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.

“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 valentines, and 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 psychology 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 sports marketing 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!”

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Students will see free laundry and textbooks beginning in the Fall 2019 semester.

World News, Page 5
Get caught up on the controversies and chaos surrounding Virginia’s state government.

Sports, Page 8
Sophomore Anna Kostarellis set a new school record in the 3,000-meter run.

A&E, Page 10
Not sure what to do on Valentine’s Day? Start with this guide about how not to celebrate.
Students to pay for laundry through a semesterly fee instead of by the load

By Kevin Thomas
Managing Editor

Nearly every ethics class offered at Xavier asks the question, “What is justice?” typi-
\[...

Panel fuses personal history, questions of justice

By Joseph Cotton
Staff Writer

The phrase “free laundry” appeared on several of the Student Government Associ-
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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.
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 continue to be paid for with money from a general fund, which includes money collected from tuition. According to Student Government Association Vice President Alfredo Mercedes, the expanded program is expected to benefit approximately 160 students participating in the online counseling services.

“Available to any Xavier student, the program offers support in a variety of topics, including stress and anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse,” Varner said following the meeting.

The program is specifically geared toward college-aged students and can either be used as a self-guided tool or in collaboration with counseling services. 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 Droege, 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 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 with in-person counseling.

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,” Droege said.

Barron also agreed that online counseling enables more students to be served, and will be beneficial in providing 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 well-being 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.

By Alex Budzynski
Staff Writer
This past fall, the McGrath Health and Wellness Center launched a new counseling program known as Therapy Access Online (TAO) as an option for students facing mental health challenges.

Currently, there are approximately 160 students participating in the online counseling services.

Available to any Xavier student, the program offers support in a variety of topics, including stress and anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse.

The program is specifically geared toward college-aged students and can either be used as a self-guided tool or in collaboration with counseling services. Students can register online with their Xavier email address and do not need to contact McGrath or Psych Services to use TAO.

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By Ryan Kambrick
Opinions and Editorials Editor
The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its first monthly Community Discussion on Monday, bringing together a panel of administrators to speak to the campus about student wellness and safety. SGA executives Blair McKee, Desmond Varner and Alfredo Mercedes were joined by Xavier Vice President for Risk Management Jeff Coleman, XUPD Lieutenant Shawn Bryce, Dean of Students Jean Griffin, TriHealth Wellness Coordinator Kaitye Rowe and Chief Student Affairs Officer Dr. Dave Johnson to take questions from students assembled on the ground floor of Gallaher Student Center.

The panel fielded questions on a number of topics related to wellness and safety, including the expansion of mental health services in the forthcoming Health United Building (HUB), emergency alerts from XUPD and resources for sexual health on campus.

Notably, students in the crowd posed a number of questions about the nicotine free campus policy currently under consideration by the administration.

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

Furthermore, Griffin and Coleman explained that they did not expect police 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 forward if the administration isn’t as accountable as we are as students, it’s not fair to us.”

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.
Virginia faces a controversy crisis

Three state offices face separate allegations of blackface and sexual assault

By Michael Rauher
Staff Writer

Some of the most prominent lawmakers in the Commonwealth of Virginia are being asked to step down after recent controversies.

The controversies began with HB 2491, which was introduced earlier this year by Kathy Tran, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Tran was questioned about the bill by fellow delegate Todd Gilbert, a Republican.

Gilbert first asked how late in the third trimester a physician could perform an abortion, to which Tran responded, “Through the third trimester — the third trimester goes all the way up to 40 weeks.”

Gilbert then asked if a woman could request an abortion “where it’s obvious that (she’s) about to give birth.” Tran said that decision would be up to the physician and the woman but that it would be allowed under the bill.

The Virginia GOP shared a video of Tran’s presentation of the bill, including dialogue with Gilbert. It generated criticism from state lawmakers and national figures like former UN Secretary Nikki Haley, who tweeted that “the video made her ‘sick to her stomach.’” Tran later deleted her Twitter account.

On Monday, a subcommittee voted 5-3 to table the bill.

Then, on Feb. 1, a photo emerged of Governor Ralph Northam’s page in the Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook that he bears his name. Northam has denied that incident but admitted to another one.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam is accused of wearing blackface in a photo from his Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook that bears his name. Northam has denied that incident but admitted to another one.

Ferred to slaves as “indentured servants.” He also said he has no plans to step down.

Northam indicated that he did wear blackface during a medical school dance contest in which he pretended to be Michael Jackson. It is unclear if the pictures from his yearbook and the dance contest came from the same event.

Only hours later, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia Justin Fairfax was accused of sexual assault. Fairfax has called for “due process” in both of the allegations against him.

According to CNN, the accusations Dr. Vanessa Tyson and Meredith Watson, have expressed their desire to cooperate and testify in any impeachment proceedings.

While Northam has not resigned as governor, he has acknowledged that Fairfax should resign “if the allegations are true.”

Numerous politicians, including senators and Democratic presidential candidates, have called on Fairfax to resign.

Finally, last week, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, the third-highest ranking Democrat in the state, admitted he had worn blackface as a 19-year-old to a party in the late 1980s.

While some legislators have called for the resignations of all three individuals, others expressed interest in letting the events play out. State Senator J. Chapman Petersen, a Northern Virginia Democrat, told the New York Times, “I feel like I’m living in an episode of a Nathaniel Hawthorne novel where people are rushing to judgment, and it feels like I don’t pro-claim judgment right away, it somehow reflects on me.”

Olivia Clark, a junior from Roanoke, Va., expressed disappointment in the situation.

“The current political environment in the country, especially in Virginia, is chaotic and unfair,” she said. “I don’t think anyone could find dirt on some- one and destroy someone’s entire life for. I would hate to be anyone running for an important office in this day in age.”

Week in Review

Poop stick, fruit power and ex-ﬁsh

- New Zealand marine biol- ogists are on the hunt for the owner of a USB stick that was found in frozen seal feces. The scientists said they will happily re-turn the stick to its right- ful owner in exchange for some more poop samples (Feb. 6).

- Scooters, the preferred transportation method of many children, have another use: self-de- fence. A woman in Tex- as was able to fend off machete-wielding at- tackers by hitting one of the men with her child’s scooter and then using it to smash the window of their getaway car (Feb. 8).

- Students in Kazakhstan harnessed the powers of technology and fruit to create a banana piano. A player presses on one of the bananas, which are hooked up to a comput- er that generates unique sounds for each individ- ual “key” (Feb. 8).

- An Oregon wildlife cen- ter is offering a very spe- cial Valentine’s Day pro- gram. For the low price of a $20 donation to the center, patrons can name a salmon after an ex and feed it to a pair of brown bears. Participants will also receive photos of the bears eating the fish (Feb. 11).

POLECE NOTES

Feb. 5, 7:47 a.m. — A non-student was recit- ed on two outstanding traffic warrants in the Flynn Hall lobby.

Feb. 6, 7:20 a.m. — An employee working in the food court of Gallagher Student Center reported damage to the metal window grate at the All For Subs Deli. Xavier Police is investigating.

Feb. 6, 6:17 p.m. — A student reported damage to their vehicle in the Com- mons Apartments parking lot overnight. There are no suspec- ts. Xavier Police is inves- tigating.

Feb. 6, 9:49 p.m. — Xavier Police and Norwood Police investigated a report of an unknown disturbance and use of the assistance phones in the Norwood Plaza lot near the Family Dollar. Two juveniles reported a dispute involving other juveniles who fled the area before officers arrived. They were cautioned and sent on their way.

Feb. 10, 3:45 p.m. — Xavi- er Police assisted a stranded motorist on Victory Parkway. The driver was found to be driving with a suspended li- cense and possessed a small amount of marijuana. The driver was cited to Hamilton County Court.

Feb. 10, 7:16 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Nor- wood Police with a theft in progress at the Family Dollar in the Norwood Plaza. Xavier Police found two juvenile suspects on Dana Avenue who fled the area, leaving the stolen property behind. Norwood Police was notified.

Feb. 10, 10:25 p.m. — Xavier Police and Norwood Fire checked on an intoxi- cated student who activated an assistance phone in the C3 parking lot. The stu- dent was checked by med- ics and transported back to their room in the Commons Apartments. Residence Life was notified.

Weekend tips

- Don’t leave valuables unattended.
- If you don ’t feel safe, call the escort service at 513-745-8000.

Photo courtesy of Facebook

For a $20 donation, you can name a fish after your ex and feed it to some bears. You can also take home a photo of the fish being eaten.
Xavier reacts to 2019 SOTU address

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

Officer Brewer's funeral draws crowd of thousands

#### Xavier reacts to 2019 SOTU address

President Donald Trump gave his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Trump began with a call for bipartisanship and also discussed trade issues, border control and the Russia investigation. 2016 Georgia gubernatorial runner-up Stacey Abrams gave the Democratic Party’s response.

**BY JACK DUNN AND RYAN KAMIRICH**

Campus News Editor and Opinions & Editorsials Editor

President Donald Trump gave his State of the Union Speech last Tuesday, after the government shutdown saw his invitation revoked by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. The address to the nation drew a mixed reaction from the Xavier community. Some students did not feel the need to watch the State of the Union live as it was broadcast.

“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 Politics, Philosophy 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. “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,” he said.

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 55 miles of the southern border. Trump has not given any sign as to whether or not he would sign the bill. “I couldn’t say I’m thrilled with Congress’ border security deal.”

#### Officer Brewer’s funeral draws crowd of thousands

On Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. authori- ties in Clermont County re- sponded to a psychiatric call at Royal Oak Apartments. This is roughly a 30 minute drive from Xavier’s Campus.

Originally, a 911 call was received from a man claiming someone was in his apartment who refused to leave. The call- er also reported that the man was suicidal and armed. Ini- tial responders were unable to make contact with the caller.

The suspect barricaded himself inside his apartment. After shots fired were report- ed, responding officers were prompted to enter the build- ing. First responders attempt- ed to negotiate with the (al- legedly) suicidal suspect.

At around 10:37 p.m., two hours into the standoff, two officers were shot through a wall when they tried to enter the premises to assist the man. The incident lasted a total of 12 hours. The suspect was apprehended after he left the building because of a fire. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

According to Pierce Town- ship Police, all shots were fired from the suspect. Officers did not return fire.

Deputy Bill Brewer, 42, was fatally wounded. Lieutenant Nick DeRose was also shot, but he has since been released from the University of Cin- cinnati Medical Center.

“The suspect was identified as 23-year-old Wade Winn. He is accused of luring police officers with suicidal threats and fatally shooting a sheriff’s deputy and wound- ing another. Winn is current- ly facing charges of attempt- ed aggravated murder and aggravated murder. His bail is set at $10 million. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.”

Brewer’s death was the fifth officer casualty in Ohio this year. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine ordered that public flags be lowered at half-mast on Sunday in honor of the slain officer. The flags in front of the Cintas Center were lowered accordingly.

Brewer was a 30-year-vet- eran of the Clermont County Sheriffs Office. He was be- loved by the community. He left behind his wife Jamie and their year-old son Braxton.

Thousands of people gath- ered to pay respects to the fallen officer. A red car procession carried Brewer’s body to his final resting place in the Pierce Township Cemetery. Hundreds of people lined the streets from the church to the cemetery thank- ing the deputy for his service to the community. People held signs and flags to support Brewer.

A final ride was on a caisson, pulled by a symbolic riderless horse. This was fol- lowed by a 21 gun salute, taps, and helicopter flyover.

Brewer received his final radio call. When no response is received from the officer, he earned his end of watch call. This is a common and emotional farewell to fallen officers. He was laid to rest with full honors.

Clermont County Sheriff Bob Ramsey said he could not find Brewer’s funeral. He said, “Bill gave his life as he lived it, a hero.” Leahy was on the verge of tears while he spoke.

He, as well as fellow offi- cers and members of the com- munity were left devastated by the loss. “Bill laid down his life in a supreme act of devo- tion to those most precious to him,” Leahy said. Junior occupational ther- apy major Katy Orelleck lives “10 minutes from where the standoff took place.” She didn’t know deputy Brewer personally but said that “the community is remembering Bill and his family through this terrible time.”

**Photo courtesy of Facebook**

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 there. 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.


State of the Union: A call for unity in trying times

A full 90 minutes after his speech began, Donald Trump descended from the podium amid cheers from the right side of the chamber and tight-lipped grins from the left. He had just finished a State of the Union address that, in a bizarre mix of a State of the Union address to the American people about the country.

His placement is dying. Eco-systems are being destroyed, the ozone layer is disappearing and it’s taking a toll on all of us. We can no longer ignore how human consumption has created and now perpetuates that harm. It’s no longer the pandas and the trees that are disappearing, it’s our neighbor.

Just last week, a brutal polar vortex hit the Midwest when arctic winds collided with hot air over the Great Lakes. This storm sent temperatures plunging colder than the surface of Mars and gave anyone exposed to it for even five minutes frostbite. This extreme cold is not new, and if we don’t act, it’s not ending. 78 percent of the federal aid for our emergency paid-ticket to payback, and the extreme cold raises the cost of heating homes and con-
tributes to financial ruin. As

speeches, but now is a time when America needs that call the most. Our times are politically charged, the affairs of politics quickly seeping into other realms. Celebrities in Hollywood take moments meant for artistic recognition to express political hate. Members of the sporting community use their moments on the field lines and political ex-
travaganzas that perpetually battle it out in the media and sometime-
in the streets.

There are legitimate crises happening all over the world and in the United States. Even so, we are at a point where some of us can’t even be friends with someone who supports President Trump. Some of us are unable to fath-
om eating food with a liberal. There are moments where we hate simply because we can’t agree. While there are calls for unity from those who lead us and, I believe, personal calls for us to unidify our-

selves, we need to ask serious questions about our climate, and we need serious answers. Will we ever be able to truly unify ourselves regardless of our circumstances?

I think we can, and not only can we, but we must as a nation. We need to take a stand to address the most serious crises in our time. We must act because of what we believe or what they say. I believe in our United States.

The state of our planet is deteriorating, and what that means for people experiencing homelessness are freezing to death. More than 200 individuals lost their loved ones due to the extreme cold during the polar vortex, including elderly individuals, who were especially vulner-

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

Our planet is dying. Eco-systems are being destroyed, the ozone layer is disappearing and it’s taking a toll on all of us. We can no longer ignore how human consumption has created and now perpetuates that harm. It’s no longer the pandas and the trees that are disappearing, it’s our neighbor.

Generations of people living in Florida and Southern California are watching their way of life disappear. In Charles-
ton, the number of days that flooding occurred on the coast increased from four to five in 2016, causing millions of dol-

Directing funds from disaster relief into other realms. Celebrities in Hollywood take moments meant for artistic recognition to express political hate. Members of the sporting community use their moments on the field lines and political extravaganzas that perpetually battle it out in the media and sometimes in the streets.

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Let’s talk about the smoking ban

On Dec. 19, President Trump announced his plans to withdraw American troops from Syria, citing military victory over the Islamic State (ISIS). While the defeat of ISIS is something to cherish, withdrawing our troops now would be a catastrophic mistake.

The United States is not popular in the Middle East. Between our reckless dismemberment 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 region 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 independence as a state for nearly a century and have lived semi-autonomously in Iraq since the Second Gulf War. Iraqi Kurdistan has the least poverty rates in Iraq and has seen an exorbitant increase in wealth throughout the last decade. Kurdish economic stability is also reflected in its western-oriented culture. The Kurds have built their identity upon the values of self-determination, religious moderation and free expression — values that are mirrored in our own ideological commitments.

From its long history of American military support to its inherent democratic culture, Kurdistan is an incredibly compatible and stable ally that could extend America’s sphere of 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 stronghold. 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. would be abandoning the Kurds who helped us defeat ISIS.

Unfortunately, it wouldn’t only be the Kurds who we betrayed. The Kurds.

On multiple occasions, the United States has allied itself with the Kurds before shuffling elections, and the Kurds were the ones who suffered. The best example of this was our encouragement and subsequent abandonment of Kurdish rebels in Iraq under Saddam Hussein’s regime. American forces withdrew from the region 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 courageously fought alongside us in the First Gulf War and sheltered our troops during the 2003 invasion of Iraq when Turkey, our NATO ally, refused to allow us to cross into Syria split into faction warfare, it was the Kurds who steadily held on their northern borders and drove ISIS out of their lands.

The most adamant opponent of an independent Kurdish state has been Turkey, who has committed to fighting Kurdish secession for decades. I would argue that, by recognizing a Kurdish state in Iraq and Syria, the Turks would actually weaken the ar- ena for secession within Turkey. A recognized Kurdish state would offer a definable Kurdish homeland separate from Turkish territory. Regardless of Turkey’s opinion, this conversation will never happen if we abandon the Kurds now.

Supporting the development of an independent Kurdish state would take years, but it begins by standing with the Kurds now, as they have stood with us time and time again. The Kurdish economy is growing, and world powers are taking notice. These are not disposable allies, and if the United States doesn’t realize that, someone else will.

Leaving Syria is the worst move we could make

Kevin Thomas is the Managing Editor for the Newswire. He is an English and philosophy double major from St. Louis.

Opinions & Editorials

February 13, 2019

The Newswire is hiring copy editors to work from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights. Familiarity with AP style is preferred but not required. The available positions are compensated. Please reach out to newswire@xavier.edu for more information.

Copy Editors Needed

Max Winter is a senior public relations and sport management double major. He is a guest writer from Washington, D.C.
Kostarellis sets program record in 3000-meter run

**By Tim Kramer**

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 Multifaceted 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, and Anna nearly in last place with a 5:59’2” split. Anna remained composed and moved her way up through the pack during the second half of the race.”

Sophomore runner Anna Kostarellis set a Xavier track and field program record in the 3000-meter run with a time of 9:33.43. She broke the record previously held by Sarah Mazzei, who set the record during a 2016 run. Orner added that he took notice of Kostarellis’ training, which has now benefitted not only her own cause, but the team’s as well.

The record was previously owned by Sarah Mazzei, who ran a 9:40.03 in the same race during a meet in 2016. Kostarellis joined elite company with 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 seeks to challenge itself 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 before competition and will turn their attention 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.

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**Marshall drops 22 points in loss to Blue Demons**

**By Luke Feliciano**

Sports Editor

“Xavier was in a position to back 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 1:18 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. Marshall was a consistent shooting percentage to 40 percent for the game. 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 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 1:12 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 offense needs to get on top of 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 need to solidify their handle and take advantage of the opportunity to compete for the Big East title next month at Madison Square Garden.

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**NewswireSports**

February 13, 2019

Sports

Kostarellis highlighted men’s run by sophomore Anna Kostarellis.

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**Newswire photo by Desmond Fisher**

Sophomore forward Naji Marshall scored a team-high 22 points against DePaul last Saturday while also grabbing four boards and distributing four assists. He went 2 of 3 from distance and 6 of 7 on free throws.

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Opinion: Reds’ moves put them in the playoff hunt

By DONNIE MENKE

Sports
February 13, 2019

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, 69 in both 2016 and 2017 and 67 last season. They are also the only team to average fewer than 70 wins since 2014. After this offseason, however, there is little reason to believe 2019 will hold the same fate.

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 three minor league prospects, for three-time potential impact players.

In return for Homer Bailey, left-handed reliever Ka’i Tomlin and right-handed reliever Sam Dyson, the Reds got back outfielders Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp, starting pitcher Alex Wood and catcher Kyle Farmer. Before the Dodgers trade, the Reds also made a smaller move in trading pitcher Tanner Rainey to the Nationals for 23-year-old 1B/RHIF Yermin Mercedes.

Kemp brings a left-handed reliever to the team — he’s been active in the community and shown nothing but excitement about being 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 33 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. Kemp 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 starting pitching staff.

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 reveals Gray really only struggled at home and was very good on the road.

His ERA at home, 4.91 innings, was 9.86, while his ERA on the road, in 71.0 innings, was only 3.17. This is something 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 season. If that record were to be flipped to 20-11, they would have been only two games out of a postseason spot.

This time of the season is projected to be the closest division since 1994, according to fangraphs.com, the Reds would most likely 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 most likely be in the playoff hunt for most of the season.
Netflix film original 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 2016 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’s no reason to hate her, but they also give you no reason to like her. She reminds me of a character 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 Dvana Avenue, is often noticed for its colorful exterior and humorous signage. A visit inside reveals why this spot is among my favorite local pubs. Listermann has an excellent choice of beers on tap. They are all homemade beers and are greatly varied. They offer lagers, IPAs, fruity beers and sweet drinks.

My personal favorite, the Rocky Road Float, is essentially a chocolate milkshake IPA, and that is all I need to hear. A couple of other sweet drinks are the 562 Lateral, the Float and the Sundae, and they are all worth trying.

The bar is great, but for those who are not 21 or just want a bite to eat, head over to the restaurant side of Listermann. For starters, the deep-fried mac-and-cheese balls and the pretzels with beer cheese are classic, delicious options.

However, if you are going to Listermann, throwing your money into the Belgian-Style French Fries is something you will not regret. These are the best fries I have ever had. Bryce Reinhold, a lover of these Listermann fries, said that “these fries alone are worth making the trip there.”

Beware the hot wings, unless you are not afraid of a challenge. Thursday through Saturday, Listermann gives you a chance to eat six of their hottest wings in five minutes, and after you are done, you have to wait an entire minute before you can get any napkins or drinks.

If you win this challenge, you get a picture on the wall, your own t-shirt and the wings are free.

I also must speak about a to-die-for item on the menu, 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 with you. You can take home a bottle of mead offered in several different flavors for a price or go..

Listermann Brewing offers well-crafted beer, sweet drinks and good food to the Norwood area. Its convenient location and delicious appetizers make drinking beer an even more enjoyable experience. Listermann Brewing makes a perfect spot to crack open a cold one with the boys anytime.

Total score:

Photo courtesy of Netflix.com

Netflick original film Velvet Buzzsaw is a supernatural horror film that brings satire and suspense to the art world after the death of an artist.

Photo courtesy of Netflix.com

Listermann Brewing offers well-crafted beer, sweet drinks and good food to the Norwood area. Its convenient location and delicious appetizers make drinking beer an even more enjoyable experience. Listermann Brewing makes a perfect spot to crack open a cold one with the boys anytime.
Rapper 21 Savage, real name She’kaya Bin Abraham-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 2005 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 collaborated with Metro Boomin and Offset and released 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 “Issa” 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 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.
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. The caf was not acting fancy, so I took it to the tech help desk in the Conaton 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 naivete. 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 adament critic has to admit there are some delicious desserts back there. But none shine brighter than the consistently refilling cookie cabinet. Those bad boys are good. If you see a kid filling his green box to the brim with cookies, comे 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 cavern 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 these 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 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 guys are as good as an average cookie, maybe even a little better. And we’re only at number five.

2. **M&M 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. 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.

3. **Toffee Cookies** - These are cookies where you don’t have to worry about a ratio. Well, I’m sure there are important ratios that go into the intricacies of the ‘batter’ that’s here neither nor there. All you’ve got to know is these are some good tasting sugar cookies that are sweet, but not too sweet.

4. **Chocolate Chip Cookies** - 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. 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. **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 they’re there, but they’re not assaulted your mouth with an overload of chocolate. There’s also the added layer of coating, 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 always go my go-to, except when they have...

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**Features**

**Top 5 caf cookies**

**By Aidan Callahan**

Staff Writer

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**Aries:** If you notice yourself struggling to maintain your temper and you happen to have your old graded papers and such from last semester, consider setting them on fire.

**Taurus:** Be patient with yourself. Don’t beat yourself up if you have trouble rolling out of bed or crawling to class. The energy will come, even when it seems like it won’t.

**Gemini:** Who lives behind that door again? Oh, it’s you, but you’ve healed yourself up for so long that neighbors are questioning who you are. The sunlight is painful, but necessary.

**Cancer:** Whether you live for the tea that is drama or hate it, be wary of it. Why flip an average-sized table alone immediately when you can consult with others and flip a huge table with them?

**Leo:** You may want to get ahead this week on things, but that doesn’t mean you should tell someone to break a leg — and secretly mean it literally.

**Virgo:** Try to make this a self-love week. If someone’s asking you to do something you don’t want to do, don’t give into the peer pressure and don’t be afraid to say no.

**Libra:** Every year around 9 million people get gifts for their pets on Valentine’s Day. If there’s a pet you feel like taking care of physical, mental and social health all at once, run on a treadmill while watching “Vines that batter my eggroll” with a friend.

**Scorpio:** Don’t neglect your health. To take care of physical, mental and social health all at once, run on a treadmill while watching “Vines that batter my eggroll” with a friend.

**Sagittarius:** Watch out for little financial surprises, like all of your dining dollars being gone and the person at the register giving you a look of pity.


**Aquarius:** To throw some spice into your week, take time to scroll through DIY Pinterest crafts and try your hand at some of them. You’ll only surprise yourself, either in a good or bad way.

**Pisces:** Just because the avocado toast in Gallagher is kind of affordable doesn’t mean you should be giving in to your millennial instincts and getting it all the time.

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**Across**

2. This sign may need to control their millennial instincts.

5. The thing that prevents this cookie from being the best in the caf.

8. The month a writer first visited the caf their first year at Xavier

**Down**

1. The element with which a zodiac sign is recommended to interact.

3. Something you will find in every cookie.

4. An average cookie, maybe a little better.

6. It is recommended that one sign purchase a Valentine’s Day gift for a ___

7. Leo may literally want you to break this

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Look for the answer key in next week’s (Feb. 20) edition!