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ConneX sets sights on student life

Auxiliary Services extension rolls out name, logo, vision

BY ELLEN SIEFKE
Managing Editor

Whilst heading into the caf, picking up a textbook from the bookstore or even grabbing a snack from a vending machine, students may notice a funny little logo — a mass of blue, magenta and orange that looks almost like three people joining together. From one angle, it appears to be a weird-looking triangle, but from another, it seems to resemble an “X.” This logo, however it may be interpreted, represents ConneX, a newly formed extension of the Office of Auxiliary Services.

ConneX Marketing Director Jennifer Paiotti describes it as a “Xavier community partner hub” whose goal is “to better the student experience so that you can live and grow and enjoy life on campus.” She likens it to Tide, a brand that is an extension of its parent company P&G but not a replacement.

The name “ConneX” originates from the word “connect” and has to do with the idea of creating connections across campus, a nod to its goal of bettering a student’s experience.

The name also includes a capital “X” to signify that it is indeed part of Xavier University, but Paiotti adds that it also comes from pirate tales; much as an “X” marks the spot of buried booty on treasure maps, so too does an “X” mark the spot where one might find the many treasures of ConneX on campus.

“I think it speaks to that light energy — it’s a student energy, and we love the X here,” Paiotti said. “Has it been there, has it been used many, many times? Of course. Does it get old? Not if you’re a Xavier person, it doesn’t get old. You try to use it any way, shape or form.”

The process of constructing ConneX began around a year and a half ago with the decision to create a marketing department for the Office of Auxiliary Services. The decision centered around an effort to think more about the experience of those services, which encompass 14 different departments and 22 revenue streams, from a student’s perspective.

According to Paiotti, that effort brought to light much of the confusion and frustration students faced when trying to resolve a problem or even ask a question. For example, students with questions about their meal plans often began with the Hoff Dining Commons, but Auxiliary Services ultimately handled the matter. Even though students would be referred to the proper office, according to Paiotti, many still felt like their needs were not fully met.

“Typically, you would go, I’ve asked so-and-so about this, and I’m not getting a response.” Well, before all of this started a year and a half ago, I would have completely agreed with that,” Paiotti said. “Things were getting dropped, communications were getting lost, students were feeling that their voice wasn’t being heard, and that’s what we really tried to change, starting that transition.”

“That transition” of which Paiotti speaks is one to more effective and streamlined communications with students. ConneX seeks to present information in a more transparent way so as to provide the campus with a central location to turn to with questions or suggestions.

Paiotti believes that the rollout of the new extension also allows students to know that their voices are being heard. She cites the Fall Dining Survey, which results in the review of a 500-page document, as one example of the efforts the team undertakes to better the experience of students, faculty and staff on campus.

Furthermore, in addition to the dining surveys, a midterm goal is to develop feedback for the other services handled by ConneX through another survey in the spring.

Ultimately, Paiotti explains that the long-term goal of ConneX is to continue to improve the experience of being at Xavier University through managing various partnerships and bringing students “the best of the best.”

“The goal was that...we all have one common area to speak through, one voice,” Paiotti said. “And that’s really what the university is about, is everyone speaking with that voice, that one voice. You know that if you are here on campus, and it has to do with Xavier’s food, or Xavier’s banking, or Xavier’s bookstore, you know I go from one spot.”
Weekly SGA meeting covers Alter Hall, clubs under review

Busing service, Commuter Council restructure

By Soondos Mullaozeman
Copy Editor

The LGBTQ+ alliance is hoping to host a drag show on Oct. 19. Alyssa Edwards, who they intend to have headline the show, is a big name in the drag world, having competed multiple times. Five additional local drag queens and a drag king may also perform. The theme will be “Halloween” and the event may only be open to Xavier students.

After extensive debate, Alter Hall will now remain open until 2 a.m., according to Senator Chris Harding. It is currently unknown whether or not gaining access to the building at late hours will require use of an ALL Card.

The Commuter Council is being restructured entirely. The Off-Campus Committee is assisting and predicts it will be an “almost entirely different club,” chair of Student Organizations Committee Johnny Srsich said. Major changes in consideration include a constitution rewrite and a name change.

Eight new clubs are currently under review by SGA. If they are all approved, the total number of active clubs on Xavier’s campus will reach 176.

CDI welcomes new member

Tuesta new resource for gender-based violence survivors

By Ellen Baverman
Staff Writer

Talia Tuesta is new to campus but not to the mission of addressing sexual and gender-based violence. As Xavier’s Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), she plans to help students cultivate a safe and respectful environment on campus through support and education.

“I’m really just here as a confidential resource for survivors to ask any question that they want and then support them in whatever process they want to engage in, whatever that looks like for them,” Tuesta said.

In addition to personal, confidential services, she also believes that “when it comes to violence, we are all connected to this topic. This is something that is prevalent, unfortunately.”

“Violence is not tolerated in this space,” Tuesta said. “The mission of advocacy and prevention is to help students to shape the campus they want to see.”

Tuesta believes there are many ways that students can play a role in shaping campus. One of these is a student-and-peer-run support group, Believe Reclaim Advocate Vocalize Empower (BRAVE).

More opportunities for students to learn about the topic of sexual and gender-based violence are also available. The CDI deemed October “Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Awareness Month.”

Students can contact Tuesta or another counselor by calling the help line, operating from 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at 513-904-9013.

Tuesta encourages all students to reach out to any of the various student programs or offices around campus, such as the Center for Mission and Identity or the CDI.

Free Upholstered Glider Chair

FREE upholstered glider chair. Chair is stained and needs a slipcover but is otherwise in good condition. Call 513-861-4353.
Hurricane Harvey strikes Houston
Junior’s family among the many affected by the recent natural disaster

BY SOFIA ESTRADA
Guest Writer

Despite the 1,000 mile distance between Houston and Cincinnati, Hurricane Harvey has hit close to home for some Xavier students.

“My great uncle and aunt were stuck on the second floor of their house for hours until their son realized that something was up and was finally able to come get them,” junior Shay Wolfe said. “If they hadn’t had their son, I don’t know what would have happened to them. I still don’t know. Their entire house and both of their cars are destroyed.”

There were rumors circulating the Internet that undocumented people living in Houston would not be able to receive aid because of their undocumented status. This, along with alarm of government authority, has sent the undocumented community of Houston into a frenzy.

“I am of Mexican descent and my mom works closely with many Mexican-American people, many of whom are undocumented,” Wolfe said. “I know that undocumented people in Houston are probably incredibly scared to reach out to these government agencies in fear of disclosing their identities and being deported. This is some people’s worst nightmare.”

On Tuesday, the City of Houston issued a statement on Twitter written in both English and Spanish which read, “We will not ask for immigration status or papers from anyone at any shelter. This rumor is FALSE!”

“I’m glad that they issued this statement because no one deserves to die regardless of whether they have legal status or not,” Wolfe said.

There are currently more than 17,000 residents of Houston who are in need of shelter. The entire Texas National Guard has been activated, as well as the United States Coast Guard and the Houston Police Department, which are all currently at the front line of providing disaster relief.

Chief Art Acevedo of the Houston Police Department said, “Unfortunately, so far, we have more calls than we have capacity.”

He also said that the department “has responded to more than 60,000 calls for service.”

The Xavier community, particularly the sports community, has begun to respond to the needs of Houston in recent days.

On Monday, Kelvin Sampson, the head coach for the University of Houston men’s basketball team, tweeted asking for amateur sports teams around the country to send “20 of your school’s t-shirts and 10 pairs of shoes” to Houston to give out as aid.

Coach Chris Mack responded saying, “Consider it done Coach! Xavier Basketball is a go....” Doug Matthews, head coach of the women’s tennis team, also donated supplies to this effort. Dozens of athletic programs at other schools have followed suit.

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NOW OF THE WEEK

FINDER’S KEEPERS, LOSER’S WEEPERS... kind of?

Aug. 22, 6:07 p.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to a fire alarm at 1019 Dana Ave. A student reported an oil fire while cooking on the stove in the apartment. The fire caused very minimal smoke damage. Residence Life was notified.

Aug. 22, 10:21 p.m. — An underage intoxicated student observed vomiting in the bushes at Dana Avenue and Brooks Avenue was transported back to his or her room for the night. A fictitious ID was confiscat-

Aug. 22, 11:46 p.m. — An underage intoxicated student who was observed vomiting in the parking lot next to Stones Lanes was transported back to his or her room for the night. A fictitious ID was confiscat-

Aug. 23, 5:51 p.m. — Xavier Police, Cincinnati Fire and Physical Plant responded to a fire alarm in Brockman Hall. Investigation revealed that the alarm originated on the ground floor, however the fire department was unable to determine the source. The system was reset.

Aug. 23, 5:51 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Residence Life with a room search in Brockman Hall. Drug paraphernalia and marijuana were confiscated in the search.

Aug. 25, 8:43 a.m. — Xavier Police, Cincinnati Fire and Physical Plant responded to a fire alarm in Brockman Hall. Investigation revealed that a smoke detector was activated on the second floor, possibly by either hair spray or cologne spray. The system was reset.

Aug. 26, 12:52 a.m. — Xavier Police investigated a loud party and/or people arguing in front of a residence in the 900 block of Dana Avenue. The students living in the residence were cautioned about loud parties and trash being left in the area.

Aug. 26, 4:05 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Norwood Police in a search for a suspect wanted for robbing the UDF at Montgomery Avenue and Mentor Avenue. The subject was last seen running on Mentor Avenue. An XU Alert Me was issued.

Aug. 27, 10:10 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a vehicle observed driving through the grass at the Elet and Sycamore buildings on the west side of campus. An investigation revealed the driver was reported as a missing person from the Colerain township. Xavier and Colerain units reunited the driver with his or her family.

Aug. 28, 3:24 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a report from the All for One shop at U-Station that a counterfeit $100 bill had been used to make a purchase earlier in the day. An investigation pending.

Aug. 28, 6:47 p.m. — Xavier Police and Physical Plant investigated a smoke alarm at Brockman Hall. An investigation revealed Fehrenze, which was sprayed in the room, may have activated the alarm.

Aug. 29, 9:49 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a report of two subjects looking into vehicles in the R-3 Lot. The area was searched, and the suspects were not located. A witness observed them fleeing into the Norwood Plaza lot before officers arrived.
Path of progress cheats Avondale

The Cincinnati City Council’s recent 6-3 vote to allow a $650 million expansion by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital raises important questions about our city’s commitment to the character of its neighborhoods, as well as its responsibilities to residents deemed to be in the “path of progress.”

“The expansion, reported on by Elizabeth Mulia-Ossman and myself in the Aug. 16 edition of the Newswire, comes at a time of dramatic change in Cincinnati. The rehabilitation, or gentrification as many see it, of the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood has sparked important conversations about race, poverty and the role of communities within the city.

In a similar fashion, the Children’s expansion strikes a similar note. Critics in the neighborhood argue that planning largely took place without involvement from the affected. The displacement of residents set to occur, mixed with local environmental degradation, adds to years of injustices heaped upon the neighborhood, one of the most economically enriched in the city and largely considered to be the heart of its Black community. I cannot accurately evaluate the first claim without having been involved in the process, an undertaking largely worked on behind closed doors with the movers and shakers of Cincinnati public policy.

I was simply left behind and thus realized as a victim of its community’s expansion since the earliest chapter in a long and challenging history of displacement and injustice in this community, caused in part by institutional expansions and outside forces that have time and time again tipped the scale against disenfranchised residents.

Many of Avondale’s older residents came to live in the neighborhood during the 1950s and 1960s. In those postwar years, construction of public housing projects and the moving of residents from neighborhoods like Avondale’s West End neighborhood destroyed homes and displaced thousands of low-income Black residents, who were subsequently ushered into ghetto-like conditions in Avondale by unscrupulous real estate agents, absentee landlords and racist home loan policies.

They now return to the city, residents found little in terms of economic possibilities and the promise of a better life. Avondale, as it has been simply being dramatized, is a lonesome and increasingly vio-

We all need to know that we are not our anxiety. When you are diagnosed with a mental illness, you do not become it.

Anxiety wasn’t something that I knew about; it wasn’t something that I thought of myself or the people around me having.

At first, I kept it to myself. I didn’t talk to anyone about the problems that I was dealing with, and I underestimated anxiety’s power to even my best friends. The second time was more difficult than I thought. I started to have attacks in public places, like in class or at marching band rehearsal. People started to notice that something was wrong.

Although everyone who entered this phase of my life knew that I was struggling with a mental disorder, is that we are not our anxiety. When you are diagnosed with a mental illness, you do not become it. You are still everything that you were before.

We need to know that we are not our anxiety. When you are diagnosed with a mental illness, you do not become it. You are still everything that you were before.

As a young girl, I grew up with the stigma that a lot of girls experience: Pressure to be better or be the best. It is not the fault of one person or a single group. It is the fault of the community as a whole.

I quickly developed what I was simply being dramatized. Dramatic "friends" used to come over when I would worry over all the things in life that they dealt with so well. I felt utterly alone. Anxiety wasn’t something that I knew about; it wasn’t something that I thought of myself or the people around me having.

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Charlottesville, the town I love

In the past couple of weeks, my hometown has been under a burning spotlight. After a mixed group of White supremacists, KKK members, neo-Nazis, militia and members of the alt-right movement decided to choose Charlottesville, Va. as their place to spread their hate, all eyes were on my town. These groups attached the city that I love with bigotry, racism and discrimination. They caused the death of a beloved member of our community.

Heather Heyer was brave enough to stand up against this hatred and fight for the equality of the members of our community. She lost her life doing so when a Kentucky native purposefully crashed his car into a group of counter-protestors. Not only was my town bombarded by words of hate from these groups, but one of our community met a act of terrorism against members of our community.

Charlottesville does not stand alone with these people, we stand against them. I am not going to claim that Charlottesville does not struggle with issues of discrimination, racism and sexism because that would be a lie. Just like every other town or city in the United States, we have all of those problems. Charlottesville is not perfect by any means, but I can promise you that we are not a community that welcomes that kind of hate.

When issues like this arise, there is a community ready to fight those wars. When people with hatred in their hearts come to attack our town, an even stronger force of people is there to stand up against their hate. We fight for those who feel marginalized and those who need our support, and beyond anything else, we fight against inequality.

The aftermath of the protests that took place in Charlottesville on Aug. 12 can be felt all throughout the city that I love more than any other place. Now, we look to break through the hate that was brought to our community and combat it with the love we have for our town and the diversity within it. We pray for the person that we lost, and we rebuild the peace that we once had in our community. We continue to fight against the people and groups that attempt to bash our goals and inclusivity and diversity because that is truly what Charlottesville is all about.

Virginia’s state slogan is “Virginia is for lovers,” and that holds true in Charlottesville. Although we have been met with a lot of hate these past few weeks, it is nowhere near as powerful as the love our community will carry on with. I wish this had never happened in my town, but I am proud of the way my community fought and continues to fight against it. I am not ashamed of where I am from because of any of this. If anything, it makes my love for Charlottesville even greater.

Please do not write my town off as a place that harbors and encourages acts of violence, hate and racism. That is not my town. The town I know and love is filled with people like Heather Heyer. It is filled with people who are willing to stand up for others. My community is loving and inclusive. Above all, we are stronger than any hate group. I love my home, and I will always stand with Charlottesville.

What does the Pledge of Allegiance mean to you?

Think about the classrooms of your American childhood, if indeed you grew up in such classrooms. Think about the orientation of the room. Were the chairs all facing one direction?

At the head of these front-facing chairs, was there a grand podium with a blackboard? Above the blackboard, was there an American flag?

When the loudspeaker came on, and the principal or a dedicated patriot began the Pledge of Allegiance, did you stand?

Did you press your hand to your heart?

Or perhaps the flag was at the back of the room. It had red and white stripes like a candy cane, so it caught your attention immediately. Its star-spangled corner was stitched in a striking navy blue, which added a layer of intensity to the attention-grab. So when you stood, you also turned and riveted your eyes to the flag, which took work. It took work for you to clear your mind of everything but the pledge every day.

What is this process? What is this rally call, this song of our country that bespeaks loyalty and passion and even love? In the late 1800s, Rear Admiral George Balch wrote the Pledge of Allegiance with the flag and his country on his mind.

Since then, its implementation nationwide has, with the organic growth of the rhetoric of the flag and some changes in the symbolism, been maintained and widely spread. Such as these flags in our classrooms, many flags in public settings, community meeting places and government spaces have been the recipient of watchful eyes, attached to faces reciting their pledges of allegiance.

But what is the process?

When Balch first wrote the pledge, he wrote it with the intent to instill a spirit of pride and even love of America into immigrants to the country, as well as to the country’s youth. He had a passion for educating children and instilling in them a sense of pride for one’s country. This pride is often called patriotism.

How are we to assess a patriotic country? Many countries are patriotic, and have been in the past and a healthy sense of pride in one’s country can actually lead to humility of the self as you recognize the gifts that your country might give you. Public works and securities like healthcare are includ-

ed. Is the current climate of the American political scene allowing us as a nation to process the pledge in this way?

Has the climate of the American political scene always contained this healthy patriotism within its pledge in the past?

I think you know as well as I that the answer is no. It is important before you stand next to your child, your brother, your cousin, your immigrant friend, your visiting cousin or uncle or aunt or grandmother, that you teach them very carefully the words of the pledge and ask them, do you feel that this pledge represents your interests? If they say no, then perhaps the ideal and unifying message of our Pledge of Allegiance needs to be consid-

ered if we wish to maintain our allegiance as a nation.
Opinion: CFB Playoff needs fixing

Should the system be changed? Here’s a look at some possible alternatives

BY LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

Another season of college football is right around the corner, and that means yet another season of the College Football (CFB) Playoff. Now entering its fourth campaign, the CFB Playoff is designed to expand the postseason field to four teams as opposed to the typical two. The question remains — is the new playoff system the answer? My answer is simple: No.

The selection process for the new system has been fraught with multiple factors that are designed to take a more analytical rather than purely statistical approach. Some of the new criteria includes strength of schedule, conference championships, team records and head-to-head results, among other things, but this method of selecting teams for the playoff is imperfect. Ironically, the supposedly more logistical approach to the selection process is borderline illogical. This system became problematic with the selection committee’s decision to name its top four teams last year. The teams selected last season for the College Football Playoff were Alabama, Ohio State, Clemson and Washington. One of these teams stands out from the others. That is the Ohio State Buckeyes. Yes, Ohio State had an incredible season by only losing one game, but unlike the rest of the teams listed here, they were not conference champions. In the eyes of the committee, though, the paramount measure for selecting teams is rooted in strength of schedule. Many teams have discovered this and, to no surprise, have started to piece together a tougher schedule. That is why of late, fans will see marquee matchups even in the first week of the season. It would seem natural to simply select the four conference championship winners out of the Power 5 conferences as the playoff teams right? The committee figured otherwise as they ultimately neglected to admit Penn State, who won the conference outright. As an avid college football fan, I feel that Penn State was snubbed, and for a miscalculated reason. Months have passed, and I still can’t fathom how the outright Big Ten champion wasn’t offered a spot in the playoff. Needless to say, it seems that the new selection system may have some kinks that need to be worked out.

There are two viable options to t mend this problem in college football. The first would be to change the selection criteria to make it more rational. Instead of using strength of schedule as the supreme determining factor, maybe it’s best to use conference championships won with more weight. That way, teams that win a conference championship don’t get the hook like Penn State. Admittedly, this solution may cause complications because there would be five conference champions vying for four playoff spots, that is, with the Big 12’s introduction of its own conference championship winner.

What seems to be the more effective solution is to simply expand the playoff field. This would, in all likelihood, signal a condensed regular season. Fans want to see more games and not having harder schedules, this may not be an issue. There have been calls to expand the playoff to six teams. Though it seems highly unlikely that CFB officials will budge. Still though, it is nice to ponder the thought that perhaps one day, more than just the top four teams could vie for the coveted national championship.

My question to the committee is why not? The FCS, or the little brother of the FBS in Division I football already has a vast 24 team field to determine its champion, so why can’t the FBS do the same?

This probably has something to do with bowl games and the enormous revenue they bring in for CFB, but nonetheless, it is proven that an expanded playoff is possible. For the time being though, like it or not, college football fans are stuck with the four-team playoff, and by the looks of it, change is not imminent.

Las Vegas exhibition bout excites

BY PAUL FRITSCHEWER
Staff Writer

Millions of sports fans around the globe turned their attention to boxing Saturday night for what was one of the most hyped boxing events in recent years. There was the adrenalin-induced Irishman, Conor McGregor, crossing over into boxing from his usual sport of mixed martial arts in the UFC. Then there was Floyd “Money” Mayweather, a man known for both a criminal history and a spotless boxing record of 49-0. Considered one of the best boxers to ever grace a ring. While the boxers were watching for pure entertainment, there was a battle for pure action, and everyone who was watching for some good entertainment was sorely disappointed.

This fight produced almost everything people asked for, save for maybe a knockout, and the man who was heavily favored to win ended up doing just that.

Floyd Mayweather knocks out Conor McGregor to remain undefeated, 50-0

As many astute boxing fans pointed out to me, the real fight was Saturday Sept. 16 when Gennady “GGG” Golovkin squares off against Canelo Alvarez. One boxing fan pointed out to me, “Mayweather-McGregor is an event, Canelo-GGG is a fight.” Yet, McGregor fans flooded to T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, and hundreds of McGregor fans around the world gathered eagerly to see if their hero could take down a wizard of a boxer with an unblemished record.

After months of hype that included an international press tour, it was finally time for the boxers to step into the ring. While the boxers were getting ready for their fight, viewers were busy fighting with their cable companies and internet providers as streams of the fight consistently crashed. In fact, the fight was delayed because of technical problems with Pay-Per-View. Finally, just after midnight on the east coast, the bell rang and the fighters collided for the first time.

The first three rounds caught everyone by surprise, possibly including the fighters themselves. McGregor fished out at a frenetic pace, and the Twitter universe was quick to shout “Conserv your energy!” “Don’t tire out too quickly!” Whether by design or not, Mayweather looked genuinely unstable in the first round especially, as McGregor’s unconventional boxing style was put on public display. Some speculated that it was all part of the design for Mayweather—to let McGregor get out to an early lead and wear himself out. Frankly, that plan, whether it did exist or not, worked.

McGregor started to look at the clock after the first few rounds were over, and that was the first indication of where the fight was headed. In round four, Mayweather started to assert himself and go more on the offensive. Then, from round five through the end of the fight, it was all Mayweather. McGregor was exhaustion and there was no rest in the tank. Mayweather threw everything he had, and McGregor kept taking it while doing his best to stay in the fight.

By round nine, he looked utterly exhausted. At that point, it was really just a question of whether Mayweather favored to win by decision or knockout. It would have taken that “one punch,” that one, powerful, knockout-level punch from McGregor to win the fight. However, that punch never happened. One round later, the referee stopped the fight, declaring Mayweather the victor by TKO. The 40-year-old had dethroned the 29-year-old McCrregor to win the fight.

For those who stayed up to watch, it was high-quality entertainment. Many agreed that it was even better than the Mayweather-Pacquiao debacle, in which there was little to no action, and everyone who was watching for some good entertainment was sorely disappointed. This fight produced almost everything people asked for, save for maybe a knockout, and the man who was heavily favored to win ended up doing just that.
GoT season seven wraps up with a bang

By Luke Feliciano

Sports Editor

In its long-awaited and highly anticipated return, HBO’s hit series “Game of Thrones” (GoT) had just about everything a loyal “throner” could ask for in a truncated seventh season. Season seven of GoT was shorter than usual, with seven episodes as opposed to the typical 10. However, there was definitely no shortage of action. This season was check-full of dynamic battle scenes with a hint of ruthlessness. It even continued its reputation of teetering on the edge of insurmountable promiscuity. Did I mention dragons? Oh yeah, and an Ed Sheeran cameo too.

While some fans have critiqued the new season for being underdeveloped and rushed, even lacking narrative, I still feel that this season was the most enthralling yet. In a sense, that was to be expected. While I didn’t necessarily agree with the seven-episode plan, I honestly felt that the executors pulled it off well while taking even more creative license with the show.

The most intriguing aspect of this season was the crossing of paths between the show’s two most championed characters, Daenerys Targaryen and King in the North, Jon Snow. The two come from very contrasting worlds, but in the realization that their worlds would soon converge, their eventual meeting was inevitable. While their first encounter wasn’t exactly amiable, the once fledgling relationship blossomed as the season progressed. The end result was a sexual tension that couldn’t even be broken by the sharpest of blades. Fire and ice sounds like a pretty badass combination, doesn’t it?

Perhaps an even more interesting development is the character’s realizations that something even greater is at stake, even more crucial than the Iron Throne. Equipped with an army numbering somewhere close to 100,000 maybe even larger, the army of the dead, or white walkers, threatening to end mankind in Westeros. The focus of this season shifts swiftly from claiming the iron throne to dealing with the impending arrival of the menacing walkers. This sets potential enemies in accord with each other. One of the show’s most acclaimed sayings, “Winter is coming,” has now turned into “Winter is here.” The most arduous task is ahead for the cast and come next season, this may turn out to be the most intense battle of the show’s history.

Whether you are an avid watcher of the show, or just a casual viewer, GoT season seven is shaping up for something even greater. It even continued its chock-full of dynamic battle scenes with a hint of ruthlessness. It even continued its reputation of teetering on the edge of insurmountable promiscuity. Did I mention dragons? Oh yeah, and an Ed Sheeran cameo too.

The seemingly never-ending feud between Taylor Swift and her many rivals continues to worsen. The Tennessee Permanent, newest single, “Look What You Made Me Do,” from her new album “Reputation,” over the course of a song and lyric video dropped on Aug. Friday, 25, sending fans and entertainment media into a frenzy as they began to interpret the lyrics. The video was premiered at Sunday’s VMAs, which was hosted by her long-time rival, Katy Perry.

The song is a drastic step away from Swift’s previous sound, which has been shifting ever since her departure from the world of country. The instrumentation is simple, utilizing basic synths, high piano, and large, sharp drums to create a haunting tune that is meant to unnervethe listener as her vocals, pointed yet quiet, spell out her disgust at the many people who have crossed her.

She doesn’t hold back with coded messages this time. Lines like, “I don’t like your tilted stage,” (a reference to Kanye’s mid-air slurred stage from his Pablo tour) and any others who Swift feels have wronged her all indicate that she’s out for blood and in her newest album. In the final pre-chorus, she indicates that “[the old Taylor’s] dead,” implying that she is no longer planning to play the nice girl.

The lyric video was upload-ed to YouTube the same day as the single’s release. During the chorus, she sings: “The song, the power vocals are stripped away for simple drums and Swift ominously repeating, “Look what you made me do,” images of ouroboros (an An-cient Egyptian symbol of a snake cursed into eating itself) flash in a hypnotic circle on the center of the screen. Swift seems to implying through these symbols and lyrics that she has been forced to accept the role of being a snake (an unsubtly insult thrown at her by Kim Kardashian during National Snake Day) of the actions of her rivals, and that they will live to regret it.

Swift sheds her skin in the video and “kills off” her old self in dramatic fashion. Toward the end of the song, she stands on top of a mountain of other Taylor Swifts, all wearing outfits and costumes from other Taylor Swifts, all wearing outfits and costumes from her previous videos, while a clock ticks away for the robbery to be successful. That it feels like everything by playing the victims. Swift then says that she “wishes to be excluded from this narrative,” a reference to a tweet she recently made about the incident with Kim on Twitter.

Swift’s newest album, sporting a cover that is very reminiscent of West’s Life of Pablo, is set to be released on Nov. 10, which happens to be the anniversary of the death of West’s mother. Her label has denied that the release date was intentional, but many have taken to Twitter to denounce what they view as a deliberate slight against West.

Taylor Swift: Look what you made me read

By Trever McKenzie

Online Editor

Online editor Trever McKenzie breaks down Taylor Swift’s controversial new “Reputation”

The seemingly never-ending feud between Taylor Swift and her many rivals continues to worsen. The Tennessee Permanent, newest single, “Look What You Made Me Do,” from her new album “Reputation,” over the course of a song and lyric video dropped on Aug. Friday, 25, sending fans and entertainment media into a frenzy as they began to interpret the lyrics. The video was premiered at Sunday’s VMAs, which was hosted by her long-time rival, Katy Perry.

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Swift sheds her skin in the video and “kills off” her old self in dramatic fashion. Toward the end of the song, she stands on top of a mountain of Star-studded cast pulls off the heist of the summer

Logan Lucky is your perfect last blockbuster of the season

By Jason Smith

Staff Writer

The key component of any heist movie is the movement where things unfold back and forth. The audience gets to see how the switcheroo was performed, Steven Soderbergh’s Logan Lucky keeps that trope intact all with a distinc-tively southern flavor. The movie is very much like David Mackenzie’s Hell or High Water. However, the difference is the evil banks are replaced by a not-so-evil motor speedway.

The first reason to see this film is to confirm that Daniel Craig can act even when he’s not playing James Bond. The second is the tongue-in-cheek celebration of the South. Imagine famous actors playing Southerners strait. It adds a charm to the film that is a commentary on the diffi-culty of surviving in today’s economy.

Everything Steven Soderbergh has done after the “Ocean’s 11” movies feels like an independent film. Soder-bergh is a master at his craft and while there are moments that don’t seem to fit, until they do, it all flows nicely. Just like “Hell or High Water” this story involves a divorced father who has financial trouble yet has a plan to get it out of the way. For Channing Tatum’s Jimmy Logan, the rules that must be adhered to for the robbery to be successful Due to his character’s love of the speedway and thorough plan there never is a moment that it feels like everything will fall apart. The only ten-sion is Jimmy doing his fa-therly duties and attending his daughter’s pageant.

Every actor puts in a sol-id performance, and Adam Driver breaking away from Kylo Ren and his character of “Girls” is always a pleasant surprise. Daniel Craig’s Joe Bang isn’t over the top but still plays with a genuine sincerity. The film wants the audi-ence to cheer for the criminals because that’s why people go see heist movies.

Logan Lucky isn’t going to change the world, but it is good summer viewing that fits nicely in the Soderbergh film pantheon. It is a heist movie with heart.
Virgo vibes might be coming your Cancer this week. You will surprise happy about that thing that Aries break a bad habit. It might happen last week.

An opportunity is coming Gemini Taurus happened last week. It’s going to sneak up on you. Scorpion Libra ready for you. You just have to be in the right place. Sagittarius Virgo Libra ... you’re struggling.

Gemini Watch out! Bad vibes might be coming your way. Capricorn Cool things are ready for you. You just have to look for them.

Cancer: It takes 21 days to break a bad habit. It might be time to try.

Leo: Water your plants.

Virgo: Beef up that resume. An opportunity is coming.

Aries: Try something new this week. You will surprise yourself.

Taurus: Let yourself be happy about that thing that happened last week.

Gemini: Watch out! Bad vibes might be coming your way.

Cancer: It takes 21 days to break a bad habit. It might be time to try.

Leo: Water your plants.

Virgo: Beef up that resume. An opportunity is coming.

Libra: Indulge yourself.

Scorpio: Ask for help if you’re struggling.

Sagittarius: Stop clicking on clickbait articles. You’re wasting so much time.

Capricorn: Cool things are ready for you. You just have to look for them.

Aquarius: Remember to start that assignment early. It’s going to sneak up on you.

Pisces: Spend some time with your old friends. It’s been too long.

A wonderful program that

offered as well as the simple opportunity to try something outside of my usual interests. Pre-Med Association is great for anyone who has an interest in the medical field — either as a hobby or as an occupation. Now as a junior with a hit more understanding of where I want to head professionally. I am eager to join Psi Chi, Xavier’s Psychology Honor Society and Club Psi Chi is great for further exploration of psychology fields as well as finding service work and research opportunities.

As if there weren’t a variety of clubs already there are even more whimsical activities to suit your fancy like Xavier’s Bird Watching Club, a club that I and other animal lovers are anticipating.

Take a look at the Center for Interfaith Community Engagement. I have been volunteering and working with this office since my first year here at Xavier, and the programs are always a blast. The Center for Interfaith is an office located on the third floor of Gallagher Student Center that is dedicated to accurately expressing a variety of different faiths, traditions and cultural backgrounds.