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THE XAVIER

NEWSWIRE

80th YEAR

WEEK OF MARCH 1, 1995

ISSUE 22

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The Xavier Newswire, though not originally scheduled for production this week, is being published to permit students to address a series of recent events.

FREE SPEECH

... and
other
virtues

N EWS

Election results in

The Student Government Association Executive election results were counted up last Thursday Feb. 23, and the winner was the ticket of Damon Jones, Peter Owendoff and Amy Johnston.

The trio defeated the ticket of David Dobelhoff, Benjamin Dunlap and Michael Miller by 393 votes to 176.

The election administrators did count one write-in vote for three Xavier students.

Awards deadline set

The Division of Student Development is accepting Xavier Student Leadership Award nominations until Monday, March 13.

The following awards are available:

- Silver and Gold X-Key Achievement Award
- Board of Trustees Excellence in Leadership Award
- Outstanding Club Advisor of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution to Commuter Students
- Outstanding Contribution to Non-Traditional Students
- Cultural Diversity Award
- Loyola Medal
- Dorothy Day Medal
- David B. Streicher Spirit of Xavier Award

Nomination forms are available at the Information Desk in University Center. Questions about the awards can be answered by calling Dave Coleman, director of student activities, at X-3205.

compiled by Jeff Davis

News wire inserts stolen

BY SARAH BUZZEE
THE XAVIER NEWSWIRE

Last Thursday morning, currently unidentified suspects unlawfully removed 330 advertisement inserts from copies of *The Xavier Newswire* distributed to racks on campus.

The advertisement inserts, paid for by Xavier's Students for Life club, contained 12 pages of pro-life information. After pulling the inserts from the papers on certain racks, the suspects put the ads in a garbage bag and dropped it on the front porch of the Publications House.

A note saying, "Just returning your trash—please recycle," was attached to the bag with red stickers saying, "This promotes the hatred of women."

The act of removing part of the newspaper from the distribution racks is a crime under Ohio Revised Code number 2909.071 which says that "no person ... shall knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with the property of another." Because the inserts were paid for, the removal of the ads is an act of criminal mischief. Mike Couch, chief of Xavier's Safety and Security, con-

fiscated the note accompanying the inserts as evidence.

The Newswire has not pressed criminal charges against the perpetrators but wants to clarify the criminal nature of the act with the hopes that no further such action will take place.

A related incident also occurred last Wednesday when a woman left an angry message on *The Newswire's* answering machine. The woman demanded to know who was responsible for the insert and called the ad "disgusting" and "propaganda." The woman did not leave her name or phone number.

Students remember alumnus

BY JEFF DAVIS
THE XAVIER NEWSWIRE

Dave Streicher, a Xavier graduate of 1992, died last November. Now fellow students are issuing a scholarship in honor of him. Streicher was involved in Student Government, Manresa, Crew, and Pep Club during his years at Xavier. He was described by

friends as a "fountain of energy" and an "unfailing source of friendship and support." The students in charge of the David B. Streicher Spirit of Xavier Award are looking for people who exhibit the same characteristics that Streicher did during his life.

Students who are interested in the award must have completed their freshmen year, exemplify a commitment to service and to the

Xavier community, encourage others to get involved, have a positive outlook on life, and be a quality student academically. Classes of 1991, '92 and '93 are being asked to contribute to the scholarship fund. For more information on the David B. Streicher Spirit of Xavier Award, contact Verkamp at (703) 528-7906 or Patrick Potter at (502) 451-3238.

THE XAVIER NEWSWIRE

A STUDENTS' JOURNAL

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PERSPECTIVES

Misdirected criticism

Pete Owendoff was wrong in his criticism of *The Newswire* during the debate last Tuesday.

While the *Newswire* is not perfect, I feel this slander is wrong, especially coming from the senate, a body that has a hard time "serving the students" itself.

The Newswire does its best to inform the students. Part of this results in covering SGA. I spent last semester covering the student senate, and I found they had a hard time getting things accomplished.

If the *Newswire* is doing a poor job informing the students, the senate certainly is not doing any better. They had a whole semester to get a newsletter out, but they did not do it. This newsletter was expected about mid-way through the semester.

Maybe Owendoff should just stick to "serving the students" himself. Should he really waste time complaining about the student paper when he could be getting the senate to help the upper-classmen that are to be left out in the cold by residence life?

Little is known about the senate on campus. They can put together some events, but can they really accomplish anything else? Many of their

meetings last semester focused solely on their own procedures and the budget. While these are important starts, I recommend that the new senate set a goal to win some respect for themselves from the administration.

The senate should also strive to put to rest smaller issues in a quick manner. The next time you see a senator, ask him or her why it took them a couple of months just to get an answering machine for their office.

Get real things done for the students before you attack other organizations. It makes good political and business sense, and those are two things the senate really strives for.

Pete Holtermann
freshman

Presidential inspiration

I would first of all like to thank the student body for having the confidence in Amy Johnston, Pete Owendoff and me to lead the Student Government Association over the next year. SGA is here for one reason. Amy, Pete and I are here for the same reason ... to serve you, the students.

As a Xavier student, you have an obligation to step up and actively involve yourself in what

Letters to the editor

is going on at the university and to inform the powers that be of what changes you deem necessary. By electing me President of the SGA, you have entrusted me with the responsibility to see that your problems, needs and concerns are addressed. I assure you that I will do this to the best of my ability; however, I need your help if I am going to make Xavier a better place. Please feel free to stop me on the mall, visit me in the SGA offices located next to the main dining room in the University Center, or call me at 745-4250 anytime. Also, Student Senate meetings are held every Monday and the Student Activities Council meets every Tuesday, both at 3 p.m. in the Terrace Room in the University Center, both are open to the Xavier community.

In response to the *Newswire* staff editorial last week, "Leave the bacon where it belongs," the students have spoken and shown who they have the respect for and confidence in to carry out the duties of the executive branch of the Association. On the issues of "service-minded(ness)" and "solidly grounded intentions," over the next year our actions will speak louder than any words.

Once again, I thank you, and I look forward to working with you over the next year in making Xavier a better place.

Damon Jones
SGA President Elect

Letters to the editor

Readers react to pro-life insert

Missing real point

Last week, a Human Life Alliance Supplement accompanied *The Xavier Newswire*. I am at a loss to understand how anti-abortionists who are allegedly "pro-life" can rationally believe the issue of "life" is settled solely inside the womb.

The real moral issue is not whether a fetus is a life — for it clearly is living — but whether the parents are able to give their child a reasonable chance at having a meaningful life.

Last year, an alarming report prepared for the Carnegie Corporation by a panel of experts (entitled "Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children") showed that the opportunity for American children to become well-functioning and healthy human beings is seriously and increasingly threatened. One of the many reasons for this current state of affairs is that parents who are neither emotionally nor economically fit to bring children into the world do exactly that and are subsequently responsible for *harming* their children by causing inferior neural development and by creating a climate in which emotional, intellectual and behavioral difficulties become likely.

Women (or couples) who painstakingly decide not to bring life into the world because they feel they cannot really create a healthy environment for it *are* making the

right moral decision, and those who urge otherwise are morally culpable for promoting a genuine evil in society.

As John Stuart Mill says in *On Liberty*, "The fact itself, of causing the existence of a human being, is one of the most responsible actions in the range of human life. To undertake this responsibility — to bestow a life which may be either a curse or a blessing — unless the being on whom it is to be bestowed will have at least the ordinary chances of a desirable existence, is a crime against that being."

Lou Matz
Professor of Philosophy

Poor response from public

The last issue of *The Newswire* contained a paid insert, sponsored by Students for Life. The insert was tasteful, informative and devoid of any condemnatory overtones. For several reasons, I am disappointed by the public reaction to it.

First, most of the campus received it with nothing but apathy. I had expected people to be either excited or upset by it, but most people were neither. In fact, I heard no reaction from anyone until two days after it had been in the stands. It concerns me that an insert of that size, dealing with such an explosive issue, could simply be ignored on the campus of an academic institution.

Second, when I walked past the *Newswire* stand in Alter Hall on Thursday, I noticed none of the issues on the stack contained an insert. I called a friend who has contact with *The Newswire* and asked if they had been asked to remove them. I was informed no such order had been sent out. Rather, some students had taken it upon themselves to remove them and drop them off in front of the *Newswire* office in a garbage bag.

This kind of behavior is completely unacceptable. Anyone who reads this paper should be deeply offended by this occurrence.

What if some of the many atheists on campus had decided to remove Erin Lahey's column ["Make time, enjoy life"] from all the stands because of its reference to God? What if students favoring one of the two executive tickets had clipped the picture of the other ticket off the front page of every issue? What if people opposed to the new Residence Life policies had taken the page with their ad from the stands? If anyone who dislikes a page of *The Newswire* can feel free to take it, there will be no *Newswire*. Almost everything is objectionable to someone.

Whoever did this upset me, not only because Students for Life had to pay for each of those inserts, but also because such an act threatens *The Newswire* itself. I have many pro-choice friends, and I can't help but feel that whoever is responsible for this has dishonored them. I hope more consideration will be shown in the future.

Andrew R. Hill
Students for Life

Advertisement spreading lies, not facts

The public needs to be informed, but they should be informed with truths, not lies. Last week, Students for Life distributed an insert in *The Newswire* which spread something, but it was not truth. It does not matter if you are pro-life or pro-choice; what matters is you do not use false information to persuade people to your point of view. The insert distributed not only spread inaccurate information as truths, it also used language which was meant to scare women.

One of the first startling "facts" I read was, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, only 39 women died from illegal abortions in 1972 (p. 2). What I would like to correctly inform the general public of is that we do NOT know how many women actually died from abortions. Since abortions were illegal at that time, many women who were suffering from the effects of back-alley abortions lied to their doctors out of fear of the social and legal repercussions. Their causes of death were not listed as abortion, but rather as hemorrhaging, various infections or miscarriages. To state a statistic like the one in the insert is to misrepresent not only what it was like before abortion was legal, but also to misrepresent what the effects of illegal abortions in the future could be. We will never know how many women truly died of illegal abortions because they were ILLEGAL. No one freely admits to a criminal offense.

The article makes countless references to the court cases of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. One of these



references (p. 3) is so outdated it is almost laughable that anyone breathing in the 1980s and early 1990s would believe it. Maybe in 1973 abortion was permitted in the third trimester of pregnancy for various reasons, but anyone who lived through the Reagan and Bush era now realizes that many restrictions have been enacted that limit abortion in the third trimester to only questions of the woman's health. There is no longer any liberal interpretation of the law. An abortion is difficult enough to get now in the second trimester (13-26 weeks). Virtually no doctor will provide an abortion in the third

trimester because of the risks involved to the woman's life, unless it is absolutely necessary.

The use of language in this insert is atrocious. In the section describing the various procedures, not only is the lack of medical terms and intelligent information insulting, it is also written purely to scare and persuade women with abusive language. Phrases like "tear's the baby's body into pieces" and "He/she kicks and jerks violently" (p. 9) serve no other purpose than to frighten women who do not fully understand what is happening.

This insert accuses abortion providers of providing no information and/or false information, but I would rather have the "false" information provided by the learned doctors than the "facts" provided in this article. If people continue to use such ploys as this insert to persuade women not to have an abortion, they are not solving the problem. The only people this type of propaganda reaches are those who either are already pro-life or are not educated enough to realize the lies it spreads.

Xavier women are intelligent and know better than to just believe the "facts" in this insert. We look for the truth. Don't insult our intelligence.

Jennifer Brinkman
sophomore

Letters to the editor

Strife over life continues

News wire
biased

I am deeply concerned that *The Xavier Newswire* has become fanatically biased toward the pro-lifescence. Not only do you have a resident pro-life student as a Perspectives writer in Jesse Lahey, but you also have included in your Feb. 22 edition an insert, larger than the *News wire* itself, all about the evils of abortion. And this was done as casually as if it were an insert for a credit card advertisement. What ever happened to objective journalism?

Just because we attend a Jesuit university with narrow minded views on abortion does not mean that you have to follow their lead. I believe that this anti-abortion insert is a piece of propaganda trash and has no place being directly associated with a newspaper I read.

I am also shocked on an environmental level. I have seen too many anti-abortion inserts in the trash. I feel sad to think of all that wasted paper. If you wanted to get the anti-abortion message out, you should have at least put it next to the *News wire* stands, where only those interested would pick them up and keep them. What a waste!

Finally, I would like to protest the unauthorized editing of Glory McLaughlin's and Stephanie Moes' letter to the editor in the Feb. 15 edition of the *News wire*. They were asked to tone down their editorial, which was in response to Jesse Lahey's article comparing the worth of an unborn baby to that of an abortionist, but refused.

However, it was printed with significant parts missing. I would like you to make a formal apology to Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Moes by printing this fact as soon as possible.

I would appreciate it if you could give equal time to an insert which is pro-choice, or at least make a formal apology to all of the pro-choice readers of the *News wire* for this insert of University propaganda. If this is not done, I fear that the *News wire* will have lost all validity as an unbiased, truly journalistic publication.

Dean Regas
XU Earthcare President

Editor's note: The Xavier Newswire reserves the right to accept all advertising that does not oppose the Jesuit ideals and teaching at Xavier University. The Newswire operates in the environment of a Catholic university. This may impede the duties of objective journalism at times, but even the pro-life insert in the Feb. 22 issue was accurately displayed under a disclaimer identifying it as an advertisement, and acknowledging that it did not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Newswire. As the insert was a paid advertisement, it had to be treated just as any other ad and included in every copy of the paper. Students for Life did not pay for the insert to be handed out as recommended reading.

Finally, it should be emphasized that The Newswire, like all newspapers, reserves the right to edit all articles and

letters for both length and clarity. When editing Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Moes' letter, we only left out one point, which they could not substantiate with a source. When Ms. McLaughlin wrote the letter 'Another look at the truth' [*Xavier Newswire*, Mar. 23, 1994], we asked her for a source on a particular point, and she found she was wrong on that point. With this latest letter, Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Moes could not find a source, so we felt it would be inappropriate to keep that sentence, especially since the letter needed to be shortened anyway.

—M.C.W.

Fearing the
facts

What are we scared of? Why are we so afraid of the hard facts? Because they are hard. Very hard.

Several people have become very upset by the educational inserts Students for Life put in *The News wire* last week. Upset enough to rummage through a stack of newspapers and throw away all the inserts. Upset enough to stand screaming in the lobby of CBA.

Too many people unwittingly accept the idea that an abortion will be an easy, painless way to solve a problem. It's just not that easy.

But even if you feel having an abortion is the solution to your problems, you can't deny others the opportunity to learn the facts that medical and psychological researchers know. You can't refuse them the chance to hear what it's like from women who've been there. If you agree wholeheartedly that the woman's physical and emotional health is directly involved in both pregnancy and abortion, then you have to let people make an informed decision about whether they want to take the chances associated with abortion.

If after all is said and done, you've learned there can be serious medical and emotional consequences to abortion, the unborn baby can feel the pain of the abortion, and there are alternatives available that can be better for both woman and baby, but you still decide an abortion is the "best" way out, then by law, that's your right.

Regardless of being faced with proven medical and psychological facts, many women will still abort their babies. But it's not your right to obscure facts, and it's not right to keep facts hidden to justify your own decision or stance. If you believe abortion is a woman's right and there is substantial evidence to back up your claim, then you shouldn't be afraid that someone might make a decision different from the one you would make.

Such a life-altering decision shouldn't be made lightly, and it shouldn't be made in ignorance.

Erin Lahey
senior

Attempting to establish some professional readership

BY JOHN P. GLYNN
COLUMNIST

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 1995 at 1:37 pm, *The News wire* received an interesting phone call. The caller, relieved not to have to deal with a living person, took out her frustrations on our answering machine. Verbatim, this is how the call went:

"Uhh, I'm calling about the abortion, um, insert that was in *The News wire*, and I was just wondering who was responsible for putting it in because it is completely propaganda and it's disgusting and it's ridiculous that it should be in *The News wire* and I think you should read it before you put it in, especially things about rape and incest before you go putting it in there and consider who's reading it, and consider that there ... this campus, just because it is Catholic and Jesuit, doesn't mean that everybody is pro-life. It's disgusting and I think that you should reconsider before you ever do anything like that again. (click)"

Putting aside, for the moment, the interesting gram-

mar and creative sentence structure, let me analyze this caller's tactics.

Her first concern seems to be "...who was responsible for putting it in...." This question could have easily been answered if she would simply practice what she preached and read the insert. The top of every one of its 12 pages, including the cover, reads "Human Life Alliance Advertising Supplement." That's who is responsible.

Her second point addresses the insert's apparent preoccupation with rape and incest. I scanned the insert cover to cover, and found three mentions of rape and/or incest:

1. One explained the position that a child conceived in rape is still a human being.

2. Another pointed out the feccious claim of gang-rape that was the basis of the *Roe v. Wader* ruling, which legalized abortion on demand.

3. The last mention was the subject of a piece that exploits the misconception that all (or a majority of) abortions are the end result of rape or incest.

That's it. Three mentions in the entire insert, the

longest of which was barely three quarters of a page.

I have a qualm with her the subtle hypocrisy contained within the message she conveys. The caller would have you believe that she is a caring, compassionate individual, steadfast in her pro-choice beliefs. Poppycock.

So ready and willing to criticize something about which she has no idea (i.e., running a business that exists on advertising such as *The News wire*), the caller fails to identify herself. She probably does this out of fear of having to deal with a thinking human being who could give her the facts that repudiate her nonsensical claims about the presence and content of the paid insert.

The bottom line, folks, is this: Students for Life, an established group at Xavier, paid the *News wire* to run the inserts.

So, instead of rationally approaching Students for Life, a *News wire* employee, or (God forbid) writing a letter to the editor, this young woman uses cowardly tactics that repudiate any shred of established credibility.