

Xavier University

## Exhibit

---

All Xavier Student Newspapers

Xavier Student Newspapers

---

2019-09-04

## Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student\\_newspaper](https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student_newspaper)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio), "Xavier University Newswire" (2019). *All Xavier Student Newspapers*. 3094.

[https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student\\_newspaper/3094](https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student_newspaper/3094)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Xavier Student Newspapers at Exhibit. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Xavier Student Newspapers by an authorized administrator of Exhibit. For more information, please contact [exhibit@xavier.edu](mailto:exhibit@xavier.edu).

## Class of 2023 smaller than 2022

*While there were more applicants, admissions accepted fewer students*

BY MO JUENGER  
Guest Writer

The admissions office has announced that the class of 2023 is between 200 and 300 students smaller than its preceding class. This significant decrease in class size was ultimately affected by the university's decision to accept fewer students.

Factors such as previous incoming class sizes and strained on-campus housing greatly influenced the decision to accept fewer students, according to Lindsey Steller, the assistant director of admissions.

Steller clarified that accepting fewer students was intentional, "just to make sure that we can still give students the best experience," she said. "We recognized that last year housing was a little bit tighter, and things here (at the Admissions Office) were a little bit tighter." "We just wanted make sure that we're staying true to our mission of supporting students, and before we continue to grow, we just need to make sure we have some things in place, make sure that all that's going to be good for the students."

Steller added that the number of applicants for the class of 2023 was even larger than that of the previous year.

"We're continuing to grow in that aspect," she said, "it is just making sure we don't grow too quickly."

The decision to accept fewer students has affected multiple grade levels. For one, the housing situation has changed.

"The housing process was much easier this year since



Members of the class of 2023 showed off their pride at committing to Xavier in this collage shared on Xavier's website. The class, which is around 200 to 300 people smaller than the class of 2022, was a result of the admissions office responding to the overwhelming class size of the year before.

there weren't so many people," sophomore biology major Jake Owens said.

This differs from last year's inability to house many incoming students.

Many first-year students reported having little or no difficulty with the initial housing assignments, and noted satisfaction with their class sizes.

"I love how small my classes are," first-year social work major Abigail Evans said. "That's why I wanted to come to Xavier in the first place. I wouldn't like if there were 300 more people distributed throughout the class, though."

Many students agree the

unique feeling of community a mid-size college like Xavier can achieve was an important factor influencing their decision to attend.

"I believe Xavier was built to be a mid-size university with a tight-knit community, and as they bring up enrollment and take on the biggest class that Xavier has ever had, they can't keep upping that because the part of Xavier that people are really drawn to is the community and tight-knit feel," first-year English major Molly Hulligan said.

However, some students are still experiencing the negative effects of last year's class size. Geno Griffith, a '15

graduate and current education graduate student, spoke about the problematic situations Xavier's overall growth has caused.

"The programs have increased from an academic standpoint. Numbers look good as far as graduation rates," Griffith said. "But with that, I notice some things have changed, like... learning center accommodations and services provided to grad students, policy and procedures for grad students to be on campus have changed, in terms of access to technology."

A disproportionate growth in undergraduates is linked

to lack of services available to current graduate students, and Griffith believes that the decrease in size of this year's admitted class will help to reconcile some of the problems previous growth has created.

The reduction of admitted first-year students has begun to resolve many issues experienced by the Class of 2022. Class size, housing and college community remain important factors to applying students, and many feel that a smaller Class of 2023 has helped to keep those factors at Xavier's highest standard.

The official Xavier census numbers for the Class of 2023 will be released in October.

### In this issue...

#### Campus News, Page 2

OSI's Pathways began this week and will showcase chances for involvement.



#### Op-Ed, Page 7

First-year Mo Juenger argues that we are more than just our ACT test scores.



#### Sports, Page 8

After a 2-0 start and an upset over Akron, men's soccer is ranked No. 10 in the nation.



#### A&E, Page 10

Following a 13 year hiatus from making music, Tool has finally released a new album.



# Pathways weekly program begins

By JOSEPH COTTON  
Staff Writer

Pathways is an initiative of the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) that will span across six weeks, starting Sept. 3 and ending Oct. 27, each representing one of the six different Pathways.

The weekly pathway themes include Leadership, Spirituality, Belonging, Social Concern, Wellbeing and Identity.

The different weeks are filled with events set up by Student Affairs and are meant to highlight the various ways to get involved on campus, as well as the learning priorities that relate to the OSI's work with students. The Pathways theme for the year is "Make Your Mark."

The initiative was established by the Pathways team, led by assistant OSI director Dustin Lewis. The Pathways team defined the different themes and planned the collection of opportunities and events for each week.

"Pathways week is an easy in and a good way to see the offerings of ways to get involved," Lewis said when asked about the best way to engage with Pathways.

"It's built a lot like a menu so you can pick and choose what you like," he said. Stu-



Photo courtesy of Instagram  
New this year, the Pathways initiative will have themed weeks to help students find spaces on campus where they can feel like they belong.

dents are encouraged to explore the offerings for each week and find a theme that they connect with.

Visibility was handled by a branding and promotions division of Student Affairs led by the associate director of the Center for Faith and Justice (CFJ), Rev. Abby King-Kaiser.

"The idea is two-fold," King-Kaiser said. "It's both to help students build the path of their Xavier journey and to help students get outside

of their first interest and try something new."

The Pathways team indicated that they wanted to give students the opportunity to explore other involvement opportunities through inter departmental collaborations at Xavier.

"If a student sees that the Center for Diversity and Inclusion is collaborating with Recreational Sports, they might be more likely to try something new," added King-Kaiser.

Lewis also emphasized the interconnectedness of the different pathways, noting, for example, that the CFJ isn't the only place where students can incorporate spirituality into their Xavier experience.

"Although people may assume anything that deals with spirituality is handled by CFJ, spirituality can be found in all aspects of what we do at Student Affairs," Lewis said.

"For me, involvement means engaging myself in a new environment that I don't usually see myself in," senior international studies and political science major Presley Owusu-Bonsu said. "I've tried to become comfortable being uncomfortable."

She added that she has become better at having uncomfortable conversations about sensitive topics including race, sexuality and poverty thanks to getting involved with the CFJ.

Owusu-Bonsu stated that she connects with the pathway of Wellbeing the most. "Xavier really taught me self-care. I've been meditating, doing breathing exercises and participating in other activities that help my spiritual and emotional health," Owusu-Bonsu said.

"I went to high school in Chicago, which is a really

fast-paced city, so I didn't see myself doing things like meditation when I first came to Xavier. It's something I really jumped into."

This week is Leadership week, which runs from Sept. 1 to 7. Events include Leadership Game Night, Muskies Helping Muskies and Hall Council Elections. According to the Pathways website, the Leadership pathway is designed to help students build effective skills to help shape the community.

Next week is Spirituality week which runs from Sept. 8 to 14. Defined as "reflecting on your beliefs and your purpose" in the Pathways brochure, events for this week include Find Your Sacred Space, GSC Open Meditation Space and Spirit Celebration.

"These events aren't just for first-years," Lewis said. "They're also for sophomores who are finally comfortable on campus and want to now get involved, as well as anyone on campus."

Look out for the posters around dorms and Gallagher Student Center in addition to the events around campus in the upcoming weeks.

Lastly, follow @lifeatXU on Instagram and Twitter for the most up to date information.

## Tweets of the Week



Check out the best Xavier-related Twitter content from the past week



**Xavier Res Life** @XavierResLife · 4d  
Attention #XavierResLife RAs! 🤪

**Kraft Macaroni & Cheese** · 4d  
Hey college RAs – if your residents are losing sleep from late-night Easy Mac incidents, we've got your back. Just print this and hang it near the microwave.

**Remove lid.**  
**Pour in water.**  
**Zap your mac.**  
**Enjoy 🍝.**

**CLASSY BARSTOOL XU** @XuBa... · 4d  
Anyone in Fenwick missing a TV?



**X-treme Fans** @XU\_Xtreme\_Fans · 16h  
10th in the country ✓  
2-0 start for @XavierMSOC ✓  
100 dubs for Coach Fleming ✓



**Thomas R. Payton** @ThomasPa... · 5d  
Good move!

**Xavier University** @Xavi... · 6d  
Joining a national movement, Xavier will no longer require students to submit an SAT or ACT score in order to be considered for enrollment.

MORE: [xavier.edu/now/2019/test-...](http://xavier.edu/now/2019/test-...)  
[Show this thread](#)



# Photo-op: opinions of Peet's coffee

BY MO JUENGER  
Guest Writer

This year, Victory Perk changed their coffee supplier from Carabello Coffee to Peet's Coffee.

See how students feel about the new coffee supplier on campus.

Victory Perk is located on the first floor of Gallagher Student Center and is open on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Friday from 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.



"Personally, I like Peet's better because their chai tea is a lot stronger than (Carabello.)"

**Kaleigh Crawford**  
First-year nursing major



"(Peet's) is the best coffee. I love every second of drinking it."

**Alex Pinarski**  
First-year history major



"The only issue that I have with Peet's coffee is that they make you fill up your own black coffee."

**Nick Palmisano**  
First-year psychology major



"I know a lot of people love it. My friend had five cups today."

**Zak Swetye**  
Sophomore marketing and business analytics major



"Personally, I would say I like Peet's coffee a lot more. Carabello coffee tasted like burnt water."

**Claire Kuchenrither**  
Junior political science major



"I like Peet's coffee! They have much better options."

**Eliza Turner**  
Senior criminal justice major



"I like the ethics behind it and I think it's a good tasting coffee."

**Hannah Frey**  
Senior social work and psychology major

# D'Artagnan's Den revamped over the summer

## Gallagher's basement-level student den converted into an e-sports lounge

BY DAVID LUDWIG  
Guest Writer

During the summer, D'artagnan's Den, a space that had previously housed several televisions and a pool table in the basement of Gallagher Student Center (GSC), was converted into an e-sport's lounge.

GSC director Chris Marshall explains that this concept came into the picture in the fall of 2017, when he put together a group of students and staff called the GSC Ideation Team. According to Marshall, this group, which is also responsible for the Clock Tower Lounge renovation, was to "focus on spaces in the building and ways to enhance it and renovate it."

During the Ideation Team's discussions, the rise of competitive video gaming, known as e-sports, came into conversation. The team identified that there was no space on campus at the time where students could become involved in the growing world of e-sports, and wanted to make this an option available to students.

Marshall noted that several spaces in GSC were considered for the location of the lounge before finally deciding



**GSC's D'Artagnan Den has been renovated and repurposed into an e-sports lounge, a space students can check out a multitude of video games from the Welcome Desk to play with friends during their free-time.**

*Photo courtesy of Alex Ackerman*

to place it in D'Artagnan's Den. "Ultimately, that space on the lower level wasn't being utilized the way we had hoped," he said, "of all the spaces, that would be the perfect spot for it."

Students praise the decision to create an e-sports lounge and consider this transformation of the space a major upgrade. First-year student Jeremy Lefton ex-

pressed his interest in the popular *Call of Duty* franchise of first-person shooter games, and enjoyed the ability to play with other students in the e-sports lounge. "I just came down here and saw it one day," he said, while also commenting that "it's pretty awesome here."

While students are enjoying the lounge now, Marshall noted several obstacles to the

process. According to Marshall, the project's funds were in question at the beginning of the process, but "ultimately, the Student Government Association helped pass the initial funding for it." He also faced the issue of designing the system so that he, the rest of the GSC staff, and the students could use the space with ease.

As of now, all a student

needs to do is go to the GSC Welcome Desk and check out a controller with their ALL Card, then walk down to D'Artagnan's Den, turn on the TV indicated by the number on the controller, turn on the console and select a game.

"Displays 1 through 4 house PlayStation 4's on them ... We also have an old retro console that has around 2000 games from Atari up through Nintendo 64," Marshall adds.

Marshall also confirmed larger plans for the lounge, saying that there will be a competitive Rocket League team, intramural tournaments sponsored by the Recreational Sports department and that Xbox One systems will be installed by the end of the semester. He also plans to expand the catalogue of available games and is looking into ways to implement Nintendo Switches and PC gaming systems.

Lastly, Marshall encourages students to come to him with any suggestions or improvements that can be made. "We're just getting started, so we'd love to hear back from students," he said.

D'Artagnan's Den is located in the basement of GSC and is currently open for use.

# Oklahoma settles opioid lawsuit

Johnson & Johnson to pay out \$572 million in opioid-related death settlement

BY MO JUENGER  
Guest Writer

Oklahoma's Cleveland County Court ordered pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson to pay out \$572 million last Monday in a settlement for an opioid-related death lawsuit.

This is the first successful legal action to prosecute a drug manufacturing company for inappropriate and misleading advertising of prescription painkillers.

Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter's suit alleged that Johnson & Johnson, through its pharmaceutical subsidiary Janssen, caused a public health crisis that killed thousands of Oklahoma residents in opioid related deaths.

The court found Johnson & Johnson culpable of bolstering a "public nuisance." "The defendants caused an opioid crisis that is evidenced by increased rates of addiction, overdose deaths and neonatal abstinence syndrome in Oklahoma," presiding Judge Thad Balkman said in a statement.

On Friday, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost asked a federal appeals court to halt a similar opioid trial set for October for claims made by Cuyahoga and Summit Counties in order to give the state of Ohio time to file its own case similar to Oklahoma's.



Photo Courtesy of Flickr user hjl

Oklahoma has settled with Johnson & Johnson in an opioid-related death state lawsuit. The \$527 million, though less than the request \$17.5 billion, will fund the Oklahoma's opioid recovery plan for one fiscal year.

He has asked the 6th Court of Appeals to dismiss the claims or order U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Cleveland to halt or delay the first federal trial that is set to begin Oct. 21.

The companies facing prosecution in Ohio's courts

include Janssen Pharmaceuticals (a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson,) Purdue Pharma, Endo Health Solutions, Cephalon and Allergan.

First-year Jacob Tarter noted the irony in the nature of the Johnson and Johnson brand: "Their specialty is

baby products, so I think that it kind of defeats the whole purpose of being a family-oriented company when you're contributing to the opioid epidemic."

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there were 388 overdose deaths in-

volving opioids in Oklahoma in 2017. This averages to 10.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to the national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons.

Comparatively, Ohio had the second highest rate of drug overdose deaths involving opioids in 2017. There were 4,293 reported deaths in the state, with 39.2 deaths per 100,000 persons.

The \$572 million that Oklahoma will receive from the settlement was short of the \$17.5 billion that the state requested. The money is only enough to fund Oklahoma's opioid recovery plan for one year.

Johnson & Johnson's shares rose five percent in value immediately following the verdict. The amount Johnson & Johnson will pay to the state of Oklahoma is just five percent of the damages their product has caused across the state.

"It saddens me how many people we're losing to something as preventable as opioid addiction. We need to put a stop to it," first-year Maddie Schramm said.

"I think the opioid crisis is terrible, but they're looking at the wrong people," first-year Allie Greenwell said.

"I'm glad that we finally won (a lawsuit)," Schramm said.

## The week in review: Labor Day weekend

No thermal detonators, Norwood police warnings, Gold Star chili, "Cincinnati" and Harry Potter

- A man was jailed for 82 days for bringing honey into the U.S. from Jamaica. Officials claimed the honey tested positive for liquid methamphetamine, but later tests found no evidence of the substance. The case is pending, and the man is expected to file a lawsuit (Aug. 28).
- The TSA is banning Star Wars-themed Coke bottles because they look like grenades. The bottles are one of more than 1,000 different souvenirs available at the new "Galaxy's Edge" park at Disney (Aug. 28).
- The Norwood Police Department reminded citizens that there are, in fact, laws when drinking Claws. A Facebook post explained that the phrase, "Ain't no laws when drinking Claws," a reference to the popular hard seltzer White Claws, will not hold up in court (Aug. 28).
- Workers at a Pennsylvania engineering company laid down nearly 1,400 pieces of track to race a Hot Wheels car for 2,176 feet. They submitted evidence of the feat to Guinness in hopes of gaining official world record status (Aug. 29).

- Gold Star notched another victory in the Cincinnati Chili War after *Food and Wine* named it the best fast food in Ohio. The magazine said eating at Gold Star was "one of those weird, wonderful moments that sticks with you, in a really good way" (Aug. 29).
- T-shirts commemorating the Queen City stop on KISS End of the Road tour misspelled "Cincinnati," tacking on an extra "t." The shirts were being sold for \$50 (Aug. 29).
- The governor of New Hampshire urged the state's DMV to allow a woman to keep her "PB4WEGO" license plate. The division had previously asked the woman to surrender her plate, despite the fact that she had used it for 15 years (Aug. 29).

- A man was fined for transporting a broken car by balancing it on top of another car. He later admitted strapping the car to the roof was a "stupid thing to do" (Aug. 30).
- Police in Clayton County, Georgia, were able to finally catch a serial rapist they had



Photo courtesy of Twitter

Kiss would have lost the school spelling bee if the word were Cincinnati.

been hunting for years when they realized he had previously been a recruit. "Had he not attempted to join the ranks of the Clayton County Police Department, it's questionable as to when we would have apprehended him," said Police Chief Kevin Roberts (Aug. 31).

- A nightclub in France is celebrating its 50th anniversary with two new robot pole dancers. The robots wear high heels and have CCTV cameras for heads (Sept. 1).
- Pope Francis apologized to thousands of gatherers for being late for his traditional noon appointment with the public, as he had been stuck

in a Vatican elevator for 25 minutes. The pontiff praised the fire fighters who rescued him, saying "Thank God the Fire Brigade came. Let's hear it for the Fire Brigade!" (Sept. 1).

- A Catholic school in Nashville, Tennessee, has banned the popular *Harry Potter* book series. Pastor Dan Reehil said in an email sent to parents that "The curses and spells used in the books are actual curses and spells, which, read by a human beings, risk conjuring evil spirits into the presence of the person reading the text." The Catholic Church has no official stance on the *Harry Potter* books (Sept. 2).



Photo courtesy Getty Images

Coke grenades won't be allowed to fly, but prop lightsabers are still OK.

## Former Kentucky clerk Kim Davis can now be sued, according to 6th Circuit ruling

BY ALEYA JUSTISON  
Guest Writer

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously this past Friday that former Kentucky County Clerk Kim Davis can be sued as an individual.

On Sept. 3, 2015, Davis was held in contempt of Kentucky courts for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Davis was later ordered by a U.S. District court to start issuing marriage licenses. Davis claimed that the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage for federal purposes

as the union of one man and one woman, was not at the root of her actions.

The couples who had been denied marriage licenses at that time may now choose to file a lawsuit against her as an individual.

Davis filed an appeal with the Supreme Court, but her application was denied.

The state of Kentucky was found responsible for the payment of \$224,000 in damages to the affected couples.

Because sovereign immunity protects certain government employees, preventing them from being sued in their

official role, Davis was able to avoid owing any of the fines herself.

Since Davis was actively serving as a county clerk, she was initially free from any personal repercussions.

“(Davis) did act on behalf of the state, but no individual should benefit from sovereign immunity. A state is not just one person. The decisions that a state makes come from its people and its governing bodies, who all act together,” Molly Schramm, senior advertising major and member of the LGBTQ Alliance Executive Board said.

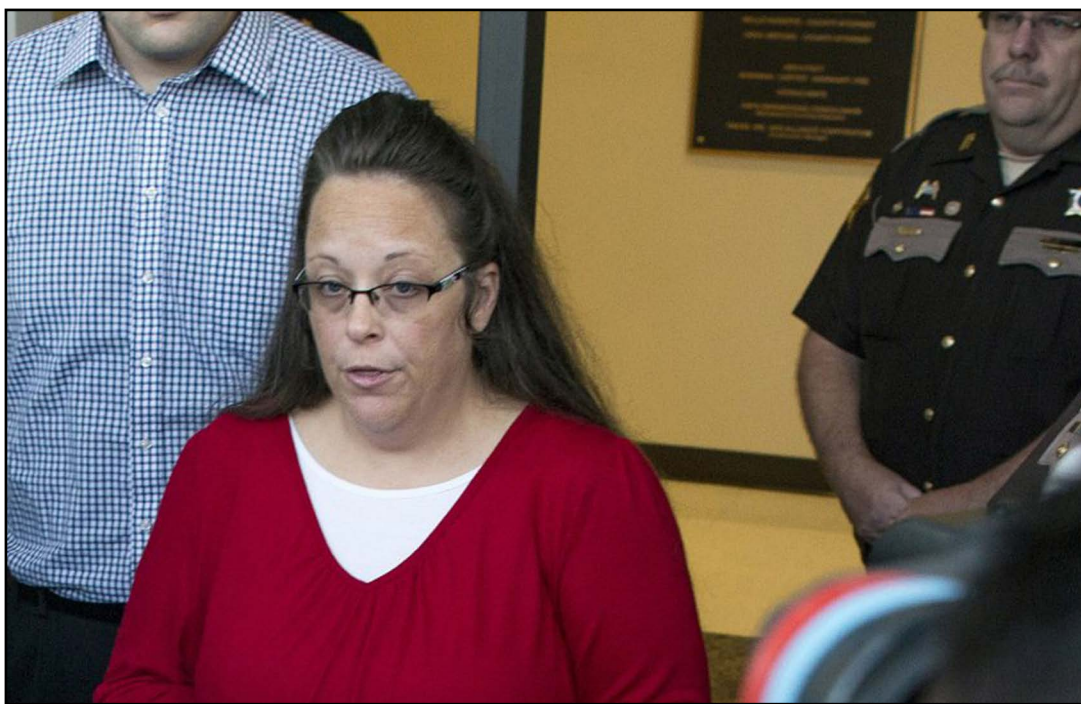


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

The 6th Circuit Court ruled former Kentucky Clerk Kim Davis can now be sued as an individual. On Sept. 3, 2015, Davis was held in contempt for refusing to issue same-sex couples their marriage licenses.

## Two children killed, 9 others injured after stabbing and hijacking in Dayton

BY JAKE GEIGER AND RYAN KAMBICH  
Guest Writer and Staff Writer

One month after a mass shooting which left 10 dead and 27 injured, the Dayton community is now mourning the death of two children and the injury of nine others after a three-vehicle crash in the city’s downtown area.

The individual suspected of causing the crash has been identified by the Dayton Police Department as Raymond Walters, Jr., a Dayton resident.

According to authorities, the incident began around 7:10 p.m. on Aug. 26 at Walters’ home, when he allegedly stabbed his father and stole his father’s 1999 Chevy Cruiser.

Shortly after, officers responded when a vehicle matching that description crashed into a tree, and they reportedly attempted to arrest Walters on the scene.

An officer used a taser in the attempted arrest, which reportedly failed to incapacitate

Walters. Authorities said Walters proceeded to drive off in a police cruiser parked at the site.

“I found out about this incident when scrolling through Twitter,” sophomore Will Kehane said. “It was sad to read about and shocking to later find out (that) the suspect (allegedly) stole the policeman’s SUV.”

Walters was reportedly driving at dangerous speeds, allegedly reaching 101 miles

per hour at one point.

Later that night, Walters allegedly struck an Acura SUV and a Honda Odyssey, resulting in the deaths of two children inside the vehicles.

After the crash, police identified Walters as the driver who collided with tree earlier in the evening.

Police later apprehended Walters, and he is expected to face charges. He has a previous criminal record of robbery, assault and burglary.



Photo courtesy of CNN

Two children were killed and nine were injured after Raymond Walter Jr. allegedly stabbed his father, hijacked a police cruiser and crashed it.

## The Amazon continues to burn

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER  
Guest Writer

This week, the G-7 convened and offered \$22 million in firefighting aid to Brazil to help the country combat fires in the Amazon Rainforest. Brazil’s President, Jair Bolsonaro, rejected the aid, citing what he believed to be personal attacks by France’s President, Emmanuel Macron. Macron had previously claimed that Bolsonaro lied about Brazil’s efforts to combat climate change.

Bolsonaro expressed anger that the G-7 — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States — was attempting to intervene in Brazil and compared the G-7 aid to colonialism. Bolsonaro also ridiculed the age and appearance of Macron’s wife.

Bolsonaro then reversed his stance on the G-7 aid, explaining he would accept the G-7 aid if Macron apologized for his “personal attacks.” Brazil also announced they would accept \$12 million in firefighting aid from England and mobilize their military to fight the blaze.

The blaze primarily has been blamed on increased deforestation spurred by Bolsonaro’s repeals of environmental protections.

Bolsonaro believes that developing the Amazon would

help spur Brazil’s economy and has promised to not allow “another centimeter” to be put under environmental protections.

The Amazon rainforest is responsible for processing a large portion of the world’s carbon dioxide output.

The forest is also responsible for six percent of the world’s oxygen output.

Fears regarding the environmental impact of Bolsonaro’s presidency date back to late summer 2018, when the former army captain rose through the polls on a platform of minimal environmental regulation by pledging to leave the Paris Agreement, as well as nationalist appeals.

According to Datafolha Polling Institute, 33 percent of respondents said Bolsonaro was doing a “great or good” job.

The rating is tied for the lowest approval rating of a Brazilian president in the past three decades.

“I think it was just such a big wake up call for the rest of the world to be like ‘Holy (cow) the world is actually going to die,’” first-year exploratory major Courtney Corrado said. “We’ve all joked that we’re going to die but now the Amazon rainforest actually is dying.”



Photo courtesy of NASA

The Amazon rainforest continues to burn, as this picture shows from space. Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro has rejected \$22 million in firefighting aid from the G-7. The fires have been burning for weeks.

# T as in Toni: Letting things go

Transphobia is defined as the “irrational fear of; aversion to; or discrimination against transgender/gender-nonconforming(GNC) people,” according to Merriam-Webster. Transphobic interactions can end in outright violence against trans bodies. Transphobic interactions can include more subtle forms of prejudice, too, like intentionally misgendering trans people both to their face and

behind their back; or only respecting trans people who “pass” as cisgender. Internalized transphobia (discomfort with one’s trans/GNC identity due to societal pressures of normative gender expression) keeps trans-GNC individuals in a state made to make them feel ashamed of their identity, gender expression or desire/ability to access hormone replacement therapy.

Even before accepting myself as trans, internalized transphobia influenced virtually every choice I made. I was so deep in the closet that I still wore dresses and pretended to be a straight girl. My inner voice was a loop of self-doubt and negativity:

“What would I say to everyone? Who would ever hire me? Would my professors act uncomfortable if I started medically transitioning? Am I dressing ‘girly’ enough today to keep my family from saying something negative?”

For years, I did everything to avoid facing the growing resentment and shame toward my need to medically transition. Unhealthy coping mechanisms were my “answer” to these deeply internal issues. This meant prioritizing the happiness and needs of family members before my own, taking out issues on people who genuinely had good intentions and never deserved my cranky rambling and suppressing my emotional growth with self-destructive and self-numbing behaviors. It’s as if I was wearing a costume to keep others from judging me as harshly as I judged myself. It felt like I was going through life on autopilot to protect myself from what others might think.

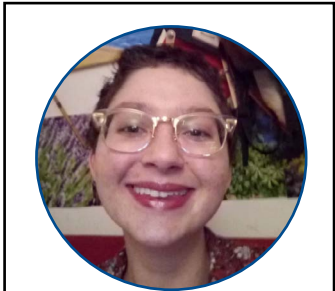
It took the death of my older sister in 2017 to pull me into reality. Her passing reminded me how short life truly is and how much time is wasted from fear of what others might say. I have no responsibility to keep anyone around me comfortable by playing a part I never signed up for.

In 2018, I began medically transitioning in secret. Part of it was fear of a negative reaction from peers, and the other part was a deep fear of being seen as a joke by transitioning. Things didn’t exactly go well when one of my parents found out, but that’s old news.

2019 gave me valuable space to reflect on putting myself before the expectations of others. For the first time, I don’t feel the need to numb myself in order to make it through my day. Being comfortable enough with my

identity to not seek approval from others is a nice change in self-perception. Summer gave me the space to gain my own sense of self-worth, being my own motivator in evolving as an adult. Who do I want to be? At the end of the day, I want to be happy. It took a long time to accept letting go of past resentment. Simultaneously acknowledging the pain felt and allowing the mental baggage to dissolve was my mindfulness routine.

Letting go of frustration at circumstances is difficult, especially when you’re as hard-headed as myself. After 22 years, letting go of past hurt instead of festering in grudges has saved my life. I won’t pretend every day is great; I still struggle with bringing up my trans-ness to strangers because of experiences in the past. Still, I haven’t been this at peace with my life in so long — it’s like falling in love for the first time.



**Toni Carlotta** is a senior communications major. They are a staff writer for the Newswire from Cincinnati.

## The Amazon inferno: Crisis or necessity?

As anyone who uses social media can tell you, the burning of the Amazon Rainforest is something that should be talked about by the major news outlets and should be a major concern. But as most people have seen, it has received little coverage until the last few days. Even now, it does not get much coverage.

Some large news outlets, such as Fox News and the *Washington Post*, have done stories on the fires raging across the Amazon and South America but did not spend much time on it. Most of the “news” covering the fire, however, are blogs and social media accounts.

Now, why is that? If the burning in the Amazon is so bad and such a crisis that needs to be dealt with, why would it not be covered? Well, as with most things, there’s a logical explanation. The reason that there is very little actual coverage of the fire is that the fires burning in the Amazon aren’t really a disaster. In fact, the damage from the fires isn’t

that high compared to some of the previous years. According to the Global Fire Emission’s Database, years such as 2003, 2004 and 2006 saw far more fires. That brings up another point. The fires burning in South America are not a new phenomenon by any means. They burn every year, for most of the year in fact, just like other places throughout the world.

Not only does fire burn practically the whole year, scientists studying the fires through the use of satellites found that the fires were primarily burning on agricultural land, where the forest was already cleared. According to the *New York Times*, this is a common agricultural practice. So, not only are the fires not as big of a crisis as social media has made them out to be, a lot of the fires are controlled

fires used for agricultural purposes.

Speaking of social media, a rather large part of the “crisis” that is the Amazon burning comes from a video that went viral on social media and made many believe the fire was a product of arson. That video was of a woman making claims that the forest was set on fire to cause destruction. However, this video was proven to be fake as it was made two months prior and around 2,000 miles away, as in not in the rainforest, according to AccuWeather.

To further drive home that the Amazon fires are not as bad as people think, there is also the scientifically proven idea that fires, especially controlled ones, are actually good for the ecosystem of a forest, especially large forests. Controlled fires and pruning get

rid of dead and dying plants, especially things like shrubs, and open up room for new plants to grow. These processes also create space between plants. If the plants get too close and dense, it leads to more problems than good, especially if the trees become too dense and block out the sunlight, thereby slowly killing off the plants on the ground.

Heck, Smokey Bear, the biggest spokesman for stopping forest fires, admitted that “Fire can also be an important part of maintaining diverse and healthy ecosystems. This can trigger a rebirth of forests, helping maintain native plant species,” according to AccuWeather. Seriously, Smokey Bear and scientists agree that fires can be beneficial to forest ecosystems.

So, in summary, the fires burning in South America, including the ones burning in the Amazon Rainforest, are by no means the crisis social media would have you believe. As stated above, fires can be

essential to the continued survival and thriving of an ecosystem, and most of the fires burning in and around the Amazon Rainforest are not even the forest burning but rather agricultural land that’s being burned on purpose. Also, like the fire database mentioned above and NASA concluded, the fires in the Amazon are below average and less severe when compared to reports from previous years. In other words, the burning of the Amazon is no crisis whatsoever, but, in fact, perfectly normal.



**Christopher Rinner** is a first-year criminal justice major. He is a guest writer for the Newswire from Cincinnati.

## THE STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Kevin Thomas

**Managing Editor**  
Heather Gast

**Head Copy Editor**  
Hannah Schulz

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
Sofia Ordoñez

**Campus News Editors**  
Alex Budzynski

**Features Editor**  
Aidan Callahan

**Opinions & Editorials Editor**  
Sydney Sanders

**Sports Editor**  
Luke Feliciano

**Online Editor**  
Bridget Walsh

**Copy Editors**  
Alex Ackerman, Tess Brewer, Hannah Cariati, Ryan Kambich, Delaney Mallory, Maddie Marsh, Hannah Miller, Matthew Nguyen,

Maggie Schroeder and Ellen Siefke

**Staff Writers**  
Toni Carlotta, Joe Clark and Joseph Cotton

**Photography Editor**  
Jeff Richardson

**Distribution Manager**  
Jack Dunn

**Business & Advertising Manager**  
Jessica Blocker

**Adviser**  
John Stowell

### Mission Statement

The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explain its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hope to foster a dialogue on campus, among students, faculty and staff.

### Advertising

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

### For Your Information

The Xavier Newswire is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207. One copy is free per person per week.

\*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

# We are more than ACT scores

Every year, more than one million high school students across the country pretend to turn off their cell phones and sit silently in a classroom for four hours. These four hours are supposedly crucial: They decide if you're going to earn a state scholarship, if your mom is going to make you go to ACT prep classes for another six weeks or where you're going to get into college.

They misrepresent and polarize us. You're either the one who slept through it and got a one out of 36, or you've been reading "The Elements of Style" since you were in utero. They place us socially with friend groups who are academically singular so that we don't broaden our horizons to different styles of learning.

There are a million facets of life that these four hours decide for us. So, maybe it's time we stop thinking critically for standardized testing and start thinking critically

about it.

I went to high school in Ohio and we had a program that let every student take the ACT once for free. In theory, it sounds like a great way to combat the achievement gap. If every student, regardless of financial ability, can take the ACT, then that should level the playing field. But college-readiness testing isn't about your intelligence. It's about your specific preparation — the weeks or months or years that you and your parents have spent preparing for it. The cost of ACT and SAT prep classes creates a wall between students of varying economic status. This ensures that standardized testing isn't based on true ability but on an economic advantage, or disadvantage, that you cannot control.

College readiness testing does not measure your readiness for the vast majority of majors. Music majors, for in-

stance, don't benefit (within their field) from preparing for a standardized test, but their scores can inhibit them from using many scholarship resources. "Cut-off" scholarship practices judge students based on their scores, and do not consider students below a certain score eligible to receive financial aid. Any non-STEM and non-English major is not being tested on skills that are relevant to their specific studies. This represents the devaluation of most college majors, all of which are valid and necessary for a functional society.

The mindset behind standardized testing is one of toxic impermanence. It trains us to think about life as a never-ending series of goals. In high school, your goal is to get to college. In college, it's to get a job. In the workforce, it's to retire. Thinking like this leads students down paths without passion. These goals sit along a singular line

which should, in theory, lead them to an eventual life of fulfillment. Deviation from these goals would prolong the path to fulfillment and therefore happiness with their achievements.

In reality, deviation is where the majority of us find out what truly fulfills us. We study abroad and learn that we love to cook Spanish foods or we skip class to go to a protest. These are not goals; they are random occurrences, and they can shape our being just as much as anything else. Happiness exists within the standard academic structure, but the narrow mindset that this structure falsely provides leads us to believe that it doesn't exist on the outside.

The bottom line is that college readiness tests are prohibitive. They put us in boxes financially, spiritually and academically. College isn't a singular experience; even those who study the same things

will take incredibly different paths. It's a fallacious exercise to enforce objective testing on a subjective educational system and life. Schools like Xavier are finally beginning to realize the damage these tests do, and it's a step in the right direction to no longer require them for admission. We are finally starting to understand that we don't have to limit ourselves just to succeed.



**Mo Juenger** is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public and Spanish double major. She is a guest writer for the Newswire from Kings Mills, Ohio.

# We need another Cold War...Yes, really.

I'm a pacifist. But I also think we need to have another Cold War. The 1950s-90s are already coming back into style: Bellbottoms are hip again, fascist ideology is on the rise and Russia, America, and other nations, are accelerating their nuclear programs.

Seriously though, Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un have spent the last two years escalating nuclear threats. In August, an accident at an off-shore Russian facility killed the nation's five leading nuclear scientists. Experts believe they were working to either develop a nuclear reactor for

military purposes or attempting to create a nuclear-powered missile — effectively a doomsday device.

Following the breakdown of the Iran nuclear deal, Tehran has threatened rearmament if economic sanctions are not lifted. Last month, India claimed Kashmir, a disputed territory shared with Pakistan, as its own. In an opinion piece for the *New York Times*, Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister, explained that if the world does not intervene, two nuclear armed nations would move closer towards confrontation. With each passing day, the threat of a nuclear catastrophe rises around the globe.

Our world has not been at such a risk since the events of the mid to late 20th century when launch codes were lauded and children hid under desks. So why am I arguing to

return to such a tumultuous and terrifying era? Because I love peace and I love science.

I am part of a generation that was born in the months surrounding the attacks of 9/11 and the ensuing global conflict. Eighteen years without a day of peace effectively gives you a hot-zone spidey-sense, and with the current trajectory of our geopolitical relations, I view conflict as inevitable.

Thus, I have moved from a stance of calling for peace to a stance of damage control. Statistically, the Cold War era had the lowest number of military casualties out of any era. The very definition of a Cold War refers to all parties stuck in a stalemate, too terrified to attack. Think about it, would that not be the best path forwards? If war truly is inevitable, why not engage in the type of war that would result

in the least damage and loss of life? Why not engage in the type of war that stands most similar to times of peace?

Some may argue that the casualties of the Cold War were mental, not physical, as generations grew up anxiously fearing for their lives. To this I offer a reminder: My generation has the highest reported rates of stress and mental illness in the entire nation. According to the American Psychological Association, Generation Z-ers are the most likely to have reported negative effects of stress, treatment of mental illness and overall poor mental health. Simply put, we already live every day of our lives scared. How much could a little more worry hurt?

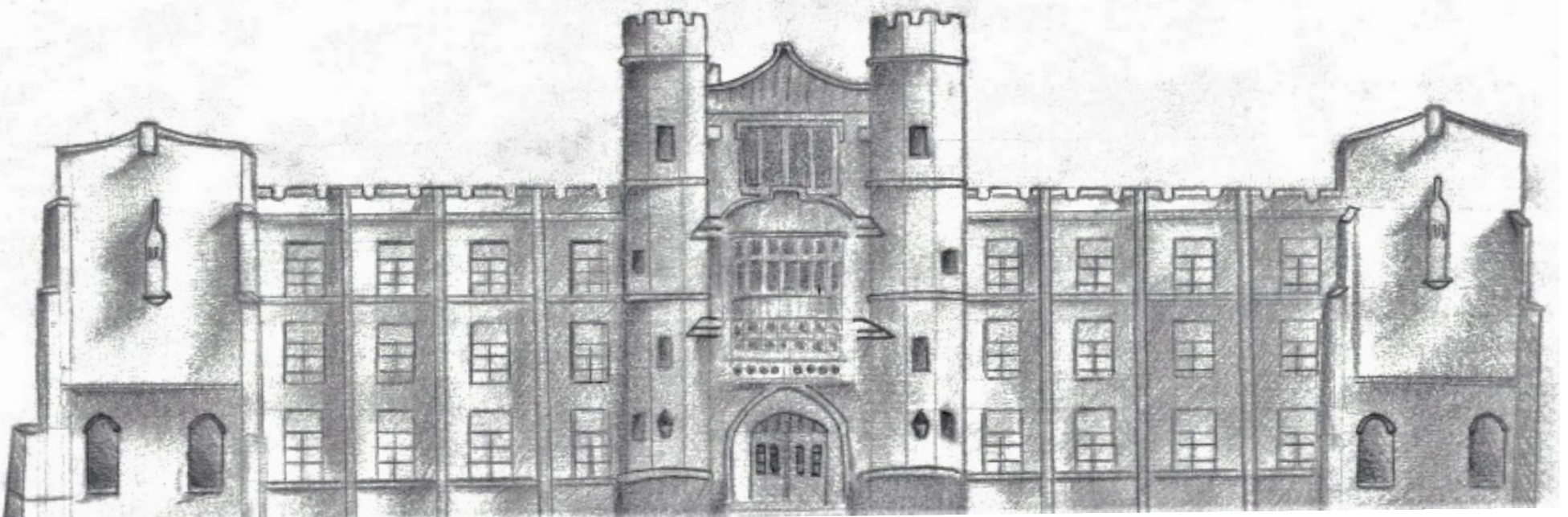
Second, and perhaps more importantly, I stand in favor of another Cold War because of science. Last month was the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, arguably the single greatest scientific accomplishment in American history. The Space Race, and subsequent moon landing,

were tied directly to our participation in the Cold War. Unable to show military superiority, we turned to proving scientific superiority. This led to an era in which scientific advancement not only had proper funding, but in which scientists were viewed as heroes and celebrities. The Cold War turned science fiction into science fact; just imagine how many advancements we would be able to make if the scientific community had proper funding. We could cure cancer, 3-D print human organs, re-animate dead brain cells or eradicate HIV if the goal was to do it before another country. I have no hope that our government would ever keep science so properly funded if there were not a military or competitive reason to do so. Thus, a new Cold War appears to be the only viable solution.

Of course I don't actually want a Cold War, I don't want any war. But if there is no path towards peace, cold wars are better than hot blooded ones.



**Charlie Gstalder** is a first-year English major. He is a guest writer for the Newswire from Westchester, New York.





# Men's soccer ranked No. 10 after upsetting Akron

## Andy Fleming reaches 100-win milestone in victory over Eastern Illinois

BY JOE CLARK  
Staff Writer

Xavier men's soccer faced no easy task in their season opener last Friday night as the Musketeers faced off against the reigning National Championship runner-ups in No. 2/3 Akron.

The Zips fell 1-0 to Maryland in last season's National Championship, and they returned a lot of talent from their roster last season.

However, their season didn't open the way they planned as Xavier pulled off a shocking upset with a 2-0 win in front of a packed crowd at the XU Soccer Complex.

Xavier picked up another win a few nights later, shutting out Eastern Illinois 3-0 in what was the 100th win of head coach Andy Fleming's career at Xavier.

Xavier got out to a fairly quick start against Akron, as freshman forward Karson Henderlong scored in the 12th minute off a feed from redshirt junior midfielder Payton Miller.

Xavier held a 1-0 advantage at the half, but they faced heavy pressure from Akron in



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

**Redshirt junior goalkeeper Matthew Rosenberg played a major role in holding No. 2/3 Akron scoreless in Xavier's 2-0 win against the Zips. He made six total saves while capturing the eighth shutout of his career.**

the second half, as the Zips tallied twelve shots in that half alone.

However, they were unable to score, as redshirt junior goalkeeper Matthew Rosenberg tallied six total saves, including five in the second half to shut down the Zips. It was Rosenberg's first career start for Xavier and the

eight clean-sheet of his college career, as he registered seven while at the University of Central Florida.

Xavier extended its lead in the 77th as redshirt junior forward Samson Sergi's header put Xavier ahead 2-0 in what would be the final goal of the game for either side. The win was Xavier's high-

est ranked win over an opponent in the history of the XU Soccer Complex and improved the Musketeers record against top-ten opponents to a whopping 8-2-2 since the 2010 season.

Heading into Monday night's game against Eastern Illinois, Xavier was ranked No. 10 in the country by Top-

DrawerSoccer.com. Xavier dominated early in the match, outshooting Eastern Illinois 6-0 in the first half and scoring a goal in the 40th minute when freshman forward Noah Boffo found sophomore forward Felix Boe-Tangen who scored off the through ball to put the Musketeers ahead 1-0. Boe-Tangen was back on the scoresheet in the 68th minute when he headed a pass to Sergi who found the back of the net to put Xavier up 2-0.

Five minutes later, Boffo picked up his second assist when he found Sergi on a cross, and Sergi netted his second goal of the game to give Xavier a 3-0 advantage, which proved to be the final.

The win against Eastern Illinois, in addition to being the 100th of Fleming's coaching career at Xavier, was also the Musketeers 20th win at home since the 2016 season, giving them a 20-5-5 home record during the past three seasons.

At 2-0-0, Xavier will look to keep their undefeated record alive on Friday night when it takes on Cincinnati in the Crosstown Derby, which will be held on UC's campus.

# Women's soccer battles Dayton, Mizzou

## Xavier shuts out Flyers, Richards scores second goal of year

BY JOE CLARK  
Staff Writer

After starting their season 2-0 with wins over Murray State and Bowling Green, Xavier women's soccer resumed its season this week with a home game against Dayton and a match on the road against Missouri.

Against Dayton, Xavier played to a 0-0 draw in double-overtime, but lost 3-2 in double-overtime against Missouri.

It was the third Xavier match to go into double-overtime out of its four matches this season.

Xavier was aggressive early against Dayton, outshooting the Flyers four to three in the first half, but they were unable to generate any goals.

Dayton outshot Xavier the rest of the way, but the Musketeer defense and senior goalkeeper Toni Bizzarro were able to neutralize the Flyers and earn the Musketeers their first shutout of the season.

Senior Grace Bahr, sophomore Hayley Jakovich and freshman Halle Rogers grinded out the full 110 minutes on defense for Xavier and were key in helping limit the effectiveness of the Dayton attack.

Xavier once again came out with an aggressive offensive against Missouri, outshoot-



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

**Xavier battled through two close matches against Dayton and Missouri last week while freshman forward Jackie Richards scored her second goal of the season. The Musketeers currently hold a 2-1-1 record in 2019.**

ing the Tigers 6-3 in the first half, but Missouri held a 1-0 lead at the half following a goal in the second minute by senior Sarah Luebbert.

The Tigers extended their lead early in the second half after a goal from senior Peyton Joseph, which was the first of her career for Missouri. Xavier quickly answered with a goal in the 57th minute when freshman forward Jackie Richards scored her second of the season off a feed from redshirt junior midfielder Carrie Lewis.

That goal sliced the Missouri lead in half at 2-1. In the 90th and final minute, junior forward Emily Burton scored off a rebound from a header by freshman midfielder Maddie Thiss.

The game remained at 2-2 until the second overtime period, when Missouri freshman Janna Singleton was brought down in the box, giving Missouri a penalty kick.

Luebbert took the penalty for Missouri, and her shot went off the left post and into the back of the net to give

Missouri the 3-2 win. With the win, Missouri improved to 4-0-0 on the year while Xavier dropped to 2-1-1.

It was the first matchup against Missouri in program history.

Xavier will remain on the road this week, as they take on Kent State on Friday night at 7 p.m. before facing off with Akron at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon in Akron.

Xavier's next home match is Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m., when they'll battle Northern Kentucky.

## Xavier Scores

### Volleyball

The Musketeers fell in their season opener against Southern Utah, who swept them in three games. However, Xavier rebounded nicely to bookend its trip to Utah at the Utah State Tournament, defeating Utah State 3-1 and Eastern Michigan 3-1. Redshirt freshman right side hitter Lauren Hanlon was named the Big East Freshman of the Week and to the All-Tournament team after collecting 40 overall kills while averaging double-digit kills in each match throughout the tournament.

### Cross Country

Junior Anna Kostarellis headlined Xavier's season-opening meet at the Queen City Invitational hosted by Northern Kentucky University last Saturday. She won the women's individual title and posted a school-record breaking time of 17:07.80 in the 5k. The women's team won the overall team title by a large margin — the third meet championship win in the last seven years.

# Luck's early retirement prompts further questions

BY WILL PEMBROKE  
Guest Writer

Let's set the stage: It's a relatively mild Saturday evening of NFL preseason action. While week 3 of the tune-up games traditionally showcases an extended run for starters on both sides of the ball, this year has proven to be the exact opposite.

NFL teams have decided they want to do all they can during the preseason to eliminate injury risk. No team wants a situation like the Houston Texans now have with star running back Lamar Miller out for the year with a knee injury. A particularly interesting case of this had been Indianapolis Colts star quarterback Andrew Luck.

A lower leg injury had hampered him throughout training camp, leaving him off the practice field with no timetable for a return. During the team's third preseason game against the Chicago Bears, news leaked about his retirement.

As he jogged off the field into the locker room, Luck was showered with a series of boos from fans who were disgruntled to learn that the promise of a potential playoff berth is now likely gone.

An emotional press conference ensued, which brought



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

**Former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck's decision to hang up the cleats at the age of 29 may have a ripple effect and spark a debate. If players should be criticized for retiring early will be a question.**

Luck to tears. It left the NFL community in shock about what had just taken place.

Throughout his career, Luck endured several challenging injuries. These injuries include a lacerated kidney, torn rib cartilage, a concussion and a shoulder injury, the extent of which is still unknown. Luck endured all of these on top of years of punishment while taking hits

behind a poorly constructed offensive line that left him in harm's way.

Despite the positive approach he took to the pressure he faced by consistently complimenting opposing players for laying down a nice hit on him, the scars of battle had formed. In his press conference Luck said that he was no longer able to enjoy the game of football.

On an emotional level, he could no longer prepare himself to be the best player he could be.

Luck is not the first star NFL player in his prime to retire early from football. Former New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski retired this past offseason for many of the same reasons as Luck. Calvin Johnson, Barry Sanders, Jim Brown, Tiki

Barber, Marvin Harrison and several other NFL legends can also be included in the "retired too early" category.

Historically we have not seen a consistent pattern of players from one single era retire early. Instead, a somewhat random assortment of stars scattered across a myriad of generations have fallen into the category.

Concussions have been a hot topic issue in the NFL for some time now, but new questions have arisen outside of just head injuries.

How many surgeries are too many? What age should people start playing football? Are the NFL and other major football leagues doing enough for player safety? Are humans even meant to play football?

Some argue that maybe it's time for American sports media to stop arguing over whether or not booing a player for retiring is OK or not. Instead, they should continue the discussion on better ways for us to grow our youth football talent in a healthy manner.

As we close the decade of the 2010s, are guys like Andrew Luck and Rob Gronkowski the tip of the iceberg for NFL players retiring amid their prime for the next decade? Only time will tell.

## NFL preview: The Cincinnati Bengals Breaking down the three biggest storylines heading into 2019

BY JAKE GEIGER  
Guest Writer

After a disappointing 6-10 season, the Cincinnati Bengals look to bounce back with new head coach Zac Taylor and a rejuvenated offense.

Here are the biggest storylines to expect for the Bengals' 2019 season.

### Can Andy Dalton be the QB of the future?

With a 21:11 touchdown to interception ratio in 2018, Andy Dalton looks to have a more productive season under Taylor's new offense.

Taylor's offense will have a plethora of shifts and motions to offer enough firepower to do some damage. However, Dalton has always struggled when pressure arises, especially blitz packages.

Can Dalton be better under the pressure this season? Personally, I think Dalton will have a better season, but is it enough to keep him around?

If the Bengals decide to let Dalton go, they only lose about \$2.4 million. Dalton may need to have a career year to keep his starting job in the Queen City.

### Joe Mixon will rush for 1,200 yards

Mixon is heading into his third season in the NFL and is poised to continue his stellar production after having 1,168 yards and eight touchdowns



Photo courtesy of nfl.com

**Third-year running back Joe Mixon enters the 2019 season with lofty expectations after collecting 1,168 yards and eight touchdowns in 2018.**

last season. Like Dalton, Mixon is in Taylor's new offense, which is reliant on the run.

Taylor made this a priority in this year's draft, as the Bengals selected left tackle Jonah Williams from Alabama and tight end Drew Sample from Washington, who is known for his run blocking.

However, Williams is facing a season-ending labrum injury, and with an already depleted line, he is the biggest loss so far for the Bengals.

Even with a poor offensive line, I still think Mixon has a great season and will continue to have even more successful seasons if the Bengals O-line

can improve.  
**Defense will be the Bengals' Achilles' Heel**

First-year defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo faces many challenges in Cincinnati. An inexperienced and inconsistent secondary and linebacker core and an injury-riddled defensive line are just some of the issues this Cincinnati team suffered last year.

The Bengals do have some productive players returning, such as two-time first team All-Pro Geno Atkins, Carlos Dunlap, Jessie Bates and Preston Brown. That said, too many question marks remain

with this team. For example, who will replace Vontaze Burfict in the middle? Burfict had some off the field and injury problems the past few seasons but was a great leader and productive when healthy.

Who will step up at the cornerback position? Darqueze Dennard, William Jackson, and BW Webb lead the pack, but there is still a huge gap in terms of consistency and being able to guard star receivers.

I do think this defense will have its moments of success this season, but problems may arise because of injury, inconsistencies and having to face star-studded offenses throughout the division, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cleveland Browns.

### Season wrap-up

I think this team will have its moments, but it simply needs more talent. Getting back to winning football is a long process, and Cincinnati will need to draft well, acquire effective free agents and bring back the winning culture.

This may be a down year for Cincinnati, and wins may be hard to come by.

I think the Bengals win five games this season under first-year head coach Zac Taylor. They'll have some bright spots but also some glaring holes that need to be addressed.

## Sports Banter

### The return of Captain Luck?

While Andrew Luck has decided to retire from the NFL, that doesn't mean he wants to stop working. Luck has previously expressed interest in being a high school history teacher after football.

### Can't miss the first game!

Liberty University Head Coach Hugh Freeze didn't let severe back pain stop him from coaching the Flames' first game last Saturday: He coached from the coaches' box in his hospital bed.

### Trademark Tuesday

Chances are you've seen that LeBron James shared his infamous "Taco Tuesday!" social media videos. Now, he's trying to trademark the common phrase. Someone should tell Anthony Davis to run away.

### Da Bears!

The Bears and Packers open up NFL action on Thursday. Chicago fans can watch the game at O'Toole's, the name of a bar from an SNL skit.

# Swift's newest album *Lover* shines

BY JOSEPH COTTON  
Staff Writer

Two years removed from her last album, *Reputation*, and 13 years removed from her debut, the prolific Taylor Swift is back with her seventh commercial release entitled *Lover*. As an ode to love in all its messy forms, the album shines as a butter smooth, euphorically care-free reflection on her love for life.

With this release, it feels like Swift has finally found the confidence in her sound and voice she has struggled with since switching from a young country artist to a legitimate pop superstar. Unlike her album *1989*, *Lover* seems less like an album that chases the trendiest sounds. Although *1989* has a bit of Taylor Swift's signature songwriting, the album wore its indie-pop influences on its sleeve drawing from artists like the 1975, Lorde and producer Jack Antinoff's band Bleachers.

In contrast, *Lover* has more a unique Taylor Swift imprint while still maintaining the sleek aesthetic of mid-2010's indie-pop. *Lover* is also a return to form for Taylor Swift when compared to the melo-

dramatic mess of the album *Reputation*. The unbearable moodiness of her last album is nowhere to be found on this one.

"The Man" stands out as a high point on the record. The song is a feminist anthem at its core but unlike many other top-40 songs on similar topics, it comes off as reflective and questioning instead of preachy. I appreciate how Swift reflects upon and deconstructs the double standards that women face. Despite its reflective tone, the song still has the abrasive energy of a huntress in the woods looking for her kill. The song's mantra, "I'm so sick of running as fast I can, wondering if I'd get there faster if I was a man" perfectly captures the feeling that many women and minorities have while going through life.

"False God" is a slower yet equally beautiful jam. The punchy drums cut through the soft synth atmosphere and the sexy saxophone riffs all while Ms. Swift's voice floats effortlessly on top. The wordplay is poignant as Swift equates love to a false religion. The line "make confessions, and we're begging for forgiveness / got

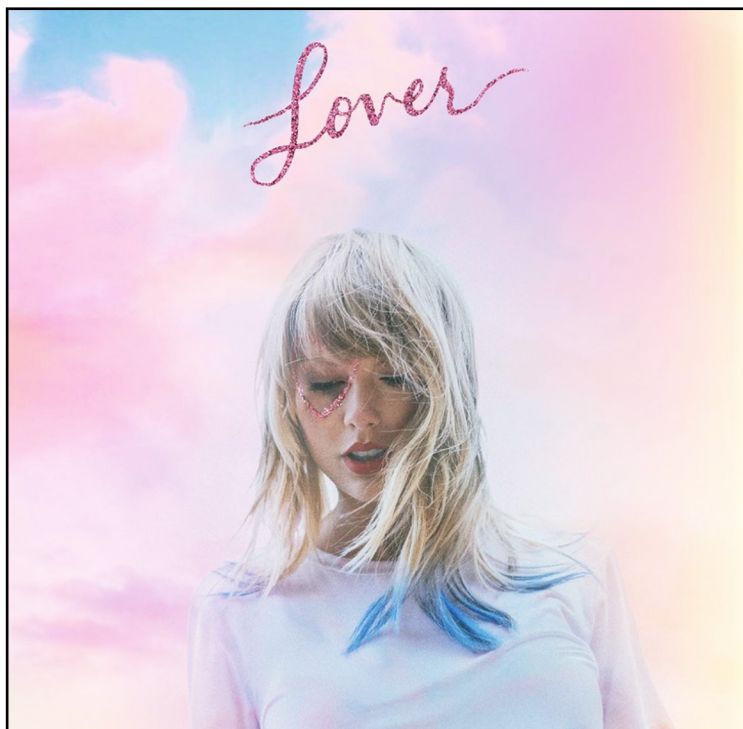


Photo courtesy of B96.radio.com

Taylor Swift's seventh album, entitled *Lover*, shows off her effortless confidence, atmospheric vocals and a unique indie-pop sound aesthetic.

the wine for you" is an example of the ingenious lines sprinkled throughout the record.

Another one of my favorite songs was "ME!" featuring Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco fame. The song is bright and fun as it features soaring harmonies and an energetic snare drum groove. It also has my favorite line on the entire

record as Urie says, "you can't spell AWESOME without ME!" The lyric is absolutely hilarious and made me laugh out loud while I was listening to it for the first time.

Other highlights included "Cruel Summer," "Paper Rings" and "London Boy."

The one thing that really holds *Lover* back from being undisputedly her best work

or one of the most essential albums of the decade is its long hour-and-six-minute run time. This album could easily be cut down to about 43 minutes of the best songs. The songs "Archer," "I Think He Knows," "Miss Americana and the Heartbreak Prince," "Afterglow," and "Daylight" could all be cut and the album would be better for it. It's not that these songs are inherently awful, but they are redundant and boring. I don't think that Taylor Swift is versatile enough to warrant such a long run time.

In short, *Lover* is a shimmeringly fun, but long-winded album with sharp lyricism and songwriting that represent some of Taylor Swift's best work. The album is perfect for long car rides or chilling in your dorm room with friends. So grab that guy you've been crushing over and a few gallons of gas and plan a spontaneous road trip to Columbus soundtracked to Taylor Swift's newest album.

**Total score:**



## At long last, Tool fulfills promises of new album

BY ELLEN SIEFKE  
Copy Editor

For 13 years, Tool fans waited. And waited. And waited. They got excited by suggestions of a new album, only to be let down. Memes piled up and tensions rose as side projects, legal issues and the band's trademark perfectionism seemed to indicate a new album was just a dream.

Earlier this year, hope resurfaced once again. Tool created an Instagram, announced its music would return to streaming services and, most importantly, gave a date: Aug. 30. Still, given the previous disappointments, fans like myself adopted an "I'll believe it when I see it" attitude.

Then, Aug. 30 came, and *Fear Inoculum* appeared in my Spotify queue. At first, it seemed hard to believe. Was this album real, or was it an early-morning-commute-induced hallucination? The opening track's long, winding intro and Middle Eastern-inspired interludes certainly didn't help the matter.

And yet, that's the genius of Tool: This album is a true sonic experience, almost hallucinatory in its effects. Frontman Maynard James Keenan (MJK) once said in an interview that he tackled a fan who approached him during a show because it was his stage. I was reminded of that interview when listening to *Fear Inoculum*. This is Tool's al-



Photo courtesy of Metalinjection.net

Tool's long-anticipated album, *Fear Inoculum*, delivers hallucinatory musical effects and profoundly dynamic songwriting. Their newest album offers a spiritual, authentic and cathartic sonic experience to their audience.

bum, Tool's experience, and all we can do is let it happen.

That trademark hypnotic quality in Tool's music is present immediately with the titular track. Lines like "Contagion / Now I exhale you" and "Exhale, expel / Recast my tale" are indeed exhaled, creating a cathartic effect for the listener. The 10-minute opener establishes a mellow atmosphere punctuated by rapid-fire riffs and lengthy solos. You can't help but oscillate back and forth, carried away by the music.

"Pneuma" follows, again

offering a long, mellow intro. This track has a spiritual quality to it, with MJK proclaiming that "We are born of one breath, one word / We are all one spark, sun becoming," and Danny Carey's staccato bass drum accents each syllable. This moment exemplifies the complexity that comes with a Tool album — and what makes it a true sonic experience. The lyrics are deeply poetic, defying simple explanation. Tool doesn't let you get away with merely listening; you have to think about what you're hearing.

Take the opening lines from "Invincible," the fourth track: "Long in tooth and soul. Longing for another win / Lurch into the fray. Weapon out and belly in / Warrior struggling to remain consequential." The thoughts of an aging soldier, desperately trying to stay in battle-ready shape? A critique of a society focused on soundbites and edutainment? You tell me. The point is that Tool refuses to provide simple answers, offering neither easily explained lyrics nor readily replicated rhythms.

Nowhere is this refusal to simplify demonstrated more than on "Chocolate Chip Trip," a conglomeration of drums, computer noises and '80s dance music. I'm pretty sure it's Carey's interpretation of an acid trip. As soon as the song ends, "7empest" places the listener right back in Tool-land, confusing you all the more.

One noteworthy change from earlier albums is the role of instrumentation. Instrumental-heavy tracks, complete with an abundance of keyboard, do the heavy lifting, creating that raw feel normally accented by MJK's screams. On this album, however, because the music relies so much on the instrumentation, the vocals don't need to be heavy. In fact, I cannot recall a single scream on any of the tracks.

Overall, this 86-minute album is perhaps Tool's best yet. *Fear Inoculum* delivers the progressive and sonic capabilities of *Lateralus* and *10,000 Days* while maintaining the aggression from *Undertow* and *Ænima*. It manages to pull the band's entire catalogue together, shake it up and pour out something fresh yet authentically Tool. Thirteen years was a long time to wait, but the wait was worth it.

**Total score:**



# Burning Man sets the world aflame

BY ALEYA JUSTISON  
Guest Writer

In its last weekend of exhibition, I ventured down to the Cincinnati Art Museum to witness firsthand some of the magic from the notorious Burning Man.

When I first walked in, I felt like I had stepped into another realm. Big, illuminated mushroom sculptures opened and closed their caps above me like a living, breathing forest. However, they were far from being alive. Constructed out of panels of corrugated plastic, steel and neon lights, these art pieces were one of many featured in this past year's Burning Man Festival, themed "No Spectators." Like many readers, I am sure, I had little background knowledge on what exactly took place at this desert art show. The original "Burning Man" was made by a small group of artists and countercultural eclectics, mainly from the San Francisco area. They took their statue to Baker Beach on Labor Day of 1986 to light it on fire. The burning became a tradition among the artists every year after attracting many Californians to witness it.

As crowd sizes increased, relocation was inevitable. Thus, in 1990, all were invited to spend their Labor Day weekend in Black Rock, Nevada — home to nothing but expansive flat desert. Since



Photo courtesy of Citybeat.com

**Cincinnati Art Museum concluded their exhibit on the Burning Man Festival, "No Spectators," which dazzled viewers with kaleidoscopic glimpses into the festival's profoundly eccentric, cathartic and spiritual rituals.**

then, the first group of 80 has grown to over 70,000 participants annually, leaving many coveting the tickets they could not attain.

Simply put, the festival is an eccentric art show. Artists have been known to spend their whole year building massive sculptures, projects and presentations just to caravan their work to Burning Man. These artists, typically called "Burners," insist that their pieces be interactive. In the Cincinnati exhibit, I wit-

nessed a trailer made to look like a vintage theater, silent film with velvet stadium seating included. Another piece was an LED kaleidoscope of colors mounted to the ceiling, inviting participants to lay down and watch the images bend overhead.

At the festival, the only expectation of participants is to live under the ten principles: radical inclusion, gifting, decommodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort,

civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation and immediacy. From these guidelines, a dazzling array of people — just as strange and diverse as the art they make — is born. From my perspective, they see art as an experience rather than an observation, seeping their creativity into the core of who they are.

In addition to the construction of "the Man," a team also builds what is called "the Temple" each year, giving a deeply spiritual aspect to the

festival. Here, the ruckus of the festival is softened into contemplative silence. Burners are invited to write letters to their past selves, names of loved ones they have lost or worries that they are unable to let go. On the last night of the festival, a more serene ceremony occurs: the burning of the Temple.

People gather in respect for each other, honoring their losses and letting go. Described as a very cathartic experience, I believe the emotional care that Burning Man offers is what entreats newcomers and retains the existing population of Burners.

A large wall entitled "Before I die, I want to..." concludes the exhibit and invites guests to write their responses in chalk. As I glanced over the overlapping responses, I had to hold back tears. "I want to be the man my wife married," one person had written while many others said they wanted to travel or live without fear.

The mission of Burning Man that I had been trying to grasp all afternoon had finally set in: I understood how this experience can transform one's life. In that instance, I felt as if I were truly a part of something greater, like the way one feels close to the ocean when they hold a conch shell to their ear and close their eyes, or perhaps, like a fire was burning inside me.

## Documentary on Travis Scott proves intriguing

BY GUS NATIONS  
Guest Writer

As an avid music listener, there are very few artists that keep me up half the night upon release days waiting for that artist's new project. On Aug. 8, 2018, I stayed up all night as the long awaited *Astroworld* was finally slotted to be released. I was not disappointed, and neither were the rest of Scott's fans.

Fast forward one year and the hype for the album has still not died down. I don't think there can be much debate when I say that 2018-2019 was the year of Travis Scott: countless sold out shows, a child, many many features on some of the hottest songs of the year and several Grammy nominations have all solidified the man as one of the most influential artists of this generation... And that was all before he released a documentary.

Generally, I'm not much of a documentary watcher, I just don't see much entertainment value in watching a video full of facts that could be looked up online in half the time. But I was curious when I scrolled through Scott's Instagram profile and saw that a biopic Netflix documenta-

ry titled *Look Mom I Can Fly* was scheduled to be released on August 28, almost exactly one year after the release of *Astroworld*.

My curiosity grew as I learned that it was a look into not only the creation of the album itself, but Travis' life as the album came to fruition. So often I feel that artists live a life separate from their fans and we see only what those we idolize would like us to see. I found the idea of a biopic strangely intimate and I was prepared to break my rule of avoiding documentaries.

On August 28 I was again, not disappointed. *Look Mom I Can Fly* provided exactly the bridge I needed for my curiosity about the performer to be quelled.

Opening with a montage of his "Wish You Were Here Tour" the intensity only grew as the story followed the making of *Astroworld* and the reception the album faced upon its release; a reception so intense that at one of his concerts, he was indicted for inciting a riot, despite "riot" simply being the energy of the crowd during the performance.

The lows were low and the highs were soaring high as

Scott struggled to find perfection and chase "Hip Hop Album of the Year," all while maintaining the unique composure and personality that led to his rise in the first place.

The intimacy I spoke of was especially present. I didn't watch a hip hop artist so much as a man giving his all to the world and hoping that it appreciated what he had to offer. I saw a man and his quest to fly. His story is the same as anyone else's: one man's quest to find his niche in the world. I think that is a very relatable message. It just so happened that while he was doing that, he managed to unify thousands of people under a common theme: It's okay to be different.

In his words: It's okay to rage. For me, the gap was bridged, and the man became less of a performer with an artificial persona and more of a real dude trying to find his way in the world while making people happy along the way.

It was really fascinating to see Scott come to life. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds for the man who will undoubtedly continue to keep doing just that.



Photo courtesy of Vibe.com

**Netflix's biopic *Look Mom I Can Fly* documents the rise of rapper Travis Scott before and after the release of his world-famous album *Astroworld*.**

# Minty Medical Madness

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER  
Guest Writer

The Anti-Smoking Defamation League, America's largest tobacco control organization, recently launched its latest anti-vape campaign titled "Stop Testing on Humans." The campaign focuses on the lack of information available regarding the long-term health effects of vaping.

The League is absolutely correct: we should not allow ourselves to become vape industry lab rats. That important job must be left to government agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration. The government claims that problems linking vaping to health issues result from a lack of both test subjects and voluntary reporting. Considering that the majority of our generation is already addicted to nicotine and has no viable path towards quitting, we would be remiss to not capitalize on the population of test subjects.

Therefore, I propose legally requiring that every person living in the United States begin vaping and attending mandatory health screenings. We have too many unanswered questions about vaping: Maybe it causes cancer, maybe it leads to infertility or maybe it makes your toes fall off — but without testing, we simply won't know.

The only way to find answers to these questions is to require every man, woman and child to begin sucking on the matte black sticks we all love so dearly. Think back to the cigarette epidemic in the mid twentieth century. How much quicker would we have been able to link smoking to cancer had everyone been required to light up a pack of Marlboros? How many lives would have been saved? It stands to reason that we wouldn't even be faced with the vaping epidemic we are now grappling with.

Sadly, we cannot change the past, only the future. So do the responsible thing: Put down your Juul, call your lawmaker and urge them to pass legislation requiring the entirety of the population to vape; Then pick that black stick back up and keep ripping... for science.



**Aries:** The stars are in your corner this week. If you get into a boxing match, they'll be there between rounds to put a towel around your neck and spray water into your mouth.

**Taurus:** It's about time you settle down and choose a look for the year. You know, that one classic outfit you would hypothetically wear everyday if life were a cartoon.

**Gemini:** It's nice to get ahead in life, but there are some things you just have to wait for. For example, if you put your lettuce on your sandwich before you toast it, that's a little gross. Consider what the lettuce is on your real-life sandwich.

**Cancer:** There is no problem that can't be solved with an end-of-a-Tarantino-movie spontaneous bloodbath.

**Leo:** Head down to the crossroads at midnight so you can sell your soul to the devil. It's not worth much, but you aren't using it anyway.

**Virgo:** You possess a lot of confidence in your spiritual assumptions about the world, but if a prophecy didn't come from a southern priest proselytizing you in a pop-up tent in a field, can it really be trusted?

**Libra:** You've been way too chatty recently. This week, be the person in the group that stands at the side and doesn't contribute anything to the conversation. Just provide a laugh track for the main characters' jokes.

**Scorpio:** Sometimes in life, you fail to see how many options you truly have! The Juul isn't the only light and convenient e-cigarette on the market; there's Sourins, Stigs, Phixs — the sky's the limit!

**Sagittarius:** Remember that being memorable isn't everything. Sure, you may not remember the film *G-Force* from 2009, but that doesn't mean it isn't the best movie about guinea pig spies you can watch.

**Capricorn:** Don't forget that you can always do better! There was once a time when it was crazy that Goku's power level could be over 9000, but then he went Super Saiyan and blew that out of the water! Oh, and you thought that was it? Never give up that easy, because you can't forget about Super Saiyan II with the blue hair.

**Aquarius:** Jupiter can sense your loneliness. Sign up for some of those political text chains so you can at least get occasional texts, even if they're about reforming net neutrality.

**Pisces:** It's important to never give up on yourself! Sure, you may just be a college student now but that doesn't mean you won't find success down the line! Fact: the man who played Mr. Freeze in *Batman and Robin* was once just a lowly governor of California. Talk about a glow-up.

Last Week's Answer Key!



# CRAZY!

## A parody of 'Me!' by Taylor Swift

BY DAVID LUDWIG  
Guest Writer

I promise that you'll never find another like me

I know you said that we should just split up

I know you said you think you've had enough

And you told me that doing this was tough

(But I don't wanna break up with you)

I know I send 300 texts each night

I know I always look to pick a fight

And you said that I filled you with sheer fright

(But I don't wanna break up with you)

But one of these days I'm sure you'll change your mind

If you don't pick up, I'll leave a message, that's fine

Why does this phone say that my call was just declined?

And why do all your friends think that I'm cra-

Zy-e-e, ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

I know that you're not leaving me

So why are you trying to flee?

Eeh-eeh-eeh, ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

Why is he talking to you?

I know it's not somebody new

And I promise that nobody's gonna love you like me-e-e

E W R F Z V R T Q W W N H B P  
O Y A C D U Y R F X P A H V Q  
T P R K R T I I I R K J V F L  
F T H T O C A T P B I W A S E  
H X X J B R X R R V Z G R H T  
C A O D S J S F A U N A H E T  
Q R S U G C C L G N T E Y T U  
N Y A W D R I E C F T H K Q C  
B V V Z I R V E G M O I B M E  
T U C Q Y F K Q N A O R N U A  
A N D J Q R T T Y C U W C O B  
H Y H H M G B Y J G E N M E X  
E S O U R I N V A P I N G M M  
U E P I D E M I C F T J E V O  
P Z S Z B F T V Z K U U E T V

Find the answer key in next week's (9/11/19) issue!

Truth Fright  
Vaping Flee  
Epidemic Lettuce  
Science Tarantino  
Crazy Sourin  
Swift GForce

