Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

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The Class of 2022 by the numbers

Size isn’t the only unique trait of the largest incoming class in Xavier history.
Here are some other fun facts and figures about the newest Musketeers.

Dean of Admissions Lauren Parcell noted that this class bears plenty of similarities to previous incoming classes, despite the size. For example, the top majors of choice include nursing and business.

**Top 10 Majors:**
1. Nursing  
2. Business  
3. Undecided  
4. exploratory  
5. Biomedical Sciences  
6. Psychology  
7. Sport Management  
8. Exercise Science  
9. Finance  
10. Marketing

Feel old yet? This is the first class in which the majority of students were born in the 2000s.

**1,448**  
Total incoming students

**19**  
Religions represented

**46**  
States represented as well as Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico

**77%**  
of students are from outside Cincinnati

**12**  
Countries represented

“Xavier’s reputation continues to grow on the national stage, and we are no longer seen as ‘just a Midwest school,’” Parcell said. “The city of Cincinnati is also increasingly seen as a destination city and a place to begin a solid career.”

Information provided by Lauren Parcell

In this issue...

**Campus News, Page 2**
Browse a handy guide to what food options are available and how you can pay for them.

**Op-Ed, Pages 4-5**
This week’s section features students’ ideas about what it means to be an American.

**Sports, Page 6**
Learn more about the plans for the Heidt Family Champions Center.

**A&E, Page 7**
Ryan Kambich offers his commentary on Death Cab for Cutie’s newest release.
Students share their excitement for the year
Musketiers new and old share what they are looking forward to at Xavier

BY MADDY GOODMAN
Guest Writer

“Meeting new people and finding new friends.”
Kaylie Cunningham
First-year nursing major

“In most excitement for making new friends and having new experiences I’ve never tried before, I just wanna do something.”
Grayson Rist
First-year nursing major

“Joining math club and my new job at Admissions.”
Eric Filipiak
First-year mathematics and physics double major

“All of my new classes.”
Bethany Young
Sophomore marketing major

“Exploring my major, and also I’m excited for Club Day to meet new people and explore new things.”
Lauren Jacobs
First-year marketing major

“I am most excited to learn about video production because I haven’t taken any DIFT classes yet.”
Andie Parady
Sophomore art and Digital Innovation, Film and Television double major

“I am looking forward to developing the new generation of the Club Lacrosse team at Xavier.”
Jay Zoldy
Junior marketing and finance double major

“I am looking forward to working at the Newswire and recruiting writers for Campus News.”
Jack Dunn
Junior sport management and communications double major

“I’m excited for graduation.”
Megan Bierer
Senior advertising major

Where to use your Dining Dollars
A handy guide to on- and off-campus eating options for the fall semester

BY HEATHER GAST
Campus News Editor

Construction of restaurants on the ground floor of Gallagher Student Center (GSC) is projected to continue through the 2018 fall semester.

In anticipation of increased traffic because of construction and the record breaking size of the class of 2022, Hoff Dining Commons will have communal style seating arranged during construction in GSC. More tables and chairs have been brought in.

Xavier Dining Services has arranged additional dining opportunities to increase food accessibility for students with meal plans with restaurants. Additionally, Dining Dollars from the 2018-19 school year will roll over to the 2019-20 school year.

On-campus dining options will continue to accept both Dining Dollars and X Cash as usual. University Station and other off-campus dining options that normally only accept X Cash will also accept Dining Dollars during construction. The University Station Starbucks will accept both Dining Dollars and X Cash indefinitely.

On-Campus Dining Options

GSC:
- Victory Perk — Formerly Coffee Emporium on the first floor. Serves coffee, specialty drinks and grab-and-go salads and sandwiches.
- Gallagher Bookstore — Convenience store, microwave meals.

Smith Hall:
- Victory Perk

Conaton Learning Commons:
- Conaton Fresh Xpress — Former Fave’s location on the fourth floor. Offers made-to-order sandwiches, salads and smoothies.

Fenwick Atrium:
- Currito
- Pizza ATM
- There will be a pop-up sandwich shop in the Fenwick Atrium during construction. Arrival to be determined.

Off-Campus Dining Options

University Station:
- Starbucks — Will accept both Dining Dollars and X Cash indefinitely.
- Gold Star — A competitor of Skyline Chili. Serves Cincinnati-style chili and coney's.

Hyde Park Plaza:
- Bruegger’s Bagels — Serves New-York style bagels and bagel-based sandwich es. Open for breakfast and lunch.

Norwood:
- Chipotle — Located off Montgomery Road in the same plaza as Kroger.
- Delicio’s Pizza — Family-style pizzeria. Located at the intersection of Dana Avenue and Montgomery Road, across from the UDF.
Paul Manafort trial close to verdict
The president tweets his anger while Rudy Giuliani says ‘Truth isn’t truth’

BY JACK DUNN
Campus News Editor

The jury in the trial of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort has been found guilty on eight counts of bank fraud but cannot reach a consensus on 10 others. Judge T. S. Ellis told prosecutors and Manafort’s defense lawyers that he would consider accepting a partial verdict after the jury inquired about how to fill out a verdict sheet.

The inquiry came on day four of deliberations for the two-week trial. The trial, which began from an inquiry by special counsel Robert Mueller, focuses on Manafort’s handling of millions of dollars earned in the Ukraine as an adviser.

The trial has received intense scrutiny from President Donald Trump, who called the special counsel’s inquiry “biased” and a “witch hunt.”

The trial deliberations come on the heels of the announcement that White House counsel Donald McGahn has spent 30 hours in interviews with Mueller. Attorney for McGahn said that he did not “incriminate” the President.

“I allowed him and all others to testify—I didn’t have to,” the president said in a tweet. “I have nothing to hide and have demanded transparency so that this Rigged and Disgusting Witch Hunt can come to a close.”

At the same time Trump personal attorney Rudy Giuliani was doing damage control after an interview with Chuck Todd on Meet the Press Sunday. In two different exchanges Giuliani claimed the reason why Trump cannot sit down with Mueller was that “He should testify because he’s going to tell the truth and he should worry…because it’s somebody’s version of the truth.”

Todd replied saying “Truth is truth” before Giuliani interrupted, “No it isn’t. Truth isn’t truth.”

Giuliani tweeted out a clarification, saying it was not meant as a “pointification on moral theology but one referring to the situation where two people make precisely contradictory statements…he said, she said puzzle.”

In the same interview, Giuliani admitted that the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Trump campaign officials and a group of Russians was “originally for the purpose of getting information about Clinton.” After being called out by Todd saying that is collusion, Giuliani walked back those comments.

That was the original intention of the meeting,” Giuliani said “It turned out to be a meeting about another subject and it was not pursued at all.”

A north London macaw parrot known as Jessie proved quite flirtatious with her would-be rescuers. Firefighters seeking to coax the bird down from a roof were instructed to tell her “I love you” to gain her trust. She responded with “I love you” but also proceeded to tell them to “F*** off” several times before flying to another roof. Jessie and her owner were later reunited.

London wasn’t the only place with parrot problems this week. A Belizeville, Ill., man became stuck in quicksand while attempting to rescue his pet parrot. The bird accidentally flew into mud at a local park and became stuck. The man attempted to rescue it but then became stuck himself. Police were able to retrieve both the man and his parrot, who remained perched on his owner’s shoulder throughout the ordeal.

The pyramids of Giza are home to many secrets, though the world’s oldest solid cheese might fall on the list of unexpected finds. Archaeologists had initially discovered the whitish mass in a jar in 2010, and a recently published study of the substance revealed that it was a dairy product made from cow, sheep or goat milk. Though it’s said that aging improves the quality of cheese, the study did not provide details regarding the sample’s taste.

A wallaby escaped from her enclosure at the Wild Zoological Park in West Midlands, England, only to be spotted sunbathing a few miles away. After she was reported missing, local police received several calls stating that the wallaby named Hol-ly had been seen eating grass and catching rays. Zookeepers have recuperated her and say that she is very friendly.

Week in review:
Parrots, a wallaby and old cheese

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NOTE OF THE WEEK
Afraid of the monsters under the bed

August 15, 9:41 a.m. — Xavier Police assisted Physical Plant with a water leak in Schmidt Hall. Minor damage on third floor was found.

August 16, 9:45 a.m. — A non-student was caught laying on tables and acting unusual in the Gallagher Student Center. The person was warned about trespassing and asked to leave campus.

August 17, 2:50 p.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire Responded to fire alarm at Brockman Hall. An investigation revealed someone using Febreze on the second floor activated the alarm.

August 17, 2:54 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a report from a student who received a fraudulent check from a popular babysitter scam online. Instead of cashing the check as instructed, the student reported the incident to Xavier Police. An investigation is pending.

August 18, 12:42 a.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to Brockman Hall for a malfunctioning fire alarm. The alarm was activated twice in a short amount of time for unknown reasons. Physical Plant was notified.

August 19, 12:05 a.m. — Xavier Police assisted Norwood Police in investigating two loud party complaints in the 3700 block of Elsmere Avenue, and the 3900 block of Lindley Avenue. Both houses were advised of the disorderly house ordinance and both ended their parties.

Photo courtesy of ABC News
Paul Manafort, pictured above, attends the 2016 Republican National Convention. Manafort faces 18 charges of bank fraud from his time as a political adviser in the Ukraine. The jury just finished day four of deliberations.

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia
A mother and son wallaby just chilling together.
The attributes of American freedom

Unlike other nations, America was not created for power or war. It was founded on an idea and abides by a set of principles that center on freedom. But where does this freedom originate, and what does it constitute?

Many countries have freedoms, but they are granted by their governments and man. What makes us unique is that the idea of freedom transformed us into a country of ideals. America’s founders sought truth and held them to be gifts granted by our Creator, not our government.

Truth sanctifies freedom because it validates its En-dower and expresses honesty, devotion and loyalty, ideals that Americans embody. Citi-izenship is a result of freedom and crucial for exercising the liberties and duties we par-take in. From voting to running for office to simply par-ticipating in your community, the social responsibility and public spirit we exemplify are uniquely inspired. Good government hinges on participation and the promotion of good values within society. The love of freedom and the ability to practice it is part of the American lifestyle.

There is an incumbent responsibility in being an American. It requires that we have self-control, embody virtue and practice diligence in both. To be an American requires that we acknowledge something transcendental — something more powerful than us. We must recognize that principle directs thought and Providence guides action.

Alec de Tocqueville said when visiting America in the 1830s, “Liberty cannot be es- tablished without morality, nor morality without faith.” By this he meant the best protection of our freedoms is faith and gratitude toward the Creator who gave them to us. It means to be vigilant in the conservation of those re- sponsibilities which deem us citizens.

Being an American means to never be shortsighted and always consider the con-sequences of our actions. It compels a great deal of self-restraint and responsi- bility. This calls us to temper ourselves, respect the past and advance with caution.

As Americans, we should be wary of ideas that could threaten the freedom we hold. Modernity poses a lot of dan- gers to our liberty. Its dis-regard for the past, insistence on fact over truth and increased apathy contributes to moral decay, decreasing public spirit and the collapse of American virtue. These results also have consequences of their own in the form of corrup-tion, statism and the demise of liberty. Complacency only leads to subjection, thus mak-ing the citizen a subject.

This does not have to be that way forward, though. If we stay true to the idea of freedom and work to produce and preserve an ideal — the transcendental goal — then we can pass along a great gift to future generations. We are the present and the fu-ture.

A vital duty of an Ameri-can is to learn from the past, reflect on the present and pre-pare for the future. Tocque- ville warned, “When the past no longer illuminates the fu-ture, the spirit walks in dark-ness.” Being an American calls you to put others before your-self, think critically, read and participate in civic and social institutions in your commu-nity. It also means admitting when we’ve fallen short. I would also like to remind everyone that the freedom we enjoy today has not come without bloodshed and sacri-fice. The founding generation fought tirelessly to free them-selves from British rule and establish an effective form of self-government, and genera-tions since have paid the ulti-mate sacrifice for the love of freedom.

This is not something we take lightly. It is crucial that we remember those who have given their lives for freedom and show gratitude. For if we forget those who came before us, we forsake the legacy that comes with it.

It’s every American’s re-sponsibility to stand up for freedom in its ideal sense and to guard it against those who wish to do harm. We must preserve the idea of freedom and the ideal of America. Be- ing American is not simply your nationality; it’s a piece of you, part of your being.

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Mission Statement
The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing view-points and opinions, the Newswire hopes to fos-ters dialogue among students, faculty and staff.

Adverting
All inquiries should be di-direction to the Business As Advertising Manager, Alfredo Mercedez, at 513-745-3561.

For Your Information
xaviernewswire.com
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The Newswire asks: What does it constitute?

To be awake, to unify: the American challenge

In this day and age, for me to be an American is to be aware.

I identify as an African-American male. That is enough for whoever is reading this to come to their assumptions about me. I have to know that I live in a nation where hatred is hidden behind words like “Make American Great Again.”

Despite my disposition, we should all be aware that hatred, pain and isolation truly know no color and if one community is hurting, it will eventually spill over to anoth-er and another and affect every-one. This is why it is our duty as Americans to learn to rid ourselves of anything and everything that impedes us as a people.

We live in a country where, if something is wrong on the people don’t agree with the direction we as a nation are headed, we can start to change it. The people don’t agree with something, we can stand alone.”

As Americans we constant-ly battle between holding on to our personal beliefs and accepting others. We believe in something more powerful than us, that’s simply not true.

Instead, we should weigh every different thought, per-spective and approach to see if it is healthy for the human beings who make up this na-tion. When done justly, pol-itics and social justice con-cerns become a monumental task, but that does not mean they are aims that should not be sought after, fought for and defended.

In the words of Audre Lorde, “It’s not our differ-ences that separate us, but our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences.”

Ihsan Walker is a junior criminal justice and Span-ish double major. He is the President of the Black Student Association.

Photo courtesy of MaxPixel.com

Photo courtesy of MaxPixel.com

Cole J. Branham is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and eco-nomics double major. He is the President of Xavier College Republicans.

In this day and age, for me to be an American is to be aware.

I identify as an African-American male. That is enough for whoever is reading this to come to their assumptions about me. I have to know that I live in a nation where hatred is hidden behind Constitutional amendments, political agendas and slogans like “Make American Great Again.”

Despite my disposition, we should all be aware that hatred, pain and isolation truly know no color and if one community is hurting, it will eventually spill over to another and another and affect everyone. This is why it is our duty as Americans to learn to rid ourselves of anything and everything that impedes us as a people.

We live in a country where, if something is wrong on the people don’t agree with the direction we as a nation are headed, we can change it. However, we the people are divided. As Abraham Lincoln said, “A house divided cannot stand alone.”

As Americans we constantly battle between holding on to our personal beliefs and accepting others. We believe in something more powerful than us, that’s simply not true.

Instead, we should weigh every different thought, perspective and approach to see if it is healthy for the human beings who make up this nation. When done justly, politics and social justice concerns become a monumental task, but that does not mean they are aims that should not be sought after, fought for and defended.

In the words of Audre Lorde, “It’s not our differences that separate us, but our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences.”

Ihsan Walker is a junior criminal justice and Spanish double major. He is the President of the Black Student Association.
For 12 years of my life, I started every single school day by pledging my allegiance to the stars and stripes. But those words were empty, routine, monotonous. Never once did I give a thought to what “one nation under God” actually stood for or what my responsibilities were to the country I called home.

The Pledge of Allegiance contains just 31 words, and those brief words give us only one clue to how we become the Americans our founders wanted us to be. The Pledge simply asks that we create a country with liberty and justice for all.

No stipulations are made on this pledge. We don’t say these words and promise only to protect the liberty and justice of natural-born citizens, of Christians, of adults or of English-speakers. Regardless of color, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, gender, age or political party, the America we create is a nation with liberty and justice for all.

That’s why I believe that the first component of being an American is celebrating the diversity that makes us strong. The second component is recognizing and respecting the dignity of all people, or respecting “the Republic, for which it stands.”

Wherever our flag flies, those it flies over are people created equal. No one has more rights than anyone else, and no one can strip the humanity from another person. Being an American means recognizing the abuses of power we fight against and lifting our neighbors up so that we may never become a country of tyrants. Instead, Americans believe in creating a country with liberty and justice for all. However, liberty and justice can only exist in a country where equity also exists. Americans believe that liberty is freedom — the ability to pull yourself up by your bootstraps and to work hard and work together for both individual and national success.

But not all Americans have this liberty. Those of us who speak a language that isn’t English or have skin that isn’t white or have parents who are poor don’t have bootstraps (or even boots) to pull up. Across our country, immigrant, Black, Latino, poor White and LGBTQ+ communities don’t have access to liberty because they’re too busy fighting to survive.

This isn’t justice. This isn’t America. Being ok with this system isn’t what it means to be an American. Being an American isn’t about knowing the words to a pledge. It’s about living those words every single day in the hopes that our children will live in a country that celebrates diversity, respects human dignity and ensures liberty and justice for all.

Being an American means seeing the wrongdoings in our history and fighting to prevent them in our futures. It’s about never being satisfied with our great nation until it’s great for every person who calls America home. Being an American is pledging allegiance to a flag that stands for diversity, equity and a commitment to creating a country that embodies it.

The Preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America starts with the words, “We the People.” This is precisely what America is — We the People. That always has been and always will be the American national identity.

The opening lines of the Constitution are not just a smattering of patriotic words strung into one very long run-on sentence. The Preamble is a call to action, the foundation of what brings us all together as Americans seeking to build a better America.

One of the founding principles of our country is that we are a nation founded by the people and for the people. We are accountable to each other and ourselves — and our government is accountable to us — to protect our rights and liberties.

However, no one can deny that there have been many times in our nation’s history when We the People have failed.

It is our responsibility to learn from the mistakes of the past and work together in meaningful dialogue to ensure those historical wrongs are not repeated or proliferated and that no one’s rights are infringed upon.

Being an American means rising to meet our Constitution’s call to be We the People, to endlessly fight for each other’s rights, to stand up against that which is wrong and to support each other as members of this nation.

It will not happen overnight — we are still human, after all — but to be an American is to be dedicated to the struggle and the process of improvement and ensuring that every American has their opportunities to enjoy to the fullest extent the promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Being an American means seeing the wrongdoings in our history and fighting to prevent them in our futures. It’s about never being satisfied with our great nation until it’s great for every person who calls America home. Being an American is pledging allegiance to a flag that stands for diversity, equity and a commitment to creating a country that embodies it.

Anne Marie Coriale is a senior business management major from Lexington, Ky. She is the President of Young Americans for Liberty.

Photo courtesy of MedPlus.com

‘We the People’ and all that we embody
**Musketeers land four-star recruit**

By Donnie Menke  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Xavier men’s basketball head coach Travis Steele landed his eighth commitment since he was hired on March 31, a 6-foot-9 power forward Zach Freemantle from Bergen Catholic in New Jersey. Freemantle is rated as a composite four-star talent by 247Sports. According to his scouting report, Freemantle is “a tough forward with a high level motor that gets to both ends of the floor. His second jump is elite, which can be a difference maker down battering for rebounds around the rim.”

Four of the commitments — big man Zach Hankins, forward Ryan Welage and guards Kyle Castlin and Keonte Kennedy — will be on this year’s team.

However, Kennedy is the only player of the bunch who has more than one year of eligibility remaining after the upcoming season. Meanwhile, Freemantle, big man Daniel Ramsey and wing Elijah King will not be on campus until next year, as they are part of the 2019 class. Guard Dwon Odom, another four-star recruit, is currently a part of the 2020 class. Steele’s recruiting success isn’t new. As an assistant coach, he was the lead recruiter for several current and former Xavier players, including Trevon Bluiett, Quentin Goodin and Donatius James.

Another big part of Steele’s success since taking over as head coach has been his assistant coaches. Jonas Hayes, known for his development of big men and strong recruiting while coaching at the University of Georgia, has been the primary recruiter for King, Ramsey and Odom, who are all natives of Georgia.

Ben Johnson, who was known for his development and recruiting skills while coaching at the University of Minnesota, was the primary recruiter for Freemantle. Though Dante Jackson has yet to be the primary recruiter for a commit, he has still made a noticeable impact, as both Ramsey and Freemantle commented to 247Sports on how comfortable they were with the entire staff before visiting Xavier.

“I’ve built a strong relationship with them through July and August,” Freemantle said. “It was just them texting or calling with at least one of the coaches every day. I spoke with every assistant before the visit even happened.”

Ramsey echoed a similar sentiment when he committed on August 6, telling 247, “It’s the only school where every coach before the summer was over, got in contact with me and talked to me on the phone at least four or five times. That made me getting to know all the coaches.”

It appears the staff will be looking for at least two more commitments in this 2019 recruiting cycle and possibly a third too. This could mean as many as six players in the 2019 class.

With the progress that has been made so far, it’s hard to not feel good about Xavier’s chances to get the players it wants the most.

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**Plans for new athletic facility revealed**

By Luke Feliciano  
Sports Editor

O’Connor Sports Complex is ready to undergo a structural facelift.

Late last week, renovation plans were revealed that will transform the student recreational center into a training facility dedicated solely to Xavier athletic programs under its new name, the Heidt Family Champions Center. The building will preserve the O’Connor Sports Complex moniker in honor of Reverend Paul O’Connor, an influential former Xavier president who made significant contributions to university athletics.

All of Xavier’s standing athletic facilities situated across Victory Parkway — including Hayden Field and the XU Soccer Complex — will also be encompassed under the O’Connor Sports Complex designation.

The center will be named after Dr. Robert Heidt, one of the main benefactors who donated to the cause of the project.

Currently, Heidt serves as a Vice-Chair of the Xavier University Board of Trustees and is heavily involved in the area practicing sports medicine. Previously, he worked for St. Xavier High School and with the Cincinnati Bengals as a team physician.

Heidt’s master plan to refurbish a variety of campus buildings that need updates. According to goxavier.com, the project will cost $10 million and will house around 90 percent of Xavier’s athletic teams. Major upgrades include new and improved areas for sport-specific activity, a pool for competitive use for the men’s and women’s swimming team and strength and conditioning/sports medicine spaces fully equipped with redesigned locker rooms for student athletes. Office space will also be built for Xavier coaches.

“We’re excited about all that the Heidt Family Champions Center will bring to our student athletes,” Xavier swimming head coach Brent MacDonald said.

“We have a great opportunity through fundraising to further improve upon our specific aquatic space, and I look forward to helping make it a place our current swimmers and alumni will be proud to call home.”

The renovations to the O’Connor Sports Complex are scheduled to begin construction in 2020 after the new Health United Building (HUB), which is expected to open in 2019, is built.

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**Sports Banter**

Just a little TUA much

According to a tweet sent out by Brett McMurphy, Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is the favorite to win the 2018 Heisman Trophy with 5/1 odds despite not having a start under his belt.

He’s Back, Back, Back!

A USA Today report stated that partially retired NFL commentator Chris Berman is in talks with ESPN to return to television for Sunday night SportsCenter.

Not so Incognito

Ex-NFL lineman Richie Incognito, who has a history of making personal threats to his own teammates, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and making threats Monday night, according to an ESPN report. He is scheduled to go to bail Tuesday.

Victor CRUZing

Wideout Victor Cruz has officially retired from the NFL, with a statement of retirement with ESPN as a football analyst. He is set to make his first appearance on ESPN this week.
Death Cab for Cutie rocks out again
The indie band from your rebel teenage years makes another strong album

BY RYAN KAMBICH
Opinion & Editorials Editor

Heartbreak, yearning and just a touch of cautious optimism. Veteran indie rockers Death Cab for Cutie once again draw on those signature tropes for their ninth studio album, Thank You for Today, released on Aug. 17 after streaming in full on NPR Music’s website starting Aug. 13.

The record, their first since 2015 release Kintsugi, Thank You is the first Death Cab album to feature guitarist Zac Rae, who toured with the band in the wake of Walla’s departure.

Sonically, the record takes the reins where Kintsugi left off, deploying a similar emphasis on keyboards and electronic drums — part of a larger drift away from the raw guitar-driven indie rock that characterized the band’s earlier work. Meanwhile, the lyrics evolve directly from the narratives of Kintsugi, an album ruminating on alienated lovers, loss and the painful process of rebuilding (Kintsugi is the Japanese art of using gold to repair cracks in broken pottery).

On Thank You, the wounds are no longer fresh, but the heart has calcified into an ach- ing memorial to lost love. The album’s opening track, “I Dreamt We Spoke Again,” is a detuned reverie with an uptempo disco beat that obscures a desolate memory of bygone tenderness, a formulation like- wise employed on the deadpan “You Moved Away.” Similarly, “Summer Years” reflects on the aftermath of two lives that have permanently diverged but are nonetheless brought tauntingly close together (“as we’re walking lines in parallel that will never meet and it’s just as well”). Thank You isn’t all pain- ful memories, however. Some of its extended lamentation is rooted in the present. On “Gold Rush,” frontman Ben Gibbard bitterly condemns the rapid gentrification in his home city of Seattle driven by corporate giant Amazon over the last decade (“digging for gold in my neighborhood/for what they say is the greater good”).

The highlight of the album is undoubtedly “When We Drive,” a U2-esque electronic wave of sound that swells but never quite crests as Gibbard manages to find a glimmer of hope anew. The musi- cal arrangement recalls some of the band’s earlier triumphs, namely “Passenger Seat” and “I Will Possess Your Heart.” Throughout its 30 minutes, Thank You synthesizes old and new in a record that is at the same time dauntingly challenging and aesthetically rewarding. Songs such as “Near/ Far” and “Northern Lights” effortlessly blend novel electronic over- tures with the brooding guitar riffs the band is beloved for. If you’re new to Death Cab, I recommend you start else- where in their extensive cat- alogue that spans the last 20 years. But for longtime fans, the album is a natural step in the band’s evolution.

Your breakdown of the 2018 VMAS
The Video Music Awards kicked off award season with a night of pop culture

Best of the night:

Chantel Jeffries took home the prize for best outfit of the night. On a night where most of the outfits came across as bored and uninspired, Jeffries brought the sparkle. The event is meant to be lighthearted and fun, and her dress reflected that with pink sparkles and a sheer side train.

Cardi B took home the prize for best overall night. She generated a lot of buzz with her “fake baby” stunt as well as the shade she threw at Nicki Minaj during her acceptance speech. She also had the most nominations of the night (12) and took home a total of three awards.

Ariana Grande definitely took home the prize for best performance of the night. She performed her new hit single, “God is a woman,” off her new album, Sweetener. The performance featured women of all different skin tones and ethnicities, as well as the women in her family.

Nicki Minaj had quite the dramatic moment at the VMAs. Since her new album dropped, she has been facing a lot of hate from fans and crit- ics alike. Many have said that the queen is losing her touch, especially after Travis Scott’s Astroworld turned out better first week numbers.

Minaj fought back with a direct attack against Scott and roped his girlfriend, Kylie Jen- ner in as well. “I put my blood sweat and tears in writing a dope album only for Travis Scott to have (his girlfriend) Kylie Jenner post a tour pass telling ppl to come see her & (her daughter) Stormi,” Minaj said on Twit- ter. Scott and Jenner have not responded verbally, but they did show up to the VMAs af- ter Minaj left the show.
**A certain struggle**

BY SOONDOS MULLA-OSSMAN

Features Editor

Tumultuous thundering of rubber-soled shoes across Pavements old and new, carpets vacuumed and aired, tiles mopped and washed Suitcases rumble, carts teeter, as horses in a wild gallop Bent on devouring the green grasses that have only just climbed to maturity Reaching for the honey drop in the sky Unaware of the grim shadows fated to cast over them. Fauna are no less spared from this annual plight, though They find beauty in the gifts discarded by the stampeding giants Sustenance and delicacies to rodents and lagomorphs, Waste and leftovers to its prior owners. In the distance, a bell tolls: Realistic enough to sound traditional, but its true source: A machine—an expensive, pretty machine, but still a machine. Such is the desperate nature of the minds that make up the imminent storm Of flying papers and clacking pencils. Winter may be coming.

But school is already here.

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**Features**

*August 22, 2018*

**Aries:** That whole grain avocado toast is waiting for you. For something that doesn’t necessarily require any cooking, it’s a pretty wholesome meal—for a college student, at least.

**Taurus:** Pick a nice flower and press it into one of the last pages of your planner to get some good vibes (and scents) following you as you come back to school.

**Gemini:** Do the walls of your new place look a little bland? Don’t worry. The guy that sells those really awesome posters and decor will be here soon.

**Cancer:** Remember that one time Hermione punched Draco in the face really hard in *Harry Potter*? Yeah. That’s how boss you are this week.

**Leo:** You might spend half of all your allotted dining dollars within this week alone...and honestly, I wouldn’t blame you. It’s bound to happen to all of us.

**Virgo:** Your astrological sign’s in the limelight this week, so go all out. And by that I mean, show that professor who really deserves that A (it’s you).

**Pisces:** Take some risks this week! Even if it’s just hitting the snooze button on your alarm one more time.

**Aquarius:** Go out or chill? You might grapple with this conundrum this week, and it would do you best to leave it to the flip of a coin.

**Capricorn:** Friends might ask about your summer adventures, and answering might cause nostalgia, but that just means it’s time to plan a weekend road trip.

**Sagittarius:** Strutting through the same buildings and staring at the same whiteboards for the next few months might be a jarring shift from summer, but you got this.

**Libra:** As with most students stumbling into their first week of classes, you might be looking at your mental preparation and going, “Road work ahead? Yeah, I sure hope it does.”

**Scorpio:** Will Sparknotes have your back this year? I dunno. Play it safe and start scouting for some good reading spots.

**Virgo** Your astrological sign’s in the limelight this week, so go all out. And by that I mean, show that professor who really deserves that A (it’s you).