Piper Kerman to speak at Xavier

By Andrew Koch
Editor-in-Chief

Writer and prison justice advocate Piper Kerman, whose New York Times-bestselling memoir “Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison” serves as a loose basis for the Netflix original series “Orange is the New Black,” will speak at Xavier on Feb. 3.

Kerman will speak about the American judicial and correctional systems and will also be available for questions and sign copies of her book.

Beginning in 2004, Kerman spent 13 months in FCI Danbury, a minimum-security prison in Danbury, Conn., after being indicted for money laundering and drug trafficking.

Kerman’s memoir, published in 2010, describes her time in prison and explores the inner workings of America’s correctional facilities.

“(Kerman) provides a unique perspective of the judicial system...and how society can work to improve the prison system for incarcerated individuals,” Student Activities Council (SMC) Press Secretary Jack Bainbridge said in an email. “We hope the faculty and students will be interested in listening to Piper Kerman’s unique experience.”

Bainbridge said that the event will bring Xavier students greater awareness about issues related to prison justice and the ethics of the American justice and correctional facilities, social justice issues with which he said not many students are currently familiar.

“Kerman speaks (about) the treatment of inmates and the rehabilitation they are receiving,” Bainbridge said. “It is interesting to think about if society is genuinely putting (its) best efforts towards helping rehabilitate these individuals as opposed to simply detaining them for a certain amount of time.”

During Kerman’s visit, SAC will sponsor additional activities related to Kerman’s lecture. Bainbridge said that facility for the department will also help facilitate questions for Kerman.

More than 600 student tickets are available, free of charge. SAC will distribute tickets on three occasions in January: on Jan. 15 at the All for One Shop in University Station and on Jan. 19 and Jan. 21 in Gallagher Student Center.

Students will be able to acquire one ticket per ALL Card. The first distribution date, Jan. 15, will be “Orange Day” at the All for One Shop when students will be able to purchase Kerman’s memoir at a discounted rate.

“Orange is the New Black,” a loose adaptation of Kerman’s memoir, first appeared on Netflix in 2013 and follows inmate Piper Chapman (Taylor Schilling) as she serves a 15-month sentence in a women’s correctional facility.

The series has been popular amongst viewers and critics alike, receiving more views in its first week on Netflix than either “House of Cards” or “Arrested Development” and winning three Primetime Emmy Awards.

Soccer plays in Big East final, will host NCAA game

By Andrew Utz
Staff Writer

Despite a loss in the final round of the Big East tournament, Xavier will host the program’s biggest home game in an NCAA tournament against the Montmouth University Hawks on Nov. 20.

The No. 11 Muskies (13-5-2) received an at-large bid for the NCAA tournament after falling to the Providence Friars in the Big East title match.

In a press conference, head coach Andy Fleming said that Xavier’s hosting is a big step forward for the program.

“We’ve been fortunate to have achieved a lot of milestones in the short time I’ve been here,” Fleming said in an interview. “There was a point where we were saying, ‘What’s next?’ and ‘What more can we do?’ And I always had a vision.”

“The day I interviewed for this job, I was out on the field and pictured a home NCAA tournament game with the hill full on a cold fall night,” Fleming said. “I talked about that with the guys earlier in the season and challenged them to have visions of their own.”

En route to the championship game, the Musketeers won a semifinal match against Georgetown with a crucial strike from sophomore Jalen Brown in the 64th minute.

In the Big East finals against Providence, junior Alex Risdale posted the first goal of the match in the 23rd minute. A deflection had left the ball at Risdale’s feet.

 Providence scored back three minutes later. The shot blasted past junior goalkeeper Vince Shaw into the upper left side of the net. The Musketeers kept up the pressure through the rest of the half, with three additional chances that were never converted into the leading goal.

In the second half, Xavier held its line for an additional 35 minutes until the Friars found their opening on a corner kick. The Musketeers fought back but could not capitalize to recover from the deficit.

The 2-1 final score marked the first regulation loss for the Musketeers since Aug. 31.

The Monmouth Hawks are members of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and won their conference tournament, finishing with an overall record of 11-3-6.

The team boasts a seven-game winning streak and has given up only nine goals this season. Should the Muskies beat Montmouth in the first round, they would face the Indiana Hoosiers, which received a first-round bye, on Nov. 23.

That meeting would be the second between the Muskies and the Hoosiers, with the first being in the 2012 NCAA tournament. In that game, the Musketeers lost 4-1 to Indiana, the eventual champion.

Other Big East teams Georgetown, Creighton and conference champion Providence will also compete in the NCAA tournament. All three teams received first-round byes and will compete on Nov. 23. Xavier kicks off against Montmouth at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the Xavier Soccer Complex.

As they did in regular season games, full-time undergraduate students can attend the match-up for free by swiping their ALL Cards at the front gate.

Edited by Andrew Koch

Also in this issue

News

Xavier recently hosted spoken-word poet Asia (right) and his guitarist brother-in-law Jolian Auletto (right).

Xavier senior Katie Gackle (right) has taken over as director of the theater program at McAuley High School in College Hill.

A&E

Xavier senior Katie Gackle (right) has taken over as director of the theater program at McAuley High School in College Hill.

Image 1

Memorial Piper Kerman (above) will speak on Feb. 3 in Cintas Center.

Photo courtesy of Sam Zalutsky

Piper Kerman (series tie-in edition pictured above) inspired the critically-acclaimed Netflix original series “Orange is the New Black.”

Image 2

Members of the Physical Plant work to remove snow from the Xavier Stadium on Nov. 18.

Photo courtesy of Spiegel & Grau

“Fascinating... . The true subject of this unforgettable book is female bonding and the ties that even bars can’t untie.”

—People (four stars)
The Student Activities Council (SAC) recently hosted spoken-word poet Asia and his guitarist and brother-in-law, Jollan Aurelio, to perform his creative works.

About 35 people came out to support the poet, whose poems are accented by the musical accompaniment of his brother-in-law Jollan. Several years into his poetic career because, as Asia said, “He creates a musicality which elevates the emotional level of the poems.”

Asia became a spoken word artist and poet in 2006 after being diagnosed with testicular cancer. He spent part of the show telling a poem about his battle with cancer.

“Cancer is one of those things… people ask you, as a person diagnosed with cancer, ‘are you afraid of death?’ You say, ‘I’m afraid that I haven’t been living,’” Asia said to the crowd.

He was working a 9-to-5 job as a credit card salesman, training college students to solicit credit cards to the public.

“I hated the job. I got it as a temporary employment opportunity in college and they just kept promoting me and giving me more money. I was caught up in the stability of the paycheck and benefits until I was diagnosed with cancer,” Asia said.

After he was diagnosed, Asia made a promise to himself to quit his job and become a full time poet if he survived the treatment.

“I had to get out when I could,” Asia said.

Asia’s poetry performance is a continuous show with the recital of several of Asia’s own poems interspersed by conversational crowd work. His poems cover a range of topics, from the death of his sister to the ideas of aging and self-image.

He recited one poem about the after-effects of the cancer treatment on his self-image.

“I want everyone in the audience to know that they’re beautiful,” he said.

“I had to realize that I am broken, but still beautiful,” Asia said.

“I perform poetry because I think it does something to people; it really makes them feel like they’re not alone.” Many of Asia’s poems reflect this theme.

To find out more about Asia’s poetry, visit theasiaproject.com. Asia can be seen performing poems in several media sites, such as YouTube and ButtonPoetry.
By Regina Wright
Staff Writer

Xavier’s Interfaith Community Engagement held its annual Interfaith Retreat. The retreat started on the evening of Nov. 14 and lasted until Nov. 15. The Interfaith Retreat was held at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio.

The purpose of the retreat is for students from different backgrounds to come together and learn from each other about their own religious diversity.

“Overall, it is a really great opportunity for students to get away and to rejuvenate and refresh in the midst of the craziness of November during the fall semester,” Stephanie Renny, program assistant for the Center for Interfaith Community Engagement said.

“It’s also an opportunity for students from different backgrounds to come together and have an experience together where they can learn and grow personally and spiritually.

Students had the opportunity to observe Shabbat and practice other religious ceremonies.

A tradition during the retreat is for students to come together and make dinner.

“We really found a way for everyone to be part of that preparation,” Renny said. The Shabbat dinner was held on Nov. 14. Students learned how to make Marzah ball soup and how to drop them into broth. They also enjoyed roasted chicken, Kasha and vegetables.

Before dinner, the women lit candles and prayed and then revealed the bread. Students learned that the bread is always covered until it is broke.

The Interfaith Community Engagement started the Interfaith Retreat in 2009.

“This year, the Jesuit Spiritual Center accommodated us very well,” Renny said. “We had a nice space with a nice kitchen and a fireplace and they also helped us to have a bonfire outside after dinner and all the students got to have their own rooms.”

During the retreat, Renny led a guided meditation, and Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Community Engagement Rablbs Abie Ingber held an outdoor reflection.

“To see nature and the trees and leaves falling made me at peace, it made me blessed to be part of this opportunity and really happy to be able to come,” senior Binta Diallo said.

There was also storytelling during which students shared who they are, where they are from and their relationship with God.

“I really encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities, to step away from the chaos and to listen and to God and to refresh and rejuvenate,” Renny said.

Remaining International Education Week 2014 Events

- International Coffee House Innkiccaana
  Wednesday, Nov. 19
  3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  Gallagher Student Center
  Faces of the World Lounge

- International Fashion Show and Potluck Dinner
  Extravaganza
  Wednesday, Nov. 19
  7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  Buehner Hall

- Trip to Jungle Jim’s International Market*
  Thursday, Nov. 20
  3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

* Tickets no longer available


described in the text.
ISS to host annual fashion show

By Erica Lampert
Staff Writer

The International Student Society (ISS) will hold its annual fashion show and potluck diner as the culminating event of International Education Week.

On Nov. 21, ISS will host the fashion show and diner in the Smith Atrium to celebrate the diverse culture of Xavier’s community.

International Education Week began on Nov. 16 and continues through Nov. 22. This week is dedicated to celebrating international education and exchange worldwide. It is a collaborative project between the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that utilizes programs to prepare and attract students from both America and abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences.

Xavier holds this event to highlight diversity among peers and to broadcast the different cultures around the Xavier campus. At the end of the week, the fashion show and potluck dinner are held as a final get-together for the international community on Xavier’s campus.

“The fashion show and dinner is a great platform for communication between different cultures, and it helps to promote diversity and internationalism on Xavier’s campus,” ISS president Zitian Jiang said.

“During this event, international students in ISS will model fashions from their home countries. Students who have studied abroad will also display the traditional dress from countries in which they have studied. Many of those who attend will also bring traditional homemade dishes from different countries, and many clubs will display different cultural themes through traditional dances and music. Those who do not bring food have to pay a $5 dollar fee to attend.”

“The show is a great opportunity to discover the differences between the traditional outfits from different countries. It is a collaborative project between the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that utilizes programs to prepare and attract students from both America and abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences.

ISS encourages students to sign up as models at the Center for International Education to represent different cultural backgrounds. Students are also encouraged to bring a dish, perform, or simply attend the event.

“We are happily inviting everyone to come and enjoy the event with us,” Jiang said.

For this year’s event, ISS has ordered food from numerous local restaurants that have authentic international foods, contacted guest performers and searched for models to present various cultures.

There will also be a red carpet theme this year, as well as new forms of entertainment for the event.

“You might discover one of your classmates or professors who might have some international background at the fashion show. There will also be several good stories about studying abroad offered during the show,” Jiang said.

Other events occurring during International Education Week and more information on the international fashion show is available on Xavier’s website.

Xavier Police assisted an elderly non-student motorist with a disabled vehicle in the Commons.

Nov. 10, 3:50 p.m. – Two non-students going through trash cans on campus were advised to leave campus and were sent on their way.

Nov. 10, 7:35 p.m. – Xavier Police assisted Norwood Police with two disorderly people during a traffic stop at Dana Avenue and Montgomery Road.

Nov. 12, 12:24 a.m. – An intoxicated, underage student attempting to access the wrong room in Husman Hall was cited for possession of a fictitious ID.

Nov. 12, 7:54 p.m. – Xavier Police investigated a report of a non-student on the academic mall who possibly had a gun in his or her pocket. An investigation revealed that the object was a flashlight and the non-student was on campus trying to find a friend in Husman Hall.

Nov. 13, 12:24 a.m. – Xavier Police assisted an elderly non-student motorist with a disabled vehicle in the Admissions Lot.

Nov. 13, 1:18 p.m. – A student said that an unknown person followed him or her home in Norwood on Nov. 6. Norwood Police was notified.

Nov. 14, 12:00 p.m. – A contract employee reported the theft of paint and other supplies in the storage room in the Commons.

Nov. 14, 8:55 p.m. – Xavier Police assisted Life and a local party complaint in the Village Apartments. Residence Life will follow up.

Nov. 15, 2:19 a.m. – Xavier Police stopped a non-student motorist suspected of a DUI on Dana Avenue. Cincinnati Police handled the incident.

Nov. 15, 5:30 p.m. – A student reported that he or she was being harassed by another student in the residence halls. Residence Life will follow up.

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POLICE NOTES

Note of the Week

Maybe it was just a reenactment of “The Notebook.”

Nov. 14, 2:11 a.m. – A student lying in the street on Cleneay Avenue near University Station was cited for underage consumption.
Students to run Nearly Naked Mile

BY MADDIE DAY

Xavier students will be braving the cold in the sixth annual Nearly Naked Mile.

The entry fee is $15 per student, and registration for the event will begin at 6 p.m. in front of the Gallagher Student Center. The event will begin at 7 p.m., and students are encouraged to “strip down” for a good cause.

The race begins at Bellarmine Circle. Runners race down the residential mall, touch a gate by the intramural fields, come back to pass Husman Hall and finish back at Bellarmine Circle.

Prizes will be awarded to the best-dressed and fastest male and female participants immediately after the race. According to Rabbi Abie Ingber, director of the CICE, the purpose of the event goes beyond the race.

“It is great fun for a hundred or so students to run the mile course through the cold, but the purpose is life-and-death serious,” Ingber said. “The funds from registration and T-shirt sales help to provide medicines from a fundraising night at Xavier to people who run a race for a winner.”

Stephanie Renny, program assistant at the CICE, says that the Nearly Naked Mile is helpful for the village that students visit on the Guatemala trip.

“Through this trip, the students have the unique opportunity of working side-by-side with medical professionals to provide healthcare to a village with few resources,” Renny said. “Our work in this clinic has greatly contributed to development of health education in this region around Lake Atitlan. In fact, a young man from our village is currently in medical school. Additionally, the clinic has developed a program to train nurses from around the lake to help bring healthcare to surrounding villages as well.”

The CICE works to create and strengthen the sense of community among Xavier’s spiritually diverse population. It works towards a student-centered initiative that encourages Xavier students to explore their own faith while working to better understand other traditions.

The CICE also serves the surrounding community in terms of social justice, shared religious teachings and leadership development.

For more information on the event or the CICE, contact Stephanie Renny, the program assistant, at renny@xavier.edu.

News in Brief

Five killed in Jerusalem attacks

Two Palestinian attackers smashed a synagogue in Jerusalem on Nov. 18. The attackers used knives and axes to kill four rabbis that were praying in the synagogue and to injure six others. Another woman died of injuries later that day. Three of the rabbis had dual citizenship with the United States and the other with Britain.

These killings come as tensions have risen in Israeli followings conflicts between Palestinians and Israelis in recent months.

Ferguson braces for potential unrest

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency ahead of the grand jury decision on the possible charges in the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The grand jury will decide whether or not to charge the police officer accused of shooting Brown. Several federal agencies are warning that the decision could bring further violence to the town.

United States, China reach climate change agreement

President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping reached an agreement at the G-20 summit that will require the United States and China, two countries with the largest carbon footprint, to reduce carbon emissions by 2030. The agreement calls for the United States to reduce carbon emissions by 25 to 28 percent by 2025. It also calls for China to begin its carbon emission reduction by 2030.

Senate fails to pass Keystone XL pipeline bill

The Senate came up one vote short for the 60 required to pass the Keystone XL pipeline bill on Nov. 18. Republican Sen. Mary Landrieu had fought persistently for passage. The pipeline is a key issue in her home state of Louisiana where she will face a run-off election against Republican challenger and Louisiana congressman Bill Cassidy.

The pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada to the United States, has been a controversial issue for its potential environmental and economic impact.

By MEREDITH FRANCIS
Campus News Editor

Campus News

November 19, 2014

- United States and World News

ISIS kills American in act of ‘pure evil’

The Islamic State militant group called ISIS released a video on Nov. 16 showing the beheading of a dozen Syrian soldiers as well as the beheading of 26-year-old American Peter Kassig, also known by his Islamic convert name Abdul-Rahman.

Kassig was an aid worker in Lebanon and Syria and was captured in October 2013. He was also a former U.S. Army Ranger.

The video is one of four in a series that has been released since August 2014. Prior videos have been released periodically, featured the beheadings of British natives David Haines and Alan Henning as well as Americans James Foley and Steven J. Sotloff.

By RICHARD MEYER
Copy Editor

The nearly 16 minute-long propaganda video shows a history of the Islamic State and ends with Kassig’s beheading by a Jihadist man, believed to be the executioner in the videos. The man has been nicknamed “Jihadi John.”

In the videos prior to Kassig’s, the men were beheaded on camera. Many who have watched the video are attempting to analyze why they changed the format.

The most obvious difference is in the beheading itself — the previous videos all showed the beheading on camera,” Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and former director of the Center for the Study of Terrorist Radicization said.

“I don’t think this was the Islamic State’s choice. The most likely possibility is that something went wrong when they were beheading him.

Analysts believe that the differences could have been because the extremists did not have as much time outside as they had to film previous videos due to increased aerial surveillance. Others believe that Kassig would not cooperate and would not allow them to stage the killing as planned.

President Obama responded to the video, calling Kassig’s death “an act of pure evil by a terrorist group that the world rightly associates with inhumanity.”

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On a night when fans got their first look at the newly minted Xavier roster, the Musketeers put on a show, jumping ahead early and never looking back. Two new faces appeared in the starting lineup as freshman forward Trevon Bluiett and junior guard Remy Abell joined returning Muskies junior forward James Farr and seniors center Matt Stainbrook and guard Dee Davis on the court for tip off.

The Musketeers got off to a hot start with Stainbrook scoring the first seven points of the game, including a rare 3-pointer. He finished the game with 18 points and nine rebounds in only 19 minutes of play.

From the start, there was excellent ball movement, which allowed every player to get touches and culminated in an exciting alley-oop dunk by sophomore forward Jalen Reynolds.

The Musketeers quickly made up for the 7-2 deficit by exploding on the Arkansas-Pine Bluff Lions.

Sports Editor
Senior Maleeka Kynard led the team in its opening games.

Xavier dominated as season is underway

On Nov. 18, the Musketeers played against Long Beach State University, winning with a final score of 97-74.

The team turned in a solid effort with five players scoring in double-digits led by Bluiett’s 20.

Xavier knocked down 16 3-pointers in an offensive rout but showed signs of weakness on defense.

At times Long Beach State overcame with the Musketeer defense, finding players unguarded and discovering clear lanes to the basket.

Xavier plays against Stephen F. Austin at 8 p.m. on Nov. 21 in Cintas Center.
**Opinion: College football playoff excites**

**November 19, 2014**

**By BRENT RAINES**  
Staff Writer

The sports universe has been introduced to the first college football playoffs. Now well into the season, college football has proven this will not be disappointing in any way, shape or form.

No other major sport in America has games with crucial postseason implications like college football does. Even the best NFL and college basketball teams pick up two or three losses over the course of the season. The best MLB and NBA teams have dozens.

Many playoff critics thought that a playoff system would take away that “one bad game can ruin a season” element. Instead, it has had the opposite effect and is multiplying the number of teams competing for the ultimate prize — a national championship.

Before a wild week 12, which had a number of match-ups between playoff hopefuls and major upsets, there were 10 teams from the power conferences with one loss or fewer. Of those teams, eight were serious contenders for one of the four playoff spots (Oregon, Duke and Nebraska). Arizona State was virtually eliminated in an upset loss to Oregon State on Nov. 15.

What was a great weekend for the sport this year perhaps would not have been the same last year. Mississippi State and Florida State would have a firm grip on the two spots leading to the BCS National Championship. Until one of them would lose, every other game simply wouldn’t matter. Mississippi State’s loss would have had a negligible effect on the championship picture. The Southeastern Conference’s recent dominance would have more than likely allowed Alabama to slide into its place. Excluding the Mississippi State and Alabama game, the much ballyhooed games of the weekend wouldn’t have been more than mildly intriguing games with conference championship implications.

The playoff changed that. Now, there are seven competitors with one loss or fewer fighting for one of the four coveted spots and the SEC’s best holding tightly onto the two positions. A four-team playoff has turned the remaining schedules for the seven playoff hopefuls: one loss means elimination.

Under the old system, there could be fewer than five marquee games with championship implications left on the season (including the championship itself), now there are at least triple the amount.

The college football playoff has done what many fans thought would be impossible by providing more meaningful games every week. This results in the added benefit of giving us a more authentic way to determine a champion.

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**Sports**

**Away matches begin**

**By RYAN O’TOOLE**  
Staff Writer

It’s been nearly six months since 4-year old Leah Still, the daughter of Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle Devon Still, was diagnosed with pediatric cancer.

She had her cancerous tumor removed toward the end of September, then quickly took on chemotherapy, continuing her fight.

Things haven’t been easy for Leah, Devon and the rest of the family.

However, Still and his daughter have been looking for the silver linings as much as possible. In a note written by Still to thank fans and supporters, he mentioned how his daughter has been enjoying all the attention and support.

“The first time Leah was on TV, she called me to say she was a superstar,” Still said.

“I think that’s helping her keep her positive energy. With the videos we make on Instagram, she always asks me to read the comments that everybody writes. She’s soaking up the attention.”

Leah got to spend a day with the Bengals cheerleaders, something she wanted to do for a long time but just hadn’t had the energy for.

And more recently, she was able to watch her dad play live for the first time on Nov. 6 against the Cleveland Browns.

After the first quarter, the Bengals presented a check of $1.3 million to Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

The money was raised from the sales of Devon Still’s jerseys. Still is aware that a difficult journey lies ahead but he also has faith that the worst of things is behind his family.

Leah has one more treatment and then doctors will get to see whether the cancer remains in her body.

Following that, she has a stem-cell transplant scheduled at the end of November.

“We took her diagnosis and froze them, so they’ll put them back in,” Still said.

“And hopefully, for the holiday season with news that she is cancer-free.”

Thanks to the support from all across the nation, Still is hopeful and positive.

“Through all this, we really just try to hold on to our faith as much as possible,” Still said.

“Leah is pretty sure I’m not the first athlete who has gone through something like this,” he noted. “It’s the first time I’ve seen something blow up to this magnitude. We just felt that everything that’s happened has happened for a reason,” he said.
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Audiences snub great filmmaking

On Nov. 14, visionary filmmaker Christopher Nolan released his most ambitious and groundbreaking film to date — “Interstellar.” The film — inspired by the work of theoretical physicist Kip Thorne — raised a lot of hype leading up to its release. People were excited: a cinematic experience rivaling the greatness of Stanley Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey” and the filmmaker responsible for “The Dark Knight” trilogy pushing his limits, going above and beyond to provide the most thrilling film experience in ages. Not to mention an elegantly well-rounded cast (or the fact that space is always awesome).

Every aspect of this film should make it the most popular cinematic experience in ages. Why then, my fellow humans, is “Interstellar” underperforming at the box office and being met with mercurial critique?

For those who are unfamiliar with the film, “Interstellar” is the story of NASA pilot-turned-wormhole pioneer Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) who leads a last-ditch mission to find a planet capable of sustaining life as the “blight” plague slowly destroys what is left of Earth’s crops. Leaving his family behind for the daunting mission of saving humanity, Cooper and three accompanying crew members travel through a recently discovered wormhole network, which takes them to another galaxy containing three planets that could potentially serve as a home for humanity.

In case this isn’t yet clear, I loved it. It’s a film that not only delivered in terms of its scope and its epic subject matter, but also touched on a great deal of thought-provoking ideas. It wasn’t just a good film; it was a film experience unlike anything else I’ve seen. There was something about it that resonated well after its credits rolled. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this is what films are intended to be. They’re supposed to be something you encourage everyone you know to see. They’re supposed to resonate with you. They’re supposed to make you wish they would never end.

I expected this film would be met with high praise and acknowledged for the masterpiece it is. These expectations were shattered after a quick examination of the film’s box office performance. Though it was recognized and reviewed positively by several critics, it was also met with a vast number of critiques, some even going so far as to shine a negative light on the film. Specifics aside, the most common reception the film has received thus far is a cinematic experience that makes it so great. It’s the film’s innovation and originality. I understand Nolan’s grounded approach to filmmaking attracts a lot of additional critiques, but it hardly seems fair to condemn him for working toward something greater. Hollywood has gotten lazy, and we’re letting them.

As we audience members are submitting our ballots and funding their couch-sitting and potato chip consumption, we’re getting over 40 superhero films, but it’s also nice to have some variety and originality. I understand Nolan’s grounded approach to filmmaking attracts a lot of additional critiques, but it hardly seems fair to condemn him for working toward something greater. Hollywood has gotten lazy, and we’re letting them.

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Streetcar Saga

One year ago, if you had searched for the most recurring word in Cincinnati political news, the number one result, possibly before "the" or "a," would be "streetcar.

Perhaps this is an exaggeration, but it can't be too far off the mark; last year at this time, local politics and the streetcar debate were interchangeable terms. Despite the fact that ground was broken and construction began as far back as 2012, the project nearly met its end after a slate of anti-streetcar candidates were elected last November. However, of the streetcar project's nearly two years of broken promises and construction began, the mark was last year at this time, but it can't be too far off the horizon.

There has been no formal move in council to make this a part of the negotiations, but the fact that the councilwoman would even suggest this is dangerous, as it can encourage (and, according to some rumors, has encouraged) local unions to push for such a stipulation, or else.

I did not initially support the renunciation of the streetcar, but we have come too far to turn back now. By proposing the idea — or worse, by making it official that the operating company of the streetcar must be a local one — council risks losing its year of progress in a quagmire of bickering among themselves and external influences.

Even if the arguments are settled, the probability that a company found using this method would successfully run or even accept the responsibility for the success of the streetcar seems minimal. This sort of talk should be quickly discounted, and a viable candidate for Cincinnati’s streetcar’s day-to-day management must be found post-haste to ensure that the project does not go the same way as our subway.

Project’s progress threatened

According to reports, the Cincinnati Area Rapid Transit Authority (SORTA), the organization responsible for overseeing streetcar operations, is currently in talks with two companies regarding the operational specifics, and there has been a slight snag: councilwoman Yvette Simpson recently proposed that the search for businesses to operate the streetcar should be geographically limited to the Cincinnati area.

Councilwoman Simpson’s argument is superficially compelling: the streetcar, a symbol of Cincinnati’s economic promise, should be used to create jobs and generate profit for the Queen City. This is undeniably an ideal scenario. In reality, however, even proposing this idea publicly risks impeding the streetcar’s forward momentum with transit in its relative inexperience with public transit outside of our bus system, plays host to hardly any company with the credentials and capability to manage such a system. The search for a viable option would likely be prolonged and difficult, and, even if SORTA were to find such a company in Cincinnati, publicly verbalizing the preference for local companies gives this hypothetical company the power to make demands for failure bumpers and the like from SORTA, and, by extension, the city of Cincinnati.

As college students, we often find ourselves at a crossroads…of a 20-lane intersection with no real concept of which way will make us happiest, benefit us most or give us the best chance to achieve our dreams. It’s stressful. We are in a tug-of-war between “this is the best time of your life, enjoy it,” and “load up on extra-curricular activities, internships and double majors or else unemployment is in your future.”

So how do we combat the stress? How can we escape the ever-increasing deadlines and commitments? The answer is simple: we do yoga. We set aside 90 minutes a day to be in a 105-degree room. We change our lives through a tug-of-war between “this is the best time of your life, enjoy it,” and “load up on extra-curricular activities, internships and double majors or else unemployment is in your future.”

Not to mention the fact that you’ll have an awesome body to boot. Seriously, I started my practice after finding out that these gorgeous (and I mean I-immediately-hated-them-beautiful) gorgeous women in my first class were mothers. Middle-aged mothers. With multiple children. I thought they were in their twenties. It’s a transparent practice. The glow you get from sweating it out is unlike anything I’ve ever come across. So give yourself a chance to look and feel amazing. You deserve it. Just remember — stay hydrated.

I talked to Bikram Yoga instructor and owner of the Cincinnati Bikram Yoga Studio, Chelsea Young for her insight on the practice.

Why did you start Bikram? I was looking for something to help me with my running and flexibility in general. I had never been flexible but always was an athlete growing up. I thought this was going to be lots of stretching. Boy, was I wrong. It is that and so much more.

Why do you teach? I became a teacher so that I could bring Bikram to Cincinnati. In order to open, you needed to be a certified Bikram teacher. I now realize that it was all in my life’s plan, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. It is the most rewarding "job" (not really a job for me) I have ever had. To help people in the Bikram room work through so many physical and mental challenges and to see everyone’s accomplishments is hands down the most amazing feeling of satisfaction.

What is the best thing about teaching Bikram? Seeing all of the students’ improvements throughout their practice, knowing how hard the series is and how different it is for everyone. And when the students walk out, you see that look of accomplishment on their face. Nothing else like it.

What is your favorite position and why? Each day, my favorite postures become my least favorite postures and then recycle themselves all over again. Coming into my sixth year of practice, I’m slowly learning to take each posture as it comes, and each day, they all feel different. The one that never gets old is the Triangle — a constant reminder between your heart and your lungs, and breath is so important throughout. After you complete the Triangle, which is at the middle of the series, you feel like a warrior, proud and strong, like you can take on the world.

What is the number one benefit that you notice in beginners? The best part about Bikram yoga is that everyone comes into the hot room for a different reason, most of those reasons being physical. Most beginners quickly learn is how mentally challenging the Bikram Hatha yoga series is, and they all come away with mental strength and faith in yourself, knowing you completed the series and worked the entire body in 90 minutes.
**God of Carnage**

**By Grant Vance**  
**Staff Writer**

The weekend of Nov. 14-16 marked the third-day run of Xavier Player’s darkly-comedic performance of Yasmina Reza’s “God of Carnage.”

The success of “God of Carnage” was grounded in its simplicity and expert use of timing. The high tension and humanitarian expose were complimented by the performer’s ability to deliver sharp lines of dialogue, creating characters despicably antagonizing in their individual respects. The audience couldn’t help but fall in love with hating them.

The show’s humor was its heart, cushioning the impact of the high tension often found in the couples’ expressed arguments. Sable in its nature, the humor not only worked as relief, but moved the show along in an engaging manner, provoking the audience to listen closely for its smart comedic integrity.

The themes discussed in “God of Carnage” were particularly engaging, accelerated nicely by the style and tone in which they were presented. Though the comedic presence was strong, the show’s themes were no laughing matter. “God of Carnage” examined the savage nature humanity is capable of having. The true weight of the play was felt in its closing moments, ending with high tension.

Despite the slow build, the show found its energy and did not let up. A clever use of props kicked off the second act, and led to a momentum that rode out until Ammar Khan’s Michael Novak spoofed his final, inherently reflective line, “What do we know?”

Xavier Players impressed with a skillful display of its potential. Senior Emily deCanter, sophomore Ammar Khan, junior Ellie McFarland and junior Sterling Shaw played effortlessly well, highlighting their respective strengths in the portrayal of these cringe-worthy characters. Considering this is only the club’s second full-length performance after last year’s “And Then There Were None,” Players has proved it has a lot to offer in the field of good theater and engaging performances.

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**Rosewater**

**By Meredith Francis**  
**Campus News Editor**

You can almost smell the roses.

Late-night comedian Jon Stewart recently made his directorial and writing debut in “Rosewater,” the inspiring true story of an Iranian-born Canadian journalist named Maziar Bahari who was imprisoned after covering the controversial 2009 Iranian presidential elections and the violent protests that followed.

Stewart mostly leaves comedy behind when telling Bahari’s story. For 118 days, Bahari, played by Gael García Bernal, was imprisoned in Iran’s notorious Evin prison on the accusation that he was an American spy.

Bahrani endured physical and psychological torture as his mother, pregnant wife and many others campaigned for his release. Bahari’s father and older sisters were also imprisoned and tortured in the 1950s and 1980s, respectively, of being accused communists.

The film gets its title from the name of Bahari’s interrogator, who often smelled of rosewater. Bahari also wrote a book called “Rosewater,” which was previously under the title “Then They Came for Me.” The book gives a detailed account of the Iranian regime and Bahari’s family history and story of imprisonment.

Stewart’s investment in the project is partly personal, as his grandparents were on a Gestapo list that aired on “The Daily Show” as evidence against him in the interrogation room. Bahari also had a hand in the scriptwriting process and was frequently on-scene for the filming.

García Bernal’s performance is flawless in depicting the emotional ups and downs of Bahari’s imprisonment.

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**Newswire Rating:**

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By Allison Wisianski  
**Staff Writer**  

Woodward Theater, the Over-The-Rhine live music venue, officially reopened for business on Nov. 7.

 Owners Dan McCabe, Chris Varios and Matt Barth, who also own MOTR Pub across the street, have renovated the 101-year-old building and transformed it into a beaux-arts style theater.

Located at 1404 Main St., the theater will serve to entertain its guests with new artists. Its original Orchestra Pit and Overhang balcony have been preserved, so guests will still get a bird’s-eye view of the band.

The Cincinnati Development Fund (CDF) and the Hamilton County Development Center (HCDC) Business Lending funded the $1.25 million dollar project.

Both organizations have expressed their pride in helping Woodward Music Theater open to the public. “The Woodward Theater complements the entertainment and arts district while rescuing a rich piece of Cincinnati history,” Jeanne Golliher, president of the CDF, said.

“We’re proud to be a part of the special project and look forward to seeing what kind of great musical acts – and their fans – come to this great, renovated Over-The-Rhine venue as a result,” she said.

“It can be challenging for going, well-balanced theaters to access the capital to expand particularly in redveloping areas. We are proud to partner on the Woodward Theater and provide the long-term, fixed rate financing needed to make this project work,” David K. Main, president of the HCDC, said.

The new partnership between Woodward Theater and nonprofit lenders will “put the growing small businesses to an end,” McCabe said.

They have upcoming shows include Fluffer on Nov. 21, The Tigercubs on Nov. 22 and Ohio Knife on Nov. 26.

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"Rosewater" brilliantly entertains

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Most love stories are typical: guy meets girl, girl and guy fall in love and then they both live happily ever after.

In a make-believe world love always works out, but everyone knows real life does not follow this storyline. Love can sometimes bring people together only to have them realize they are better off apart.

A person’s struggle can be lonely, but also help create deep bonds with people they never knew were there to help. All of these real life situations and more are beautifully displayed in the smash hit, “Once.”

“Once” is based on the 2007 hit film of the same name. Since its Broadway debut in 2012, “Once” has become a staple for theater-goers and won numerous awards, including the Tony Award for Best Musical. Cincinnati theater-goers can treat themselves this month to see the show here in the Queen City.

The story begins with the lead characters — known simply as “Guy” and “Girl”— meeting during an impromptu musical performance. Girl, with her bubbly demeanor, is inspired by Guy’s lyrics of unfulfilled love. Guy at first ignores her optimism because he is hurt by his girlfriend’s move to the United States and new relationship she has formed with another man. As the storyline continues, audience members are introduced to a series of quirky, yet incredibly talented cast members: the karate chopping bar owner, the zestful and serious Czech mother and serious Czech mother and the guitar-playing banker that add substance to the plot. In the end, Guy and Girl do fall in love, but are unable to be with each other because life’s circumstances do not allow them to be together.

It is hard to pinpoint a standout number because every scene had moments where the cast shone. From the popular duet “Falling Slowly” to the flawless group number “Gold,” the show’s musicality flawlessly displayed the talents of each actor to convey every emotion present in the songs.

For lovers of traditional musicals, the concept of “Once” is different from most theatrical productions.

The actors themselves are the orchestra and use a small set space for much of the performance. An additional plus for the theater goer is that before the show and during intermission, audience members can purchase beverages on the set and listen to live music from the actors while they relax.

While there may be some getting used to parts of “Once”’s format, you can still fall in love with cast and how simply their talent tells this raw love story.

If you have the opportunity to do so, go see “Once.” The show will be in Cincinnati from Nov. 11-20. Fall in love with the story and be prepared for a performance you will not forget.

“I plan on continuing to bring open to the doors God seems to be opening on my journey. I hope to attend grad school in the near future. I will continue teaching for a little while, as long as the opportunity presents itself, because I have come to love it. In the future, I hope to do some mission work or further pursue theater education or production management,” Geckle said.
Stuck in Cincinnati over Thanksgiving Break? Here are some fun, local events to keep you occupied before the final stretch of school work (even if most events are Christmas-themed).

**105th Thanksgiving Day Race**

Participants can look forward to more than the typical run/walk through various neighborhoods of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The race aims to bring family and friends together before Thanksgiving dinner begins. The origins can be traced back to 1908, making it one of the oldest races in the Midwest. The race begins at 9 a.m. and costs $36 per person.

**Fifty West Brewing Company**

Special new beer releases and a party to celebrate the second birthday of Fifty West take place Nov. 29. They also have a Southern Brewer's Brunch the following day, which is a three-course beer brunch hosted by Fifty West, The Eagle OTR and Sweetwater Brewing Company.

**“A Christmas Carol”**

One of Playhouse in the Park’s most popular shows each year opens special shows on Nov. 26-29, and to the public on Nov. 29.

**Holidays in the Bag**

This Black Friday event allows shoppers to support local businesses in Over-The-Rhine (OTR). Shoppers can get discounts off their purchases from participating businesses and a “Holiday Bag.” The cost is $5 for participants, and proceeds go to a nonprofit in OTR called “Future Leaders OTR,” which encourages students in grades 7-12 to help their community through professional and personal development.

**PNC Festival of Lights**

The festival is held at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Visitors can enjoy over 2 million LED lights, a visit with Santa, watch the Wild Lights Show on Swan Lake and see the Madcap Blacklight Puppet Show. It opens every night from 5-9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays on Nov. 23 and 5 -10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

**Macy’s Light Up the Square**

With food, local music and ice skating, it would be difficult to be bored at Fountain Square’s annual tree lighting event. The square gets a holiday makeover, and the night ends with a fireworks display. The festival begins at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

**Cincideutsch Christkindlmarkt**

Held at Fountain Square, this German-style Christmas market began in 2012, though the actual tradition dates back centuries. Like last year, it will be held during Macy’s Light Up the Square and continue for the rest of the weekend. Attendees can enjoy roasted almonds, various German cakes and desserts and warm Glühwein.