Campus celebrates veterans

Xavier Veterans Center hosts university’s first ever week to honor the troops

BY CJ RIEPEPI & AIDAN CALLAHAN

Guest Writers

This past week the Xavier Veterans Center (XVC) held the university’s first Veterans Week. The goal was to educate both veteran and non-veteran students about this large yet often under-represented section of the Xavier student body.

“I think, as a school with such a great reputation for veterans, there’s no reason why we shouldn’t have a Veterans Week, so I think it’s really awesome that we’re starting it up,” junior Vice President of College Republicans Lily Hutowski said.

The XVC believes the event was a success, thanks in part to the work of junior Alfredo Mercedes. Spencer Rumley, the associate director of XVC, noted, “Without Alfredo we wouldn’t have this great of a Veterans Week.”

Junior Jeff Richardson agreed that the week was a success, and stated that he believes it’s important to celebrate.

“It’s a necessary observation and respect for those who have risked their lives to help us achieve the quality of life that we do,” Richardson said.

Mercedes is a member of the US Marine Corps Reserve and works as the student in-volvement and leadership liaison to the Office of Development in the XVC.

Rumley spoke highly of his work at the office. According to him, the idea of a Veterans’ Week has been thrown around for years but Mercedes was the first to make an attempt.

The week saw daily events held on campus that ranged from veteran speakers to movies. XVC acted in a supportive role, helping Mercedes find spaces and connecting him to faculty members. Mercedes noted a week was more appropriate than a Veterans Day celebration, as a week allows events to be more spread out. The week was also meant to build up to a climactic Saturday, when there was both a 5k run and a veterans appreciation basket ball game.

The event was very well received by both veteran and non-veteran students. For Spencer, a highlight of the week was the keynote speaker, Mason Rick, who transitioned from the military to Xavier faculty. This experience allowed him to talk directly to veterans about the difficult transition moving from active duty to civilian life on a college campus.

The campus community also reflected on the solidarity with Members of the Black Student Association (BSA), Xavier University Police Department and more walked side-by-side with veterans in a display intended to highlight Xavier’s core Jesuit values by showing the solidarity among its diverse student body.

The week was a success, especially due to the advertising of Xavier’s strong student veteran representation. Yellow ribbons were tied around trees across campus to show support for active service members and veterans of the US Army around the world. The Veterans Center held the university’s first Veterans’ Week celebration.

Some events are still taking place this week, such as the yellow ribbon display. Yellow ribbons were tied around trees and remain there to represent the continued support for active service members and veterans of the US Army.

Ultimately, organizers said the week succeeded in creating on-campus veteran awareness, both for student and non-student veterans.

“The biggest thing (veterans) need is pure support. They love support from people,” Mercedes said.

Though she wasn’t able to participate as much as she desired, Hutowski agreed that the week was a success, especially due to the advertising done by the organizers.

“Personally, I wasn’t able to attend as much as I wanted to... but I think they did a good job of publicizing it,” Hutowski said.

According to Spencer, throughout the week he discovered faculty members who were veterans that he didn’t even know about. While many student veterans admit their service, they still feel a disconnect from civilian students, as they are experiencing a difficult transition and a majority of them are 24 years or older.

The week encouraged mingling between veteran and non-veteran students and had ultimately created a desire for more outreach to non-vet students by the XVC.

Senior President of Xaviers’ Socialists Daniel Bowling agreed that the week is important, but he believes that there should have been more of a focus on current issues affecting veterans.

“I thought one thing that was necessary to do amidst Veterans Week was honoring the veterans and people who have served, but at the same time acknowledging that this country does not treat veterans properly,” Bowling said. “(Veterans Affairs) funding is inadequate, PTSD goes largely untreated, homelessness in veterans is enormous.”

This may be the only of many Veterans Weeks. The organizers ultimate goal is for the week to become a staple of Xavier’s school year, and they will seek support from the school for more resources and improve the event. Ultimately, organizers intend the devoted week to be one of many steps toward integrating veterans into Xavier culture.

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Django Praxis share their journeys

By Heather Gast
Campus News Editor

The first cohort of the Diasporic Soul Racial Healing Experience study abroad to Senegal, Django Praxis, shared their journey to a rapt crowd of students, staff, faculty and community members last Thursday.

The cohort, composed of five students and alumni, engaged in a course, the study abroad trip and wrote a book alongside Dr. Kyra Shahid on their experiences. Their panel was followed by a silent auction to raise money for following Diasporic Soul trips.

Django Praxis included senior psychology majors Enene Obrimah, Adrian Parker, Jr., and Taylor Zachary. On Thursday, they spoke of their experiences in Dr. Kyra Shahid’s course, their experience on the study abroad and the process of writing a book encapsulating their experiences.

The cohort was formed in spring 2017 after a racially charged winter. The Xavier community faced two race-related biases incidents during the fall semester of 2016, including a dashiki-clad skeleton hanging from a noose in a dorm window of Bishop Fenwick Hall and a Snapchat of a student wearing a charcoal face mask as blackface. In the spring semester of 2017, Dr. Charles Walker Gollar’s research opened with remarks from Fr. Graham. Shahid’s course is a pre-requisite for the trip and current works that the cohort used to process their experience.

After the trip, Shahid sought to publish the written process their experience. The book, which shares the name of Shahid’s course, is available for $17 online.

Shahid’s course is a pre-requisite for the trip and currently has seats open for the 2019 spring semester. The audience packed into Arrupe Overlook to hear the student’s stories and thieving opened with remarks from Fr. Graham.

An invocation was next. Items were laid out on a low, altar-like table, including sand from an island on the Middle Passage and a statue of a banyan tree. Ancestors and spirits were welcomed into the room. Django Praxis’ recounting of their personal journeys took the audience from one extreme to another throughout the night.

At one moment, the room would be doubled over in laughter hearing of their hijinks in the classroom, and the next solemn faces were fixed on the young men and women as they recounted moments “crucible moments.”

Crucible moments are instances that shift one’s perspective. The panel members shared their reactions to the shooting of unarmed Black people, such as Korryn Gaines, Philando Castille, Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin — the list went on.

The resulting discussion was heavy and is what sophomore Izzy Childs took away most from the evening.

‘Although I will never fully understand, I thought it was really powerful the hurt that was in the atmosphere and the feelings that the students (were) revealing.”

While Childs gained a lot of perspective from the event, she recognizes that there cannot be growth without more students engaging in the conversation.

Students can become involved in the dialogue of racial reconciliation through programming at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Events to be thankful for

Get out of the library before exam season kicks
**Student panel chips away at hookup culture**

**By Alanna Belmont**

Staff Writer

The panel hosted by the theology department entitled "Why We Need to Talk About Sex" discussed the perils of hookup culture on college campuses and challenged students to contemplate what more should be done to prevent sexual assault.

Unlike previous sessions on-campus groups Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault (BRAVE Peer Educators or It’s On X, this event aimed to spark conversation, the panel presented data from former Xavier professor Jennifer Beste’s findings in her book "College Hookup Culture and Christian Ethics." Beste determined that "hookup culture" was the leading cause of sexual assaults. Hookup culture is hard to define by nature. It maintains an ambiguity around conversations about sex due to discomfort. There is a forced separation of emotional experiences from sexual experiences, which makes sex difficult to process.

Bowling explained that hookup culture is reflected in the words students use to discuss their casual sexual encounters.

"When you say ‘hook up,’ you could mean kissing, you could mean sex or anything in between. It’s just another way to not talk about sex," Bowling said.

When sex is not discussed openly, expectations from persons involved are unclear.

Some who has experienced sexual assault may not know how to communicate their situation or emotions to those around them if they do not understand what happened to them. If sex is something that is seen as acceptable to talk about, students can more easily form a support network if they are in need.

Conversations like the one held at the panel are part of dismantling hookup culture by breaking the taboo around discussing sex.

During the presentation, the students were encouraged to mull over the presentation before the floor was opened to discussion.

Many students stepped up to ask a range of questions, such as "What is the purpose of hookup culture and why do we keep participating in it?" "Does the education provided in Marresa help with prevention at all?" and "Should the university take responsibility for the education of consensual sex, and to what extent is the university liable?"

Bowling was satisfied with the outcome of the event, particularly how engaged the students were.

"There was a buzz as we gave a break for people to reflect. We got a lot of questions from the audience," he said.

The road to ending sexual assault on campus did not conclude with the event. The panel encouraged students to continue the conversation with their friends and branch out to more active forms of sexual assault prevention, such as joining on-campus groups as they are comfortable.

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**Gary Abernathy on Republicans’ past and future**

**By Ryan Kambrich**

Opinions & Editorials Editor

In late October, 2016, the Hillboro Times-Gazette made national news when it became just one of six newspapers nationally to endorse Donald Trump for president.

Since then, the paper’s editor and publisher, Gary Abernathy, has taken a prominent place in national discussions about rural America and the voters who feel forgotten by mainstream politics.

Abernathy now occupies elected office, serving as a commissioner for Highland County, Ohio, and as a columnist for the Washington Post, where he writes about communities such as his that voted for President Trump.

Following his lecture on Monday as part of the Ethics Religion and Society series, I sat down with Abernathy to discuss politics from his perspective as a longtime political operative and community journalist.

Below is a transcript edited for brevity and clarity.

**RK:** Experienced, I’d call it. GA: You really like making a difference, right? RK: I’d like to briefly return to your assertions about the shift in the Republican Party. You’ve been in politics longer than I’ve been alive.

GA: You really like making me sound ancient, thank you. RK: Experienced, I’d call it. The shift in the party caught many pundits off guard in 2016. Did this shift simply explode in 2016 or is there a longer history behind that movement?

GA: There has definitely been a longer history. Part of the reason that (John) McCain was not successful in 2008 against (Barack) Obama and (Mitt) Romney was not successful in 2012 against Obama was because they were kind of compromised candidates. It's just another way of defining the party’s identity being tied to an individual rather than a movement. I think Trump does represent a movement, a disruption movement, and what we’re changing the system to is a very good questions. We don’t really know yet. When Trump goes, under whatever circumstances, can that void be filled that he uniquely represents? You can’t imitate Trump. He has a unique personality and really brilliant political instincts.

But he is doubling down on enthusiasm, which is more important than sheer numbers. He is doubling down on his 45 percent and not trying to expand that by one person, really. He’s trying to have the most energized, enthusiastic 45 percent that anyone’s ever had and relying on that to carry the day.

RK: Thoughts on a John Kasich presidential run?

GA: I’ll be the most shocked person in America if Kasich does not run for president as an Independent. I don’t think he can resist it. Another guy who I think will end up in that same boat is Jeff Flake. Maybe we’ll end up with a Flake-Kasich or Kasich-Flake ticket, although I can’t imagine John Kasich taking second spot on a ticket. I believe to do so guarantees Trump’s election. If there’s a strong Independent candidate, they’re not taking a vote away from Trump. Trump has his base and they’re not going anywhere.
12 die in Thousand-Oaks shooting

Among the victims was a survivor of Las Vegas massacre and a police officer.

By Michael Rauher
Staff Writer

Another mass shooting claimed the lives of 12 in Thousand Oaks, California, last Wednesday. 10 other people were injured in the shooting.

The 28-year-old gunman, Ian David Long, opened fire at Borderline Bar & Grill that was open to people over the age of 18 and was celebrating “College Country Night.” The bar itself is close to many universities and students were known to frequent the establishment, especially during the college nights.

The victims included eight college students as well as a police officer, Sergeant Ron Helus, who was due to retire next year according to BBC News. Another victim, 27-year-old Telemachus Orfanos, died in the shooting after surviving the Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting in October 2017.

Another survivor of the Las Vegas shooting, Nicholas Champion, was also at the bar on Wednesday night.

“It’s the second time in about a year and a month that this has happened,” Champion said.

A few of Champions’ friends at the bar were also at the Festival in Las Vegas.

“We’re all a big family and unfortunately this family got hit twice,” he continued.

“It is very sad that this type of thing happens. It especially hit close to home for me because it occurred at a college bar.” Xavier junior Marissa Bouch said, “It is definitely in the back of my mind and will affect my decisions of going out going forward. You do not think that it will happen until it does.”

The gunman, a former U.S. Marine, set off a smoke bomb to create confusion before opening fire into the crowd. CNN reported that “investigators believe that the gunman legally purchased a .45 caliber Glock 21” with an extended magazine, which is illegal in California.

Long, according to the Department of Defense, served as a Marine from August 2008 to March 2013. He is reported to have had multiple runs ins with the law. Some close to Long have speculated that he may have been suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of his time in Afghanistan. BBC News reported that he served a tour in Afghanistan from November 2010 to June 2011.

USA Today reported that Long “had an episode of erratic behavior last spring that suggested PTSD” in which the authorities were contacted.

Long was living with his mother, Colleen, at the time of the shooting. Their neighbor, 79-year-old Donald MacLeod, told reporters that “he often heard Long arguing with his mother at all hours, sometimes in the middle of the night.”

CBS News reported that Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean said the gunman, a former machine gunner and decorated veteran of the war in Afghanistan, is believed to have killed himself late Wednesday at the Borderline Bar and Grill in the city of Thousand Oaks.

When asked whether he felt safe going to bars, Xavier senior Tom Smith said he does.

“Everyone feels safe and says it won’t happen to them, and then when it does happen near them, that’s when people think they aren’t safe,” he said.

The Thousand Oaks shooting was the 307th mass shooting this year. It is also the deadliest mass shooting this year since the shooting at Majory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, when 17 classmates and teachers were gunned down on Valentine’s Day.

Week in Review

Herpes B, nostalgia and an explosion

- Silver Spring State Park in Florida is home to at least 300 rhesus macaques, a monkey native to south and Southeast Asia. The monkeys have been rapidly breeding, causing problems because the monkeys carry a rare and deadly form of herpes virus called herpes B. While it is rare for herpes B to spread from a monkey to a human, it can cause inflammation of the brain and spinal cord leading to brain damage or death (Nov. 9).
- Kimberly Santleben-Stiel said she is interested in becoming a mother and decorated veteran of the war in Afghanistan, is believed to have killed himself late Wednesday at the Borderline Bar and Grill in the city of Thousand Oaks.
- Nostalgia fans rejoice! Toy Story 4 and Detective Pikachu have officially been given a release window. The two games are now slated to be released in the summer of 2019 (Nov. 12).
- Tide has released a more eco-friendly packaging for the liquid detergent. However, many people have pointed out online that the new packaging looks very similar to boxed wine (Nov. 12).

Photo courtesy of AFP - Getty Images

Pokémon is receiving its first ever live action movie in Detective Pikachu.
Electoral Turnout

Ohio turns red, Hamilton County turns blue while Democrats retake House

BY GILLEN FAENZA
Guest Writer

The results of Election Day 2018 are in with Republicans sweeping all but two state-level elected offices in Ohio.

In Hamilton County, Ohio Congressional District 1 re-elected Republican Steve Chabot and District 2 re-elected Republican Brad Wenstrup. On the national level, Democrats took control of the House of Representatives while Republicans strengthened their majority in the Senate.

Ohio has a total of 16 seats in the House, four of which are taken by Democrats and 12 by Republicans. Hamilton County is one of the only districts in Ohio to remain blue in both the 2016 and 2018 elections.

Republican Mike DeWine won the governorship with 51 percent of the vote. Democrat Sherrod Brown won re-election to his second term. Voter turnout in 2018 is estimated to be presidential election range for this election as opposed to presidential elections. Absentee balloting this year across the nation was up 29 percent of Ohio’s total vote and nearly all net growth occurred in these counties.

Young voters did not show up to the polls in Ohio. These voters, who tend to vote democrat, allowed the 65 and older age group to have more importance. This age group usually votes Republican. The turnout among working-age, working class white voters was around 54 percent, and is largely attributed to the Republican victories. This strong turnout was ed to this demographic.

Ohio has the most infrequent voting patterns. According to Cincinnati Magazine, approximately 1.2 million registered voters have been on-again, off-again voting since 2011, more than any other state.

Sophomore education major Lillie Baumgartner shared sentiment with many non-voters saying, “I’m not sure how to register to vote and never got around to it especially because non-presidential years seem much less important.”

Cincinnati Magazine also reported that Hamilton, Franklin, and Cuyahoga counties make up 29 percent of Ohio’s total vote and nearly all net growth occurred in these counties.

With many college students choosing to send in absentee ballots this year across the nation, there was a much larger voter turnout in younger age groups. As an education major, Baumgartner feels strongly about the way we talk about voting in schools.

“I never bothered to educate myself on what voting means or entails because I was never taught,” Baumgartner said. “There needs to be more education on voting in the classroom. Government classes should teach more regarding how to get out and vote and what these candidates stand for.

Going forward, Democrats will be heading a variety of House committees which grants them the authority to require testimony and documents from key officials in the Trump administration.

They are expected to challenge President Trump on policy issues such as climate change, coverage for pre-existing medical conditions and regulation on Wall Street.

Republicans maintained control of the Senate and are hoping to regulate and control prescription drug prices as well as continue to roll back the Affordable Care Act.

They also look to continue tax and spending cuts, international trade and immigration restrictions.

2018 Midterm election fun facts: A year of firsts

BY GILLEN FAENZA
Guest Writer

Historic Women

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez from New York became the youngest woman appointed to Congress. Ocasio-Cortez recently spoke out about not being able to afford an apartment in DC due to the high cost of living. Marsha Blackburn is the first female senator from Tennessee. She is the first woman elected to this seat in Senate history. Her three main campaign promises included having policies lean right while still working towards more inclusion, changing the perception that Congress is broken and uniting fractured communities to unite everyone politically.

Alongside her, we saw Janet Mills (D-ME) and Kristi Noem (R-SD) as the first female governors in their respective states. Abby Finkenauer (D-IA) and Cindy Axne (D-IA) claimed swing districts in Iowa for House of Representatives.

First-year history major Rachel Purpura sent in her absentee ballot to Illinois this year.

“I think the voter turnout being as big as it was this year is extremely important because it means that things that need changing may finally get that change,” Purpura said. “With many college students choosing to send in absentee ballots this year across the nation, there was a much larger voter turnout in younger age groups.

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LGBTQ+

Jared Polis (D-CO) became the first openly gay governor of Colorado. He previously served in the House and is married with two children. Chris Pappas (D-NH) is the first openly gay member elected to Congress and Angie Craig (D-MN) is the first lesbian mother elected to Congress.

• 100 women were elected to the House, the most ever.

• Texas elected its first two Hispanic women to the House.

• South Dakota elected its first female governor.

• Arizona and Tennessee elected their first female senators.

• Kansas elected the first ever Native American woman to Congress.

2018 Midterm election fun facts: A year of firsts

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Jared Polis celebrates his election to Colorado Governor. He is the first openly gay governor in the U.S.

2018 Midterm election fun facts: A year of firsts

Minorities making firsts

Sharice Davids (D-KS) was one of the first Native American congresswomen, along with Deb Haaland (D-NM), to be elected to Congress. Davids is from the Ho-Chunk Nation and is the first LGBTQ+ member of Congress from Kansas. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) is one of two Muslim women elected to Congress and the first Palestinian woman. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) is the second Muslim woman elected to Congress. Omar is the first Somali-American legislator and first Woman of Color from Minnesota. Jahana Hayes (CT) and Ayanna Pressley (MA) became the first Black congresswoman from their respective states, along with Letitia James (D-NY) the first Black Attorney General. Veronica Escobar (D-TX) and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX), are the first Texan Latinas in Congress. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) is the first Democratic Latina governor in the U.S.

Ilhan Omar (left) and Rashida Tlaib (right) are the first Muslim women elected to Congress.
The verses expressed in the following article are the opinion of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the Newswire staff as a whole.

Students for Life (S4L), you are welcomed on our campus. You have every right to express your voice here. The bias perpetrated against you recently was an act of injustice and should not have happened. However, you should know that you have as much responsibility to avoid attacking the students of this campus as they do for respecting your right to voice your opinion.

We love that you are attempting to promote messages of love on campus, but the way you’re going about it stands in direct opposition to that intention. You set up a table right in front of the main doors of Gallagher, an intense place petitioned to outlaw abortion entirely. You may think these actions are for the best, but they are harmful messages that will push people away from you.

There are people on this campus who have had an abortion at one point in their lives. Not just students, but faculty and staff too. Did you stop to think about that before you put up your display or wrote your slogans on the sidewalk? Did you consider what kind of stigma your display would perpetuate? Did you ever think about who you were hurting? If you want to promote a pro-life message on campus, you need to start by approaching it in a way that doesn’t attack people. Your display attacked people in the way that doesn’t attack people.

While we understand your frustration at having your chalk messages erased, the way you’ve responded has been far from appropriate. Specifically, your national organization’s blog post about the incident was inaccurate and irresponsible. To label the actions of a few students as the actions of “a mob” and to claim that these students perpetrated violence against people on the S4L group is a grossly inept misrepresentation of what actually happened. Your voice was not silenced. There is no need for insipid apologies and sententious statements. What we call for is an end to the hyperbolic narratives you have created and the climate of false fear you continue to instill in our student body.

No, they should not have erased your chalk messages, but they did not perpetrate violence. No one was physically harmed. No one’s property or belongings were destroyed. They poured water on your messages to erase them. It shouldn’t have happened, but it was not violent, and for the national organization to label our student base as a violent mob is atrocious. The claim that these people were motivated by “anti-choice politicians” who “incite violence” is completely unfounded. Not only is there no evidence that their motives were inspired by Eric Holder’s comments last month, but those comments were not an incitement of violence to log off. His message — “when they go low, we kick them” — was entirely metaphorical. He himself explained this comment moments after making the comment.

Holder said, “When I say we, you know, ‘We kick ‘em,’ I don’t mean we do anything in appropriate. We don’t do anything illegal. But we’ve got to be tough, and we have to fight for the very things that (civ-”

What’s even more outra-

geous is that you attempted to misrepresent this comment to fit a pro-choice versus pro-life debate. This comment had nothing to do with that specific debate. Rather, Holder was talking about how the Democratic Party needs to adopt tougher tactics when dealing with Republicans. He was not inciting violence or telling people on the left to attack pro-life people. You must stop obscuring the truth to fit your own narratives. We will not listen to your fabricated versions of reality.

For a group so dead set on revealing the “truth” about abortions, you seem willing to lie if it means perpetuating the false narrative that pro-life groups face any more unjust discrimination than pro-choice groups do, or that conservative voices are being silenced in this “politically correct” society. You silence others’ voices, and when you try to speak up, you call your thoughts to be silenced. That’s how you can put a display up. At least you can fundraise. You have your own narratives. We will not entertain your narratives of reality.

As a group so dead set on the pro-life movement, and for a group that wants to protect the well-being of the nation, you must understand that the lives of people and their families are not to be cast aside because of tradition or complicity. We will not entertain voices that refuse to acclimate themselves to the changing world, to the choices and rights of others and to the well-being of the nation we share.

Your goal to provide pregnancy resources for expectant mothers is absolutely on-track, and you’ll find that many pro-choice people support exactly that method of prevention. Pro-choice people don’t want abortion any more than pro-life people do. We should all agree that education on safe-sex practices and pregnancy resources is the way to reduce abortions. Let’s stick to that instead of attacking and traumatizing students that have gone through a difficult and painful experience.

We will not entertain voices that justify denying others’ rights because of tradition or complicity. We will not entertain voices that refuse to fit a pro-choice versus pro-life narrative. For a group so dead set on the pro-life movement, we will not entertain voices that fail to recognize the fact that the rights of others are not to be cast aside because of tradition or complicity.

This piece was written jointly by Trever McKenzie, Online Editor for the Newswire, and Sofia Ordonez, a copy editor for the Newswire.
It’s time to make America care again

In the season premiere of South Park, the always controversial show tackled the issue of gun violence, particularly school shootings. Throughout the episode, Sharon, Stan’s mom, tries to convince the other parents that this is a big deal, all while she seems to be the only one in town who is concerned.

Similar to any subject the show addresses, it stirred outrage as being insensitive. South Park did not go far enough. Until the American public is so “offended” that they decide to do something about the scourge of gun violence, comedy must continue to tackle this issue. As I watched the episode, I realized the character I most aligned with was Sharon. At the end of the episode, she says “This used to be a big deal. I want it to be a big deal again.”

The only thing that seems to have changed with shootings is police response time. Each shooting, police heroically arrive faster to stop the carnage. But neither we as a nation, nor the American public, have done anything to seriously prevent the violence from occurring.

What makes American citizen take weapons into our schools, movie theaters, places of employment, churches, diners or parks and open fire? In the past two months, there have been shootings at the Fifth Third building in Cincinnati, a courthouse in Pennsylvania, a Rite Aid distribution center in Maryland and a software company in Wisconsin. Also seven law enforcement officers were shot, two of whom were killed, while serving a warrant in South Carolina. Those are just the ones I caught on the news.

In the time since I wrote my last op-ed regarding gun violence a man went on a spree in Bakersfield, CA, and killed five. A man walked into a Waffle House in Tennessee and killed four. A student walked into a Santa Fe high school and killed 10. I could go on, but I would run out of room to list all the other shootings that are not “newsworthy” or sensational enough for the media to report on.

There are a couple things that strike me in all of this. The first is that our politicians are not willing to end their careers for the good of the country or constituents. They vote along party lines and they rarely risk their careers to vote for the good of the country. There is no better example of this than the bipartisan Manchin-Toomey Background Checks Bill of 2013 that died along party lines.

The second is the coverage that these shooters get. They are glorified in media, or at least used to be. However, it seems that the big media is finally starting to follow the standards of #NoNoriety, the idea being that some of these folks are thrilled by the potential fame brought on by a shooting. To help curb that, the media should start focusing on the victims and not the perpetrators. Police forces are also increasingly responding to shootings faster, saving lives and putting themselves at risk.

These shooters do seem to have some similarities. A lot of them are men. They have warped senses of women — they either blame women or are violent towards them. For some of them, their neighbors or family members knew something was up, and there may have even been police visits to the home before. There may be something highly emotional that sets them off such as a breakup, being fired or financial hardship. They may even have been a veteran.

Overall, they tend to be loners either bullied in school or view themselves as the victims of society. Despite the prevailing rhetoric, not all of these perpetrators have diagnosable mental illnesses.

The issue is complex and it is not one sided. What makes us so violent? What disturbs me most at this point is the shocking extent of our desensitization. Why are we so willing to offer our thoughts and prayers and move on?

While we’re on the topic of thoughts and prayers, should we not follow the Bible in which James 2:17 says “So too, faith by itself, if it is not complemented by action, is dead?” Our thoughts and prayers are not stopping the bullets. They’re not expanding the mental health services. They’re not enforcing the gun laws on the books or introducing new ones. They’re not doing anything.

We’re at a standstill, America. Columbine shocked us. Virginia Tech shocked us. When the threshold is broken, we’re shocked. But what is the normal casualty we’re acceptable with? 11 dead? 15? It seems we’re now willing to accept it all.

This used to be a big deal. I want it to be a big deal again. Let’s make America care again.

*In the time since I originally wrote this piece, a gunman killed 11 at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. A gunman, fueled by racism, killed two at a Kroger in Kentucky. Another gunman killed two at a yoga studio in Florida. Another gunman killed 12 at a bar in Thousand Oaks, CA. And by the time the next piece about this is written, more gunmen will have destroyed countless lives and leave empty seats at countless dinner tables across this country.

Ryan Spolar is a senior Honors Bachelor of Arts major. He is a staff writer for the Newswire from Cleveland.
By Luke Feliciano

Sports Editor

"Through three games this season, Xavier is 2-1 on the year after wins against IUPUI and Evansville while falling to Wisconsin. Xavier jumped out to an early 10-0 lead after the first five minutes of play, but the Musketeers allowed the IUPUI to inch back into the game on a 10-0 run near the end of the first half.

Graduate forward Ryan Welage, however, helped vault the Musketeers to victory. He proved capable of his sharpshooting abilities as advertised. The former San Jose State product exploded for a team-high 24 points against IUPUI.

Welage started to find his stride with a quicker catch-and-shoot release.

In the first half, he shot just 1-5 from beyond the arc, but in the second half he found a rhythm and buried five of three pointers. Welage had 21 points in the second half and 10 rebounds.

"My teammates got me great looks," Welage said. "Once I hit one or two, they really started looking for me. Coach (Steele) drew up a couple of good plays as well that got me great looks. I think it was just about becoming more comfortable."

Xavier found itself trailing in the early stages of the first half. Ross led the team in scoring against Chicago State last Wednesday. The Musketeers took the momentum back in the fourth quarter, allowing just five points while scoring 34 points in the first quarter while only allowing 17.

They continued their first half domination into the second quarter, allowing just five points while scoring 16 of their own. As a result, Xavier led 50-22 at the break.

Chicago State gained some momentum in the third quarter however, outscoring Xavier 21-17 in the period. Xavier took the momentum back in the fourth quarter and closed the game out strong, outscoring Chicago State by 10 points, 24-14, in the final period.

Sophomore forward Deja Ross led the team in scoring with 22 points on just 11 field goal attempts, of which she made eight. Ross also had six rebounds and four made three-point field goals on seven tries.

The forward tandem of sophomores Ariauna Gray and redshirt junior Tierra Floyd also scored in double figures, chipping in 11 and 10 points, respectively.

"The win improved Xavier’s success was its control of the glass. The Musketeers owned the rebounding battle, 51 rebounds to 22, while collecting 19 offensive boards.

Junior forward Tyrique Jones and Scruggs ignited a 10-0 run with just over four minutes to go in the game. Jones was dominant, matching a career high with 19 points while recording a personal-best 20 rebounds.

"The rebounding total was the most by a Xavier player since 2001 when Xavier great David West grabbed 21 boards in a game. Scruggs had a career day, amassing a team-high 24 points.

"I thought Paul played really well on the offensive end," Steele said. "I thought he made some shots, made some great plays (on) the pick-and-roll. He played a little bit slower (and) finished around the rim. Paul plays to win."

In the end, Xavier outlasted a resilient Evansville squad, 91-65.

"The Musketeers had the opportunity to win the mar- battle match against Wisconsin after defeating the Badgers on the road last season. The two teams also met in the 2016 NCAA Tournament when Xavier fell in the Round of 32."

"The Musketeers had a tall task in front of them having to face Preseason All-Big Ten forward Ethan Happ. Xavier defeated Happ fairly well in the first half, but he paced Wisconsin as he was the Badgers’ leading scorer finishing with 20 points. Happ had also 10 rebounds. Despite being down by 11 at one point in the second half, the Musketeers managed to crawl back into the game — trailing by just a score heading into the three-point line throughout the game.

"I thought Naji bounced back," Steele said. "He’s a tremendous player… I thought overall, he played a really good game. He rebounded the ball, he attacked the rim. He’s one of the best drivers in the entire country."

Xavier shot 45 percent from the field and struggled to connect from long range, shooting just 20-50 percent from behind the three-point line throughout the game.

The win improved Xavier to 2-1 in the Hill Tipoff Classic.

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MLB offseason ripe with key free agents

By Jack Dunn

Even though the 2018 MLB World Series ended a little more than two weeks ago with the Boston Red Sox defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in six games, the offseason has created a stir as it has already begun.

Despite losing in the World Series for the second year in a row, Dodgers’ starting southpaw Clayton Kershaw decided to decline his player option for $65 million for two more years. Instead, he signed an extension with the team for three years and $93 million.

However, his teammate, shortstop Manny Machado, is expected to be one of the most sought after free agents this winter. Only A.J. Pollock, the outfielder, have stated they are no longer interested. This allows for the Dodgers to pursue some of the top free agents this winter.

The Red Sox have their own free agent question to answer; they want to maintain their championship-caliber roster next year. Star closer Craig Kimbrel declined his qualifying offer of $17.25 million and is expected to attract the attention of the Cubs, Indians, Phillies and his former team, the Atlanta Braves.

Six players have turned down qualifying offers from their current teams so far, which seems to be a common trend among the top players.

Conners freestyles Xavier to swimming success

Junior swimmer Emily Conners has an impressive sophomore campaign and has carried that momentum into her junior year. This season, she has owned at least one individual event win in Xavier’s last six meets.

Conners has been a major factor that has propelled the Musketeers to the No. 2 ranking in the Big East this season.

“This summer, I stayed in Cincinnati and was able to train with my coach one-on-one, so I had a lot of opportunity for improvement over the summer,” Conners said. “The girls team really came in this year. We really hit the ground running. We’ve really been pretty successful this far.”

Conners is a four-time Big East Swimmer of the Week, the only swimmer.

“I’m just sprint-freestyle, I love it. I love to swim freestyle, sprint freestyle, I think that’s what makes me want to keep doing it,” Conners said about this weekend’s meet. “I’ll be hard, but it’ll be fun.”

Junior swimmer Emily Conners has an impressive sophomore campaign, and has carried that momentum into her junior year. This season, she has owned at least one individual event win in Xavier’s last six meets.

Outfielder Bryce Harper will be one of the most prized talents available in the offseason after he turned down an offer to return to the Nationals. The timing trend for players on this year’s average from .310 in 2017 to .249 in 2018, despite having a better second half of the season than that first.

Harper, who was selected in the first round of the MLB ‘19 The Show, is currently pictured in a training jacket and not wearing the jersey of a specific team.

On Nov. 7, Harper rejected a 10-year $300 million deal to return to the Nationals. This is perhaps a signal of the interest the team has shown in keeping Harper.

In the meantime, MLB award finalists will continue to be announced this week. The week got started on Monday with the Rookie of the Year for both leagues, with pitcher/designated hitter Shohei Ohtani winning in the American League and Ronald Acuña, Jr., winning in the National League.

The managers of the year were announced on Tuesday as Braves’ manager Brian Snitker and Athletics’ manager Bob Melvin.

The Cy Young winners will be announced at 6 p.m. on Wednesday and the MVPs will be announced at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

The Boston Red Sox claimed their fourth title since the new millennium, the most by any one team in the same span of time.

They are also the fourth 100 regular season win teams since 2000 to win the World Series the same year.

The skins have allowed for players to customize their character’s look, which has led some to depict former pro players with criminal histories.

Sports Banter

Fortnite and Football

The popular video game Fortnite recently teamed up with the NFL to release new avatars last Friday.

The skins have allowed for players to customize their character’s look, which has led some to depict former pro players with criminal histories.

10 Years to 76’d

Before having disagreements with the Timberwolves coaching staff, shooting guard Jimmy Butler was part of a blockbuster trade last Sunday which sent him to the 76ers.

No need for alarm

According to a picture from The Times-Picayune, New Orleans Saints’ head coach Sean Payton reportedly shredded a fire alarm prior to the team’s game against the Bengals.

Episode IV: A New Wing

The Air Force Academy mascot, Aurora, suffered a wing injury during a prank prior to the team’s football game against Army on Saturday.

The bird is showing signs of improvement and recovery.
The nationally recognized Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) dazzled Gallagher Student Center Theater on Friday, Nov. 5. The performance was organized by the Xavier music series in conjunction with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the Alumni Association, to kick off Alumni Weekend.

By Heath Gast

Gallagher Student Center Theater was bustling with activity on Friday, Nov. 5, as the nationally recognized Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) presented a vibrant and captivating performance. The event, organized in collaboration with the Xavier music series and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, aimed to showcase the rich diversity of the arts and the importance of inclusivity.

The performance was titled "Something is Happening Here," and it featured a diverse range of works that highlighted the creativity and talent of various artists. The audience was treated to a variety of dances that ranged from emotionally charged pieces to lively and upbeat routines, reflecting the dynamic nature of contemporary dance.

The evening was not only a celebration of dance but also a platform for the artists to express their viewpoints and engage with the community. The performers, including dancers concealed in black, raingear-like jackets, transitioned from doo-wop to symphonic compositions and films, demonstrating the fluidity and range of their skills.

The performance concluded with "Shed," an act featuring dancers in sync to a Zimbabwean chant, which concluded the evening on a high note. The audience was left with a sense of excitement and anticipation for future performances that would continue to push the boundaries of what is expected from contemporary dance.

The finale was a testament to the talent and dedication of the performers. The dancers showcased their technical prowess and emotional depth, creating a memorable experience for all who attended. The event was a testament to the power of art to bring people together and inspire change.

By Kevin Thomas

During the past 50 years, DCDC has prided its focus on creating performance opportunities for dancers of color and a platform for performances that share the African-American experience.

The first act of the night, "Wawa Aba," was named after "Wawa Aba," a song written by Yemi Oyediran, a musician and historian currently working on a documentary about King Records, Friday, a professor of composition at the University of Cincinnati, and Herren, and was hosted by Matsuksy. The panel was opened with Matsuksy giving a short recap of why she had chosen this album in particular to respond to. She hails from Minnesota, a few towns away from where Dylan grew up as Robert Zimmerman, and said that she had decided on Highway 61 Revisited because of its richly complex and multi-layered nature. She appreciated how the album's lyrics and music intertwine, creating a cohesive whole that resonates on a deeper level.

The second act of the night included excerpts from the show Stepping Into Season. "Stepping Into Season" featured the jazz music of contemporary African-American trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. The expressive quality of each dancer provided dynamic storytelling as the audience was brought through the journey of life in community, romance and personal reflection. For their final act, "Shed," the curtains rose upon the dancers concealed in black, raingear-like jackets. They began to dance in sync to a spoken word poem by John DeSantis, entitled "This Rhythm Is Not Mine," accompanied by classical and contemporary jazz-based identity within community. As the music transitioned to electronic dance music, the dancers began to show their originality. They shed their jackets and allowed their full bodies to emerge. Dancers showed off high leg extensions, dizzying pirouettes and ambitious leaps. One dancer threw in a burst of flossing, to the humor of the crowd.

Highway 61 Revisited gets revisited by professors

Bob Dylan's 1965 album receives original reactions from a response project

Superhero Stan Lee passes away

On Monday, November 12, comic book legend Stan Lee passed away at the age of 95. Stan Lee was famous for being one of the founders of the Marvel comic book universe and many of its characters including Ant-Man, Spider-Man, the Avengers, Black Panther, Black Widow, Captain Marvel, Doctor Strange, the Fantastic Four, Groot, Hawkeye, Hulk, Iron Man, Nick Fury and many more.
**Red Dead Redemption 2 seizes the reins of the video game world**

Released Oct. 26, the much-anticipated sequel to the hit 2010 video game *Red Dead Redemption has been attracting players worldwide. Below, read a review of the game and learn about just how much of an effect it’s had.*

**New game already proves an instant classic**

**By Owen Hunt**

Guest Writer

Video games can be one of two things. They can be repetitive and fast paced, easy to pick up and put down over and over again. They can also be drawn out and slowly paced, requiring hours of devotion and play time to fully enjoy and appreciate. *Red Dead Redemption 2* falls into the latter category. From Oct. 26 all the way to the evening of Oct. 30, I played *Red Dead Redemption 2.* After about 20 hours of play time, I completed the game. Here are my impressions.

*Red Dead Redemption 2* is amazing. Beyond amazing. It is an experience to play. But honestly, could we expect anything less from Rockstar Studios, the creators of the series? *Red Dead Redemption 2* delves into what gang life was like for outlaws in the West, during a time when law and order was becoming more and more common. *Red Dead Redemption* was starting to take over.

The game starts with the playable protagonist Arthur Morgan barely surviving a deadly snow storm in a mountain range. Along with returning characters John Marston and Dutch van der Linde, Arthur must help the gang of about 20 people survive the snow storms. Along the way, the player will start to hear of a “Blackwater-Ferry Heist,” a heist Arthur was not a part of that went terribly wrong. Because of this heist, the gang was forced to flee the town of Blackwater, leaving thousands of dollars’ worth of valuables behind.

Once the gang escapes the mountains, the world of *Red Dead Redemption 2* begins to open to the player. The map takes place in the five made-up American states of Lemoyne, New Hanover, Armistice, New Austin and West Elizabeth. Each state is different from the last, with different weather, wildlife, fauna and people. To explore the world in a timely manner, you must acquire a horse, an asset and a companion.

**Red Dead Redemption 2 is set in 1899 and follows the story of outlaw Arthur Morgan, a member of the ruthless van der Linde gang. Players explore the world through acquiring a horse, an asset and a companion.**

The story does a fantastic job of depicting what life was like for outlaws in the West as an epic climax and leads into the first *Red Dead Redemption*. Arthur Morgan becomes an easy character to like, as with many other members of the gang. The story does a fantastic job of depicting what life was like for outlaws in the West as the hammer of law begins to come down on them. Outlaws must adapt to society or seemingly disappear into legend. However, *Red Dead Redemption 2* is not perfect. It has its flaws. To begin, the controls are very difficult to manage. I often times found myself attacking a friendly non-playable character accidentally, as V (or triangle on PS4) is used to attack and to get on a horse. Often, I felt as if my weapon should have been hitting my target, yet instead it caused the bullet to oftentimes land behind my target.

The size of the map is also so large that it would take me nearly 1.5 to 20 minutes just to get from one place to another, especially later in the game. This can become obnoxious after a while.

Despite its flaws, *Red Dead Redemption 2* is a masterpiece of a video game and should be played by anyone who is a fan of the franchise or video games in general. With its gorgeous, picturesque landscapes, incredible story and exhilarating gameplay, *Red Dead Redemption 2* deserves its spot as the most profitable entertainment product at launch. This game is an instant classic and will be remembered as one of the greatest video games of all time.

**Total score:**

**Please help me come up with a clever cowboy title also regarding facts and money?**

• The success of the game has been largely attributed to the popularity of GTA IV. “The original game was well received but because of the (western) setting it didn’t, at the time, stoke the embers of excitement from traditional Rockstar fans more used to Grand Theft Auto,” Piers Harding-Rolls, head of games research at HIS Markit, said. “With *Red Dead Redemption 2*, the wait has been so long and the critical reception so good the huge GTA IV user base has proved ready to try out a new product.”

• Rockstar’s *Red Dead Redemption 2* has received perfect 10s from thousands of reviews, and more content is expected. There is an online multiplayer beta that is expected later this month. Rockstar hasn’t confirmed exactly what will be in it just yet, but it is expected to be similar to GTA IV’s online mode. *GTA IV* has made millions of dollars from the sale of “Shark Cards,” which buys millions of dollars of in-game money that can be used on flying cars, luxury cars and apartments.

• *Red Dead Redemption 2* shipped over 17 million copies of the game to retailers and even more online in downloads (which are not tracked). Rockstar has a history of hugely successful games, as *Red Dead Redemption 2* is the second only to *Grand Theft Auto V*, which made $1 billion in its first three days of release in 2013. *Grand Theft Auto V* sold 100 million copies, and is one of the most successful pieces of entertainment in history.  

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**By Jack Dunn**

Campus News Editor

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TURKEY EMOJI REVIEW

BY TREVER MCKENZIE

Online Editor

Which turkey emoji should you be spamming throughout the Thanksgiving holidays? Trever McKenzie breaks it down.

Apple – 9/10

Apple never fails to deliver with their emoji. Detailed, vibrant and appropriately thicc, this turkey brings class and style to the dinner table.

Facebook – 9/10

Facebook turned a leaf this time around. I’d invite this turkey to dinner.

EmojiOne – 8/10

I’m not gonna lie, despite the weird blue head thing, I actually didn’t consider this emoji is so tiny that I can barely see it.

LG – 2/10

It could be worse.

Microsoft – 0/10

Okay Microsoft, we need to sit down and have a chat, because you clearly have no idea what you’re doing.

Samsung – 1/10

This turkey looks like it went to war and was never the same again.

WhatsApp – 2/10

Have any of you ever seen a turkey with a blue head? I almost didn’t, considering this emoji is so tiny that I can barely see it.

Twitter – 1/10

“I look mommy, I made a turkey in class today!” “That’s great sweetie, now put it in dinner.”

Aries: Dropping all of your responsibilities and obligations in order to cry and sleep forever might sound awfully tempting right now, but endure long enough to let things calm down.

Taurus: You’re that one kid who’s thinking about Amazon Echo just so you can quote the meme, “Omg this is so sad, Alexa play Despacito.”

Gemini: Just like how when life gives you lemons you should make lemonade, if someone hands you a bath bomb, you’d better be getting a bath ready within 24 hours.

Cancer: Watch out for people calling you crazy. Why? Because you are committing the sin of actually enjoying the classes you’re taking right now.

Leo: If there’s a crazy mess that appears in your home overnight, and you happen to own two dogs, be sure to interrogate one at a time before accusing any of causing it.

Virgo: You are not ready for this cold and ice and whatever. Maybe if you scream at the snow loudly enough, it’ll go away?

Libra: Careful about transforming into a workaholic leading up to Thanksgiving. Your Tamagotchi will die, and it will be your fault.

Scorpio: You’ll either suddenly feel super motivated to get all those massive final projects due, or you’ll be doing them out of sheer panic — they’re due kind of soon.

Sagittarius: Give those around you (whoever has the pleasure of hearing you moan at right) some space — unless there’s a dirty bowl of ramen that hasn’t been washed in months.

Capricorn: Got a B+ but really want a A? Flipping a table won’t get you there, unfortunately. Flex your diplomacy by asking for extra credit opportunities.

Aquarius: The weather’s getting colder, but you can counteract that by spicing things up in your habits — try a new craft or sport (just don’t make it too meme-y or people will hate you).

Pisces: It’s getting time to start freaking out about finals and whatnot, so keep that nervous energy in check by making a sporadic trip to the exercise place that’s not the HUB.

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