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IT addresses cybersecurity threats

Policy introduces 12-character minimum, password changes every 180 days

BY ALEX ACKERMAN
Guest Writer

Among other measures, Xavier is now enforcing changes in passwords to combat cybersecurity threats to the university. Students, faculty and staff have until Feb. 27 to change their passwords and will be required to change their passwords every 180 days, or approximately every six months.

The changes are the result of repeated attempts to gain faculty, staff and student information. According to Jeff Edwards, associate provost and CIO of the Information Technologies division, 338 faculty and staff gave up their credentials in phishing or malware attacks during the fall semester.

Other examples of harmful effects of the attacks include an instance in which bank accounts were compromised. In addition the campus-wide password change, the requirements for the passwords themselves are changing. Passwords must now be at least 12 characters rather than eight. Edwards said this is an important step to strengthen safety because it will make it more difficult for people to guess passwords.

Changing passwords and password requirements is part of a larger strategy that seeks to emphasize education about cybersecurity for both faculty and students. According to Edwards, the university is working on plans to ensure the security of websites as well as de normalization those that are deemed insecure.

Currently, faculty computers are scanned to ensure that there is no malware, and their hard drives are encrypted so as to maintain their security. Furthermore, all faculty and staff received training in the fall semester on cybersecurity information and measures. However, only 10 percent of the student body watched the training video on cybersecurity offered to them.

Reactions to the new policy amongst the student body vary — some are frustrated, some are understanding and some express a combination of both. One concern raised by first-year Katie Nichols is that students could simply use variations of the same password, and she wondered what impact this will have on strengthening Xavier’s cybersecurity.

Nevertheless, she feels that cybersecurity education is necessary because students have become “so accustomed” to technology, yet many remain unaware of the “harm that it can have.” Given the potential for the “huge impacts” that can come about because of a lack of awareness, Nichols suggested the necessity of “creative solutions” to engage students.

Edwards suggested that students share information amongst themselves about cybersecurity. Similar to Edwards, Nichols highlighted the importance of creating education that “directly impacts each person,” to emphasize cybersecurity’s place on campus.

In the meantime, Edwards stresses the importance of remaining cautious when it comes to one’s passwords and account information.

‘XUPD Uber’ headed out of business

By HEATHER GAST
Staff Writer

Xavier University’s Police Department (XUPD) will now conduct a majority of its escorts on foot rather than in vehicles as it moves toward a community policing program. To ensure that officers have the time to engage with the community, more officers will patrol on foot and be present at programs such as Adopt-A-Hall and Rape Aggression Defense training.

XUPD spends a large amount of time escorting students, even though it is a relatively low priority of the department. Throughout the past four months, XUPD spent more than 110 hours escorting students by vehicle, constituting around 40 percent of all dispatched runs.

After tallying the amount of time spent escorting and listening to officers’ accounts of transporting students to work, the grocery store and even to the Starbucks at University Station, XUPD Chief Daniel Hect said it became apparent that “these calls were for convenience and not for safety concerns.” Hect also attended a Student Government Association (SGA) meeting and learned that students refer to the vehicular escorts as “XUPD Uber.” He said he would rather officers spend their shifts actively engaging campus by patrolling on foot rather than driving students around.

Hect emphasized that XUPD is more than willing to transport students to ensure their safety. For instance, a student on crutches who needed to get back to their residence would be an example of medical well-being covered under the umbrella of student safety.

The shift to on-foot escorts has raised a few concerns amongst students. Sophomore Tyshia Smith shared that she declined an on-foot escort from her job at Gallagher Student Center’s Subway to her residence in Village Apartments. She requested an escort because of the cold, which aggravates her knees, and because it was dark. Smith declined the escort because she didn’t want to put the officer out of their way.

“I didn’t want the escort walking in the cold,” Smith said. “I felt that the trip would be longer for him to walk to me, then walk me to my apartment, then walk back to the station. I didn’t want to be out in the cold, so I expected he didn’t want to either.”

For cases like Smith’s, vehicular escorts may not be entirely abandoned.

“It’s not a hard and fast rule (not to use vehicular escorts)...but we’re not Uber,” Hect said.

Hect showed interest in hiring students to respond to vehicle escort calls, perhaps even using XUPD golf carts that are slow and cannot fit many people and so would not be as easily used for convenience. Ultimately, he wants to put the convenience escorts “back in the hands of the students.”

SGA used to maintain a student-operated, on-campus shuttle service that was “discontinued because of a lack of ridership,” according to SGA Executive Johnny Srech. Srech does not anticipate reinstituting the service because of the cost and the small size of campus. SGA does maintain shuttles to the Norwood Kroger and the Fenwood Mall each weekend, as well as a shuttle to CVG Airport for major breaks.
Semi-formal measures up to hype

Staff Writer Brittany Wells gives a first-hand account of the Friday night dance

By Brittany Wells

Staff Writer

Picture this: you’ve been assigned an article describing the Student Activities Council (SAC) semi-formal, collecting interviews and data and drooling over the event just to be caught in GOA the same time as tickets go on sale. You sit writing the piece wearing your ugliest pajamas in your undersized Husman bed sobbing into your last bowl of ramen wishing you had a ticket.

Perhaps this isn’t quite as dramatic as I was, but it’s how it felt, OK?

As in most fairy tales, everything works out in the end. Cinderella (or a sad Newswire writer) gets to go to the ball with Prince Charming.

SAC graciously allowed anyone who wanted to attend to come in with or without a ticket. Although I did lose my friend momentarily, both of my shoes stayed on the whole night, and I had a blast!

SAC’s Black and White formal last Friday night was the first of its kind in a long time, and I, for one, really hope it stays. There weren’t any refreshments other than water, but it was free and you don’t complain about free. Besides, it gave me all the more excuse to stuff my face with Currito after.

I was one of the first on the dance floor and one of the last off it, as per usual, and in all of the dances I’ve been to, this was a favorite for sure.

I love semi-formal dances because you don’t have to do the thing where a 5’10” girl like myself has to find a full-length dress that doesn’t look like the dress equivalent of capri pants, but you also get to look cute enough to remind everyone that you do, in fact, own something other than sweatpants.

The music was quiet initially until the women’s basketball game ended, but the moment the DJ was allowed to, he blasted 90s jams with tasteful transitions and funky remixes.

Having gone to Catholic schools the majority of my life I am well accustomed to “Catholicz Bop” (it’s Kidz Bop, but they only censor the sexually explicit lyrics, not the cussing), but I have to admit I was still surprised to hear “God damn” not censored, but “vibrator” entirely cut out.

Most people didn’t stay the entire time, probably because it was a Friday night, and like I said, all they had was water, but it was still a fun night.

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2016-17 BRUEGGEMAN FELLOWS PRESENTATIONS
Lt. Smith discusses his X-perience
32-year XUPD veteran talks to the Newswire about past, present and future

By Soondos Mulla-Ossman
Copy Editor

In a new Xavier Police Officer of the Month segment, the Newswire had the opportunity to sit down with Lt. William Smith. The following is an edited transcript.

Did you want to be involved in the police department for a while?
Actually, when I was younger, I always wanted to be a firefighter. When I was in high school, I participated in the Explorer program with the Cincinnati Fire Department. As soon as I got out of high school, I took their fire test and I got a 93 on the test, but unfortunately, it wasn’t high enough to get into the process.

At that time it was extremely competitive. Three or four people would go in, and the people would show up for a test, and they would only hire 30. [It] broke my heart.
And at the same time, while I was going to Elder, I was working at the original Skyline Chili on Glenway Avenue. They had a police officer on Friday and Saturday night because of the bar traffic and every other thing that was going on in. So I got to talk to them, and one of the officers invited me to participate in the Explorer program, so I did that in high school my last year and got really interested in law enforcement that way.

How long have you been involved in the police department?
I’ve pretty much been at Xavier since my 19th birthday. This is my 32nd year, and a few more months over ride alongs with the Cincinnati police department in high school, so about 32 years right now.

What is your favorite thing about working in the police department at Xaveri?
Being a graduate, being a parent of daughters who went to school here, it’s easy for me. It’s all about the service and helping students. I really enjoy that stuff. And unfortunately, sometimes in your career you are able to do it more than others. When I was working in the daytime as an administrator, it was easier.

Now that I’m on night shift and supervising the officers at night and doing a lot of office projects, it’s a little harder to get out more. And plus, students are sleeping at night. After one or two o’clock in the morning, students are asleep. So it’s a lot tougher to interact. But you still get some, and the bottom line is that’s what I enjoy, is helping people and working with the students.

Is there anything you do on campus that students either don’t know about, don’t appreciate or otherwise take for granted?
There’s a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff, there’s a lot of training, there’s a lot of paperwork, there’s a lot of other rules and policies and stuff that we have to learn and we have to go by. Everyone thinks police work is the fun, getting out, driving around in a police car, but once you actually do it, it’s a lot of paperwork and going to court and stuff like that. I would say that’s probably what a lot of people don’t realize.

Do you have any pet peeves about your work at all?
It’s frustrating to see students make the same mistakes year after year after year. It’s hard to remember that it’s a new batch every year.

You have to train yourself to realize, “Hey, this is a group of freshmen come in, and a student comes in and is very upset about a parking citation, or a student gets in trouble for drinking under age on the weekend, you have to go over and help them, and sometimes they have vomit all over them, and they want to call an ambulance and deal with their friends that are hysterical,” or whatever. It’s tough to keep cool and remember that hey, this is a new group of students.

That sound’s hard.
It is. Sometimes. But once again, we have a great group of students here. You and all your fellow classmates — personally (with) residence halls, it’s a lot different. You are awesome. And we enjoy helping you and even though it’s frustrating sometimes, we know that you’re learning just as much as we are.

But you don’t get to see the 99.99 percent of people who aren’t misbehaving?
You’re right, you don’t, especially on a night shift. On a day shift, you get to interact. At night, you deal with a lot of the problems, but we do encourage our officers to get out and do crime prevention programs, to do PIR, and especially (with) residence halls, we’re coming up with some new ideas and we’re expanding some old ideas where an officer will actually go into a residence hall and do rounds with the RAs through the building. They love that.

One of our officers one night set up a grill outside and threw a bunch of hotdogs on it, and anyone that walked by, he offered a free hot dog. They love that.

New year brings changes to TRiO programming

By Alana Harvey
Guest Writer

There are swift changes being made in the TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) offices in hopes of adjusting and improving the program for the many students it serves.

TRiO is a program that helps students with disabilities, first-generation students and students who meet certain federal income guidelines. The program’s lineage is to help these students have successful experiences while attending Xavier and beyond as they build their respective careers.

According to TRiO director Dr. Daniel L. McSpadden, one of TRiO’s missions is to “provide a route that helps (students) to navigate and transition through Xaveri easier than it would be if they were doing it on their own.”

McSpadden has been a part of the TRiO team since May 2016, and his primary concern continues to be whether or not the needs of TRiO students are being adequately addressed.

McSpadden tries to “keep his ear to the ground,” and he often interacts with students both inside and outside of TRiO to better understand what steps the program needs to make to ensure the success of its students and the futures of all of its members.

The input of students is a critical element to TRiO. The team has been trying to put a spin on older programs so that all students “see some different things and can see the information from a different angle.” McSpadden emphasized the importance of these changes, especially for the seniors of the program.

Many of these students have been members since their first year at Xavier, which raises the issue of potential repeating previous seminars or for older students rather than that these programs are relevant information. Because of this, senior seminars are being implemented so that students in their last year at Xavier are better prepared for the transition to undergraduate to graduate school or their career.

TRiO continues to provide all of its students with seminars, team-building activities and information sessions or workshops that often involve corporations and organizations in the Cincinnati area.

However, the department is not afraid of new and different things, which has led to a few changes and reattempting previously unsuccessful programs.

An older program that is being implemented once again is the annual senior graduate school trip. One goal of this event is to help students learn what steps must be taken to be admitted into graduate school if they choose to apply.

Although TRiO experienced some issues with this program in the past, last year’s trip to Atlanta proved to be a hit with students, and the department plans to take its current seniors on a trip to North Carolina this year to visit Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina Central University.

Another change that will take effect in TRiO during the 2018-2019 school year is the inclusion of some new advisers.

As director, McSpadden regularly ensures that advisers are helping students, and he said that these advisers will provide “new energy and new ideas to help complement what we are already doing here at TRiO.”

Through these improvements and replacements, TRiO hopes to continue guiding its students on bright and successful paths into the future, according to McSpadden.
Bastille Day’s défilé inspires order

The president has expressed interest in having a military celebration parade

President Donald Trump had such a good time watching a military parade during Bastille Day celebrations that he decided he wants to have a military parade like it in the United States. Republicans and Democrats have criticized the idea, claiming it would be a display of power, not a celebration.

Trump was impressed by the celebrations, saying later during his trip home on Air Force One that he was “dazzled” by the display and that he wanted one at home. The president brought up the parade again when he met Macron at the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

“It was one of the greatest parades I’ve ever seen,” Trump said. “It was two hours on the button, and it was military might and I think a tremendous thing for France and the spirit of France.”

Trump even joked with Macron, saying, “We’re going to have to try to top it.”

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement that the president has “asked the Department of Defense to explore a celebration at which all Americans can show their appreciation.”

Yahng believes there would be only minor, if any, benefits for the U.S. as a result from the parade.

“The lack of military parades is not what is causing decreased U.S. influence abroad, and neither is an imagined unpatriotic American attitude towards the military,” Yahng said. “The U.S. has a ubiquitous consciousness of respect for the military and exorbitant military spending.”

There has been concern from both parties that the parade may be more of display of military might as opposed to a celebration of America’s service men and women.

“I have no desire to go to a Soviet hardware display. To me that’s cheesy and weak,” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said.

Graham went on to say that the parade would only be appropriate if it placed the men and women on display for the nation to say thank you to them and their families.

Sen. and Iraq war veteran Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) called the parade “simply ridiculous.”

“We have troops who are in harm’s way right now, we have Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson talking about sending Americans into Syria on a permanent basis, and our president wants to spend hard-earned taxpayer dollars on a parade?” Duckworth said.

An informal Military Times poll found that 80 percent of its readers think that a parade would be “a waste of money and troops are too busy,” while 11 percent believe “it’s a great opportunity to show off U.S. military might.”

While American military parades are not common in modern times, there have been a few throughout the past few decades. The most recent parade occurred in 1991, with around 8,000 troops marching down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the end of the Gulf War. It included stealth fighters and tanks and Patriot missiles in front of a crowd of 200,000.

The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy in 1961 also included a parade featuring missiles, soldiers and sailors aboard Navy boats that were towed down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Dwight Eisenhower’s 1953 inaugural parade included 22,000 military service members, along with a cannon capable of firing a nuclear warhead. There were several parades during World War II, including one of 30,000 men and women marching down Fifth Avenue in New York for the Army Day Parade in 1942. There were also several victory parades, with one of the more famous ones being a display led by the 2nd Airborne Division.

“Meticulous planning of this nature seems out of character for the generally disorganized administration,” Yahng said.

“What remains is a move that is quintessentially Trump: excessive and arbitrary but meant to superficially strengthen the administration’s hyper-patriotic facade while accomplishing very little.”

“On one hand, this fits perfectly into the American heuristics of Trump. On the other, it is the move that he has made, which is most overtly reminiscent of despotism. The only question is whether or not the parade indicates a deepening pattern towards the primacy of violence.”

No date has officially been set for the parade, as it is still in its early planning stages. However, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day (which celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the end of the World War I) are being considered.

BY JACK DUNN
Staff Writer

An anonymous military official revealed to the Washington Post that the Pentagon has “marching orders” from President Donald Trump to put on a military parade similar to one the president attended in France in July last year.

After the publication of the Washington Post article, the Pentagon confirmed the marching orders, saying “We are aware of the request and are in the process of determining specific details.”

“It’s entirely normal for states to seek actions which increase their power or traditional military credibility, but this is unnecessary for the United States,” junior Evan Yahng, political science and Spanish double major, said.

Trump appears to have been inspired by France’s annual Bastille Day celebrations, which he attended as a guest of French President Emmanuel Macron. It is the largest military parade in Europe and showcases the personnel of the French military as opposed to the hardware.

The parade is held in celebration of the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille in 1789. The Bastille was a medieval fortress-prison and was seen as symbol of the French royal family. At the time, inmates were mainly people who had been jailed on the basis of signet letters, which were essentially royal indictments that could not be appealed. The Storming of the Bastille is considered a turning point in the French Revolution, and the parade celebrates the unity of the French people.

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Confederate statues debate rages
BY KEVIN THOMAS

HEATHER HOLLAND, a 38-year-old second grade teacher in Texas, died from the flu on Feb. 4 after abstaining from buying her prescription because of its $116 price tag. Although her husband bought it for her when he found out, it was too late for her to be saved. Holland left behind a 10-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son.

"Well, I mean, that's just American health care, as sad as that is," junior nursing major Liz Parillo said. "We know what other countries are doing and if it's working for those countries and we choose not to do so... I'm not surprised. It's horrible, but I'm not surprised that a public school teacher who can't afford her medications died."

"This is a sad time for our (school district) family, especially for those who knew Ms Holland as a friend and colleague," Dr. Jeffery Hands, an administrator in Holland's school district, said. "Heather Holland was an outstanding educator."

The district used the opportunity to also remind students of the precautionary measures they can take to prevent the spread of the flu, such as covering your mouth, avoiding sharing utensils and cups and receiving a flu shot every year.

In addition to these preventative measures, Parillo also believes that people ought to have more knowledge about the flu.

"A lot of people think that they have the flu when really it's just a bad cold," Parillo said. "When you have the flu, you're not going to work. I think that's a common misinterpretation."

Although it is unknown if Holland received a flu shot, Parillo believes that it might not have mattered for Holland because of its new strain every year. "It would definitely have helped her chances if she was vaccinated," Parillo said. (But) every flu vaccine is different.

Holland received a flu shot, although her husband bought it for her when he found out. It's a new strain every year because it's a new strain every year. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), the flu season this year has primarily been affected by H3N2, causing it to be much more deadly and serious than previous years, especially for children and the elderly. As of Feb. 9, 63 children have died from this year's flu, according to CBS.

CDC Acting Director Dr. Anne Schuchat said that over the next few weeks, "more deaths are likely to happen."

Flu victim deterred by cost of meds

Amid the worst flu season in recent years, is expensive healthcare to blame?

BY KEVIN THOMAS

NORWAY'S Olympic Team chefs received 15,000 eggs instead of 1,500 because of an error in translation when ordering food for the team (Feb. 6).

CHARLESTON city prosecutors decided to drop charges for disorderly conduct against a woman who allegedly dressed up as a T-Rex and scared two judges. The panel judge in the Mrs. Canada Globe beauty contest was unoccupied and was an abandoned stolen vehicle. Cincinnati Police was notified. (Feb. 8).

A legally blind woman will be part of the six panel judge in the Mrs. Canada Globe beauty contest (Feb. 8). A college student claimed she was forced to flush her emotional support hamster down the toilet by Spirit Airlines, despite being told previously that she would be able to take it with her on the flight (Feb. 7).

A new study from George Washington University found that most people who leave the United States to join ISIS wind up disappointed by the experience and return to the U.S. (Feb. 8).

A student reported an email scam involving Walmart come a secret shopper. The student reported an email scam involving Walmart come a secret shopper. The student was escorted from the Cintas Center on the arena floor flying a drone that they did not cash and instead reported to Xavier Police (Feb. 6).

A legally blind woman will be part of the six panel judge in the Mrs. Canada Globe beauty contest (Feb. 8).

A new one comes out every year. So, it's not like, "OK, I got a vaccine last year, I'm good." A lot of vaccines work like that... But for the flu, it's a new one every year because it's a new strain every year. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), the flu season this year has primarily been affected by H3N2, causing it to be much more deadly and serious than previous years, especially for children and the elderly. As of Feb. 9, 63 children have died from this year's flu, according to CBS.

CDC Acting Director Dr. Anne Schuchat said that over the next few weeks, "more deaths are likely to happen."

Week in review

What you may have missed

Don't drink and drone

Feb. 10, 1:55 a.m. — A student found inside the Village Lot in a repo vehicle. Cincinnati Police was notified. (Feb. 8).

Feb. 9, 11:07 p.m. — Xavier Police received a report from Physical Plant of damage to the south lobby entrance door of Haunman Hall. Two students who were observed on surveillance tape horse playing with the door were referred to the code of conduct (Feb. 8).

Feb. 9, 9:21 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Cintas operations and Physical Plant at the Cintas Center with a water leak. A broken pipe in the Joseph Club was repaired and cleaned up (Feb. 8).

Feb. 9, 6:30 a.m. — Xavier Police assisted Cintas operations and Physical Plant at the Cintas Center with a water leak. A broken pipe in the Joseph Club was repaired and cleaned up (Feb. 8).

Feb. 8, 12:56 a.m. — Xavier Police assisted Cintas operations and Physical Plant at the Cintas Center with a water leak. A broken pipe in the Joseph Club was repaired and cleaned up (Feb. 8).

Feb. 7, 1:23 p.m. — A student reported an email scam involving Walmart come a secret shopper. The student was escorted from the Cintas Center on the arena floor flying a drone (Feb. 8).

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I'm a fairly happy person. Not only am I blessed with a number of supportive people who have helped me navigate my time here at Xavier, but I also have a number of things going in my direction and I finally have a faux pink fur coat in my closet.

If you knew me at this time last year, you'd understand why I have a sense of gratitude for my life and education. After a year of pain, I have some idea of how to properly handle grief while in college.

In October of 2016, I nearly died from systemic lupus, an autoimmune disease where the immune system mistakes healthy tissues and organs for diseased tissue and attacks it. Lupus caused my brain to swell and caused three seizures, anemia, fevers and potential kidney failure all in less than a week.

I was given chemotherapy medicine while in an eight-day coma and I knew I wouldn't be alive without it. This began my once-a-month chemotherapy treatments for the next six months. Personally, I couldn't fully grasp the situation yet and refused to let the reality sink in for as long as I possibly could.

Not knowing who to turn to because I felt like a burden, I handled it by pushing it aside. Being that sick was one of the hardest experiences I've gone through. I'd visit my professors crying because I was more worried about failing classes than my own physical and mental health. Putting my education first had always been my prerogative. By putting school first, I remained in denial with myself and my emotions because it was easier to ignore them than to think about them.

Exactly six months after my health scare, my older sister, Kendall, overdosed last February on the 13th. It was three days before her 20th birthday. At that point, I realized the universe was turning my existence into a sick joke.

After pushing myself for nearly a month after my sister's death, I finally had to come to terms with my mental state. I was falling apart, my face blew up from medical steroids, my hair didn't return for six months and I felt like a burden.

Sitting in class for more than five minutes without bursting into tears was impossible. For once in my life, I couldn't focus on school to fix my problems. The hardest thing to do was admit I needed to take a medical leave of absence and focus on my life, but it was the best thing that I did for myself in the long run.

I wasn't just grieving my sister, I was grieving my life before chemo and my diagnosis. I can say that a year after my sister's death, I feel at peace with many aspects of the past year.

Being a college student is hard enough without factoring in finances, health issues and family issues. For anyone reading who may be going through an excessive amount of stress, I give you this advice:

1. Practice mindfulness and being in the moment (try deep breathing or focusing on your surroundings and what you see/feel/hear instead of stressful thoughts).
2. Give yourself time to unwind and focus on your self-care needs.
3. Talking to a counselor doesn't make you broken. While family and friends are (sometimes) a good support system to lean on, some issues require someone who's equipped to help.
4. Sometimes, taking a step back from school is the only option and that is OK. Things sometimes take a wrong turn, but that doesn't mean everything is over.

There is no guarantee, especially not certainty. College is a strange time for everyone, so make sure you're your own first priority.
There are many things that are seemingly terrifying about adult life. However, of the many things that young adults are afraid of, one particular problem is not talked about often enough. It’s the fact that once you leave college, you will lose a vast majority of the friendships that you had.

A 2015 study showed that being alone and feeling lonely increase your chance of an early death by 30 percent. It’s easy to say that this is an unfortunate inevitability of life, but this simply is not the case. For most of history, humans lived in nomadic tribes, and the family was not the foundational building block of society. We gained friendships, and we kept them for extended periods.

Only recently did we make the huge mistake of creating suburbs, which have had a disastrous effect on not just our environment but on our children’s social development and our long-term friendships. So, how do we fix this? The best response is to build better urban communities that actually attempt to encourage spontaneous social interactions, to stop using cars as much as we do and to collectively refuse to accept an environment like this is just the way life is.

Getting away from suburbs is a critical part of this plan. In suburbs, it is not uncommon for individuals to wake up, drive to work, come home and never once talk to a neighbor. Commuting long distances via car is bad for your health in many other ways besides feelings of loneliness. If individuals choose to live in urban places, they can cut down on sitting alone in these metal boxes for hours. By doing so, they increase their own health and happiness.

Spontaneous interactions may be the most crucial part to developing and maintaining friendships. This is why those in the college age group (18-25) have more friends than any other age group. There are numerous public spaces at college, which allow people to meet randomly. Part of the problem outside of college is partially the result of how de-voted we have become to the idea of personal privacy. Universities are not careful, college students can fall vic-tim to this loneliness as well.

A 2015 study showed that being alone and feeling lonely increase your chance of an early death by 30 percent.

In a safe and sober setting is the best place for a conversation and understanding between us. We need to make this issue as complex as it is. But all of these issues are things that we need to be aware of and talk to each other about. Communicating with each other when we’re in a safe and sober setting is the only way that the narrative will begin to change and we can feel safe going out and letting loose.

I don’t think that people at Xavier are bad. I genuinely believe that if anyone saw a Brock Turner situation going on outside a party they would try to intervene. But what would you do if you saw a seemingly sober guy helping a blacked out girl into the back of an Uber? Would you try to intervene or just assume he is her boyfriend? There can be so much confusion when it comes to hookup cul-ture on college campuses, and adding alcohol into the mix makes it even worse. We are scared to pat ourselves on the back, and these uncomfortable situations, but the safety of our peers must come before an awkward inter-action in the caf.

I am not saying that ques-tions everyone’s motives when helping another drunk girl into the solution, but it is at least a start. We have to pri-oritize the safety of the people around us as well as our own. No matter the situation, hav-ing some clear boundaries and safety measures are important. My friends and I have a pact now that we will not al-low each other to leave with someone if they have been drinking. I am lucky because I am able to surround myself with people who truly care for me and my safety. I know that not everyone has that support system and sometimes situations can arise when one is quite sure what to do.

These questions are com-plex, and I realize that this piece literally gave no answers or clear paths forward. I have also had to leave out so many other complex layers that make this issue as complex as it is. But all of these issues are things that we need to be aware of and talk to each other about. Communicating with each other when we’re in a safe and sober setting is the only way that the narrative will begin to change and we can feel safe going out and letting loose.
Xavier duels Butler, grounds Jays
Quentin Goodin’s last-second free throws seal a wild victory over Creighton

BY COLIN COOPER
Staff Writer

Winning Time. This expression has defined Xavier men’s basketball so far this season, and last week was no exception.

Needling to win at two of the toughest places to play in the Big East, Butler and Creighton, the team knew that it was going to take everything it had.

Thanks to timely shots and clutch performances, these wins were secured, and the Musketeers swept a pair of away games.

The two-game road trip began last Tuesday night in Hinkle Fieldhouse when Xavier took on Butler.

If the Musketeers were going to come out with a win, they were going to need to take theunable Bulldogs crowd off early. In the first 10 minutes, Xavier did just that. Going on a 22-2 run, Xavier was up 29-11 at the 10-minute mark. Powered by the big man duo of Raphaël Saint-Kan and Sean O’Mara, as well as some threes by Trevon Bluiett, Xavier was in firm control.

But as the half wound down, Butler began to slowly chip away at the lead. With the help of Ielan Martin, who ended the game with 34 points, the Bulldogs entered the half down only 10 points, 30-40.

Coming out of the half, Butler was a team on a mission. Within the first six minutes of the half, Butler outscored Xavier 22-10 and jumped out to a 52-50 lead.

However, this didn’t deter Xavier. Even though Butler had both the crowd and momentum on its side, veterans like Bluiett and Kanter didn’t falter.

With the Musketeers matching every shot and run the Bulldogs made, the game headed into overtime after neither team could get the decisive bucket in regulation.

Going into overtime with the game tied 84-84, freshman Naji Marshall put Xavier ahead immediately with a three-pointer.

From that three on, Xavier didn’t look back. Courtesy of a deep three from Bluiett in Winning Time, the Musketeers put the dagger in the Bulldogs.

With a final score of 89-85, Xavier was ready to leave Indianapolis and shift its attention to its next matchup in Omaha.

Waiting at the CenturyLink Center were the Creighton Blue Jays. With Creighton being led by talented players in Marcus Foster and Khyi Thomas, Xavier knew to expect an even bigger challenge.

With the team’s seventh game in conference DePaul Blue Demons, Xavier moved to 11-3 in conference play and remains in second place in the Big East.

“With such a young team, consistency is something we are working to build on with in games,” head coach Brian Neal said.

Against Marquette, it was encouraging that we played well for long stretches, but it only takes a couple mental letdowns like we had in the second quarter to be really costly.”

Xavier lost a very close game to the best in conference DePaul Blue Demons, who squeaked out a 75-72 win on Sunday. The Musketeers opened up the game nailing 10 of their first 11 shots and held the lead for nearly 30 minutes of the game. There were nine different lead changes and four ties.

After dominating the first quarter and keeping it close in the second, Xavier led 45-39 at halftime but slowly started to see its lead diminish as the second half went on. The Blue Demons were leading by six points with 5:41 left in regulation, when Aijanen led an 8-2 run to tie the game at 69 at the 1:55 mark.

DePaul got ahead again, going 4-4 from the free throw line to take a 73-70 lead with six seconds left. Initially, red-shirt junior guard Issa Lilienfield hit what appeared to be a game-tying three to send it into overtime. Upon official review, it was determined her foot was on the line, finalizing a close loss. DePaul moved to 24-2 in Big East play and remains atop the conference.

Xavier finished the game with a season-high .600 (27-45) field goal percentage, its highest since February of 2012. This was also paired with the team’s seventh game with 10 or more three-pointers, draining six of 12 from behind the arc. Aijanen scored the game high of 18, a point shy of her career high.

Freshman Princess Stewart scored a career-best 13 points, going along with five rebounds. Dunham also added 11 points and three rebounds of her own, and Gray added eight points with a three of her own.

“Our freshmen have played more than 40 percent of our minutes this year, which is an incredible number,” Neal said about the play of his first-year players.

“They play in the DePaul game demonstrated how fast they are developing and it was exciting to see their potential.”

The Musketeers will square off this week on Fri-sday against Creighton in Omaha, Neb. and on Sunday against Providence in Rhode Island.

Xavier returns home for its final game of the regular season on Feb. 25 when the Musketeers host Butler in Cintas Center at 2 p.m.

Musketeers face off with the best of the Big East
Freshman Princess Stewart marked a career-high 13 points against DePaul

BY JACK DUNN
Staff Writer

The Xavier women’s basketball team had a tough weekend, losing close games to top ranked Big East teams Marquette and DePaul.

The team fell to 2-13 in Big East play but showed strong promise from the freshman class, who almost led the Musketeers to victory.

Despite the 80-63 loss to Butler, Xavier continued its trend of playing close games away from home.

The two-game road trip began on Feb. 25 when the Musketeers took on Butler.

“We were nine different lead changes and four ties,” said senior forward Annina Ajianen.

Although they fell behind, the Musketeers refused to go down without a fight. Going on an 8-2 run to tie the game at 69 at the 1:55 mark.

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Xavier baseball gears up for 2018

Feature: First-year head coach Billy O’Connor talks about upcoming season

By Luke Feliciano
Sports Editor

The Xavier baseball team will hit the diamond this year fresh off an NCAA Regionals tournament appearance, but this time it has a new face of the program: Billy O’Connor.

He enters his first full season at the helm of the Xavier baseball team as the seventh head coach in program history.

O’Connor is no stranger to Xavier as he has Cincinnati Blood. The fact that he has with the school stems from his enjoyment of Xavier baseball and the cherished moments he had growing up around the university.

“I’ve been a Xavier baseball fan for my whole life. (My father) has had season tickets, and we’ve been coming to games since before the Cintas Center,” O’Connor said. “The affinity towards Xavier as a university and athletic department was ingrained in me early on.”

O’Connor followed in the footsteps of his father as they both graduated from Xavier, and now he now takes the reins of his alma mater’s team as a head coach.

O’Connor was a student athlete himself and played on the Xavier baseball team during the 2008 and 2009 seasons after transferring from Indiana University.

As a catcher, he was an integral part of a Musketeers squad that claimed victory in the 2009 Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament during his senior year. O’Connor was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player that year.

“Having the opportunity to come here and transfer in and play here for my junior and senior years, it was everything that I was hoping for in my college experience,” O’Connor said.

“I was so lucky to get the experience...It was a really special experience for me. It was everything I was looking for from start to finish, between athletics to social to academics to obviously going out and winning championshipships as well.”

O’Connor is now in his seventh season as a member of the coaching staff. He served as an assistant coach for the last six seasons before being named the head coach this year.

He feels comfortable and more at ease having the chance to take over a program that he has been a part of for the past several seasons.

“One of the easier parts of the transition is the continuity we’ve been able to have,” O’Connor said about the transition to head coach. “I’m pretty familiar with everything that goes on here, from the academics to the people that I interact with to just the layout of campus.”

Being promoted to the head coaching position, in O’Connor’s opinion, has also gone smoothly because of the rapport he’s developed with one of the assistant coaches, Nick Otte.

“He’s been here for nine years, and we’ve worked together for seven of those nine years,” O’Connor said. “To have a continuity between the two of us and how we’ve worked together really eased that transition.”

O’Connor has previous managerial experience with a collegiate-level team. In 2012, he was named the Joe Carbone Manager of the Year as the skipper for the Cincinnati, a summer team that plays host to some of the nation’s top college baseball players.

The Musketeers will once again play out the conference schedule, O’Connor said. “We always want to challenge ourselves in our non-conference schedule,” O’Connor said. “We talk about it a lot within our team, but we want to be a great program, and I think to be a great program, you have to challenge yourself against established great programs.”

O’Connor’s goal is to take this program to new heights and to establish it as one of the nation’s best.

“We want to be a national title contender,” O’Connor said. “We want to go to Omaha. We want to be on the national stage.”

O’Connor believes the best way to accomplish this is to take on strong opponents.

The Musketeers, however, are primed to take on the challenge. Xavier returns a bevy of talented starters from its lineup a year ago, particularly in the middle of the order.

Some important names to keep watch of this season are the pair of designated hitter Connie Sormo, who is a preseason All-Big East selection and graduate senior outfielder Joe Gellenbeck, who has hit 25 home runs throughout the past two seasons.

A pair of four-year starters in senior outfielder Will LaRue and senior catcher Nate Zvack could provide a plethora of experience.

Junior fielder and three-year starter Chris Givin will add to the experienced roster this season.

Some notable players to be on the lookout for on the roster are senior right-hand-oh pitcher Daniel MacSweeney and a trio of freshmen: southpaw Trevor Olson and Nick Zvack and righty Griffin Lawrence.

The Musketeers will look to start their season on a high note on Friday when they travel to Tallahassee, Fla., to square off against preseason No. 3 Florida State in a three-game series. The first pitch is set for 4 p.m., and the game will be broadcasted on ACC Network Extra.

Gerard takes gold in slopestyle event

17-year-old has impressive final run to stun the world’s best

By Luke Feliciano
Sports Editor

The 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang got off to a roaring start as 17-year-old American Red Gerard earned a gold medal in the snowboarding slopestyle event, which was televised Saturday night.

Gerard is originally from Rocky River, Ohio, but moved to Silverthorne, Colo., when he was 8 years old. He began snowboarding at the age of 2.

In Pyeongchang, he was up against the world’s stiffest competition: a pair of Canadian snowboarders, Max Parrot and Mark McMorris, who took home taking home the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Gerard was also up against Norway’s Mikaela Shiffrin, who has won the same event at the Winter X Games the last two years and was heavily favored in this event.

McMorris, 24, won both the slopestyle and big air competition in the 2015 Winter X Games held annually in Aspen, Colo.

The slopestyle final allowed qualified riders to compete three runs, and the best score from those runs counted as the final score.

Gerard was part of the second heat of the qualifying rounds and advanced as the third-place finisher in that heat. Based on event rules, the top six finishers in each heat advanced to the final round.

Gerard became the embodiment of the saying “the third time’s the charm” after scoring a mediocre 43.33 and a 46.46 in his first two runs. However, his fortune would change on his third and final run when Gerard etched his name into American history as he captured the gold medal by scoring a whopping 87.16.

With the gold medal finish, Gerard became the youngest American male athlete to medal at the Winter Olympics since 2010.

Gerard will also compete in another event, the Big Air competition, which is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Feb. 21.
**Be Here Now** ponders the meaning of it all

By Trevor McKenzie
Online Editor

What is our purpose in life? The recently-opened production of *Be Here Now* at Playhouse in the Park attempts to explain why we are here on this Earth and the point of our existence. It does so in a completely unexpected way: through comedy.

When the show opens on a dingy fulfillment center bleakly lit by a few empty lights, you don’t expect charming humor to come out of the three distinctly different women on stage. Bari (Eva Kaminsky) is a down-cast, pale woman dressed in all black, and right away, you get the idea that she doesn’t have much to live for. She is a teacher of nihilism, and you can feel the philosophy shine through every aspect of her personality.

As she engages with the other two workers, the bright-personality. Through comedy.

Luanne (Emily Kratter) uses her “healing hands” on main character Bari (Eva Kaminsky). The show opened on Playhouse’s main stage yesterday.

Photos courtesy of Cincinnati Playhouse

Bari to pursue. The interactions between the two begin poignantly as Bari doesn’t see the beauty in Mike’s simplistic lifestyle and nonchalant demeanor. As she falls in love with him, she begins to realize the beauty of this world.

Kaminsky pulls off Bari effortlessly, switching between her empty pessimism and jubilant optimism in mere seconds. She embodied Bari’s soul-crushing emptiness in a way that truly moved me. One particular moment that nearly brought me to tears was her climactic monologue in which she questioned whether removing the source of her searing wounds would cause her to lose the very thing that was making her happy. Her desperate rationalization was embodied perfectly through Kaminsky’s frenetic physicality.

Hillhouse foils Kaminsky’s behavior perfectly as Mike stands in the background, watching Bari’s despondent mood swings drive her to irrational behavior. I noticed early that his line delivery was relatively similar each time, which actually played well into Mike’s ability to detach himself from people and situations to maintain his sanity. Mike acts as a column that Bari’s instability wraps itself around. Hillhouse’s debut to the Playhouse stage was definitely a strong one.

Kratter and Regusa are not to be forgotten, however. The former’s portrayal of the plucky, naïve Luanne serves as yet another perfect juxtaposition to the downcast Bari. Kratter’s Luanne maintained unfaltering love toward Bari, which made their friendly interactions completely heart-warming. Regusa’s was stern and unwavering. She pushed Bari when necessary and knew when to apply tough love.

Like Hillhouse, Regusa debuts on the Playhouse stage powerfully and gracefully. Both actors added copious amounts of humor that helped make for a surprisingly funny play given the subject matter. I also must mention the sound design by Nok Kanchanabaka. The between-scene transitions were punctuated by atmospheric “life sounds” that were directly related to the scene to follow. Tape ripping, paper crinkling, car honking and heart monitor beeping were only some of the sounds used in Kanchanabaka’s diverse soundscape. I could listen to a whole album of these transitions and never get tired of them. They were the perfect accents to set the mood for the scenes that followed.

*Be Here Now* is written by Deborah Zoe Laufer and directed by Portia Krieger. Set design is by Daniel Zimmerman, costume design is by Gordon DeVinney and lighting design is by Thomas C. Hase.

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**Valentine’s Day love bracket**

Pit your favorite famous couples against each other this day of love and war.

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**Celebrities**

Beyoncé & Jay-z

Kim & Kanye

Barack & Michelle

Portia & Ellen

George & Amal

Harry & Megan

Kylie & Travis

Justin & Selena

Elizabeth & Darcy

Romeo & Juliet

Ron & Hermione

Katniss & Peeta

Hazel Grace & Gus

Tris & Four

Noah & Allie

Ronnie & Will

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**Movies**

Bella & Edward

Christian & Ana

Jack & Rose

Danny & Sandy

Troy & Gabriella

Han & Leia

Beauty & the Beast

Kristoff & Anna

Jim & Pam

Leslie & Ben

Chuck & Blair

Meredith & Derek

CeCe & Derek

Monica & Chandler

Cosmo & Wanda

 Jughead & Betty

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**TV Shows**

Chuck & Blair

Meredith & Derek

Monica & Chandler

Cosmo & Wanda

Jughead & Betty

---

**Books**

**Celebrities**

Beyoncé & Jay-z

Kim & Kanye

Barack & Michelle

Portia & Ellen

George & Amal

Harry & Megan

Kylie & Travis

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**TV Shows**

Chuck & Blair

Meredith & Derek

Monica & Chandler

Cosmo & Wanda

Jughead & Betty

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**Online Editor**

BY TREVOR MCKENZIE
Lovely last minute Valentine’s Day

Dunkin’ Donuts
Delicious and definitely on-theme for the day, these treats will sweeten any hour, not just the morning.

Flowers
Always a classic, you can find this present pretty much anywhere the day of.

Kendra Scott
If you are looking to splurge a little more, these affordable necklaces have a high-end feel. You can find them at Kenwood Mall.

Stuffed Animals
Also a classic and easy to find at multiple locations, this gift can provide year-round snuggles even if you can’t be there for your significant other.

Candles
They say scents can trigger specific memories, so make this Valentine’s day one to remember.

Ice Cream
If you’re feeling adventurous, buy as many ice cream flavors as you can afford and make a date out of trying them all.

The Three Musketeers
Q: How do I make someone fall in love with me?

Athos:
Admire from afar. Slow and steady wins this race of love. If you can channel your love powerfully enough through your eyelashes, hopefully they will notice. CAUTION: This method has yet to yield real results.

Porthos:
I like to integrate myself into every part of their life. I’m talking Snapchat, club meetings and casual interests. If you can be interested in the same things as them, it opens up the door for conversation as well as more time spent together.

Aramis:
Start off like a normal person and just talk to them. If you can get yourself on their radar, then the door is open for a casual Instagram follow. A strategically timed “like” can earn you a DM… and the rest is Valentine’s Day history.

Valentine’s Day movies for the single college student

BY ABRENA ROWE
It’s that time of year again and all of your friends are excitedly preparing dates and presents for their significant others (SO) while you’re planning for a night in with chocolates your mom sent in your monthly care package. If you still have energy tonight after the basketball game, here are some movies you should consider watching based on your personality:

Unbashful, Carefree and Loving It Single Friend
Do your friends ever tell you that you should rein in your single-ness? Do you not care because being single is the best thing that ever happened to you? Here’s a list of movies where the journey through life and support of friends are ultimately more important than finding love, but that doesn’t mean falling in love doesn’t happen.

Q: How do I make someone fall in love with me?

A: Things I Hate About You (1999) – This film follows the lives of several teenagers from various social spheres as they navigate single-dom in high school. It’s a classic 90s comedy that doesn’t enforce the idea of desperately seeking one’s “happily ever after.”

Frozen (2013) – The well-known Disney film follows the story of two sisters who don’t need love to find their “happily ever after.” Sometimes falling in love with yourself first is better than falling in love with the first attractive stranger you meet.

How to be Single (2016) – There is a “right” way to be single and there’s a “wrong” way. Listen to Rebel Wilson’s character’s advice if you dare. This film is an incredibly underrated comedy that details the do’s and don’ts of navigating the ever complicated world of being single.

Hopeless Romantic Single Friend
Pride and Prejudice (1995, BBC Version)
Serendipity (2001) – What could be better than a classic romance movie set during the Christmas season in New York City? Serendipity is the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way. This film follows two people who are destined for one another, and neither time nor wedding engagements will stop them from meeting their fate.

Leap Year (2010) – Grand gestures sometimes aren’t always the best. Your perfect match on paper might not be the perfect choice for you. Watch Leap Year if you tend to overplan your own love life because there’s nothing you like thinking about more than your future wedding. This film might change your mind about your 10-year-plan.

Vengeful, Recently-Single Friend
Whether you were dumped yesterday or royally screwed over by your person, here’s a list of classic movies with the common theme of revenge:

First Wives Club (1996) – Three divorced friends from college reunite because of the death of the fourth member of their friend group. Upon learning they were all left by their husbands for younger women, they naturally concoct a plan to exact revenge on their ex-husbands. This film is a classic movie depicting how women support, encourage and find themselves with the help of one another.

John Tucker Must Die (2006) – Once three friends discover they’re dating the same guy, they convince the “quiet girl” to help them break his heart. Not only does this film fulfill one’s desires to get back at that one ex, it also encourages women to help women and to build strong female friendships. The movie puts a comedic spin on young adult relationships and how to deal with them and explains how revenge maybe isn’t always the answer to dealing with a “player.”

The Other Woman (2014)
Valentine’s Day scrooges have long pointed out its obligatory corporate nature, and religion teachers everywhere have insisted that its faith filled origins separate it from its consumerist label. Valentine’s Day, like any other day, is what we make of it. Love isn’t a state of infatuated euphoria, or merely a sense of delight. It is ultimately a choice we make each morning to value and assert the dignity of those around us, to be the hands and feet of love. Valentine’s Day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to be that love for others and ourselves. Now that you’ve heard what I think of love, can you guess which faculty or staff member gave each piece of love advice?

**Word Bank:**
Leon Chartrand, Norma Urrutia, Father B, Nancy Matre, Jean Griffin, Abby King-Kaiser, Mack Mariani, Marcus Mescher, Nicholas Yoda, Luciano Cruz, Rita Rozzi, David Blake

1.) My love advice is simple...when we love we are complete.
2.) Never give your love to someone who doesn’t love dogs!
3.) Be true to yourself and open to the other.
4.) After 40 years with my Valentine (my husband, Norm), my advice is to stay calm and be a good listener.
5.) Someone once told me, Don’t marry the one you can live with, marry the one you can’t live without.
6.) True love is filled with faithfulness, it never ends.
7.) Love is much much bigger than your significant other.
8.) Love is why we're here, what life is all about. Love is more than a feeling, preference or desire. Love is more than a verb; it is the ability to be fully and freely you in relationship with someone who is fully and freely them. Love is a choice to will the good of the other. Love starts with respect and honesty, is attentive and responsive to the needs of the other and moves toward a commitment marked by mutual loyalty and tenderness. Love is the offer of vulnerability for the promise of tenderness. Love is the offer of vulnerability for the promise of tenderness. Love isn’t a state of infatuated euphoria, or merely a sense of delight. It is ultimately a choice we make each morning to value and assert the dignity of those around us, to be the hands and feet of love. Valentine’s Day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to be that love for others and ourselves. Now that you’ve heard what I think of love, can you guess which faculty or staff member gave each piece of love advice?

10.) My best relationship advice is to find someone who is generous and thoughtful and only wants to give you the very best.
11.) My advice on love and Valentine’s Day: Do not let the light of love go out of your life.
12.) Above all, to my love I’ll be attentive.’ It is the first line of the Sonnet on Fidelity, by Vinicius de Moraes.
13.) When we are old, when time seems to hasten and thoughts seem to rearrange all the stars in the sky, we reflect on our lives and assess the relationships we had with those living and those no longer alive. And we often realize, then and there, that it was always far better to love than it was to seek being loved.”

**Answers:** 1.) Norma Urrutia 2.) David Blake 3.) Rita Rozzi 4.) Sally Barnhart 5.) Nancy Matre 6.) Father B 7.) Abby King-Kaiser 8.) Marcus Mescher 9.) Mack Mariani 10.) Jean Griffin 11.) Nicholas Yoda 12.) Luciano Cruz

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