Valentine’s Day memories both touch and trouble the heart

❤️ For some, Valentine’s Day is about snuggling up next to their partner, eating over-priced chocolates and pretending they’ll be able to keep flowers alive for more than a day, but for others, the ghost of Valentine’s Day past haunts them at night, carrying memories of cringe-worthy middle school days and angsty romantic endeavors. Whether February 14 leaves you warm and fuzzy or just awkward, you’re in good company. ❤️

By Brittany Wells
Staff Writer

“So I was in middle school and I had a crush on this really cute boy, but I was never going to do anything about it. He was one of the popular kids, and he was going around to a bunch of girls and to me, too, and was like, ‘Hey, do you want a kiss?’ and then everybody freaked out, like, ‘What? What did he say?’ And then he would whip out a Hershey kiss and that was what he was giving as his Valentine’s Day present. It made me blush a lot.”

Maria Vassanelli
First-year undecided major

“So, in fourth grade, when it was still allowed to bring in treats for Valentine’s Day, I brought in Snickers, and everything was going well until one of my best friends said he was home sick the next day because of his peanut allergy.”

Joe Thomas
First-year sports marketing major

“My freshman year of high school I bought a boy a bear and chocolates, and when I got to school and took them he said, ‘Thanks,’ and then walked away with nothing to give to me. I thought we liked each other.”

Elizabeth Garnes
First-year psychology major

“So, every year I’ve dated someone briefly, but it just so happened that I broke up with my girlfriend a month before Valentine’s Day each year, basically because of all the pressure and I knew things weren’t going to go far. So I just ended it before that romantic evening.”

Robert Richards
Senior political science major

“One of my best memories of Valentine’s Day is always waking up to a card from my mom and my dad. It was always just a very loving day in our house, and my parents just went above and beyond to make it a happy day... Every Valentine’s day, even since coming to college, I’ve gotten a Valentine’s Day card from my mom.”

Cereys Edwards
Sophomore early childhood education major

Read more Valentine’s Day stories at xaviernewswire.com!
Laundry fee washes swipes away

Students to pay for laundry through a housing fee each semester instead of using X-Cash to pay per load. The included laundry will not apply to off-campus residences like University Station.

BY JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

The phrase “free laundry” appeared on several of the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive platform.

forms last fall and inspired Dr. Jude Kiah, vice president of ConneX.

Beginning in the fall, rather than paying with X-Cash in the laundry room, students will pay a housing fee each semester to use washing machines and dryers.

The included laundry will not apply to off-campus residences, such as University Station.

According SGA Vice President Desmond Varner, campus laundry facilities will be renovated so that the university can surpass charges from Cincinnati Coin Laundry, campus’ current washing machine provider.

“Of all our first meetings with Dr. Kiah, he said that he already got the free laundry done,” SGA Vice President Alfredo Mercedes said.

Details are still being worked out by ConneX. Mercedez explained. For example, there are plans to put in checks and balances to avoid abuse by off-campus residents and prevent non-Xavier students from taking advantage of the new program.

ConneX predicts that including laundry costs in housing fees will lead to the machines lasting longer since students won’t feel pressure to overload them to cut costs.

However, some students expressed doubt regarding how beneficial the program will actually be.

“Whereas everyone needs textbooks, I know people do laundry once every three weeks, as disgusting as that is, and I know people who do it like once a week and two loads,” junior Abby Morton said. “So I think the benefits for that might not be as beneficial for as many people.”

From an environmental standpoint, front-loaded washing machines are more water efficient than traditional top-loaded laundry machines and generally take less time to wash clothes. Kiah added that he does not think that students will use washing machines excessively.

“Students won’t increase their use of laundry just because they no longer have to directly pay for it,” Kiah said.

“Nobody washes their clean clothes just because.”

Panel fuses personal history, questions of justice

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Managing Editor

Nearly every ethics class offered at Xavier asks the question, “What is justice?” typically addressing it through studying Plato’s Republic.

On Sunday in the Arrupe Overlook, that question became “What does justice require?” and philosophy professor Gabe Gottlieb, Center for Faith and Justice staffer Rev. Nelson Pierce, senior psychology major Ayarri Moore and sophomore Alecia Conway attempted to answer it.

A crowd of about 40 students filled in and helped themselves to DeWez’s pizza at 6 p.m. as they awaited the beginning of the discussion.

The focus of the panel was personal histories and their place in justice-oriented work.

“I thought (the panel) was really good,” Moore said. “I thought we had great perspectives. I thought we were all pretty much on the same page, but we’ve all had different lives, so it was nice to hear (Gottlieb) and Nelson, who have been instrumental in my growth here.”

Gottlieb agreed that the different perspectives were a positive aspect of the event.

“I think that the various perspectives that the panelists had are useful for folks to see and hear, but I think also that the idea that justice requires a commitment,” Gottlieb said. “I think that was a common theme throughout, and living that commitment and pushing forward, that’s just something that’s always good to think about and hear.

Personal history was a major point in the discussion, as each of the panelists described the point in their own lives when they began to ask questions relating to justice as well as the individuals who influenced the way that they view this question of justice.

Another key takeaway, according to sophomore Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Desmond Varner, was knowing what place each person has in justice-oriented work.

“I think what Reverend Pierce and what Dr. Gottlieb was talking about in terms of knowing your role and doing action and justice is really important,” Varner said. “Not everyone is supposed to be on the forefront fighting people. There’s also people who are in institutions, teaching, there are people who are in policy, working there, so leveraging your position in order to actually make social justice active and change.”

He added that attending the panel was especially beneficial because of his new role as SGA Vice President.

“It actually really affected me personally because with the new role I have, a lot of it is focused on how can I make policy and procedures as well as real feasible change that can one, promote equity among students in the student body and also make real significant change and do what is just and what is right for the student body,” Varner said.

Feb. 4 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

Senators receive information on HUB developments, discuss proposed projects

• SGA Adviser Leah Busam Klenowski and Dean of College of Professional Sciences Dr. Paul Gore informed senators about developments for the Health United Building as part of the Report of the Administration. There is currently no opening date.

• Senators discussed proposals for forthcoming projects that are currently in development.

• Lori Lambert, the Senior Director for Students Affairs in the Office of Residence Life, will provide the Report of the Administration at next Monday’s meeting.

Campus News xaviernewswire.com
Textbook program to be extended in fall 2019

By Joseph Cotton
Staff Writer

A pilot program that has covered the costs of textbooks for first-years in 2018 is being expanded to include sophomores and the next crop of first-years in 2019.

The textbook program is expected to be continued for at least another year, according to Dr. Jude Kiah, associate vice president of Student Affairs officer. The program is intended to be universalized to all students eventually.

Professor Lawrence Sordornes sees the textbook program as a positive addition to campus. “I’m gonna be honest with you… I refuse to buy my textbooks because they’re $200, $300, and that’s way out of my budget. I don’t want to ask my parents and stuff like that.”

Connex worried that students may not return provided textbooks or that they would not be able to get enough books for each course. Neither of these problems have materialized. Kiah noted that Connex found through a survey that 80 percent of students on Xavier’s campus had no books at all and 70 percent of students did not have all of their books.

“For the first time, a majority of Xavier students have all of their textbooks on the first day of classes,” said Kiah. “We wanted to remove the possibility not being able to afford books off of the table so that the textbooks can be a tool for success instead of an obstacle.”

Connex is currently waiting on GPA and other data from current first-year students to evaluate whether the textbook program may lead to success in the classroom.

Junior Abby Morton sees the value in providing textbooks. Besides the price tag, required books may not be used as a self-guided tool in collaboration with counseling sessions. Students can register online with their Xavier email address and do not need to contact McGrath or Psych services to use TAO.

According to Dr. Timothy Barron, the Director of Counseling Services at McGrath, TAO is part of the “comprehensive approach to meeting the growing needs of wellness on campus.”

Barron worked closely with departments on campus such as residence life, athletics, student affairs, the dean’s office and others when arranging for the program to come to Xavier.

Barron said that TAO’s online line setup allows students to access the service 24/7 and use it at their own pace. It may be more convenient for students who have busy schedules or students who are not comfortable going to campus.

Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Jennifer Droege explained that TAO is useful for reaching more students while also accommodating for the various mental health needs of students.

“Students have different needs and if there are ways for students to receive services in different ways, it allows us to serve students differently.”

Barron also agreed that online counseling enables more students to be served, and will be beneficial with the anticipated increase in students in coming years.

Xavier has made other attempts this year to provide more mental health services to students as demand has increased. McGrath has contracted additional therapists to extend the available hours of counseling.

The program has shown positive results in relieving stress and anxiety. Students who have used the program claim it was helpful in alleviating symptoms.

Online counseling is not unique to Xavier, as a number of other universities around the country are taking a similar approach to mental health.

TAO is not the final step toward enhanced mental health services on campus. McGrath plans on releasing a telehealth program in the next few years. A telehealth program would be direct online counseling, allowing students to receive personalized time with a therapist over video chat, in conjunction with completing modules on TAO.

At the Community Discussions on health and wellbeing hosted by BDA, Dean of Students Jean Griffin also shared that the university will be looking to hire more mental health professionals in the future.

Students get answers on wellness

Griffin and Johnson affirmed that resources would be available to help individuals on campus who currently smoke to quit before a focused policy would go into effect on July 1.

Furthermore, Griffin and Coleman explained that they did not expect policy resources to be diverted to enforcement of the policy and away from other needs throughout the campus community. “We see this as a supportive policy to help support members of the community make choices about their health,” Griffin said.

The current SGA executives made commitment to transparency a major area of emphasis while they were on the campaign trail last fall. Community discussions such as Monday’s were laid out in their campaign platform.

“We’re not going to move the university forward, we’re not going to move the student body forward if we can’t be honest and open with each other,” SGA Vice President Varner said following the event. “Accountability is a two-way street. We can only go halfway if the administration isn’t as accountable as we are as students, it’s not fair.”

Varner sees Community Discussions as a way for the current SGA Executives to fulfill their duties to their constituents. “We all recognize that there’s this gap, especially in terms of knowledge, insight and input,” Varner said. “The whole point of us being here is to bridge that gap, especially in terms of students receiving meaningful information about how they can navigate through these next couple years.”

Varner seemed pleased with the first community discussion. “Students showed up, they weren’t afraid to ask tough questions and administrators weren’t afraid to be honest with us and be transparent. If we’re really trying to improve Xavier, that’s where we need to go.”

SGA hopes to host community discussions each month this semester.
side view of a woman, holding a video camera, as she records a presentation. The caption reads: "Tran's presentation would be allowed under the bill."
Xavier reacts to 2019 SOTU address

Trump calls for end to Russia investigation, renews call for wall on the border

"I really liked Abrams' response and how the Democrats went with an outsider. But it speaks to their position where, like the Republicans, they're either seeking to reidentify themselves or to redefine themselves," said Trump.

Trump covered a wide range of topics in his State of the Union, beginning with a call for bipartisanship. He then discussed trade, border control and the Russia investigation.

"If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation," Trump said during the address. Trump renewed his call for a physical barrier on the southern border, saying that "in the past, most of the people in this room voted for a wall but the proper wall never got built. I'll get it built."

Congressional negotiators reached "an agreement in principle" on Monday night in hopes of avoiding another partial government shutdown that would go into effect at midnight on Feb. 15.

The tentative agreement includes $1.3 billion in funding for a physical barrier along 56 miles of the southern border. Trump has not given any sign as to whether or not he would sign the bill.

"I felt like it was fluff," junior Philosophy, Politics and Economics major Cole Stautberg said. "The congressional response to it could have been stronger."

"I already knew what he was going to say, and I felt like it would've been a waste of my time when I knew that [President Trump] likes getting TV ratings, and I didn't want to supply that rating," junior Political Philosophy, Politics and the Public and History double major Miles Tiemeyer said.

Others who watched felt like it did not have substance.

"I felt like it was fluff," junior special education major Cole Stautberg said. "The congressional response to it could have been stronger."

Best Family Chair for Ethics, Religion and Society Dr. Myron Jackson took a different approach to the address: "I was very happy with the celebration of the Anniversary of women's suffrage. I thought (it) was good to have that reference."

However, he felt differently on the issues brought up by the president, feeling that most issues proposed were from the last State of the Union Address.

"It's disappointing in that sense because... to continue to hear your leaders talk about the same policy issues year after year diminishes the value on them and your trust or confidence in their ability to get these things done," Jackson said. "In that sense, it can be very deflating. And then, the performance is no longer seen as believable because of the gridlock."

The Democrats' response, given by runner-up in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election Stacey Abrams, drew a more positive reaction.

"One thing that I thought was really interesting is that she (Abrams) didn't actually watch his speech," Tiemeyer said.

Jackson found that this response drew some similarities between the Democratic and Republican parties.

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William Brewer was born Jan. 14, 1977. He was a presenter of the Reds Rookie Success League. He grew up in Williamsburg, Ohio, and was a 1996 graduate of Williamsburg High School. He was a successful high school athlete and is showcased in the sports hall of fame, where he will be remembered as someone who was enthusiastic for his family, fellow officers and friends. Brewer was beloved by the community. His end of watch took place on Feb. 9.
A full 90 minutes after his speech, Donald Trump descended from the podium amid cheers from the right side of the chamber and tight-lipped grimaces from the left. He had just finished a State of the Union address that set forth his agenda but, like a call for national unity and a campaign rally. He praised the accomplishments of women, declared the need for lower prescription costs and began the long process of enacting measures to combat criminal justice reform. These bipartisan goals were matched with threats to strip women of their right to choose and persecute undocumented immigrants and halt investigations into the criminal investigations of the president's political opponents.

The state of our planet

The state of our planet is deteriorating, along with the emotional and economic health of people experiencing homelessness are freezing to death. More than 200,000 individuals lost their housing during the polar vortex, including elderly individuals, who were especially vulnerable.

Our president’s response? Mocking “global warming” on Twitter.

Our planet’s climate is only the most recent example of the human cost of climate change. Rising sea levels are threatening homes and businesses in coastal states. As the seagulls seep inland, it will be harder for those drinking water to intercede with irrigation systems.

Generations of people living in Florida and Southern California are watching their way of life disappear. In Charles-Duval, the number of days that flooding occurred on the coast increased from four to five in 2016, causing millions of dollars in damages to a city that survives on tourism. This problem is only getting worse. By 2100, it is estimated that one billion people will end up in damaging to the coast, to say nothing about the death toll.

Our president’s response? Saying nothing.

The calls for unity by President Trump were not agree. While there are moments where we come an address to the American people and their accomplishments of women, Americans losing their homes because of extreme weather. The president and their lives because of extreme cold is not new, and the president addressed it. I believe in our country, and I believe in our president. And though you may disagree, I believe you, too, want a unified America based on its principles of liberty, equality and justice. I am not pontificating myself as a guiding light. But I will always try my best to unify with my fellow Americans regardless of what they believe or what they say. I believe in our United States.
The United States is not popular in the Middle East. Between our reckless disman- 
tlement and abandonment of the Iraqi people, proxy wars in Yemen and air strikes in Syria, the United States’ list of Middle Eastern allies is short and rapidly dwindling. Our list of friends in the re-

gion is running low, and we can’t afford to abandon them by withdrawing from Syria. It is time for the United States to support, not abandon, the Kurdish people of Iraq and Syria. 

The Kurdish people, known as Kurds, are an ethnic group based in northeastern Iraq, northern Syria and southern Turkey. The Kurds have been advocating for their inde-

pendence as a state for near-

ly a century and have lived semi-autonomously in Iraq since the Second Gulf War. 

Iraqi Kurdistan in particular has one of the fastest grow-
ing economies in the Middle East, built upon a plethora of oil reserves and free trade policies that mirror our own. According to a 2009 census, Iraqi Kurdistan has the lowest poverty rates in Iraq and has seen an exorbitant increase in wealth throughout the last decade. Kurdistan’s economic sta-

bility is also reflected in its western-oriented culture. The Kurds have built their identity upon the values of self-deter-
mination, religious modera-
tion and free expression — 

mirroring our own ideological commitments. 

From its long history of American military support to its inherent culture, Kurdistan is an in-

credibly compatible and stable 

ally and could extend Ameri-

can influence in the Middle East. 

Militarily, the Kurds have 

put up the strongest fight against ISIS in recent years and have, as of late, overrun their last remaining strong-
hold. While the Kurds have all but wiped out the threat of ISIS, they are still persecuted by the Turkish government. So far, Turkey has refrained from attacking Kurdish forces in Syria because of their direct cooperation with American troops. By withdrawing our troops from Syria at President Trump’s command, the U.S. failed to prevent a deal between Turkey and the Kurds, two powers that support the Kurds, 

who have faced persecution. 

Unfortunately, it wouldn’t be surprised if 

we betrayed the Kurds. On multiple 

occasions, the United States has 

allied itself with the Kurds before shifting alliances, and the Kurds were the 

ones who suffered. The best ex-

ample of this was in our en-

couragement and subsequent abandonment of Kurdish reb-

els in Iraq under Saddam Hus-

sein. Despite American forces withdrawing from the re-

gion after our involvement in the First Gulf War, Hussein felt emboldened by the lack of an American threat and committed one of the world’s deadliest chemical weapons attacks on the Kurdish city of Halabja, killing nearly 5,000 civilians. Despite our mistreatment of the Kurds, they coura-

geously fought alongside us in the First Gulf War and sheltered our troops during the 2003 invasion of Iraq when Turkey, our NATO ally, ref-

used to do it. Furthermore, as Syria split into faction war-

fare, it was the Kurds who steadily held on their north-

ern territory and drove ISIS out of their lands. The most adamant oppo-

sition to an independent Kurd-

ish state has been Turkey, who has committed to fight-

ning Kurdish secession for de-

cades. I would argue that, by recog-
nizing a Kurdish state in Iraq and Syria, the Turks would actually weaken the ar-

mied forces in the U.S. and the 

United States would lose any 

influence it still has in the region. So, my question is this: Why the ban at all? If you care about well-being and acknowledge the dif-

ficulties of ending addiction, if you’re looking toward commu-

nity cessation models, then why not simply start there? There seems to be no point in banning these products at Xavier if the administration itself acknowledges that pro-

hibition won’t work, unless the ultimate goal is to get “no smoking anywhere” into a rulebook. 

So, I’d like to ask the ad-

ministration to do something different than the hundreds, if not thousands, of other campuses across the nation that have banned smoking and consumption of nicotine-related products on campus: create a community that helps people quit without resort-

ing to the simplicity of a ban. Look past the idea that the university has no choice but to either ban it or not. Namely, the administration is looking at community 

cessation models to help fac-

ce the smoking issue. Members of the administration claim it to be an issue of wellness. They say that it’s time to join the hundreds, if not thou-

sands, of other institutions that are entirely smoke- and nicotine-free campuses. 

I agree that it’s an issue of well-being. Smoking is a problem. I wish that I didn’t smoke — it’s an expensive addiction that is damaging to my health. However, prohibi-

tion, the banning of all sale and consumption, is a strat-

ey that has never worked. I mean, alcohol prohi-

bition didn’t work. The war on drugs has done nothing but damage communities through the mechanisms of mass incarceration. It’s defi-

ced that that’s what it does. Furthermore, allowing a campus banning the consumption of tobacco products on campus, which is where we are, is growing, and world powers are taking notice. These are not disposable allies, and if the United States doesn’t real-

ize that, someone else will.
Kostarellis sets program record in 3000-meter run

**By Luke Feliciano**

Sports Editor

"Xavier was in a position to buck a five-game losing streak at home last Saturday against DePaul. However, a late surge by the Blue Demons resulted in a sixth straight loss for the Musketeers.

The defeat marked the second time that Xavier fell to DePaul since both teams began to compete in the Big East Conference.

DePaul capitalized on a multitude of Xavier second-half turnovers, which resulted in the Musketeers' ceiling the lead.

"I thought we did have a lot of carryover from practice as far as defense went. (It was) probably our best defensive effort we've had in Big East play so far," head coach Travis Steele said. "It's hard to win any games at this level when you turn the ball over ... They scored 13 points off our turnovers." A slow developing start to the game resulted in only four points scored by the first media timeout. With 11:48 remaining in the first half, the game was tied at five points apiece.

The Musketeers shot just 38 percent from the floor and 23 percent from beyond the arc in the first half. However, Xavier upped its shooting percentage to 40 percent from the floor for the second half.

Sophomore forward Naji Marshall was a consistent source of offense in the first half, registering 16 points, three rebounds and three assists. He finished with a team-high 22 points and also collected four rebounds and had as many assists.

Marshall, whose game typically resides in driving hard to the basket, shot the ball well from long range, going 2 of 3 on three-point shots throughout the game. Even so, he exceeded at attacking the rim and making tough shots.

Xavier went on a mini 6-0 run and closed out the half converting its final three shots to claim a slight one-point edge at the break.

Early in the second half, sophomore guard Paul Scruggs made a couple of tough shots from the outside. He contributed in nearly every aspect of the game with 13 points and five rebounds, along with three assists.

"We had a couple turnovers in a row, and that's what got them going," Scruggs said about DePaul's comeback. "Our guys played hard, and that's all you can ever ask for.

Xavier had a very positive showing defensively against the Blue Demons' top scorer, Max Strus, who averages 17 points per game.

The Musketeers limited his output to 13 points and stifled him to shoot a mere 6 of 20 from the field and 1 of 9 from three-point range.

"I though we made him earn his points," Steele said. "He's a really good player. They run probably 90 percent of their set plays for him specifically ... I thought Quentin, Naji (and) Paul did a good job for the most part making it tough on him.

A two-minute scoring drought allowed DePaul to tie the score at 57 with 2:28 left in the game.

Six turnovers in the last six minutes of the game gave way to a 16-2 run for the Blue Demons, which put them up by eight points with 1:22 remaining. This effectively sealed the Musketeers' fate.

Xavier is at an important juncture in the season. Amidst a losing skid, the Musketeers are nearing their final stretch games before the end of the regular season in a conference where one win can vault them forward multiple spots in the standings.

"Xavier's going to have the fight yet by any means. Each team in the Big East is guaranteed a spot in the conference tournament. Regardless of how the rest of the season plays out, the Musketeers will have an opportunity to compete for the Big East title next month at Madison Square Garden.

Kostarellis sets record in 3000-meter run

**By Tim Kramer**

Staff Writer

A record-breaking performance in the 3000-meter run by sophomore Anna Kostarellis highlighted men's and women's track and field competition last weekend.

The teams traveled to Nashville, Tenn., to compete at the Music City Challenge, hosted by Vanderbilt University at the Multipurpose Facility. This was the team's final regular season meet of the indoor season before the Big East Championships.

Kostarellis' outstanding performance broke the program record by about seven seconds with a time of 9:33.43.

"Anna's training has been going really well lately, so we knew a breakthrough was coming soon, and tonight was her night," head coach Ryan Orner told goxavier.com. "Not only did she drop 20 seconds off her already fast personal best, but she took fifth place in a stacked field. The race went out fast throughout, so the first guy nearly in last place with a 5:59 split. Anna remained composed and moved her way up through the pack during the second half of the race."

On the women's side, Kostarellis joined elite company by her time. Mazzei was a Big East All-Conference cross country runner while competing for Xavier.

Kostarellis was not the only Musketeer to thrive in the team's penultimate event of the winter season. Five Musketeers set personal records, and 10 runners had season-best performances last weekend. Both sides faced challenging opponents this weekend in competing against SEC schools.

The Xavier coaches were happy with their athletes and team's performances this weekend and believe it will prepare them for the Big East Championships.

"The group that went down really stepped up to the challenge of SEC competition, and we walked out of the building a group of proud coaches," Orner said.

Xavier will still have an opportunity to compete for the Big East title before the Big East Championships in order to get athletes in the best physical shape heading into conference weekend.

Overall, the Musketeers accomplish the task at hand, which according to Orner was "running fast times before the Big East Championships.

The teams have a respite from competition and will turn their sights to the final meet of the winter season. The Musketeers will close out the indoor season with a meet at SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio, from Feb 22-23.
A tribute to Jackie Robinson’s 100th birthday

BY JOSEPH COTTON  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 31 Jackie Robinson would have turned 100 years old.

This centennial anniversary is a great opportunity to reflect on the legacy of civil rights in the United States, and the life and career of the man who broke the color barrier in professional sports.

Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers at the time, knew that they were going to face resistance. I’m sure that they had many conversations about the ramifications of their decisions and came to the conclusion that Robinson needed to be as perfect and saint-like as possible.

Any small incident could have been the end of his career and any social progress that the two were trying to make.

Professional athletes have a lot to worry about in the confines of the sport that they play. Contract negotiations, public persona and performance all play a part for the team are overwhelming in and of themselves. Add to that the public perception of an entire group of people and you can understand how Jackie Robinson was always hyper-aware of what was at stake.

I view Robinson’s story as a look into a certain type of social privilege. Many People of Color didn’t have any room for people to see them angry.

One of my favorite scenes in any movie I have seen is in the biopic 42, when Jackie Robinson and Rickey meet after a public outburst of anger by Robinson. Rickey says to him, “Don’t ever let people see you mad.”

According to accounts, Robinson only expressed anger around people he knew he could trust after that moment. Personally, I have had a similar experience. When I was in middle school playing hockey, I used to get extremely lty and outwardly enraged whenever I let a goal in.

I ended up writing the number 42 on the end of my hockey stick to remind me that I needed to remain calm so the other team couldn’t see that they were getting to me.

The sad truth is that some people have a privilege to anger where others do not.

For many People of Color, women and those of other marginalized identities, being assertive and letting people know when they violate your boundaries — or even your dignity as a person — is always going to be perceived as irrational and simple-minded.

In contrast, a White person, especially a White male, is usually going to be perceived as assertive and willing to “say it how it is.”

A lot of people don’t let others see them angry and push down how they really feel so they can advance in society and the workplace.

The fact that a select group of people in this country don’t have the privilege of self-expression and others do is simply wrong, but that is just how it is.

Even today, public athletes receive backlash when they express their personal experiences and views of the racial climate.

Just recently, Colin Kaepernick was blacklisted from the NFL when executives at the front offices deemed him to be a “liability” for exercising his First Amendment right.

LeBron James was instruct- ed to “ shut up and dribble” by a White Fox News anchor whenever he tried to say something about the racial inequality in our society.

I also see sentimentality in many sports fans that says “be grateful” to professional athletes, implying that they are making a lot of money being entertainers despite being viewed as uneducated and inarticulate.

The struggle of tolerating all the racial abuse and balancing his public image is the most defining and touching part of Robinson’s legacy in my eyes.

He had every imaginable reason to give up his career in the MLB and lash out at the horrible acts of racism that he had to endure from coaches, players, fans and even his own teammates.

Despite all that, he endured. It’s a look at posh and stoicism because he understood that his cause was bigger than just himself.

I hope that Robinson can remind us of all the progress we have made while also letting us know how much work we still have ahead of us in the future.

Opinion: Reds’ moves put them in the playoff hunt

BY DONNIE MENKE  
Staff Writer

It’s been a long few years for fans of the Cincinnati Reds, as the team has the worst record in baseball since the 2014 season.

They haven’t won more than 70 games since that 2014 season, winning 64 games in 2015, 68 in both 2016 and 2017 and 67 last season. They have been only two games out of a postseason spot.

It is a year fewer than 70 wins since that 2014 season.

The Reds have been very aggressive this winter, more so than any other team in baseball.

The biggest trade of their offseason came on Dec. 21, when they offloaded one of the worst contracts in Major League Baseball in starting pitcher Homer Bailey, along with two prospects, for three pitching staff.

In return for Homer Bailey, let’s take a look at Rachel Robison. The Reds got back outfielder Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp, starting pitcher Alex Wood and a minor league pitcher.

Puig, Kemp and Wood are all projected to be upgrades.

Puig brings an extra energy to the team — he’s been a energy in the community and shown nothing but excitement about being a part of the Reds. His abilities as a player don’t hurt either. He brings additional power and strong defense in the outfield.

Kemp was an All-Star last season, but he’ll be 35 by the end of the season and it’s reasonable to expect he will take a step back this year.

However, Kemp will still be a player who can make an impact, whether he starts or comes off the bench, and will be able to act as a mentor for the younger players with his veteran presence.

Wood brings a steady presence to a rotation that has been among the worst in baseball history throughout the last two seasons.

Wood’s stats from last season are better than the Reds’ rotation as a whole in nearly every category, so he will bolster the pitching staff.

Before the Dodgers trade, the Reds also made a smaller move in trading pitcher Tanner Rainey to the Nationals for T.J.acos.

Roark improved last season from his 2017 campaign. Despite a lower win-loss record, he improved in nearly every other area. He is also a rotation upgrade who can bring a veteran presence. Roark has pitched in majors for six sea- sons.

The biggest wildcard of the Reds’ trade acquisitions is former New York Yankee and Oakland Athletic starting pitcher Sonny Gray.

The Reds acquired him in their final deal (so far) of the offseason in exchange for Shed Long and a draft pick.

They also received minor league relief pitcher Reiver Sanmartin in the trade and agreed to a contract extension with Gray to make the trade final.

On the surface, Gray had a bad season last year. He had a 4.90 ERA and pitched just 130.1 innings. However, a closer look revealed that he really only struggled at home and was very good on the road.

His ERA at home, 3.91 innings, was 6.08, while his ERA on the road, in 71.0 innings, was only 3.17.

This is not to say Gray will suddenly be an ace-level pitcher but rather that people shouldn’t expect him to be as bad as he was last season.

The Reds also have Nick Senzel, the sixth-ranked prospect in all of baseball, according to MLB Pipeline. He will probably play center field and is a likely contender for NL Rookie of the Year.

The Reds were just 11-29 in one-run games last sea- son. If that record were to be flipped to 20-11, they would have been only two games out of a postseason spot.

This is why Winter Baseball is projected to be the closest division since 1994, according to Fangraphs.com, the Reds were still likely to be aggressive this offseason.

The team was not as far away from contending as the record made it seem, and by making these moves and getting this talent, this team will likely be in the playoff hunt for most of the season.
Netflix original film fails to excite

By Aidan Callahan
Staff Writer

Netflix originals are always hit or miss — usually a miss. These are the exact words I used to open my Polar review last issue.

However, the purpose of that article was to show how Netflix’s “throw spaghetti at the wall until it sticks” strategy can sometimes produce some really good-sticking spaghetti.

But do not be fooled — Netflix has plenty of spaghetti that doesn’t stick to the wall but instead comes crashing down hard. Velvet Buzzsaw is that kind of spaghetti.

I was very excited for this movie. The director, Dan Gilroy, worked with actor Jake Gyllenhaal on a 2014 movie called Nightcrawler. It was a fantastic movie, so I don’t understand what went wrong for Velvet Buzzsaw.

In the former, Gyllenhaal plays a very unlikeable character who is incredibly interesting. In the latter, he plays a similarly unlikeable character who is not interesting at all. This is true for almost every character in the movie.

Velvet Buzzsaw is about the art world, so all the main characters are artists who have the same overused “obnoxious artist personality.”

Seriously, they all might as well be the same person. They’re self-absorbed and rude to everyone they encounter, and none of them have a single endearing quality.

There are two exceptions to this: a secretary whose single characteristic is that she is a secretary. Then there’s the main character. There is no reason to hate her, but they also give her no reason to like her. She reminds me of a woman who doesn’t talk and just gets guided from plot point to plot point. I don’t understand why anyone was interested in making a movie about this cast of characters.

In fact, it’s hard to understand what the point of this movie is in the first place. It cannot decide what it wants to be. Most of the time it feels like a slow drama, yet towards the end it tries really hard to be a horror movie.

However, the genre it succeeded in the most is comedy. There were genuinely some funny moments. But all these parts feel incomplete: it’s not dramatic enough to be a drama, there’s not enough horror for it to be a horror and the comedy just feels like it’s there to be there. It didn’t seem like anyone knew what they were doing with this movie, especially the director.

Velvet Buzzsaw shows that all movies need to have some sort of guiding force. It could be a studio saying, “Hey Dan, try to stick to one genre, please;” or it could be an already-successful graphic novel in the case of Polar.

Movies are a big commitment for those involved in making it and the audience members who will need to sit through it for two hours, so you should not let the director run free like an artist on a smaller, more personal project like a painting.

For a project as big as a movie, there needs to be someone thinking about the audience.

Total score: ✦✦✦✦

Review: Listermann Brewing delights pubgoers

By Curt Berry
Guest Writer

Norwood’s Listermann Brewing, located just across Dana Avenue, is often noticed for its colorful exterior and humorous signage. A visit inside reveals why this establishment on Dana Avenue, is often noted for its colorful exterior and humorous signage. A visit inside reveals why this establishment is called the “Dank Grilled Cheese.” It melts four cheeses — American, Swiss, cheddar and gouda — with bacon and tomato. Yes, it does taste as good as it sounds.

Before you leave out that double door of Listermann Brewing, make sure you take a sample of their delicious beers with you. Their prices might be high, but it is worth bringing some of these creative, delicious alcoholic beverages home with you. You can take home a bottle of mead offered in several different flavors for a price of $20.

Listermann Brewing does not just serve food and drink. The variety of events they hold, such as a stand-up comedy, improv and even a free-to-join nightly running club, makes it an overall great experience.

The prices are a bit high, but I would very highly recommend this spot to a friend with delicious food and drinks, and you can do a hot wing challenge.

The convenience of how close it is to campus, plus the money you save by not “Uber-ing” all night out at Cincinnati, makes this an affordable place to be on the weekends.

Total score: ✦✦✦✦
21 Savage detained at U.S. border

By Gillen Faenza  
Staff Writer

Rapper 21 Savage, real name She’kspere Joseph, was taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Sun. Feb. 3. ICE claimed that he was born in the United Kingdom and overstayed a short-term visa in the U.S. He was granted a bond for release on Tuesday, but may still face deportation.

21 Savage entered the U.S. in 2006 when he was just 12, but he stayed after his visa expired in July of 2006. His lawyers said he has been in the U.S. longer than that, since he was 7 years old.

He had previously been convicted of felony drug charges in 2014, which occurred in his alleged home state of Georgia. His deportation did not surface until almost five years later. Some are questioning why his immigration status was not addressed sooner.

He has produced three albums in the last few years. Issa Album was released in 2017, and i am > i was came out in 2018. He also collaborated with Metro Boomin and Offset for the 2017 album Without Warning.

In the past, he has also come out with mixtapes and EPs and been featured on numerous singles.

In 2018, he won “Top Rap Song” at the Billboard Music Awards and “Song of the Year” at the MTV Video Music Awards for the song “Get Better Now” with Post Malone. He was nominated for “Record of the Year” and “Best Rap Performance” at the 2019 Grammy Awards.

Because of his arrest, he had to sit out of the Grammy’s this year. Jay-Z decided to hire a lawyer for 21 Savage after saying his arrest is “an absolute travesty.”

ICE has been under some serious scrutiny recently. As part of his campaign, President Donald Trump called for a wall to be created at the U.S.-Mexico border. The recent government shutdown was in part the result of Trump not receiving bipartisan support for the wall’s funding.

It was the longest government shutdown in history, lasting 35 days. 21 Savage’s arrest is only part of a larger context of ICE arrests and deportations. Though 21 Savage was technically born in Britain, his rap career is based in Atlanta. Having been in the U.S. for more than 10 years, 21 Savage may qualify for a type of humanitarian defense called “Cancellation of Removal.” However, it won’t be valid if he is convicted of any drug-related crimes.

21 Savage was granted an immigration bond temporarily, while his legal team clarifies and proves his legal standing and bond eligibility status. He is currently awaiting the opportunity to plead his case before a federal judge.

Here’s what NOT to do on this Valentine’s Day

By Kevin Thomas  
Managing Editor

Every time I go home to St. Louis, my family and friends tease me about the fact that I always have a new significant other. It’s become a joke among them how they never see the same person twice. Naturally, this means that I don’t have a single piece of advice to give about what to do in romantic situations. However, it does mean that I am incredibly qualified to tell you what NOT to do, which feels rather pertinent with Valentine’s Day coming on Thursday. Aside from some of the rather obvious things of what not to do, namely, assume consent or keep trying after they have already said no, here is a list of a few things that you most definitely should not do this Valentine’s Day.

1. Don’t assume that you know what they want or that they know what you want

Seriously, this one will wind up terribly. Relationships are all about communication, and apparently telling other people what you want is an important aspect of communication. Otherwise, you might end up with a salmon-colored Ralph Lauren quarter zip when most of your wardrobe is dark and from a thrift store.

2. Stay away from live (and dead) animals

This one is less for Valentine’s Day and more in general. Do not give a significant other a living animal. It leads to a weird custody battle and potentially shared custody after a breakup that make it impossible to end things. Going to the zoo is alright though. Also, dead animals are a definite no, even as placeholder gag gifts. Learned that one the hard way. Long story.

3. Don’t think you need to do something expensive and fancy

It’s OK to be broke and not do anything. Your partner should understand financial strains at this point. After all, Xavier is expensive and the tuition just went up five percent for next year, so maybe it’s time to save. Besides, it’s the thought that counts.

4. Don’t believe that you need to have a romantic partner to enjoy Valentine’s Day

It’s a Hallmark holiday that was created to make money off romance. However, that doesn’t mean that we cannot individually put meaning in something that may not inherently have it. It can be a day set aside for showing the people you love how you love them and why you do. You can show love to anyone, like your friends, total strangers, family members, professors or whoever. Just make sure that they are consenting to you sharing your love with them and don’t be too weird or creepy about it.
Ah, the caf. As just a lowly freshman, I was enamored by the caf when I first entered it last September. I mean, food at (almost) all hours of the day? And not only that, good food? I was ready to eat there for breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, soon my rose-tinted glasses were ripped off my face. As I counter-stare acting funny, I so I took it to the tech help desk in the Couton Learning Center (CLC). As the guy was fixing my computer, an apparently long-lost friend of his came up and began conversing. A tad rude, but I suppose I am also rude for listening in. More importantly, what I heard was a long-winded smackdown of the caf. They wanted to meet for lunch, but they would rather die before stepping foot in the caf, which apparently has gone far downhill in their years at Xavier. I walked away from that desk with a fixed computer and a broken heart. Gone were my days of naïveté. Now when I go to the caf I see it for what it really is: wildly inconsistent.

But why focus on the negatives? Sure, the caf may not be perfect, but I’ll be darned if there aren’t places in the caf that can keep a consistent quality. The deli is always a good choice — Steve can make a sandwich like no other. But there’s one place in particular that shines above all the bakery. Even the most adamant critic has to admit there are some delicious desserts back there. But none shine brighter than the constantly refilling cookie cabinet. Those bad boys are good. If you see a kid filling his green box to the brim with cookies, come say hello because it’s probably me. I don’t know if Grandma Cookie actually makes the cookies, but if she does, then she’s gotta have some sort of secret recipe. These things are a God-send. To celebrate these beacons of hope in the dark caves that is the caf, let’s count down the top five caf cookies!

1. **Glazed Sugar Cookies** - Words cannot describe the pure ecstasy I feel when I bite into this delicious combination of the regular sugar cookie with a glaze unlike any I’ve tasted before. I’ve had my fair share of glazed cookies, and they all make me feel sick after two or three. I don’t know what they put in these things, but they’re somehow sweet enough that they taste like cookies from heaven but not too sweet to the point that after a few you’d like, “OH, I’ve had enough of these.” Every bite is as good as the last, if not better. The only feeling a bunch of these cookies will leave you with after eating them is the feeling of wanting more. So Grandma Cookie, or anyone in the bakery, if you’re reading this, I beg of you: Make these cookies available more often. The cookie cabinet is a beacon of hope, and they’re somehow my go-to, except when they have...

2. **M&M Cookies** - These guys are as good as an average cookie, but the light that comes from the variety of colors that glaze these cookies actually makes the cookies, but if she does, then she’s gotta have some sort of secret recipe. These things are a God-send. To celebrate these beacons of hope in the dark caves that is the caf, let’s count down the top five caf cookies!

3. **Toffee Cookies** - An average cookie, maybe a little better. And we’re only at number five. But why focus on the negatives? Sure, the caf may not be perfect, but I’ll be darned if there aren’t places in the caf that can keep a consistent quality. The deli is always a good choice — Steve can make a sandwich like no other. But there’s one place in particular that shines above all: the bakery. Even the most adamant critic has to admit there are some delicious desserts back there. But none shine brighter than the constantly refilling cookie cabinet. Those bad boys are good. If you see a kid filling his green box to the brim with cookies, come say hello because it’s probably me. I don’t know if Grandma Cookie actually makes the cookies, but if she does, then she’s gotta have some sort of secret recipe. These things are a God-send. To celebrate these beacons of hope in the dark caves that is the caf, let’s count down the top five caf cookies!

4. **Chocolate Chip Cookies** - A classic recipe that’s not easy to get wrong. However, they’re not the best. Don’t get me wrong, the ingredients are perfect: I love the batter and the chocolate they use. What puts them so low on the list? One word: Too much chocolate. I bet you chocolateholic out there are saying, “There’s no such thing!” But when it comes to classic chocolate chip cookies, you’ve got to keep the ratio just right. Too much chocolate can overshadow the batter and make you tired of the chocolate faster. Once again, these are still great cookies, they just need to work on the ratio.

5. **M&M Cookies** - A cookie that gets the ratio right. I don’t understand why they can’t do this with the normal chocolate chips. They put in just enough M&Ms so you definitely know there are, but they’re not assaulting your mouth with an overload of chocolate. There’s also the added layer of cookie coating around the chocolate, which throws a whole new delicious element in the mix and works as a barrier between the batter and the chocolate. These are everything you want out of a cookie, and they’re always my go-to, except when they have...