalkeeper Jonny Menell put up a strong defense in the net, especially in the second half when the Thundering Herd made many charges into the Musketeers' half.

"(The win) feels great. Obviously we work really hard in practice everyday. We had a game plan, we executed it, treated it like any other game, and we were able to come out on top," Kropp said in a post



Newswire photo by Daniel Betz

game interview after the win against Marshall.

Before facing Marshall, the Muskies started off their season against Northern Kentucky University at home on Aug. 22. Though the game ended in a tie, the Musketeers left the field after 90 minutes, allowing the Vikings only one

shot on goal.

The Musketeers got their first win of the season against California State University, Fullerton. Senior forward Taylor Rhinehart started the game off on a fast note, scoring in the third minute off of a pass in the box from senior defender Michael Rogalski.

Two more goals were scored within two minutes of each other in the first half, the first by junior defender Ernest Mensah Jr. in the 25th minute. Matthew Senanou then scored in the 27th minute off a free kick into the box, giving the Musketeers a 3-0 lead heading into the half.

In the second half, the Titans responded in the 80th minute with a goal by Jose de la Torre to make the score 3-1. Minutes later, freshman midfielder Mason Cooper scored his first goal as a Muskie and sealed a 4-1 win.

Though the Titans had nine shots on goal compared to the Muskies' eight, Menell put up a brick wall in the net to help lead the Muskies to their win.

On Sunday, the Musketeers were handed their first loss of the season after falling 0-1 against Duquesne University in the 82nd minute. Despite having six shots on goal compared to the Dukes' one, the Musketeers were unable to connect any of these shots with the back of the net to help them to a win.

The Musketeers will face Bradley University on Thursday in their fifth and final home game in a row before heading up to Columbus, Ohio to face Ohio State University on Sunday. They will continue their road trip to Siena College on Sept. 13 before returning home to face St John's University for their first conference game of the season.

Cincy Athletes Take on Paris Olympics

BY PETER MELAHN
Staff Writer

The 2024 Olympics were one for the books, and a number of athletes hailing from the Queen City were living the dream of competing at the Games. Piper Kelly, Maxwell Holt and Rose Lavelle had the honor of representing Cincinnati (and the United States) in Paris just a few weeks ago.

As the perennial gold medal leader, there are always high expectations for Team U.S.A. going into the Olympic Games. This year Team U.S.A. brought home a whopping 125 medals – the most of any country participating in the Games. Even for those who did not receive a medal, the Olympics are an opportunity to showcase their skills in front of a global audience. For Cincinnati especially, three Team U.S.A. athletes made watching the Olympics this year more of a spectacle.

Rose Lavelle, born and raised in Cincinnati, currently plays for NJ/NY Gotham Football Club in the National Women's Soccer League



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

and shined as a midfielder for the U.S. Women's National Team in the Olympic Games.

In this year's Olympics, Team U.S.A. won over Brazil with a score of 1-0 in the gold medal match.

This U.S. Women's National Team is regarded as the greatest in the history of

women's soccer, so for Lavelle to represent her home with a spot on the roster puts Cincinnati in the history books.

Maxwell Holt, who attended the local Purcell Marian High School, led the U.S. Men's Indoor Volleyball Team to the podium this year in Paris. Holt currently plays professionally in China, but got the opportunity to return to compete for his home country. Holt and his teammates managed to defeat Italy in three sets for the bronze medal this year.

Finally, recent Xavier graduate Piper Kelly represented the Musketeers in speed climbing, being one of just a few athletes to compete in the sport on the Olympic stage as this year was the second time it has ever been included in the Olympic Games. Kelly, who graduated in 2023, visited campus in the spring to greet students before heading to Paris this summer. Now, Xavier can say that an Olympian has probably walked the halls of Alter and eaten at the Caf. Although she didn't receive a medal she now has her eyes on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

What in the World is Going on with Formula One?

BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

Against the preconceived judgment of some hesitant fans, the 2024 Formula One (F1) season has proven to be one of the most talked about seasons in recent years.

The 2023 season saw only three drivers win across 22 races, with Oracle Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen claiming 19 of those victories. Verstappen's unprecedented dominance was one to be reckoned with. This feat had not been seen since the Mercedes-AMG Petronas driver Sir Lewis Hamilton's supremacy in the sport from 2017 to 2021.

This year, Red Bull's car has been far from what it was last year. From winning races with a 30-second gap between him and the 19 other drivers last season, Verstappen has only won seven races this year, his last being seven races ago.

So far this year, six different drivers from three different teams have won races, not including Verstappen or Red Bull. One of these race winners is Hamilton, the most decorated driver in F1 history. At the British Grand Prix, his home race, Hamilton took to the top step of the podium 945 days after his previous win. Hamilton again took first place at the Belgian Grand Prix a few weeks later.

Hamilton's and Mercedes'



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

dominance lasted for six years, with Hamilton claiming the World Drivers' Championship every year from 2017 to 2020. He is tied with Michael Schumacher for seven Drivers' Championships, the most championship titles by any driver in the 74 years F1 has existed.

After racing at Mercedes for 11 years, Hamilton announced before the season even began that he is going to Ferrari in 2025 to race alongside the Monegasque driver, Charles Leclerc. Many fans now have asked whether Hamilton will be able to regain his momentum and win his eighth championship with

Ferrari, or if he should have stayed at Mercedes and finished out his career with them.

As F1's most victorious team gains the sport's most decorated driver, Ferrari is now under pressure to produce a car that can support the talent of both Leclerc and Hamilton next year. This season, Ferrari's Leclerc won the Monaco Grand Prix, his home race, becoming the second Monegasque driver in history ever to win the Monaco Grand Prix. A few weeks later, Leclerc also won the Italian Grand Prix in Monza surrounded by thousands of Ferrari fans.

Ferrari has made many

strategy calls this season that have led to their drivers, Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, finishing races lower than expected. Their car has not been as dominant as many fans would prefer, even though the team is currently third in the Constructors' championship and the drivers have accumulated three wins this season. Nonetheless, fans must wait until February 2025 to see the potential of the strategists and engineers at Ferrari to create a car and plan for their drivers.

Mclaren's Lando Norris is another 2024 race winner that has proven his proficiency within the sport. Norris got

his first ever win at the Miami Grand Prix this past May, 110 races into his F1 career. His second win came four months later right after the summer break at the Dutch Grand Prix, where he won by 22 seconds over the Dutch native, Verstappen.

Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri also achieved his first ever win at the Hungarian Grand Prix in his second year as an F1 driver, though strategy calls almost made it another win for Norris instead. Piastri also won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix this past Sunday after being able to fend off an attack from Leclerc in the second stint of the race.

These two victories from both Norris and Piastri have demonstrated that the Mclaren team has a quick enough car to compete against – and even beat – the once-dominant Red Bull and more importantly that they are able to fight for the Constructors' Championship. Mclaren took the lead of the Constructors' Championship on Sunday in Baku and now lead the championship by 20 points.

Seven races remain this season including the Singapore Grand Prix this Sunday. The teams then head to the Americas for four races before rounding out the season in Qatar and Abu Dhabi. With only 59 points separating Verstappen and Norris, racing fans should receive a thrilling end to the season.

Basic Witches Rejoice: The PSL is Back!

BY MACI TAYLOR
Staff Writer

When asked what a pumpkin spice latte meant to them, respondents answered “Comforting,” (Sophomore Maggie Costello, Biomedical Science) and “Delicious,” (Sophomore Kenzie King, Criminal Justice).

The plague of girls decorated with artificial fur insulated beige Uggs, skintight black Lululemon leggings and hefty infinity scarves are back. Oh, and what’s that that they’re holding? Drinks that could cure the incurable, bring the dead back to life and bring the Xavier Men’s Basketball team a winning season. Starbucks’ infamous fall drink lineup is here.

On Aug. 22, Starbucks released their fall menu earlier than ever before to combat the ever-growing conversations over losses of company earnings and of customers’ interests. Despite that, still in the cook-an-egg-on-the-sidewalk heat of summer, Starbucks announced that the unofficial start to fall was here, causing a frenzy of Starbucks fall drink fiends to break out of hibernation early.

The company added a new, more inclusive drink, the impossible to say five times fast

Iced Apple Crisp Non-Dairy Cream Chai, to the already blockbuster fall drink lineup. Additionally, two new Starbucks app exclusive drinks are making their debut; Iced Caramel Apple Cream Latte and the Iced Honey Apple Almond Milk Flat White.

However, don’t worry Starbucks fiends, the classics are back, and these drinks are battling to win your hearts. Starting off with our first drink, the Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew. It has fall flavor with the gentle cascade of the orange pumpkin cream

cold foam intertwining into the rich cold brew. This is the drink to take home to Mom and Dad.

Next up is the Iced Pumpkin Cream Chai, which is making a strong entrance after entering the Starbucks villa last fall. This drink brings

an explosion of bold flavors with every sip. This is Iced Chai Latte’s more attractive and popular sister, the one that pity invites you to parties.

Finally, of course, the queen of all queens, making her 21st appearance on the Fall menu: Ms. Pumpkin Spiced Latte (aka PSL). This drink embodies the season of Fall and makes tastebuds shiver at the thought of her. She holds the perfect mix of pumpkin, cinnamon and nutmeg. Don’t forget about the luscious whipped cream on top. *Sighs in PSL delight.*

All these flawless and carefully crafted drinks induce straw slurping, lid licking and crushed cup foot smashing and recycling. Even Xavier’s own Starbucks worker, sophomore Philosophy, Politics, and the Public and Philosophy major, Seth Banninga, agrees. Banninga was asked about how the introduction of the fall menu has affected the overall atmosphere and experience in the store. “It’s a lot livelier of an atmosphere because some people only come to Starbucks during the fall season. It’s fun to see people smile. Everyone goes to Starbucks to enjoy the drinks, and I am just happy I get to contribute to making their days better,” Banninga said.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Short n’ Sweet is the Sweetest Summer Album

BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

Pop princess Sabrina Carpenter released her sixth studio album *Short n’ Sweet* this past Friday. A departure from her last album, *emails i can’t send fwd.*, Carpenter is no longer subtle with her risqué lyrics and is unabashed in spotlighting unfortunate past exes and situationships with her witty and vicious one-liners.

In an interview with Apple Music’s Zane Lowe, she said that, “I thought about some of these relationships, how some of them were the shortest I’ve ever had and they affected me the most.” With sultry ‘90s influences that can be heard in “Bed Chem,” or classic country sounds in “Coincidence” and “Slim Pickins,” Carpenter clearly shows her range when working with different genres along with her skilled lyricism, making *Short n’ Sweet* arguably one of the most impressive albums released this year.

Carpenter includes much more straightforward, provocative, and sexy lyrics in comparison to her cheeky yet understated sultry lines in *emails i can’t send fwd.* One example is “Bed Chem,” in which she describes her intense attraction to a handsome man. At several moments throughout the song, she uses innuendos or double entendres to play

around with her rather candid descriptions of her attraction towards said “love-interest.” “Bed Chem” is also where the listener can hear influences from ‘90s icons such as the Spice Girls and even Boyz II Men in matching her explicit lyricism with their popular song, “I’ll Make Love To You,” which was released three decades prior to *Short n’ Sweet*. Carpenter’s dreamy melodies—along with the quintessential ‘90s machine-generated chime sounds that echo in the background of this song highlight her comprehensive understanding of this genre and her intentional use of these elements to create a sexy love ballad.

With influences like Kasey Musgraves another country-pop icon, the listener can hear a twangy banjo and other acoustic features that are essential to the country genre, which Carpenter masterfully incorporates into songs like “Slim Pickins” and “Coincidence.” In “Slim Pickins” she details the pitiful modern-day dating scene in which she feels hopeless in finding a lover who is actually a decent person.

“Coincidence” talks about the realization that the person she is dating is not over their ex and that every time they seem to be in the same city and place, it’s just a coincidence. In both songs, Car-

penter is, again, very playful with her lyrics and pokes fun at both herself and her past lovers with jaunty and bright melodies that feel like both songs could be sung around a campfire.

Carpenter’s final song on her album, “Don’t Smile,” per-

fectly encompasses the failed relationship theme that she’s sung about throughout the entire record while also feeling like a bit of a farewell to this era of her life. The seductive, wavy synth, the constant-yet-simple beat of the drum snare and high-hats and

her heavenly harmonies singing, “don’t smile because it happened, baby, cry because it’s over,” make it the ideal closer for her sixth studio album.

I rate this a 10/10 album, and would absolutely recommend.

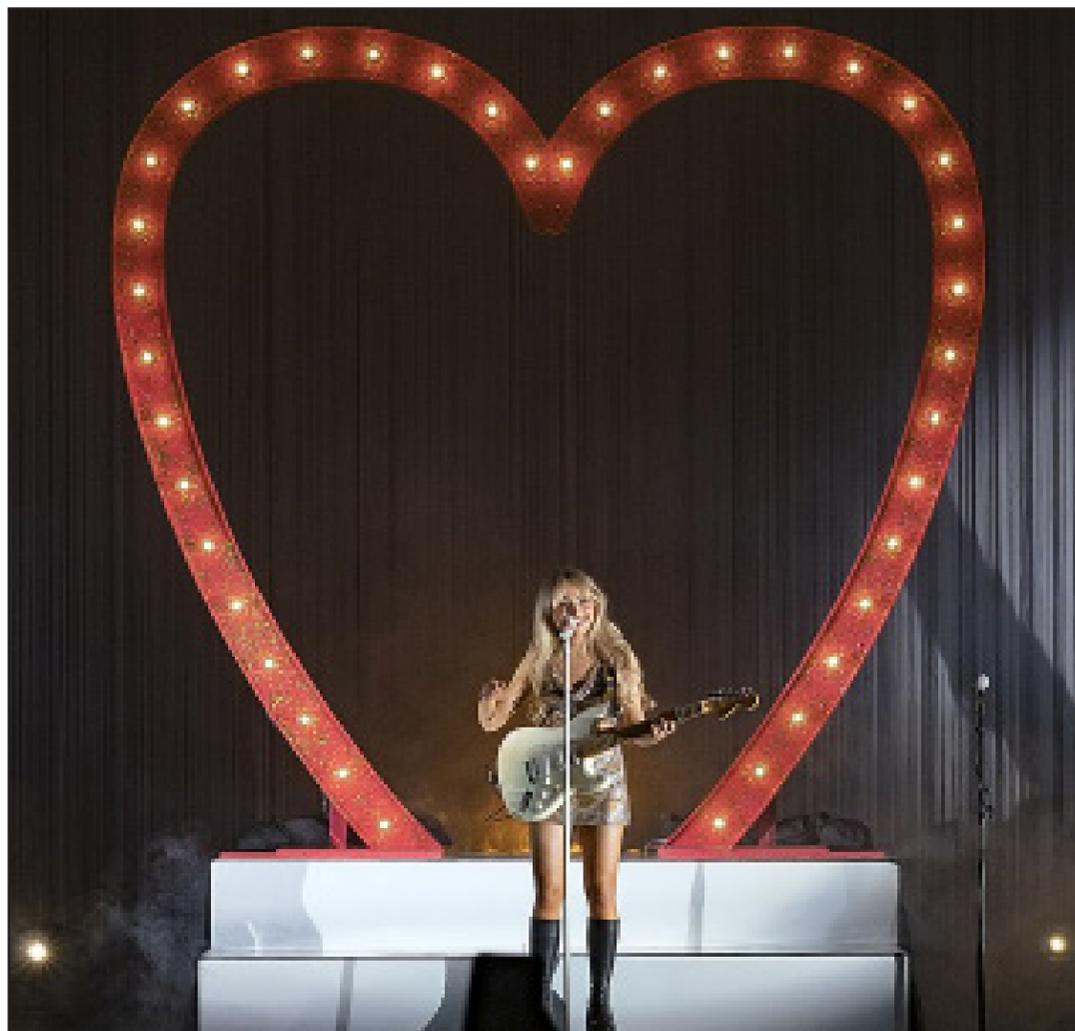


Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Cincy Shakespeare Shakes Up Hamlet

BY HANNAH WOLKE

Newswire Intern

The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's outdoor production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, staged across the Tri-State area from July through early September, has been met with widespread acclaim for its imaginative direction and exceptional use of acting techniques. This rendition of the Bard's tragedy engaged audiences with its riveting performances and showcased a fresh and funny approach to classical acting.

Directed by Candice Handy, this production of *Hamlet* made use of the outdoor setting to enhance the play's atmospheric qualities and to provide a way for a wider audience to watch Shakespeare for free. Handy's direction emphasized an organic interaction between actors and their environment, creating a dynamic storyline through the classic tale of *Hamlet*.

The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company has been performing outdoor Shakespeare and non-Shakespeare entertainment for many years. Their performances are free for all to attend. Shakespeare in the Park tour is the only professional outdoor theater



Photo courtesy of Val Molloy

in Cincinnati each summer.

The portrayal of Hamlet was a highlight of the production. The actor's approach to portraying Hamlet was marked by a deep psychological realism and comedy. They grasped onto Hamlet's message throughout the play and made it truly their own.

This method allowed them to deliver a Hamlet who was both introspective and intensely present, particularly during the iconic "To be or not to be" soliloquy. Their use of pauses and changes in tone provided a fresh perspective on Hamlet's existential dilemma, making his internal

conflict both relatable and poignant.

The production's use of ensemble acting was also notable. The cast worked cohesively to create a seamless flow of interactions, with each actor's performance enhancing the overall narrative.

The chemistry between ac-

tors was palpable, particularly in scenes involving Hamlet's interactions with other characters, which were marked by a naturalistic style that drew the audience into the play's emotional core.

The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company *Hamlet* was a testament to the power of classical theater reimagined through contemporary acting techniques and a bright vision.

The production not only honored Shakespeare's classic original text but also introduced innovative methods that brought new depth to the play's characters and themes.

With its successful run now concluded, the company has once again proven its ability to push the boundaries of traditional theater, leaving audiences eagerly anticipating its next creative endeavor.

The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company will be performing more Shakespeare and other entertainment this coming season including *Fat Ham*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, the merry *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, Hamlet's sister story *A Room in the Castle*, the new and clever *Mrs. Dalloway Musical* and last but certainly not least, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *The Scottish Play*.

Discover the Vibes of Flamingos in the Tree

BY CHRISTIAN CULLEN

Staff Writer

Think back to Aug. 16 of this year. You were probably getting ready to come back to Xavier or may have already been here for Manresa. Life was busy, so I wouldn't blame

you for not listening to Flamingos in the Tree's newest album, *as it falls into place*.

Not to be that guy, but Flamingos are a bit of an underground band. They are still pretty new as well; their earliest song on Spotify was released in 2020.

Even if they were formed in Nevada, you will definitely get some chill California vibes from them. So, while they are not super well known, they do their things well. You should definitely go check out the album.

The album begins with

the best song of the album, "Words You Say." A catchy tune with some well placed beat switches, this song sets the tone of the album.

Daniel Escovar's voice brings you that sort of feeling where the wind is running through your hair as you walk in the park on a nice Sunday afternoon.

The song seems to detail an argument between two people who are at least, intertwined. The main character of the song is forlorn, ending the story with their "heart breaking into two." While they no longer have a heart, you'll be bobbing your head to the sick tunes and the melody.

Next up is "Make You Smile," with a nice hook and bridge section with the band singing "La la la." While it sounds corny and weird when I type it out, I promise it is actually quite pleasant when you listen to it.

There's also "You Don't Know Me. The song is a tale of woe as one tries to get their love, but alas it appears to not be in the cards for the main character. Maybe next time.

Now, I'll admit that not every song on the album is one I enjoyed. "Strawberry Girl" is not for me. Think it is important to bring this up for two reasons:

One: We should not expect perfection from artists. Not every song needs to be a banger. It seems as though nowadays, if an album isn't perfect from start to finish, there's a lot of disappointment. And oftentimes, it ignores the songs that were quite good. We tend to fixate on the negatives and ignore the positives.

Two: I think it is important to review bands that are a bit less known. Hopefully, they'll get a new listener or two from this article. If you happen to find those bands without many listeners on Spotify, it is important to spread the word. If you want a vibrant music culture, then you have to put in the work. And if you disagree, as Escovar says in the first track, "I can't hear the words you say...."

In terms of how this album compares to the full Flamingos in the Tree compendium, it's solid but not their best. There isn't a track that compares to "Take Me by the Hand," but there are some songs here that I did add to my playlist. It's definitely a step in the right direction for the band as they continue to grow. Unfortunately for me and you, dear reader, the only live shows they are playing are out West. So, if you want to go on a road trip, let me know!



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org



Aries: Rock jeans if you're under 6'0", fellas. We love a jort king.



Taurus: Cuff your jeans. Just trust me. It looks dope.



Gemini: The spray-on shoes from Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs would look great with your new jorts.



Cancer: Thank an Old Navy employee for their service today.



Leo: Advocate for our Jesuits' right to rock clerical jorts.



Virgo: While LeBron James is from Ohio, Michael Jorton is the true GOAT.



Libra: Everybody loves ravioli. But we should really be talking about jortellini.



Scorpio: Interested in covering Xavier Athletics? Contact the News-wire jorts editor Addison Burke.



Sagittarius: I know about your plot to heist all the gold reserves from Jort Knox.



Capricorn: In an argument with friends? Take a vote. Majortity rules.



Aquarius: Don't drink underage. We don't need you to appear in front of a jort of law.



Pisces: To find out if your parents or their ancestors wore jorts, simply do some jean-e-ology.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN



Carpe Denim: The Return of Jorts to the Mainstream

BY CHARLIE GAINOR, STAFF WRITER

We have been tricked. Conditioned by the media for far too long. For years, we've let Big Pant hold a fascist and unwavering grip on fashion, telling us that autumn is the time to stop wearing shorts and wear the denim prisons they call jeans. Well, my friends, now is the time to fight back with the greatest weapon of revolution that will serve as a rallying cry for generations to come: the jorts.

Back in the days where we were all passive sheeple when it came to the ridiculous fashion choice of pants covering the legs, we just nodded our heads allowed them to tell us that we needed our legs to be "protected during the winter." Centuries upon centuries of evolution have brought about the human race glorious, chiseled calves that are meant to be flexed and shown to the world, while we have our trousered overlords feeding into our brains the belief that pants are "stylish" and "come with pockets." They tell us to put "comfortability" over individuality and "practicality" over personality. Well, no more, I say! Now weaponized with an infallible rallying cry for justice and *denimocracy*, we will break the cuffs that pant-skewed capitalism holds on us once and for all.

And this symbol shall be none other than the jorts — which of course stand for "Jubilantly Overthrowing Restrictive Trouser Suppression." These glorious creations are a gateway into a perfect world where calves are free to breathe, combined with the comfort of the sleek denim and pockets of the dastardly jeans. It's a beautiful sight indeed, breaking free of Big Pant's demand for fabric that extends from the kneecap to the ankle. For centuries, our trouserlords have commanded that we wear only pants on special occasions like your best friend's wedding. But now is not the time to succumb to societal standards in an tyrannical trouser market. Now is the time to free the leg, shaved or not, and let your calves be free to pursue their own American dream.

Big Pant will tell you that only certain pants are acceptable with other clothes. You mustn't wear jeans with your tuxedo, they say. Wearing your neon green running pants to a relative's funeral is "unclassy" and "weird," they tell you. Well, fear not, calf freedom fighters, because the jorts are universal. They don't discriminate. They don't care if you are a CEO or skateboarder, lawyer or lifeguard. With jorts, everything is free below the knee and you look just as stylish. Rocking the jorts is the true American style. If the Founding Fathers were still alive today, they would see a picture of Justin Bieber wearing jorts, a denim fanny pack and a shirt he definitely paid \$50 too much for on Etsy and weep at how much of a Canadian icon he is. Justin is a Belieber in the free fibia and we should be too.

I want you to take a moment and imagine yourself in a world where jorts are the norm. Where every calf is able to take in the sunlight and enjoy the pleasures of life without being trapped in a suffocating denim casket. This is a world where we are not forced to be demure" about trousering up our beautiful legs. This is a world broken free from the chains of Big Pant, where individuality and leg hairs reign supreme.

The time has come, once and for all, to take up arms (and lower legs) in the fight. Don't just sit there in your soulless slacks and your demoralizing denim. Find your nearest pairs of scissors and liberate your legs. Feed the scraps into the fire of your hearts. Invest in those pairs of pants at Costco with zippers on the legs that let you take the leggings off! They may look as stupid wearing them as they do on the shelf, but do it anyway in the name of freedom! Now is the time to show Big Pant that we will no longer be just threads woven into their suppression! Rise, zip your flies and take your legs to the skies! Together with jorts, we shall make calves great again!