Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University - Cincinnati

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Res Life confirms housing changes

As Xavier continues to adapt to the size of recent incoming classes, first-year students are being given the option to move off campus as sophomores

By Michael Rauber
Staff Writer

Residence Life is anticipating noticeable changes to the living situations both on and off campus next year, including offering current first-years the opportunity to move off campus.

In last week’s Student Government Association notes, the Nacure reported that Residence Life was allowing some rising sophomores to move off campus and was trying to limit the number of upperclassmen on campus to 200 students.

Lori Lambert, the senior director for Student Affairs in the Office of Residence Life, confirmed that interested rising sophomores will have the option to move off campus, provided that they meet a series of provisions. According to Lambert, these provisions including maintaining a GPA of 2.5 or higher, not having conduct issues and presenting an email from a parent or legal guardian explaining the reason to live off campus. In addition, students must attend an off-campus session with a landlord, a Norwood police officer, a student who currently lives off campus and Matt Zalman, the assistant director of Residence Life.

So far, roughly 60 rising sophomores have decided to live off campus next year. Residence Life projects that number will be closer to 75 before the March 22 deadline.

Even though interested sophomores are being given the option to move off campus, Xavier will still maintain its two-year residency requirement, per the Residence Life website. However, the sizes of the last two incoming classes have created ex- tenuating circumstances that are allowing Residence Life to make exceptions to these rules, Lambert explained.

“Each of the last two classes have been the largest we have ever had,” she said. “This is the first time in years that we are allowing rising sophomores to move off campus.”

For the rest of the rising sophomore class, the random lottery system remains. This system generates selection windows based on the numbers students have and sends this information directly to students via their Xavier emails, according to the Residence Life website. As students form roommate groups, the best lottery number in a group provides the window for the entire group.

Residence Life is encouraging rising sophomores to enter this lottery system for housing on campus in case their off-campus housing plans change.

First-year students seemed to be aware of the upcoming changes as they prepare to begin the housing process.

“I am choosing to live on campus next year, but I was aware that I had an option to live off campus as a sophomore,” first-year nursing major Liann Dawson said.

Declan Deasy, also a first-year nursing major, said that he is hoping to live in Fenwick next year.

“I knew students could live off campus, but only a select few,” Deasy said. “I didn’t really know how the selection process worked.”

Similarly, Luke Farnum, a first-year marketing major, hopes to live in Fenwick.

“I was aware I could have a chance to move off campus, but I opted to stay on campus another year,” Farnum said.

In terms of decreasing the number of upperclassmen on campus, Lambert stated that 200 was not a hard and fast limit.

“It is not ideal to limit upperclassmen housing on campus,” Lambert said. “Some rising sophomores will still be housed in the fourth floor of Kuhman Hall as well as the fifth and sixth floor of Kuhman Hall.”

Lambert also confirmed that the targeted goal for next year’s freshman class is 1,250 students, compared to 1,448 in the current class. She projected that 30 percent of the Class of 2023 will be living on campus, with the remainder as commuter students.

Finally, Lambert said that there are plans for a new residence hall to open in August of 2021. Father Michael Graham, president, shared these plans at a conversation for faculty and staff, she added. Residence Life is not certain where exactly the new dormitory will be located or the number of students it will hold.
Photo-op: How did you celebrate the Nova win?

“I didn't do a whole lot, unfortunately. I had a paper to write afterwards, but I was very happy about the win.”

Sam Bender
First-year political science major

“I celebrated the Xavier win over Villanova by going to the caf with my friends while still wearing our Xavier gear with tiny Xs and glitter all over our faces.”

Chloe Baker
First-year exploratory major

“I didn't do much. Just enjoyed my time, hung with friends and watched the rest of college basketball.”

Christian McCoy
First-year sports management major

“All the excitement at the game influenced me to celebrate the big win at the world-famous caf with my friends. The night ended with the boys while watching some of our favorite TV shows. It was a great night.”

Alfredo Mercedes
Junior international business major

“It’s a wonderful day for an eXorcism.”

Patrick Berryman
Senior sustainability major

“I celebrated with my friends at their house in the best way you can — by cheering and hugging each other.”

Jenny Roberts
Senior marketing and theater double major

Spring break is coming fast!
If you aren’t drowning in midterms, check out these events.

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Spring Break
Graham talks HUB updates and campus goals

By AIDAN CALLAHAN

The Presidential Convocation is a semesterly speech given by Father Michael Graham, president, that is essentially a “state of the campus” address. Graham outlines the upcoming priorities of the university as well as updates on current projects. Monday’s convocation addressed the reallocation of contingency funds for the Health United Building (HUB) to construct a multi-purpose court and adapting to the “new normal” of campus, among other topics.

Graham began his speech announcing promotions and tenures, as well as delivering some pieces of good news. Most notably, a $3 million campaign for the Health United Building ended up not being needed, so it will go to a section of the building that was originally scrapped to save money: a multi-purpose court. "The court will be soft floor, not hard floor, and people can do yoga on it," Graham said. "It’s the kind of facility whose potential is limited only by our imagination and student creativity.”

The rest of the speech was dedicated to outlining his priorities for the rest of the year. He outlined his specific goals. Here are the five that pertain most to student life:

1. Modifying the university’s strategic plan and identifying goals for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. Planning for a new residence hall — An external consultant has already been hired to prepare to accommodate growing class sizes. By April the university will have more concrete plans.
3. Successfully recruit next year’s first-year class and retain 90 percent of this year’s to their sophomore year” — The number of campus visitors has already broken last year’s record, making Graham optimistic that the Class of 2023 will exceed the goal of 1,250 incoming students.
4. Continue to strengthen the School of Nursing in light of their increasing centrality to university strategy — Graham said he hoped the HUB would contribute to this.
5. “Prepare to host Fall 2019 Conference of Universities Studying Slavery” — This conference aims to address historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and slavery in modern American society.

The remaining five goals addressed mostly fiscal policies. However, Graham did mention a potential plan to ramp the McDonald Library either in 2020 or 2021.

Though open to the public, faculty and staff tend to attend the speech instead of students, and this year was no different. Graham said that student attendance has varied throughout the years and recognizes that the 2 p.m. time interferes with other activities that students might be participating in, such as the Student Government Association meeting.

He also cited the topics of the speech itself as a reason that student attendance might be lower, "because I talk about the kind of things I talk about, while they interest with student concerns… I talk about them at an altitude, if you will, that isn’t necessarily a student altitude," Graham said. "I think that the information, the way that it’s pitched, is more towards the faculty and staff.”

However, Graham said, he invites any interested students to attend in the future. He added that he anticipates information relevant to students will also be addressed in next week’s meeting with the Senate.

Community Member Feature: Doug Easterling

By LUKE FELICIANO Sports Editor

Professor Douglas Easterling came to Xavier with a single goal in mind: to embrace his passion for music while also imparting his knowledge onto eager college students.

Easterling, who in his fourth year as a professor in the music department, is originally a native of the suburbs of Nashville, Tenn. His musical journey brought him to Cincinnati to pursue his master’s degree at the University of Cincinnati’s College Conservatory of Music.

“I was always musically inclined, and in any of my free time, I’d be thinking about music, making music, playing piano (and) singing,” Easterling said. “I decided on education originally... because I like talking about music and I like explaining it to people in a way that they probably haven’t thought about it before.”

Easterling is highly regarded for teaching one of the most interesting classes that the university has to offer, Music in Film. This course is designed for non-music majors and covers the components of a film’s musical score as well as the history behind the music used in films. Subtopics of the course include the study of directors, composers and niece film genres.

“What has kept me at Xavier is the fact that I have a good deal of flexibility with my classes,” Easterling said. “I also like the work ethic at Xavier. The students tend to be very interested in the subject matter, especially Music in Film. I like that it’s a smaller university, so there is a little bit more of a sense of community here, I think, than you might find at really large universities.”

Easterling had taught the class previously, and although a similar class was already available at Xavier, he was required to gain approval from a university committee in order to teach the class and make it a permanent mainstay in the course offerings catalog.

In his class, Easterling aims to maintain both an upbeat and relaxed classroom environment.

“I try and incorporate a little bit of humor in my teaching frequently to try and keep people’s attention,” he said. “That creates a sort of familiarity, a closeness and a trust that I think makes it easier to communicate because to me, teaching is all about communication.”

Easterling deviates from the typical presentation style of most professors. He utilizes either his own voice or a piano conveniently located in the corner of the classroom to audibly describe the subject matter at hand.

Easterling noted the high level of difficulty in describing a musical concept to a person. Often times, he said, a basic recording doesn’t do it justice. Rather, a specific element of the concept is usually the focal point. Projecting the specific component through vocal or instrumental methods, Easterling believes, allows for a greater emphasis of the core concept.

Junior Illy Harris, who is currently enrolled in Easterling’s Music in Film class, agreed that this approach helps students better grasp these core concepts.

“(Professor) Easterling has a very vibrant passion for what he teaches, and (he) goes above and beyond in ensuring we understand the material,” Harris said. “The way he teaches allows me to understand the material at a deeper level and see the root of everything we learn.”

Music pervades many aspects of Easterling’s life, even outside of the classroom. Most notably, he is part of a singing group called Vocal Arts Ensemble, a professional choir that performs four concerts each year. He also has sung as a gig for a church, a temple and another choir.

All this goes to show that whether he’s teaching students or singing himself, Easterling has a penchant for music wholeheartedly ingrained in his daily life.
Coast Guard lieutenant arrested

Christopher Hasson is accused of a mass murder plot against democrats

BY JOE CLARK
Staff Writer

An internal memo announced that law enforcement officials would conduct a “complete sweep” of Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., after the arrest of Coast Guard Lt. Christopher Hasson on Feb. 22.

He was a military veteran with 24 years of experience in the Marines, the Army National Guard and the Coast Guard.

Hasson was arrested on drug and gun possession charges but is also accused of a plot to “murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country,” according to documents filed in Maryland District Court.

Hasson appeared in federal court on Feb. 21 for a hearing to decide whether or not he should be released from custody until his trial. During his hearing, Magistrate Judge Charles B. Day ordered Hasson to be kept in custody for the next 14 days, a period during which prosecutors plan to file terrorism-related charges in addition to the gun and drug possession charges that he faces.

Hasson, a self-proclaimed white nationalist, wrote in a June 2017 email that he was “dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth,” using “Spanish flu, botulism, anthrax” or other mass toxins.

First-year Will Reehnane was pleased with the decision to keep Hasson in custody. “Someone like this guy should never see the light of day again,” he said. “With his position in the military, he would’ve been able to pull off a massive attack, and I don’t think his threats should be taken lightly, and I’m glad to see for now that they aren’t.”

According to court documents, Hasson relied on the manifesto of Anders Breivik, a Norwegian who killed 77 people in two separate domestic terrorist attacks in 2011. Hasson’s official charges are illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition and possession of Tramadol, a controlled substance used to treat severe pain. According to the Federal government, Hasson also stockpiled steroids and human growth hormone, which is consistent with instructions in Breivik’s manifesto.

Lt. Christopher Hasson was arrested on drug and gun possession, but he has also been accused of a plot to “murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country,” according to court documents in Maryland.

Week in review: no police notes edition

Leader haircuts, cockroaches, shirt record, dog mayor, Oreo pig, pizza arrest and a cocaine scam

• A Vietnamese barber is giving out free haircuts imitating Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un’s hair styles to commemorate an upcoming summit in Hanoi. The North Korean leader’s style has been more popular, but one taxi driver said, “I really like Donald Trump, so I want to have (his) hairstyle.” (Feb. 20).

• Nurses at a hospital in Naples, Italy, are suspending work because a cockroach infestation. Detectives said the nurses brought in the roaches in order to close the Accident and Emergency ward so they would be transferred to less demanding jobs (Feb. 20).

• A 10-year-old boy from Columbus now owns the Guinness World Record for longest baby tooth. The tooth measures 0.34 inches long, surpassing the old record of 0.78 inches (Feb. 20).

• An Ontario man set the Guinness World Record for most shirts worn at the same time by donning 260 t-shirts. “Around the 150-shirt mark, I thought it was one of the dumbest things I’ve signed up for in a long time,” he said (Feb. 21).

• Duke, the ceremonial dog mayor of a town in Minnesota, passed away at age 15. Duke was elected in 2014 and had served four terms (Feb. 21).

• Middletown, Ohio, police led an escaped pig back home with Oreo cookies. It’s speculated that Charlotte, the pot-bellied pig had gone to the market in search of these sweet treats and happily cried “wee, wee, wee” all the way home (Feb. 22).

• A Chinese student finished a writing assignment in record time after she bought a robot and trained it to imitate her handwriting. Her mother reportedly smashed the robot after discovering it (Feb. 22).

• A Wisconsin man opened his door expecting a pizza delivery and found himself under arrest instead. The man had reportedly cocaine but got brown sugar instead. Police joked that they would happily take calls from those who find themselves in similar situations (Feb. 25).

Correction

Last week the Newswire ran a story that stated Planned Parenthood was suing the state of Ohio over the “Heartbeat Bill.” Planned Parenthood was actually suing over the dilation and evacuation ban, which then-Gov. John Kasich signed last year. It is separate from the Heartbeat Bill, which was recently introduced after failing to get the votes needed to override Kasich’s veto. The Newswire regrets this mistake.
North Carolina calls for a new vote
Mark Harris announces he will not run after accusations of ballot tampering

BY SIERRA ROSS
Staff Writer

Republican Mark Harris announced yesterday that he will not run in the new election for a seat in North Carolina’s Ninth District. The state called for the new election after accusing Harris’ campaign of tampering with absentee ballots.

Junior Cole Branham, the president of the Xavier University College Republicans, said, “I believe that any time there are reports or evidence found that fraud has played a role in an election, it should be thoroughly investigated. No matter the party, a candidate has to run, play and win fair and square throughout their campaign.” Branham believes this incident “doesn’t reflect upon the Republican Party as a whole,” but he expressed his disappointment, saying, “as a Republican, of course I am frustrated to see a case of election fraud in any candidate.”

The incident was brought to trial two weeks ago. Leslie McCrae Dowless, the man in charge of voter turnout for Harris, is accused of a heavily financed illegal voter turnout effort. He is suspected of orchestrating an absentee ballot scheme to sway the race in favor of the Republican candidate. Workers who assisted in the scheme delivered damning testimony of unlawful collection, false witnessing and other forms of ballot tampering.

Harris denied knowing of any wrongdoing in this area of his campaign. His statements appeared to mislead the board. Harris later apologized, blaming two strokes that impaired his memory.

His son John Harris testified that he had warned his father about Dowless, saying, “I expressed my concerns based on everything I did know up to that point.” He finalized his statement with kind words to his parents, expressing he had no vendetta against them and that his father wanted to see the good in Dowless.

Harris’ testimony brought Harris to tears. He later admitted that his son was right but he did not see it at the time.

After days of dramatic testimony, Harris told the board, “It’s become clear to me that the public’s confidence in the Ninth District’s general election has been undermined to an extent that a new election is warranted.”

Last November, Harris appeared to defeat Democratic opponent Dan McCready by 962 ballots in the U.S. House election. Harris won by less than one percent, with 49.2 percent of ballots over McCready’s 48.9 percent. 61 percent of absentee ballots were for Harris, although Republicans accounted for 19 percent of absentee voters. This was a cause of alarm.

An election board of five members made a unanimous decision for new elections. With evidence of fraud, the North Carolina election board refused to certify Harris’ win over McCready.

This was the only undecided House contest in last year’s midterm election. It has been uncalled for the last three months, and there is still no representative for the district in the House.

FC stadium rezoning passes city council vote 7-0

BY DONNIE MENKE
Staff Writer

A hurdle was cleared for the FC Cincinnati stadium development plan when the club agreed to a deal with the Cincinnati Ballet, allowing the city council to unanimously approve the development plan and zoning changes.

The ballet headquarters are located less than a half mile away from where FC Cincinnati stadium is being constructed, and there were concerns about several potential issues.

In a statement, the ballet said, “This ‘good neighbor agreement’ protects the integrity of Cincinnati Ballet for the next 17 years should we remain at our current location on the corner of Central Parkway, as the agreement addresses many of our issues relating to parking, access, noise, operations and others,” Cincinnati Ballet said in a statement.

“Should the ballet ultimately decide to relocate, this agreement helps us to work in good faith with the leadership of FC Cincinnati over the coming weeks to determine a mutually beneficial solution prior to the approval of FC Cincinnati’s final development plan.”

A couple of the requirements for the agreement were that FC Cincinnati provide security for the ballet’s parking lots, while also not trying to have Central Parkway closed on days when FC Cincinnati has a match scheduled to ensure people can still access the ballet at all times.

The agreement also called for FC Cincinnati to put $8 million into escrow. This money would be used by the ballet in the event that consultants determined the noise level would be raised “materially” above what it currently is as a result of the stadium.

There was also a measure passed to compensate a restaurant owner, Monica Williams, for being displaced because of the stadium’s construction.

Williams will receive $75,000 from the city of Cincinnati and an additional $125,000 is coming from FC Cincinnati and the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority.

“I agree with the city’s decision to help (Williams) out with her restaurant,” junior sport management major Tyler Wade said.

The goal is to help Williams eventually reopen her restaurant, Just Cookin’, somewhere else in Cincinnati. Until then, the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority is allowing Williams to use a food truck near the FC Cincinnati construction site. That measure passed by a vote of 6-1. Councilwoman Tamaya Dennard defended the decision to the Cincinnati Business Courier, saying, “We’re making a statement right then and there (if Cincinnati were to fund FC Cincinnati and not Williams).”

Councilwoman Amy Murray was the lone vote against and she told the Cincinnati Business Courier, “This is something the landlord and FC should have paid for.”
I walk out of my dorm room and down the hallway to the strong scent of Axe body spray. I look out any shouting and ranting roommates, and Shawn Mendes playing from my headphones. A heaping sack of laundry hangs against my leg repeatedly as I walk, weighing down one side of my body. When I finally make it to the laundry room, I toss my laundry in a few washers along with a Tide Pod, and sit and wait for the cycle to finish.

The timer I had set on my phone begins to go off, and I make my way back to the laundry room, removing my laundry from the washer and throwing it across the alley into a dryer. I walk over to the card reader, type in my dryer number and click add time before swiping my XL Card. I think to myself, “24 extra minutes, that should be plenty of time to eat extra fruit to dry my clothes.” 75 minutes come and go, and I make my way back down to the laundry room, only to find that nearby all my clothes are still damp. I am not the only first-year to admit that doing laundry at college is not all that fun. It is a planning and time management issue to be taken away more time than I can afford.

For one dollar, a student receives 45 minutes of drying time using the “Speed Queen” Commercial Dryers Xavier offers in its laundry rooms. However, there has not been one time this whole year that I have not pulled my laundry out after 45 minutes without something still being damp. I even try to count on having to add an extra 30 minutes, but there are still instances where clothes are not completely dry after 75 minutes of high heat. Before I continue, I would like to make a few things clear. 45 minutes for drying is by no means unreasonable. The issue lies in the quality of dryers and their inability to dry my clothes. At home, I typically spend 45 minutes drying a load of laundry, and everything comes out dry. On campus, I cannot get the same results even by doubling that time.

Furthermore, I do not expect every single article of clothing to be completely dry. I have no qualms with hanging things up to air-dry for a day. But the fact that the President of the United States can deliver a synopsis about the State of the Union in less than it takes for my average t-shirt, socks or underwear to dry is absurd.

However, I know this problem is not unique to my dorm or to me. I currently live in Hussey, but last semester I lived in Kuhlman, where the issue was no different. Clarissa Dixon, a fellow first-year, tells me that “I spend 60 minutes at home drying my laundry, but I spend same amount of time here and my clothes are still damp.” Moreover, the frequent number of dryers that count down from a number greater than 45 in my dorm have a majority of students using the extra time feature to try and get their clothes dry. I would also like to make clear that I accept and understand this is a student-caused problem. I am sure the laundry dryers on campus have been around for several years at this point and have naturally become run down through neglect and overuse. But when something is broken, the best solution is not to blame the product or the user.

I believe that the new initiative by the SGA Executives wherein students will not pay for each individual load of laundry in the coming semesters is a welcome change that will hopefully save the added money that I am spending drying my clothes. Xavier is trying to eliminate the overuse which contributes to the machines running poorly. However, making laundry “free” is also not going to fix the dilapidated quality of the current machines. I believe that a better, long-term solution would be to channel money into replacing the current machines Xavier offers.

I pay thousands of dollars to go to this university. The least I expect is a dried load of laundry.

NEDAW: Take some time for self care this week

In her poem “When the Fat Girl Gets Skinny,” Billy the Baird writes, “Now, I am proud. I have stopped seeking revenge on this body / This was the year of eating when I was hungry without punishing myself / and I know it sounds ridiculous, but that shit is hard.”

It’s National Eating Disorder Awareness Week (NEDAW), and it feels like am in the same mental space. I was last year, writing an opinion piece for NEDAW. As I was last year, I was diagnosed with a mental illness that is nothing short of hollow and unlasting. It is by no means unreasonable. The issue lies in the quality of dryers and their inability to dry my clothes. At home, I typically spend 45 minutes drying a load of laundry, and everything comes out dry. On campus, I cannot get the same results even by doubling that time.

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*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.
A centrist revolt against democracy

Just a few days ago, the Wall Street Journal joined the choir of embittered reactionaries denouncing the popular mobilization against Amazon, stating, “New York’s progressives … don’t know how to play (the) game.”

Not too long after, articles emerged proclaiming how the popular, anti-establishment French Yellow Vests movement (a miracle by any standards) has been “infiltrated by ‘ultra-leftists’ and extreme-right agitators,” that Melenchon’s leftist Unions of the center, which exempts itself from partisanship, which does not register its technocratic reasoning as a political position at all …

... the threat to democracy does not immediately emerge from the right, but from the center, which exempts itself from partisanship, which does not register its technocratic reasoning as a political position at all ... One cannot help but be reminded of the typical narrative espoused by those respectable, professional classes after the 2016 elections: The “stupid, low-IQ rednecks” who don’t know what’s good for them, or the “far-left ideologues” who split the party or those inner-city strata who are “too lazy to vote,” are the reason we have Trump.

It was the same narrative that, more recently, united the far-right and the center when the dust cleared from the events around Amazon’s HQ2 — that the “chaculous” Ocasio-Cortez and her stupid “ideology-driven” supporters refused the generous beneficence of Prince Bezos.

The danger of right-wing populism is, on its own, nothing. It has as much of a future as David Duke or the Klan. But the form of right-populism will become something when it converges with the centrist establishment, which has already acceded so much to Trumpism (especially dis-cursively).

Those who doubt this are invited to consider the trajectory of the centrist establishment over the last couple of years. Hillary Clinton and John Kerry now support curbing immigration in Europe, which has “crushed” the centrist classes. Chris Cuomo asserted on air that Trump is right on immigration, only that it is not something to be solved by a wall but through “technology” (something supported, immediately, by Don Lemon). Nancy Pelosi — along with Chuck Schumer — clapped enthusiastically before Trump’s denunciation of socialism during the State of the Union and during the conciliatory moments of that speech.

Any laughable “adoption” of a far-left platform among Democratic candidates is a bluff meant to placate the left, and nine times out of ten it bears only an aesthetic similarity where it is not an outright compromise (e.g., Elizabeth Warren’s “Accountable Capitalism Act” is worlds apart from Sanders’s “Democratic Socialism”).

The way the centrist establishment has responded to the reactionaries, and the means by which they attempt to stave off the left, thus realizes the emerging post-democratic order in an inverse form.

The victory of the right will be accomplished not at the expense of the establishment, but when the respectable classes “meet halfway” with Trumpist reaction, when the professional classes, the educated experts, condemn the “outlandishness” of the left and find common ground with the reactionaries.

The threat of right-populism to democracy is therefore real. But it will fly over the heads of those who do not see its emergence precisely elsewhere: from the center, from those who realize the alliance between the ruling class and right-wing populism in their efforts to curb the increasing radicalism on the left. For them, Trump’s aesthetical-ly displeasing attributes (his rudeness, his demeanor) pales in comparison with the left’s political vigilance.

The question is thus not one of being beyond partisanship, but which causes we are partisans for. To abandon partisanship is to abandon politics. It is to codify the very discourse of the debate to the caprice of the ruling classes.

To abandon partisanship is to abandon politics. It is to concede the very discourse of the debate to the caprice of the ruling classes.
Second half surge ignites win against Villanova

By Luke Feliciano
Sports Editor

Villanova has been an Achilles’ heel for Xavier since the Musketeers joined the Big East. In its six years as a member of the conference, Xavier had only beaten Villanova once — dating back to the 2016 tilt at home when the Wildcats ranked No. 1 in the country — before Sunday afternoon’s late-season contest at Cintas Center.

Surrounded by the electric atmosphere of a capacity crowd, Xavier played a relentless second half to hand No. 17 Villanova its third consecutive road loss while improving to 15-13 overall on the season with a confidence-boosting 66-54 victory. The win vaulted Xavier into a tie for fourth place in the Big East.

“I think there’s a trust amongst our group that wasn’t obviously there earlier on in the year,” head coach Travis Steele said about the team’s effort against Villanova. “That trust factor is there, which really helped us go toward our offense.”

Sophomore guard Elias Harden has been seeing extended time throughout the Musketeers’ last few games, and while he hasn’t totaled many points, he has played a pivotal role on the defensive end of the floor.

Against Villanova, Harden accounted for all eight shots made by Villanova’s bench points in 26 minutes of on-court action. Harden’s three-pointer with 11:49 in the second half knotted the game at 44 points, and while he hasn’t totaled many points, he has played a pivotal role on the defensive end.

“ Elias has gotten a lot better,” Steele said. “He was tremendous defensively … I thought he made a big impact on game on the defensive end with his energy but also his discipline.”

The Musketeers capitalized on a 2:26 scoring drought by Villanova to seize a 46-44 advantage with 10:20 left to go in the game. It marked the first time Xavier led during the game.

From there, the Musketeers went on a 20-2 run fueled by an onslaught of offense. The run extended Xavier’s lead to double digits and eventually to a game-high 15 points with 2:22 remaining.

Xavier also pitched a stalwart defensive effort, holding the Wildcats to a mere 24 points in the second half.

Steele commended junior forward Tyrique Jones for his ability to switch on defense and guard the perimeter.

“I thought he was a big reason we were able to go on that run defensively because he was able to switch one through five,” Steele said.

Xavier has entered a positive stretch late in the season when it matters most. The Musketeers are on the precipice of reaching the upper echelon of the Big East — a position they’ve been on the outside looking in for a majority of conference play.

The type of play, specifically defend and break, is manufactured against a perennial NCAA Tournament team. The Musketeers will pay large dividends for carrying momentum into the final three games of the regular season and beyond.
Men’s swimming wins Big East Championships

BY JOE CLARK
Staff Writer

Men’s swimming completed a come-from-behind win at the Big East Championships to capture its fourth conference crown last Saturday. Heading into the final day of the event, the men’s team trailed Georgetown, but Xavier was able to pass the Hoyas.

The men’s team finished on top by just 35.5 points, totaling 779.5 points compared to Georgetown’s 744. In addition to capturing the overall team win, men’s swimming took home six individual event wins.

Senior Matthew Dyer got the win in the 100 meter breaststroke with a record-breaking time of 54.29. Junior Landon Clark won the 200 meter butterfly with a time of 1:49.27.

The 200 meter relay team made up of swimmers Alex Sironen and Christian Thomas along with junior Brandon Abboud and senior Enrique Hernandez claimed first. Their time of 1:21.23 also earned them the school record for the event.

The foursome of Dyer, Abboud and seniors Sam Johanns and Nathan Ranyon emerged victorious in the 400 meter free relay. The team clinched the win in 3:00.24.

The same group also won the 400 meter medley relay with a time of 3:13.84, which broke the school record.

Individually, Ranyon acquired sole possession of the school record in the 100 meter backstroke and 200 meter backstroke.

Xavier won the 200 meter medley relay as well, with the group of senior David Burnell, Johanns, Dyer and Thomas earning the win for the Musketeers.

The 800 meter freestyle relay team of sophomore Jared Ritz, Abboud, freshman Ben Quon and Johanns picked up Xavier’s sixth school record at the meet, with a time of 6:35.34.

The women’s swim team also had a strong finish to the 2018-19 season with a second-place finish at the Big East Championships.

Villanova’s 1007.5 points won it the Big East women’s crown, while Xavier’s 602 points placed it second and Georgetown finished third with 645.5 points.

It marked the highest finish women’s swimming has achieved since Xavier joined the Big East Conference.

This time is also tied for the best finish ever by the program, matching a runner-up finish at the Atlantic Ten swim championships dating back to 2008.

The women’s team picked up one individual win in the 200 meter medley relay event. The team, which was made up of senior Caroline Gaertner, junior Emily Conners and Ali Fort and freshman Lydia Schaefer, claimed the top spot with a time of 1:40.26.

This was one of four school records the women’s team earned at the meet.

Freshman Tilly Baldwin’s 17:01.28 in the 1650 meter freestyle was a Xavier best, as was the 600 meter free relay team’s time of 1:31.85 that featured Conners, seniors Tianna Vonar and Laura Dusc and sophomore Maureen Cummins.

The 800 free relay team of senior Katie Kerr, juniors Abigail Garner and Emily Saugstad and Gaertner also etched their names into the Xavier record books with a time of 7:10.63.

Future Events

Pizza Hut Lady Thunderbird Invitational
March 14-15
Edisto Island Invitational
March 31-April 1
Lady Boilermaker
April 13-14

Women’s golf victorious in Rio Grande

BY DONNIE MENKE
Staff Writer

The women’s golf team won its first tournament of the spring season, the Rio Verde Invitational in Rio Verde, Ariz., last weekend.

The team capped the tourna- ment with a total score of 591, which was three strokes better than the 594 overall score posted by second-place finisher at the Big East Conference.

The Musketeers were also the only team to score under 300 in both rounds.

The first round was originally scheduled for Feb. 22 but was canceled because of inclement weather. As a result, the tournament was changed from a 54-hole, three round format to a 36-hole, two round format. Play resumed as planned the next day on Feb. 23.

Xavier posted the third-best score in the first round, shooting a 299.

The only schools to finish better than Xavier were Arkansas St., who posted a score of 297 — the best of the day —and Boise State, who posted a score of 298.

Graduate student Lyndsey Hennell and sophomore Andie Shallow led the team in scoring in the first round, as each posted a score of 74. The scores were tied for the 11th-best of the round.

Junior Mikayla Fitzpatrick scored a 75 in the round, which was tied for 16th place individually.

Senior Mikayla Smith shot a 76 and was tied for 31st at the end of the round while sophomore Amy Kucera shot a 77 and was tied for 36th going into the second round.

On Feb. 24, the Musketeers tied for the best score of the second round.

They shot a 292 as a team, with only Seton Hall matching that score. Wichita State was the only other team to shoot under 300 in the second round.

Fitzpatrick shot an even par, 71, in the second round to bring her total score to 146 for the tournament. She tied for fourth place individually with Hennell, who shot a 72.

Smith also scored a 72 in the final round and finished tied for eighth with a score of 148.

Shallow finished tied for 34th, earning a total score of 155 after shooting an 80 in the second round.

Kucera finished with a total score of 158 and tied for 30th after shooting a 77 in the second round.

The team’s next tournament isn’t until March 11-12, when the Musketeers compete in the Jackrabbit Invitational in Boulder Creek, Nev. at the Boulder Creek Golf Club.

Xavier Sports News

Baseball
Sophomore left-hander Nick Zwack was named the Big East Pitcher of the Week after picking up a win against the Bulldogs on Saturday. Junior first baseman Matt Warkentin was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll after launching three home runs. Xavier knocked off No. 9 Louisville on Tuesday by a final score of 5-4 in 10 innings.

Men’s Tennis
The Musketeers defeated Northern Kentucky, 5-2. Junior Michael Lee took home Big East Tennis Athlete of the Week honors after winning all three of his matches without dropping a set.

Women’s Tennis
Xavier won its fourth consecutive match, improving to 3-0 on the season with a victory against Wright State last weekend. The team won four singles matches and three doubles matches.

Xavier

Sports

Future Events

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March 14-15
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By JABARI TURNER  
Staff Writer

Fox announced last Friday that Jussie Smollett, a star on the Emmy-nominated TV show Empire, will be cut from the final episodes of the final season.

Executive producers said they arrived at this decision “to avoid disruption on set.” Smollett went back to the Empire set a day before this decision was made after being released on bond following a Class Four felony charge.

The last month frequently saw the name of the actor on Twitter. On Jan. 29, reports surfaced that he was the victim of a racial and homophobic attack. Allegedly, he was beaten by two white men in ski masks wearing MAGA hats. During the attack, a noose was put around his neck, and bleach was poured on him. An outpour of sympathy ensued for the Empire actor as he was hospitalized.

Many politicians, such as Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and others took to Twitter to share their shock at the attack and sympathy for Smollett.

Chicago police began investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

The first suspicions of his allegations being false began after the initial description of the attackers was discounted. Police identified two African American males as persons of interest, not two White males as initially reported. More suspicions came after police credited the phone records given to them by Smollett. He was said to be cooperating with police. However, Sgt. Rocco Aliotti stated the phone records could not be limited and heavily redacted.

People took to social media questioning Smollett’s actions. Additionally, people began to question other aspects of the alleged incident. Many asked why Smollett kept the noose around his neck and why he took so long to report the incident.

Two days later, the Empire star appeared on ABC’s Good Morning America in an exclusive interview with Robin Roberts. He expressed his outrage that people were questioning his story of the incident. He said that pride stopped him from reporting the incident immediately and that he kept the rope around his neck so police could “see what it was.”

Later that same day, Chicago police raided the home of the two persons of interest who were arrested days before. They seized bottles of bleach, electronics, shoes and other items. Reports began to surface from unconfirmed case detectives who said the attack was a hoax. However, the Chief Communications Officer for Chicago Police said these reports were “uninformed and inaccurate.”

The two persons of interest, who were brothers, were later released without being charged. Days later, Chicago Police announced that Smollett was being investigated for disorderly conduct because he filed a false police report. Smollett turned himself in the next day.

The turn of events shocked many. Smollett was strongly criticized on social media, with som calling his actions sociopathic. In a press conference, Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson questioned Smollett’s motives, wondering how he could set up an attack for a “publicity stunt.”

Multiple conservative figures claimed Smollett took advantage of the current racial climate in America. Others said that his actions could deter victims from reporting hate crimes.

The FBI found that hate crimes increased by 17 percent in 2017 for the third straight year. Smollett could face up to three years in prison and thousands of dollars in fines if convicted.

Smollett smirks at hate crime hoax

By JACK DUNN  
Campus News Editor

The 91st Oscars were the books, and they did not come and go without their own bits of controversy.

Green Book was the night’s biggest winner, taking home Best Picture. Bohemian Rhapsody won the most awards (four), including one to Rami Malek for Best Actor.

Both movies faced their own separate controversies. Bohemian Rhapsody’s former director Bryan Singer faced allegations that he raped a minor in 2005, which prompted him to step down from the film. Green Book had its fair share of dilemmas as well. It started with the revelation that the family of Dr. Don Shirley, the main character of the movie, was still alive. His last surviving brother said that the film was inaccurately portraying Shirley as someone who was estranged from his family and Black culture, when in reality he “had three living brothers with whom he was always in contact.”

Edwin Shirley III, Shirley’s nephew, called the movie’s portrayal of his uncle “rath- er boring” and “very jarring.” The Shirley family was not thanked by director Peter Farrelly after the film won Best Picture.

Then Viggo Mortensen, who was nominated for Best Actor for his work in Green Book, said the n-word during a panel in November, for which he later apologized. Then a 1998 New York Times article resurfaced, saying that Farrelly admitted to flashing his genitals at colleges as a prank, forcing him to apologize as well.

“Empire” was the last time Lee was seen on screen. While he “had three living brothers with whom he was always in contact,” he “had three living brothers with whom he was always in contact.”

The 91st Oscars have also been marred by controversy. The last time Mexico was nominated for Best Picture was in 2014. It also marks the end of a decade in which only two Americans have won in the category. Roma also won Best Foreign Language Film, marking the first time Mexico has won the category. Visit Oscars.org to discover who won the Best Picture award, while Bohemian Rhapsody earned the highest number of awards for the night. Many of these films faced controversies that detracted from their success.
Next to Normal’s profundity shines

BY LIZ HARRIS
Guest Writer

I haven’t seen many musicals that start out so full-throttle that they don’t even give the audience the chance to applaud until after the third song, but that’s Next to Normal for you.

It’s not your typical musical. The story centers around a seemingly typical, White, suburban family who turns out to be a far cry from normal, as is easy to gather from the title. Diana, the mother of this nuclear family, has severe bipolar depression and has been struggling with it for 16 years.

The musical explores how her mental illness impacts all aspects of her life and bleeds into the lives of her husband, daughter and daughter’s boyfriend. She has to suffer the various forms of treatment, including medication that completely numbs her emotionally.

The intimacy and unapologetic openness of the show takes the audience into many of Diana’s therapy sessions as well as her most vulnerable and personal moments in order to bring about more awareness of mental illness.

One of the essential ways Xavier was able to bring the goal of the show to life is through the acting choices made by the cast, which were unlike those I had seen and heard before. Cassie Delicath, who played Diana’s husband, Dan. With this subtle, realistic acting, it felt as if the audience was intruding, peering in on a neighbor’s home. The fights and the moments of grief were incredibly powerful because of this.

Making the audience feel so connected to the family — evidenced by the amount and frequency of teary eyes in the audience — helped viewers build empathy outside of the confines of the show toward those who have mental illness.

This empathy-inducing performance alone wasn’t enough for Xavier Theatre. They wanted to do more in order to help their audience understand the struggles of mental illness and to destigmatize it.

To do this, the department collected money through their usual charitable donation program, Xavier University’s Theatre Gives Back, for an organization called 1N5, which helps to support teens with mental health conditions.

Even further, they held a talkback after each show, during which audience members were invited by Xavier staff members at McGrath to share their thoughts on the show and mental illness.

Xavier Theatre put so much effort into getting a conversation rolling on campus about mental illness. They poured themselves out emotionally through demanding character roles and went above and beyond by hosting the talkbacks.

Many students will feel as grateful for their efforts to open up a dialogue about this important issue as the Xavier Theatre does for their contributions to a profoundly conscious production.

Next to Normal, a Xavier Theatre production that was performed last weekend, amalgamated acting and music to describe the experiences of individuals with mental illness. It detailed the vulnerability, intimacy and grief endured by its characters, inviting dialogue about mental health.

BY LIZ HARRIS
Head Copy Editor

I fell in love with the National last April when I saw them headline a festival, and this song in particular stands out as one of their best. If you aren’t familiar with the band, this is a great introduction. Each of their albums has a distinct voice, but “Graceless” gives you a solid idea of the band as a whole. It’s also danceable, and the music video is hilarious.

— Hannah Schulz, Head Copy Editor

Staff Spotify: What we’re listening to

Get to know the Newswire editorial staff with our current favorite music

“Graceless” by The National

I fell in love with The National last April when I saw them headline a festival, and this song in particular stands out as one of their best. If you aren’t familiar with the band, this is a great introduction. Each of their albums has a distinct voice, but “Graceless” gives you a solid idea of the band as a whole. It’s also danceable, and the music video is hilarious.

— Hannah Schulz, Head Copy Editor

“The House That Heaven Built” by Japandroids

Originally a single off this Canadian punk duo’s 2012 record Celebration Rock, this cut is a live recording from a Japandroids show at Massey Hall in Toronto to back in October. Released last week as part of a live compilation, this song just plain rocks and adds a nice layer of living grit to an already rapturous experience.

— Ryan Rambich, Opinions & Editorials Editor

“Du Hast” by Rammstein

Whether or not you understand German is irrelevant — the titular refrain, combined with a pounding guitar riff and some fun keyboard effects, make this song one of my go-to jams. Seeing it performed live, complete with pyrotechnics galore and a keyboardist donning a sparkly suit whilst walking on a treadmill the entire song, made it an even better listen.

— Ellen Siefke, Editor-in-Chief

“You Don’t Own Me” by Son Lux ft. Hanna Benn

The artists comprising Son Lux are hands down my current musical obsession. They are a rare, genre-less gem characterized by electronic pop, musical soul and heavy experimentalism. This particular song combines declarative trumpets, crisp percussion and moving vocals into a piece that evokes determination within me to get through whatever happens to be transpiring that day.

— Soondos Mulla-Ossman, Features Editor
Canto VI

The Magnificat; Song of Lovers in the Garden

By Sofie Simonet

Guest Writer

The sleeping garden’s golden joys and limpid hymns
Fall pregnant by its waking, the lissome kiss.
Of lovers’ musics dappling the fragrant jessamines.
The walks like waves, or rhythmic seas, awash and flowing
With light, and flowering down into bubbles of honey...
All was warmed by the sunlight, dancing in the ripples of air.

In the esplanades of dreaming awakened in the air
The breathy gardens sighed with eternal hymns.
But from the perfumed flowers, a sound, stirring the honeyed
Sleep of springtime, struck the chord, the daughter’s kiss
Of apple-blossom, while an angel’s silken sails softly flowed.
An urn toppled down the sty to ring in notes of jessamine,

Disappearing into a vibrant frizz foretold in the jessamine’s
Own awakening, but now the cadent sound of falling vibrated the air.
A wish of butterflies, the apple blossoms flowing
In extraordinary sunlight and the pondering breezes’ hymns,
While the golden, enigmatic mouths sang of kairos and sweet kisses
And saw the wreaths of silence and the rhapsodies of honey.

Something secret darted in the sage and sun-shimmered honey.
Music of the lifting afternoon, white blossoms of jessamine!
How silently a gift was given on that light-drenched day, a diamond kiss
Of loves in the garden. All the flowers had written in the satin air,
Whispered in their petals, fearless to the starlit hymns,
The urns of Greece or the birdsong of the evening, flowing

Time and immortality together, written in the faces of flowering
Tulips, of sleep and sunlight, dappling the apple-blossom’s honey.
And the echo in the garden, down the stair, the winnowing hymns
Of soft fugitive faces, drenched with incongruous delight, the blushing jessamine,
With the wetness of the shadows and sunlit marmalade, were all slipping in the air.

Guest Writer

With Evana Dias

Crisps

1. A recurring object in a poem
2. The sign that, with a healthy amount of confidence, is a true queen
3. ___ is not a bad smell
4. A song of
5. Watched for things you’re positive you’ll like and then end up loving, like iffy-looking soup in the caf.
6. The number of chips you got according to your horoscope
7. A simple action that a poem reflects upon
8. A song of Lovers in the Garden

Across
5. ___ is not a bad smell
6. A recurring object in a poem
7. The sign that, with a healthy amount of confidence, is a true queen
8. A song of

Down
1. What kind of poem is found on the Features page this week?
2. A song of

Look for the answer key in next week’s (March 6) edition!

With Evana Dias

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