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2010-10-20

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Checkmates of all varieties abound at new Chess Club.



Sports, pg 12 The next Poz

Sports Editor Scott Mueller breaks down the National League MVP race Joe Poznanski-style. See who he decided should win.

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Fortin: provost no more

Will teach history; replacement unknown

BY SARAH WIETEN
Managing Editor

After 10 years as the Academic Vice President and Provost, Dr. Roger Fortin is stepping down after this academic year, although he is remaining at the school as a history professor. *The Newswire* had a chance to speak to Dr. Fortin to talk about the ups and downs of the job over the last decade and see where he is headed next?

NW: *What will your new role be in the university?*

RF: I will be a professor in the department of history as and I am very much looking forward to teaching and writing, writing and teaching. I know one class I will be teaching- "History of the American Dream." I also wrote about the history of the Irish here in Cincinnati several years ago, so I might take that up again, but mostly I am hoping to work with the American Dream concept.

NW: *How did you decide to make*



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

Dr. Roger Fortin will step down as provost at the end of the year.

this change in position?

RF: Well it was really just time, I've been doing this what now, 10 years? And I really am eager to get back to the students, to get back to teaching.

NW: *What advice would you give to the new provost?*

RF: The best advice I would give to the new provost would be to really embrace and encourage genuine faculty input into decision making. In some ways administrators, and students I suppose, come and go, but the faculty, they are really the ones who know this place best. And they have some very interesting ideas about things.

Continued on page 4

Xavier, comm. arts case dismissed after settlement

BY DOUG TIFFT
Editor-in-Chief

After three years of back-and-forth court filings, the case of former communication arts professors Drs. Miriam Finch and Tara Michels against Xavier University came to a close Oct. 5 with a settlement, when the case was dismissed in federal district court in Cincinnati.

Judge Sandra S. Beckworth issued a 61-word statement indicating the two sides had voluntarily dismissed the case—citing provision 41 (a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

All claims of the case were dismissed with prejudice, which prevents any further action in the case.

Beckworth also wrote that the "court retains jurisdiction over the settlement contract for the purposes of its enforcement," which when paired with a prejudicial clause indicates the two sides drafted and signed a settlement agreement, according to a legal expert.

"That is a pretty standard format that indicates a settlement," an attorney who wished to remain anonymous told the Newswire. "When settlement occurs, nei-

ther side is necessarily a winner, but each both avoid potentially being the loser. Really it's about elimination of risk. While I can't speak specifically to what may or may not have transpired here, suffice it to say that by settling in any case the parties need not continue draining resources and volleying in a protracted legal battle with an unpredictable outcome."

Finch and Michels were both tenured professors in the communication arts department until being fired at the end of the 2008-09 academic year, with Xavier's Academic Vice President and Provost Dr. Roger Fortin citing "excuses, denial and incivility over the course of several years."

The professors had filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court and the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas on Dec. 3, 2007, alleging discrimination against women, retaliation for assertion of rights, defamation and breach of contract — and later added claims of gender and age discrimination on May 7, 2008.

After a discovery period of more than two years, Beckworth on Feb. 10 denied both the University's and the professors' attempts at summary judgment —

an attempt by each of the parties to persuade the court that there is no genuine issue worthy of jury review and to therefore have the court decide the case on the papers and avoid a trial.

The University had been seeking summary judgment to dismiss Finch and Michels' charges of age and gender discrimination, retaliation, breach of contract and violations of the Equal Pay Act. Finch and Michels sought summary judgment to dismiss the University's countersuit, accusing the professors of dereliction of duty.

The defeat of those motions was likely what led to a settlement, the legal expert said.

"Generally, once the two sides receive word that these types of motions are denied and recognize that a matter is going to proceed to trial, that is when parties often consider settlement to avoid the time, effort, expense and unpredictability of trial," the attorney who wished to remain anonymous said.

Both Robert Gutzwiller, the attorney for Finch and Michels, and Peter Cassady, the attorney for the University, declined to comment on the case.

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Construction maintains building schedule

BY JAKE HEATH
News Editor

Construction of the new residence hall and dining complex on the corner of Herald Avenue and Ledgewood Drive has kept its pace over the past four months and is expected to be ready for students by the fall semester of 2011, construction manager Joe Frecker said.

"Over 16,000 cubic yards of concrete were used to bring the building frame to its topping out point," Frecker said.

Just having finished the structure of the building, construction will be moved toward the outer frames and walls of the building.

"We will be using three inch thick metal-wrapped, foam-filled panels," Frecker said.

This construction of the outer surface of the complex has already begun with installation of the windows, curtain wall and roofing.

"The building will essentially be enclosed by the end of the year," Frecker said. "The north tower crane will come down at the end of October and major mechanical equipment such as



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

The new residence hall is on pace to be completed for the fall 2011 semester.

electric switchgear, transformer and energy recovery units will be delivered next week."

When the conditions make operating outside more difficult during the winter months, interior finishes will be installed, as will the brick and stone for the outside

structure. Xavier's sustainability efforts have also been put to the challenge with this project.

Throughout the past few years, sustainability has become an increased priority for the school.

These new complex has been designed to be environmentally

friendly as well as environmentally constructed.

"Not only are the panels green in color, but they are environmentally friendly with their recycled content and built-in air and vapor barriers, helping to contribute to the Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design (LEED) Silver design," Frecker said.

LEED is a way to rate buildings based on how sustainable they are to the environment.

"Under LEED, buildings accumulate points for things such as saving energy, having accessible mass transit, and mitigating storm water runoff," a statement on the Everblue Energy Inc. webpage says. "Once the points are tallied, the building earns a LEED rating. The higher the tally, the more sustainable a building."

Not only has construction been quick and green, it has excelled in communication with multiple design teams to bring this project to life.

"The project has really benefited by bringing on key Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) subcontractors early to coordinate with the project design team," Frecker said.

These IPD subcontractors work with the owners, contractors and engineers to produce this residence and dining hall, while cutting cost, wastes and improving productivity.



photo courtesy of dealbreaker.com
Williams College of Business has opened its new trading room in Smith Hall.

WCB adds trading floor to second floor of Smith Hall

By PETER ADAMS
Staff Writer

One of the most impressive student trading rooms in the entire country can be found at Xavier University's Smith Hall, according to University officials.

Located on the second floor of the business school, the center has 44 Bloomberg stock terminals for student use, making it the largest Bloomberg student trading floor in the country.

The stock and technological giant Bloomberg covers 75 percent of the cost of the terminal, which

is normally \$20,000. Since 1981 the company has been a leading innovator in the financial information world.

The Bloomberg system gives students instant information about thousands of publicly traded stocks, bonds, and securities throughout the world.

According to Xavier finance professor Mary Beth Sagena, there have been no major private donations to cover the cost of the room. However, naming rights for the center are still available to any potential donors.

The Center for Applied Finance has offered roughly 20 seminars to train students on how to properly use the facility.

This fall more than 300 students have participated in these seminars. The next training seminar will take place Thursday, in the trading room.

The training session will provide students information on how to search stocks on the Bloomberg database and will let them establish their own Bloomberg user name to provide them access to the system.

The trading room is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday and 1 to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

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BRIEFS

XU students organize Health and Wellness Fair offering flu shots

Xavier Health & Wellness Fair will be at 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 27 in Gallagher Student Center.

Organized by your Xavier Student Health Advisory Council, the event is free and will feature many health and wellness vendors tables. Flu shots will available for a fee.

Students are encouraged to declutter their life by bringing donations for a thrift store table.

Women's Center participated in breast cancer walk

The Women's Center team included five people, who helped raise \$520,000 for breast cancer research and awareness.

On Sunday, Oct. 17, the Women's Center participated in Making Strides towards a World with More Birthdays.

Making Strides towards a World with More Birthdays is a walk to raise funds for breast cancer research and spread the word about fighting breast cancer.

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Purple and white helps XU fight suicides nationwide

BY SARAH WIETEN
Managing Editor

Seven suicides related to homophobic bullying filled the media in the last few weeks.

In reaction to a group of Xavier departments, clubs and individuals have banded together in an attempt to spread a message of welcoming and acceptance on campus, centering the effort around a "spirit" day with a candlelight vigil today, Wed. Oct 20, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Gallagher Student Center.

Students are encouraged to wear purple (the color of "spirit" in the LGBTQ flag) and stop by a table to check out ribbons and resources for dealing with suicide on campus and in the surrounding community.

During the same time, Active Minds and Alliance will be sponsoring the event "Send Silence Packing" on the academic mall, featuring 400 backpacks with white flags symbolizing a small portion of the population that is lost to suicide each year.

Extra white flags will be provided for writing prayers, memories or thoughts to add to the display.

"It is important to create an inclusive and supportive environment for people struggling with their sexuality or those who have come out and feel like they need support to be who they are. Additionally, bullying in general is a serious topic for school-aged

and college-aged students, so this type of a response felt appropriate and timely," Dustin Lewis, assistant director of the Office of Student Involvement said.

In addition to these gestures, a group of students, staff, faculty and administrators have signed an open letter, to be published in this edition of the *NewsWire*, stating a policy of acceptance and support for LGBTQ individuals at Xavier University.

"The letter evolved from the conversation of many different people on campus coming together, [including]...representatives from most of the co-sponsoring groups, as well as various faculty from around campus and student leaders from organizations such as Alliance, Active Minds and Student Government Association, as well as Gender and Diversity Studies Program" Lewis said.

"It was organized by Chris Bridges, asst. director of the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice, with support from staff in the Office of Student Involvement," Lewis said.

More than 550 signatures have already been collected in conjunction with this letter, and campus community members will be able to sign in on site to show their support.

Events are also planned at Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati and Miami University, according to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Professor Profile: Department of Social Work's Dr. Stephanie Brzuzy

BY MOLLY BOES
Assist. News Editor

Dr. Stephanie Brzuzy, chair and professor of the Department of Social Work, received her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate in social work. She has worked on several published books pertaining to social work, as well as gender and diversity. The *NewsWire* recently spoke with Brzuzy about her career and her accomplishments.

XN: Where is your hometown? Did you like living there?

SB: I grew up in Richmond, Ind., right on the border. I liked living there; it's a small town and a big basketball town. We were big Xavier fans growing up because it was one of my dad's favorite teams. When I got the job at Xavier, I couldn't tell if my dad was more excited that I was a Catholic going to a Jesuit university or because of the basketball team.

XN: Where did you go to school and what did you study?

SB: All of my degrees are in social work, so I'm consistent if nothing else. I got my bachelor's, master's and doctorate at Indiana University, Illinois University and Ohio State University. I'm a Big Ten fan. When I got a job at Arizona State, I was welcomed into the PAC Ten, but I told them I would always be loyal to the Big Ten.

XN: What caused you to become a professor?

SB: I just love to learn. When I was an undergrad I decided to become a professor because I like what I study and wanted to keep learning. It wasn't well thought out, I just knew it was what I wanted to do. I did work after my masters in social work and I worked in Washington, D.C. as a policy analyst. If I wasn't an academic, I'd be a policy analyst working in either the state or national government.



photo courtesy Alex Klein

Professor of Social Work Stephanie Brzuzy is working on her first book about transgender identity.

XN: What is your favorite class to teach and why?

SB: My queer studies class. It's my area of research and we read and discuss and get into deep talks. It's so different every semester, and I love seeing how they interact. The students are dedicated to the reading, allowing us to have great classes.

XN: What is one thing you aim to teach students entering your classes?

SB: I aim to create a safe environment where students can speak their minds and bring their opinions and also to teach a sense of inclusiveness, and through this we can achieve social justice. Democracy doesn't work unless people have differing ideas and are willing to come to the middle to discuss them.

XN: You have authored and co-authored a few books. What inspired you to write them, and what did you hope to accomplish in writing them?

SB: The first is a policy text for social workers. I loved writing it because it's a reflection on my work in government. We were passionate about giving students the idea that they can be a part of

this field. It was always based on the idea that we can either be socially responsible or personally responsible. Personally, I believe it's more socially responsible because we rely on each other.

My second book addresses different sides to many controversial issues, including those pertaining to sexuality and gender. It was made in a way to try to give both sides of the arguments to see where each side is coming from, and [it] is a learning tool. It was a great project because it gives people a place to look up multiple different issues and see how others address the issues.

I'm working on a book now looking at transgender identity. It is a book focused more for scholars, but students can read it. The book looks at the different ways one theorizes about what causes transgender.

XN: If you could give one piece of advice to Xavier students, what would that be?

SB: Just stay the course and get through school because your undergrad degree is the hardest degree to get. You take classes you might not think matter, and then ten years later their importance will hit you. It will change your life. Go X!

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photo courtesy Andrew Matsushita

45 students participated in the 2010 Out of the Darkness Walk to prevent suicide around the United States.

Sustainability Club to organize Crosstown Bike-Out and raffle

BY LIZZIE GLASER
Campus News Editor

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, the Sustainability Club will be raffling off a bicycle as a promotion for Sustainability Week (Oct. 25 - 29) and in efforts to create a greater biking culture on Xavier's campus.

Raffle tickets will be sold in Alter Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 20 and in Gallagher Student Center on Thursday, Oct. 21 and Friday, Oct. 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for \$1 each. The winner will be drawn before the start of the Crosstown Bike-Out on Oct. 26.

"People might say, 'you are giving something away, that's not sustainable,'" said junior Laura Wallace, Sustainability Club co-president, along with junior Taylor Mauro and senior Emily Tekolste. "But with sustainability, there always has to be a balance between consumption of products in order to educate and promote sustainable practices and non-use, or conservation of products,"

The hope is that the winner of the bicycle will use it to participate in the first-ever Crosstown Bike-Out, a biking scavenger hunt competition between Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati, coordinated by Sustainability Club members Lisa Bachman and Anna Robertson.

The Bike-Out will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 26 in Bellarmine Circle; from there, participants will



Newswire photo by Alexa Klein

Sustainability Club will host a bicycle scavenger hunt as part of Sustainability Week.

bike to Hyde Park, O'Bryonville and end at the Civic Garden Center on Reading Road.

At each location, there will be a short competition, most likely trivia, and the school with the most correct answers will win a trophy and bragging rights. After the competition, there will be a community dinner at the Civic Garden Center, where each school will give a short presentation on measures their campuses have implemented to become more sustainable.

"It's really about exchanging

experiences and learning safe bike routes to nearby places," Wallace said. The Sustainability Club will have a limited number of bikes available for those who do not own one and want to participate, but it is strongly encouraged to bring your own bike.

In addition to the biking event, Sustainability Day will be on Monday, Oct. 25. Unlike in years past, all classes will be in session.

Throughout the day, Xavier will be offering a series of lectures, discussions and presentations about campus sustainability initiatives in the Conaton Learning Commons from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Students may attend these events by registering online at www.xavier.edu/green, where they can also find information about other Sustainability Week events, such as the Bike-Out.

Fortin steps down

Continued from page 1

NW: Do you know who that provost might be?

RF: At this time, no, I am not aware of anyone who is throwing their hat into the ring, but that's partly because the administration hasn't started advertising the position yet. I do know that we have hired a firm to assist with finding someone, but I am not aware of any particular individual.

NW: If you could add anything to your book ("To See Great Wonders" - a history of Xavier University) at this point, what would you add?

RF: Well the book only ends in 2006, so not so long ago, but I might add something to it someday, something about all the exciting changes go-

ing on now... yes I might someday.

NW: What do you consider your greatest accomplishment as provost?

RF: I feel really very privileged to have been part of this University during a time in which our academic credibility has increased so much as a University. Fr. James Hoff, S.J. and Fr. Michael Graham, S.J. really had everything to do with taking how we thought about us as a school and just raising the bar of what we believed we could do. And that's really everything - the quality of the faculty, the academic credentials of the students... That is what I am the most proud of, that I had the opportunity to be a part of that.

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POLICE NOTES

Oct. 2, 1:30 a.m. - Xavier Police investigated the report of a student in the Commons Apartments pointing a laser pointer at cars on Herald Avenue. The student was located, warned, and agreed to stop.

Oct. 3, 4:04 a.m. - An officer observed a student walking through the Husman parking lot without a shirt and shoes. The student was cited with underage consumption and failure to cooperate.

Oct. 7, 9:10 a.m. - A Physical Plant employee turned in a small bag of marijuana left behind on the gravel path behind Smith Hall.

Oct. 8, 12:02 p.m. - A student reported the theft of a duffel bag valued at \$150 which was left unattended in the basement of Husman Hall.

Oct. 8, 11:50 p.m. - Xavier Police and Cincinnati Police responded to break up a house party with a possible fight on the 3900 block of Lindley Avenue. Five students were disciplined for a disorderly house. One student was arrested for urinating in public.

Oct. 10, 1:33 a.m. - A guest of a student was found passed out on the east entrance to Cintas Center. The guest was cited for underage

consumption.

Oct. 12, 6:04 p.m. - A student reported the theft of a cell phone which was left unattended at the outdoor basketball courts.

Oct. 13, 1:55 p.m. - An employee reported the theft of a Xavier-owned laptop valued at \$2,000, while away for a conference in South Africa.

Oct. 14, 6:48 p.m. - Xavier Police and Residence Life were requested to check on the well being of a commuter student. The student was spending the night with friends in one of the residence halls. The student was advised to call home.

Oct. 16, 1:33 a.m. - A student observed running stop signs and driving at a high rate of speed was cited for reckless driving, possession of a fake ID, and underage consumption.

Oct. 18, 8:18 p.m. - Xavier Police assisted Residence Life with a room search conducted in Husman Hall. A small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia was collected.

NOTE OF THE WEEK

Oct. 9, 9:15 a.m. - Xavier police booted a vehicle parked in the Village parking lot. The owner has had 17 vehicle violations and possession of a fake parking permit.

Chess Club starts on campus

BY LIZZIE GLASER
Campus News Editor

After two years of frustration due to the lack of a chess club on Xavier's campus, two students decided to found their own. Juniors Nick Williams and Adam Clark serve as president and vice president of Xavier's newest club.

"There wasn't a chess club on campus, and people like to play chess," Clark said. "There are very few games left that are intellectually stimulating, and chess is one of them."

Williams and Clark, who had been discussing the idea in their apartment since last year, finally began the official process this fall. First, they had to send paperwork to Student Government Association to prove that other students were interested in adding a chess club to campus. After posting flyers in Gallagher Student Center and academic buildings, they received nearly 25 e-mails in the first few days from people expressing interest.

Next they needed to find a faculty advisor who was willing to intellectually invest in the club, and found one in Dr. Morell Mullins of the Psychology Department.

"Dr. Mullins is a great guy. I'm pumped to see how he handles the group," Williams said.

After finding an advisor, they wrote a club constitution and by-laws, which were approved by SGA, and they are currently working on securing funding for new chess boards and other



News wire photo by Jade Sanders

Xavier's Chess Club hopes to host intercollegiate matches by next semester.

equipment.

In addition to recreational chess, the club hopes to hold timed chess competitions on campus, as well as participate in intercollegiate competitions throughout the region, which will be organized by club coordinator, junior Brennan Rooney.

"We're aiming to start meeting and playing chess before the end of this semester," said Clark. "But we realize it might be harder to set up some intercollegiate matches before next semester. We're working as hard as we can to get started as soon as possible."

The club also has high hopes for a University event, inspired by Clark's summer studies. "When

I was in Amsterdam, they had 4-foot high chess pieces on a giant chess board in the middle of the city center, and every night people would be playing with about 25 people watching them," Clark said. "It felt like a public event that was bringing people together, and that's definitely one thing we'd like to do with the club."

The club plans to welcome all levels of experience and is willing to give people instruction if they are interested in learning how to play. "Chess is a thinking man's game. It is secretly one of the most exciting and nerve-racking games to play. I love that," Williams said. "It's cool to see how things fall into place the way they have."

Baseball field under cosmetic renovation

BY SARAH WIETEN
Managing Editor

In order to combat damage done by this year's drought – and perhaps to do so with an eye toward more successful recruitment – Hayden Field, home of the Xavier Baseball team, is under renovation.

The renovations are largely cosmetic, adding three to four inches of topsoil to the field along with new sod October.

Bulldozers have already removed most of the old sod.

"It really just started this summer with issues with the crabgrass that just got worse with the pretty bad drought," Jim Bergen, Project Manager Renewal & Replacement, Physical Plant said. "It just looked really bad –

was really an eyesore."

It is possible that the renovations may include other changes like updated dugouts, but funding is still pending for this larger project.

"They are hoping to put in real, in-the-ground dugouts, like in the major leagues, which would be much nicer than what they have now," Bergen said. "Having a nicer stadium could really help us to draw in better recruits."

The stands and orientation of the field will remain as they are for now, but further renovations are likely in the coming years.

Baseball head coach Scott Googins was not available for comment.



News wire photo by Kelsey Edson

Hayden Field is under renovation to combat the damage done by the dry summer.

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This week Senate passed the Involuntary Green Fee Resolution encouraging the UPRC to respond positively to the request

We encourage students to use the SGA Is Listening Section under the Student Services Tab on the portal. Any questions, concern, or suggestion you have we value, and would love to hear from you. Don't forget to join the new Senate Facebook group, have a great Fall Break!

The new senators were assigned to mentors and will be finding out what committee they will serve shortly

SAC

Lizzie Glaser, Campus News Editor
Phone: (513) 745-3607
News wire-News@xavier.edu



You are Welcome at Xavier



As members of a Jesuit Catholic University, we commit ourselves to a safe and supportive environment for our LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning) communities and stand in solidarity with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 1997 statement:

"Every person has an inherent dignity because he or she is created in God's image... The teachings of the Church make it clear that the fundamental human rights of homosexual persons must be defended and that all of us must strive to eliminate any forms of injustice, oppression, or violence against. It is not sufficient only to avoid unjust discrimination. Homosexual persons 'must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity.'"

Excerpt from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers" 1997

Aaron J. Meis	Dean of Undergraduate Admission	Carolyn McGuire	Bookstore Associate	Ellen Beltramo	Student
Aaron Saari	Adjunct Professor, Department of Theology	Casey Simensen	Student	Emelie French	Graduate Counseling Student
Abby Goodstein	Student	Catherine McCafferty	Student	Emily Augustin	Student
Active Minds	Club	Cathy Springfield	Director Performing Arts	Emily Berg	Student
Adam Peterson	Graduate Student	Cheryl Nunez	Vice Provost for Diversity	Emily Dydo	Student
Alana Montenegro	Student	Chris Dobbs	Student 2013	Emily Henry	MBA Student
Alex Bomkamp	MLT Drake Center	Chris Fromhold	Graduate Student	Emily Rossetti	Student
Alex Gee	Graduate Student	Chris Manolis	ASLS Advisory Committee	Emily Schreiber	Graduate Student
Alex Riahi	Student	Chris Pramuk	Assistant Professor of Theology	Emma Dube	Student
Alex Rogers	Student	Christian Alegria	Student	Eric H. Rodefeld	Coordinator of Technology, Admissions
Alexa Von Bargaen	Student	Christine Anderson	Chair, Department of History	Erica Eisenman	Graduate Student
Alexander D. A. Craven	President, Xavier Players	Christine Setty	Graduate Student	Erica Krasienko	Student
Alexandra Korros	Professor of History	Christopher E. Bridges	Assistant Director, Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice	Erica Ogletree	Graduate Counseling Student
Alexandra Pool	Student	Christopher Hale	Student Senator	Erika Vickers	Student
Alison Goder	Student	Christopher Place	Theology, Undergraduate, 2011	Erin Williams	Student
Alison Heinekamp	Student	Christy Barlow	Information Services Specialist	Esperanza Gallon	Graduate Counseling Student
Alison Russell	Chair, English Department	Cindy Lowman Stieby	Admissions	Fatima Meireles	Alumni
Alison Zugelder	Co-president, Xavier Alliance	Claire Demiryran	Assistant Director of Residence Life	Fay Coleman	Brockman Hall Director
Alli Hays	Student	Clare Robillard	Student	Felicia Kruse Alexander	Associate Professor, Department of Theology
Allison Kern	Student	Clint Schertzer	Student- Sophomore	Frank Rzczkowski	Visiting Assistant Professor of History
Amanda Mock	Graduate Student	Conor Gallagher	XU Professor	Fritz Casey-Leininger	Adjunct Assistant Professor of History
Amanda Trice	Graduate Student	Craig McLeod	Manresa Core Leader	Gary Lewandowski	Chair and Professor of Mathematics/Computer Science
Amber Burley	Graduate Counseling Student	Crista Lonergan	Student	George Farnsworth	Associate Professor, Biology Dept.
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These 536 signatures represent individuals, offices, and departments across campus who have had the opportunity to sign the document. This letter does not represent every individual on campus who wants to sign it. There are many more individuals across campus who stand in solidarity affirming this document. If you are one of these individuals please stop by the table in the GSC on 10/20, 9am-6pm, to sign, or send your electronic signature to Dave Zlatic at zlatidc@xavier.edu. This living document (the signatures above and those added) will be hosted on the Alliance webpage.

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EDITORIAL | Communication arts lawsuit
R.I.P. lawsuit story, 2007-2010

Well, after nearly three years, approximately 2,000 pages of research documents and another few trees killed on legal briefs, the case of “Miriam Finch, et al., Plaintiffs vs. Xavier University, et al., Defendants” has finally been laid to rest. Perhaps for our purposes here at the *NewsWire*, the statistics on the case could also include four consecutive staffs with an enthralling pet project to keep an eye on.

So while we are sure the University and the professors are relieved to have the case behind them, it really is with somewhat heavy hearts that we bid farewell to the communication arts lawsuit. And with all of its salacious details — of intra-departmental arguments, name-calling and intra-University divisions — a quiet settlement strikes the *NewsWire* as a rather unfulfilling ending.

Perhaps the reason the case captured the imagination of multiple *NewsWire* staff is its basic novelty. Students rarely get to see a disagreement between University faculty or staff made public — and it is even more rare for such a case to be taken to a courtroom off campus. We suppose it is a positive sign for the University that its students react with such surprise and interest when confronted with the details of possible error on the part of either professors or the University, an interest that hopefully will remain despite this prolonged public quarrel.

So farewell to our familiar communication arts lawsuit, and here’s hoping that this is the last time the *NewsWire* has to venture into the courtroom to cover a spat between the University and its professors.

EDITORIAL | LGBTQ welcome letter

Actions speak louder than words

This week’s edition of the *NewsWire* features a two-page letter, signed by an overwhelming number of students and faculty, expressing a commitment to tolerance of, and solidarity with, the LGBTQ community. For numerous reasons, the *NewsWire* wholeheartedly supports the administration in this endeavor, even if we are left with a few questions.

First, let us applaud Xavier for the ample consideration they clearly gave to this letter. Not only does its publication coincide with the peak season for recruitment, but the University was even thoughtful enough to channel the announcement through the *NewsWire* ad department, ensuring it would benefit the Xavier community even if it went unread.

The timing of the letter, though, caused some bewilderment among the editors, as it suggests that the letter is intended as a recruitment tool for prospective LGBTQ students, as well as an acknowledgement of “Wear Purple Day.” Following from that conclusion, together with the general impressions of Xavier we have gleaned from our mutual experience as students, we ascertain that Xavier must have calculated that homosexuals outnumber homophobes, among potential Xavier students if not the general population. The truth may be a bit ambiguous, but if business sense is leading the way toward tolerance, rather than rifles, then we really have come a long way since the 60’s.

Our final comment, we must point out, is not intended as a criticism, but as a challenge. In our experience, this letter is not entirely consistent with Xavier’s actions over the past several years. Many readers will remember, for instance, the protest held by the Gay/Straight Alliance last year during which Xavier officials forbade demonstrators from using the term “gay marriage.” And one need not stretch the imagination far to believe that the individuals who participated in the numerous racially-insensitive episodes of the past few years might also harbor resentment toward homosexuals. We at the *NewsWire* are strong believers in the saying, “actions speak louder than words,” so we may be forgiven for mentioning that a two-paragraph message, even when presented in these hallowed pages, is unlikely to be universally convincing. We are sure that Xavier scrupulously avoided professional conflicts of interest in obtaining the signatures, but we can only wonder at the opinions which might be concealed by the names that do not appear.

On the Web: www.xavier.edu/newswire

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Xavier University is an academic community committed to equal opportunity for all persons.



Letters to the editor

Balancing tradition and progress

Last week I read Alyssa Konermann state “Helping cook for the honors Thanksgiving dinner in this house [the Villa] was really one of the first times I thought ‘Xavier is home’ as a freshman.” I empathize with Alyssa’s sentiments. I had the privilege of living in the Villa during the first year of the Men for Others theme house. I rarely hung out anywhere else because everyone came to our house to socialize. I emerged from my room daily to find a lively community of new faces. We hosted the largest dance parties on campus and filled the house with 200+ people monthly. Many of us over the years have stories from the Villa and those are our experiences and stories to cherish.

Xavier has and can still foster community while it transforms. This requires purposeful action. Ray Oldenburg asserts in “The Great Good Place” (1997) that the everywhere community is the nowhere community. The post-WWII sprawl, thanks to the car and massive highway projects, led cities to ignore the importance of place and proximity. Luckily, campuses are set for success: proximity between places, ease to visit places, and (hopefully) a purposeful placement.

Well-designed communities facilitate social interaction and “an informal public life” (p. 9) through third places — locations away from work and home; easy access and low cost for entry (you come and go freely); and “a familiar or usual setting; congenial environment,” as Merriam-Webster (2005) put it.

Xavier has operated many houses for offices, housing and common spaces over the years

that have served as the third places for many in the Xavier family. The character of the homes along Ledgewood, Dana, Herald and Victory Pkwy came ready to ease the social interaction. As Xavier transforms the campus, planners need to act as community developers, and purposefully establish new third places where the Xavier family easily and fully sustains the community and feels at home.

Steve Weissenburger | ‘03

An alum’s perspective on the comm. arts lawsuit

As an alum of the communication arts program at Xavier, I have witnessed the debacle and the fall of the communication department. I wrote an editorial piece about the lawsuit back on Dec. 10, 2007, and was quoted in a Dec. 12, 2008 article entitled, “What about us?”

The lawsuit at hand, in my opinion, is an obvious deterrent to the education of the students within the communication arts department. Even though professors may not admit to it, the lawsuit has caused the education of the students to take a backseat to the lawsuit. It has preoccupied professors, and has led many students to ask questions that have gone unanswered.

I never had Drs. Miriam Finch or Tara Michels, so I cannot speak on their behalf. In my editorial piece, however, I did say that I felt that they should have resigned as a result of the lawsuit, and I stand by that opinion. However, I did have Dr. Indra de Silva and Dr. Randy Patnode. Both men are very intelligent individuals. Both, I believe, take great pride in their

work. However, neither has been able to do their jobs and serve the students, as they should, to the best of their abilities. In fact, I believe that the schism that is within the communication arts program is very prevalent. I believe sides have been taken. Lines have been drawn. There may not be opinions expressed openly to students, but there have been connotations implied. Yet, as always, it is the students that lose out.

I transferred to Xavier in 2007 from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I transferred to Xavier because at times I felt that I was just a “number” while I was a student at Missouri. I felt that the professors did not care about whether or not their students succeeded, and that the professors were there just to collect the paychecks.

I do not want to see that happen with the communication arts program. I do not want students to feel as if they are just a “number” within the department. I know that the department has lost a lot of bright and intelligent minds as a result of the lawsuit. I do not want the department to lose any more bright intelligent students because of their continued mishandling of this lawsuit.

I am asking that the communication arts department revert back to the way it was when I first started at Xavier. Drop the political posturing. Stop picking sides. Go back to the way it was meant to be in the first place, and that is teaching students. It was why I became a communication arts student in the first place, and it is why I stop by regularly to speak with my former professors. I am proud to be an alum of the communication arts program, and I want other future alums to feel the same way as well.

Patrick Foley | ‘09

The art of people-watching

One of the many joys of living in a cozy off-campus house in Norwood is the ability to enjoy a cool autumn afternoon pretending to read a book in a stolen plastic lawn chair on the front porch while really just observing the odd goings-on of the action-packed neighborhood.

You can see swarthy men in their 40's tirelessly tinkering with a 30-year-old pick-up then revving their motorcycle engine for 15 minutes as pre-pubescent boys pretend to toe the sideline to catch a football near the street corner. Nearby, an entire family sits on the front porch — all three generations of them — wasting the day until one goes inside to put on a Cici's Pizza uniform and take off in the rusty blue Ford Taurus.

It is no secret that Norwood has been a fairly downtrodden neighborhood for the past 23 years — since that last Grand Am rolled off the line at the General Motors plant on Montgomery Road. Yet, the more I observe the community around me, the more I am astonished at how sterile and cold the neighbors are.

With the exception of the tight-knit, yet rowdy, obnoxious and unwelcome intrusion of inebriated Xavier students, Norwood has little to speak of in the way of community camaraderie.

The city has been largely divided into two distinct territories, particularly in the southwest corner. On one side of the street you can see shiny new Volvos and SUV's in front of a lawn littered with Solo cups; on the other side of the pothole-filled road barely wide enough for three cars, you can see the rusted-out Chrysler LeBarons, Chevy Lumina's and Pontiac Grand Ams.

The two sides of the street rarely mix.

Just the other day I was walking in to the grocery store when a white-haired old woman asked to use my cell phone to call a tow truck. I called AAA and waited by her bright red 1991 Dodge Charger for 15 minutes, then overheard her telling the truck where

she needed to go. Turns out she was my next-door neighbor.

For many Norwood residents — both student and genuine Norwoodian — such a (distant) relationship is an entirely new concept.

For the students, almost all have come from leafy, residential, suburban neighborhoods, where they could gather up some neighbors for a game of wiffleball and amicably retrieve home runs from Mr. Palmer's yard with a friendly wave. The thought that there would be someone on the street they did not know by name was as implausible as someone completing Olmec's Temple Maze in less than a minute.

Similarly, the Norwood residents were likely raised in friendly confines, perhaps on these very same streets in a time when new home owners were greeted with green Jell-O and a batch of chocolate chip cookies. Many of the current home owners grew up enjoying the riches of a neighborhood with giant houses to explore and aging trees to climb.

So how did it come to this — to a situation where I can watch dozens of people I don't know walk by my house, neither waving hello to me nor acknowledging each other? How did Norwood become a community of strangers?

Is it because the city is expanding, making Madeira and Oak Hills the suburban outposts for professionals, leaving Norwood as an inner-city bastion of the low-rent riffraff?

Is it because Norwood has fewer jobs for these people, meaning they must travel to Newport or Anderson every morning, wiping away the community bonding of a shared workplace?

Is it because the Xavier kids have finally held one party too many and kept the neighbors awake past midnight too often?

Regardless, there may be a simple way to reverse the trend.

I'm putting down my literary rouse. I just heard a '91 Charger pull up. It is time to unload some groceries.



**DOUG
TIFFT**

Editor-in-Chief

Well, Troy old boy, we published it

Last week, the *NewsWire* received a letter to the editor which seems to be the work of an individual with as much free time as partisan zealotry. Our initial reaction was to laughingly dismiss its publication. Although our letter-writing policy clearly states that we will only accept letters from members of the Xavier community, and despite my personal opinion that its manifest faults make the letter more defamatory toward its author than its intended target, I cannot shake the notion that it goes beyond my authority to make such a judgment on behalf of every reader of the *NewsWire*, particularly in light of the coming midterm elections. Hence, rather than bury the opinion, I will endeavor to critique its inadequacies, and allow the reader to be the final judge. Conveniently, Mr. Troy was thoughtful enough to organize his omissions and mischaracterizations into paragraph form (original letter printed on right).

First, he attacks House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) for his role in "excessive" tax cutting, and supports this description with a quote from former Office of Management and Budget director David Stockman. While it is true enough that the Laffer curve, upon which the logic of supply-side tax cuts is based, indicates that tax rates are no longer high enough for further cuts to increase government revenue, Mr. Troy fails to fully explain Stockman's position. Perhaps this is because the page on climateprogress.org which provides the quote precedes it with an assertion that Stockman had also abandoned the "starve the beast" philosophy. Reading the interview the statement is linked to, however, reveals that Stockman made the much less revolutionary claim that the GOP must tone down its tax-cutting rhetoric and focus on spending cuts, instead.

Perhaps realization of that truth led Mr. Troy to his second point, in which he evoked a quote from Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA) admitting Republican responsibility for over-spending. The

problem here is that if Mr. Troy were truly interested in cutting spending, his best bet would be to support the surge of conservative representatives who will soon be entering Congress, given that incumbent Republicans have lost credibility on fiscal restraint and most Democrats see spending cuts as a bad thing.

Perhaps this naïve trust in the fiscal responsibility of Democrats comes from his myopic understanding of spending patterns since 1980. Not only does his figure of \$11.7 trillion in total debt when Bush left office overstate the Treasury Department's figure to the tune of about \$1 trillion, he expediently neglects to mention that the national debt has grown by about \$3 trillion since Obama took office. That figure, amassed over a mere 21 months, is 77 percent of the total debt accumulated under Bush over the course of eight years.

Moreover, his argument that Bush left a 2009 deficit of \$1.2 trillion would be more convincing if not for President Obama's apparent determination to see just how much debt he can accumulate before he has to start singing songs in commercials for credit monitoring agencies (2010 deficits are forecast to be around \$1.2 trillion again).

By far Mr. Troy's least defensible statement, though, is contained in his concluding call for Republican leaders to accept fault for opposing the president's policies and step down. The entire concluding paragraph is illogical on its face, insofar as it presupposes that Republicans privately agree with Obama, and are opposing him merely as a political stunt. Such an assertion, of course, merely exposes the ignorance Mr. Troy has developed a reputation for, since it requires that either partisan ideology in general is a farce, or that he actually believes that Democrats have exclusive domain over both effective policy and political sincerity. But even

assuming that Mr. Troy is correct on this point, it is widely understood that Democrats' greatest difficulty in the coming election is defending their enormously unpopular legislation, meaning most voters would prefer a disingenuous Republican to a bleeding-heart liberal. Perhaps Boehner and McConnell are not the ones who should be stepping aside.

Mr. Troy's Letter:

Reagan OMB Director David Stockman has apologized (NYTimes 8/1/2010: "How My G.O.P. Destroyed the U.S. Economy") for our GOP tax-cutting: "...[T]he new tax cutters ... hooked Republicans for good on the delusion that the economy will outgrow the deficit if plied with enough tax cuts." Why won't John Boehner 'fess up to his role in our excessive tax-cutting?

Our GOP House Whip Eric Cantor has confessed error (WSJ 10/2/2010): "Look, we know we screwed up when we were in the majority. We fell in love with power. We spent way too much money.... There was too much corruption when we ran this place." Why won't John Boehner 'fess up for his role in over-spending?

In the 1980's we switched from "tax and spend," which kept deficits fairly low, to "borrow and spend" — and our national debt (fiscal year data) surged from \$1 trillion post-Carter to \$2.86 trillion post-Reagan to \$4.35 trillion post-Bush I to \$5.77 trillion post-Clinton to c. \$11.7 trillion post-Bush II. Why won't John Boehner 'fess up to his role in this?

The current deadly structural 34% budget deficit of \$1.2 trillion was initially embedded in Bush's last budget (fiscal 2008-09): revenues of \$2.3 trillion, with expenditures of \$3.5 trillion. Why won't John Boehner increase taxes and cut expenses?

Because shortly after the 2008 elections Boehner and Mitch McConnell decided that their priority was to frustrate the new President rather than to address the nation's serious problems. Their lust for power exceeded their interest in serving the nation. This was irresponsible, immoral, counterproductive, bad for our nation and bad for our party. Boehner and McConnell should step aside.

Richard H. Troy

NOTES & ASIDES

- In fairness to Mr. Troy, ideological delusion is common to both parties. The evident discomfort which grips most liberals when advocating spending cuts is no less farcical than the GOP's repeated attempts to criticize Medicare cuts in the healthcare bill with a straight face.

- Now that Xavier boasts one of the most advanced trading rooms in the nation, there may be a rare opportunity to increase revenues without upsetting students. In order to cover the costs of the facility, Xavier could charge students who use it a small percentage of whatever profit they make.

- After much resistance, promoters of charity events such as the recent breast cancer walk have finally conceded that their goal is not merely to raise awareness, but also money. Yet, doggedly, they cling to their insistence that awareness is a primary goal. Of course, everybody knows that awareness doesn't help cancer patients unless it leads to donations.

- The settlement of the communication arts lawsuit leaves little room for commentary about the outcome (whatever it was). On the other hand, the resolution of this case frees us to finally say that throughout the affair, Xavier seemed to handle itself with grace and civility, at least relative to the plaintiffs, who came across as bellicose and defensive.

- To: Prospective Students
Please do not take this week's staff ed as an indictment of Xavier's tolerance. We are sure that, if you were to look, you would be hard-pressed to find a Catholic, Jesuit, private, moderately-sized, Midwestern school more tolerant than Xavier.

Lords and ladies enjoy Renaissance Festival

BY RACHAEL HARRIS
Asst. A & E Editor

While many may have used fall break to catch up on sleep, my friends and I spent \$20 on tickets to the Ohio Renaissance Festival.

The festival, in all its British glory, did not disappoint in its 21st year.

The festival ran Saturdays and Sundays from Sept. 4 through Oct. 17.

Located in Harveysburg, Ohio, the 50 minute drive from campus took us to the middle of real life Farmville, where we even passed a llama farm.

Once we arrived, we paid \$2 for parking and then headed to the entrance.

Although it was only 10:20 a.m., a large crowd was already gathered outside waiting to enter and enjoy the festival.

Immediately after walking

through the gates, it felt as though I had been transported to 16th century England.

All workers (and some festival attendees) were dressed in Renaissance attire and speaking with British accents.

The information booth, or "Queen's Registry," offered the opportunity to register for a rickshaw ride.

Our first stop was one of the many knife shops, containing everything from small \$3 pocket knives to large \$150 katanas.

Next door was a shop where you could purchase giant wooden hammers or classic Renaissance weapons like the medieval double flail.

Further down the road, visitors could go inside the Tower of London, buy a dinosaur egg or play an ocarina, a small flute-like instrument that many gamers

would know from the Nintendo RPG "Zelda."

Our next stop was food. There were many varieties of food booths all around the festival, but we had to experience a Renaissance festival classic: giant turkey legs.

Juicy and fresh from the fire, these turkey legs were five times the size of your traditional Thanksgiving drumsticks.

Other food offered included sauerkraut balls, blackberry cobbler, cheeseburgers, chicken and curly fries, meatball hoagies and gourmet caramel apples made to order.

For those 21 and older, ale, beer and Smirnoff Ice was offered.

For the rest of the day we were entertained by classic Renaissance games like archery, knife throwing, axe throwing and even "Vegetable Vengeance" (throwing tomatoes at one brave man). And, of course, every great British festival must have camel rides!

The festival also featured many shows. The two we attended were The Mudde Show in the Muditorium (Theatre in the Ground) and The DaVinci Brothers Comedy Opera.

The Mudde Show featured three men performing their take on Beowulf.

They opened by teaching the audience different cheers and sound effects that would be needed throughout the show.

And of course, there was mud. Lots of it.

Any audience member who got covered in mud as a result of the show received \$1 off a T-shirt in a



Photo Courtesy of mccullagh.org

The festival's knights prepare to joust for King's favor. The joust occurred three times a day and featured a small introduction beforehand.

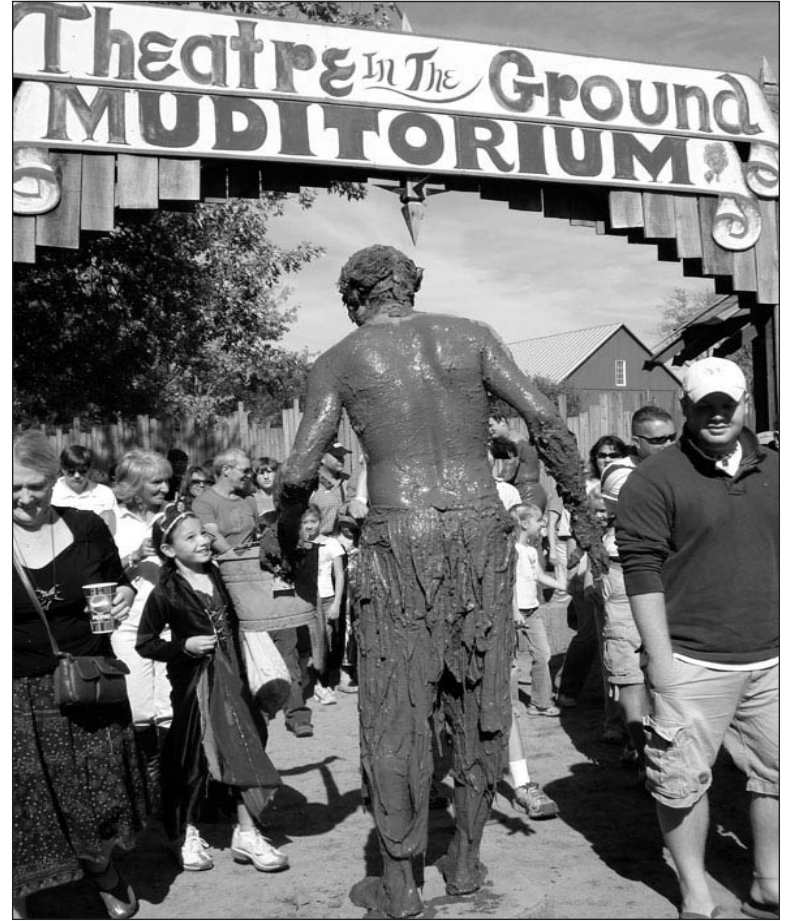


Photo Courtesy of flickr.com

The "Theatre in the Ground" features a large mud pit in the center of the stage. Here one of the performers collects donations after the show.

nearby store.

The DaVinci Brothers Comedy Opera featured Leonardo DaVinci's brother Bob.

Bob first taught the audience certain songs and sound effects that would be used and then selected four audience members to become the characters in the story.

While the whole story was comedic, the highlight was the male audience member playing

the female role of Susanna the Delicious.

The festival also featured belly dancing and jousting competitions.

Overall, the Ohio Renaissance Festival was a great way to spend fall break.

Although the overall experience was a bit pricey, the day brought great memories and experiences. If you missed it this year, be sure to make the trip next September.

CRADLE TO CRADLE Designing a Hopeful Future with Inspiration from Living Systems

Renowned designer WILLIAM MCDONOUGH draws inspiration from regenerative living systems to envision an environmentally and economically intelligent future. He is the author of *Hannover Principles: Design for Sustainability* and co-author with Michael Braungart of *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*.



WILLIAM MCDONOUGH

is consulting professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University. He is also U.S.

Chairman for the Board of Councilors of the China-U.S. Center for Sustainable Development. In 1996, he received the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development, and *Time* magazine has twice recognized him as a "hero" for the environment.



Oct. 25, 7:00 p.m.

The James and Caroline Duff
Banquet Center

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Kings Island provides cheap Halloween fun

BY BRENT EDWARDS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Kings Islands Halloween Haunt provides affordable Halloween fun that is easily accessible to Xavier students, despite its attention-grabbing ads touting midget wrestling.

I found on a recent Friday night that there was much to do at the award-winning park. The Haunt is open from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., Fridays and Saturdays.

The park's opening is like a scene from a movie.

The gates open swiftly, revealing several dozen costumed figures, featuring everything from Freddy Kruger to zombie girls to vampires.

They all rush the unsuspecting guests and scare the living daylight out of everyone.

In the park the "screamsters" as they are called, roam around and scare guests, although they can be easily avoided if one is careful.

What is not to be avoided is the plentitude of award-winning rides.

The tallest ride, the Diamond Back, features a 230 foot lift, 10 drops and an impressive max speed of 80 miles an hour.

The line for this attraction was a mere 10 minutes when the park

first opened, and less than half an hour for most of the night.

Also of interest to thrill seekers is the wooden coaster The Beast, which covers 35 acres of parkland and is nearly five minutes long.

For those who are less keen on thrill rides, there are a variety of attractions: bumper cars, the Eiffel Tower and a variety of live action shows.

Halloween Haunt is not recommended for children under 13.

Admission is \$22 on Fridays and \$28 on Saturdays.



Photo Courtesy of www.citybeat.com

Frightening times at Halloween Haunt.

Cross country gears up for A-10

By JOHN WILMHOFF
Staff Writer

The Xavier men's and women's cross country teams both finished fifth this weekend at the Princeton Invitational in Princeton, N.J. They competed with some of the fastest teams in the country including nationally ranked Iona and Texas.

Texas swept both races with two overall first place finishes. The Xavier men were able to finish a spot ahead of No.18 Iona.

Atlantic 10 foe Saint Joseph's finished seventh on the men's side while St. Joe's was previously tied with Xavier for fifth place in the latest men's A-10 coaches' poll, but the Muskies came out on top this weekend. Their performance was good enough to remain ranked 13th in the Great Lakes regional rankings.

The Musketeers ran well in the first 6K race of the year for the woman's squad, and fell just behind A-10 rival and fourth place finisher, St. Joseph's.

Individually, seniors Tommy Kauffmann and Caitlin Thomas each finished first for Xavier with 11th place finishes in their respective races.

The women's team was led by a trio of freshmen that pushed Xavier up into a top five overall finish.

Thomas led the way, but behind her finished freshmen Ashley Vincent, Abby Fischer and her twin sister, Clare Fischer.

"Both teams got fifth in a good field," head coach Dan Flaute said. "There [are] still some things

we can improve on going into the A-10."

On his overall season evaluation of the men, Flaute noted that his top five runners have not changed. "They've been pretty consistent," Flaute said. "Their times have steadily dropped all year."

"On the women's side, we have had a very young team and have had some ups and downs," Flaute said. "Working on our consistency has been challenging, but it has been starting to click recently."

Individually for the men, Kauffmann hopes to finish high in the upcoming A-10 meet and also achieve his personal goal of making the NCAA regional and national meets.

"Our conference is very loaded with talented individuals, but I expect Tommy to be right there in the top five," Flaute said. "We hope for Tommy to qualify for the NCAA's."

The Musketeers have two weeks until their final regularly scheduled meet at the A-10 Championships. The A-10 Championships will be held at Duquesne University, on the same course that Xavier started the season.

As the Muskies prepare for the meet, Flaute has the difficult task of trying to improve in workouts while, at the same time, not overworking his athletes toward the end of the season.

"Intensity will remain up and the mileage (will be) reduced to keep them healthy and keep legs fresh," Flaute said. "I expect to finish top five or better for both."

Defense stifles A-10

Women's soccer clinging to A-10 tourney berth

By JOCELYN TAYLOR
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's soccer team proved last week they will not be finishing at the bottom of the Atlantic 10 Conference.

The Muskies are on a 2-1 streak that started with their 3-0 win against Rhode Island. They fell to Saint Joseph's 1-0, but recovered this past Sunday with a 1-0 win against Temple.

The Muskies needed double overtime to take down the Temple Owls on Sunday. Senior goalkeeper Jenny Rosen successfully kept the Owls out of the net during the second half and both overtimes.

The play of the game was senior Carly Wenzel's goal off a free kick from the middle of the field. Her goal was the only score for either team, and it sealed the win for the Muskies.

Although the wins over Temple and Rhode Island were a team effort, Wenzel and junior Jessica Brooks were instrumental in securing wins for the team, with Brooks' two goals against Rhode Island and Wenzel's game winner at Temple. Wenzel also scored in the win against Rhode Island.

"To have a shutout in this conference, anytime you can do that is really good," head coach Woody Sherwood said.

The Xavier defense has held its opponents to one goal in the last three games. However, that goal came in the Saint Joseph's game, in which the Muskies could not muster a goal.

Currently, the women's team holds fifth place in the conference



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior Carly Wenzel scored the winning goal in double-overtime against Temple. She also had a goal in the 3-0 win over Rhode Island.

with a 3-3 record. Dayton stands atop with a spotless 6-0 record.

There are three more games remaining before the A-10 Tournament, which will be held at Rhode Island. Two of the three remaining games are against teams currently in the top three in the A-10.

The top six teams will be invited to the A-10 Tournament, and Xavier is clinging to their fifth spot. Behind them is Richmond with a 2-2 record.

Most of last season's seeded teams, St. Bonaventure, Fordham, Saint Louis and UMass, are not even in contention this year.

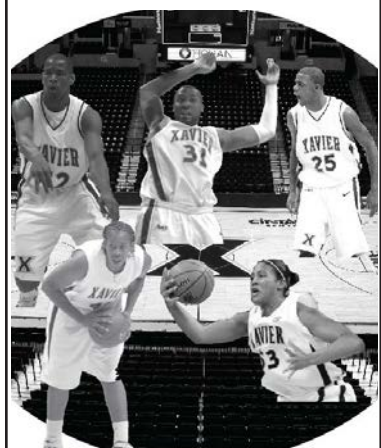
However, the first and second seeded Dayton and Charlotte still hold their positions, respectively.

Dayton will be the last team that the Muskies face this season at home.

If team standings do not change, the Muskies will face fourth seeded George Washington in the first round. If the Musketeers fall to sixth place, they will face third seeded Duquesne in the first round.

At 3 p.m. this Friday, Oct. 22 at 3 p.m. the Musketeers will get back on the road to take on St. Bonaventure in Olean, N.Y.

BASKETBALL IS HERE



Musketeer Madness

Sat, Oct. 23

— Fan Fest on Cintas Center Plaza at 4 p.m.

— Team introductions and Scrimmages at 6 p.m.

Look for the *NewsWire* Basketball Preview issue next week.

Filled with...

- Season and schedule analysis
- Player profile features
- Expert picks

Volleyball falls in "battle" with Dayton

By SCOTT MUELLER
Sports Editor

In order to be competitive against the No. 18 Dayton Flyers on Oct. 15, the Xavier volleyball team knew it would have to be at its best.

In many ways, the team used the previous two matches in Philadelphia as preparation for Dayton.

On Oct. 8, the Musketeers took on La Salle. XU swept the Explorers, not allowing La Salle to score more than 20 points in any set.

Freshman Sarah Brown led the Muskies with 11 kills, while junior Michelle Matia contributed nine.

The next day the Musketeers stayed in Philadelphia to take on the Temple Owls.

In the first two sets, the Owls hung with the Muskies until they were able to put long runs together. In the first set, with the score tied at 19, Xavier went on a 6-0 run to close out the set.

In the second set, with Temple leading 12-11, the Musketeers went on an 11-0 run en route to winning 25-16.

The Owls defeated the Muskies in the third set, but Xavier responded to close out the match in the fourth.



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Sophomore Stephanie Vorherr set an Atlantic 10 record with 43 digs in the loss to Dayton.

"In those games it was really about how we played on our side," head coach Mike Johnson said. "We were able to mix the lineups a little bit. We were able to get some rest for people who needed it. Those matches came at

a good time to prepare us to play the Dayton match."

Senior Shannon Voors sat out the entire weekend to let some nagging injuries heal.

The Musketeers used the weekend to work on the defense they would need against Dayton. Matia had nine assisted blocks and one solo block. Sophomore Stephanie Vorherr had 28 digs, foreshadowing what was soon to come against Dayton.

On Friday, the Musketeers welcomed the No. 18 Flyers to Cintas Center for a game that lasted almost three hours.

Each set was decided by the minimum two points. The first set, during which neither team led by more than three points, featured 12 ties and four lead changes.

For the match there were 39 ties and 15 lead changes. The only set in which there were not at least seven ties was the fifth and final set, in which Dayton jumped out to a 3-0 lead that Xavier could not come back from.

"It was a tough loss," Johnson said. "It was a battle the whole night from beginning to end. It was an emotional battle as much as it was a physical one."

"For people that were there, they got quite a treat," Johnson said. "It was one of the more ex-

citing matches I've ever been a part of. I just wish we came out on the other end."

Sophomore libero Stephanie Vorherr recorded an Atlantic 10 record 43 digs in the loss, and was named the Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Week.

If nothing else, the Dayton loss proved that the Muskies could play with anyone in the conference. They currently sit in third place in the A-10.

"I think it was good for the team to realize we're getting there," Johnson said. "We have the capability to win this league. I think that became evident Friday night."

The key for the Muskies will be their ability to keep up the defensive pressure and their ability to close out matches.

"Friday was a great game for us," Johnson said. "Defensively, we played as well as we have all year. At the same time, just because we played great defense Friday, doesn't mean [it's just going to happen], we have to make it happen again."

The Muskies will remain home for the weekend as they take on Charlotte at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22 following Musketeer Madness and George Washington at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Offense on the rise as soccer opens A-10

Three game win streak propels soccer into second

BY SHANE MULVIHILL
Staff Writer

If you walked up to a men's soccer player today and asked him if he knew that the team was in second place in the Atlantic 10, he might not be able to give you an answer. His head coach Andy Fleming will not let him give you an answer.

A double-overtime 2-1 victory against Temple pushed the Muskies into second place in the A-10.

Fleming, who took over the struggling program this season, preaches the here and now to his players, and they seem to be responding to what he is saying.

"We have been able to take things half by half and consistently go 1-0 without looking back or ahead," Fleming said.

This step-by-step, game-by-game approach has awoken a sleeping giant and revealed a nationally ranked defense and an attack that is able to keep the team in any match.

Fleming has taken a team that finished with a 2-13-1 record last season and turned them into a team that can contend for the A-10 championship.

The team's continuous in-season improvements have resulted in a 6-3-3 record, and a current

three game win streak.

The win streak is in part due to a much improved offensive attack. The Musketeers are four games into their conference schedule. In those four games the team has averaged 16 shots and 1.5 goals per game, which is a significant increase over the 10.875 shots and 0.625 goals per game averages coming into conference play.

Even with the improvements, the A-10 season started with a 2-0 road loss against the University of Massachusetts.

"The UMass game was disappointing, mainly because we mentally never got off the bus and gave ourselves a chance to win," Fleming said.

Despite outshooting UMass 16-8 on the game, the Musketeers played what was likely their worst half of the season in the first half.

XU surrendered two goals in the half and despite outshooting UMass 14-1 in the second half, they were unable to net any goals and fell by a score of 0-2.

The next game against Rhode Island provided an opportunity for Xavier to hit its stride.

The Xavier defense rose to the occasion and stopped an onslaught of 25 Rhode Island shots and recorded the team's sixth shutout of the season.



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior Brandon Bucher broke a scoreless tie in double overtime to give the Musketeers their third straight win.

The offensive attack was precise and found the net on two occasions in the first 11 minutes as the team went on to win the game 2-0.

Fleming was happy with his team's resilience to hold on for a victory after taking an early lead.

"We out-willed and outplayed Rhode Island, and did a wonderful job of defending their late flurries," Fleming said.

The team was able to win its second game in a row by record-

ing yet another shutout against St. Joseph's last Friday night.

"Against St. Joseph's we had great command of the game and truly looked like we expected to win. We were composed being ahead and did not let them have any life," Fleming said.

The team cruised to a 2-0 victory on goals from senior Brian Kanu in the 35th minute and freshman Matt Walker in the 47th minute.

The defense continued to roll

by only allowing six shots and only needing one save from sophomore goalkeeper Justin Marshall.

In the Musketeers' most recent game, the team needed overtime to put away the Temple Owls. After playing Temple to a 1-1 draw after regulation and one overtime period, the teams entered the second overtime period with only ten minutes to decide a winner.

Xavier needed some late game heroics on the part of senior forward Brandon Bucher who scored in the game's 103rd minute, broke the tie and gave the victory to the Musketeers.

Now 3-1 in conference play, Xavier trails only Charlotte in the standings and is poised to make a run at a conference championship.

"The league is tighter than ever," Fleming said. "It looks as if Charlotte could run the table but then after that, it's very tight."

Xavier will not play Charlotte in the regular season this year.

Despite his team's success, Fleming is not looking far ahead.

"I honestly don't look at the standings," Fleming said. "I ask my assistants to not tell me any scores and to just worry about keeping our guys focused and together by trying to go 1-0 each Friday night and Sunday afternoon."

—Sports Opinion—

Votto should be MVP

BY SCOTT MUELLER
Sports Editor

There are as many different ways of evaluating the Most Valuable Player in baseball as people on the earth. So, do not consider this an absolute means of deciding the MVP, it is simply one opinion in a sea of millions.

I am going to call this formula the "MVP score." What this formula will try to do is evaluate the versatility and level of consistency at which a player performed while incorporating the overall goal of the season — to make the playoffs.

The final point value assigned to each player represents not only his team's final standing, but also his individual contribution to it.

Without a doubt, wins are the stat most valuable to a team.

There should be a side note here, however; it is not just wins but it is enough wins to make the playoffs. It is not uncommon for there to be a team to miss the playoffs and still finish with more wins than the division winner of a particularly weak division. For example, in 2008 six teams who missed the playoffs finished with a better record than the 84-78 NL West Champion Dodgers.

For the purposes of this formula, for each team win a player

will get half a point, and five additional points if his team makes the playoffs. So before even looking at individual stats, we can evaluate some of the top MVP candidates. The Reds finished 91-71, so Joey Votto will get half of 91 plus five for a total of 50.5. Albert Pujols will get 43. Carlos Gonzalez will get 41.5.

There is one obvious problem with only evaluating players on this basis: every player on one team ends up with the same number. Votto would be just as valuable as Johnny Gomes. Gomes has been a valuable asset to the Reds no doubt, but is a better candidate for most obnoxious player than MVP.

To further evaluate players, we must look at individual stats. True MVP candidates should finish in the top 10 in most offensive categories.

Again a side note must be considered here. While it is true that defense is an important part of the game and in many cases can save a team runs and games, it is also much harder to quantify its role over the course of a season and is not nearly as significant as run production. This past season, two teams, the Red Sox and the Mariners, downgraded their offenses and focused on defense. Both teams missed the playoffs and the Mariners finished with the

second worst record in baseball.

For the purposes of this formula, a player will receive 10 points for leading the league in a category, nine points for finishing second and so on until only one point is given for finishing 10th. Finishing outside the top 10 in a category will result in no points.

We will limit the categories considered to run-producing categories: homeruns, RBI, batting average, runs and OPS. For those not familiar with OPS, it is on-base percentage plus slugging percentage. Slugging percentage is the average number of bases per at bat. If a player hits a home run in every at bat his slugging percentage would be 4.000. A very good OPS is around .900. A true MVP candidate would have an OPS around 1.000.

Pujols finished first in the league in homeruns, RBI and runs. He finished second in OPS and sixth in average. His total individual stats MVP score would be 10 + 10 + 10 + 9 + 5 for a total of 44.

Votto finished first in OPS, second in batting average, third in homeruns and RBI and fourth in runs scored. His total individual stats MVP score would be 42. Gonzalez's individual score would also be 42.

When combined with their team scores Votto finishes with



Photo courtesy of mancavesports.org

The Cincinnati Reds, behind the strength of an MVP caliber season from Joey Votto, made their first post-season appearance in 15 years this season.

an MVP score of 92.5 (50.5 + 42) and Pujols with an 87 (43 + 44). Gonzalez would finish with 83.5. Just for the record, Gomes would finish with an MVP score of 50.5, the same as the starting score of everybody else on the Reds.

Because he has the highest combined MVP score, Votto should win the MVP this season.

How does this compare historically? Last season, Pujols would have finished with an MVP score of 96.5, far and away more than Hanley Ramirez or Ryan Howard, who finished second and third in the MVP voting, respectively.

Going back the last five years, when evaluating the top three MVP vote getters this formula can be applied to successfully predict six of the 10 MVP awards given.

The formula does not work for the 2006 NL MVP, in which Ryan Howard inexplicably won the MVP over Pujols.

What this formula does not reward is singles hitters or any intangibles that candidates may bring to the table. If you value those things (which are important) then completely ignore this formula.

Essentially what this formula can do is shed light on how valuable it is to be consistently near the top in all the categories. This formula rewards players for not being too one-dimensional, something that Pujols has shown throughout his career and Votto is on the path to doing.

Votto basically out Pujolsed Pujols this season. Votto got his team to the postseason and was consistent all season long.

Note from Editor-in-Chief: Scott Mueller is a die-hard Cardinals fan. While that may explain why he does not like Johnny Gomes, it does not account for the fact that he claims Votto should win this season.