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XUPD aims to ensure safety

Amid community concerns, BDA and Xavier Police work to get solutions

BY HEATHER GAST
Managing Editor

The Xavier University Police Department (XUPD) enters the new school year invigorated from a summer of training and intercollegiate conferences with the leadership of Chief Robert Warfel, who began his position this past spring.

But as Mauresa wrapped up its second day on August 17, while students settled into dorms and upperclassmen settled into apartments, a man at the Metro stop at the intersection Reading Road and Danu Avenue intersection lost his life to a stray bullet.

Those on campus, however, were none the wiser because walking to know as soon as something happens… because I’m walking to campus a lot.”

“I really don’t know the area around you as well,” Wurzer said. “I’m from out of state, so I really don’t know the area around me.”

After considering the location of the incident, Johnson added, “Say you were planning on going in that direction, (with an alert) you know to be aware so you can find a different route or stay on campus.”

However, Warfel said that the reason students did not receive an alert is because it would come “toward campus or very close to campus to have students and faculty, staff, avoid the area or steer clear until the police activity is complete.”

“We’re not providing an automated alert for a weather issue or problem unless we have warrants an alert, Warfel reasoned, is how the alert may be complete.”

“Whatever the issue may be, Warfel is aiming for the app to be available by late October. Whatever the issue may be, Warfel wants the community to know that XUPD is ready to approach them. “I want individuals to know they can contact Xavier officers, our dispatch, if they see a problem… We can’t respond or effectively curtail a potential issue or problem unless we have the information.”

While students may be concerned about the lack of XU Alert Me notifications for instances from inclement weather to robberies. For incidences in surrounding communities, Chief Robert Warfel is hard at work alongside BDA to improve safety on and around campus.

XUPD reviews reports from the Cincinnati or Norwood police departments and determines whether the persons would come “toward campus or very close to campus to have students and faculty, staff, avoid the area or steer clear until the police activity is complete.”

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Swinging into the new semester
The story behind the new bench swings that appeared on Xavier's campus

As of the beginning of the fall semester, six new bench swings like the one pictured above have been placed around campus for students' use.

By Joseph Cotton
Staff Writer

During your first day back at Xavier, you may have noticed the new bench swings that have been placed in several outdoor spaces around campus. The plans for the swings have been in the works since the fall semester of 2018, but were finally carried out at the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

The swings started as a project of the former Student Government Association (SGA) senator and current junior Katy Schuller during her term. The project was also possible because of her work with ‘19 graduate Jacob Janzen, the former chair of the Residential Affairs Committee.

“I believe that (the bench swings) help to make the campus more open and inclusive,” Schuller said. “I envisioned it as another spot to enjoy our beautiful campus. I hope that people use them to sit and talk with their friends or as a spot outside the dorm room for a peaceful moment.”

After bringing the project to Jansen, Schuller worked with the Vice President for Facilities at the Physical Plant Bob Sheeran for a stretch of three months to organize the details.

The project was approved by Michael Graham, president, in November 2018, and the swings were ordered on March 7 of this year. They were then placed and put around campus at the start of this semester.

There are currently six bench swings placed throughout campus. With each swing costing a little less than $250, the grand total of the project is estimated at $1,500. The initiative was funded by the Student Government Senate project fund.

“It's a nice way to find a shady spot and catch a breeze, and it's more fun than just sitting in a lawn chair,” sophomore business major Clarissa Dixon said. “It reminds me of a lot of the porch swings we have at home.”

Sophomore nursing major Hannah Thomas agrees. “I like to sit down with music and a friend and see all the people I know walk around campus,” Thomas said.

Thomas’s only complaint is that one of the swings is a bit off-center and doesn’t swing properly. She believes it would be a good idea to consider placing more permanent swings around campus.

While the bench swings do provide an extra place to sit on campus, Schuller echoes Thomas’s concerns about the longevity of the project.

Schuller highlighted that the bench swings are moveable. She even encourages students to move them around to find a shady spot to sit and study. However, one of the six bench swings has already broken as a result of their movability.

Schuller said she thinks it would be a good idea for a future SGA senator to get more funding for a more permanent solution.

“Students seem to be really enjoying them, so I would like to see them upgraded to something more long-term, like bolted metal,” she said.

As of the beginning of the semester, the location of the swings are as follows: two outside of Ruhmann Hall, two on the Fenwick upper yard and two on the main Xavier Yard.

Photo courtesy of Katy Schuller
Katy Schuller (above) is enjoying one of the new bench swings, which she helped fund and coordinate as part of an SGA committee project.

Xavier adopts a test-optional admissions policy
Prospective students are no longer required to submit their SAT/ACT scores

By Alex Bedzynski
Campus News Editor

Xavier officially became a test-optional university on Aug. 1, meaning prospective students can decide whether or not they want Xavier to consider their SAT or ACT scores as part of their application. With this decision, Xavier joins 11 other Jesuit schools and becomes one of more than 1,000 schools nationally recognized as test-optional.

Even though Xavier will now be recognized as a test-optional school, its admissions policy is fully considered, including high school grades, difficulty level of coursework, essay, recommendations from teachers and counselors, leadership, activity outside the classroom, etc.," she said. "The test score has always been just one piece.”

Parcell added that the policy "removes a barrier and allows good students to let their abilities shine in other ways.”

Students like sophomore music education major Emily VonHandorf think the change could inspire confidence in prospective students. "It would definitely make me feel better if I was an incoming student, especially if I was not a good test taker," she said.

"If I did not have a good test score, it is reassuring to know that would not be affected in my application," VonHandorf said.

While some schools still stress the importance of standardized tests, there is a growing movement to place less emphasis on standardized tests.

According to the College Board website, being test-optional allows for increased access to higher education and more diverse campuses.

Duncan Webb, a junior mathematics major, brought up the point that taking a standardized test is not free.

"This policy is beneficial to students who cannot afford to pay for the ACT or SAT more than once," Webb said.

Although this information was not widely published until Tuesday, the policy has been in effect since Aug. 1, when applications opened for the fall of 2020.

Parcell admitted that even though the test-optional conversation has been growing nationally for many years, it has only come to Xavier very recently.

With this decision, Xavier also becomes one of the first schools in the Cincinnati area to be test-optional.

However, Parcell pointed out that there are exceptions to the test-optional policy. Prospective nursing majors and students who will still need to submit their test scores.

Any potential applicants should consult with the Office of Admission’s website for more information.

Photo courtesy of Needpix.com
With Xavier becoming a test-optional school, prospective students can decide whether or not to include SAT or ACT scores in their application.

Photo courtesy of Needpix.com
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Juul Labs face class action lawsuit

20-year-old woman files in federal court after earlier lawsuit was dropped

BY JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

Juul Labs, creator of the popular Juul device, is facing another lawsuit over their flavored cartridges called “pods.” The lawsuit adds to the mounting legal problems Juul Labs has been facing recently.

A 20-year-old Illinois woman filed a lawsuit against Juul Labs and parent company Philip Morris USA in federal court last Wednesday after an earlier one that was filed in the same court was dropped by a 19-year-old Illinois man. The lawsuit is seeking class-action status.

The lawsuit alleges that the companies violated the federal Prevention of Tobacco Use by Minors and Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products Act as well as the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act by allegedly using deceptive marketing aimed at teens.

The main complaint is that Juul Labs intentionally marketed to underage consumers through social media advertisements and influencers while downplaying or hiding the health effects associated with their products.

Aju's top selling product begins their e-cigarette age at the age of 16 and report experiencing similar side effects including asthma and other severe breathing problems, mood swings and fits of rage.

"When I went to high school, I remember a lot of people (smoking) it in the bathrooms," sophomore Mike Marchese said. "I think it's more of a cultural thing rather than an effort by Juul to target minors."

When asked about the plaintiff who started at the age of 16, Marchese said, "People should generally be aware of the risk in (e-cigarettes)."

"It was really popular in my high school," first-year psychology major Eric Maahs said. "It's not that everyone had one but almost everyone at least tried one from their friends which let them get one of their own."

Maahs went on to state that he believes Juul Labs plays a big part in underage vaping culture, noting that people use the words "Juuling" and "vaping" interchangeably.

Similar complaints have been filed in various courts in Alabama, California, Florida, New Jersey and New York.

The second most recent filing was in late July by a Florida law firm includes a motion to certify the case as a class action on behalf of minors and sale and distribution of tobacco products by companies violated the federal status.

19-year-old Illinois man. The same court was dropped by an earlier one that was filed in the court last Wednesday after an earlier lawsuit was dropped.

Juul Labs and parent company face class action lawsuit

United States.

All the lawsuits allege that Juul intentionally marketed their devices to teens.

On July 25, San Francisco city officials moved to ban the sale of Juul and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) within its city limits in an effort to enforce Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations on the industry.

Additionally, on Aug. 21, Juul let its membership to the Vapor Technology Association (VTA) expire citing a lawsuit filed by the VTA against the FDA as well as policy differences.

After leaving the VTA, Juul Labs said in a statement, "We support clean Tobacco 21 legislation and an outright ban on certain flavors."

Tobacco 21 is a national campaign to raise the minimum legal age of purchase for tobacco to 21 across the US.

Juul was one of the only ENDS manufacturers to comply with FDA regulations to discontinue "kid-friendly flavors" such as fruit and candy variants implemented in late 2018.

They would go on to implement their own, stricter regulations.

Juul Labs is in the process of becoming a FDA approved product before the FDA's May 2020 deadline.

Police notes and week in review

The World News page will be trying something new for this issue: week in review and police notes combined

NOTE OF THE WEEK
A great way to start the new school year

Ed up at the four way stop. Both non-students were arrested for various violations and their vehicles were towed from campus.

WIR: Aug. 21 — 1:30 a.m. — Xavier Police investigated a report of a student urinating on the outdoor volleyball courts. The student was referred to the code of conduct process for public indecency and possession of a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

WIR: Aug. 22 — A woman and her cat were cited 11 years ago. A shelter worker found the cat and used a microchip scanner to locate her owner.

WIR: Aug. 22 — Commuters spent an average of 34 hours in traffic delays in 2017, according to a report from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. The study also projected that the number of vehicles would rise to 65 hours by 2025.
The real magic of Craig Karges

Rethinking corporate governance: Too few suits

Earlier this month, the Business Roundtable, a lobbying organization representing the CEOs of some of the nation's largest corporations, issued an update to its “Statement of the Purpose of a Corporation.” The document, revised periodically, serves as a manifesto outlining how the largest companies conceive of the purpose of their corporations in society, our nation's largest corporations, and consumers worldwide in a period of unprecedented economic and social upheaval.

The August 12 update to the Roundtable's latest Statement of Purpose signaled a change in the way the American corporation is run. How corporations are run has always been anathema to the common good. The Roundtable's old guard that brought us here could no longer defend the way we thought and behaved.

The August update to the statement is particularly notable in that it broke with the Roundtable’s longstanding tradition that the role of corporations should play — insisting that corporations should seek to serve stakeholders generally, rather than shareholders particularly, with their practices.

Since 1997, the Roundtable’s Statement of Purpose has held that the primary objective of the corporation is to produce value for shareholders — with other desirable outcomes for associated stakeholders such as improved conditions for workers entirely set aside. In this way, the manifesto has long argued that American corporations — perhaps the country’s most powerful social force when measured in terms of determining the day-to-day lives of millions of Americans and billions more abroad, held no responsibilities save the single-minded pursuit of profit for a select few individuals.

This previously held position was something originated in the 1980s style of “greed is good” corporate governance that saw the rise of leveraged buyouts, union-busting and the unchecked pursuit of increased stock prices sweep through Wall Street. Following such a mentality, corporations and their CEOs have sought to serve the needs of shareholders first and only for the last three decades, the consequences of which have been various and malign: the stagnation of wages and benefits for workers, the acceleration of ecological disaster and a period of wealth inequality the likes of which we have not seen since the Gilded Age.

But last week’s announcement signaled a change in that attitude, at least in tone. The updated statement now lists the delivery of value to customers, investment in employees, ethical dealing with suppliers and support for local communities ahead of the long-held primary objective of producing shareholder value.

Signed by 181 CEOs of some of the nation’s largest corporations — including Jeff Bezos, Tim Cook of Apple — the new outlook would be an encouraging sign if it were anything more than a cynical PR ploy. It is difficult to see this update as little more than a calculated move to assuage the fears of workers and consumers worldwide in a period of unprecedented economic and social upheaval.

Take, for instance, the case of the Council of Institution- al Investors (CII), an industry group who represents many of the same corporations whose CEOs signed on to last week’s statement. One week after the Roundtable’s update, the CII issued a response that forcefully rebuked this new corporate mandate, stating in head-scratching terms that “accountability to everyone means accountability to no one.”

To bring about meaningful change and realistic commitments, beyond short-term shareholder interests, we cannot trust the old guard that brought us here in the first place. The prevailing mode of corporate governance sees a few of the company’s largest shareholders direct the livelihood of millions of workers while simultaneously taping the scales of the chance that Craig Karges has shown to make it clear that we cannot trust a select few individuals.

For me, “Magis” has always meant the leap of faith required to achieve something bigger than myself.

So, what I want you all to take away from this article is Craig Karges’ vision for a new era that is a testament to the power of our faith in ourselves. I believe that there is no better messenger for that than Craig Karges. As I sat in Cintas as a sophomore Philosophy, more even if it was only for a just a moment, I got to see a full stadium of first-year students forget about their insecurities and efforts to be cool and believe in something more than themselves.

So, to Mr. Karges, thank you for making us believe in the promise of Xavier and something bigger than ourselves. All for one and one for all.

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The Xavier News is committed to reporting the news as well as explain its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing view points and opinions, the News is hopeful to foster campus discussion among students, faculty and staff.

Advisory Board
All inquiries should be directed to the Business & Advertising Manager, Jessica Blocker, at 513-745-3561.

For Your Information
The Xavier News is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and in addition, through publishing opposing view points and opinions, the News is hopeful to foster campus discussion among students, faculty and staff.

*The Newswire has made the decision to stay from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in references to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.
I'm old(er than I used to be)

My entire life, I have been one of the youngest. Because my birthday is in July (meaning I didn’t turn 18 until the summer after high school graduation), wherever I was, all of my peers were older than me. Yes, I’m still one of the youngest, but now my friends and I have crossed the border of what used to be an effort to be the oldest and is now an effort to be the youngest.

Many things have changed. Unlike a teenager, my body now requires at least seven hours of sleep to be at minimum functionality. The number of roller coasters I can ride in a day has decreased significantly from double digits to barely a handful. I even find it satisfying to wash dishes and put them nearly back in their place. These aren’t necessarily bad things, but somehow I feel insulted by the passing of time.

Most people say that as you age, time seems to fly faster than ever before. There is speculation as to the reasons for this, but there is one in particular that strikes me: Time feels like it’s moving faster as you age because each increment of time becomes a smaller percentage of your life. When you are 1 year old, a day is 1/360th of your life. When you are 20 years old, a day is 1/7,300th, or .0013 percent, of your life. Therefore, at 1 year old, a day seems longer because it’s a larger percentage of your life.

Most people that say as you age, time seems to fly faster than ever before. Time may not ask us to permission to come and go, but we can take control of it by living in the moment.

People who have lived 7,300 of them. Of course, the concept continues throughout life, and the older you are, the quicker time seems to pass. A 20-year-old still always feels time is moving faster than a 1-year-old does, and a 50-year-old will always feel that time is moving faster than a 20-year-old does.

Here at Xavier, I have no idea where those first two years went. It feels as though they happened just days ago and also that they happened a lifetime ago. So how exactly did I get to be a junior? How has this much time passed while I did homework and hung out with friends? Why does time not ask to permission to come and go, but we can take control of it by living in the moment.

I’m fed up with the way people look at me and immediately see my queerness, but I don’t look at me and immediately see a gay person who doesn’t appear to be gay based on visual stereotypes comes with a lot of privileges. If you don’t know that you’re talking to someone who’s gay, it’s more difficult to be homophobic toward them. I’m not upset that people don’t look at me and immediately see my queerness, but I am fed up with the way people view me after I come out to them. I don’t owe anything to anyone to prove who I am, and I certainly don’t have to act in a certain way just because I like women. My femininity does not undermine my sexual orientation. Gay women come in far more varieties than SUVs and flannels.

I’m a feminine gay woman, and I tend to date other feminine women. Regardless of your gender or sexual orientation, I think we can all agree there are a lot of differences between a romantic relationship and a friendship. The way you spend your time together, the way you express your love, the way you look at each other and the way you fit into each other’s lives. People too often forget that two feminine women can fall in love. They search for lesbian relationships that fit into gender stereotypes — still two women, but one is clearly “the man.” But that’s not representative of the queer community and presents a close-minded view of lesbian relationships.

Often it’s the subtle ways in which people undervalue my relationships that may go unnoticed, but it never ceases to hurt. I’ve worked hard to be proud and not ashamed of my identity as a gay woman, and I’ve worked even harder to present myself as confident in my identity in public. But a voice remains in the back of my head reminding me that it is one thing for people to know you’re gay, another for them to see it. When my relationship doesn’t get the same level of respect that a heterosexual relationship would get, it feels like me, and my girlfriend, aren’t fully valued as legitimate people.

It goes beyond people trying to figure out “who’s the man” in my relationship that is literally defined by not having a man in it. It’s when you first mention your relationship, people don’t believe you. It’s saying that you two are so desperate to put me in a heterosexual box to make sense of the world. It’s admitting that they have no problem with lesbians, but seeing two women who are both in dresses getting married makes them uncomfortable.

Believe people who confide in you about their relationships and crushes. Know that in your short time on this shared earth, you have not seen an exhaustive representation of queer relationships and acknowledge that you may not know anything at all, so embrace a willingness to listen and learn.

During move in this semester, everything felt totally normal except for one thing: This is my third year. Now, more than halfway through my time at Xavier, I am starting to realize that I am closer to graduation than the first day of my first year, and closer to age 30 than age 1, closer to the working world than childhood. There are adults long graduated from college who are most likely rolling their eyes at me, but hear me out.

I’ve worked hard to be proud and not ashamed of my identity as a gay woman, and I’ve worked even harder to be confident in my identity in public.

As a 20-year-old, a day is 1/365th, or .27 percent, of your life. When you are 1 year old, a day is 1/7,300th, or .0013 percent, of your life. Therefore, at 1 year old, a day seems longer because it’s a larger percentage of your life. When you are 1 year old, a day is 1/360th of your life. When you are 20 years old, a day is 1/7,300th, or .0013 percent, of your life. When you are 20 years old, a day is 1/7,300th, or .0013 percent, of your life. Therefore, at 1 year old, a day seems longer because it’s a larger percentage of your life.

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Musketeers capture two wins to open season
Samantha Dewey’s career day powers women’s soccer over Murray State

BY JAKE GEIGER
Guest Writer

Xavier women’s soccer started their season off with a bang, picking up two wins this weekend with victories over Murray State and Bowling Green.

The pair of victories were highlighted by a four-goal game from redshirt senior Samantha Dewey — who was picked as the preseason Big East Offensive Player of the Year — against Murray State.

The Musketeers opened their season on the road against Murray State last Friday with a 4-3 double overtime win over the Racers.

The Musketeers tallied the first goal of the game in the 19th minute from Abby Jones. Dewey quickly answered with a goal of her own just minutes later to knot the score at one apiece.

The pair of goals were answered by back-to-back goals from Miyah Watford and Rebecca Kubin put Xavier down 3-1. Dewey set a new career-high eight points with four goals scored, which is one goal more than her previous personal best of three goals scored in one game.

The four-goal game was also the second-most total in a single game in Xavier women’s soccer program history.

Xavier returned home for its second game of the weekend at the XU Soccer Complex against the Bowling Green Falcons, and the Musketeers came away with a 2-1 win.

The Musketeers opened the game with a goal in the 47th minute from junior midfielder Gabrielle LoPresti.

The Falcons quickly answered back, however, as a goal a minute later from senior midfielder White restored the score at 2-1.

Xavier struck first in the 57th minute with a goal by senior midfielder Gabrielle LoPresti.

The Falcons quickly answered back, however, as a goal a minute from junior midfielder White restored the score at 2-1.

The Musketeers opened the game with a go...
In last week’s Newswire, I wrote about ‘The All-American Rejects’ 2008 album, “When the World Comes Down.” This week I’ll be turning things in a slightly different direction. When I came up with the concept for this series, this was the second album I had in mind.

In 2010, The Script released their sophomore album, “Science & Faith.” This album came less than a year after their song “Breakaway,” off of their debut album, peaked at number 12 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart.

The memories I have associated with this album are far less vivid than those of The All-American Rejects. These memories are more like snapshots of a movie. I remember purchasing this album based on name recognition, having remembered the band from their previous song. I had a sixth generation iPod Nano, the one with a screen that was only one-and-a-half inches wide. I used to play this album on that small iPod on the way to school with my earbuds in, sitting in the backseat as my mom or dad drove through my slightly-commercialized hometown.

One song on the album, “Nothing,” brings back the most memories. I remember playing it on the same iPod as I sat on my front porch and looked out on my neighborhood, waiting for some friends to arrive.

I was a little older when this album released, as I was just two months shy of my 13th birthday. Even still, this album reaches depths that I couldn’t quite understand at that age. This album touches on some heavier concepts like unemployment, alcoholism and the belief that love is a fleeting concept controlled by science. Now I’m old enough that these concepts are somewhere in my mind.

However, no one wants to see the album is just laundry list revisited, the influence of classical music, the profound topics addressed in their music and the blend of vocals and instruments give a timeless quality to their music and makes relistening to them a delight.

The Script’s 2010 album “Science & Faith” promises a trip down memory lane worth revisiting. The influence of classical music, the profound topics addressed in their music and the blend of vocals and instruments give a timeless quality to their music and makes relistening to them a delight.

There are also some songs like “Margaritas at the Mall” with horns that scream triumph in the face of the “cosmological disappointment,” to use Berman’s words from an interview, of a world where we are “trodding the sod of the visible with no new word from God.”

Other songs, like “I Loved Being My Mother’s Son,” are just filled with the simple sweetness of memory. The lines “She helped me walk, she watched me run / She got where I was coming from” are about as honest and common as can be found, but Berman fills them with a nostalgic power with his perfect delivery.

The album is odd, existential, straightforward, sad, comforting, western, indie, rocking, plain, complicated and just about any other adjective I can think of. I love this album for what it says, and even more for what it signifies. But most importantly, the album is just good.

Total score: ★★★★★

Purple Mountains reverberates with profundity

By Kevin Thomas
Editor-in-Chief

Since David Berman died in early August, I knew I wanted to write about him, to review his final album released the month before, “Purple Mountains.” I sat down and wrote the beginning of this article five times and each time, it just felt wrong.

I could say that the album is one of those haunting ones that sends a current of melancholy and some kind of ethereal comfort coursing through my everything. I could say that the lyricism of some songs like “All My Happiness is Gone” are like blunt knives cutting to the bone to have the pain swept away by Western swing. I could say a lot of things, and I’ll try to in this review, but the album does something more than words can really describe and as much as I hate to fall to the trope of inexpressibility, I feel as though I have to this time.

However, no one wants to read an album review that just tells you to listen to the album, so I suppose I’ll have to try to say something more to convince you that you need to hear it all in one sitting.

Purple Mountains, released under the same name, is Berman’s first release in the 10 years since he ended the 20-year tenure of the Silver Jews. Berman, who was called “the poet laureate of indie rock” by the Washington Post, became a recluse for those 10 years until he appeared out of nowhere with this album and a tour scheduled. Then he was gone again.

As painful as his death was and as painful as lyrics like “Go and contemplate the evidence and I guarantee you’ll find / The dead know what they’re doing when they leave this world behind.” are, the album doesn’t have the crushing winds of sadness that I expected when I first heard it. Instead, it’s sweet and kind and soft.

But the sadness is ever-present, especially in the song “Darkness and Cold,” which talks about the feelings of being left behind by a love. Berman sings, “The light of my life is going out tonight / In a pink champagne Corvette” and conveys this image with the lines, “I sleep three feet above the street / In a hand-aid pink Chevette,” creating a gorgeous feeling of pain.

There are also some songs like “Margaritas at the Mall” with horns that scream triumphant in the face of the “cosmological disappointment,” to use Berman’s words from an interview, of a world where we are “trodding the sod of the visible with no new word from God.”

Other songs, like “I Loved Being My Mother’s Son,” are just filled with the simple sweetness of memory. The lines “She helped me walk, she watched me run / She got where I was coming from” are about as honest and common as can be found, but Berman fills them with a nostalgic power with his perfect delivery.

The album is odd, existential, straightforward, sad, comforting, western, indie, rocking, plain, complicated and just about any other adjective I can think of. I love this album for what it says, and even more for what it signifies. But most importantly, the album is just good.

Total score: ★★★★★
Aries: Your love life is gonna hit a speed bump this week. Hard. Like, way too hard; you’re not supposed to be driving over them that fast. It can really hurt your love life’s suspension.

Taurus: You don’t truly live somewhere until you’ve fully explored the landscape. Before you call yourself a Xavier resident, make sure you survey the landscape of the Cantus parking lot.

Gemini: Why can’t it be Christmas every day?! Tomorrow, give birth to the Messiah in a stable.

Cancer: Pluto heard you talking behind his back this week, saying he’s not a planet and all. Just for that, he’s sending you some bad juju this week.

Leo: As you finish up furnishing and decorating your dorm, consider where you’d place your room in one of those house flipping shows: Is it ready to be flipped, or would the Property Brothers walk in and be like, “Now this is a fixer-upper.”

Virgo: Mercury has found your soulmate! They live in the remote village of Makalambedi, Botswana. Go get ‘em, tiger!

Libra: Things aren’t looking too hot for your hometown sports team this week. Maybe call your dad and tell him not to make some of those bets.

Scorpio: Are you living your best life? Let me rephrase — are you living the original version of your life or the Smash Mouth cover from the Shrek soundtrack?

Sagittarius: The moons of Venus were supposed to have your prediction for this week, but they were so caught up talking about the new episode of Love Island they forgot.

Capricorn: Odd circumstances will lead to an unfortunate situation in Fenswick involving a strange new type of dessert. It’ll be a curiously-caused caf coffee-chocolate-chip-cookie capricorn conundrum.

Aquarius: Watch out! Your character arc is finished — note, it is the prime time for the writers of Earth to kill you off.

Pisces: This week a great idea is going to strike you like a bolt of lightning! Make sure you have a pen and paper handy — and a deliritor.

**Dear Reader,**

I thank you for doing the hard work of being yourself. Things don’t just happen. Everything finds its purpose and small actions bring big results.

To those who fight for others.

To those who are truly themselves.

Equality is not an Accident.

To the woman who has had to fight all her life… Equality is not an Accident.

To those who are living their best life? Let me rephrase — are you living the original version of your life or the Smash Mouth cover from the Shrek soundtrack?

**By Olivia Campbell**

**Features**

**Musketeer’s First Class**

Cafeteria coffee in hand, Mark made his way toward his first college class. The mostly empty cafeteria and nearly deserted yard confirmed the fact that most Xavier students avoided 8 o’clock classes. Gallagher’s clock tower read 7:50 — plenty of time to get to Alter’s basement. What class was this again? Oh, right: math, yuck. As if he wasn’t already nervous enough about starting college, he had to start off with his least favorite subject.

He took another sip of coffee and: “On your left!” he nearly choked on it as he scrambled out of a Lime scooter’s path. ‘Good grief, she’s in a hurry; he thought. ‘Where would she be headed? Elet, maybe? That must be it. Well, no coffee on me so no harm done.’

Alter’s giant door swung open slowly and released the sound of students. He sighed and took another sip of coffee, relieved to do a done.’

He realized that all of his previous solutions were listed under a single letter. With a growing suspicion Mark listed the solutions he followed by the alphabet with numbers written beneath each letter. Better start with the algebra, Mark decided. Those problems weren’t hard and went by quickly. But what should he do with the alphabet? Looking between the work he had already done and the board, he realized that all of his previous solutions were listed under a single letter. With a growing suspicion Mark listed the solutions he had already, and copied the corresponding letters onto his paper. When finished, it read: “W-E-L-C-O-M-E-M-U-S-K-E-T-E-E-R” Maybe college wasn’t as scary as the movies made it seem…

By Joseph Cotton

**Guest Writer**

**Last Week’s Answer Key!**

1. Taurus need to be careful when they eat BREAKFAST tomorrow

2. The Tony Stark of the editors is KEVIN

3. The copy editors would be citizens of WAKANDA

4. SCORPIO will end up in a classic sitcom situation

5. The only original Avenger not mentioned in the article besides Thor was HULK

6. Libra seek EXISTENTIAL knowledge

7. The moons of Venus were supposed to have your prediction for this week, but they were so caught up talking about the new episode of Love Island they forgot.

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