XAVIER
NEWswire

CFJ to absorb Interfaith activities
Center for Interfaith and Community Engagement will close after spring term

BY ALEX BUDZYNSKI
Staff Writer

A team of full-time chaplains and new work on leading interfaith initiatives are among the changes to come as a result of the decision to close the Center for Interfaith and Community Engagement and have the Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ) absorb all Interfaith-related activities. The decision was announced earlier in the semester and will take effect in the fall.

The framework for this plan was put into place last summer when Father Michael Graham, president, asked the CFJ to oversee the daily operations of the Center for Interfaith and Community Engagement and have the Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ) absorb all Interfaith-related activities. The decision was announced earlier in the semester and will take effect in the fall.

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The Center for Interfaith and Community Engagement will close at the end of this semester, and the Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ) will begin work to increase interfaith dialogue among the changes to come as a result of the decision to close the Center for Interfaith and Community Engagement.
Monologues spark slight scandal

The typical Gallagher Theater audience of college students was joined by three members of Xavier University Police Department during this Saturday’s Annual show by the Xavier Police Department during members of Xavier University's College of Arts and Sciences as well as Father Michael Graham, president, and professors from an array of institutes of education for the College of Arts and Sciences as well as Father Michael Graham, president, dozen of calls and emails opposing the show being performed on campus.

The show, which explores female sexuality, was the subject of a blog post from The Cardinal Newman Society, an organization that claims to defend Catholic values in education, in February. The blog post lambasted Catholic college campuses that allow performances of the show, which they claim endorses predatory homosexuality. The website listed eight colleges, including Xavier, that had scheduled performances as well as the date of each show.

Stephen Shiles, the head of the Theatre Department, emphasized the majors in forming them of the emails and ensuring the cast and crew’s safety. None of the emails were mentioned for including violent threats.

This year, critics were focused on a particular monologue titled “The Coochie Snorcher.” Emily Jorgenson, who created this year’s show, explained that if certain lines were taken out of context, “The Coochie Snorcher” could be used to normalize sexual relations between minors and adults. The character, who is unnamed, is 16 years old when she has sex with a 24-year-old woman.

Jorgenson explained that for those who know the play, that is far from the intention of the scene. “She was raped as a child, so she felt like she could never have a healthy sexual experience,” Jorgenson said. “So she met this woman who kind of offered herself to her, and she accepted it and finally had a good experience with her body and her sexuality.”

The Vagina Monologues is no stranger to controversy on Xavier’s campus. In 2003 the show created a rift in the Xavier community and across the nation.

Earlier that year, the Cardinal Newman Society had criticized the show for vulgar content and representing women primarily by their genitals. Concerned alumni and community members alike wrote letters to the NeXus in both favor of presenting the show and against bringing it from campus altogether.

Graham had the show canceled after backlash and was not open to discussing the matter at that time. In response to the show’s cancellation, students organized a rally titled “Our Lips Are Sealed: Students Against Xavier Censorship.”

These days, The Vagina Monologues don’t attract as much attention. Besides or crew members, other students defended the show.

First-year exercise science major Elizabeth Arnold agreed with Chrastil and added that the show to be educational and did not consider it to endorse sexual activities between adults and minors. “I think it was used as an educational tool because the different scenarios were from real stories,” Arnold said. “I think the show was to inform people of the potential dangers rather than to make people feel uncomfortable.”

After the show, Chrastil sat in on a talk-back in which audience members were encouraged to ask questions and react to their feelings.

To those who expressed their feeling that The Vagina Monologues were “vulgar and contrary to Catholic teaching,” Chrastil referenced Xavier’s values.

“The play is all about women talking to each other and having real, honest conversations,” Chrastil said. “This play aimed for that, and that was my intention.”

She also discussed Catholic values and how Xavier seeks to incorporate them.

“The Church calls us to listen to people without judgment, and that is what we are trying to do here at Xavier,” Chrastil said. Jorgenson felt supported by her experience with the preparation for the show.

“The deans were behind us, specifically Father Graham who had always been very open to any intention of canceling the show by any means,” Jorgenson said. Jorgenson continues to see a place for The Vagina Monologues on campus since the stories presented are still relevant. She added that the controversial nature of the show could be a strength.

“In an honest, sometimes that’s the goal of theater, we want people to argue with us and have opinions and challenge our beliefs.”

E/RS panel talks teaching for active citizenship

E/RS panel included representatives from both Xavier and the Greater Cincinnati area. The panelists discussed how to teach active citizenship, particularly focusing on youth engagement and community care.

The panel included educators from an array of institutional backgrounds, including non-profits geared toward education for adults and children as well as principals from both a private and public high school in the Cincinnati area.

E/RS Director Dr. Rich ard Polt moderated the panel, which spoke broadly about immersive learning and how to engage students through experiences and service experiences throughout the community. Many of the panelists said they sought young people’s hands-on learning as an essential component of fostering engagement in civic life. Each seemed to agree that teaching for good citizenship required the cultivation of care for the student’s community.

The panelists also elaborated on their own ways of teaching good citizenship.

Terry Tyrrell, the principal of St. Xavier High School, talked about service learning requirements. Mary Delaney, the executive director of educational nonprofit Community Matters, spoke about connecting community members who can teach about justice by drawing on their lived experiences. Lisa Votav, the principal of Aiken High School, discussed affording students the opportunity to propose work organizations within the school that are then made possible, a practice she has long supported.

Dr. Laney Bender-Slack, a middle childhood education professor at Xavier, added that opportunities to teach about citizenship can present themselves in seemingly insignificant places. “With the very young, you can begin with those moments when they see something and recognize ‘That’s not fair’,” Bender-Slack said. “That is a basic place to have conversations about justice, power and fairness.”

The empowerment of young people became the central theme of Monday’s event. Libby Hunter, the executive director for WorldPlay Cincy, described a program she runs called “Word Ups,” which helps children and young adults to learn to write about social justice issues. She then works to publish their writings. “Speak up and we speak out if we see something wrong,” Azaria Pittman-Carter, an alumni of WorldPlay and a sophomore education student at the University of Cincinnati and alumna of WordPlay, said when describing her approach to empowering young voices. “You have to find what’s comfortable for you.”

“There’s generally seven to categories of movement builders,” Delaney added, and “the one that is most often overlooked is that of the nurturer: those who aren’t on the forefront but are essential to the pursuit of justice.”

Mason Jackson, the current Bed Chair for Ethics/Religion and Society, offered his thoughts after the event. “I have a theory that young people are the most empowered that they’ve ever been in history,” he said. “We need to get young voices to recognize they have way more power than I could have ever had in my generation as a young citizen. I think there could have been a Parkland-style social movement years ago if educators would have been less worried about policing technology and using it to empower students instead.”

The next event in the series will take place on March 25 and will feature a talk by historian Nancy Isenberg entitled “The Rural Roots of Class Politics in America.”
Mail Center repackaging its setup

BY C.J. RIPEPI
Staff Writer

As the undergraduate population continues to grow, Auxiliary Services is making plans to strengthen campus infrastructure. Among these plans are renovations to the Mail Center that are to be determined.

Xavier’s Mail Center was built to handle large volumes of letters written to students, faculty and administration. Mail Center Specialist Todd McDillon explained that the back of the mail center is set up in a U-shape that was efficient for distributing letters.

However, a lot has changed in the mailing industry since the early days of the Mail Center. For one, most people don’t regularly send letters to communicate with each other. Additionally, as online shopping services such as Amazon Prime have grown, so has the number of packages.

This influx of packages rather than letters has led to hours upon hours of wasted time behind the counter. McDillon added that on peak days, the inefficient U-shaped layout of the mail center has lost him and his staff up to six hours of time.

Students have noticed the consequences of the inefficient setup. “Whenever I’ve been there, there’s always been a line,” junior Chandler Bell said. “It works, it’s just irritating.”

One of the contributors to long waiting times is the aforementioned U-shaped setup of the Mail Center. Each half of the Mail Center is designated to a half of the alphabet. If there are two students picking up packages whose last names are on the exact opposite side of the alphabet, it can take a while for Mail Center workers to scan, sort and log where each of their packages are stored.

Sophomore Anna Moug, who works at the Mail Center, explained that students not following procedures also wastes time. “A lot of delays happen because when Amazon tells you your package has been delivered — or FedEx, or UPS — it hasn’t actually been delivered to the Mail Center unless you get an email from us,” Moug said. “When people come in without an email, we have to check for a package that we don’t have, which really slows down the process.”

Additionally, the Mail Center has already gone to lengths to accommodate the large number of packages. Brandi Bryant, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services, explained.

“Over the last few years we’ve had to rent a Pod just to accommodate for the larger volume of mail (and packages),” Bryant said. “We couldn’t hold (all of the packages) within the Mail Center the way our current configuration is set up.”

Beyond waiting lines, students have expressed that their packages have been lost. “My grandma sent me a package in November, and I checked before (Thanksgiving) break. When I checked on Valentine’s Day, it showed up’, first-year Sunaya Jackson said.

Moug didn’t blame the setup of the facility for this issue but instead accepted the blame on behalf of student workers. “I mean, I don’t really wanna make an excuse. It’s not cool that packages are lost, but we’re getting hotter,” Moug said.

The renovations to the Mail Center will be accompanied this summer by renovations in Brockman Hall and construction of the Health Building.

Feb. 25 Student Government Association Meeting Recap
Raincheck on Father Graham ROA

Father Michael Graham, president, was scheduled to present the Report of the Administration but could not attend the meeting because of travel complications. Senators passed the club budgets unanimously and prepared questions for when Graham will be able to attend a meeting.

Can you draw? Because we sure can’t. But we try anyway. And fail. Miserably.

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Trump holds summit in Vietnam

No deal is signed as Michael Cohen testifies to Congress in public hearing

BY JACK DUNN
Campus News Editor

President Donald Trump suggested on Twitter that Michael Cohen’s congressional testimonies contributed to the failure to reach an agreement with North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un in Vietnam.

Cohen spent three days testifying last week—one of which was public—in front of both Democrat and Republican-led committees. These testimonies come ahead of a three-year prison sentence for various crimes including lying to Congress and campaign finance violations.

Trump also faces controversy after he said that he would take Kim Jong-un “at his word” that he was unaware of Cincinnati native Otto Warmbier’s imprisonment in the secluded nation.

Warmbier’s parents did not believe this explanation, saying after the summit, “We have been respectful during this summit process. Now we must speak out. Kim and his evil regime are responsible for the death of our son Otto.”

No excuses or lavish praise could change that.

Trump’s National Security Adviser, John Bolton, offered a different interpretation during television interviews on Sunday. “It doesn’t mean that he takes it as reality,” Bolton said. He also refused to offer his opinion on the matter, saying on CNN’s State of the Union that he was no longer a Fox News contributor and that he “doesn’t do that anymore.”

The summit was the second with Kim Jong-un within the past year. The first took place in Singapore in June of last year. That summit ended with Trump and Kim signing a joint statement that called for new diplomatic relations, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the recovery of soldiers’ remains and more follow up negotiations between the two countries.

“The summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, was thought to be the culmination of almost a year’s worth of continued talks between the two countries after the Singapore summit.

However, the leaders ended up coming just short of an agreement despite a planned “signing ceremony” that was scheduled. ‘He (Kim Jong-un) was fully aware of what happened to (Warmbier),’ and his impact of being inside North Korea,” sophomore psychology major Abrielle Krekeler said.

“Trump claims he left the summit after he was not willing to give into the dictator’s demand that the U.S. lift sanctions on North Korea. North Korea’s government has disputed this account. Trump said he still believes that the summit was a success because he did not give any concessions to Kim.

“(Trump) did accomplish something by actually talking to Kim Jong-un by forming a relationship instead of being confrontational over the news. Meeting him in Vietnam was a step in the right direction,” Krekeler said.

The biggest hang-up of the deal appeared to be that Trump demanded Kim give up his nuclear arsenal. North Korea has rejected similar deals in the past and did not change its stance in Hanoi.

Currently there are no plans for another summit to be held.

However, Krekeler believes that there will eventually be peace on the Korean Peninsula, but it’s more of a question of whether or not Kim Jong-un is willing to let Trump achieve peace.

“Trump might be willing to do everything in his power to accomplish (peace), but Kim Jong-un might not be willing to do the same,” she said.

Week in Review

Bridge ban, cardboard men and gators

• The world’s top bridge player received a one-year ban from competition for doping. Bridge is a card game, but since the World Bridge Federation is recognized by the International Olympic Committee, its members must comply with anti-doping rules (March 1).

• Minnesota police checked on the welfare of a man reportedly standing outside motionless while hugging a pillow, only to discover that it was a cardboard cutout. The cutout was of Mike Lindell, a local millionaire and the CEO of MyPillow (March 2).

• Farmers in G were in for a giant surprise after discovering a 700-pound alligator lying in a ditch. The gator measures about 13 feet long and is estimated to be 30 years old. Unfortunately, he was found in poor condition and was believed to be dying; so it was decided that he had to be euthanized (March 4).

Photo courtesy of The White House on Flickr

POLICE NOTES

NOTE OF THE WEEK

 Didn’t want to take the stairs, huh?

Feb. 18, 7:35 a.m. — A student reported they were harassed by a delivery driver near Husman Hall. The driver was advised and sent on their way.

Feb. 20, 2:00 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Residence Life with a room search in Brockman Hall. Alcohol, drug paraphernalia and a folding pocket knife were confiscated. Residence Life will follow up.

Feb. 20, 3:09 p.m. — Xavier Police assisted Cincinnati Police with investigating a criminal damaging report in the 2100 block of Clenney Avenue. An unknown student was kicking on the door to a student residence, causing damage. Norwood and Xavier Police searched the area but were unable to locate the suspect. Norwood Police is following up.

Feb. 27, 5:43 p.m. — An employee reported someone was using their email to falsely recruit a high school athlete. The email is believed to be a prank. An investigation is pending.

March 1, 2:57 a.m. — Xavier Police and Residence Life investigated a report of a fight between two students in the lobby of Fenwick. The students were referred to the code of conduct process.

March 1, 3:07 p.m. — A student reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle in the R2 lot and rummaged through its contents. Nothing was taken.
Cardinal George Pell, convicted of sexual abuse and indecent acts with a child on Feb. 26. The conviction came after the end of a Vatican summit to address abuse.

Cardinal George Pell, the former top financial adviser to Pope Francis, was convicted of sexual abuse and indecent acts with a child on Feb. 26. Pell is the seniormost cleric in the Catholic Church. The conviction came days after the summit ended.

The conviction came days after the conclusion of a Vatican summit aimed to address the larger sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church.

The summit took place from Feb. 21-24 and included more than 190 members of Church leadership worldwide.

First-year history and professional education double major Megan Gaertner said that while she thinks the investigations and the summit are good steps, they aren’t enough and should have come earlier.

“I’m glad that they’re digging into all of this and trying to figure out the details and who the abusers are, but I just feel like it’s a little too late,” Gaertner said. “Most of this has been going on for decades, and probably, honestly, most of the history of the Church. So it’s good that they’re trying to do something about it, but I just feel like they should have started the Church. So it’s good that they’re trying to do something about it, but I just feel like they should have started doing something a long time ago and there’s so much more they could be doing.”

Each of the four days had a theme: responsibility, accountability, transparency and papal priorities. During the summit, participants watched videotaped testimony from abuse victims, listened to speeches from bishops and journalists and offered proposals for action moving forward, among other activities.

On the first day, Pope Francis offered a list of 21 considerations for handling future allegations and instances of sexual abuse.

He characterized the list as a “point of departure,” according to the National Catholic Reporter, saying it was to be used to guide subsequent meetings.

The first item called for a handbook detailing the steps authorities need to take as a case develops. Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, who works with abuse cases for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said that his office was already preparing such a handbook and that it would be available within a few months.

Other items included establishing protocols for allegations against bishops, informing civil and ecclesiastical authorities about allegations and creating more support networks for victims.

Gaertner said she thinks the Church needs to become more involved with secular authorities to better prevent crises, in addition to enacting concrete measures.

“I think they need to enact some kind of legislation,” Gaertner said. “I also think that they need to have a review board that’s not within the Church, like maybe a secular review board, because I feel like there’s a lot of people who are going to be biased and who are not going to do the job they need to do.”

Pakistan released an Indian pilot as a gesture of peace toward India on Friday. In the days prior, two Indian jets had reportedly entered Pakistani airspace and were shot down.

Wing Commander Abhishek Nandan was downed in Indian-controlled territory and was captured by the Pakistani government. The other was shot down in Indian-controlled territory.

India and Pakistan have fought over the territory known as Kashmir-Jammu since 1947. The countries have fought three wars over Kashmir, with the most recent being in 1999. Both India and Pakistan now occupy different parts of the region.

On Feb. 14, a unknown individual drove a car filled with explosives into a bus carrying Indian paramilitary police in Kashmir, killing at least 40.

The attack was claimed by Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based militant organization.

India blamed Pakistan for the attack, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned that appropriate action would be taken as retribution.

India launched counterattack airstrikes against Pakistan on Feb. 26, in retaliation for the bus attack.

The targets of the airstrikes were alleged terrorist training camps that were on the Pakistani side of the border.

Tensions have pushed the nations back to the brink of war and have triggered fights about the truth of events. India has refused to release evidence of the suicide attack and proof of Pakistan’s involvement, raising questions of its legitimacy.

Instability and uncertainty were rising in the region, but seemed to be lessening after Pakistan released the captured Indian pilot in an attempt to ease tensions. However, gesture has only temporarily deescalated tensions.

Both countries hold approximately 150-160 nuclear weapons. Although nuclear attacks are unlikely, leaders of Pakistan have said that they are “preparing for all eventualities.” India and Pakistan have also assembled teams to make decisions for when a nuclear attack may be necessary.

The explosions from a nuclear blast would be localized to the region, but the repercussions could affect the globe.

Researchers have called it a “global nuclear famine,” suggesting that the ozone layer could be crippled and earth’s climate could cool for years, causing crop and fishery losses.

“The danger of nuclear winter has been under-understood — poorly understood — by both policymakers and the public,” Michael Willis, a researcher at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research said.
The proper way to honor service

Cara Personini. Magi. Reflection. Discernment. Soli- larity and kinship. Service rooted in justice and love. Anyone who’s attended a GOA session or seen any of the nu- merous signs around campus detailing Xavier’s core values knows these words and their importance to our university. These are things Xavier stu- dents value above all else. But there are a select few who val- ues them to an extent many of us can’t begin to comprehend. These are the Community-Engaged Fellows, Xavier’s unsung heroes. Despite being the faces of the university and going out a minimum of 10 hours a week to benefit the Cincinnati community, these fellows get little to no recog- nition for their work. They are the busiest, most capable, funniest, smartest and above all, kindest people I have ever had the privilege of meet- ing. Yet Xavier unfortunately doesn’t recognize their daily sacrifices.

Not only does Xavier not ap- ply the services the Fellows engage in, nor the good work they enact within the community on campus, but they also don’t reward these students enough financially, nor do they provide adequate transportation for all of the Fellows. Many often have to find alternate means of trans- port to their service sites.

I learned about the service through my roommate, who detailed the rigorous applica- tion process to me during our first few weeks of roommate bonding. I was shocked to find that almost 300 people apply for one of eight spots in each first-year class, with only 10 earning an interview. It’s a highly competitive process, especially because Xavier of- fers a $22,000 scholarship. It’s an awfully nice bonus by most accounts.

But is it enough? Let’s do the math here. These students are doing 10 hours of community service a week for approximately 30 weeks (give or take a few days with mis- cellaneous weekend holidays and such) for four years. That’s at least 300 hours of service a year (if not more), amounting to approximately 1,200 hours by the time they are ready to graduate. I’ll say it again, 1,200 hours.

To put that in context, you could watch Jurassic Park 556 times in a row and still not have watched as many hours of dinosaurs murdering peo- ple as these students have dedicated from their lives to helping the greater Cincinnati area. It’s exactly 50 days, or a little more than seven weeks of service. That’s no small exertion of time and energy.

For eight students per class, $22,000 doesn’t seem like nearly enough money when you consider how much they sacrifice. Although they are planning to increase the scholarship amount by $8,000 next year, why aren’t these students given full-ride scholar- ships? Many athletes and exceptional scholars receive full rides for their academ- ic and physical prestige, but what about those who excel in selflessness? Xavier has the St. Francis Xavier Scholar- ship, an award allotted for 10 incoming students annually who demonstrate “exception- al academic achievement and outstanding leadership in- volvement in their community and/or school.”

Doesn’t this sound exactly like what is required of the Fellows? Not only do they have amazing leadership qual- ities — serving by either cre- ating a team or organization by themselves or being able to enter different communities and lead those within toward a common goal — but also the academic excellence — once again, maintaining a 3.6 GPA while juggling a social life, service, campus involvement and/or jobs they might have as well.

The difference may not seem like much, but when $22,000 only covers one se- mester of the average stu- dent’s tuition (at best), these Fellows end up paying for nearly two years of schooling here at Xavier. Yet even with the $8,000 bump in scholar- ship money, is it still enough?

Not really, especially when you consider that these stu- dents provide their own tran- sit to and from their service sites, which can involve gas costs and costs to repair ve- hicle damage. Although car- pooling is frequent and en- couraged, it can be difficult for those who serve in different areas of the community, es- pecially when class schedules don’t align or services begin at differing times.

Compare this to mem- bers of the men’s basketball team who receive full rides. They might spend compara- ble amounts of time in the gym as these students do in the community, but they reap many benefits that these Fel- lows do not. Transport to and from games, praise for their work (whether they win or lose), significantly more mon- ey than $22,000 a year, the most obvious of all — noto- riety.

I wouldn’t have known about the Fellowship if not for my roommate. The thing that ties all of these spectac- ular people together is that they are not the bragging type. They don’t want recog- nition or more scholarship funding.

These people truly are the best of the Xavier community. They are the nicest, the smart- est, the most interesting and by far the kindest group of people I have ever met. These are students who are pas- sionate about doing good for the sake of doing good, and Xavier, not only as a univer- sity but also as a morally up- standing institution, ought to once again give out full rides to those who commit them- selves to such a noble cause. If Xavier truly cares about its core Ignatian values, then it ought to truly honor them by honoring those who best demonstrate it — the Community-Engaged Fellows.

Alanna Belmont is a staff writer for the Xavier Newswire. A first- year biology and English double major from Wash- ington, D.C.
The Midwestern climate change experience

The World Wildlife Fund is a non-governmental organization widely known for advocating wilderness preservation and the reduction of human-caused environmental impact. Its logo? A panda, an animal most commonly found in Asia.

The selection of a panda logo subtly implies to audiences that wildlife and environmental destruction are separate and far away from our everyday lives. For example, had they chosen to represent the organization with a cow, consumers in the United States would have a harder time separating nature conservation and environmentalism from their daily lives, ranging from the food they eat to the clothes they wear.

Because of the notion that climate change is a distant concept, disconnected from our lives, people have a skewed perception of its implications. Often times when people think of climate change, images of sea life struggling to survive because of trash in the ocean and distressed polar bears floating on broken ice caps flood their minds. Although these issues encompass some of the effects of climate change, they do not paint the full picture. It’s easy to think of climate change as an unfamiliar issue — as though it’s only affecting people you don’t know and places you’ve never been to. But this is not the reality.

Climate change impacts every corner of the world. Cincinnati included. In the Midwest, the primary effects of climate change include extreme heat, heavier rainfall and flooding. These have direct negative impacts on air and water quality, human and environmental health, agriculture, forestry and more.

Throughout the last few years, Cincinnati saw all of these. The damages caused by these occurrences are likely more widespread than we might imagine. Moreover, the poor disproportionately face the risks implied by these issues.

When extreme heat strikes in the summer, some people are at higher risk of adverse effects than others. The Green Cincinnati Plan — a plan for the city to become a leader in environmentalism founded on sustainability, equity and resilience — highlights the relationship between one’s income, race and health and their physical health.

Heat stroke can set in when an individual is exposed to extreme heat for extended periods of time. The City of Cincinnati states those most at risk for heat stroke include infants and young children, people over age 65, people with a mental illness and people with chronic medical conditions. According to the Green Cincinnati Plan, extreme heat causes more fatalities and hospitalizations than any other weather event. In fact, the dangers of heat stroke are so severe that on days of extreme heat the city opens “Cooling Centers,” where people without access to air conditioning can go and rest.

Although air conditioning might seem like a common way to mitigate it, many do not have it due to financial constraints. As climate change intensifies nationwide, those most at risk of heat stroke will become increasingly vulnerable. While some can afford to turn on their air conditioning, their neighbors may be suffering. As air conditioning users turn up their units and enjoy the cold, they flood the air with emissions, which contribute to climate change and widen the gap between themselves and their less fortunate neighbors.

While days of extreme heat can go unnoticed by those unaffected by the heat, other aspects of climate change refuse to be ignored. For instance, heavy rainfall and flooding are beginning to occur more regularly in Cincinnati and have the potential to wreak havoc on the city. Cincinnati, located on the banks of the Ohio River, frequently experiences heavy rainfall and flooding. While flooding impacts human lives by causing damages to homes and infrastructure and endangering road closures, there are also adverse environmental effects.

Cincinnati is a city with combined sewers. Combined sewers collect rainwater, household sewage and industrial waste and send that mixture to the sewage treatment plant and then into combined sewers. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are a common practice in many cities. The sewage is sent to a wastewater treatment plant and then discharged back into the river. However, when there is extreme flooding, the sewers overflow, and untreated wastewater goes directly into the river.

Combined sewer overflows pose risks to human health and environmental health. In the event of a CSO, the ecosystem is exposed to bacteria and chemicals. For example, excess nitrogen in untreated wastewater causes algal blooms in the Ohio River. When the ecosystem suffers from the waste water, Cincinnatians do, too. The flooding increases risk of exposure to harmful substances. In fact, many of the city’s youth soccer fields lie in flood plains, making them subject to potential contaminants from sewer overflow.

The reality of climate change is inescapable. We cannot think of climate change strictly in terms of melting ice caps, rising sea levels and suffering wildlife. The reality is that we are at risk, too, and we must be aware of these issues and how they affect our community.

To learn more about the impacts of climate change in your community, visit the city plans to address it, visit green Cincinnati plan.org.

Charlotte Cheek is a senior on Xavier’s Equine Sustainability and Society (ECOS) major. She is a guest writer from Louisville, Ky.
The men’s basketball team hit road for games at St. John’s and Butler. Against St. John’s, Xavier came out firing on all cylinders and beat the Red Storm 84-73 at Car-nessa Arena. On Tuesday night at Hinkle Fieldhouse, Xavier suffered a 71-66 loss at the hands of the Bulldogs.

Here are some takeaways from Xavier's recent slate of games.

It's Najii's world and we're just living in it

Coming off two of his best games of the season in the wins over Villanova and Seton Hall, Najii Marshall followed it up with a career-high 31 points to go along with six rebounds in the win over St. John's. From the Creighton game to the St. John’s game, Marshall went 12-for-22 from the field along with 6.2 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game. The uptick in Marshall’s scoring and assists per game, but until recently, it's been laugh-out-loud funny for someone to suggest that he had a chance at the NCAA Tournament. At that point, even the NIT seemed out of reach. However, five straight wins can change a lot, and suddenly, Xavier is being looked at as a possible bubble team.

The Musketeers picked up three Quadrant 1 wins during their recent winning streak and are back on track after a truly bad loss to DePaul at home and Missouri on the road looking like Xavi-er’s two worst losses of the year. Still, there’s work to be done. As of March 5, Xavi-er was the sixth team out of the tournament, according to ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi, which means even if Xavier beats St. John’s on Saturday, it probably needs to win at least a game or two in the Big East Tournament to get legitimate tournament consideration. It’s definitely going to be an interesting few weeks in Cincinnati.

Breaking the press is an issue

When St. John’s started to press Xavier late in the game, the Musketeers turned the ball over, and it led to easy points for the Johnnies and kept them alive in the game. It’s not a new issue for Xavier, as its press break has been an issue all year long. If it wants to have success going forward, and in a postseason tournament (NCAA or NIT), the Musketeers will have to improve their offense against the press.

Making free throws and limiting turnovers is a necessity

Xavier has not shot the free throw that well all season, and it has the worst free throw percentage in the Big East (66 percent). The Musketeers missed late chari-ty-stripe opportunities that hampered their ability to cut the Bulldogs' late lead. Xavi-er went 5 for 11 from the free throw line in a game it lost by five.

Turnovers also remain an issue, with 16 giveaways against St. John’s and 15 against Butler. A key turnover late when Xavier was down three to Butler spoiled a chance to tie the game. Give-aways has been an area that has doomed the Musketeers for a big part of the season, and that issue will be cleaned up before the Big East Tournament next week.

Musketeers clash with Wildcats, Hoyas at Cintas

Xavier women’s basketball closed out its regular season with two home games against Villanova on Friday and Georgetown on Sunday.

Despite standout performances from sophomore forward Ariana Gray and sophomore guard Princess Stewart, Xavier dropped both games, losing 68-63 against Villano-va and 67-64 to Georgetown.

Xavier jumped out to a 10-0 lead over Villanova early in the first quarter, but a 10-0 run by the Wildcats gave it the lead for good.

Xavier had a chance to tie the game late, as it went six for eight at the line to score their final six points. With Georgetown up 67-64 in the second half, Xavier had a chance to tie the game on up their final pos-session, but the Musketeers failed to make a free throw that well all season. Along with Stewart, Owens and Dunham, Gray added five rebounds for the Musketeers with 10 points. With the pair of losses, Xavier will face Butler in the Big East Tournament, which they’ll win as the No. 10 seed. Xavier will face the No. 7 seed Providence on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Wintrust Arena in Chicago.
Baseball completes road sweep against Lipscomb

Xavier notches first series victory of the season and is set to face Arizona State

BY TIM KRAMER
Staff Writer

Xavier baseball traveled to Nashville, Tenn., last weekend and completed a three-game series sweep against Lipscomb.

The Musketeers’ offense at the plate allowed them to outscore the Bisons 21-9 throughout the series. Xavier is now 5-5 on the season.

In game one, Xavier had a big rally in the seventh inning that allowed the Musketeers to take the lead, erasing a five-run deficit.

Sophomore outfielder Alli Major’s two-RBI triple and junior infielder Conor Grammes’ sacrifice fly propelled Xavier to seize the lead.

Senior right-hander Taylor Williams entered in the ninth inning and closed the door to earn his first save of the season.

Grammes’ sacrifice fly propelled Xavier to seize the lead, erasing a five-run deficit.

Major logged another season-best 10 runs in a 10-1 win. Major was one of 10 batters while only giving up one earned run on the day.

Game three saw more outstanding pitching and defense by the Musketeers as they clinched the series sweep with a 4-2 victory. Grammes, who doubled as a pitcher, tossed six scoreless innings while striking out five. Freshman righty Luke Flamm blanked the Bisons, pitching 2.1 innings. He fanned three batters and held the Bisons scoreless.

Junior infielder Ryan Altenberger drove in a three-run homer to right center to set the tone early. This gave Xavier a 3-0 lead early on.

“If we can keep consistent with the pitching performances we had against Lipscomb, we’re going to be very successful,” junior outfielder Andrew Sexton, who started two games in the series, said.

“Every game we take on one of the best teams in the country, an 11-0 Arizona State, later this week.

“We’re very excited to start our spring break up against ASU,” Sexton said. “They have a really good offense, but we have a lot of things clicking for us right now, and we’re ready to face one of the best teams in the country… This weekend will be one of (the) toughest challenges of the season for sure, but I think as a ball club right now, we can handle any challenges we face.”

Xavier has some good momentum heading into spring break.

The Musketeers are 5-5 on the season and have scored 21 runs in the last three games.

Women’s tennis captures seventh straight win

Musketeers improved to 9-2 on the season with three victories last weekend

BY DONNIE MENKE
Staff Writer

The women’s tennis team scored big this weekend, extending its winning streak to seven victories with wins against Dayton, East Tennessee State and Cornell.

The wins helped the Musketeers improve to a 9-2 overall record.

The match against Dayton was one-sided, as Xavier swept the Flyers by a tally of 4-0.

Xavier won both doubles matches that finished. Senior Sophia Abelson and sophomore Kaitlin Ruether won their doubles match 6-0.

Freshman Natalie Meyer and senior Zoe Manion won their match 6-3.

Freshmen Emily Thomas and Hunter Roper were tied 4-4 in their match before it was finished.

Five of the six singles matches were won in straight sets, while the sixth was forfeited by Dayton.

Thomas won her match in two sets, winning 6-1 and 6-2.

Roper also won her match in two sets, with scores of 6-2 and 7-5.

Roper won her match easily, conceding only three games en route to 6-1 and 6-0 wins. Meyer also won her match fairly easily, 6-0 and 6-3. Junior Lauren Fitz-Han

olphy cruised to a win, losing only three games for scores of 6-2 and 6-1. Manion won after Dayton forfeited.

East Tennessee State was a much closer match, with Xavier narrowly edging them out by a score of 4-3.

Abelson and Ruether were able to win the match of the day 6-1. Sophomore Almeir Kyle and Thomas were unable to win their doubles match, falling 6-4, while Roper and junior Rachael Reichenbach lost their match 6-4. As a result, East Tennessee won the doubles point.

Ruether won her singles match 7-5 and 6-0 to bring Xavier back to 1-1. Kyle fell in three sets in her match, 6-4, 1-6 and 3-6, to put East Tennessee back in the lead, up 2-1.

Abelson emerged victorious in her match, winning the last two sets 6-1 and 7-5 after losing the first one 4-6 to bring Xavier even with East Tennessee 2-2.

Reichenbach lost her match in three sets by scores of 4-6, 6-4 and 3-6 to give East Tennessee its third point of the match.

Roper won her match in three sets, 6-3, 6-1 and 6-2, to tie the match at 3-3 while Thomas won her match 6-3, 3-6 and 6-2 to give Xavier the 4-3 win.

Xavier wrapped up the weekend on Sunday, beating Cornell 5-2. It won the doubles point, with the pair of Abel-

son and Roper and the duo of Reichenbach and Roper each won their doubles matches 6-3.

Kyle and Thomas were down 5-4, but the match finished before it was final.

Xavier won four of the six singles matches as well. Kyle won her match 6-3 and 7-5.

Abelson won hers 7-6 and 6-2.

Thomas and Roper both won their matches fairly easily; as Thomas won 6-3, 6-2 while Roper won 6-1, 6-3.

Reichenbach was unable to win, losing 4-6, 6-7. Roper also lost but was in it to the very end, only losing after a 20-game third set. Her match final score was 6-3, 7-6 and 11-9.

The women’s team returns to action on Friday when the Musketeers take on Northern Kentucky in Highland Heights, Ky., at 7 p.m.
By Alex Budzynski
Staff Writer

After a six-year hiatus, the Jonas Brothers got back together and released their new single, “Sucker,” last Friday.

This boy band is comprised of siblings Nick Jonas (26), Joe Jonas (25), and Kevin Jonas (31). They announced the news of their much-awaited comeback last week on Instagram. In addition, the brothers appeared on the Late Late Show with James Corden this week.

The group acquired their fame back in the early 2000s through a series of Disney Channel appearances in Hannah Montana, Camp Rock and their own show Jonas. In 2005, the brothers signed a record deal with, Republic Records and released four full-length albums before officially Records and released four full-length albums before officially

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By Joseph Cotton
Staff Writer

One of the things I have always admired about Xavier is how the culture of the school allows students to thrive in all aspects of their life, not only academically but also culturally and artistically. This holistic attitude is exemplified by everything from musical theater to the international photos displayed on the second floor in Gallagher and my personal favorite: live musical performances by fellow Xavier students. I had the opportunity to attend two of these performances this week, and they were nothing less than spectacular.

On Sunday, the 17-piece Xavier University Jazz Orchestra directed by Eric Lechitter played a seven-song program that included classic jazz standards ranging from “Tenor Madness” to “Autumn Leaves.” The performance was held at Caffe Vivace located at 3219 Monmouth Road in Cincinnati.

“The theme of the night was ‘in the moment’ and the performance felt loose and casual. “Today’s performance was a little bit different because the focus was on allowing the individual members to express themselves through improvised solos,” Lechitter said. “There are a few new members this semester, and this was their first time performing an improvised solo out in public, let alone Cincin-

...
On Friday evening, Xavier art majors held a spring senior thesis art exhibit entitled "The Art of Connectedness," showcased their brilliantly-hued and profoundly inspirational artwork. Four students were featured in the show — Tori Woodruff, Anne Locker, Hannah Bailey and Hannah Deters — and each collection illuminated a part of the human consciousness and what it experiences.

Locker's "The Season" was an engaging example of the ways in which art can illustrate the interconnectedness of the world and the Catholic Church and how creativity can invigorate the dynamical relationship between the Church and the rapidly shifting world. I found her work fascinating and intricately personal, the power of creativity to transform the contemporary atmosphere of the Church articulating the need for art to enrich our modern conversations and catalyze the Church's adaptation to our modern world.

Deters' work, "Common Ground," embodied themes of interpersonal relations within the context of small town traditions. She used marketing materials to exemplify a kind of harmony and togetherness and create a wellspring of belongingness that emanated from her art. I felt warmth at the limitless possibility palatable in her work, one that spoke to me of resilience and empathy.

Amid the tumultuous social and political climate we inhabit, it was delightful and refreshing to see a collection that exuded both simplicity and complexity and that recrystallized the perpetual motion of our lives and the solace we can find in the kindness of others.

Her art spoke of the arresting beauty found in seemingly unassuming conversations, which often reveal rich and kaleidoscopic human connections.

Bailey's "The Potentials" brought the complexity of the personality to life. She framed the psychological concept of the "Forer Effect," which describes the phenomena in which people equate vague personality descriptions with themselves, through the lens of vibrant crimson, blue and yellow stained-glass panels.

Her work depicted the pluri-ality of the consciousness as opposed to the uniformity of the descriptions onto which her audience's minds clung. It was thrilling for me to witness the transfiguration of my own mind through her artwork; the precepts I had formerly held about myself and about the descriptions I thought had characterized me dissipated because of my encounter with her thoroughly engaging exhibit.

Woodruff's exhibit "Trauma, Tangibility" was my favorite. It discussed the fragility and beauty of human emotions and experiences, particularly those who have suffered traumatic experiences.

Her intricate and gossamer portraits of nude women, many of whom were draped in smoky, mesmerizing chiaroscuro illuminated with a rose-mist or bore golden, luminous haloes, were as heart-achingly beautiful as they were fraught with anguish and suffering.

The eyes of the women gleamed with an almost audible plea for help or a sob of surrender that their slightest silence, only slightly weight-ed by their golden crowns, was as ethereal as the curls of their hair. The contrast between dark hues surrounding the women and the pallidity of their skin brought dis-traught countenances, illuminat-ed a profound shame associated with their trauma.

Yet the experience of their pain did not serve as a force of enclosure or isolation but one of connectedness, weaving in pow-erful memories with healing voices and bring-ing hope and light to what had been lost in shadow.

Woodruff remarked that the motifs of undulating lines and colors present in her artwork served as "an interconnection of people with their trauma, so they're meant to be weaved together..." connecting people. I believed they into these portraits as a further way to connect individ-uals with one another.

Art's capacity to move hearts and minds into a state of intimacy and awareness unifies one's consciousness not only with beauty but also with the plurality of voices present in the world. I am so grateful to have witnessed the artwork pro-duced by Xavier's senior art majors, as they all rendered the complexity of the human experience with great prowess, insight and beauty.

**Vagina Monologues are a comedic masterpiece**

XU Theatre's production illuminates the joys and sorrows of being female.

By Brittany Wells

Saturday's performance of Xavier Theatre's The Vagina Monologues left the audience moaning for more of its hilar-i-ty. As I entered the auditori-um, girls in pajamas playfully tossed hockey sacks, spun hula hoops and chugged a bottle of something unholy all while trying on fluorescent pink tutus to set the stage. Soon, the lights fell, and the girls began to jump around on a series of vagina-resembling blankets. There are only the most fabulous of vaginas would wear. The women rolled in unison into the first monologue. Ellie Deutsch dramatized a snarky old lady with purposeful intonation, accent and personality. Next, Tina Boffa empowered the female orgasm in a way that was steady, prepared and facially compelling. Then, the back-drop flashed into an electric red and the audience gasped straight into a deep belly laugh as Connie Knavensky roared, "My vagina is angry."

While all the women were on-book because of the two-week rehearsal time-crunch, Knavensky clearly got com-fortable with her words long before entering the stage. Her performance felt like less of a reading and more of just that, a performance. She grabbed the audience and immediately brought them into a whirlwind of relatable and giggle-inducing ranting about showing cotton tampons in places dry material never ought to go. The audience's sudden jerk into engagement evidenced the importance of knowing her lines well. Kelsey Schwarber waddled up and discussed naming frogs in her childhood, quickly es-calating to the vaginal naming rollercoaster that left me ready to pee my pants laughing. Her physical expressions were perfectly preserved yet accentuated by her comedic tim-ing. Danielle Jacobs had fun discussing an entertaining performance her character had been treated to one night. Next, Olivia Hardy entered and sat center stage, legs spread, grasping the audi-ence by the ovaries with every word. Her heart-wrenching tale dragged my body through the stories of abuse, sexuality and same-sex sexual reclamation. I was hooked, sold and in love by the end of her politically incorrect salvation.

Deutsch repeated the word "*" with at least 30 different cadences followed by anon-y-mous crowd member #42 shouting "****" for all the world to hear. Holly Taylor had the entire audience beg-ging for more with her dra-matic reenactment of the female orgasm, which certainly unlocked a "vital sound" from the audience. Her perfor-mance was so convincing that I had identified her correctly. After publicly vibrating her legs against the ground while yodeling just 30 seconds be-fore, Taylor sat, knees clasped, shoulders raised and voice lowered, and told the heart-wrenching story of childbirth, from the perspective of a newly enlightened woman, about the vagina's greatest journey. An instant standing ovation sprung from the crowd, including myself, as I leapt to my feet in reverence for wom-anhood and all its yonic pres-tige. Overall, the experience of watching Xavier's produc-tion of The Vagina Monologues was inspiring and profoundly meaningful to me.
Lemonades. Even beloved Thin Mints vary in taste from Seattle to Philadelphia, or even Los Angeles to Sacramento.

Girl Scouts went from home-made to commercial baked in the 1930s, and today the organization gets its cookies from two companies: ABC Bakers and Little Brownie Bakers. Here in Cincinnati, our cookies come from Little Brownie Bakers, which means we have chocolatier Thin Mints, Do-si-dos instead of Peanut Butter Sandwiches, and no Lemonades to be seen. But just across the river in Northern Kentucky, the selection is completely different.

Even though encountering different childhood treats can give us a serious case of my-life-is-a-lie, rest assured that you can still get your favorites here in the tri-state area with just a trip across the water.