BART investigating chalk incident

Students for Life’s handwritten “Messages of Love” were scrubbed off or partially erased in what has since been classified as a campus bias incident

By Michael Rauher
Staff Writer

On Oct. 17, Xavier Students for Life (S4L), a pro-life club on campus, chalked messages that intended to show love and support and included contact information of resources for students who were experiencing pregnancy or who were parents. The messages were written on the sidewalks around Kuhlman Hall and Herald Avenue.

Around 11:15 that night, three students were spotted outside the Mail Center erasing the messages around Herald Avenue with boiling water. The messages next to Kuhlman were partially erased by eight students around 12:05 a.m. The incident was referred to the Bias Advisory and Response Team (BART).

“BART is hoping to gather more details from (Xavier Police) and the Dean of Students regarding their ongoing investigation and how we should move forward,” BART member Dr. Taj Smith said. He added that the BART team met on Tuesday to discuss the incident.

First-year finance major and club member Carson Rayhill said that the goal of the chalkings was to “inspire a respect for life and all types of people with loving and encouraging messages.”

S4L members said that they can refer students to resources if they are experiencing pregnancy or are parenting and that they hope to provide a community of support and inclusion for those who may have these experiences.

“Our club is meant to be a resource for students who might face these experiences, but wiping away our messages inhibits that goal,” junior club treasurer Lily Hutkowski said.

Sophomore business management major Caroline Murphy added that the vandalism went against not only the club’s goals but also those of Xavier as a whole.

“These actions diminish the values of inclusion that our university wants to uphold,” Murphy said.

Rayhill also expressed concern that other students, especially first-years, may be afraid to offer their opinions and viewpoints on these types of issues as a result of the vandalism. S4L President Anna Gayford added that club members want the opposite: more engagement with these issues on both sides of the aisle.

“We would like to have open discussions and dialogue with those who disagree with us on this issue,” Gayford said.

Despite the debate about the issue itself, both pro-life and pro-choice proponents expressed support for the club.

“I think that regardless of the messaging, the incident should be considered vandalism, and I hope that if I had done something similar with a club that I was involved in, our opinions and beliefs would be respected,” junior Sam Peters, who is a pro-choice supporter, said.

Gayford said the club hopes to have more displays and plans to continue to talk about support solutions for students who are pregnant or parenting. Students for Life of America will be publishing a press release on the issue later this week.

Beyond Xavier, other schools across the country have reported acts of vandalism toward Students for Life groups. In September, Students for Life at the University of Nebraska-Omaha reported theft of and damage to a weeklong pro-life display. Signs were stolen or thrown in the trash, and pro-choice messages were written on them. A video later surfaced showing an individual who placed signs in front of the group’s display.

At Kutztown University, located in Kutztown, Pa., pro-life posters were torn down, according to an Oct. 3 Facebook post from the group.

Closer to home, a student at the Miami University-Hamilton campus destroyed parts of the Cemetery of Innocents display in April. The incident came shortly after the university’s Students for Life group settled a lawsuit with Miami University of Ohio concerning free speech after being required to put trigger warnings around the display in 2017.

Back on campus, S4L has continued to cooperate with BART, as well as the Dean of Students and the police department, in the ongoing investigation.

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Read a reflection from a first-year writer halfway through his first semester of college.
ConneX seeks student input

By Chuck Collins

Guest Writer

Signs throughout residence halls and Hoff Dining Commons (the caf) advertise the Voice to Vision survey to tell ConneX, the force behind campus dining, “what you really think!”

The survey invites students to share their food for thought about the current state of on-campus dining to influence potential installments.

The results of the survey will inform menus in the caf and future on-campus dining options. The survey will be available until Oct. 31 for students to share their input on their favorite meals in the caf.

The survey has received 400 responses as of Oct. 22. ConneX hopes to beat last year’s survey’s record of 1,300 responses by using signage posted around campus, a social media campaign and emails sent to students.

ConneX has taken student feedback into consideration in the past. The pop-up sub shop in the Fenwick Hall lobby is a result of the student body asking for more food options after 9 p.m.

ConneX’s Director of Marketing Jennifer Paiotti has received 100 responses as of Oct. 22. ConneX hopes to beat last year’s survey’s record of 1,300 responses by using signage posted around campus, a social media campaign and emails sent to students.

Students are hopeful for change both in the caf and around campus. Junior middle childhood education major Lavere Hearn expects “better vegan options on campus in addition to (the caf)” from taking the survey.

First-year exploratory major Lauren Mikell wants “more fruit options as well as healthier” meals in the caf.

Some students attempted the survey but found it difficult to find and tedious to complete.

There will be no new restaurants in addition to the Gallagher Student Center (GSC) options this year, though there could be more in the future, according to Paititi. The GSC restaurants, a sub shop and diner capable of mobile orders are set to open in the beginning of spring semester.

As the opening dates of the GSC restaurants approach, ConneX is asking the student body to name the new diner and deli. Through Oct. 26, students can write their suggestions on the posters in GSC.

The suggestions will be considered by the Student Government Association and Xavier administration, who will both come to an agreement on five names for each restaurant. Students will then vote on the names for the restaurants, bringing the sub shop and diner one step closer to opening.

As leaves continue to fall...

Events to keep you busy — rather than cold.

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Journalist death remains a mystery
Saudia Arabia changes story while 18 men are arrested, U.S. weighs options

BY DEVIN LUGNIBILL

Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post journalist, was murdered in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2. Khashoggi was a Saudi Arabian citizen with a permanent U.S. residence in Virginia. Khashoggi was known for often writing critically of Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the heir to the Saudi throne.

International leaders, including Justin Trudeau of Canada and Angela Merkel of Germany, criticized the Saudi Arabian government, specifically Prince Salman, for its alleged culpability in the slaying.

"It seems shaky how close (Prince Salman) was to the killing," sophomore Christian Dieter said. "It's tough to say what will happen, but I think something should be done. However, it's hard to say how it will affect the American economy.

The United States has a $110 billion arms sale planned with the Saudis with "severe consequences," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. Pompeo threatened the Saudis "with the last word on this matter from the United States," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. "We will continue to explore additional measures to hold those responsible accountable."

Trump has expressed that he would rather avoid canceling the arms sale instead of imposing consequences.

What good would that do? There are other things we can do," Trump said.

The official position of the Saudi government for two weeks after Khashoggi's disappearance was that they did not know his whereabouts and that he had left the consulate shortly after entering to obtain marriage documentation.

As international pressure mounted, however, the Saudi government changed its position and admitted that Khashoggi died shortly after entering the consulate. They initially claimed his death was carried out by rogue killers and not under the order of Prince Salman or any other Saudi official.

Saudia Arabia has since dismissed two high-ranking officials, one a two-star general, and arrested 18 men in connection to the murder.

The night prior to the murder, 15 Saudi nationals arrived in Istanbul at 3 a.m. via private jet.

Nine men had backgrounds in military or police training, one was an expert in mobile autopsies and two men had been photographed on multiple occasions as bodyguards of Prince Salman. These men are suspected as being responsible for the torture, murder and disposal of Khashoggi's body.

The latest account by the Saudi government is that Khashoggi died after a fist fight in the consulate.

This explanation has done little to settle international outrage, with multiple multinational companies pulling out of the international business conference known as the "Davos in the Desert" hosted by Saudia Arabia.

Saudia Arabia has yet to explain what became of the body, why they attempted to cover up the slaying, how the situation inside the consulate could have escalated to such an extent and whether Prince Salman was involved or had prior knowledge of the crime.

Trump initially held that he found the Saudi explanation to be credible but has since changed tone. Trump stated in the Oval Office on Tuesday that the Saudis "had a very bad original concept. It was carried out poorly, and the cover-up was one of the worst in the history of cover-ups.

Trump went on to say that there are currently U.S. intelligence officials in Turkey investigating the murder. Saudia Arabia has requested one month from the international community in order to investi- gate the murder in additional detail.

Week in Review:
Dead cookies, snake hole and boom!

- A California high school recently shared a special batch of homemade cookies with her classmates. The secret ingredient? A grandparent's cremated ashes. One classmate remarked that she did not believe the student until she pulled out the urn and said there was a special ingredient in the treats. No one who ate the cookies has reported ill effects (Oct. 18).
- An Arizona man was rescued after surviving two days being stuck down an explosion. The officer reportedly heard him calling for help and contacted authorities. The friend said that the man was "a tough guy" who had to kill three rattle

POLICE NOTES

Oct. 16, 12:57 p.m. — Xavier Police responded to the book store in Gallagh er Student Center for the report of a theft. A subject had passed a bad check. Xavier Police is investigat ing.

Oct. 16, 9:29 p.m. — Xavier Police stopped three students in the Victory Family Park for a drug investigation. The students were referred to the code of conduct.

Oct. 17, 9:50 p.m. — Xavier Police responded to Brockman Hall for a report of three non-students re fusing to leave the building. The non-students were ad vised to leave and co-operated with the police.

Oct. 17, 11:17 p.m. — Xavier Police responded to a noise complaint with Residence Life in student hous ing on Dana Avenue. Students were referred to the code of conduct for drug offenses.

Oct. 18, 12:59 p.m. — Xavier Police responded to the theft of an iPhone from the third floor catering area of Cintas Center. An investiga tion is pending.

Oct. 18, 10:28 p.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to a fire alarm in Buenger Hall. The cause was not determined and the alarm was reset.

Oct. 18, 10:39 p.m. — Xavier Police responded to student housing on Dana Avenue and assisted Residence Life with breaking up a party. The students were referred to the code of conduct.

Oct. 19, 1:30 a.m. — Xavier Police responded to Brockman Hall for an intoxicated student. The student was referred to the code of conduct.

Oct. 19, 2:13 a.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to Brockman Hall for a fire alarm. It was determined that hairspray set off the detector. The alarm was reset.

Oct. 20, 2:49 a.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to Brockman Hall for a fire alarm. The source of the alarm was undetermined. The alarm was reset.

Oct. 20, 9:00 a.m. — A student reported that their vehicle was gone and found through in the R2 parking lot. Nothing was taken.

Oct. 21, 9:24 p.m. — A student reported that their vehicle was gone through in the Village parking lot, but nothing appeared to be missing.
Students for Life responds to vandalism

This piece was written jointly by the executive board of Xavier Students for Life (XS4L) which is comprised of Anna Gayford, Mikaela Grossz, Kennedy Borchardt and Lily Hulko.

At this point many of you are aware that last Wednes- day of last week, messages that Xavier Students for Life (XS4L) had written in chalk were destroyed. XS4L is a chapter of Students for Life of America, which nationally sponsors Chalk Day with the goal of being a voice for pro-life students on college campuses and showing sup- port for any pregnant or par- enting students and faculty. These messages included "you are loved," “love them both,” “we are aware that some bars enforce dress codes and discrimination: A night in OTR

To our community members who par- ticipated in the vandalism, we would like you to know that even though we are hurt, we love you. At any point you would like to engage in a dialogue with us, you are wel- come to.

Finally, to our club members and other pro-life students, especially our first-years, we would like to thank you for your courage and to remind you that although our mission may not always be an easy road, our goal is in sight.

If anyone is facing an unplanned pregnancy, Pregnant-你不希望你的孩子在你面前出生，you can contact one of our students to learn more about pregnancy resources, whether you need resources or a friend to talk to.

Dress codes and discrimination: A night in OTR

Kate George is a senior communications major from Alona, Ohio. She is a guest writer for the Newswire.

How many of you are aware that some bars enforce dress codes? How many of you have to be aware that bars enforce dress codes? I was aware that bars like this exist in big cities such as Chicago and New York but had no idea that some bars in Cincin- nati actually turn away patrons based on what they are wearing.

Rules posted at the door can forbid ripped jeans, hats/ headbands/do-rags, baggy pants, sleeveless shirts, work boots, excessive gold jewelry and white shirts. Sounds ridicu- lous, right? Most of us have never white shirts and ripped jeans multiple times a week. These rules are made to keep “trendy” out but directly target people of color. Dress codes like these are infamous for being racist and are enforced in bars around Cincinnati.

Tree House Patio Bar is a go-to place for students and young adults because of its fun vibe, cute fairy lights and trendy swings. The bar sits in Over-the-Rhine, one of Cincinnati’s most diverse areas and gathers a significant crowd most weekends.

Over Labor Day weekend, my boyfriend and friends vis- ited, and when they asked where to go, we excitedly suggested Tree House since we had never been before. To get into the bar, one must go through a bouncer who pats down everyone entering them in. It wasn’t until we were ready to be admit- ted when we saw the dress code posted. This dress code excluded a wide variety of clothing and accessories, all of which would be common- ly seen in an urban area like OTR. Even then, we didn’t truly see the dress code until one of my friends was stopped for having a white shirt on. Stunned, we started arguing about whether it was a nice white shirt paired with black jeans and Chelsea boots (an outfit that is in style right now). The bouncer was firm, and as we stepped aside to figure out our next option, another bouncer admitted two of the men behind us who were wearing nearly the exact same outfit as our friend who was denied.

There was no difference between the quality of their white shirts, their age or gender. The only difference between them was that the men behind us (who weren’t patted down by the bouncer) were White while my friend was Black. Dress codes are meant to do one thing, and that is discriminate based on skin color.

Racism is nothing new, and things like this happen all the time. The reality is that the least dangerous thing to happen to a person of color is get denied from a “trendy” bar. Tree House Patio Bar is hurt- ing the community around it and further gentrifying an area facing poverty. This is not an isolated case, either. In 2017, the bar bought heat right after its opening week- end, and our next order was accused of having a racist dress code. Since then, members of the community have made more accusations, and more people have been turned away because of petty rules that target Blacks and Latinos.

Why do we still tolerate this? As a White woman, I know how easy it would be for me not to notice. I can’t even pronounce the dress code and walk right in since it does not directly affect me. I encourage everyone of you not to do that, though. There are plenty of places to go to that don’t support discrimination like this. As mentioned, my friend’s inci- dence a pass so that you can enjoy yourself.

We need to have serious dis- cussions as to why these dress codes are racist and a larger conversation about how we can con- tinue to as to why people of color are vilified in so many spaces. Be aware of what is happen- ing around you and in the city you live. Dress codes are a tiny component of the racism that occurs daily, but it is one that we should make ourselves aware of.

Do not blind yourself with comfort, you can do more to pro- vide a pass so that you can enjoy yourself.

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Administration stifles pro-choice voices

Last week I, along with other students, was shocked to walk into Gallagher and see signs, tables and medical instruments informing students that late-term fetuses feel pain and asking them to support legislation banning late-term abortions. As startled as I was, I walked toward the table and began to ask questions. The students running the booth were polite and informed. Even as I stood in front of them in a Planned Parenthood t-shirt and expressed my support for a person’s right to choose a safe and healthy abortion, Xavier Students for Life were incredibly respectful of my viewpoint.

But there was one question that they couldn’t answer for me: why were they still allowed to table free from scrutiny? As president of Xavier Democrats and an individual passionate about protecting a person’s right to choose, I have asked members of Xavier’s administration about the possibility of hosting an event solely dedicated to reproductive justice. Consistently, I have been told that such an event would not be allowed. Explicitly, I have been told that abortion is an off-limits topic, but what I wasn’t informed of was that only my viewpoint on abortion was an off-limits topic.

As students who support a person’s right to choose, we cannot fundraise for Planned Parenthood on campus or have them come speak with our club, even though a majority of their services are solely dedicated to women’s health-care. We are not allowed to distribute educational materials that discuss and advocate for the constitutional right to choose an abortion. However, Students for Life are allowed to partner with outside organizations, fundraise for them and distribute their materials. Their activities are relatively free from administrative scrutiny; a privilege that we have because we are pro-life. This double standard is infuriating and unacceptable, especially on a campus that claims to celebrate diversity of thought.

I understand that when I chose to attend a Jesuit institution, my education and extracurricular life would be impacted by Xavier’s Catholic faith tradition. That’s why I chose to attend Xavier. I was excited to begin college somewhere that would where we educate in the liberal arts tradition, as well as value being men and women for and with others.

As is the Jesuit tradition, I am proud of my school for taking a stance on human rights. Xavier stood up for the rights and dignity of immigrants when DACA was threatened and has begun to work even harder to stand up for survivors of sexual assault. Not all of Xavier’s campus has agreed with those stances, and students have loudly voiced their opinions about border security and false accusations. These differing opinions have led to a dialogue about the rights of immigrants and women, across classrooms and clubs, with each side entitled to their viewpoints. Being able to express different opinions is the only way to learn about and find compromise within such polarizing issues. At Xavier, we believe in acceptance of students from all faith traditions, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses and political ideologies. Why, then, is my stance as a pro-choice student stifled?

After all, Xavier values not only inspire us to ask the hard questions, they demand it. They don’t ask us to blindly follow our faith tradition but to challenge our beliefs and emerge stronger. If there isn’t equitable access to different opinions, that can’t be done. Students for Life can table about fetuses, but that’s only half of the story. Jesuit values tell us to respect the dignity of all human lives, to understand that we are social beings and to protect the poor and vulnerable. Women debating how to cope with an unplanned pregnancy are the vulnerable. Offering them the choice of abortion without access to affordable healthcare, childcare or paid family leave, these women are denied their right to choose emotionally or financially; they are not prepared for pregnancy or a child, and it is imperative that their voices are heard and respected.

That’s why I believe in the right to choose and have access to a safe, healthy abortion, and I believe in the freedom to express that sentiment. Neither my personal faith as a Catholic nor Xavier’s Jesuit values are contrary to those beliefs. Why, then, does it feel like my pro-choice voice is being silenced by the same administration that guarantees another student organization the ability to give a voice to the voiceless?

Want change? Go local in the midterm elections

Every four years, men and women come along promising change and bread and circuses in an endless cycle of colorful propaganda and frustrations. Why doesn’t anything seem to ever get better? Schools still struggle to provide textbooks to children taught by teachers who feel abandoned, our roads and bridges are still falling apart — and don’t get me started on taxes.

Real change does not come from the magic wand of a presidential candidate, it starts at home in all the other elections on your ballot. Midterms may not seem important to some voters because they believe their jobs by either re-electing or electing a new candidate who could do the job better. It is your vote, in your community, you get the opportunity to show what you think is the best way to address the problems in your city and in your state. And most importantly, if you don’t have to vote for someone, don’t vote for them. Positions like city council can have multiple open seats, and if you only vote like one candidate, vote for that one candidate — unnecessarily voting to fill in boxes can take votes away from the candidate you like, possibly hurting their chances of being able to make the changes you wanted to see them enact while in office.

If you really do want to just check the “party-line” box, at least inform yourself of where each party stands on issues that you care about. Especially if you don’t think you align 100 percent with one of the major parties, really think through if you trust that candidate to further your dreams for your town or state while representing your ideas that you disagree with.

A good opportunity for Xavier students to have this experience is to attend an event like our Inter-Club Political PlatForum. Just because midterms don’t typically get 24/7 CNN or Fox News coverage doesn’t mean they aren’t important. The elections you see on your local news station are the most important elections of all.
Grossman garners a career high in kills

BY PAUL FRITSCHNER

The Xavier women's volleyball team has been busy during the past two weeks, as it has played in two consecutive tournaments.

The tournaments, the MAC Fall Preview and the Palmetto Intercollegiate, mark the end of the fall season for the team.

The solid outings have allowed Xavier women's golf to build momentum before the spring season.

The first tournament for the women came last week in Noblesville, Ind., as they competed in the MAC Fall Preview.

Despite cold and windy conditions for most of the weekend, the women did more than just compete in the tournament — as they won it in record-breaking fashion.

Last Sunday, the Musketeers topped Toledo on the leader board, which meant the team needed a solid performance to secure the tournament.

The women delivered this solid performance, jumping Toledo for the tournament championship by two strokes.

In the process of winning the tournament, Xavier broke a team record that dated back to 2010.

Junior Mikayla Fitzpatrick led Xavier with the best overall score on the team (+1). This score was good enough to place her third overall for the weekend, as she was able to lock down her 10th career top-10 finish.

Graduate student Lyndsey Hunnell also proved that we are capable of taking on the role she’s played.

Senior outside hitter Laura Grossman has been a large part of Xavier’s recent success as the team has emerged victorious in two of its last three matches.

Last week, Grossman, who hails from San Juan, Puerto Rico, was named the Big East Offensive Player of the Week for her play against DePaul and Butler.

Throughout the course of those two matches, she led the Musketeers in kills and digs with 34 and 32, respectively.

“It means a lot to be recognized by the conference,” Grossman said. “It was a reminder of how much I can help the team by stepping up offensively as a leader. I am looking forward to repeat that feeling and keep it up.”

Against Butler, Grossman tallied 21 kills, which marked a career-high performance.

In speaking about the Butler match, Grossman said, “I actually felt very comfortable out there. I found my rhythm with the setters early in the game, and I was able to take risky shots with more confidence than I normally do.”

Grossman feels like those around her have put her in a good position to succeed and take on the role she’s played. I think I’ve just had a lot of opportunity to play and step up. I am very grateful for my teammates for trusting me,” she said.

The only hiccup in the previous three matches for Xavier was in a five-set loss to Creighton, who was ranked 10th in the nation.

The Musketeers pushed the Blue Jays to the brink but could not come away with the signature victory. However, Grossman knows there are positives to be drawn from a match like that. She said the team is starting to put things together at the right time.

“It was a heartbreaker to (have) lost in such a tight match against Creighton, but it has more positives than negatives,” Grossman said.

“We still have a lot to improve, but we are definitely getting things together at the best time,” she said.

Women’s golf sets record for best 54-hole score

BY COLIN COOPER

Palmetto Intercollegiate, MAC Fall Preview and the tournaments.

played in two consecutive team has been busy during the volleyball team knew that it would have its hands full in Noblesville, Ind., as they faced tough competition in South Carolina as they faced teams such as the No. 35 College of Charleston, University of North Carolina.

The event, which concluded on Tuesday, landed the Musketeers with a 14th-place finish — within seven strokes of a top-10 spot.

In three rounds (54 holes) played throughout the tournament, the Musketeers shot a 911 (+47).

Smith recorded the team’s best score of the weekend, shooting a 225 (+9) while placing tied for 31st place.

Not far behind was Fitzpatrick and Hunnell, who each tied for 54th place overall with a score of 226 (+10).

Xavier Scores

Men’s Basketball

The Musketeers received a commitment from four-star guard Dekeyvan (KyKy) Tandy for the 2019 class. He is from Hopkinsville, Ky. At Muskeeters Madness last Friday, sophomore forward Naji Marshall led the White Team with 13 points. Sophomore guard Paul Scruggs won the three-point contest.

Women’s Basketball

At Muskeeters Madness last Friday, sophomores Princess Stewart had a Blue Team-high seven points during the 16-minute scrimmage. Redshirt sophomore Tierra Floyd won the three-point contest.

Swimming

The women’s swimming team captured a win against Big East foe Seton Hall at a tri-meet at West Virginia last Saturday. Emily Comers claimed a first-place finish in the 100 free with a time of 51.91.

Men’s Tennis

Sophomore Brett Winters picked up a pair of singles wins and a couple of doubles wins for the Musketeers at the Louisville Invitational, which concluded on Monday.

The Xavier women’s golf team secured a first-place finish at the MAC Fall Preview last weekend. During the tournament, the team broke an overall 54-hole school record, shooting for an impressive 883 (+19).

Junior Mikayla Fitzpatrick led Xavier with the best overall score on the team (+1). This score was good enough to place her third overall for the weekend, as she was able to lock down her 10th career top-10 finish.

Graduate student Lyndsey Hunnell also shot well for Xavier. Her score (+3) was good enough to give her a fourth-place individual finish.

In addition to Fitzpatrick and Hunnell, Xavier had two other golfers who placed in the top 10.

Freshmen Ke’Asha Phillips and senior Mikayla Smith both shot exceptionally well, as Phillips finished at (+1) and Smith at (+2).

This win in Indiana propelled the team to its next tournament at the Palmetto Intercollegiate in Kiawah Island, S.C.

At the Palmetto Intercollegiate, Xavier looked to build off its electric performance at the MAC Fall Preview.

The golfers teed off against tough competition in South Carolina as they faced teams such as the No. 35 College of Charleston, University of North Carolina.

The event, which concluded on Tuesday, landed the Musketeers with a 14th-place finish — within seven strokes of a top-10 spot.

In three rounds (54 holes) played throughout the tournament, the Musketeers shot a 911 (+47).

Smith recorded the team’s best score of the weekend, shooting a 225 (+9) while placing tied for 31st place.

Not far behind was Fitzpatrick and Hunnell, who each tied for 54th place overall with a score of 226 (+10).
BY HANNAH PAIGE MICHELS
Staff Writer

When it comes to Xavier Theatre, you always know to arrive for something special. The program has a great habit of choosing punchy shows that are also embedded with deep and current themes. Urinetown is no different.

The satirical comedy is set in a world plagued by a drought where the government has chosen to conserve water by banning private toilets and charging people to use the restroom. The absurd title and premise are met with a knockout performance of his cross-dressing alterego, Officer Barrell, played by sophomore Ellie Deutsch, was equally adored by the audience and proved to be a true gem. Deutsch tore up the stage using her wild dance moves, and her firm grip on comedic timing had the crowd cackling throughout the entire show. Auch and Deutsch both shined in their duet “Cop Song.”

The amazing cast continued with junior Claire McCrave as Penelope Pen-tin. Even with intense choreography and movement, McCrave’s outstanding vocal performance never wavered. McCrave’s performance was incredibly spirited, and I hope to see more nuance in even her quirkiest characters as she continues her time at Xavier.

Even as a latecomer to the theatre program, Josh Carandang held his ground as the wide-eyed and fearless Bobby Strong. Having seen Carandang in a few shows, it’s not hard to see that the natural actor has garnered a great attention to subtlety in the roles he plays, with marvelous vocals to match. Carandang and first-year Julia Olinger as Hope Cladwell had a sweet and charming dynamic on stage that boosted both of their comedic performances, and Olinger’s vocals were effortlessly beautiful.

I was excited to see sophomore Dylan Van Camp back on the musical stage as the greedy and remorseless Mr. Cladwell after his performance in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson. Van Camp brought a magnetic stage presence and commitment to his characters that made me forget I was watching an actor perform.

Urinetown’s cast was met with equally excellent lighting design and choreography. During Bobby’s flashbacks to Old Man Strong (played by first-year Dylan O’Leary) being arrested for public urination, the timing and dramatization of the spooky lighting and sound effects were a perfect touch to the satirical moment. Urinetown’s choreography was also top notch. Even rows away, the blocking was sharp and dynamic and had me frantically scribbling in my notebook as I tried to watch the entire stage so I didn’t miss a beat.

While Urinetown was not quite my cup of tea because of some of its more annoying characters and ultimately depressing conclusion, Xavier Theatre’s execution of the performance was excellent. With many knockout cast members, dynamic storytell-ing and commitment to craft, any Xavier production is a privilege to see.

Halloween costume do’s and don’ts

With only a week before the spookiest day of the year, here are some humorous but useful tips from your friendly Campus News Editor.

BY JACK DUNN
Campus News Editor

The Do’s

“The Piggyback” costumes
All of these costumes are hilarious and will almost always get a laugh. Plus, this is something you can wear at Christmastime, too. It’s a win-win!

Jerseys
Don’t want to spend money on a costume when you already have a perfectly good jersey of your favorite player just sitting around? Then go for it! Nothing to be ashamed of, especially if you can do the post-hair transplant Brian Urlacher like I did. Be sure to wear long pants — it’ll be cold outside.

The Don’ts

Fortnite
Look, I enjoy the game too, but do you really want to be dressed the same way as every middle-schooler everywhere?

Moth and lamp
Do you really want to be this meme for a couple’s costume? It’s not cute and just looks weird.

“I’m me”
At least when I did a jersey one, I put in some effort to come up with something clever. This is even lazier than what I did.

Cincy’s best spots for Insta-worthy fall pics

Take your feed to the next level by grabbing your friends, logging onto Instagram and checking out these spots around town.

BY ROSE HOFSTETTER
Staff Writer

If your Insta needs pops of color…

Check out Over-The-Rhine, particularly Findlay Market. This local favorite is a go-to not only for the delicious foods and items for sale but also for the fun, colorful buildings. Each historic storefront has pops of color and looks great year-round.

If minimalism is your aesthetic…

Sawyer Point isn’t just for fireworks. The curved, concrete-tiered steps of the Serpentine Wall can match any color scheme. If it gets a bit crowded, opt for a couple photos of the Ohio River with Cincinnati’s famous bridges as your focal point.

Head to xaviernewswire.com to check out more options for fall photo ops, like historic parks!
Halfway there

By Alex Budzynski
Guest Writer

I have likely attended thousands of swim practices over the past decade, each seeming to be no easier than the last. To pass the time during the many grueling sets, I would often think of song lyrics. Every time my coach would shout, “halfway there,” Bon Jovi’s classic “Livin’ on a Prayer” would, without fail, pop into my mind — the lyric, “woah, we’re halfway there” playing on repeat in my head. I believe this perfectly exemplifies my current status, as I have just passed the halfway point of my first semester of college.

It is that point in the semester when everyone is in a constant state of sleep deprivation, anxiously waiting for the clock to painstakenly tick through the final seconds of class and finding any excuse to not do homework. Personally, one of the most daunting challenges of college so far has been balancing my work with my social life, especially given that I love the social part of college and dread the reading and writing. About 95 percent of the time I want to be spending time with friends solely for the enjoyment and not because we have to be studying all together. As a first-year, there have also been numerous times when the homesickness has hit, and I wish nothing more than to be sleeping in my own bed, eating a home-cooked meal or cozying up next to a crackling fire to watch a movie.

But don’t get me wrong — it is not all bad. In fact, there are several times throughout the day I would like to be nowhere else than at my home away from home. These instances are the small victories that get me through the day, such as getting an “I miss you so much” text from a friend at another school or finding out that my professor canceled class for the day. It is also very reassuring that the amount of class time remaining is quickly dwindling. For those of you unaware, we have merely 18 MWF classes and 12 TR classes left in the semester, which feels equally unbelievable and relieving.

Anyone who tells you that college is easy is either at the wrong school or has never been balancing my work with my social life. Personally, one of the most daunting challenges of college so far has been balancing my work with my social life, especially given that I love the social part of college and dread the reading and writing. About 95 percent of the time I want to be spending time with friends solely for the enjoyment and not because we have to be studying all together. As a first-year, there have also been numerous times when the homesickness has hit, and I wish nothing more than to be sleeping in my own bed, eating a home-cooked meal or cozying up next to a crackling fire to watch a movie.

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