Xavier takes student input in provost search

By KYLE TOOLEY
Sports Editor

Xavier guard Trevon Bluiett was arrested on Monday in Carmel, Ind., and charged with possession of marijuana.

Bluiett was initially pulled over after a failing to signal a lane change while driving 75 mph in a 55 mph zone, police reports say. There was a “strong odor” of marijuana coming from the vehicle, leading the police to search the car.

He was found with fewer than 30 grams of the substance, a Class B misdemeanor charge in Indiana. His bond was set at $1,000, and he remained in custody overnight.

Xavier head coach Chris Mack failed to comment on the issue, according to the Enquirer. The athletic department has stated that they are aware of the story and are looking into it.

This is the second offense in a row in which a Xavier men’s basketball player has been arrested. Last year, JP Macura was taken into custody at a local bar for pulling down his pants and using fake identification, and Myles Davis was charged in a criminal damaging case.

Bluiett had declared for the NBA Draft back on March 31, opting to not sign with an agent. Not signing an agent allows the rising senior to return to Xavier for one more season, which may be the case following his arrest.

Bluiett was a projected late-second round pick in the upcoming draft, which is seemingly one of the deepest drafts in recent history.

He probably needed to come back anyway (to Xavier), but this should solidify it,” Jeff Goodman, a college basketball insider for ESPN, said. “This draft is loaded, and next year it’s not nearly as good. NBA guys would overlook this (the arrest) with a lottery pick, but it could hurt someone like Trevon, who is a second rounder at best.”

Bluiett has until May 25 to remove his name from the NBA Draft.

Bluiett arrested in Indiana

By ERICA LAMPERT
Staff Writer

With a high demand from the community, Father Michael Graham, president, has taken on a new role as the Cincinnati Preschool Promise (CPP) Board of Directors chair.

In November 2016, the community of Cincinnati Public Schools Levy, which provides $33 million a year to K-12 education and $15 million a year to ensure access to affordable, quality preschools. The United Way and Cincinnati Public Schools both asked Father Graham to help them oversee the tax money in their independent board as the chair of the committee.

“Father Graham and Xavier have become involved because of those 4-year-olds going to the preschools,” Director for Strategic Communications Kelly Leon said. “We want to be a part of ensuring that those children, who are our future students and future citizens, get the best chance possible to succeed.”

CPP’s goal is to ultimately expand access to two years of quality preschool through tuition assistance for all of Cincinnati’s children.

“This partnership is about granting access and ensuring equity in education for our young people,” Melanie Bates, vice president of the Cincinnati Board of Education, said. “Together, we are building a better Cincinnati.”

On March 30, the Cincinnati Preschool Promise board announced how the preschool expansion will work and how parents and providers will be engaged in the process. The process is expected to be ready and completed for the fall 2017 school year.

“This was quite a challenge,” Leon said. “When you are dealing with three entities coming up with a master plan that has been looked at by a multitude of lawyers, board members, accountants and leaders of organizations, it can be a huge task to get completed.”

“With the agreement in place, we can now begin the important work of building out a more robust and inclusive system of high-quality preschool, one that serves so many more children so that our young people get off to a great start and a ready for school,” Graham said. ”This partnership allowed an agreement between the Cincinnati Preschool Promise, Cincinnati Public Schools and the United Way, which included details about the payment of funds, tuition assistance programs, preschool-quality improvement programs and reporting and performance requirements.

“Tuition assistance for families and quality improvement grants for preschool providers will be available soon for the fall 2017 school year,” Stephanie Byrd, interim executive director for Preschool Promise, said. “It’s time for parents and preschool providers to learn more about how Preschool Promise can best serve them.”

Fr. Graham chairs school committee

By KYLE TOOLEY
Sports Editor

Two candidates spoke and Fitzgerald after consulting with (SGA) Vice President Ryan Fitzgerald after consulting with faculty and staff.

“I sent out emails to different departments asking for recommendations...of students that would be interested in or involved enough to know what the provost is,” Fitzgerald said, “and then I sent out an email to 150 students that I knew were involved, and I pulled from different areas of campus to try and get a good list together. So, it was a combination of people we know that serve on committees or lead organizations and then recommendations from different departments.”

The initiative to have students participate in the search for the new provost was partially due to work from the SGA executive team as well as Dr. Linda Schoenstedt, one of the co-chairs on the provost search committee.

“Schoenstedt is on the search committee, and she’s the ally for looping students in because I think often times—I know we all agree—that students are often left out of such important conversations,” SGA president Zeina Farhat said. “She’s really the one who said we should get students listening and looped in.”

Students were able to ask the provost candidates questions in response to a short presentation from each of them, both of whom are women. Eduardo Patron, the other SGA vice president, the other SGA vice president, appreciated the opportunity to participate in the search process.

“It was like, a space for us to talk and ask questions as well, from our point of view,” Patron said. “It wasn’t just us sitting there and observing. We got to ask all the questions we wanted to. We had all the freedom in the world. It was cool to be heard out.”

Although students were able to provide input on the search through the forum, Farhat noted that the administration ultimately has the final say.

“Fr. Graham actually has the last decision, [but the survey tak- en by students who attended] will influence the decision,” Farhat said. “The search committee will compile the information and then make a formal recommen- dation to Fr. Graham. I use at the end of the day, our opinion matters just as much as the facul- ty and staff, but I think that the opinions were also all across the board.”

The junior shooting guard declared for the NBA Draft last month, but his recent arrest puts those hopes in jeopardy.

Xavier takes student input in provost search

By ERICA LAMPERT
Staff Writer

Xavier University has been on the hunt for a new provost: the chief academic officer who works under the president. The provost is responsible for the creation and implementation of academic priorities as well as the allocation of resources that will support them.

Two candidates spoke and answered questions as student forums on campus, one on Tuesday, March 28th, and the other on Friday, March 31st.

Participants were chosen by Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Ryan Fitzgerald after consulting with faculty and staff.

“I sent out emails to different departments asking for recommendations...of students that would be interested in or involved enough to know what the provost is,” Fitzgerald said, “and then I sent out an email to 150 students that I knew were involved, and I pulled from different areas of campus to try and get a good list together. So, it was a combination of people we know that serve on committees or lead organizations and then recommendations from different departments.”

The initiative to have students participate in the search for the new provost was partially due to work from the SGA executive team as well as Dr. Linda Schoenstedt, one of the co-chairs on the provost search committee.

“Schoenstedt is on the search committee, and she’s the ally for looping students in because I think often times—I know we all agree — that students are often left out of such important conversations,” SGA president Zeina Farhat said. “She’s really the one who said we should get students listening and looped in.”

Students were able to ask the provost candidates questions in response to a short presentation from each of them, both of whom are women. Eduardo Patron, the other SGA vice president, appreciated the opportunity to participate in the search process.

“It was like, a space for us to talk and ask questions as well, from our point of view,” Patron said. “It wasn’t just us sitting there and observing. We got to ask all the questions we wanted to. We had all the freedom in the world. It was cool to be heard out.”

Although students were able to provide input on the search through the forum, Farhat noted that the administration ultimately has the final say.

“Fr. Graham actually has the last decision, [but the survey taken by students who attended] will influence the decision,” Farhat said. “The search committee will compile the information and then make a formal recommendation to Fr. Graham. I use at the end of the day, our opinion matters just as much as the faculty and staff, but I think that the opinions were also all across the board.”

The junior shooting guard declared for the NBA Draft last month, but his recent arrest puts those hopes in jeopardy.
Xavier student talks at TEDx

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Staff Writer

Xavier hosted a TEDx event featuring senior Taylor Zachary as a speaker Thursday in the Kennedy Auditorium, the second student in TEDx’s 10-year history at Xavier.

“If we believe the student has a fantastic resume, a presence and a topic that they’re passionate about, we’re open to accepting them to be a speaker,” senior Keshav Nayak, president of the TED organization at Xavier, said.

“This year, Taylor was a phenomenal speaker and had a topic he was really passionate about.”

TEDx events are all independently organized events given free licenses from the larger TED organization to host TED-style events. According to the TEDx page on Xavier’s website, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

The event was kicked off by the emcee for the night, senior Hannah Sheppard.

“I liked that I was a part of the experience as a whole, and not just somebody moving along the show,” Sheppard said. “I, too, had a big role in how people experienced the talks. I set them up, so that was actually pretty cool for me to play a significant role.”

Following Sheppard’s introduction of the event, which highlighted the organization’s commitment to nourishing talent on campus, were the speakers’ presentations.

There were four speakers at the event, including Zachary. Zack Huhn, the chairman of the Board for Venture Strategy Partners, spoke first about how to make cities more sustainable and “smarter,” in his talk titled, “Smart Cities: A Paradigm Shift.”

Zachary was next, speaking about what it means to be Black and an athlete and all the facets of both identities. His talk was titled, “An Athlete’s Vision for Liberation.”

Angela Muzzi, a senior associate and medical planner at GBBN Architects, followed a 15-minute break and spoke on how architecture and design can affect wellness in the people that visit buildings in her talk which was titled, “Building Wellness.”

The final speaker of the evening was Dr. Ryan M. Niemiec, the education director of the VIA Institute on Character and an award-winning psychologist with his talk, “A Universal Language That Describes What’s The Best In Us.” Niemiec’s talk focused on the character strengths that he says are found in all human beings and how we can best utilize them.

“I think [the TEDx event] was cool,” Sheppard said. “I’m a TED Talk watcher, so I’ve seen talks from the global conference as well as some TEDx Talks that people show in class. So, for me, it was cool to be a part of it.”

Harvard professor talks climate change

BY ELLEN SIEFKE
Staff Writer

Harvard professor Naomi Oreskes, a Harvard University professor, travels the world to speak on the topic of climate change and solutions.

Students and faculty, as well as members of the Greater Cincinnati community, braved the elements and navigated their way to Cintas Center for a presentation regarding climate change on a chilly and rainy Thursday night.

Naomi Oreskes, a Harvard University professor who has traveled worldwide to speak on this topic, gave the talk titled, “Climate Change: Now What?”

Oreskes explained that one reason she came to Xavier was her “red state” pledge, in which she speaks at historically right-leaning states whose constituents have shown resistance to climate change policies.

“I feel that I can do the most good there,” Oreskes said. “I’m also interested in talking with people of faith, so the fact that Xavier is a Catholic university gives me the opportunity to do so.”

Her talk focused on science and politics. Beginning with a simple slide which read, “Things aren’t looking good,” she launched into a discussion of the science of climate change, governments’ responses and what to do moving forward. The presentation also included clips from the 2014 documentary “Merchants of Doubt,” based on the book of the same title that Oreskes co-authored with Erik M. Conway.

Oreskes explained that scientists have shifted their focus toward solutions to problems caused by climate change and went through studies to demonstrate the type of research currently being conducted. She also described various renewable energy policies that governments can enact to reduce fossil fuel use.

One of the most memorable moments of the night came during the subsequent Q&A, when a University of Cincinnati professor from the Maldives described his own experience with climate change. His toddler niece had died because of the salination of water that came with rising sea levels. His question of how he could spread his story more was met with applause from the rest of the audience.

Junior Carmelle Wash said that what stood out to her most was Oreskes’ discussion of approaching conversations with the community.

“You can’t go to people aggressively and tell them how to live their lives,” Wash said. “I know that’s something I’ve learned. You need to approach them as adults with formulated opinions.”

The next morning, Oreskes met with students enrolled in Dr. Nancy Bertaux’s ECON 421 class, Bertaux’s in the co-chair of Xavier’s Sustainability Committee.

During the meeting, students were able to ask more questions that ranged from how to improve the outreach of the scientific community to what can be done with regard to climate change at the municipal level.

Both in the presentation and during the meeting, Oreskes urged students to take action in their own families and communities as well as on campus.

“At an institution, the administration is going to answer to students,” Oreskes said. “Students have to work with faculty to ask what have we done already and should be appreciative of what has already been done. Students always surprise professors in that aspect. Then, they can ask what more can be done.”
The Syrian Civil War that has been going on for more than six years has changed course in the past week. In response to a new chemical attack on Syrian civilians allegedly committed by the Syrian army’s war planes. Assad’s forces that have killed at least 87 people, President Donald Trump launched airstrikes on a Syrian military base.

The U.S. launched 59 Tomahawk missiles at the air base, which, according to the Associated Press, has wiped out more than a fifth of the Syrian army’s war planes. “I think it will lead to some form of retaliation, if not by the Syrian government, then possibly by Russia,” senior political science major Hussian Tariq said. “Alternatively, ISIS could gain more ground in terms of recruitment by convincing individuals that the U.S. launched an attack against their people as well.”

On Tuesday, the White House claimed that the Russian government was involved in a cover-up of the chemical attack by the Assad regime. In a declassified report, the White House claimed that the Syrian and Russian governments attempted to intentionally spread misinformation and false narratives around the global community about the chemical attack.

“I think Russia did not try to stop the chemical attack out of fear that they would face possible backlash from the Syrian government,” Tariq said. “Russia has been involved in the Syrian conflict by launching airstrikes in areas where they believe ISIS fighters are currently stationed, thereby technically showing Syria that they are on their side in the fight against ISIS. If they had gone against the Syrian government, they would have feared possible retaliation. However, I do believe that they were complicit in a war crime because they knew what was happening, yet they did not even try to stop it, let alone even speak out against it. That makes them just as guilty.”

The U.S. airstrikes have earned both praise and condemnation from the international community. There have been several protests outside of U.S. embassies in Argentina and Canada as well as smaller protests in major U.S. cities like New York and San Francisco.

“The situation in Syria is becoming worse as days go by, and as long as the Syrian government continues to oppress and attack ordinary people, the U.S. will continue to get involved,” Tariq said “However, if the U.N. somehow gets involved within the coming weeks, I feel that the U.S. may let up.”

NOTE OF THE WEEK

Passover your ALL card

April 3, 8:47 p.m. – A student reported that he or she lost his or her ALL card, which was then used to purchase approximately $18 in vending machine products around campus.

April 4, 4:19 p.m. – Two students reported their vehicles broken into in the R-3 lot. A small amount of change and a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses were taken during the offense.

April 4, 7:32 p.m. – Xavier Police assisted Residence Life in the mechanical room. The torch activated a smoke detector. The system was reset.

April 4, 8:52 p.m. – A student reported that his or her vehicle was broken into in the Commons parking lot. An athletic bag containing shoes was taken during the offense.

April 5, 3:42 a.m. – A student parked in the C-2 lot with 11 unpaid parking citations was referred to the code of conduct process.

April 5, 4:35 a.m. – A student parked in violation in the C-1 with 24 prior parking violations was referred to the code of conduct process.

April 8, 1:58 a.m. – Xavier Police and Residence Life checked on an intoxicated underage student in Husman Hall. The student was coherent and able to spend the night in his or her room.

April 9, 1:51 a.m. – Xavier Police and Residence Life transported an underage student in Husman Hall. The student was coherent and able to spend the night in his or her room.

April 9, 2:15 a.m. – Norwood Fire and Rescue transported an underage intoxicated student from U-Station to Mercy Health-Rookwood Medical Center for possible alcohol poisoning.

April 9, 5:22 p.m. – Xavier Police assisted Physical Plant with a maintenance emergency in Kuhlman Hall. A clogged shower drain caused flooding in two rooms.

April 9, 6:53 p.m. – Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to Brockman Hall for a fire alarm. Food cooking in an oven activated the smoke detector. The system was reset.

April 10, 10:44 a.m. – Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to the Commons Apartments for a fire alarm. An employee working with a torch activated a smoke alarm in the mechanical room. The system was reset.

By Savin Mattozzi
Staff Writer

Xavier community reacts to Syrian airstrike

Xavier community reacts to Syrian airstrike

U.S. & World News

President Donald Trump and members of his cabinet take part in a national security briefing. The Trump administration launched 59 Tomahawk missiles at an air base in Syria on April 6.
The value and danger of safe spaces

This semester, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion has been hosting a dialogue series entitled “Courageous Conversations.” This series was put in place to offer students a space where they could openly and courageously have a discussion about whichever topic had been chosen for that week. I’ve had the opportunity to attend a number of these conversations throughout the semester, and although there has been a diverse assortment of students, faculty and staff, of all different ages and races. Being a regular attendee at these discussions, I have had the chance to hear and learn from an interesting mix of people.

I noticed my comfort level fluctuate during these conversations depending on the subject being discussed and the other people participating in the conversation. When the conversation surrounded a topic that I had a more in-depth understanding of, I had more confidence when contributing my perspective, especially when the other participants held similar views to mine. But when the conversation surrounded topics that I wasn’t as well-versed in or for which I had a less-than-popular view on, I found myself hesitating to contribute to the conversation. I would often overthink what I had to say and anticipate negative thoughts and responses from others. While my hesitation was fair, if everyone who hesitated to speak during the conversation always refrained from speaking, we wouldn’t have very much conversation. Like your dear author in “Courageous Conversations,” the same dilemma can occur during class discussions. The most memorable classes that I have taken have been the ones that focused heavily on discussion and allowed room for the professor and other students to respond and challenge certain ways of thinking. Those responses that you receive are what allow your perspective to be widened. College can easily become a place where all we do is stress over assignments and count down the days until our next break. But it is important to remember that we are in college to learn and grow as people. In the real world, there won’t be many controlled opportunities for you to have your thinking challenged and walk away more open-minded because of it. The beauty of college is that, for the majority of people, these are the years where you will be shaped and molded the most. You have the opportunity to graduate a completely different person than when you entered.

As much as challenging yourself is pivotal to your development as an intellectual, it is just as necessary that you provide yourself with a refuge, a safe space.

Safe spaces are typically formed by people who are like-minded or affirm one another’s thinking. They are necessarily because being around similar-minded people reminds you that your experience is valued and real, and it is your duty to help them learn to have a sense of comfort, something that many students do not possess. The safe space that will provide you with a sense of comfort, something that many students do not possess, is the one you are not alone. Finding that balance can be a challenge in itself, but the challenges are what keep life interesting and give you the opportunity to be courageous.

An American Community?

Why should an unemployed coal miner in Kentucky care about rising sea levels along the Florida coast? Why should a resident of Miami care about economic conditions in Appalachia? Ours is a time of identity crisis, not the first, but a unique one nonetheless. In an increasingly interconnected world with global threats at our doorstep, it is necessary to look inward to determine just where our responsibilities to our fellow Americans lies and where the “other” begins. We can rally around, or rage against, a global community. We can retreat into our comfort zones, or rage at them. Both perspectives have their merits and tragedies, we are forced to look inward to determine just where our universe of obligation ends - just where our responsibilities to our fellow Americans lie.

The U.S. thrives as a melting-pot of compatible and conflicting interests. Local, regional, political, social, economic, racial and other interests clash and synthesize throughout the American polity to delineate our individual notions of the good. In such a diverse and pluralistic society, it is necessary to identify our communal ties and that which we are encumbered by. In doing so, we can determine the priorities and responsibilities that we are each encumbered by.

The responsibilities of an unemployed coal miner and a Miami native are likely divergent. Presumably, the coal miner will feel a responsibility to reinvigorate the local coal industry to alleviate the economic hardships they currently face. Meanwhile, the Miami native will feel a responsibility to hold industries in their own region accountable for their actions. As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the rifts among our communities interests crystallize. Boundaries erode, leaving bare the blind spots in our perception of common responsibilities. What is good for Appalachia is not good for Miami, and what is good for New York may not be good for Appalachia. Meanwhile, the national community is real. It is our duty to hold industries accountable for their actions and to ensure that our interests begin to splinter and diverge. What we owe to one another, the obligations we hold toward the tribulations of others, are the responsibilities we must determine. Do we work to reinvigorate the coal industry for the sake of Appalachia, or do we prioritize keeping Miami comfortable? Trials such as these define the struggles of governance in a national community as diverse and rich as ours.
I am from Syria, but...

"Where are you from?"

I never knew how to answer. When I was little, I didn’t know what “from” meant. I was born in Michigan but lived in Ohio for most of my life. My parents were born in Syria, but their grandparents emigrated there from Turkey. At the age of 7 or 8, I would say I was from Syria. It made me feel special because no one else I knew at the time was from there. It also quickly explained the Syrian dialect of Arabic I knew. My whole extended family, save for one aunt and two cousins, lived in Syria. I thought it made perfect sense to say I was from there. So when I received successful offers to return home from my peers, I became confused.

"You’re from the whole area!"

"When did you come to the United States?"

All I could remember saying in response to these slurs of questions was “I have no idea.” My attempt at clarifying myself was clumsy, at best. But they became disinterested after that, which disappointed me in turn. I still wanted to talk about Syria. I still wanted to go back and visit my family; one day. One of the last times I had visited, I was 2 or maybe 3. My own room was lost in the attic, from a little piton to a blackened, starry sky, while a neighbor from above pointed some small object down. I honestly thought it was a dream for the longest time, until I finally had the chance to look up from that same spot when I visited again the summer of seventh grade. I didn’t remember anyone who greeted me with pure mirth in their eyes and asked, “do you remember me?” But to make them happy, I told them I did. I suppose it didn’t matter that much, because by the time I had to go back to the U.S., I had new memories I could take with me. I could assure with confidence almost anything about my aunts, uncles and grandparents living in Syria. I could describe their wrinkles when they smile, their voices that scolded me for running around the apartment or the smell of lemon, from childhood days and their Aleppo-signature olive oil and lea aroma. I was more than happy to return again in the summer of eighth grade. I remember my father mentioning he wanted us to go every summer I wanted to, as well. Everything about me is getting stronger: my Arabic, my family bonds and my confidence. As I looked up into the sky from the patio, with neighbors who were my cousins waving to me from above, I was already thinking about what I’d want to do when I came back. As I walked with my family to the taxi cab that would take us to the airport, I bid farewell to the pair of stray kittens who lived next door, hoping that they’d remember me when I returned.

Since then, everything has splintered apart. Later, I would learn that the home belonging to the aunt on my father’s side, the one with the patio had been bombed. Reduced to rubble. She and her family had already moved out. Into a nicer place, they said — one with proper space for a garden.

Sometimes I ask myself why I get so upset about fresh news of bombings, gassings or executions when it’s all happening so “far away.” It’s because at any point in time, it could be my family that’s being pulled out of the rubble. It’s because my parents’ and my grandparents’ and my great-grandparents’ fondest memories and everything that makes up who they are from come there. It’s because Syria is where I’m from, but you wouldn’t understand what I meant if I just told you that.

Words of a Saudi feminist

Growing up in Saudi Arabia, I lived a pretty easy life. I was always driven around by men, always had the man pay for everything and always allowed a man’s word to be a final word. Growing up I never questioned these instances, but I knew they made me feel uncomfortable.

I moved to Cincinnati to pursue a higher education back in 2013. As I moved further along in my college career I continued to combat Saudi and Arabian societies. I started to realize that misogyny runs deep in both places, but what I found that I did not expect was that in my country, misogyny is engrained in our culture.

The man is the most respected person in the household, the man has the final say on whether the women in his family can travel or not and the man has the final say in a lot of aspects of a woman’s life. But a man never limits his own opportunities. He thrives on the double standards that exist in my culture. He thinks that he is treating a woman with respect when in reality she is being belittled by him. Every time I walk through passport control after more than hours on a flight, exhausted and dragging my feet, I am face with acts of belittlement. The first thing I hear when I land in my hometown is “where is your smile?” May they think they are being polite, but they are really just confirming to me that I am supposed to look a certain way dress a certain way, and act a certain way in order not to be viewed as a “mad woman.” They want you to act humble, act sweet and act kind. Even when you have been through hell, they always look at you as a lady.

After a few years of trying to shed the views of misogyny from my own eyes, I realized that I have internalized a lot of what my culture has taught me. A man will always be treated with more respect because he is a man. A man will always have the final say, and a man will always have more fun, more freedom and more opportunity because he is a man. And because I am a woman, I need to take a backseat to his privilege until I find myself a husband who will most likely continue the exact same cycle.

These views happen to also be backed up by Saudi’s interpretation of Islam, which runs deep in our culture and mindset. A woman must cover her body in order to be modest and not attract the man. But what they forget is that it takes a man to control himself before it takes a woman to decide for herself if she wants to cover up or not. They forget that we were not created to belong to them, but we were created to serve a higher purpose, one that we get to choose for ourselves.

As my society progresses, the more women are realizing their rights. We are finally seeing the oppression that has built up inside and around us, and we are not silencing ourselves anymore. We have finally realized, and hope our men will too, that a woman’s place is not in the house or in the kitchen; it is wherever she wants it to be, as long as she is not the place where a man speaks but to be respected for her views and opinions. A woman’s body should not be a political discussion. She should be free to choose what she wants to do with her own property.

A woman’s worth does not depend on whether a man has touched her or not. A woman’s worth does not depend on anyone’s perception of her closeness to God. Don’t you see? A woman’s worth has nothing to do with a man or society. A woman is worthy simply because she is.

A woman is worthy because she was created from the same Earth that a man was created from. She is equal to a man because her soul exists from the same One that Muslims across the world bow down to five times a day. A woman is equal to a man because according to Islamic faith, Eve stemmed from the side of Adam not from his head, and from his feet, but from the side where his heart resides. So if Eve came alive in the form of Adam’s heart, tell me, where is yours?

Dona Dukokli is a senior communications studies major and guest writer for the Newswire from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Ameenah Hud-rowleya is a sophomore theatre major and city editor for the Newswire from Higginbotham, Ohio.

Tips for reading the media

These days, everyone is skeptic when it comes to the news. With all the sources, as they should be. However, the incredulity has gotten to a point where reading any online news article comes with some degree of uncertainty. Critical reading and reasonable doubt are essential when consuming news media, so here are some tips on how to do that accurately.

First, make sure to check the political leanings of the news organization whose article you’re reading. Websites like Media Based Fact Check are great resources for checking a news organization’s alignment. The closer to center you can get, the better. Put more faith in reporting done by actual news organizations and not purely-online papers/magazines or blog-style journalism done by civilians (independent journalists are up for debate – scrutinize at your own discretion).

Second, make sure to research historical events, recent or otherwise, discussed in the article to understand the context under which the events occurred. This is crucial because you can better grasp the reality of the situation and use logic and reason to deduce the truth. This is much harder in a blatantly biased article, so make sure that your news source is credible and accurately factually reports information.

Third, identify evaluations, a term used by journalists and media critics to determine opinions, with in a news article. Every quotation is considered an evaluation, so never take quotes and anecdotes as pure truth, as they are always subjective. In addition, evaluations can be subjective words like “shocking,” “grotesque” and “terrifying” – these words are employed by less reputable media sources to promote an agenda within an article and should generally be dismissed when looking for facts.

Finally, make sure to cross reference the same story to form a cohesive narrative amongst the various reports. If an article spouts facts that wildly or even slightly contradict the rest of the articles, it might not be trustworthy. It’s also inherently better to re-search and find information from either government organizations or independent research organizations and to be critical of even those sources.

News media can be deceptive and confusing, but if you focus on your reading and properly inform yourself through various credible sources, you’ll be much better at navigating through opinions to get to the truth.

Opinions & Editorials

April 12, 2017

Xavier Newswire

Edited by: Abrena Rowe
rowe2a@xaver.edu

Trever McKenzie is a sophomore from Cincinnati.

Saudia Media-Urman is a sophomore English and Digital Innovation, Film & Technology double major. She is a staff writer for the Newswire from Cincinnati.
Westbrook breaks triple-double record

By Donnie Menke

Oklahoma City Thunder point guard Russell Westbrook set the record for the most triple-doubles in an NBA season Sunday against the Denver Nuggets. Although Westbrook reached 10 points and 10 rebounds by halftime, he did not record his 10th assist of the game until midway through the fourth quarter when Semaj Christon, a former Muskie, hit a three-pointer off Westbrook’s pass.

It was Westbrook’s 42nd of the season, which passed Oscar Robertson, who had held the record with 41 since 1961.

The Thunder would go on to win the game 106-105, after Westbrook hit a 36-foot three pointer as time expired, knocking the Nuggets out of the playoff picture.

Westbrook had fallen just short of breaking the record in his previous two games. He posted 45 points and 10 assists against the Memphis Grizzlies, but fell one rebound short, only 20/25, and you could see he was being real passive, so we just needed was assists, so the whole game plan changed,” Suns forward Jared Dudley told ESPN.

“Westbrook broke a record many people believed could never be reached. A perfect storm happened to allow Westbrook to get into position to break the record. When now former teammate Kevin Durant was hurt last season, Westbrook showed that he was capable of this type of achievement. However, it seemed that as long as Durant was on the team, Westbrook would never get the chance to chase it. When Durant left for the Golden State Warriors this summer, it opened the door for Westbrook, and he has taken full advantage.

The level of play Westbrook has demonstrated puts him as the MVP in many people’s eyes. Nevertheless, this accomplishment makes him most people’s top two or three for MVP.

Westbrook’s season has been nothing short of historic. He has exceeded all expectations, even though some of them have been the loftiest in recent memory.

Many expected Westbrook to have an MVP caliber season. However, very few expected this type season, one that will live on as one of the greatest individual seasons in the history of basketball.

Teammates greet Russell Westbrook in celebration of his game winning shot and record breaking performance.

Romo retires, ready to join CBS

By Luke Feliciano

Tony Romo has decided to pursue a career as a commentator for CBS after having a successful career calling plays under center for the Dallas Cowboys.

This decision comes in the wake of recent developments within the Dallas Cowboys organization. On April 4, Romo was officially released from the Cowboys, although it was speculated that he would be dealt to another team in a trade. Insider reports disclosed that teams in need of a veteran quarterback like Romo, but instead, the Cowboys cut their ties with their former franchise quarterback.

Romo’s career was celebrated by Dallas and NFL fans alike. Romo was an unheralded talent who was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Cowboys in 2003. He was a member of the Cowboys’ roster for 13 seasons and was regarded as the first-string quarterback for 10 of those years.

Romo led the Cowboys to several winning seasons as the main signal caller, but the major flaw in his playing career was that he was simply unable to perform under the pressures of playoff football.

While Romo was under center for the Cowboys, they advanced to the playoffs a grand total of five times, collecting a dissatisfying 2-4 postseason record.

Cowboys fans will remember the infamous snap Romo botched on a chip-shot field goal that eliminated the Cowboys from the 2006 playoffs. Additionally, Romo had commendable numbers in the regular season despite a career that was plagued by a multitude of injuries that sidelined him for the majority of the latter half of his career.

While the aging superstar, now 37, likely will never suit up in a pro football uniform again, his achievements should not go unnoticed. Throughout his time in the NFL, Romo was selected to four Pro Bowls while amassing 34,183 passing yards and 248 passing touchdowns. That ranks him 29th all-time in passing yards and 21st all-time in passing touchdowns, respectively.

The departure of Tony Romo may not sit well for some Dallas fans, but they have much to look forward to in Dak Prescott. As a rookie last season, Prescott assumed the role that Romo once occupied at the helm of the Cowboys’ offense and didn’t skip a beat in asserting his influence on the system.

Prescott quickly became a leader in the Cowboys’ locker room, and alongside fellow rookie Ezekiel Elliott, the dynamic duo has the potential to evolve into the most lethal passer and rusher combination in the league.

While Prescott hopes to re- turn the Dallas Cowboys back to prominence, one thing is for certain: Tony Romo has left a lasting legacy on this team, and his contributions will never be forgotten.

Tony Romo has decided to pursue a career as a commentator for CBS after having a successful career calling plays under center for the Dallas Cowboys.

Romo’s career was celebrated by Dallas and NFL fans alike. Romo was an unheralded talent who was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Cowboys in 2003. He was a member of the Cowboys’ roster for 13 seasons and was regarded as the first-string quarterback for 10 of those years.

Romo led the Cowboys to several winning seasons as the main signal caller, but the major flaw in his playing career was that he was simply unable to perform under the pressures of playoff football.

While Romo was under center for the Cowboys, they advanced to the playoffs a grand total of five times, collecting a dissatisfying 2-4 postseason record.

Cowboys fans will remember the infamous snap Romo botched on a chip-shot field goal that eliminated the Cowboys from the 2006 playoffs. Additionally, Romo had commendable numbers in the regular season despite a career that was plagued by a multitude of injuries that sidelined him for the majority of the latter half of his career.

While the aging superstar, now 37, likely will never suit up in a pro football uniform again, his achievements should not go unnoticed. Throughout his time in the NFL, Romo was selected to four Pro Bowls while amassing 34,183 passing yards and 248 passing touchdowns. That ranks him 29th all-time in passing yards and 21st all-time in passing touchdowns, respectively.

The departure of Tony Romo may not sit well for some Dallas fans, but they have much to look forward to in Dak Prescott. As a rookie last season, Prescott assumed the role that Romo once occupied at the helm of the Cowboys’ offense and didn’t skip a beat in asserting his influence on the system.

Prescott quickly became a leader in the Cowboys’ locker room, and alongside fellow rookie Ezekiel Elliott, the dynamic duo has the potential to evolve into the most lethal passer and rusher combination in the league.

While Prescott hopes to re- turn the Dallas Cowboys back to prominence, one thing is for certain: Tony Romo has left a lasting legacy on this team, and his contributions will never be forgotten.
Xavier Newswire

Edited by: Sara Ringenbach
ringenbachs@xavier.edu

Arts&Entertainment

April 12, 2017

Xavier’s ‘The Aliens’ connects with audience

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Staff Writer

I can’t say that I had fun when I saw The Aliens. However, what I can say is that the play was extremely well done and that it hit me in a few places that hadn’t been hit in a while.

The show follows two men, KJ (Eric Minion) and Jasper (Aaron Robinson), as they discuss literature, music and pretty much everything else in the dingy backside of a coffee shop where no one is allowed to sit. They quickly meet Evan (Micah Price), a very uncomfortable high school student, and decide that they’re going to take him under their wing.

The majority of The Aliens, a play by Annie Baker, was silent. It was widespread but also one of the most relatable aspects of the play. There are so many silences that come up in the middle of conversations that we always seem to breeze past, but this play gave special attention to the tension present in those silences.

Minion and Robinson had an incredible dynamic going between the two of them. The friendship that their characters had onstage, the way they talked to each other and the conversations they had put me in a sense of reflective nostalgia for conversations and relationships that I have as well.

Despite the relatability that I had with Jasper and KJ, the most relatable and well-done character in the whole play was, without a doubt in my mind, Price’s character. He did an incredible job portraying a high schooler trying to find his way in the world, figure out exactly who and where he is and how to fit in with the two cool older guys who are willing to teach him the ways of the world.

What made Price’s performance even better was his reaction to finding out about the death of Jasper from KJ.

There was an incredible amount of emotion present there—disbelief, anger and a complete destruction of the soul. Unfortunately, this also pushed me back into emotions that I once felt while dealing with the death of someone close to me.

The complete uncertainty in the face of an unimaginable loss was perfectly done, and this combined with every other aspect of the play, earned it five stars from me.

Marvel’s ‘Iron Fist’ delivers a weak punch

BY JASON SMITH
Staff Writer

Marvel and Netflix want to introduce you to every Defender of The Defenders fame one at a time. The last one on the list is Danny Rand, also known as Iron Fist. It’s the standard orphaned superhero archetype. A stranger returns home after spending most of his adult life living in remote mountains in China only to find that his family business is run by somebody else who doesn’t believe that he is Danny Rand.

Danny’s family perished in a plane crash, and he was raised by monks. He’s become a master of Chi, and during his quest the audience gets glimpses of what is to come. Until Danny awakens his full power, Netflix and Marvel want to tell a fish out of water story about his living as a vagabond in New York. The beginning focuses on his walking around the city trying to find answers and reconnect with his family.

The villain of the tale sees fit to lock him in asylum while spying on him through cameras. One nice feature about this series is that it lacks the overt crankiness of Daredevil.

Danny’s budding Iron Fist is the calm center of the universe with the world against him. It is interesting that these Defender stories all take place in the same city, and nobody talks about Daredevil, Luke Cage or Jessica Jones.

It feels like Netflix and Marvel went one superhero too far and this is a story that doesn’t need to be told. The problem with all superhero stories is that they must be origin stories. I suppose there is an audience that wants the backstory, but didn’t that audience read it in the comics? They just can’t show up and do their jobs while we catch up. Considering that it can be streamed over the span of a weekend, nothing is a cliffhanger, and most plotlines should be wrapped up.

This is what has become standard Netflix Marvel fare where one can wait for the inevitable Rosario Dawson cameo—the nurse to the superhero stars.

I can recommend it if you’ve literally streamed every other thing Netflix has available and have nothing else to do. It is the weakest link in the Defender series, but it does serve as a passable origin story for those who are looking to catch up. Considering that it can be streamed over the span of a weekend, nothing is a cliffhanger, and most plotlines should be wrapped up.

Don Rickles dead at 90

BY SAM MARTINI
Staff Writer

Toys Story fans across the globe are lamenting the beloved actor who played Mr. Potato Head, Don Rickles, passed away on Thursday. He died of kidney failure at the age of 90 in his home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

He was known as one of the most quintessential insult comedians in addition to his several decades’ worth of TV and film roles. One of the most prominent was Mr. Potato Head in the Disney-owned, Pixar-produced series Toy Story.

Rickles’ career dates back all the way to 1955 with shows such as The Tonight Show, Candid Camera, America and The Thin Man. In 1995, his film career began with The Rabbi’s Wife. His career continued with roles in TV shows such as The Addams Family, Gilligan’s Island and The Dick Van Dyke Show. He starred in films such as X-Men with the X-Ray Eyes, Enter Laughing and Where It’s At.

Throughout his career, he was a guest on various talk shows including The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, Conan O’Brien and Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel Live! and The Late Show with David Letterman. It was through these appearances that he was able to establish his comedic style of the insult comic.

Before his death, Rickles was working on a few projects including Dinner with Don, in which Rickles would dine with friends and other comics. Reported guests of recorded episodes include Billy Crystal, Robert De Niro, Jimmy Kimmel, Amy Poheler, Vincent Vaughn, Paul Rudd, Marisa Tomei and Martin Scorsese. He also left behind Toy Story 4, which was reported to be in pre-production.

He was a true source of inspiration for comedians everywhere. Both his presence and world view will be missed.

Marvel’s ‘Iron Fist’ delivers a weak punch

Marvel’s newest Netflix mini series introduces the latest member of The Defenders superhero team, Iron Fist. The complete uncertainty in the face of an unimaginable loss was perfectly done, and this combined with every other aspect of the play, earned it five stars from me.

Don Rickles dead at 90

Longtime insult comedian and actor Don Rickles died at 90 in his home.

Toy Story fans across the globe are lamenting the beloved actor who played Mr. Potato Head, Don Rickles, passed away on Thursday. He died of kidney failure at the age of 90 in his home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

He was known as one of the most quintessential insult comedians in addition to his several decades’ worth of TV and film roles. One of the most prominent was Mr. Potato Head in the Disney-owned, Pixar-produced series Toy Story.

Rickles’ career dates back all the way to 1955 with shows such as The Tonight Show, Candid Camera, America and The Thin Man. In 1995, his film career began with The Rabbi’s Wife. His career continued with roles in TV shows such as The Addams Family, Gilligan’s Island and The Dick Van Dyke Show. He starred in films such as X: The Man with the X-Ray Eyes, Enter Laughing and Where It’s At.

Throughout his career, he was a guest on various talk shows including The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, Conan O’Brien and Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel Live! and The Late Show with David Letterman. It was through these appearances that he was able to establish his comedic style of the insult comic.

Before his death, Rickles was working on a few projects including Dinner with Don, in which Rickles would dine with friends and other comics. Reported guests of recorded episodes include Billy Crystal, Robert De Niro, Jimmy Kimmel, Amy Poheler, Vincent Vaughn, Paul Rudd, Marisa Tomei and Martin Scorsese. He also left behind Toy Story 4, which was reported to be in pre-production.

He was a true source of inspiration for comedians everywhere. Both his presence and world view will be missed.
In the days of my youth, Easter morning would be filled with surprise. My parents would dutifully hide all our Easter baskets from us kids, and we would traverse the house in search of the goodies. Easter was filled with sugar and presents. Later mom would serve us ham and at some point, we’d all go to church.

This Easter I may find myself spending time with a dear friend’s family in another state. If I’m lucky, I can catch up on some homework and binge on 30 Rock. As I’ve aged, my expectations for the holidays have changed, but the feeling of magic remains. Holidays, whatever your religious practice, stand as a time of finding family reconnecting with friends and exploring what it means to connect with others. That is the true spirit of all holidays, including Easter.

From Tuesday, April 4, to Friday, April 7, Xavier hosted monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery to create a Tantric Buddhist mandala sand painting. The mandala was created on the third floor of McDonald Memorial Library. On Tuesday morning, the monks held an opening ceremony before beginning their work. On Friday, the closing ceremony was held upon completion of the painting, and the sand was distributed to viewers. It has been 10 years since the monks’ last visit.

Throughout the week, students and other community members viewed the process of the mandala’s creation. In addition, the monks sold jewelry and other goods in the Conaton Learning Commons and students had a chance to directly interact with the visitors.

First-year Sarah Schaller was intrigued by the monks’ creation.

“I found it fascinating how they put so much time and effort into a work of art that they would then destroy, all for the sake of prayer and to remind them that nothing is permanent,” Schaller said.

“The monks’ presence and their construction of the mandala was a compelling demonstration of patience and trusting the process of assembling something with powerful meaning,” junior Edward Hill said.

Sophomore Ploy Sithisakulrat described the monks’ visit as impactful for her.

“I have seen videos of Tibetan monks doing the mandala sand painting when I was in high school taking a World Religions course, so it has always been something I wanted to see in person...Also, because I am a Buddhist, I just loved how the ceremony illustrated the Buddhist philosophy of life very well. Watching the process of the mandala being created slowly day by day until it was beautifully finished imples that nothing is worth keeping, is easy to achieve...It teaches that some things in life need to be let go,” Sithisakulrat said.

In the Newswire Internet Peace

COLOR YOUR OWN MANDALA

The Magic of EASTER

BY JASON SMITH
Staff Writer

In the days of my youth, Easter morning would be filled with surprise. My parents would dutifully hide all our Easter baskets from us kids, and we would traverse the house in search of the goodies. Easter was filled with sugar and presents. Later mom would serve us ham and at some point, we’d all go to church.

This Easter I may find myself spending time with a dear friend’s family in another state. If I’m lucky, I can catch up on some homework and binge on 30 Rock. As I’ve aged, my expectations for the holidays have changed, but the feeling of magic remains. Holidays, whatever your religious practice, stand as a time of finding family reconnecting with friends and exploring what it means to connect with others. That is the true spirit of all holidays, including Easter.

BY AZL SAEED
Staff Writer

Oh my god! What do I do?

Sheldon. You are graduating!

Don’t worry, Sheldon. You will live on.

In The Newswire Internet Peace