

New Arts and Sciences Majors Added

Students will be able to add five new sciences-focused majors beginning in Fall 2024

BY JESSE DOLOJAN
Staff Writer

Xavier University will be offering five new majors in the Fall of 2025 to meet both current and prospective students' interests: artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, genetics, neuroscience and microbiology.

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Florenz Plassmann noted that according to the Admissions Office, many high school seniors inquired expressed interest in these majors. Plassmann stressed that Xavier is still invested in the humanities.

"We are going to offer additional programs in the more traditional liberal arts. We are working on a Bachelor's degree in Medical Humanities that comes out of the English department," Plassmann said.

He emphasized a desire to ensure that humanities majors would be able to gain skills in areas outside of their majors so that they are more marketable to employers.

Plassmann emphasized how Xavier has many faculty members who are capable of teaching courses for the new majors. He noted that many of the new majors involve courses already present at Xavier, and part of planning was designing the curriculum and identifying which courses needed to be added for the new majors.

For areas where Xavier does not have a trained professor for a course, departments are currently looking for new faculty members to fill those roles.

"I'm really blown away by the faculty, the staff and the students. Xavier students really stand out," Plassmann

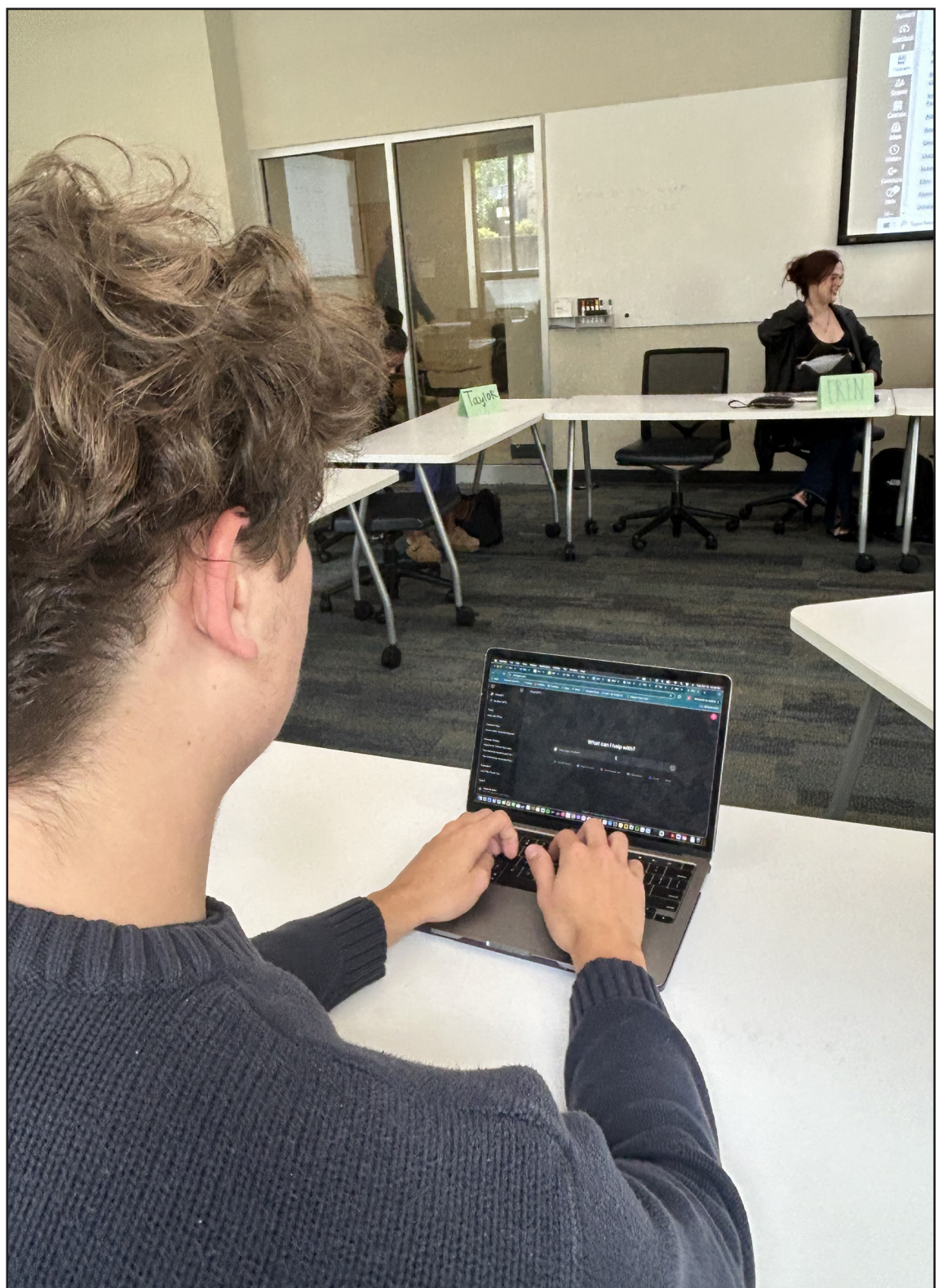
said. "I'm super excited that we are able to offer these additional majors for our truly outstanding students and attract even more outstanding students down the road."

Head of the Computer Science Department Dr. Elizabeth Johnson believes that the cybersecurity and artificial intelligence majors are especially relevant in today's world. Johnson noted how Xavier used to offer courses on AI, but how in recent years it has become more important to be trained in AI than ever.

"If you think about ChatGPT and all that, the progress in artificial intelligence has been amazing," Johnson said. "We did teach artificial intelligence four years ago. But we are bringing it back because now it seems like our students, especially all of our computer science students, have to know something about it."

Senior sociology major Sean Dwyer believes that having these options available to students will give them a chance to explore other fields of study. Dwyer noted that many universities have been placing a priority on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) majors, and that Xavier is following this national trend.

"I know STEM tends to be where a lot of students want to go. It's also where a lot of investment is in the country right now, especially things like AI and cybersecurity. Those are hot topics right now, so I think they're very much following the trends," Dwyer said. "STEM has always been popular at universities. It's also where there's a lot of money, so it makes sense to follow the money."



NewsWire photo by Clare McKinley

Johnson believes that the introduction of these majors will be exciting for Xavier, and that the administration will support faculty as they

begin to incorporate these new majors.

"It's an exciting time with these new programs. We think that there will be great

demand. The administration has been supportive of the new program, so I expect that we will get those resources," Johnson said.

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Xavier Extends Metro Pass Partnership

Metro bus passes will be available to students until the end of the semester

BY JESSE DOLOJAN
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, Xavier extended their deal with Cincinnati Metro to allow students free bus passes until the end of the semester to encourage students without vehicles to explore Cincinnati.

At the beginning of the semester, the Student Government Association (SGA) worked with the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) to reach a deal with Metro allowing students to obtain free bus passes for 30 days after the pass's activation.

Junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major and Vice President of SGA Noelle Delumpa noted that Metro initiated conversations with Xavier to lengthen the free pass period.

"It's an effort to increase collaboration between Xavier and Metro, because they really want to build a relationship with Xavier," Delumpa said.

"They're trying to give us this free option for as long as possible, to gauge engagement with it and see what kind of numbers they're tracking," Delumpa added.

Delumpa shared that a long term goal for working with Metro is to reduce the cost of Metro tickets for students in half, making them only one dollar. Xavier's partnership



Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

After Xavier extended their deal with Cincinnati Metro, students can now use their free Metro bus pass until the end of the semester to explore all that downtown Cincinnati has to offer.

with Metro is part of SGA's efforts to improve student access to local communities by making transportation available for students without their own vehicle.

Senior chemistry major Brian Huber studied in London his sophomore year, and during his time abroad used the London Underground Train system, called the Tube.

"Before I went to London, the tube was one thing we had

an entire module on," Huber said. "So to prepare us for being there they taught us all of the routes, and it was very informative and made it very easy for me to make that transition."

Huber believes incorporating something similar into Manresa may help first-year students feel comfortable using the Metro.

"There's definitely a lot of informative stuff discussed

during Manresa pertaining to campus, different offices you can utilize and other logistics around campus, like where the buildings are, that kind of stuff," Huber said. "But, we don't really mention the Metro, so it'd be pretty easy to be like: here's a module about Cincinnati and here's how you can get around Cincinnati."

Delumpa stressed that SGA is prioritizing public transportation to shopping centers

and other areas students are interested in commuting to.

"A lot of the conversations that SGA have been circling around, when students want to go out, what kind of transportation do they want to use?" Delumpa said. "And after conversations with senators, my roommates, friends and just regular average students, people want to take Ubers or Lyfts."

SGA has made efforts to connect with both to reach deals with them in the future because students are more interested in using Uber or Lyft than riding the bus.

Delumpa stated a deal with either company would take a longer amount of time compared to the deal with Metro due to determining the cost of a deal with them.

Huber stressed that public transportation is a valuable tool, and should not be overlooked by the Xavier community.

"I think for a lot of people in America the idea of public transportation has a stigma behind it where public transportation is unreliable, it's not clean or dangerous," Huber said.

"But I can tell you, as someone who's used public transportation in Europe and in the States, I think it's super helpful and it's an underutilized tool," Huber added.

Adam Clark Appointed As New Take It On Director

BY JESSE DOLOJAN
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Dr. Adam Clark was selected to be the new director of Take It On.

Since then, he has taken on efforts to lead and facilitate productive discussion on politics through engaging with students and on campus political groups.

Take It On is an initiative within the office of the Provost, and the primary goal of the initiative is to create environments where students can participate in discussion regardless of their political

stances.

Clark is a professor in Xavier's theology department. He did not consider running to be the new Take It On Director, but he was nominated by a student and a faculty member.

After receiving the nomination, he applied for the role. He met with student members of Take It On and Xavier faculty, and he gave a public interview to the campus at large before becoming the new Take It On Director.

"My goal for this role is to talk about the role of civic engagement beyond voting. The job kind of writes itself right now because everybody

is interested in the 2024 elections," Clark said.

"But I'm trying to think beyond that—and what does civic engagement look like post election? How do we actually get people to continue to make elected officials accountable and work for justice and social transformation beyond the 2024 elections?" Clark added.

Clark believes his role as a theology professor has prepared him to lead discussion on controversial topics related to politics.

"I thought that leveraging the Ignatian tradition that really talks about respect and dignity and fostering the common good could be helpful in this kind of political moment," Clark said.

"So that was really interesting to me, to make some of the Jesuit values very tangible and concrete through social and political practice, and that's what kind of drew me to the job," he added.

Take It On hosts events open to all students regardless of their political beliefs or academic backgrounds.

"We want everybody to participate. So far in (Take It On's) history, it's been mostly dominated by students who are in PPP (Philosophy, Politics and the Public) or in political science, which is pretty



Photo courtesy of Xavier University

Dr. Adam Clark has been named the new Take It On director after the resignation of former director Dr. Andrew Zolides earlier this summer.

natural because that's what they do, that's their passion, but I want everyone to feel comfortable speaking and learning about American politics," Clark said.

Clark shared that collaborating with students and faculty members from different departments is one of his primary goals.

Junior PPP major and Take It On Fellow Christian Geary noted that ever since Clark was chosen as the new director, he has been focused on fostering civil discussion on politics, including the presidential election.

"He's been very active in the community about Take It

On, which is awesome. He's collaborating quite a lot with some of the things that he's been doing, and he's been reaching out to former directors as well. So he's really committing himself to the role. He is ready to take this thing completely head-on," Geary said.

In November, Take It On plans to host a post-election debrief.

"I think the post-election debrief is gonna attempt to be everything that Take It On stands for, and I think it's gonna be informative and I would say if you have the time, definitely come out and see it firsthand," Geary said.



Photo courtesy of @takeitonxu via Instagram

Take It On is a nonpartisan group within the office of the Provost, dedicated to promoting Ignatian Civic Engagement and civic discourse.

OIP-u Hosts Letter Writing Campaign

BY RIELEY McDONNELL
Newswire Intern

Last Wednesday, Xavier’s chapter of the Ohio Innocence Project (OIP-u) hosted a letter writing campaign to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in Ohio. The event was held in the Health United Building and was co-sponsored by Criminal Justice Society, XU Democrats, Muskies for Life, Psi-Chi and the Center for Faith and Justice. At the event, there were guest speakers who talked about two different bills in the Ohio legislature that could impact people on death row. Pierce Reed, the Director for Policy, Legislation for the Ohio Innocence Project spoke about Senate Bill 101, which

would abolish the death penalty in Ohio. The goal of the letters that attendees wrote is to get the bill to the Senate floor for a vote. To get a bill to the Senate floor, it needs to pass through three committee hearings. As of writing, the bill has passed through two of three stages and now is waiting for a yes or a no from its final committee. “Sometimes after a bill gets through one or two hearings, it kind of falls into a sort of purgatory and gets lost. But every bill should at least have the opportunity to be heard,” Reed said. Another bill students were educated about was House Bill 392, which, if passed, would add nitrogen hypoxia as a legal method of execution. Ad-

vocating against the passage of House Bill 392 was Deputy Director of Ohioans To Stop Executions Kendall White. White shared that when nitrogen hypoxia was first used in the execution of Kenneth Smith, it was botched. “Smith, who was on a gurney, appeared conscious for ‘several minutes into the execution,’ and ‘shook and writhed’ for about two minutes after that, media witnesses said in a joint report,” a CNN article reported. Students wrote letters to Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Nathan Manning and Vice Chair Michele Reynolds, legislators in charge of the committee where Senate Bill 101 currently rests. They control whether the bill will move to the Senate floor for a vote.

“There are currently about 5% of people on death row who are innocent, which may seem like a small number, but when you think about it each of those lives adds up. There is a high risk that we execute someone who was innocent,” Reed said. “I believe that the death penalty is an unjust punishment that has too much risk,” first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major Jacob Wineinger said. The program director for Ignite Peace, Bekky Baker, echoed Wineinger and mentioned other reasons why people might be against the



Photo courtesy of Molly Babcock

At the event students were given the information needed to be informed about the death penalty but were ultimately told to write from the heart.

death penalty. “At Ignite Peace, we believe that people are more than the worst thing they have ever done,” Baker said. Oliva Turner, a student at the University of Dayton, is on the board of Dayton’s chapter of OIP-u as a social media advocacy consultant. She told Xavier students in attendance how social media could be used as a tool to enact change and put pressure on politicians. Turner talked about the hashtag “#nodeathpenaltyohio,” which can help boost people’s posts about the subject to users who would not

normally see their posts. She told students to tag Chair Manning in any post that they made about Senate Bill 101 in hopes to make him aware that people care about the topic. “When we work together, we can make anything happen,” White stated. “The use of social media as a tool to draw the attention of politicians is one way a community can work together to make change.” Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 392 are up to the legislature to pass, but citizens can get in touch with Ohio representatives to influence how they will vote.



Photo courtesy of Molly Babcock

Poetic Unveiling of Professor’s New Publishing Press

BY HANNAH KREMER
Opinions & Editorials Editor

Thursday, creative writing professor Dr. Conner Bassett celebrated the launch of his new publishing company, Bench Editions, with a poetry reading of the press’s first release: a poetry collection by Alyssa Perry entitled “Oily Doily.” With an Instagram post on Sept. 25, exclusively captioned “we are bench,” Bassett unveiled his newest project: a press focused on publishing experimental poetry and prose. With the intended goal of pushing the bounds of literature, the publication aims to promote writers who seek to communicate through thought-provoking and un-

conventional methods. Bassett celebrated the release of his press with a poetry reading on the first floor of McDonald Memorial Library. Robin Robinson and Clocktower Review helped organize the event where poets were invited to read their work, including Xavier University’s own Dr. Kristen Renzi, poet and friend of Bassett’s Kylan Rice and author of “Oily Doily” Alyssa Perry. Bench Editions was first ideated when Bassett was working towards his MFA at the University of Iowa’s Writers’ Workshop. While at the gym, a friend jokingly suggested creating a publishing company called Bench Press. Originally just a play on words, the idea stuck with Bassett years later. He describes the “Bench Editions” concept as more than just a quip. The bench represents not only where the reader sits to open a book, but also the workspace on which a writer crafts their novel. “The lifeblood of the literary community is the small press, especially concerning poetry,” Bassett explained. With his company, he seeks to amplify the writings of authors who go beyond what is distributed in mainstream book industries. “Literature in the market is



Photo courtesy of Leland Grant

Kaylan Rice (left), Alyssa Perry (middle) and Dr. Kristen Renzi (right) read excerpts from their work at the launch of Dr. Connor Bassett’s new publishing company, Bench Editions.

often reproduced and reproducible—determined by what has worked or what has been popular in the past—and therefore sometimes is formulaically predictable. Such is the case with what sells,” Bassett said. “What falls outside the market is sometimes unrecognizable as literature and expands what writing is capable of,” he added. Bassett has since succeeded in releasing Bench’s first publication, “Oily Doily” by Alyssa Perry. In sharp and brazen verses, Perry discusses the idea of being watched, power dynamics, the privilege of watching and choosing

when to turn off the screen. She explores the social and digital realm of our society in thought-provoking stanzas. “I’ve been a fan of Alyssa’s work since I knew her in graduate school,” Bassett said. “It’s weird. Paradoxically, it’s hermetic and social at once. It kind of scares me.” Senior English major Laney Konz and Class of 2024 alumna Chloe Salveson were also involved in the project as intern and assistant director, respectively of Bench Editions. Together, they worked to bring the novel into physicality and also organized events promoting “Oily Doily.”

“I hopped into the publishing process a bit late in the game,” Salveson explained. “Our designer, Robin, had already designed the book and put together a beautiful website. I handled the book printing, shipping and other less exciting tasks, and I’ve enjoyed this opportunity to see the behind-the-scenes of setting up a small publishing company.” Bassett hopes to continue publishing books, with the goal of publishing 2-4 titles yearly. To explore their publications, go to bencheditions.com or their Instagram, @bencheditions.

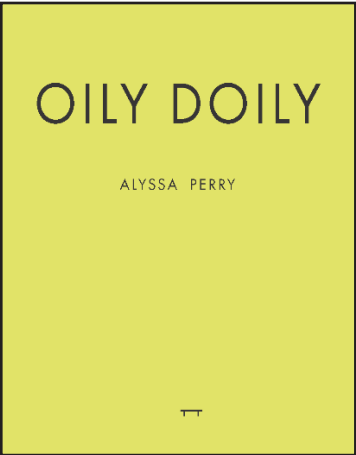


Photo courtesy of bencheditions.com

Two Critical Races Close to Hand

Ohio's 1st congressional district and County Prosecutor Up for Grabs

By **MONICA DOBSON**
Newswire Intern

With election day tomorrow, now is the time to know about each of the qualifying candidates for Congress and Hamilton County Prosecutor.

The incumbent congressman Greg Landsman is representing the Democratic party for Ohio's 1st congressional district. He lives in the Mt. Washington a neighborhood in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Landsman is a former public-school teacher, who later worked in education advocacy as an Executive Director of the Strive Partnership.

He also served as the Director of faith-based Community Initiatives under former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

If elected, Landsman is determined to maintain the Child Tax Credit, and increase benefits for senior citizens.

Orlando Sonza is the Republican Candidate. He is a second generation Filipino American, who was born and raised in New Jersey. Sonza attended the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York.

After graduation, he served as an Infantry and Finance officer with the third Infantry division at Fort Stewart. Today Sonza works as Executive Director of the Hamil-

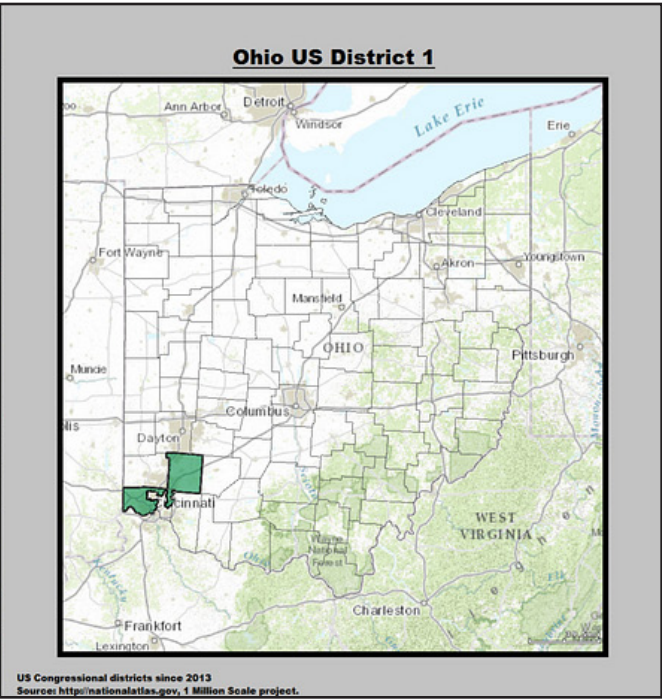
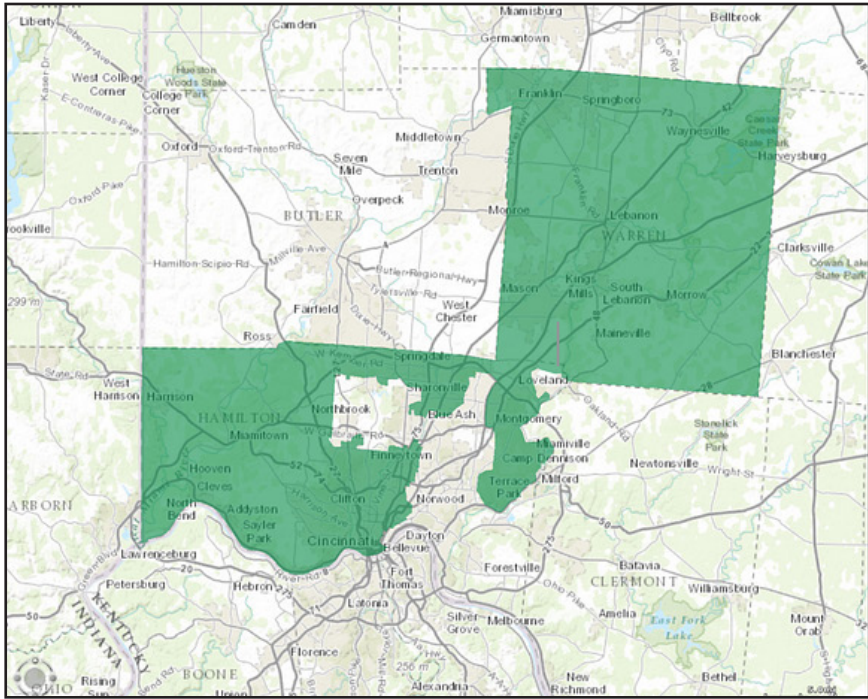


Photo Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.com

Ohio's 1st congressional district is where incumbent Democrat candidate Greg Landsman and Republican Candidate Orlando Sonza are running; it contains part of Hamilton County and all of Warren County containing Cincinnati.

ton County Veterans Service Commission.

If elected, Sonza's goals are to increase spending for the military and crime reduction efforts.

Sophomore Megan Cooper and Junior Josh Holman are both a part of the Philosophy, Politics, and the Public (PPP) Honors Program at Xavier, which places students in local elections. Cooper and Holman are working for Ohio State Representative Connie Pillich's campaign for Hamilton

County prosecutor.

Holman shares that Connie Pillich is also campaigning on making sure that abortion rights are protected while also investing in getting guns off the streets and fighting the opioid epidemic.

"Connie Pillich is currently campaigning on cleaning up the office which is right now under Republican control," Holman said. "There is seemingly no accountability among prosecutors."

Nick Watts, Sophomore

PPP major, is working on the Melissa Powers opposing campaign.

A Republican running for Prosecutor.

"The goal is to get her elected," Watts said. "She wants to keep Hamilton County safe and make sure we're prosecuting and determining appropriate jail sentences for convicted criminals in Hamilton County," Watts said.

"We want to make sure that we're protecting the citizens of Hamilton County by allot-

ing fair and proper sentences for those convicted of crimes," Watts added.

Cooper further explains how the prosecutor's office doesn't have a Human Resources department which has resulted in a highly saturated Republican population in the prosecutors office.

"(The prosecutor office's lack of a Human Resources department is showing with a plethora of Republican politicians joining the prosecutors office."

Take a Walk Down Wasson Way to Blondie Brews

By **KATIE SANCHEZ**
Editor-in-Chief

Blondie Brews is a relatively new coffee truck that makes stops around Cincinnati serving up Instagrammable lattes and other coffee and non-coffee drinks.

Opening for business this March, Blondie Brews is run by a dynamic mother-daughter duo out of a charming, petite, white and sky blue trailer that they refurbished themselves.

You can find the trailer at events all over the Cincinnati area, but Blondie Brews is consistently found on weekends parked in a lot at 3660 Hyde Park Ave. The best part about this location is that it is

located right on Wasson Way, a convenient walking trail that has a trailhead right at the edge of Xavier's campus on Montgomery Rd.

You could drive from campus to Blondie Brews at this location in less than 10 minutes, or you could take advantage of Wasson Way and take a 1.5 mile, 30-minute walk each way. This is the option I chose on a Sunday morning with terrific weather. It's an easy, safe stroll — and what's better than a hot girl walk with a little treat in the middle?

There are a lot of great coffee shops in Cincinnati, but not many you can walk to from campus easily, which

makes Blondie Brews a special spot.

For such a tiny truck, Blondie Brews has an impressively expansive menu. It sports several specialty lattes, from cinnamon pear crisp to chocolate covered churro, as well as non-coffee options like chai and flavored lemonades. In the past, they've had absolutely adorable Taylor Swift and Chappell Roan, themed flavors.

Specialty lattes with names like these are often overly syrupy and very sweet, but this latte managed to incorporate two sweet flavors without making me feel like I was slurping down straight sugar juice. The espresso was very smooth, allowing the almost nutty flavors to shine.

A signature part of Blondie Brews beverages is that they all come with a "topper," a little cookie or other sweet treat perfect for dunking in your coffee. My honey waffle latte came with a wafery, stroopwafel-esque cookie that was a scrumptious added bonus.

After tax and tip, drinks at Blondie Brews are going to cost you at least six or seven dollars, which is steep but unfortunately the standard price of specialty coffee these days. Plus, they have a 15% student



Newswire photo by Katie Sanchez

Katie Sanchez enjoyed her honey waffle latte from Blondie Brews.

discount and loyalty cards that get you a free drink for every five purchased, helping to make your purchase a good deal.

The service at Blondie Brews is excellent. I reached my coffee destination just about 15 minutes before they were set to close, worried that I would miss my window to order. However, there was still a steady line at the truck when I arrived and the front window worker was welcoming, patient and enthusiastic. Not only did I walk away with a delicious iced latte, but I

also got a free Blondie Brews sticker that will certainly be making its way onto my water bottle. The whole experience was incredibly cute, and it's clear that this is a labor of love for the operators of Blondie Brews.

I highly encourage taking the weekend walk or drive, if you must to visit Blondie Brews. They were recently brought in by the nearby Mount St. Joseph University to give away free themed coffee to students — please beg the powers that be to let Xavier be next!



Photo courtesy of rawpixel.com

Shopping Sustainably in Cincinnati

By **IZZY CABANAS**
Guest Writer

If you're looking for a way to be eco friendly, there is an easily accessible method via the metro, Cincinnati's vibrant downtown is filled with small businesses who find creative ways to practice sustainability.

Also, affordable art supplies are located in Over-The-Rhine, Indigo Hippo is a small creative reuse center filled with various second-hand art materials.

Operated under a "sliding-scale pay" system, customers can find practically any type of art material at an affordable price. There are different types of fabric, sewing supplies, patterns, tools, magazines, office supplies and more—amounting to thousands of materials saved from landfills.

Their aim is to "inspire possibility," executive director, Emily Dake said.

Dake explained that the more creative people can be with their materials, the more they keep materials out of the waste stream. Dake, a mixed media sculptor who earned her MFA from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) and, said that she is often surprised and inspired by the ways simple materials such as paper clips are transformed into art.

Dake and the storefront

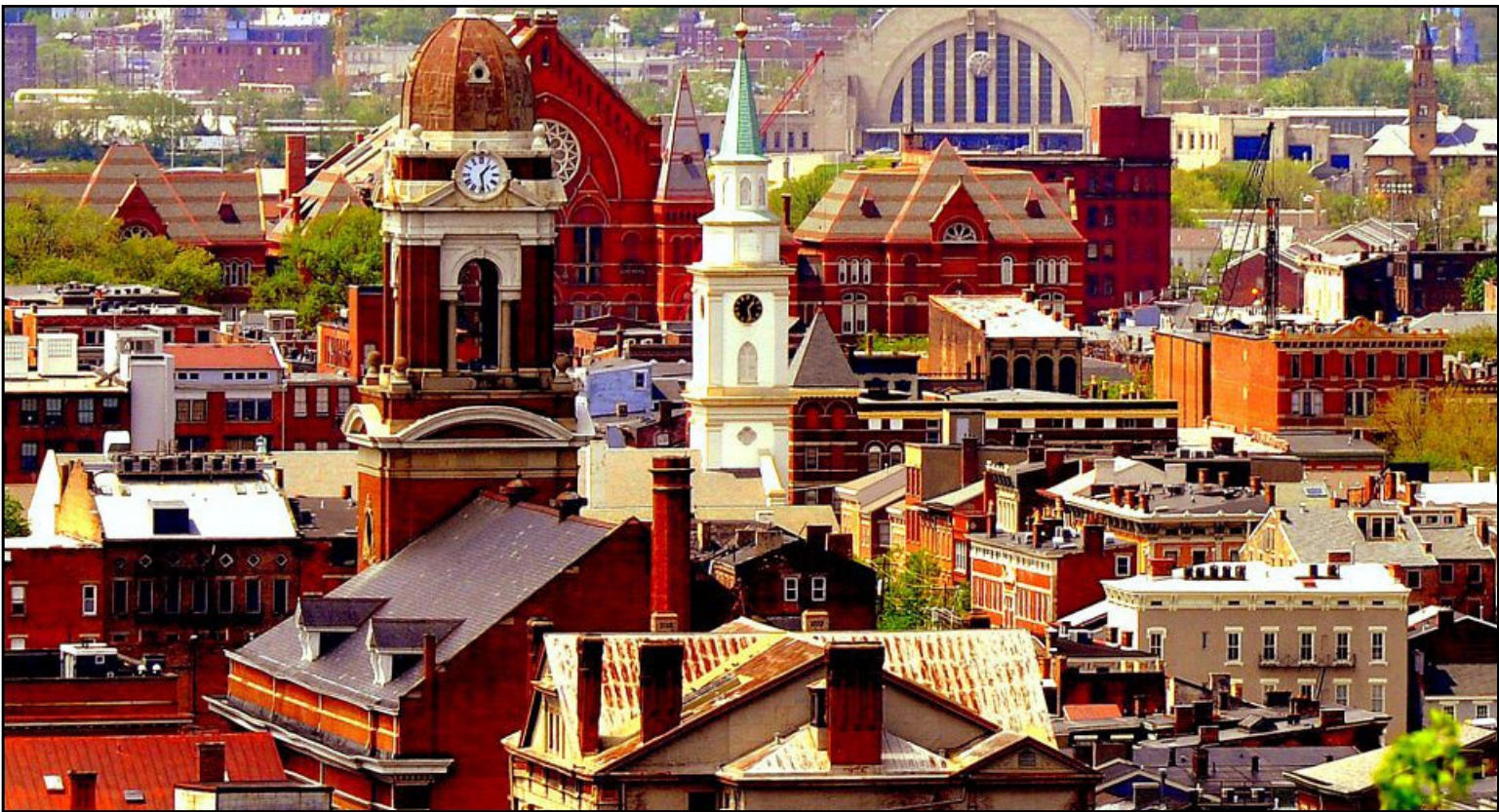


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Cincinnati's Over-The-Rhine neighborhood has served as a juggernaut for sustainability with environmentally conscious places to visit like Indigo Hippo , Artswave and Simply Zero providing shopping and events with climate consciousness at the forefront.

manager, Abby Kacen, are the only full-time employees along with a small team of part-time employees and volunteers. Since its creation in 2016, this small team has worked with local organizations to reduce waste and provide creative access to the community. They've hosted galleries, events and supplied local creative organizations with materials for their programs.

This year, they have partnered with Artswave, a local art institution, to host a pro-

gram called Material Play. "Material Play is a free, once-a-month workshop series for youth ages 10-18 hosted at the @/woodwardtheater" they said on their Instagram.

Taking place this past summer and upcoming fall, participants are learning from local artists while using upcycled materials provided by Indigo Hippo.

Other events include a gallery show featuring the botanical embroidery of a local artist Ciara LeRoy on Oct. 5 and their annual fundraiser

"ReMade" where they are auctioning off art from local artists on Dec. 4.

For home and wellness projects, Simply Zero, also located in OTR, sells a variety of sustainable products from home and cleaning to personal care and wellness.

Their website offers detailed information about each of their products, from the specific ingredients to their biodegradability. They also offer refills for a variety of their products, so customers can prevent waste by refilling

old containers.

According to their website, Rachel Felous created Simply Zero in 2017 in the form of a "personal Instagram feed documenting her daily journey toward a zero-waste life. It's grown a lot since then. Today, Simply Zero is a lifestyle shop, zero waste refillery and community".

They go on to state that their mission is "to empower and equip conscious individuals seeking to live a life that's good for themselves, human-kind and the planet".

Evan Nolan Named New City Councilmember

By **PETER MELAHN**
Staff Writer

Attorney Evan Nolan was selected last Friday to fill Cincinnati Council Member Reggie Harris's seat in the wake of the latter's move to a new position in President Biden's administration.

The Cincinnati City Council, which is composed of nine members, has local legislative responsibilities such as imposing local taxes, appointing city officials and making local budget appropriations.

There is no set procedure for filling a vacant seat on Council, but in practice, the

sitting council member delegates another council member to select their replacement in the event their seat is vacated.

In this case, Harris selected Council Member Meeka Owens to fill his seat. Owens announced that she selected Nolan as Harris's replacement last Friday.

Nolan, who previously worked as an attorney in the city's law department, has sought a appointment to City Council before.

He tossed his hat in the ring in 2022 in a bid to replace current U.S. Representative Greg Landsman's vacated seat after the latter was elected to

the House of Representatives.

While Nolan was not selected in 2022 to fill Landsman's seat, he was successful in securing a seat this time and will now fill Harris's seat after being sworn in on Tuesday.

Nolan, a Cincinnati native who attended St. Xavier High School, has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a placekicker from the school's football team from 2001-2004.

He received his Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2010. In late 2010 he served

as a Legal Fellow under Senator Sherrod Brown, and he has over a decade of experience in litigation, most recently as an attorney at local law firm, Katz Teller, in Cincinnati.

Nolan also served as the campaign manager for the Hamilton County Democratic coordinated campaign last year, during which he oversaw efforts to elect all nine of the current members of Council.

Nolan's appointment has received some critiques, especially from minority community members and political leaders, such as former city Council Member Chris Seelbach. Seelbach was the first openly gay member to serve on Cincinnati City Council.

Councilwoman Meeka Owens' decision on the appointment to the vacant Cincinnati City Council seat,"

the press release states. "Her choice sends a harmful message that the importance of Black representation, particularly Black male representation, can be easily disregarded."

Nolan has received praise as well, especially from Owens, who said she wanted to pick someone who was, "ready on day one" and who would "push our priorities forward and grow our city."

In a press conference Friday morning, Nolan addressed the media.

"I realize that I am an appointed City Council member now, but I look forward to engaging with community, meeting voters out in the community and (hopefully winning) their trust next November," Nolan said.

While Nolan will fill Harris's seat through the end of the 2025 term, the spot will be up for grabs along with the other eight seats on City Council in the next November election.

Nolan will run to be elected for the first time to keep his seat.



Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

Cincinnati City Hall on Plum Street, where City Council is located and where Evan Nolan will hold office.

Read Your Former Fixations

By **Jesse Dolojan**
Staff Writer

Not many people knew I was a massive fan of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson* series as a kid because I read them so fast. I checked the first book out of my grade school library, took my time, and asked for the rest as a Christmas gift. I launched myself into the world of Camp Half-Blood over break, and before I knew it, I blitzed through them before the start of the New Year.

I didn’t have the best memory of the books when returning to them this summer. As I was rereading them, I realized I had forgotten about 90% of the major plot points. I wanted to try to understand why I loved the series so much. As I ventured back into the world of *Percy Jackson*, I was reminded of why I couldn’t put the books down as a kid. The endearing characters, witty narration and engaging plot all grabbed my attention once again, and haven’t let go.

What really surprised me was how much fun they were to read again. Almost all my reading is

just for class, so going back and reading purely for entertainment was a welcome breath of fresh air. Not only that, I gained a stronger appreciation for *Percy Jackson* than ever before. I had the chance to talk to people about the books again, which helped me flesh out my ideas and discuss them more in-depth. As an English major, I have learned to read books more thoroughly.

Riordan calls attention to how we have harmed the environment, with a major plotline being a quest to find the God of Nature Pan. In the series, Pan goes missing, and the environment suffers because of his absence. The mythological creatures known as satyrs have taken it upon themselves to find Pan in order to help restore the environment. Additionally, Percy often comments on how disgusting var-

ious lakes are and how many sea spirits are in bad moods because they are in foul water.

Now, as a kid, I was pretty dumb, so everything flew over my head. I was always more interested in the battles because, obviously, swords are cool. I also thought it was awesome how Percy’s watch doubles as a shield. I have always wanted one like that, but I digress. The point is, I missed all this genius writing as a kid! Another big thing I missed was how Percy almost fumbled the bag with Annabeth many times. But again, I digress.

I had a lot of fun rereading these books, and I think a big reason is that I had that time away to develop a new perspective and grow as a person. With that new perspective, I appreciate *Percy Jackson* a lot more. They are great novels to read as a kid, but returning to them as an adult makes me appreciate them for their deeper themes as well.

Additionally, I think it’s just

relaxing to return to things I found interesting as a kid. As a college student, I can say it is very time-consuming to get completely invested in a new show or book. So, sticking with classics like *Percy Jackson*, *Diary of a Wombat* or *Lord of the Rings* and rereading them allows me to view these books through a new lens.

And I think the idea can apply to more than just books as well. Revisiting an old hobby like biking or playing video games can be a lot of fun, too. Sometimes you notice something super nuanced about your hobby you just didn’t pick up on as a kid as well. Imagine playing Pokemon and realizing that there is commentary on the environment in those games! Or is Snorlax blocking your path an allegory for taking a break in the middle of a journey?!! I’m telling you, those games are much more nuanced than you think.

No, this is not an excuse for me to skip my classes and just read *Percy Jackson* and play

Pokemon all day. I have no idea why anyone would think that! Hey, maybe we should all be like Snorlax and just take a break in the middle of the day. It’s a rough world out there, and I know I need my rest.

But it’s important not to forget what made us happy because those hobbies and interests still define us. Some may frown on it, but I do think there is wisdom and joy in looking back and appreciating what made us smile so many years ago.

By **Will Lopes**
Staff Writer

In recent weeks, Xavier University announced that they would be adding five new majors for the 2025-26 school year, most notably an undergraduate artificial intelligence (AI) program. While having new programs such as neuroscience and genetics that would diversify Xavier’s curriculum, an AI major is highly counterintuitive to Xavier’s mission and fosters harmful values around campus.

My main gripe with introducing an artificial intelligence major is that I believe it removes the creative and emotional aspects that are needed in pretty much every skill set. Humans facing a problem in their work or social life could respond with affection and compassion, or even negative emotions depending on the situation. But even the strongest AIs could never replicate that. By introducing the new artificial intelligence major,

Xavier is a contributing factor in making our world more black and white.

There is also the issue that most of the commonly used AI systems, mainly large language models (LLMs), are often wrong and deemed unreliable by researchers. These “intelligent” systems that new students will be working with are really not so intelligent. On ChatGPT’s home page, it reads, “ChatGPT can make mistakes.” Brent Mittelstadt, the director of research at the Oxford Internet Institute says that lots of outputs from LLMs are either “slightly wrong or slightly biased, or where you need some specific expertise to tell that it’s wrong.” If you’ve ever used ChatGPT to cheat on a quiz, you know this to be true on a firsthand basis.

The increased risk of job displacement is another huge threat that comes with introducing an AI major into Xavier’s course curriculum. The reduction in workforce that

will inevitably come with a widespread increased use of AI is insurmountable. While some may argue that this is only natural and it will also create plenty more new jobs, this will undoubtedly create more stress and invasiveness for workers everywhere, while also likely contributing even more to America’s growing wealth inequality. The McKinsey Global Institute estimates that 30% of all hours worked in the US could be automated by the year 2030, showing that this is clearly a different issue than the transition from agriculture to industrialization.

A lot of Xavier’s core curriculum is heavily concerned with six Jesuit values of education. Whether it be in the classroom or on the walls all across campus, they are a big part of Xavier’s identity and Xavier’s other Jesuit university counterparts. By introducing the Artificial Intelligence major into Xavier’s classrooms, a case can be made that

it counteracts on all six of the Jesuit values that are so heavily promoted by Xavier.

Magis is impeded because the use of AI in no way promotes being receptive to new ideas and innovative solutions, while also eliminating opportunities to grow and improve.

Reflection is hampered due to the fact that AI is not open and transparent, and rather than acknowledging biases in our world, it promotes bias.

Discernment is invalidated because AI does not act authentically, does not make decisions with consultation and is not compassionate or emotionally driven.

Cura Personalis is nullified in view of the fact that AI is not guided by empathy and compassion, and it does not value a diverse and dignified community.

Solidarity & Kinship are hindered because AI cannot develop relationships, and it does not bring its users closer together. Instead of using skills and talent to help oth-

ers, it wastes human talent and disregards expressiveness.

Service Rooted in Justice & Love is restrained because the growing use of AI in no way contributes to the greater good of anyone. By adding to wealth inequality it completely disregards injustice in our society.

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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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In the Name of Discs, Spend Less!

By **JOSEPH NICHOLS**
Staff Writer

The benefits of streaming are both apparent and abundant. The ease of pressing a few buttons and slipping into your comfort show after a tiring day is always tantalizing. Streaming platforms have been quite successful in the past decade for their ability to lure you into your favorite shows for just one more watch.

However, it also needs to be taken into account that in 2024, you are paying more money for less access to movies and shows than ever before. While Netflix began as a less expensive alternative to cable television, paying \$15+ a month for each of the streaming services is simply no longer as affordable. Perhaps paradise is lost.

It is not uncommon to pay monthly for a streaming service to access only one or two shows that you enjoy. “The Office” is the foremost example of this — Netflix’s most streamed show during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet left for Peacock in 2021. The streaming model is so suc-

cessful that people will pay for in Peacock, despite the fact that it is almost entirely supported by only two shows: “The Office” and “Parks and Recreation.”

There’s a reason Max outbid Netflix with \$500 million in 2020 to obtain the streaming rights to “Friends.” Streaming services can now be carried by only one hit show or two. Netflix has “Friends,” Hulu has “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,” Max has “Friends” and Peacock has “The Office.”

Enter physical media. With the rise in streaming costs, purchasing a physical DVD for your favorite movie or show is far more affordable than paying for a streaming service. Especially if you are someone who coughs up the funds across multiple streaming services to watch just a handful of shows, streaming is no longer affordable. The budget for college students and recent graduates is infamously low; instead of shelling out \$80 to Peacock annually for access to “The Office,” purchase the series in DVD form for only \$50 at Target.

While \$50 is no chump

change for college students, big box stores such as Target honestly aren’t even the most affordable method for obtaining physical media. The adventure of searching thrift stores and second-hand bookstores, such as Half Price Books, for your favorite DVDs is always a merry quest with friends. Collecting season-by-season allowed me to purchase “The Office” for under \$20, “Rick and Morty” for under \$10 and “Arrested Development” for under \$5. The thrill of collecting the final season of a series is truly unparalleled. CURSES to the ever-elusive “Breaking Bad” season four!

Aside from the collectability of movies, the tangibility of putting discs in a DVD player and the odyssey in obtaining shows season-by-season, the biggest strength of physical media is that you actually own it. Streaming services only give temporary access, and as seen in the case of “Friends” and “The Office,” they can be on a new platform in a flash. Buying physical media guarantees that you will be able to watch your favorite shows without the threat of

big business interference and streaming politics.

While another strength of larger platforms is seemingly its original shows, when was the last have-to-watch Netflix original that fully encompassed the cultural zeitgeist? “Stranger Things” is released with gaps in between seasons that last years and “Squid Game” was released three years ago.

The quality of original movies and shows that Netflix and its immediate competitors produce is no longer up to the snuff as they were just a few years ago. Additionally, Netflix pricing alone has increased over recent years, with a standard plan pushing \$16 a month. Original shows simply aren’t a legitimate justification for streaming services or their rising cost.

With streaming services becoming increasingly unaffordable and physical media pricing at an all-time low, the moment is ripe to physically acquire all your favorite movies and shows for good. Pro tip: search local thrift stores for a Blu-ray player to purchase. Most go for \$5 or less, and that’s really all you need.

There are plenty of places near and far for physical media, so support local businesses in your own quest for your favorite movies and shows. Paper Street Trading is only a five-minute drive from campus and has an outstanding \$1 movie section that always has more than a few steals. Get a change in scenery, explore the city with friends and save money.

Kill the Death Penalty

By **BEN DICKISON**
Back Page Editor

This week, a lot of innocent people have died. Some have fallen victim to the consummate power of Hurricane Helene, some to the relentless incursion of bombing by the Israeli military, some crossing the ocean while seeking asylum, some from car accidents, some from cancer, some perhaps from natural causes.

But today, I want to focus on the deaths of five people in particular whose names are worth saying: Marcellus “Khalifah” Williams, Robert Roberson, Kenneth Smith, Emmanuel Littlejohn and Alan Eugene Miller. The common denominator separating their deaths from the rest: they were all executed or will be executed from taxpayer funding in states that brought a capital punishment case against them.

As a Catholic person, I believe that the death penalty is a violation of natural law and a direct contradiction to Catholic social teaching. But much more than the act of execution itself demeaning the sanctity of life, the capital punishment system steals funding that could be used to protect what I believe to be equally sacred: the lives of those experiencing poverty, war, lack of access to basic necessities and marginalization.

The 2023 Capital Crimes Report for Ohio, issued by the office of Ohio Attorney

General Dave Yost, concurs with the notion that capital punishment funding is killing not only people, but a large part of our state’s budget as well.

The report estimates that the cost per case of each individual experiencing incarceration on death row falls between \$1 million and \$3 million. If we multiply this range to scale — meaning we estimate the spending for carrying out the execution of all 114 people currently experiencing incarceration on Ohio’s death row — we can expect to spend between \$114 million and \$342 million carrying out capital punishment.

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio estimates that it costs \$30,558 a year to house the average incarcerated individual in Ohio. The most recent data on the average length of a life sentence in Ohio, which was published by the Ohio state government in 2016, holds that the average individual serving a life sentence spent 26.81 years in prison before death. Based on this data, the cost of life imprisonment for the 114 individuals currently experiencing incarceration on Ohio’s death row is about \$92 million. Based on the estimated difference in spending on capital cases against life sentences, one could conclude commuting the sentences of the individuals currently experiencing death row to life sentences would save our state tens of

millions of dollars.

So much good could be done with those extra tens of millions. For example, the state would have a cushion to fund the program to make school lunch and breakfast free for all students who qualify for reduced-cost lunch during fiscal years 2024 and 2025. In June of 2023, the Ohio House passed spending \$4.2 million over the next two fiscal years to provide free lunches. This attempt to effectively serve one of the marginalized groups I mentioned earlier was later completely axed by the Ohio Senate.

One of the factors driving up the price of execution is the ever more elusive access to lethal injection drugs. Since 2011, Ohio has experimented with the use of three different drugs in executions: sodium thiopental, pentobarbital and midazolam. Ohio’s last execution took place in 2018 before the excruciating death of Robert van Hook using midazolam prompted Federal Magistrate Judge Michael Merz to postpone the scheduled execution of Warren Heness, a violation of Henness’s eighth amendment right to freedom from cruel and unusual punishment. Ohio was the first state to execute an individual using sodium thiopental, then pentobarbital and then midazolam — which have been proven in autopsies to cause pulmonary edema, occurring when the lungs fill with fluid and create a sensation close-

ly related to waterboarding. Waterboarding is prohibited entirely in the United States and widely acknowledged as a form of torture.

Still, Ohio seems to be on the “cutting edge” of innovating new, more cost-effective forms of execution. House Bill 392 proposes the ability for an individual to choose execution via lethal injection or by nitrogen hypoxia. In the absence of lethal injection, nitrogen hypoxia would become the new and only method of execution in the state. Yost himself touted the “widespread commercial availability of nitrogen,” which would be a more cost-effective form of execution for the state. Just one problem: it is illegal to euthanize dogs via nitrogen hypoxia in Ohio. In 2022, Airgas, an industrial distributor of nitrogen, publicly recommended against the use of nitrogen in human death.

Alabama has already executed Kenneth Smith and Alan Eugene Miller via nitrogen hypoxia. Smith experienced “thrashing movements and seizure-like symptoms” and “took deep gasping breaths” for minutes during his execution. He was pronounced dead 30 minutes after the commencement of the execution process. So much for Alabama officials’ claim that Smith would become “unconscious within seconds.”

In addition to the reality that it is impossible to find

a “humane” way to execute someone, our criminal legal system has been proven to put innocent people to death. In fact, since 1976, when states began to reinstate the death penalty after it was federally paused in 1972, there have been exactly 1,600 people executed in the United States. In the same time frame, there have been 192 people exonerated from their death row sentence. Based on this data from the Death Penalty Information Center, this means that for every nine people executed in the United States, one person is declared innocent. Given the innocence of Marcellus Williams, Robert Roberson, Carlos DeLuna and more, it is unconscionable to assert that our capital punishment system is reliably serving justice.

I realize this piece may not even read as an opinion. There is just that much evidence and basic math mounted against the use of capital punishment in Ohio. Instead of continuing to innovate solutions to a system that cannot be fixed, I implore Ohio lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 101, which will abolish this archaic practice, and the Ohio Adult Parole Authority to commute the sentences of those experiencing incarceration on death row to life sentences.

The Musketeers Were Mad at Muskie Madness

BY RORY MCNELLEY
NewsWire Intern

Musketeer Madness took place last Friday as a part of the Family Weekend festivities. Students and their families were invited into Cintas Center to get a preview of the men's and women's basketball teams and to build excitement for the upcoming season.

Musketeer Madness is an annual event to kick off the college basketball season and give fans a first look at the season's teams.

The event included a fan fest outside of Cintas, which included food, drinks, rock climbing and a chance to snap a picture with the Blue Blob and D'Artagnan.

Once the event began inside the men's and women's basketball teams were introduced and both teams participated in intrasquad scrimmages.

The pep band, cheerleaders and dance team added to the energetic atmosphere.

To start off the event, the women's team was introduced along with head coach Billi Chambers.

"We have a great group of young women who are ready to represent Xavier women's basketball. They are super exciting to watch, they are a lot of fun to be around,"



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

coach Chambers said.

"We need you. We need your help. We need you to come support and we need you to follow up with this team because they are going to get NCAA women's basketball back in this gym," Chambers said.

After coach Chambers' welcome speech, the intrasquad scrimmage was under way with a blue team and a white team. Their scrimmage was won by Team

White, but both sides provided an exciting game for everyone to watch.

"I am so excited to see what the women accomplish this season. We have been preparing and putting in a great deal of time to be successful," first-year nursing major and women's basketball team manager Nailah Grant said.

"The fans were energetic and excited to not only see the returning players but the new faces on the team," Grant

said.

Following the women's scrimmage, the men's team was introduced. The crowd cheered loudest for the return of Zach Freemantle and Jerome Hunter, who both returned to the court after being unable to play all of the 2023-24 season due to injuries.

Head coach Sean Miller spoke to the audience, saying how he is looking forward to the season, even though it will

be a long journey. He encouraged the students to come out and support the team.

Before the scrimmage began, a preview was shared for the docuseries being produced about the team's journey this season.

"All In" will be released in 8-10 episodes starting Nov. 14 and is being produced in a similar way to the NFL series "Hard Knocks." It will show behind-the-scenes footage of the Musketeers throughout the season as they strive to return to the NCAA tournament.

The men's scrimmage also saw a victory for Team White, but fans expressed excitement about the season ahead.

"I was so excited for Musketeer Madness, and to have my family here with me made the experience so much more special. I was excited to see the teams I will be supporting this season," first-year exploratory major Renee Flett said.

The men's basketball season kicks off on Nov. 4 at home against Texas Southern University, and the women's team have their first game the next day against San Jose State.

The Big East Battle Begins for Xavier Women's Soccer

BY CHARLIE GAINOR
Staff Writer

The white-hot Xavier Musketeers women's soccer team continued their blazing run of dominance to end September, coming off of their first three conference matches undefeated with two wins and a draw.

After a tough loss to No. 20 Saint Louis University at home put an end to their eight-game unbeaten streak. Coach Dean Ward's squad picked up right where they left off after a week-long recess.

In the conference home opener against the DePaul University Blue Demons, Xavier took the lead in the opening 15 minutes after junior forward Emma Flick redirected a header from sophomore forward Olivia Baca past the goalkeeper.

In a match where the Muskies would outshoot the Demons 17-4, senior midfielder Samantha Wiehe converted on her third penalty kick of the year and graduate defender Olivia Lawson scored off a pass from sophomore midfielder Reese Slater.

"Winning isn't easy," Ward said after the game. "There's things to work on, but a shutout is a shutout. It starts from the front, but the defense plays a massive part in that."

The Muskies then wel-

comed the University of Connecticut Huskies, whose preseason rankings made them an unexpected competition in the title race among Xavier and Georgetown University.

In one of the most high-octane duels of the year, the Huskies became the first team to outshoot the Musketeers this season, winning the advantage 18-15 with 11 shots on goal against Xavier's five.

Junior goalkeeper Maria Galley stood up to the challenge as she notched a career high 10 saves, eight of which came in the second half.

A goal by freshman forward Samantha Erbach put Xavier ahead in the 66th minute, but a penalty in the final ten minutes allowed UConn to equalize and close out a thrilling draw.

Last Sunday, Xavier got right back on track in a dominant showing out east at Villanova University. Accumulating another 24 shots against the Wildcats' nine, the Muskies handed them a 3-0 beatdown.

Junior forward Regan Dancer set the tone early as she flipped a shot from near the back line over the head of the goalkeeper in the third minute. A late brace by Wiehe in the second half would decisively put the game out



NewsWire photo by Daniel Betz

of reach for Villanova.

The effort against the Wildcats is the 10th of 12 matches played this season where Xavier had 15 shots and four with at least 20.

With an average of 19 shots and 9.08 shots on goal per game, Xavier has resoundingly established themselves as an aggressive squad in Division One, sitting in the top 20 for shots per match and top 12 in shots on goal per match.

With her brace on Sunday, Wiehe now leads the Musketeers with six goals on the season, accompanied by a per-

fect four-for-four conversion rate on penalty kicks. Flick, Dancer and Lawson each have five on the year, with Flick leading the team on assists with six.

Last week, Galley collected her second Big East Goalkeeper of the Year award for her performance during the shutout against DePaul. Galley holds the program record for both wins (37) and shutouts (28).

This week, Erbach was named as Big East Freshman of the Week for the second time this season, picking up her fourth goal and third as-

sist on the year.

Xavier moved up two spots on the United Soccer Coaches poll this week to No. 21, remaining the only top 25 team in the Big East. In conference play, the Muskies sit in second place behind conference rival Georgetown, who has a perfect record of 3-0 to start their slate of conference games.

The Musketeers return home this Thursday to host the Creighton University Bluejays before hitting the road on Sunday to take on the Butler University Bulldogs.

From Professional Athletes to Ballroom Dancers

By Abby Knox
Staff Writer

A Super Bowl champion, a National Basketball Association (NBA) champion and two Olympic medalist are now taking on a new challenge, dancing. Danny Amendola, Dwight Howard, Ilona Maher and Stephen Nedoroscik can now add ballroom dancing to their resumes as they are currently on *Dancing with the Stars* (DWTS) season 33.

Amendola was a wide receiver for 13 years for seven different teams during his time in the National Football League (NFL) best known for his time with the New England Patriots.

Throughout his career, Amendola made 617 catches, covered a total of 6,212 yards and received 24 touchdowns during his 163 career games. Amendola also won two Super Bowl titles as a Patriot.

After his retirement in 2022, Amendola took up a new position in the NFL as a coaching assistant and returners coach for the Las Vegas Raiders during the 2023 season.

More recently, Amendola finds himself exploring a new sport as he dances on DWTS with his professional partner Whitney Carson.

"My joints are so much more sore. We're playing



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org
United States rugby sevens team finished sixth.

(football) on grass, so it's a little softer. The hardwood is, like, I'm icing up," Amendola said to *US Weekly*.

"I'm definitely feeling the age (38) at this point. But it's fun to get out there, sweat and have fun," Amendola said.

An unlikely candidate for the dance floor is 6' 10" NBA champion Dwight Howard, who was the first overall pick by the Orlando Magic in the 2004 NBA draft.

During his time with the Magic, Howard led the team to three division titles and one conference title. Howard went straight from high school to the NBA, where he was ranked as one of the highest-scoring rebounders and defensive players in NBA history.

With a total of 14,627 rebounds throughout his eighteen-season career, Howard averaged around 11.8 rebounds per game. Howard was also a part of Team USA during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, where the team won a gold medal.

Howard is stepping out of his comfort zone with DWTS, being the tallest dancer in the ballroom alongside his 5'3" professional partner Daniella Karagach.

Maher is a rugby player who has competed in multiple high-level competitions, making her international debut for rugby at the 2018 Paris Sevens tournament.

Maher competed in her first Olympics at the 2020 Tokyo Games, where the

During her time in Tokyo, she became TikTok famous for documenting her experience at the Olympics.

Maher also competed at the 2023 Pan American Games, where she won a gold medal before competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics with the U.S. Women's Rugby Sevens team where they won a bronze medal.

This was the first medal for the women's rugby sevens team in U.S. history and the first U.S. rugby medal in over 100 years.

Maher has become an early favorite for DWTS fans by challenging the gender roles that typically govern ballroom dancing alongside her

partner Alan Bersten.

Nedoroscik, known by the internet as the "Pommel Horse Guy," started his gymnastics career at the age of five and has since won numerous titles for pommel horse including at the NCAA National Championship in 2017 and at the World Artistic Gymnastics in 2021.

Most recently, Nedoroscik won two medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics. He was a key asset in the team all-around final to secure Team USA their bronze medal and also won bronze in the individual pommel horse.

Nedoroscik has taken to the dance floor alongside partner Rylee Arnold.

Thanks to his black rimmed glasses, viewers around the world compared Nedoroscik to Clark Kent because when the glasses come off, Nedoroscik is in the zone.

After the first two weeks of DWTS, Amendola, Howard, Maher and Nedoroscik have been high performers. Having these star athletes on this show proves just how versatile they can be.

Whether they are sinking a basket, scoring a touchdown, winning a medal, or learning choreography, these athletes can do it all.

Xavier Volleyball Wins Are Better in Pink

By Monica Dobson
NewsWire Intern

Last Friday, Xavier women's volleyball showed off their pink uniforms while taking down the University of Connecticut Huskies during their annual Dig Pink match in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Musketeers returned to Cintas to face UConn after a four-game road trip over the past two weeks.

The Musketeers were 2-2 during their two weeks on the road, collecting wins over Seton Hall University and Georgetown University to help them remain at sixth in the Big East standings.

After these games, Xavier's combined 94-dig tally is their best since Oct. 8, 2021.

The Musketeers started out set one against UConn with a strong lead, redshirt junior Emma Grace secured three kills for the Muskies. The teams were then neck-and-neck each time the ball was served.

UConn caught up with a few good serves, putting them in the lead. By the end of the set, they were able to come out on top by two points to secure a 25-23 win in set one.

To begin the second set, the Musketeers picked up quickly with the assistance of senior setter Logan Flaugh. The Musketeers tied with the



NewsWire photo by Daniel Betz

Huskies with kills by Grace, redshirt freshman middle blocker Margo Kemp and freshman defensive specialist Kelsey Niesen.

From there, the Musketeers were on a roll and stayed ahead of Huskies through many powerful serves, leading them to a 15-25 win in set two.

Senior libero Lucia Corsaro held down the team, with kills by redshirt junior outside hitter Anna Taylor, guiding the Musketeers significantly with their serves. The Musketeers won set three 25-22, giving them a 2-1 lead.

For the first half of the fourth set, the Musketeers were off balance, allowing

UConn to catch up. Regardless, the Musketeers were still able to keep their own with kills by Taylor and Grace.

A couple of kills in return by the Huskies led them to a 20-25 win for set four, forcing the game to a fifth set.

To start off the final set, sophomore defensive specialist Elouise Czajkowski aced the Huskies three times, giving Xavier a strong start for the set.

Both sides went back and forth on points, but the Musketeers secured the lead with a block from Kemp. Assistance from Flaugh gave the Musketeers the 15-11 win of set five, giving them the hard-fought 3-2 win over UConn.

The Musketeers broke the Huskies' six-game winning streak while handing them their third loss of the season. After securing this pink-clad win, Xavier improved to 7-12 (5-4 Big East) while UConn moved to 18-3 (6-3 Big East).

The Musketeers combined for a season-high of nine aces in a single match. Xavier also hit for .247 in the match for their best mark in conference play.

Flaugh had a record night with 56 assists while also recording 12 digs and three aces for her 13th career double-double. The team tallied a season-high 62 assists.

On Sunday, the Musketeers faced off against the Prov-

idence College Friars, and Xavier swept the game in three sets.

This win helped advance the Musketeers to 6-4 for conference play while the Friars have yet to win against any Big East opponent so far.

Grace was a standout player, leading both sides with 12 kills and 12 digs, her 22nd career double-double, also hitting .476, her season-best. Flaugh led the team in assists with 37 as well as 10 digs, her 14th double-double of her career.

As a defensive specialist, Niesen recorded 11 digs and two kills.

In this match, the Friars only recorded two blocks in all three sets, the lowest of any of Xavier's Big East opponents this season.

The Musketeers have two more home matches before leaving again for another four games on the road.

On Friday, Georgetown will be in town, followed by Seton Hall on Sunday. With only eight more games before the Big East tournament, the Musketeers have a few more chances to move up in the Big East rankings and end their season on a high note.

Liam Payne from One Direction Dead at 31

BY GIULIA GUTZWILLER
Newswire Intern

Singer-songwriter Liam Payne died at 31 after seemingly falling from a hotel balcony in Argentina last week. His death shocked fans around the world and has sparked conversations about celebrities’ mental health struggles.

During Payne’s stay in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the manager of the hotel he was staying at called the police to report “an aggressive man who could be under the effects of drugs.” The manager also mentioned that he could be at risk of falling from the balcony in his room.

The police arrived shortly after Payne fell from his third floor balcony and was later pronounced dead at the scene as a result of his injuries. A significant amount of alcohol and drugs were found in his hotel room.

They also found that Payne had trashed his room and destroyed hotel property. The local press released images of a shattered TV screen, bottles of alcohol and other objects from his room.

His autopsy further concluded that internal and external hemorrhages were the cause of his death and that there were signs of full or partial unconsciousness before he fell.

Many long-time fans are shaken by the news. “It still doesn’t feel real that there’s only four members now.” First-year digital innovation in film and television (DIFT) major Lauren Everling said, “Who wasn’t a big fan of One Direction growing up?” commented.

Payne’s journey in the music industry began when he auditioned for The X Factor, a British singing competition show, in 2008 at the age of 14. Although he was eliminated after a few rounds, he was encouraged by judge Simon Cowell to return in two years. He auditioned again in 2010 and was placed in a boy band that became One Direction with bandmates Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Niall Horan and Zayn Malik.

The group quickly rose to fame and became one of the most popular boy bands in the world. Their first studio album, “Up All Night,” was



Photo Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

released in November 2011 and became the first debut album by a British group to chart at No. 1 in the United States. One Direction released five studio albums and created classic hits such as “What Makes You Beautiful,” “Story of My Life,” “Night Changes” and “Steal My Girl.”

Payne pursued a solo career after the band went on hiatus in 2016. He released his first and only studio album, “LP1,” on December 6, 2019. Some of his popular hits as a solo artist include “Strip That Down” (feat Quavo) and “For You” (feat Rita Ora) from this debut album.

Former One Direction members took to social media to express their grief. Additionally, One Direction’s Instagram account posted for the first time since July 2020 regarding Payne’s death.

“The years we spent together will forever remain among the most cherished years of my life,” Styles commented, on the post.

“I lost a brother when you left us and can’t explain to you what I’d give just to just give you a hug one last time,” Malik wrote.

In recent years, Payne opened up about his mental health issues and experiences with addiction.

“I was drunk quite a lot of the time because there was no other way to get your head around what was going on,” he said in an interview with Men’s Health Australia in 2019.

In 2023, he revealed that he had spent 100 days in a rehabilitation facility and had been sober for six months.

Payne’s situation has drawn attention to the negative aspects of fame and the mental health struggles that many other celebrities grapple with.

Mozart Dropped a New Track before Frank Ocean

BY RIELEY MCDONNELL
Newswire Intern

After 233 long years, the world has been graced with a new composition from Mozart.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the most famous composers in history. Born in 1756, he composed over 600 works before he died at 35-years-old in 1791. This makes it less surprising that an unknown piece has been found, but regardless, it was still a surprise to the researchers who found it.

“Serenade in C” is a 12-minute piece which researchers

believe was written by a young Mozart in the 1760s. This assumption is based on the fact that his signature being “Wolfgang Mozart” and not “Wolfgang Mozart Amadeo.” He started to include the third name later in his life in 1769.

The work also aligns stylistically with other works from the 1760s, particularly from when Mozart was 10 to 13 years old. At this point, Mozart had already written his first symphony.

His new piece was found in the holdings of Germany’s Leipzig Municipal Libraries, which was compiling an edition of a catalog that would

detail a full list of known Mozart works.

The manuscript, which is a copy, is not written in Mozart’s handwriting, and many believe it was documented by his sister – Maria Anna Mozart. It is a bound manuscript with the composition written in brown ink.

Within the catalog, published on Sept. 19, 2024, the work has been renamed “Ganz kleine Nachtmusik”, which translates to “Very Little Night Music.” Many believe that the piece was named in reference to another notable work of Mozart’s, “Eine kleine Nachtmusik.”



Photo Courtesy of Commons.wikimedia.org

Mozart is largely revered as one of the greatest classical composers of all time. This statute is dedicated to him in Vienna, Austria, near his hometown of Salzburg.

The work was played with the release of the catalog by a three-piece string ensemble. The trio is composed of two violins and a bass. It was then played again on Sept. 21 at the Leipzig Opera to a packed house. There were lines hundreds of meters long just to get a listen to the rediscovered composition.

The work has seven movements within it. Movements are individual sections, within a classical work that are

encompassed within a larger work.

This is not the only work of Mozart’s that has been recently discovered. In 2018 a work entitled “Allegro in D” was found at an art auction where researchers confirmed that it was indeed a Mozart original.

This is an exciting time for classical music fans. They finally get a new 18th century piece to listen to. It only took two centuries.



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

We Live in Time... But Not for Long

BY KAYLA ROSS
*Digital Communications
Manager*

“We Live in Time,” starring Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh, was released to theaters on Oct. 11, by A24 studios. There was much anticipation for this movie, with trailers featuring a happy family and the ever-witty pair navigating illness while trying to lead normal lives and follow their dreams. w

The movie opens on an unorthodox meet-cute, with Almut (Pugh) hitting a distraught Tobias (Garfield) with her car. She buys him dinner and discovers that he is married. Although still technically married, his divorce is almost final. They quickly become enthralled with each other after he comes to the opening of her restaurant.

Almut is a trendy, enigmatic chef in London. Tobias fits into her life immediately. Their chemistry and need for each other is the most compelling aspect of the story. They seem magnetized to each other.

My biggest gripe with this movie, however, is the argument the pair fall into



Photo Courtesy of Commons.wikimedia.org

after a party at Almut’s home. Tobias stays to clean up after and brings up the conversation of whether they would want to have children together due to their “biological clocks.” First of all, I hated this conversation because I was deeply confused about the “biological clock” Tobias was referring to. Almut appears

to be very young. She reveals that she is thirty-four years old, which made sense for the storyline, but should have been rewritten with Florence Pugh in mind, who is only twenty-eight years old. Second, this seems out of character for Tobias. He has been a constant, upbeat, spontaneous boyfriend up to this point, but

they had not yet even said “I love you” to each other. They argue, and he leaves. Soon after, Almut is diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She says that even if she had not been considering motherhood, she would consider it with Tobias.

I understand that this conflict was necessary to move the plot, to reveal details about Tobias and to continue the nonlinear narrative, but as the pair decide to go through with IVF and conceive a child of their own, it felt like a screen time burn in a movie that is already only 104 minutes. I wish they had chosen a different conflict. It did not feel properly placed or written with the rest of the movie, and it felt irrelevant when Almut decides she does want to be a mother about 10 minutes later. The movie then centers around Almut’s pregnancy.

However, when they do begin their IVF journey, the hopelessness they feel in the struggle to get pregnant is palpable. I think I teared up more at this point than at the ending. Their desire to become parents is gut-wrenching, and it paired expertly with the beautiful scene where Almut gives birth to their

baby girl.

The birth scene was absolutely the best part of this movie. I am unsure how they made Pugh’s body look pregnant so realistically, but this may have been the most accurate depiction of birth I have seen portrayed on screen. The relief and joy the couple feel are a needed bright spot for what the audience will endure after that.

When their daughter is four or five years old, Almut’s cancer comes back stronger than before. Her prognosis is not longer than a year. The rest of the movie follows the couple trying to figure out a balance for enjoying their little family, following out Almut’s dreams and ensuring that she will not be forgotten.

“We Live in Time” is the poignant movie featuring a couple faced by illness that the romantic comedy genre has been trying to recreate for decades. Even though I had some issues with the movement of plot, this film invoked the most sincere emotional reaction I have had since films like “Fried Green Tomatoes” or “Terms of Endearment.” This is a must-see for anyone who is unafraid of an ugly cry.

Jesus Christ, “Jesus Christ Superstar” was Good

BY ADDISON BURKE
Sports Editor

Jesus Christ was spotted in the Gallagher Student Center theater eight times over the past two weeks.

Just kidding. It was actually Xavier Theatre’s production of “Jesus Christ Superstar.” The well-known story of Jesus’s last week of life was adapted into a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice in 1971 and has been a hit ever since. Instead of having Jesus as the main focus, the show predominantly follows Judas, one of the 12 Apostles who ultimately betrayed Jesus.

Xavier Theatre brought the show to life in a new way by setting the show in the round, meaning the audience was surrounded by the entire set and utilizing the actors’ aisle space and spaces behind the audience. This helped the audience to feel as though they were a part of the story.

Senior musical theater and actuarial science double major Matthew Callas played the titular role of Jesus, bringing Christ back to life through his raw emotions and immense vocal and acting talent. Callas’ portrayal of Jesus left many audience members in awe by the end of the show, some even leaving after shedding a few tears because of how beautifully the Crucifixion scenes and the ending were



Photo Courtesy of @XavierTheatre on Instagram

executed.

Sophomore musical theatre major Jamie Swisshelm played Judas and gave the audience a performance they will never forget with their powerful vocal range and clever acting choices. Swisshelm said that their favorite moment to perform in the show was Judas’ death scene.

“I loved getting to explore and experiment with how we could best execute this scene. Taking on a death scene regularly is a thrilling experience, but this show takes it to a whole new level,” Swisshelm said.

They also mentioned how the show has helped them to

learn to never limit themselves and their abilities.

“There is always room for experimentation, improvement and fun if you allow yourself the privilege to grow. It helps being surrounded by an incredibly supportive cast and production team as well,” Swisshelm said.

Senior musical theatre major Tierra London Rush played Caiaphas, the High Priest of Israel, at the time of Jesus’s ministry and was one of the leading forces in Jesus’s death. Rush’s vocal range really made her performance of Caiaphas captivating, and her stage presence made it feel as though Caiaphas was

mad at me directly as an audience member. The character Caiaphas is typically played by a male actor.

“I have never had the opportunity to do something like that and was pleasantly surprised at the relief I felt by not being burdened by gender,” Rush said.

“I think that my femininity accentuated the ferocity of Caiaphas, and by having Herod, Pilate and Caiaphas played by women, I think it provided an interesting take on power and expanded the capacity for all the roles,” Rush said.

Senior musical theatre major Maria Zierolf, who played

Pilate, also really enjoyed getting to play around with the gender roles of the story and getting to examine how this would change the narrative.

“It created a nice power dynamic that explored the different variations in female rage, helplessness and determination,” Zierolf said.

In discussing the challenges of the show, Zierolf mentioned having to find Pilate’s arc offstage.

“Pilate has a wild transition between Act I and Act II that I get to explore offstage, which was a fun challenge to tackle. Pilate’s story also doesn’t start until about halfway through act one, which provides me with the challenge of having Pilate be Pilate and not affected by the previous songs in the show,” Zierolf said.

While I haven’t had the opportunity to see all of the musicals that have been put on during my time at Xavier, Jesus Christ Superstar is, with no doubt, my favorite. From the incredible talent of all the performers in the show to the unique setup and usage of the stage, I was captivated by every second of the show. The immense talent of all the members of Xavier Theatre was on full display when I saw the show, and I truly left the show in awe.



Aries: You are a White Mystery Air-head. Solely because of the Airhead part.



Taurus: You are Bananas Foster: Very indulgent and insist upon being served at a high qualitymore.



Gemini: You are a Barf-Flavored Beanboozled. At first you seem peachy and pleasant, but can turn bitter in an instant.



Cancer: You are a Sour Patch Kid. You can appear sour and standoffish in some situations, but are sweet as can be once people get to know you.



Leo: You are a King Sized Reese’s Cup. You thrive off being the most recogniz-able and popular one in the room.



Virgo: You are dental floss. While very noble, you’re trying way too hard prevent tooth decay. Remember: we’re here for a good time, not a long time.



Libra: You’re a Hershey Bar. Consis-tent. Reliable. One delicious, simple flavor.



Scorpio: You are a Warhead. Everyone thinks they can handle you, but they know not your true intensity.



Sagittarius: You are a Gusher. You break down barriers and people quick-ly know you beyond a surface level.



Capricorn: You are Pop Rocks. While other candies rest, you go above and beyond until you are com-pletely digested.



Aquarius: You are Mexican Jalapeno M&Ms. Unmistakably bold and out-side the box, but loveable.



Pisces: You are THC Gummies. You help people’s imaginations run wild.



HARAMBE SIGHTED ON CAMPUS?

BY MACI TAYLOR, STAFF WRITER

On May 28, 2016 at the Cincinnati Zoo, a zookeeper was forced to shoot a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy accidentally fell into the enclosure. That gorilla’s name? Harambe. Why are we discussing Harambe almost nine years later? Because he is back.

About a week ago on Xavier University’s campus, there were sightings of a gorilla hiding in the bushes, walking around on the Yard and even habitating the Kuhlman elevator. Some may say that it is just a person in a Halloween costume. But, I say, “No, sir.” This has a deeper meaning than some silly Halloween costume. Harambe is contacting us.

Now, what are Harambe’s motives? Why is he reaching out to us after so long? Here are some of my opinions on why:

1. Harambe is the new One Direction member

Harambe, you dirty dog! Taking Liam Payne’s death and using it for your own benefit? Despicable. Harambe: while I don’t doubt your musical talents, I am not sure how you would be able to gyrate your body like the other boys. Your dance moves would be limited to dabbing and flossing. Not very boy band-esque.

2. Harambe running for president?

With the election just days away, I believe Harambe is looking to make a pass at becoming the 47th president of the United States. He would break records for being the most unopinionated president of all time. Yes, this could be because he doesn’t speak any English. But, Harambe’s spirit is full of peace and joy, which is why I doubt he would bring any divide to this already divided country. He has already taken a bullet for what he stands for, but it appears he is accompanied by Secret Service as he makes his way through campus. What a brave soul to even walk around in the open air. He is like incense. You can feel his presence in the air and under no circumstances can he be contained.

#Harambe2024

3. Jealous of Moo Deng?

Could Harambe be making a return after finding out he has been replaced by Moo Deng as the most beloved animal in a zoo? Could this be the revenge plot of the century? Harambe resurrecting from the dead would cause the world to freak out. But, I mean, how can you top a baby pygmy hippo that loves to sleep in her food bowl?

4. Eras Tour Appearance

Is it possible Harambe’s coming back to make an Eras tour appearance at the Indianapolis shows? Taylor Swift has been known for huge on-stage surprises and letting Harambe ride on one of the bicycles during “Blank Space” might be the biggest on-stage surprise of the entire tour. This leads me to my next point: could he be trying to top Travis Kelce’s appearance and steal Taylor Swift’s heart away from him? Only time will tell.

Surprise Podcast Guest

Talk Tuah has skyrocketed in the podcast world. Harambe could have noticed its recent success and wants to jump on the bandwagon. Harambe would have many things to discuss on the podcast including hair/fur care, beef with the Cincinnati zookeepers and how to maintain a juicy booty.