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XAVIER NEWSWIRE

Senate ‘pads’ itself on the back
SGA passed a plan to fund free menstrual hygiene products around campus

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Xavier University will be providing free menstrual products across campus after Student Government Association (SGA) passed the plan on Monday.

Senator Kate Roach proposed a plan during an SGA meeting that would see Xavier partner with Columbus-based business Aunt Flow to provide tampons and pads for women on campus.

“I was inspired to take on this project by previous work in the Senate and discussions about how this is a much needed change on campus,” Roach said. “We have had lots of discussions about what this project would look like, and I really decided I just wanted this to get done. I was tired of waiting for it to happen, waiting for a free solution.”

SGA has chosen to target just two locations initially for the project: Gallagher Student Center (GSC) and the Health United Building (HUB). The project calls for 10 dispensers to be purchased now, with eight different locations for dispensers on campus.

Dispensers will be located in each of the women’s bathrooms on the four floors in GSC, as well as the all-gender bathroom on the third floor. In addition, there will be dispensers in the women’s locker room in the HUB, as well as in both all-gender bathrooms in the building. The extra two dispensers will serve as spares.

The proposed plan would cost $4,000, and would help pilot the program for three years. After a friendly amendment to the proposal, the money will come half from the Senate’s project budget, and the other half will come from the Executive Board’s funds.

“This plan is in a three-year trial period, funded by SGA,” SGA President Thomas Wehby said. “The goal is to eventually make it so that this project is in the university’s budget, independent of SGA. While right now Gallagher and the HUB are the main focuses, as the program expands, we are hoping to get wider coverage across campus.”

Roach also hopes for an expansion to the program.

“Eventually I hope every building on this campus — new or old — will have access to free menstrual care products,” Roach said. “I want to see dispensers in the residence halls, in the academic buildings, everywhere on campus.”

A large portion of the budget allotted will go toward establishing a reserve stock of the products. SGA will be initially purchasing 3,000 of both tampons and pads.

“We want to show that there is an investment in this program,” Roach said. “We aren’t just buying 500 of the products and seeing how it goes, we have a reserve stock pile instead.”

The dispensers will be checked and refilled by student workers in GSC and the HUB in order to prevent extra stresses for Xavier maintenance.

Students around campus have voiced both support and excitement for the project.

“I support the initiative. Honestly, feminine care products can get pretty expensive, it depends on your financial situation, especially since we’re college students here; first-year biomedical sciences major Amelia Mitchell said.

Senior Bison Walker agreed with Mitchell, adding that he appreciated the inclusivity of it:

“I think it is very proactive and intuitive of SGA to think about putting these hygiene projects in bathrooms across campus... Walker said. “I think this initiative is very inclusive.”

This is not the first time that this initiative has been approached in the SGA Senate.

“It’s been an interest of the Senate for several years, Leah Basam Klenowski, Senior Director for Student Affairs and Student Involvement, said. “Hence, truly, honestly, I’m really excited for this project to get started, and have it’s starting points here in Gallagher as well as the HUB.”

The idea of providing free menstrual products on campus has come up in SGA during previous years.

In 2017, a motion in the senate under the leadership of former Senator Samuel Buettner failed after sustainability issues caused many senators to vote against the project.

This time, however, the proposal passed unanimously, with 19 votes for and zero votes against.

“This was one of the platforms we ran on, and it was one of the first things we discussed as a priority on campus as executives,” Wehby said. “It was very beautiful to see this movement happen organically in the Senate and with our assistance it could come into reality.”

“This Senate is very critical and they really brainstorm how their projects can be successful,” SGA Vice President Mahnoor Zafra said. “While some other groups may not have thought about certain issues, they have already thought of them. So it is very beneficial to have this group working on these important projects.”

Some students hope that this initiative will lead to other changes around campus.

“I hope this project helps facilitate a conversation about women’s hygiene, since it’s such a taboo thing to talk about right now,” sophomore biology major Devon Baird said.

Personally, I think if SGA is putting money towards free menstrual care products for women, they should also invest in putting free condoms in the men’s bathrooms,” first-year business undecided major Jacob Tarter said.

After the motion passed on Monday, students can expect the menstrual products to be installed around campus in

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Sophomore Hannah Russell raced past a school record last weekend.

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Legendary punk rock band Green Day lets loose a new album that is a complete Dookie.

Cover photo by Heather Gast

First-years Kathleen O’Connor (left) and Mercy Torres (right) pose with menstrual hygiene products. Following a unanimous decision in the SGA Senate meeting on Monday, Xavier will provide tampons and pads for free.
Task force prepares for the future
Student Success Integration Task Force looks to improve student retention

By JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

The College of Arts and Sciences kicked off their public efforts to boost student retention by hosting an open house session last Wednesday to discuss the findings of the Student Success Integration Task Force.

The task force is spearheaded by Enrollment Manager Kelly Polzer and Student Affairs Officer David Johnson and College of Arts and Science Dean David Mengel.

The event on Feb. 5 invited both students and faculty to provide anonymous feedback on the task force’s proposed ideas. All of the recommendations are designed to increase student success.

“We know that little is as important as the first year and even the first semester,” Johnson said. “It’s during that time, students have the same, which is to improve the first-year retention rate to 90%.

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The current Xavier retention rate sits at 84%, which is still 16% higher than the national average of 68%. The goal of the task force is to implement initiatives that will target student retention.

Out of a desire to create thriving students, the task force has identified four key factors and six areas of strategic focus that they will target in their initiatives.

The factors include student characteristics, social integration, academic integration and institutional factors. The strategic focuses include finance, community, first-year experience, support services, academic planning and parents.

“I expect more opportunities to help contribute to the work of the two to three initiatives that will be carried over into next year.”

The task force will soon begin working with key student organizations involved in the first-year experience, such as the Resident Student Association, Student Government Association and the Student Leadership Advisory Board.

In order to effectively implement these initiatives, the task force is attempting to create a timeline of first-year student journeys and engage with students before they arrive at Xavier.

“How we manage financial aid and engage families are two examples,” Johnson said. “By starting our work with students before they’re even on campus, we can improve the chances they have a really successful and exciting time on campus.”

Out of the nine ideas they currently are circulating, the task force plans to bring two to four of these initiatives to prioritize by April.

The university will then implement these initiatives in May so they can be in effect for the class of 2024.

SWAG promotes well-being

By MO JUENGER
Staff Writer

We have all heard the spiel. The one where your parents remind you, on repeat, to get eight hours of sleep every night while also somehow finding the time to study for the massive test you have to take the next day, offering advice ranging from how to wake up a little earlier to easy breakfast ideas.

Through a mix of tabling events and office hours, SWAG Peer Educators help students stay in touch with their well-being, and do not realize when they are struggling.

“We are present on campus to help remind students about how much goes into an individual’s overall health,” Brownlee said.

Collectively, the 10 SWAG Peer Educators aim to help students maintain a balance between the eight Dimensions of Well-being: Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual, Purpose, Social, Emotional, Financial and Community.

These student workers talk about the event. They remind students to help keep their focus on their goals and to always have water nearby.

“SWAG Peer Educators are also responsible for holding two office hours per week in the Wellness Office in the HUB. These office hours give students the opportunity to talk through their problems or receive referrals to other campus services. We work closely with students to help them get traction when they are struggling.”

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Prioritizing Black mental health

First Black Mental Health Awareness Week provides space to heal and bond

BY HEATHER GAST AND WILL PEMBROKE
Managing Editor and Staff Writer

This week in February marks Black Student Association’s (BSA) first Black Mental Health Awareness Week.

Events began Sunday with a potluck dinner and collaborative worship service followed by daily sessions to learn ways to cope with stressors or recognize the emotional weight to cope with stressors or recognize the emotional weight

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Focus on mental health

Events included psychology major Sianne Alexis has attended all events thus far and felt that they were great ways to strengthen ties with other students and check in with yourself.

Alexis noted that the awareness week aimed toward Black students is significant. As a psychology major discussing mental health is in her comfort zone, but there is often shame associated with discussing your personal struggles within the Black community.

“I think that mental health in the Black community is something that really doesn’t (connect) with us,” Alexis is said. “In certain spaces if you’re Black and you bring up a mental health issue it’s like ‘You’re just being a baby… get through it, our ancestors had worse.’”

Moreover, Alexis shared that at an African Students Association meeting, she learned addressing mental health is taboo in many African-American student’s home countries.

“African students have said it’s just something that’s not talked about at home and if it is it’s just ‘you’re crazy… it’s not thought of as a real health concern,’” Alexis said.

On a larger level, February is Black History Month. Organizations around campus seeking to support African American and Black students planned events to both educate non-Black communities and honor the history of Black people at Xavier and in the US.

According to Hawa Gai, President of Ladies with an Emphasis on Achievement and Distinction, Black History Month is a time to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of prominent black figures.

“Black History Month is a time where we educate the people outside of the Black community, in which we share the legendary stories of our people and most importantly inform the people outside of the Black community on how we will continue to combat the underrepresentation and misinterpretations of Afri-

Canadians,” Gai said.

Beyond the achievements and contributions of Black people, faith and race relations will be a large focus of the activities taking place over the next month.

“There is a very big disparity between all ethnic groups and the White culture that we have here at Xavier. It’s easy to see if you just take the time to look at it,” first-year Abdul Ade said.

“I have not had any racially based experiences,” first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public student Robert Young said. “However, I do think that this is an issue.”

He goes on to state that admitting more minority students at Xavier would be a way of solving these ingrained issues.

Similarly, Gai reflected on her experience as a Black student at Xavier.

“When being at a PWI (primarily white institution), there are plenty of challenges that people face at Xavier. Particularly, African-Americans face challenges such as racism, microaggressions, stereotypes, etc. in which we always will continue to fight for and hope for these issues to be settled in the future,” she said.

A full calendar of events for Black Mental Health Awareness Week and Black History Month are available through the CDI or on Instagram.

Workshop warms up to climate change activism

BY ALEX BUDZYNSKI AND WILL RIPPEY
Campus News Editor and Staff Writer

Xavier professors Anas Malik of the political science department and Kathleen Smythe, chair of the history department, have launched an initiative to discuss climate change and advocate for legislation to combat this growing concern.

The resulting Climate Change Action Workshop is a biweekly program that is open to Xavier students, faculty and staff.

Each meeting will engage with a different part of climate change through discussion and action. The activism aspect of the workshop will vary from letter writing to sending emails and making phone calls to writing editorials.

Smythe explained that the work of former Xavier professor Elizabeth Groppe is where the initiative has its origins.

“Two years ago, she put together a group of faculty to go and talk to Senator Rob Portman and encouraged a group from Xavier to go this year as well,” Smythe said.

Jixed by the Director of Sustainability at the University of Dayton, Malik, Smythe and John Fairfield from the history department attended a meeting at Portman’s office at the start of this semester.

The result of that meeting was the new Climate Change Action Workshop.

At their first meeting on Wednesday Jan. 29, the workshop focused on what Portugal has done to promote sustainability and combat climate change, emphasizing the senator’s previous voting record.

“We try to frame things in terms of not only upcoming voters, but also jobs,” Malik said. “There are these psychological dimensions of eco-grief and eco-anxiety that we wanted to try to address as tangible things that people are experiencing.”

The group will meet every other Wednesday in Alter 310 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss differing dimensions of climate change in conjunction with an activism activity.

February 10

Student Government Association Meeting Recap

COURTESY OF CLARISSA DIXON

• As part of the Academic Affairs Committee, Senator Ryan Macheksky is preparing an initiative to make Banner Self-Service and Canvas more user-friendly. Senator Andrew Gerwig expressed interest in working to include students pronouns on Canvas.

• CPP met with the VP of Facilities to discuss the implementation of menstrual products, putting more water fountains and white boards in Fenwick and placing permanent hammock posts on the yard.

• University Archives & Special Collections Librarian Anne Ryckbost came to discuss how the Site can help the university prepare for its reaccreditation, which will happen next April.

• As a part of the Campus On and Off Living Committee, Senator Brandon Rinear discussed the creation of a housing guide that could explain the various off campus living options to students.

• As part of the Academic Affairs Committee, Senator Ryan Macheksky is preparing an initiative to make Banner Self-Service and Canvas more user-friendly. Senator Andrew Gerwig expressed interest in working to include students pronouns on Canvas.
Finland announces new leave plan

**By Molly Hulligan**

Finland announced a new parental leave plan giving fathers the same amount of time off as mothers on Feb. 5. The new policy is set to be in effect as early as 2021.

Finland’s current policy provides a paid 128-day leave for mothers and a paid 67-day leave for fathers with an allowance adjusted to the parent’s annual income.

Under the new system, fathers will be able to take up to 69 days of leave (about seven months) with an additional month’s pay given to pregnant mothers. Parents will be able to transfer up to 60 days from their leave to the other parent. Single parents will be provided with 328 days, therefore eligible for the same aid as a two-parent household.

Finland’s new policy passed only a few months after the election of their new Prime Minister, Sanna Marin. Only 34 years old when elected, is the world’s youngest prime minister. She heads the five governing coalition parties of Finland, all of which have female leaders and four of whom are under the age of 35.

According to The New York Times, Marin introduced the reform as a means of making gender equality and inclusivity for same-sex couples while removing gender-specific benefits from Finnish legislation.

“I feel that the American Dream can be achieved best in the Nordic countries, where every child no matter their background or the background of their families can become anything,” Marin said in an interview with The Washington Post.

Xavier’s biology department chair, Jennifer Robbins, shared her thoughts in support of Finland’s extended parental leave policy.

“The United States is one of only two countries in the world that has no guaranteed maternity leave. Despite all our talk about family values, we do a remarkably poor job at supporting families,” Robbins said.

Robins explained that explained that when parents get back to work too quickly, some important experiences such as breastfeeding and bonding moments become almost impossible.

Ultimately, the question is what kind of society we want to live in. A healthy society needs children, and it needs to ensure they are taken care of. We disincentivize having kids in so many ways—it’s just not good big-picture thinking,” Robbins said.

“Sure, some employers offer generous leave benefits, but if it’s just up to them, then large, for-profit employers have an advantage over small businesses and non-profits, who may not be able to afford to offer paid leave to someone who isn’t there.”

The United States’ only federal parental leave law, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), provides 12 weeks of unpaid leave to mothers and fathers after childbirth or adoption.

Xavier’s family leave policy is that “Employees who qualify for an FMLA leave of absence in accordance with the requirements of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 will be granted up to 8 weeks full pay leave in a 12-month rolling calendar year,” according to a 2017 policy update from the Office of Human Resources.

Under Finland’s new parental leave laws, parents will be provided nearly double the time U.S. parents receive, all while still being paid.

“I think extending parental leave in the United States is a good idea, I just don’t know how it’d be possible or where that money would come from,” first-year nursing major Olivia Ferraro said.

“Although I definitely think it would have a positive impact on the well-being of children and family life as a whole, it really just depends on who the parents are,” Ferraro stated.

“Some people would take that time to actually raise their children or be with their child, but some people would just take it to be a free ride or abuse the gift they’re given.”

President Donald Trump has left a portion funds in his proposed budget to be set aside for U.S. parental leave.

**Week in Review**

**Bag of drugs and Twiggy the Squirrel**

- Two Florida men were taken into custody when a bag of drugs labeled “Bag of Drugs” was discovered in their car after a speeding stop. “Note to self — do not traffic your illegal narcotics in bags labeled ‘Bag Full of Drugs’.”
- A Cincinnati entrepreneur who make plastic tents to be worn over the torso during rainy outdoor events wore one of his contraptions on a plane to avoid contravening the coronavirus.
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House to discontinue voucher program

\textbf{EdChoice will be discontinued and replaced with new income-based system}

\textbf{BY WILL PEMBROKE}
\textbf{Staff Writer}

Major steps toward changing the performance-based voucher system for schools in Ohio were taken last week. In an 88-7 vote, the Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill, now known as S.B. 89, that aims to replace the EdChoice program with a new one called Buckeye Opportunity.

However, this new bill is in contention with a Senate bill passing this week, which would have continued the EdChoice program.

EdChoice currently awards nearly $5,000 annually to K-8 vouchers and $6,000 for high school vouchers, depending on how a school ranks within the Ohio school report card system.

Buckeye Opportunity Scholarships, however, are fashioned as an income-based system which seeks to put the students with financial need at the front of the line for receiving needed funding.

Students in the Ohio public school system who currently receive performance-based vouchers from the EdChoice program will still be able to receive them along with a few other minor exceptions. Aside from that, the program will be discontinued for the rest of Ohio's residents.

The Ohio Senate, however, has a different plan. A bipartisan bill was passed two weeks ago keeping the EdChoice program, but instead cutting the number of schools which are able to apply for it from 1,227 to 455.

"This bill increases the income-based voucher limit to 300% of the federal poverty level, providing an extra $30 million for those who could benefit the most," said Grant Kindler, a Republican from Solon, Robinson, a Democrat from Cincinnati, and other advocates filed a lawsuit as a result to the Ohio Supreme Court. The aim of the suit is to allow for the 1,227 building applicants to begin applying in spite of the 60-day deadline extension.

EdChoice will be discontinued and replaced with new income-based system

\textbf{Photo courtesy of Statehouse News Bureau}

\textbf{Photo courtesy of The Wiz 101.1}

\textbf{BY MO JUENGER}
\textbf{Staff Writer}

Popular underclassmen dive bar Top Cats has recently updated their age policy from 18+ to 21+. The bar will remain open to 18+ college students on Thursdays only with a valid college ID.

The change took place in January, but the music venue and bar gave little notice to students beforehand.

Many underclassmen were shocked to learn that they would no longer be admitted on the weekends.

"It sucks, I guess, because my friends without fakes can't go anymore," first-year psychology major Will Pisani said.

Students also noted that the age change to 21, as well as the current apparent absence of 18+ bars in the Cincinnati area, might incentivize more underclassmen to purchase fake IDs.

"It's limited my time that I can spend away from campus," first-year biomedical sciences major Julian Wiggins said. "Now that the age limit has been increased, I have no reason to go to University of Cincinnati anymore."

"I think it will have an effect on the amount of fake IDs purchased by students, but I also think it will have an effect on students' safety, leading to more underage drinking, getting arrested, seeking other ways to get their hands on alcohol," junior health service administration major Grace Riley said. "They're just gonna resort to other ways to have fun."

Some students noted that while the change hasn't affected them directly, the bar now appears to house a more mature crowd.

"I'm not even sure if anyone even still goes to Top Cats anymore. This move will deter people even more from going there because the only appeal of Top Cats was that it had a good crowd."

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Some underclassmen felt the change didn't affect them and that the age increase was overall beneficial to students.

"I don't go there that much but I'm assuming it's because they got raided along with Lateral. It's probably a good thing, but I'm sure they're not gonna be that strict. They never were," first-year biomedical sciences major Alex Grant said.

Some upperclassmen have expressed remorse that their younger classmates will no longer be able to frequent the bar of their underclassmen years.

"I'm really disappointed that Top Cats is 21 and up now; I have so many great memories there," senior Philosophy, Politics and Public major Nico Patrico said.

Top Cats will remain open to students 18 years or older on Thursday nights from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. On Friday and weekend nights, Top Cats will only be available for those who are 21 and older.

\textbf{Last 18+ bar Top Cats changes age policy to 21+}

\textbf{The Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill that will discontinue the EdChoice student voucher program. Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder believes the new income-based program called will "change the game."}

A compromise, pushing back the start of EdChoice applications from Feb. 1 to April 1. A group of parents, private education institutions and other advocates filed a lawsuit as a result to the Ohio Supreme Court. The aim of the suit is to allow for the 1,227 building applicants to begin applying in spite of the 60-day deadline extension.

The Buckeye scholarships are guaranteed to students whose families make under 300% of the federal poverty level, which shakes out to be around $65,000 a year for a family of four.

"If we can (S.R. 89) this through I think this changes the game. It gives us the opportunity to meet with stakeholders in education and have honest discussions about kids and their education and not who is going to get this almighty dollar," Ohio Speaker of the House Larry Householder, a Republican from Glenford said.

This issue of school funding has proven itself to be a bipartisan one, with both Democrats and Republicans agreeing that a change is needed. The consensus has built up that the grading system used in Ohio to determine performance-based vouchers does not reflect the level of education a student is receiving.

"S.B. is one step in the process," Representative Phil Robinson, a Democrat from Solon, said. "We still have a broken report card system, we still need to fix our testing system and we still need to address school funding."

The Senate Republicans intend to vote down the motion presented by the House. The measure has not been transferred to the Senate because of a technicality.

\textbf{The Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill that will discontinue the EdChoice student voucher program. Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder believes the new income-based program called will "change the game."}
Dear SAC, please do better

On Jan. 31, the Student Activities Council (SAC) held a drag show as part of a Maskies After Dark (MAD) event. This move was a slap in the face to the LGBTQ+ community on campus. Here’s why:

As I have gone through my time at Xavier University, I have met people who are more interesting and diverse than I could have ever imagined. I have had several culturally enriching experiences and chefs among them was the second annual Drag Show event that the Xavier LGBT+ Alliance put on last fall. I learned a lot about drag culture and its role in lighting up discrimination the community has faced throughout history. It really was like stepping into a new world that I never even knew existed.

However, after the show, I learned about some of the barriers that Alliance executives had to deal with when they were planning the drag show. 2017 was actually the first time that Alliance was allowed to put on a drag show event despite asking the administration to do so for years. Also, the event for 2010 was actually moved from the basement of Gallagher to the Arrupe Overlook so that people could “opt-out” if they wanted to.

When SAC recently put on their show, they put on a grotesque McDonald’s version. SAC failed to compensate the performer of the show for the time at fair market value as drag queens are paid mostly through tips. At Alliance’s show, the executives worked very hard to educate anybody who came to the event on how to properly tip. SAC failed to do so.

The fr m o Alliance show were actually donated to the Lighthouse Youth Services, but the performers understood that they were being paid at a fund raiser and not a random college event.

The concept of having a drag show doesn’t even make sense given the context of the event’s roaring ‘20s theme. If they did their homework, they would have realized that drag culture started to take shape in the 1950s. I suspect that they were eventually told this but couldn’t be bothered to change course once it was too late. Calling it a drag show in the first place is inaccurate. There were only two performers at the event, which most naturally happens in the real world of drag.

Instead of using their privilege to uplift the LGBT+ groups and people on campus, SAC decided to appropriate queer culture for their own gain. By stealing a lifeless version of a historically significant form of artistic expression, they essentially used the LGBT+ community as a prop in their quest to seem relevant to other drag events.

Instead of using their privilege to uplift the LGBT+ groups and people on campus, SAC decided to appropriate queer culture for their own gain. By stealing a lifeless version of a historically significant form of artistic expression, they essentially used the LGBT+ community as a prop in their quest to seem relevant to other drag events.

If I had quit studying philosophy then, even at the recommendation of a licensed professional, I never would have come to have this point in my life. I never would have learned the things I have, and I certainly wouldn’t be thinking the things that I am. They may cause me to distress at times, but they also bring comfort.

To paraphrase some Italian Futurist I can’t remember the name of, it’s better to change your ideas like your clothes. You don’t want to wind up smelling too funky.

Kevin Thomas is the Editor-in-Chief for the Newswire. He is a senior philosophy and English double major from St. Louis.

A pinch of Socrates and a dash of Nietzsche

A few years ago, while meeting with a psychiatrist to talk about my depression and anxiety, I was told to quit studying philosophy if I wanted to be happy.

According to him, studying philosophy was leading me to overthink even more than I’m naturally inclined to, and I was using it as an escape from my real life. Which, to be fair, was a pretty apt interpretation of how I was living at that time.

When I first started seriously studying philosophy (beyond reading it to look cool or seem more sophisticated which, if you believe, I did in high school), I thought that I would find some real answers.

I figured that, in the grand depth of knowledge extending from Heracleitus to Habermas, someone had found a dictum detailing the way to happiness. I genuinely thought that there would be something true and meaningful that I could use to guide my life. A universal principle that made complete sense.

It’s about making a collage of meaningful statements from different thinkers and cobbling them together into my own understanding that I could get at a truth for myself.

It’s not some fantastic discovery. It’s about making a collage of meaningful statements from different thinkers and cobbling them together into my own understanding that I could get at a truth for myself. As philosopher Rosalind Hursthouse states, it’s a r e a l one all unique individuals. This means that we all have our own unique truths to take into our lives.

The real meaning comes from our ability to choose. I was definitely overthinking things back then, taking myself and everything else too seriously and not playing around with the particles of philosophy I’d picked up with every essay, book and treatise I’d read.

I’m not writing this because I think it’s a brand new idea. It’s not some fantastic discovery. I’ve stumbled upon different ideas in my readings over time and with tones. It’s just a little thing I learned about myself throughout my time studying philosophy, thinkers who tried to get at some deep truth about the fanciest of things, like art, being and ethics.

I was native when I started ed learning. Right now, I don’t think that I’m anywhere near as naive. I’m probably still clutching too tightly to whatever truths I’ve found, and I’ll probably realize that in a few years when I look back on how I am now.

But that’s just life. My truths change with time in still struggling with being happy and not overlooking things. Philosophy is helping me through this journey because I’m not staying still with whatever one truth I may have at a certain time.

Joseph Cotton is a sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public major. He is a staff writer for the Newswire from DePauw, Mich.
Donald Trump is a fascist… it is the sentence I will no longer be saying. Let me make myself clear: This is not because I no longer believe that Trump is a fascist. Rather, I feel that saying such brings me no closer to my ultimate goal: ending his presidency as soon as possible. Before I delve into the reasons I will no longer call Trump a fascist, I will explain why he is one.

Definitions of fascism vary and significant discourse exists in the academic communities devoted to its study. In light of this, I will be drawing from Encyclopedia Britannica’s entry on fascism for my analysis of fascism’s common characteristics.

The first characteristics is extreme nationalism. For evidence of extreme nationalism, one must look no further than Trump’s foreign policy strategy of “America First.” Under America First principles, everything from trade to armed conflict is viewed through the lens of a “what’s in it for me” philosophy.

Some examples of Trump’s extreme nationalism are the Trade War, the abandonment of the Kurds and the U.S.-China withdrawal from both the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Climate Accord. Historically, ultranationalism has entailed a rejection of immigrants, which brings me to the next aspect of fascism Trump embodies: scapegoating. It began with the announcement of his campaign when he characterized South and Central American immigrants as the reason for crime, drugs, and sexual assault in the United States.

Since then, the scapegoating has only intensified, resulting in false paranoia of an immigrant caravan invasion, the construction of a wall along our southern border and a travel ban that came to be known as the Muslim ban. It is worth noting that Trump’s travel ban recently grew after weeks of anticipation and now bans an additional six major countries in Africa from immigrating to the United States.

The last aspect of fascism Trump embodies is the desire for totalitarianism. Trump makes no secret of his desire for total power. On multiple instances he has broached the idea of staying president for more than two terms. In 2019, he attempted to funnel congressionally allotted military funding into the construction of a wall. He fired James Comey during an investigation into his own misconduct and attempted to do the same to Robert Mueller. Most recently, Trump argued that Article 2 of the Constitution gives him the power to do “whatever I want.”

So, why am I no longer calling him a fascist? Because it doesn’t affect him. Because if calling him a fascist accomplished anything, then me saying so and listing the above reasons would have been enough to turn public favor against him. Because I, and those much more powerful than I, have been calling him a racist, a sexist, a rapist, a liar, a serial abuser, a hypocrite and a fascist since 2015 and it hasn’t worked. Nothing has changed.

The presidency I expected to last one year has made it four. He has survived federal investigations, impeachments, scandals than I can count, and he is still president. I am done calling him a fascist, because it doesn’t work. It doesn’t change anything. It doesn’t matter how many people stand in the streets with hand-painted signs and tears streaming down their faces, it doesn’t matter how many women come forward with accusations of rape or how many groups of people dehumanizes. None of it affects him.

I’ve been calling him a fascist for years and nothing’s changed. So maybe it’s time to switch strategies. I can no longer call Trump a fascist.
Russell sets school record
Sophomore smashes 800-meter dash time

By Jake Geiger
Staff Writer

Sophomore Hannah Russell set a new school record and personal best time in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:10.95 to pace the Musketeers women's track and field team at the Meyo Invitational last weekend.

The latest result bested her record-setting run on Jan. 25.

"I thought she even shocked herself," head coach Ryan Orner said.

"We can handle a little adversity," Steele said.

"Like (Tyrique) said, 'It's the spark. He gets us going.' When we see Tyrique like that, then we already know that the train is on the railroad track, ready to go." Steel offered his own thoughts after the game, echoing Scruggs sentiments.

"I thought our guys really competed," Steele said. "We got hit with some adversity throughout the game (when) they went on a 10-0 run there during that first half stretch."

"Our press offense was pretty good in the first half without a stoppage. (This will) put us in good position to win games."
Analysis: XFL broadens horizons in 2020 reboot

BY ANDREW ZERMAN
Staff Writer

The last time fans saw the XFL was in 2001, and it looked much different than what was seen in the reboot version of the league during its opening weekend.

The love of the game of football has prompted former wrestler Vince McMahon to revive the league from the abyss during its nearly two-decade-long hiatus.

Upon announcing plans for the league to return in a 2018 ESPN press conference, McMahon described it as “fan-centric” and having “more of the things that the audience likes,” and “less of the things that they don’t (want to see).”

After the opening weekend, it was apparent that the league has attained a healthy medium with intentions to promote a safe game while also modifying typical football rules for the enjoyment of the audience.

The unique kickoff rules favor the returner, but ultimately put it in the hands of the opponent to make the chance for a touchdown. According to a sports health study conducted in 2010, kick returners had the second-highest concussion rate of any position in football, trailing only defensive backs. The kicking and receiving teams are to be aligned five yards apart from each other and kicks are made at the defending team’s 20-yard line. The ball must be kicked to at least the 20-yard line of the opponent and the defending team is not allowed to move until the kickoff returner gains possession of the ball. This simple rule prevents concussions that result from players running full speed at each other and slamming into another player.

The XFL has instituted stricter rules when it comes to off-field conduct. Unlike the NFL, where players with domestic violence incidents have been able to resume playing, the XFL has a zero-tolerance policy with criminal records of any kind. This means that players such as Johnny Manziel will not be able to participate. “We are evaluating a player based on many things, including the quality of human behavior they are,” McMahon said in 2018. “If you have any sort of criminal record or commit a crime, you aren’t playing in this league.”

This can include a crime such as a DUI or marijuana possession. This has drawn criticism from opponents, as they argue that drug charges and domestic violence charges should not be put at the same level of severity.

The XFL intends to be supportive of betting, as live odds and spreads are placed next to the score during each game. This also grants the game broadcasters the ability to openly discuss betting throughout the game. The move has been beneficial thus far, with the XFL generating more money from betting in a single weekend than the now-defunct Alliance of American Football did in an entire season.

The only downfall of the betting is that prior to the first week there were no games played to base bets and odds off of. The roster was really the only thing people could look at to make predictions. The first week already saw a heavily-favored team lose: the Dallas Renegades. In future weeks, oddsmakers will have results to formulate game spreads.

While the first weekend of the league was deemed successful, with an average television audience of more than 3 million for the four games, time will tell if these rates hold up.

In comparison to how other past football leagues performed in their inaugural year, the fan and player-based approach is one that the XFL has emphasized, and it will likely help maintain the audience viewership and the overall popularity of the league.

Bengals fans should clamor for new ownership

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Staff Writer

Of all the owners in the National Football League, our hometown Bengals may have one of the worst. Analyzing the Bengals’ ownership situation begs the question: Should the team make a change in leadership?

Mike Brown, son of the former Bengals owner Paul Brown, has owned the team since 1991.

In the 29 years since he took over, the Bengals have managed to make the playoffs just seven times and have won zero postseason games. While there is an argument that the team’s success has little to do with its ownership, that doesn’t apply in this case. Brown has been the de facto general manager of the Bengals since his tenure began, and is one of only two owners in the NFL who have both the title and powers of a general manager. The other is Jerry Jones, who owns and manages the Dallas Cowboys.

On top of his incompetency in managing the roster, Brown has turned the taxpayers of Hamilton County season after season into order to help build riverfront stadiums for the Reds and Bengals. Since then, the Bengals have turned into a cash cow for Brown, churning out impressive profit margins, while simultaneously fielding a team that never seems to do enough to get over the hump.

‘The Bengals’ lease on Paul Brown Stadium will expire in 2026, leaving Hamilton County with a decision to make. Estimates for needed stadium improvements have settled at around $500 million. It is almost a guarantee that Mike Brown will pander to the county to get them to foot the bill for it, citing how beneficial it would be for the local community.

The Bengals just recorded their worst attendance total in more than 20 years. Fan morale about the team is at a decade low, both in terms of the on-field product and decision making in the front office.

Things could not be looking much worse, even with the team having secured the No.1 pick in the 2020 NFL Draft by virtue of having the worst record in the league during the 2019 season.

Here’s where the reporting will have results to formulate game spreads.

Bengals owner and general manager Mike Brown has been a part of the organization since 1991. In his nearly 30-year run with the team, Brown has led the team to zero playoff wins in seven playoff appearances.

Fans deserve far more than a cheap owner who does not want to spend what it takes to advance the team. They deserve an owner who knows how to delegate power on the football side to people who know what they’re doing, and financially supports those chosen few to run the front office effectively.

Additionally, Hamilton County should not be forced to support an owner who time and again has taken valuable dollars from its constituents and put them into his own pocket.

The product the county has paid for has not been the product they have received, and it’s time for the people of Hamilton County to say no to giving their hard-earned financial capital to an owner who uses it for his own profit.

Mike Brown is the poster child for how nepotism in sports can and often does go wrong in an organization. I kindly ask, as a true and loyal fan, season ticket holder and Cincinnati transplant, that he sell the team to someone who will do right by the people who matter — the fans.
By Andrew Zerman

Staff Writer

Music is something that speaks to everyone, no matter the identity of an individual. Those with different racial identities have invented and defined genres of music to appeal to future generations.

February is Black History Month, and it is appropriate to reflect on some of the many African-American individuals and acts who changed music for the better.

Muddy Waters

He may be the least known person on this list, but Muddy Waters’ influence on music is ever present. Blues is a genre that was invented by Black Americans, and decades after the genre was born, he added an electric guitar to the music. This was seen as an early transition into the rock ‘n’ roll genre, and his style of music ultimately led him to six Grammy Awards.

Rock bands with blues roots such as The Rolling Stones and Cream have credited him with being a major influence on their work, and he was inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame as an “early influence.”

Aretha Franklin

She deserves “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” for having more than one hundred songs on the Billboard Hot 100 throughout her lifetime and being named “The Greatest Singer of All Time” by Rolling Stone.

She may have earned the nickname “The Queen of Soul” from her days singing in a church in Detroit, but she was versatile with her genres. She had hit songs that were R&B, pop and soul throughout her career.

Most importantly though, she embraced being a Black woman in an era of segregation, and she was an avid Civil Rights voice.

Jimi Hendrix

Dubbed by Rolling Stone magazine and the Rock Hall of Fame as “the greatest instrumentalist of all time,” Hendrix not only changed the way that the guitar is played, but he also set a standard that will likely never be surpassed.

He transcended the norm on stage by playing the guitar with his teeth and behind his back. In the 1960s, he led the Jimi Hendrix Experience to become the most popular act at a star-studded Woodstock, and all three of his albums have placed in the top one hundred of Rolling Stone’s 500 Greatest Albums list.

Michael Jackson

It is hard to imagine pop music without the “King of Pop” himself. He went from a child star in the Jackson Five to popularizing new genres and new dance moves such as the moonwalk.

Throughout his career, he won more than 800 awards, the record for any artist. Jackson released the famous album Thriller in 1982, which is still the best-selling album of all time. He also had a strong sense of justice with regards to socioeconomic inequalities and racial tensions, as expressed in his songs “Man in the Mirror” and “Black and White.”

N.W.A.

N.W.A. was a hip-hop act in the late 1980s formed in Los Angeles. Some of their notable members were Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Arabian Prince. While they were controversial at the time for their lyrics, they opened up the doors to freedom of expression within songwriting, as their songs had political messages and brought to light major social justice issues.

N.W.A. also toppled the Billboard 200 Albums chart with their second album, making them the first act of their genre to do so. A good majority of the prominent rappers today attribute them as leaving a foundation within the rap and hip-hop genres for other artists to build on.

Green Day album Father of All... fails completely

By Joseph Cotton

Staff Writer

I really had low expectations for Father of All..., but I was completely blindsided by how profoundly terrible Green Day’s most recent showing was.

After their heyday in the ‘90s and hitting their creative peak in 2004 with the release of one of the most important contributions to culture in American Idol, the band has struggled to gracefully pass into the next stage of their career.

21st Century Breakdown came out to mixed reviews and the set of three albums (¡Uno!, ¡Dos! and ¡Tre!) was unforgettable at best.

Revolution Radio seemed like a fun step in the right direction with simple, in-your-face punk rock that didn’t take itself too seriously. With Father of All..., however, all progress is out the window. It’s really that bad.

Where do I start with the thirteenth studio album from the legendary alternative rock group Green Day? Should I talk about how blown over I was by the instrumentation or should I discuss the Peter Pan syndrome lyrics? Maybe I could even talk about the fact that 80% of the songs sound exactly the same.

The album stumbles right out of the gate. The opening title track has an admittedly catchy chorus, but that’s where the positive qualities end. The guitars are over-compressed, the drums are completely lifeless and most likely sequenced in a computer, and the vocals have a tinny reverb on them that makes the mix almost unlistenable on my earbuds.

The falsetto introduction is really annoying but luckily doesn’t last too long.

The next song, “Fire, Ready, Aim,” is more of the same. The track carries the same “blonde chick power walking in high heels” feeling that the previous track does.

The third track, “Oh Yeah!,” feels like a parody of a Green Day song. It’s a completely overproduced mess with no flow in between segments of the song. The chorus has a weird electronic synth element that sticks out like a sore thumb and the bridge is the verbal example of the millennial “woah-ing” that went out of style the last time Green Day wrote a good album. It’s an unfunny joke.

I did like the track “Meet Me on the Roof.” It felt like a Green Day take on ‘50s rock n’ roll/Motown that I didn’t know I wanted. It’s fun and youthful in a way that doesn’t sound like a “Hillbilly with a skateboard” meme. It’s a relatively well-produced track besides some seemingly unintentional distortion of a drum fill and features a fun baseline from Mike Dirnt.

Although Green Day commits several cardinal sins of songwriting and flagrantly ignores all principles of constructing a good album, I think the fact that it seems like they tried to write the same song ten times in a row is the most unbearable. When I hit track eight, which was only 30 minutes in, I began feeling physically ill and started thinking about why the “Newswire” doesn’t offer health insurance.

Father of All... starts off bad and somehow ends even worse. I would love to see them make that jump into the next stage of their career with some fun music, but the wait is going to continue. I usually end up making the songs pair with so here’s this: Set one of the songs to play as your alarm goes off in the morning. I would recommend “Graffitix.”

In conclusion... no.
The Oscars ceremony saw both the hard work, talent and triumph of deserving winners and the awkwardness of the presenters. Viewers felt impressed by the cinematic masterpieces but had to endure the painful interludes.

**The Good**

The big news of the night was director Bong Joon-Ho’s masterpiece *Parasite* winning Best Picture. Apart from being well-deserved, this win makes history as the first non-English speaking film to win this award. Along with Best Picture, Bong also took home awards for screenwriting and directing, and he accepted the award on behalf of South Korea for Best International Film. Bong Joon-Ho taking home this tribeca was itself legendary.

In a year where both Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese released sprawling, three-hour epics, it’s nice to see a first-time nominee do this well.

Another cause for celebration would have to be Joaquin Phoenix winning a long overdue Best Actor award for his performance in *Joker*. Phoenix is one of the best actors working right now, so for him to finally get recognition for his efforts was satisfying to see (especially because he carried the whole film on his back).

Overall, I’d say every winner deserved to win, which I can’t always say about the Oscars.

**The Bad**

I didn’t really expect to see backup dancers dressed as the Joker and Nazis. Life’s weird like that sometimes.

Another cause for celebration was Joaquin Phoenix winning a long overdue Best Actor award for his performance in *Joker*. Phoenix was one of the best actors working right now, so for him to finally get recognition for his efforts was satisfying to see (especially because he carried the whole film on his back).

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**Night at the Oscars underwhelms**

**By Ben Thomson**

Wow, what a night.

The 92nd Academy Awards were very much the opposite of last year’s show.

Last year, the awards themselves were disappointing at best and offensive at worst, but the event itself flowed well and felt shorter than it actually was. This year, the winners absolutely deserved their award, but I painfully felt every minute of the three and a half hour ceremony. So, sort of a mixed bag. There were historical highs and there were eye-rolling lows, but it wouldn’t be the Oscars if that wasn’t the case, now would it?

Fashion Week in NYC reaches beyond the runway

**By Molly Hulligan**

New York’s annual Fashion Week (NYFW) commenced on Feb. 3 in NYC’s Spring Studios with designers from all over the world presenting their craft all week long. However, NYFW demonstrates that the fashion industry’s impact reaches far beyond the runway.

NYFW presented a series called *The Talks*, where influential people in fashion shared their takes on relevant issues in the world of beauty today.

The Talks featured a panel of interviews with 2019’s Miss Universe, Miss USA, Miss Teen USA and Miss America called “The Evolving Standard of Beauty.” Women of color claimed the four titles, making 2019 a groundbreaking year for beauty and culture.

“I remember watching Rachel (Garrett) win (Miss Teen USA). I was like, ‘Oh, there’s no way that I can win.’ We’ve got this light-skin, beautiful woman of color with curly hair. Why are they gonna crown another three days after today?” And then they did!” Chelsie Kirsty, Miss USA, said on a NYFW panel. “I think that’s so exciting for people to see… that not only can there be one of us, there can be five of us.”

Another one of *The Talks*, called “Less Is More,” presented a theme of “conscious living is always in fashion.”

The panel presented changes everyone can make to reduce waste and consume less for a more sustainable future.

Lauren Singer, CEO of Package Free, said, “(Pack-age Free’s) mission is to make the world less trashy through selling products that help people reduce waste in their everyday lives.”

Singer lives a zero-waste lifestyle, accumulating only 16 ounces of trash in the last eight years. An inspiration to environmentally conscious people everywhere, Springer talked about the simple things every person can do to lessen their negative impact on the environment, specifically in regard to everyday beauty and hygiene products.

The Talks’ “Responsible Revolution” presents sustainability in a different light. Designer Phillip Lim is currently one of the top designers making a conscious effort to advocate for sustainability, specifically through the use of natural fibers.

On the panel, Lim expressed how he works to rid fashion of the idea that “to be sustainable you have to be perfect.”

“Without ever being explicit about (sustainability), nothing can ever change.” Lim said. “It’s about asking, ‘How do we balance doing what we love to do, (while) also making a profit and keep beautiful the home we all share?’ How do we start right so that we have to correct less?”

Amber Valletta, a model and leading force in sustainable fashion, shared what sustainability means to her in the modeling industry.

“I decided to match my values with what I was doing for a living,” Valletta says. “I went out and found sustainable designers (with) a repsonisibly made aure.”

With the help of Vogue’s world-renowned Anna Win-tour, Valletta found a designer she wanted to partner with. Valletta made it her goal “to prove that you could have style and sustainability.”

NYFW 2020 may be coming to an end, but fanatics can look forward to London Fashion Week beginning on Feb. 14.
Victoria F. leaves the competition because she decides that she can't love a non-married man.
Victoria F. seems to have a type: married men. I have a feeling that Peter and his single status just won't be enough for her.

Mykenna comes back for a group date as a TED talk speaker.
If this show has proven anything, it's that Peter sending someone home means nothing at all, so it would not surprise me if Mykenna comes back as the next group date activity. Mykenna's farewell speech in week five was not only moving, but her self-affirmative comments and optimism inspired a new wave of Pinterest quotes and hashtags. #SheIsPowerful #SheIsBeautiful.

Chris Harrison will distribute the roses during the remaining rose ceremonies.
Peter is obviously prone to injury. He can't be trusted with a golf cart or a champagne glass, so why do we assume he can be trusted with roses? The thorns are just too risky for our pretty boy bachelor.

Kelley will realize she's too good for this show but will pretend to love Peter for as long as possible for the free vacations.
We all know that, at this point, Kelley is only here for the free vacations. She really has got the show figured out and is living her best life.

Hannah Anne will use her time on The Bachelor to launch her modeling career.
You would undoubtedly be drunk if you took a shot every time Hannah Anne mentions that she's a model. However, what she doesn't mention are the jobs she has had. Downy, Sonic and Shapewear will be layman's work in comparison to the work she will get after The Bachelor.

Peter will end up alone this season.
At the end of the day, I feel like Peter is definitely going to end up alone. All of the women are going to realize that he's the one without genuine intentions. Peter is really gonna wish that he had kept Ashley P., the emotional support cow from episode one. She is our loyal and unproblematic queen.

In conclusion, if you're looking for a Valentine this week maybe reach out to Peter Weber. I have a feeling he's single and ready to mingle!