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Students speak on experiences with TriHealth, contact tracing and faculty cases within the Xavier community to combat COVID-19

Protocols have gone into full effect to combat COVID-19 cases within the Xavier community. As of Tuesday, there were reportedly seven students isolated on campus; 29 students isolated off campus and 2 university employees, all of whom tested positive for COVID-19, according to Xavier’s COVID-19 Dashboard.

Students who come into close contact with individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to seek testing at the Health United Building (the HUB), quarantine for 14 days and self-monitor symptoms.

Those members of the community who cannot return to their permanent residence are required to quarantine on or near campus. Students who live off campus remain at their residence, while on-campus students, such as first-year Emily Croft are moved to either Manor House, University Apartments or the nearby Hilton Garden Inn.

The COVID-19 Dashboard also reports that a total of 68 students are quarantined off-campus as they wait test results or wait out their 14 days.

Croft is one of 26 students quarantined on-campus and has had an overwhelmingly positive experience with TriHealth and Xavier’s contact tracers.

“TriHealth has been really helpful and so has COVID-19 support (such as contact tracers). I’ve talked to them so many times and they’ve been so helpful to answer any of my questions about quarantine and knowing people who I was in contact with,” Croft said. “It’s just been really great. In all honesty, I don’t think I’ve had any issues with them.”

An anonymous student quarantined off-campus also commented on the efficiency of the HUB’s testing process, “I literally walked in the side door, got tested and then they’re like ‘You don’t have it, go home and don’t get it.’”

On the flip side, some students have had less pleasant experiences.

“I did feel a little judged, because I feel as though we were the first bigger group that started getting tested,” an anonymous senior who is quarantined off-campus shared.

“I was tested later in the day, so by this time they’d already gotten a bunch of people calling them. I felt as though they thought that there was some big party or something like that... it was truly just because one of our roommates got it.”

In addition to work by Tri-Health, the efforts of faculty to keep quarantined students engaged was also praised by students who have been through quarantine.

“Most of my professors were very on top of it, they recorded all the videos in case you were too sick to Zoom. Which didn’t actually happen (for me), but they were very happy to accommodate however I needed,” said the anonymous senior.

Overall, the interviewed students remained optimistic about the remainder of the semester, which they attribute to the university’s contact tracing.

“They really do (think classes will remain in-person) because they’re very diligent and quick with the contact tracing,” Croft said in regard to remaining in person until the end of November.

“It wasn’t an entire week (before they contacted me and my roommates to let us know we were close contacts) and I wasn’t out doing a ton of stuff before that,” she said.

“I was tested later in the day, so by this time they’d already gotten a bunch of people calling them. I felt as though they thought that there was some big party or something like that... it was truly just because one of our roommates got it.”

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“Let’s us know that we were going to be put in quarantine and they’ve been very up to date with that and the COVID-19 dashboard, so I think if they continue to do what they do... we’ll be able to make it to Thanksgiving.”

COVID-19 resources can be found on Xavier’s website under the COVID-19 Resource Center. Additionally, testing is available by appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays at the HUB, call 513-745-8022.

A TriHealth nurse line is available for those who experience an onset of symptoms outside of the HUB’s hours at 513-246-7023.

Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

XU’s COVID-19 Dashboard reports a total of 94 students who are quarantined while 31 are isolated. Pictured above, Manor House is one of the on-campus spaces designated for residential students awaiting test results. Experiences with TriHealth and contact tracing are largely favorable.

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Disney’s newest live-action remake, Mulan, was rather underwhelming.

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Endless construction possibilities exist in the wondrous world of LEGO.

Quarantining could be worse

BY WILL RIPPEY
Staff Writer

Five weeks into the semester, the university’s Testing, Treatment and Tracing Protocols have gone into full effect to combat COVID-19 cases within the Xavier community.

As of Tuesday, there were reportedly seven students isolated on campus, 29 students isolated off campus and 2 university employees, all of whom tested positive for COVID-19, according to Xavier’s COVID-19 Dashboard.

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Future nurse navigates COVID-19
Student identifies the old and new amidst a shifting medical landscape

By Josephine Pyles
Guest Writer

According to the nursing majors here at Xavier, their studies are teaching them all about new ways to help people, especially in the midst of the pandemic.

With their blue scrubs and crunch for time, it’s hard to miss nursing majors passing from class to class or making the infamous hile to the Cohen Center.

Despite her busy schedule, senior nursing major Jaylen Stackhouse shared her perspective.

“The greatest challenge school-wide would definitely be the classes. They really push you mentally and you have to be on top of everything,” Stackhouse said.

Nursing majors stay busy. They begin working with patients in the clinic as early as their second year, which can be a lot of pressure.

“The most challenging aspect of clinicals is definitely being open to learning new things, even if they seem scary,” she said. “But being able to meet different patients and help them feel better is worth it.” As a fourth-year, Stackhouse says that she works in the clinic once per week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

“I love doing clinicals at UC Health West Chester hospital,” she said. “I’ve met so many amazing nurses and people there.”

Stackhouse said that her hospital has been very diligent about enforcing the new COVID-19 protocols.

“Even to get into the hospital, everyone has to wear a mask,” Stackhouse said. “And usually temperatures are taken before you walk past the front desk.”

Stackhouse then discussed how COVID-19 protocols have changed the way she cares for patients.

“Nursing students are prohibited from caring for COVID patients,” Stackhouse said. “But we have to wear a mask, goggles and face shield at all times with every patient.”

Despite these protocols, the way students care for their patients hasn’t necessarily changed.

“Nothing really changed in the clinical setting as far as care, just how we protect ourselves,” Stackhouse said.

Although things have changed, nurses students have been getting through this difficult time is supporting one another.

“We really just try to find stuff to do on the floor to help any of the nurses,” Stackhouse said.

Some patients may have testing or procedures, so we go with them to help each other out.”

Today’s nurses are adapting to many changes as the pandemic evolves, but keeping a positive attitude has been the biggest inspiration for Stackhouse.

“You have to stay optimistic,” she said. “It reminds us of our purpose. And it reminds patients that we’ll always be there to help.”

SGA analyzes ongoing re-accreditation process

By Joseph Cotton
Campus News Editor

The university is currently making the case that it is sticking with its mission to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

The process of re-accreditation happens every ten years, and is a 35,000 page report that will be sent to the HLC. A draft is currently available to the public on the Xavier website.

The re-accreditation process is a federal process involving committees that consists of Director of Accreditation Rachel Chrastil, Classics Chair Sharon Byrne, as well as Vice President of Mission and Identity Debra Mooney.

According to Chrastil, the HLC is looking to certify that Xavier has a strong institutional plan and the resources necessary to implement it.

She also noted that the process is individualized to a school depending on the context the institution is operating within.

“It’s not just a checklist. We have to make our case, because every university is different,” Chrastil said. “We have to show that, within our context, we have a strong mission and operate ethically.”

On Apr. 27, Student Government Association Senator Daniel Joyce formed an ad-hoc committee that is currently reviewing the re-accreditation argument document.

The ad-hoc committee currently consists of Joyce and Sen. Fernando Arguello.

The senators mentioned that they want to ensure that student voices are being considered in the review process.

“Our goal is to see if, as students, we feel as if there is anything that they are missing,” Arguello said. “This is a process that happens every ten years. Since it doesn’t happen often, it’s important that all voices are taken into account.”

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SGA Senators Daniel Joyce and Fernando Arguello work on Formwicz’s upper yard and mull through the university’s re-accreditation document.

Photo courtesy of Xavier.edu

September 14
Student Government Association Meeting Recap

By Josephine Pyles

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“ ‘There could be a big disconnect between what the administration sees and what the students see,” continued Joyce. “We want to make sure that gap is sealed.”

Alongside the re-accreditation document, the steering committee is issuing a student opinion survey in November which aims to give students a direct voice to the HLC.

The third part of the re-accreditation process involves an on-site visit which will take place in April 2021. The visiting committee will hold a forum to field student comments.

The final part of the re-accreditation process is a federal compliance review which ensures that Xavier is in accordance with federal regulations surrounding higher learning institutions. These regulations include Title IX compliance and credit hour transfer policies, among others.

The federal student aid the university receives is contingent upon compliance with these regulations.

- Glenn Arnold, Assistant director of intramural sports, outlined the specifics of the minimally invasive, nine hole disc golf course planned to be located by the Health United Building. The course may be installed as soon as the spring semester if there is enough student support.
- Junior Makeyla Comnors was inducted as a SGA Senator, filling the vacancy left by Liam Flannery’s resignation.
- The Academic Affairs Committee, led by Sen. Ryan Machesky, is creating surveys regarding Xavier’s response to COVID-19, hybrid classes and online classes for both students and faculty.
- Sen. Andrew Geraghty’s pronoun initiative was successful. Students may update their preferred pronouns for Res Life housing forms, applications and records on the housing self-service website.
Panel explores ordaining women as deacons

By Emma Stevens

Guest Writer

On Monday, Bellarmine Chapel hosted a livestream panel discussing one of the most controversial issues being considered within the Catholic Church today: the ordination of women as permanent deacons.

Within the Catholic Church, a movement has begun in support of women being able to become ordained deacons, but the formal law of the Church still prevents women from holding this position.

In the livestream titled “Every Ancient, Ever New: Exploring the Female Diaconate,” the panel sought to provide a complex and complete definition of the issue at hand. The panel included Dr. Anna Miller, Dr. Anna Miller, Casey Stanton, M.Div., and Rev. Luke Hansen, S.J. Each panelist brought a distinct and powerful perspective to the issue.

Miller, associate professor of New Testament and Early Church History at the Institute for Spirituality and Social Justice, kicked off the conversation on a scholarly note.

Looking to the past, Miller shared her historical findings of how women were being identified and labeled as deacons both within the Bible and in early Christian history. Moving from the past to the present, Catholic Chaplain at the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice Hansen took Dr. Miller’s historical contextualization, then applied the issue to the modern Catholic Church, explaining that many women today already perform the role of deacon without receiving credit.

When asked why the Church has not recognized these women, Hansen explained, “there is a long history of misogyny in the church.”

This misogyny, from Hansen’s perspective, prevents women from being recognized for the work that they are already doing and stifles women’s ability to find a place in church leadership.

In addition to Miller and Hansen, the panel included Stanton, Minister of Social Action and Discipleship at Immaculate Conception Parish in Durham, North Carolina.

Stanton provided the living example of a woman that wishes to be a deacon.

In her presentation on the livestream, she explained that she feels called to be a deacon.

Stanton addressed questions about her spiritual purpose by saying that being a deacon is a “particular vocation,” meaning she does not want to be a “mini-priest.” She views being a deacon as its own distinct spiritual occupation.

Together, the three panelists addressed the current issue thoroughly and provided many different perspectives, each hoping to advocate for change in the Church that will allow women to be recognized and ordained as deacons.

For Miller, the panel “represented different avenues toward that change,” Stan ton believes “in the power of encounter” and encourages other women who wish to be

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Dr. Anna Miller, Casey Stanton and Rev. Luke Hanson (pictured above) participated in a panel discussion sponsored by Bellarmine Chapel. They discussed issues surrounding the contributions of women in the Church, coming deacons to speak out and make others aware.

When asked if he feels the Church will change, Hansen replied that the Church is “taking lots of steps.” Hansen went on to say that events such as this one give him hope for change.

By Mo Juenger

World News Editor

Each summer, approximately 80,000 college students across the country apply to attend the Hispanic Scholarship Fund’s (HSF) extremely competitive National Leadership Conference (NLC).

This year, Xavier’s own junior computer science major Marina Salazar was admitted. The HSF gives approximately 10,000 of their applicants scholarships, which range in levels of funding.

The winners of these scholarships will be announced in October, but Salazar has received communication letting her know that she is a finalist eligible to receive a scholarship.

The NLC, an intimate gathering of highly-successful STEM students, comprises only 10% of the 80,000 applicants. Salazar learned over the summer that she was invited to participate in the event.

“I applied for a previous student at Xavier told me about it,” Salazar said. “She was a really important mentor to me.

“They would say whatever I needed, they would choose someone like me,” she added.

“Marina Salazar (bottom right) was chosen to attend the Hispanic Scholarship Foundation’s STEM summit

The conference is populated by Hispanic and Latinx STEM students from high-ranking universities, including many Ivy League juniors and seniors.

“I applied, I didn’t even tell my parents... When I heard back that I got in, I freaked out,” Salazar said. “I wasn’t even aware of that mentorship that I got from that upperclassman, I wouldn’t even have applied.”

The NLC focuses on Hispanic students studying STEM subjects. Conference speakers included representatives from NASA, the U.S. Navy, video game company Electronic Arts and several banks.

“It really accounted for all those sectors of STEM — banking, technology, engineering, it was really awesome to see that wide variety,” Salazar explained.

Salazar noted that many speakers focused on life after college and what tools students need to be successful after graduation.

“(There were) career focused segments, mostly about how to manage life after college. They would say what they did in college that helped in the real world,” Salazar said of the industry professionals’ speeches.

There were also panels in which students could ask professionals about their journeys into STEM careers and how a student could find a job in their preferred sector.

Speakers at the convention were also Hispanic, as a major theme of the conference is empowerment of Hispanic and Latinx students.

HSF CEO Fidel Vargas facilitated the speakers, panels and sessions onstage.

“The purpose of the NLC is to bring together our top sophomore scholars to provide them with guidance, mentorship and leadership development,” Vargas said.

“(The NLC) continues to expose them to other Latino accomplished leaders in whatever professions those are, and to give them inspiration and motivation,” NLC speaker and president of corporate communications at Wells Fargo Diana Rodriguez said.

HSF will announce scholarship recipients in late October. Students interested in applying for the HSF and the NCL programs in 2021 should research further on the organization’s website.

Junior chosen from pool of 80,000 to attend Hispanics in STEM conference

Muskie attends national summit

Looking to the past, Miller said to someone like me,’” she added.

In her presentation on the Immaculate Conception Parish, she said that she feels called to be a deacon.

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Marina Salazar (bottom right) was chosen to attend the Hispanic Scholarship Foundation’s STEM summit
Scientists say that climate change has exacerbated the havoc of the wildfires

BY ALEX KELLY

Wildfires have been burning through the West Coast for the past three weeks, devastating areas of California, Oregon and Canada.

The record-breaking fires are caused by human negligence, but amplified by climate change. They have been burning throughout the Pacific Coast, from California to Washington to parts of Canada, while leaving ash and air pollution in their fiery wake.

There have been 55 fire-related casualties in addition to the hundreds of thousands of West Coast citizens who have been affected by the inferno. Many of these people had to evacuate because of the smoke.

Climate change is considered a primary cause of the wildfires. California in particular has been going through a drought for the past 20 years, which causes the fires to spread further.

While California has had wildfires on and off for the past couple of summers, the wildfires this year are much worse. The blaze is spreading to parts of Oregon and Washington that were previously less susceptible to fires.

The wildfires have also spread quickly because of the dry and windy weather, causing millions of acres of forests to burn down. The expansion of the blazes has been concerning, too, as they are moving faster than predicted.

President Trump flew into Sacramento for a briefing about the fires on Monday, which he blamed on poor management from Governor Gavin Newsom. As Air Force One entered California, smoke was visible in the distance.

Democratic Nominee Joe Biden also weighed in on the wildfires, blaming climate change.

Across the coast, the sky is currently covered in a thick, smoky haze, leading to horrifying images of a bright orange and gray sky. People in the Bay Area were surprised on Friday when they woke up to ash raining down from above.

Apps like PurpleAir are being used to gauge the quality of the air in affected areas and hundreds of thousands of people are being evacuated. Approximately 15,000 firefighters are being sent out to try to fight the growing blazes and rescue survivors.

Various politicians and celebrities have weighed in on the devastation of the recent fires. Senator Bernie Sanders posted an unfiltered photo on Twitter showing the fire spreading under a burnt orange sky.

Calif. Senator and Democratic Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris posted a photo on Twitter of herself and Governor Newsom surveying burn sites in affected areas.

The evacuation provides its own problems, however.

Many people are losing their houses, and providing substantial lodging while social distancing and quarantining is proving to be a problem in itself.

Relief organizations are trying to prevent this loss by providing shelter in hotels and other public places while making sure that people social distance.

The Lighter Side

Kim K, taco wine, killer whales, hoverboard dentists and one ant

• Kim Kardashian posted a video proving that she has ten toes after facing online scrutiny claiming that she has six toes on each of her feet (Sept. 10).

• Taco Bell has announced that they will be releasing a new wine pairing called Jalapeño Noir. The red blend is designed to be paired with the fast food company’s Toasted Cheesy Chalupa. (Sept. 13).

• Orcas, typically peaceful mammals, are attacking ships near Portugal. Orca scientists have been reported to be harassing sailors in the Strait of Gibraltar. Scientists are unsure what is causing this unusual aggression (Sept. 13).

• The Royal Canadian Mountain Police is investigating a heist-stealing of $290,000 worth of beef and seven hot tubs (Sept. 14).

• Raiders QB Derek Carr came under fire after using Coach Jon Gruden’s wife’s name in an audible, yelling Cindy Gruden, Tiger Woods”! Gruden announced that he was not aware of the audible and had not heard it in practice (Sept. 14).

• An ex-bassist of the Rolling Stones had his personal items auctioned off last week, with an iconic used toilet seat selling for $1,142 (Sept. 15).

• A Malaysian man had his phone stolen, but was surprised to find several selfies taken by a monkey after the phone was discovered in the jungle behind his home (Sept. 15).

• A bus passenger in the U.K. was removed from a bus after transportation officials realized his mask was not a typical cloth one, but instead a live snake. U.K. officials clarified that a live snake does not qualify as a mandated face covering (Sept. 16).

• Actor Samuel L. Jackson, who runs a voter registration campaign, has announced that he will be teaching a select group of voters who register on his platform to swear in 15 different languages (Sept. 16).

• A man was removed from Disney’s Hollywood Studios for not wearing a state-mandated mask. As he was forcibly removed, he screamed misquotes from the movie A Bug’s Life. “If one guy stands up, one ant stands up,” the man yelled, attempting to incite a maskless rebellion (September 16).

• The Alaska dentist arrested earlier this year for performing dental surgeries and regular appointments while riding a hoverboard was sentenced to 12 years in prison (Sept. 16).
Draft Brexit bill to break UK treaty with EU

Post-Brexit trade between Britain and Northern Ireland at risk after bill

BY SOPHIE BOULTER
Guest Writer

The U.K. government has decided to stand by the Internal Market Bill that breaks a treaty negotiated with the European Union (EU). The bill concerns post-Brexit trade between Britain and Northern Ireland, but simultaneously overrides parts of the Northern Ireland Protocol, a treaty agreed to by the EU and U.K. that establishes arrangements for Northern Ireland after Brexit.

In recent weeks, the EU has threatened to sue the U.K. over this bill, claiming that it breaks international law. “This bill does break international law in a very specific and limited way,” Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis said.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. that borders a EU member-state, the Republic of Ireland. This means that Northern Ireland requires alternative arrangements to allow it to seamless-ly trade with the rest of the U.K. without implementing significant restrictions between it and Ireland. Without alternative arrangements, customs checks on trade would occur between Northern Ireland and Ireland. This would create a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The Protocol aims to avoid this by putting customs checks between Britain and Northern Ireland. This continues Northern Ireland’s alignment with EU customs and state aid rules. According to the U.K. government, EU alignment strains the U.K. internal market by treating Northern Ireland differently than other U.K. nations.

The U.K. government has come to the defense of the Internal Market Bill by emphasizing the importance of treating Northern Ireland the same as the rest of the U.K.

The U.K. government also published a legal document which stated that it may breach international law because Parliament is sovereign. The European Commission released a statement in response on Friday that emphasized the U.K.’s legal obligation to uphold its treaty with the EU. “(The) Agreement contains a number of mechanisms and legal remedies to address violations of the legal obligations contained in the text — which the European Union will not be shy in using,” the Commission said.

The Northern Ireland Protocol, which the Internal Market Bill overrides, aimed to continue the soft border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. The soft border was a core aspect of the Good Friday Agreement, a treaty that ended over thirty years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

This conflict was between unionists, who want Northern Ireland to remain in the U.K., and nationalists, who want Northern Ireland to be part of the Republic of Ireland. A soft, almost invisible border is a compromise between these two communities.

When the U.K. was part of the EU, trade could flow across the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland unencumbered. By passing the Internal Market Bill, the U.K. aims to maintain this soft border without jeopardizing the U.K. internal market. “Boris Johnson’s British government is trying to keep unionists happy by keeping Northern Ireland in an internal U.K. market, while simultaneously allowing Northern Ireland to remain within the EU’s market,” Xavier professor of political science Dr. Timothy White said.

The U.S. government helped negotiate the Good Friday Agreement. American lawmakers have expressed concern that overriding the Northern Ireland Protocol will harm the Good Friday Agreement.

“The Good Friday Agreement is the bedrock of peace in Northern Ireland. If the U.K. violates its international agreements (and) Brexit undermines the Good Friday accord, there will be absolutely no chance of a U.S.-U.K. trade agreement passing the Congress,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tweeted.

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As wildfires of unprecedented scope rage in the U.S. West and floods threaten major cities in other parts of the world, we want to see our institution do more to fight global climate change. Will you help by letting us know what change you would like to see and if you would like to be involved in working for this change?

Please respond to this short question from the Climate Change Action Workshop by Monday Oct. 5 here: https://forms.gle/rtEs-F5KSQ9XBf6aJA

POLICE NOTES

• Sept. 7, 4:50 p.m., XUPD Officer Jesse Powers responded to Cincinnati Police Department reports of a robbery at Domino’s Pizza. Officer Powers was able to locate the suspect and bring him into custody.

• Sept. 11, 11:40 p.m., XUPD arrested a non-student who did criminal damage to a police vehicle. The suspect was inside the car at a nearby gas station and made significant dents in the vehicle’s doors while trying to flee.

• Sept. 15, 6:00 p.m., A student in the Commons Apartments started a small grease fire while attempting to make a steak dinner. XUPD responded and Cincinnati Fire was able to put the small fire out.

XUPD Non-Emergency Phone Number (513) 745-2000

XUPD Emergency Phone Number (513) 745-1000
Opinions & Editorials

Tinder’s a bad friend

In a world where COVID-19 has made pretty much everything impossible, one of the biggest social events that has struggled from global quarantine is the dating scene. With all the bars and movie theaters closed down, further notice, many, as the case is with myself, have begun to rely on our old friend Tinder for some sort of human interaction.

Almost everyone has their opinions, their political dogma, and even their law, all of which are unshakeable, unchangeable, and unapologetic.

On Reddit, message boards and comment sections, we find anyone and everyone screaming their political opinions into the void.

In face-to-face, we fall silent. Or we become part of the crowd, participating in the protest, one of many. When it comes to one-on-one conversation, many of us lack the ability to voice the opinions we believe in so firmly, the ideals we’re so passionate about.

And, speaking about the void, it’s helpful. It’s comforting to express yourself while remaining faceless, unknown, unaccountable.

I’ve seen my mother bite her tongue at the dinner table; she disagrees with what others say, but she’s outnumbered.

Many people believe that we live in the most polarized and divisive time. From the very first time you open the app, you know it’s going to be a problematic experience. Rather than getting to know someone’s characteristics like personality and common interests, Tinder instead requires you to focus exclusively on the other person’s face and body.

This focus on vanity and appearance, while giving the average user a sense of entitlement and arrogance. It’s easy for someone to stick up their nose and swipe left on someone who isn’t a six feet, curled haired, blonde, eurocentric dreamboat. No one thinks to focus on a more personal connection.

In the off chance you do make a match, nothing is ever painful than trying to keep up a conversation with them. Tinder and COVID-19 have coaxed these people into a false sense of security where they know, deep down, that they don’t have to put in a shred of effort into actually appealing to another human being. Most of the time, they only find themselves talking to a legitimate person with their own opinions and feelings on the other end.

They think because the chances of actually seeing them in-person is low, it doesn’t matter how ultimately douchey, dumb or downright egotistical they act.

I have less patience for people who I don’t want to talk about the death of something political; over fears of being too divisive, of hurting anyone’s feelings, of causing an argument.

But a person’s politics is not something you can or should know about them in a first date. They are a person’s politics, their world view. You’re pressured on their morals, their beliefs, their ideals.

We can discuss politics politely. We can debate. We can even argue. But we need to talk about it. We need to be honest, otherwise we can be blindsided by the very things we thought we didn’t have to pay attention to.

Whether you support him or not, don’t want to admit that Donald Trump was elected because a silent majority crept up through the polls while the rest of us treated him like a joke that everyone was in on.

Now, in our generation, most don’t want to admit that they’re a Trump supporter. And others don’t want to admit to a Trump supporter that they hate Trump. They don’t want to talk about the death of something political; over fears of being too divisive, of hurting anyone’s feelings, of causing an argument.

As I’ve gotten older, I have less patience for those ideals and beliefs that limit and discriminate against myself and those around me.

I want to have these conversations. I want to learn and I want to teach. If we can’t communicate, if we can’t become more knowledgeable, more well-rounded and better informed, then what are we doing? And what can we expect from those who lead us?

We have to be comfortable talking about politics. At least, we have to try. Politics are not an isolated, abstract topic. It’s important because it’s what affects us most.

For those of us who are not White, not straight, not male, not Christian, not anything-part-of-the-ordinary, we have to talk about this. We have to know what those around us believe. We have to protect ourselves, but also to educate ourselves.

Grace Hamilton is a first-year Political Science major from Akron, Ohio. She is a guest writer for the Newsure.

Why we should talk about politics

The Xavier Newsure is a student-run publication that is committed to reporting the news as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newsure hopes to foster a dialogue on campus, among students, faculty and staff.

Advertising

All inquiries should be directed to the Business Manager, Madeline Warren at 513-745-3561, by email to newsure@xavierx.com or at xaviernewsroom.com.

For Your Information

The Xavier Newsure is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45267.

The Newsure also releases online articles and a newsletter on Monday mornings and works with XUFM to produce a weekly radio show, Xavier Newsure Live.

-- Grifflin Bramer, a first-year nursing major from Dublin, Ohio. (Staff Writer for the Newsure.)

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For a moment, imagine yourself as a child of the indis-\nguishes lands. Your peo-\nple's entire way of life for\ncenturies has been main-\ntained. The desolate soil,\nlush greenery and the rais-\ning of cattle. You live your\ndays in the village learning\nfrom the stories of your an-\ncessors and doing you part\nin the continuation of your\npeople's culture.

One day, you wake up and look out\nfrom a distance gargantuan\nwooden vessels resting on\nyour sands. A few strange,\nyet familiar looking peo-\nple exit the ships, sport-\ning part of an edgy count-\ner-culture than it is about\nprogressive change is more\nprogressive change is more

The obvious question\ntherefore is obviously problematic. But that kind of claim is
- a cognitive box of proble-

The implicit assumption

Minorities, especially his-\ntorically marginalized, are\nare more than capable of\narticulating their point of

The more subtle way this
world view is problematic,
however, is how it further\nenforces the idea that so-\nSocial justice advocacy and\nprogressive change is more\nprogressive change is more

Waleed Majid is a first-\nyear Philosophy, Politics\nand Economics student\nfrom Cincinnati. He is a guest\nwriter for \n
On Aug. 28, Kentucky\nSen. Rand Paul (R-Ky) was\nconfronted by a peaceful,\nthough admittedly loud\nand disruptive, group of\nBlack Lives Matter (BLM)\nprotesters after a speaking\nevent in Washington D.C.\nHe was eventually escorted\nback to his hotel room by\npolice.

The crowd shouted a\nlot of things at Sen. Paul\nthat night in an opinion piece for\nby a Washington Post re-\nporter. The crowd chanted\n"Say Her Name," referring to\nBreonna Taylor, who had been a\nconstu-\nent of the Republican National\nConvention.

"the White man's burden"?\n"the White man's burden"?\n"the White man's burden"?

How can we waive away\nthese atrocities when the\ndeveloping world is still\nsuffering from the con-\nsequences of colonization and the White man's burden?\n
Either the oppressors\nface an organized and brut-\nal punishment similar to\nthose demanding criminal\ncharges for the police of-\ncides that are too meet the rubber quota.

We can no longer ignore\njustice by citing the pas-\nsage of time as to why jus-\ntice mustn't be carried out.

They have had their turn\nto subjugate and rob us of our\nformer pride. But when our\npeople further and further\ndeveloping world is still\nsuffering from the con-\nsequences of colonization and the White man's burden?

To prove their superior-\nity, or rather, your inferi-\norty, they begin to bel-\nhed that they are the more\npeople for medical exper-\nimentation. But the set-\nters don't have the desire\nwith concrete justice.\n
These types of self-pro-\ndeclared oppressors. To\nthem, you are property. To them,\nyou are a disposable utili-\nty. With this idea, they are\nable to justify anything.

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NCAA Council votes on college basketball start

Season will begin on November 25, with practices beginning in October

By Joe Laurich
Guest Writer

On Wednesday, the NCAA Division One Council voted to start the basketball season on Nov. 25, a 15-day delay from the initial start date of Nov. 10th. Practices can begin on Oct. 1.

They also recommended that teams play a minimum of four non-conference games, although this will not be enforced. That move was likely made to accommodate non-conference tournaments.

Non-conference games will help evaluate schools for the NCAA Tournament selection process and help produce more accurate team metrics, such as NET.

With the start date for the season set in stone, more clarity is provided about how teams will structure their schedule and of non-conference tournaments.

The Battle 4 Atlantis tournament, which is traditionally held in the Bahamas, already announced that they would relocate to play at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The dates for the tournament have yet to be announced. Usually, the tournament is played around Thanksgiving but those dates will likely change due to the NCAA’s decision.

Participants in the tournament this year include Duke, West Virginia, Memphis, Ohio State, Texas A&M, Utah, Creighton and Wichita State.

Xavier’s non-conference tournament this year is the Orlando Invitational. It is scheduled to be held at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports in Walt Disney World, where the NBA bubble currently is.

In 2020, Xavier was also scheduled to be held in the Bahamas, already caught up for possibly the best in their respective conferences.

The NCAA’s decision to push the college basketball season back to Nov. 25 means Xavier will likely play a few Big East state this season. Each team is recommended to play at least four non-conference games around Thanksgiving, from Thursday, Nov. 26 to Sunday, Nov. 29.

If the tournament happens this year, Xavier will be competing against Auburn, Boise State, Gonzaga, Michigan State, Saint Louis, and Siena.

One other decision that came down with the council’s vote was to extend the NCAA recruiting dead period to Jan. 1, which could impact team’s 2021 and 2022 recruiting as they won’t have as much contact with potential recruits.

Wednesday’s decision by the NCAA provides some hope that there will be Xavier basketball this year.

By Terryon Adams
Guest Writer

It’s the second straight series that Denver has erased a 3-1 series deficit, something no NBA team has ever done. Now, they’ll meet the Los Angeles Lakers with a chance to reach the NBA Finals for the first time in franchise history.

On Friday night in their Game 7 against Toronto Raptors, Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart solidified that they are no longer up-and-coming, and that they should be considered some of the best players in the league.

The Celtics trio combined for 66 points as the Boston Celtics eliminated the Toronto Raptors 92-97 to return to the conference finals for the third time in four years.

In Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals, the Celtics fell to the sharpshooting Miami Heat, who erased a fourth quarter deficit to win in overtime. Bam Adebayo’s block in OT on Jayson Tatum sealed the win.

**Playoff Schedule**

Heat vs. Celtics

Game 2

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. (ESPN)

Nuggets vs. Lakers

Game 1

Friday, 9:00 p.m. (TNT)

Heat vs. Celtics

Game 3

Sept. 19, 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Nuggets vs. Lakers

Game 2

Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. (TNT)

Heat vs. Celtics

Game 4

Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
College football’s return yields expected results

Clemson, Texas win big on Saturday while Notre Dame narrowly beats Duke

BY CURT BERRY
Guest Writer

Find that comfortable spot on the couch, order some wings and enjoy football on Saturday again because college football is back.

Let’s start off with the Fighting Irish. No. 10 Notre Dame faced off against their ACC opponent, Duke. It was a slow start and a disappointing first half by quarterback Ian Book, but the defense prevailed.

In the second half, however, Notre Dame found their stride and were able to beat Duke 27-15. It was the Fighting Irish’s first conference game in its 133 year football history.

Let’s move now to our biggest upset of the week in college football. Missouri State lost to Oklahoma as the Sooners won easily, 48-0. Oklahoma quarterback Spencer Rattler came out with 290 yards and four passing touchdowns.

However, the Ragin Cajuns of Louisiana beat No. 23 ranked Iowa State in a rather dominating fashion. Louisiana-Lafayette’s defense played strong all day long. They returned two touchdowns, a kick return and a punt return, upsetting Iowa State 51-14 on the road.

The Texas Longhorns are back from past years, and wasted no time to assert their offensive power. Sam Ehlinger threw for five touchdowns and 826 yards on 25-33 passing. Texas beats University of Texas El-Paso 59-3.

NFL viewership ratings go down from last year

Steelers-Giants down 21% from last year, Broncos-Titans game down 38%

BY JOE LAURICH
Guest Writer

NFL ratings were down significantly across the board for the week one slate of games.

Thursday night’s game between the Houston Texans and Kansas City Chiefs was down 16% in viewership from the Thursday night game last year, although it was up from the same game two years ago.

The Sunday Night Football game between the Dallas Cowboys and Los Angeles Rams, two major markets, was down 16.1% from last year’s season opener between the Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots. Both Monday Night Football games had a significant drop from last year.

The game in the early slot, the Pittsburgh Steelers against the New York Giants, was down 21% from the early Monday Night game last year. Given that New York is a huge market and the Steelers are one of the most popular teams in the NFL, the steep drop isn’t a great sign for the NFL.

The late game, held in Denver for a matchup between the Broncos and Tennessee Titans, also struggled to get viewers as that game saw a steep 38% drop in viewership compared to last year’s game in the same time slot.

While the ratings were down significantly, the NFL still had the five highest-rated TV shows last week. The Sunday afternoon matchup between the New Orleans Saints and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, which was also Tom Brady’s debut in Tampa Bay took the top spot.

Next up, the potential Heisman winner Trevor Lawrence threw for 350 yards with three total touchdowns, including two rushing touchdowns.

The No. 1 ranked Clemson Tigers beat Wake Forest 37-13. This one was over at halftime. This weekend, we’ve got a great Saturday Night matchup with the Miami Hurricanes going up against Louisville.

The Hurricanes are ranked No. 18, and Louisville is at No. 17, so expect a close battle there. No. 13 University of Cincinnati goes up against the Austin Peay Governors, who lost by 55-1 to Pitt last week. Lastly, the Boston College Eagles go up against Duke.

In other college football news, the Big Ten announced this Wednesday morning that they will play football this year after previously announcing they would postpone their season until this upcoming spring. The Big Ten teams will prepare to start play again on the weekend of Oct. 23-24. Each team will play an eight-game schedule. The Pac-12 conference, which also postponed, has no immediate plans.

Sports Banter

Hey Stephen...make a kick

Unlike Taylor Swift (who simply doesn’t miss), Titans kicker Stephen Gostkowski missed four kicks on Monday night. He did, however, make the game-winner to give Tennessee an 18-15 win over Denver.

One leg at a time

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Zach Wheeler had to miss a start after he got injured last week while putting on his pants. Wheeler somehow managed to rip a nail off his finger while putting his pants on. He’s expected to make a full recovery.

Minshew Mania

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Gardner Minshew went 10-20 with 175 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Jaguars to an upset win over the Colts on Sunday. Bud Light’s promotion with Minshew to give out free Bud Light if you drafted Minshew in the first round of your fantasy draft and win your league may backfire.

NFL ratings were down from last year week one, even in games featuring major market teams in primetime.
Opinion: Twenty One Pilots mocks racial activism

By Nina Benich  
Staff Writer

As 2020 (unfortunately) continues on and the issues that America faces seem to double by the day, racial tensions and the current significance of the Black Lives Matter movement seem to be at the forefront of everyone's Twitter feed. Countless petitions still need to be signed, cops need to be charged, and evidently, certain celebrities need to break their silences. One such celebrity being Twenty One Pilots' frontman, Tyler Joseph. From what I have observed, Joseph has never been one for political talk — he frequently expresses his concerns surrounding topics of mental health through both his lyrics and social media posts, but gives little attention to social issues like police brutality. The only effort he made this summer was participating in the infamous #BlackoutTuesday trend on the band's official Instagram account. Justifiably, fans have been berating him to use his entertainment influence and change things to raise awareness, post links to petitions and mainly talk about current racial tensions in a way that might serve to educate his younger followers, as well as anyone who idolizes him.

On Sept. 2, in response to these requests, he tweeted, “you guys keep asking me to use my platforms, feels good to dust these bad boys off,” and included two pictures of him wearing white DollsKill platform sneakers.

In response to this, fans expressed their disappointment, some of them being social media influencers, others being longtime supporters. Emmy Hartman, a TikTok star with 1.9 million followers, tweeted, “Do you realize how diverse your fan base is, and how many people look up to you that are affected by so many of these issues you refuse to speak out about... so p*cking disappointing.”

In my opinion, she hit the nail right on the head. The scandal opened up many opportunities for fans to evaluate not only Joseph's stance on the Black Lives Matter movement, but also that of other celebrities who may not have provided their opinion or even acknowledged recent occurrences. Joseph then segwayed into a conversation about September being Mental Health Awareness Month, although this discussion wasn’t the one that proved to satisfy fans. He replied with a link to the website blacklivesmatter.card.co and a further apology.

In response, popular YouTuber D’Angelo Wallace quoted tweeted, “NOBODY was asking you to tweet about Black Lives Matter INSTEAD of mental health. They coincide. Please read something deeper than your song lyrics.” While I will never experience racial bias firsthand, Joseph's tweet did greatly disappoint me. If you weren’t personally offended by the tweet, take a moment to imagine being a longtime, dedicated fan whose idol refuses to address issues that directly affect your everyday life, and when they finally acknowledge the countless requests they’ve received to do so, they decide to make a joke out of it.

Although we may not want to believe it, our favorite A-listers are, more often than not, blinded by their own wealth and ignorance, and the only relevance, which leads them to be uneducated on the issues that truly matter.

While Joseph has previously used Twitter to discuss issues like mental health and suicide prevention, taking on others such as human rights would help to distribute his influence across all corners of social media to educate those who truly need it.

Instead of the “platform” tweet, he could have posted links sharing his own thoughts on the matter or simply confirmed that he donated to an important cause. Due to his influence, he could have sparked anger within his audience, gained criticism and lost trust from anything fans.

This incident goes to show the true power celebrities have, as well as the power social media influencers have. It gives us an advantage and help to unite us through a comforter screen even when we're divided in the outside world.
Two-player games that entertain

**By Will Rippey**
**Staff Editor**

Tired of watching your roommate play single-player games from a distance? Need to assert your dominance over your dorm room? Want to do something fun with your roommate while still minimizing your risk of exposure to COVID-19?

Chances are you’ve answered yes to at least the second question multiple times. Since we live in an age where duels are now illegal, we must instead use the second best alternative: two-player video games.

**Super Smash Bros. Ultimate**

You need to have some sort of Super Smash Bros. game for your dorm. The fifth installment in the classic Super Smash Bros. series, Smash Ultimate boasts 76 characters, 110 stages plus an endless number of user-made stages and tons of replay value.

It’s also one of the easiest Smash games to pick up due to the simple combat system and straightforward movement mechanics.

The large cast also makes it easy to find a character or two you enjoy playing. Nintendo’s balance team has done a great job of preventing the creation of cheap, overpowering characters.

Pros: Easy to learn, large character selection, nice visuals.

Cons: Nintendo exclusive, expensive and rarely on sale.

**Dragon Ball FighterZ**

A pick for any of her competitive crowd, Dragon Ball FighterZ is a 2 vs. 3 tag team fighter, starring characters from all across the Dragon Ball franchise. It’s fast, explosive and absolutely gorgeous.

The controls are also super crisp and responsive which is great for a game this fast.

FighterZ also has a pretty rewarding learning curve for those willing to grind for sick combos.

The cast is incredible and allows for some super fun team combinations. Like Smash Ultimate, you won’t have any problems finding your team.

While it is much more technical than the other games on this list, I found it very easy to pick up for someone not used to fighting games, and it’s an absolute blast to play.

Pros: Visuals, goes on sale constantly, fast pace.

Cons: A majority of the cast is DLC, which means a full roster will cost you extra.

**Battleblock Theater**

This is a pick for the more competitive crowd. It’s a multiplayer platform where you run through a series of gauntlets for a bunch of cats holding you hostage.

The levels are designed for multiple players, meaning you’ll have to cooperate to finish certain parts of the level.

That being said, it also gives you a ton of ways to kill your teammates, which is great if you want to be toxic.

It also has a great hand-drawn cartoonish aesthetic, and the music is great.

Pros: Looks great, sounds great, plays smoothly.

Cons: Bad early 2010s humor. Seriously, turn off the announcer if you’re playing this.

**Divekick**

Divekick is a fighting game with two controls dive and kick. Dive sends you into the air and kick sends you back down with a kick.

The first person to touch the other with a kick immediately wins the round. It is simultaneously hilarious, infuriating and an incredible test of your skill.

Pros: Cheap, funny.

Cons: A joke only stays funny for so long.

**Nibhogg**

A recommendation from back page editor Aidan Callahan, Nibhogg is sort of a mix of a fighting game, a platformer and tag of war. At the start of the round, each player appears in the middle of an arena equipped with a sword.

Once one player kills the other, they must start running toward one side of the level. Their opponent will then respond and try to kill them to halt their progress and run back toward their side. It’s kind of like Divekick meets Battleblock.

Pros: Good visuals, unique gameplay, inexpensive.

Cons: Frustrating.

Podcast is familiarity. If you’ve listened to a podcast before, you’d know it’s the feeling the introduction is played through the series throughout each episode. Every break and introduction is played through by a jazz arrangement complemented by Ms. Obama’s story about her upbringing in the Chicago suburbs.

In her first episode she talks to her husband, former President Barack Obama. The immediate energy you feel from the couple is love. Those two joke laugh and talk with each other about moments that have affected them.

You don’t feel like an outsider listening to the former first lady and president talking — you feel like they are your friends.

It’s almost as though they’re at a social event, a barbecue or maybe even a family dinner. The Obamas are telling stories which make a connection that runs through the episode and to the listener.

Her second episode is with her good friend and award winning journalist Michele Norris. They talk about what it’s like in the current social climate and what it was like growing up. Again it inspires a nostalgic feeling for the listener. You aren’t just listening to two very intelligent women, you’re having a conversation with them.

That’s not to say the podcast is without any faults, however. At times it can be dry and for those who have a hard time focusing, it may be difficult to listen to.

However, the host herself is reason enough to keep listening. The listener can pause and return hours later and still be able to follow what she is saying.

All in all, The Michelle Obama Podcast is a worthwhile listening experience for people of all backgrounds. Listening to insightful conversations between all the guests she has on the show is a great way to spend free time and help expand one’s view of the world.

Total score: 4/5
Johnny Sins LEGO Minifigures

He's been a doctor, an astronaut, a veteran, a teacher and more. It's time for LEGO to pay some respect to one of the most versatile men in pornography.

There are countless examples of types of minifigures that could share the iconic bald head of Johnny Sins. It's pretty clear that not making a Johnny Sins minifigure sold alongside a gray couch would be leaving money on the table.

A more realistic LEGO City

Since appearing in 1992, LEGO City has been one of the brand's most popular sets. Some famous LEGO City sets allow you to adorn your city with firetrucks, rescue helicopters, hospitals and more.

But LEGO City can often miss out on some of the more realistic aspects of a city. I want to see my LEGO City sets include everything from homelessness caused by poverty to drug dealing in the alley way, all the way to realistic bank robberies — hostages included. Hopefully LEGO City will stop denying these problems and start showing off the less glamorous parts of its city.

Joker (2019) LEGO set

It was one of the most popular movies of last year, there's no good reason for LEGO to not cash in on this film's success. The Joker is already bright and colorful, making him very good at catching the attention of kids. Who could blame them? What kid wouldn't want to pretend to give a valid critique about a society that mistreats and abandons them before murdering a guy live on-air? Come on, I wasn't the only moody teenager.

LEGO Ancient Egypt

Is there any better way to get kids interested in history than with LEGOS? Imagine being a kid building massive pyramids out of LEGOs, playing with mummmified minifigures and sacrificing children in hopes of a good harvest. This would be a blast for kids and could get them excited to learn.

Passion of the LEGO

Since the turn of the century, the image of the Catholic Church has been in a sharp decline due to, you know, the whole molesting kids thing. The Church needs to find a new way to engage kids in religion without traumatizing them. Passion of the LEGO would include sets of the Last Supper, the cross which Jesus was crucified on and minifigures of important apostles, such as Judas and Peter. I mean, when you think about it, LEGOs already have holes in their hands, so designing a set for the crucifixion would be child's play.