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GDST enlivened by new faculty

Budding department welcomes three professors, debuts six classes

By ANNA VERDERBER
Guest Writer

The Gender and Diversity Studies (GDST) department has welcomed three new full time faculty members. Along with these new professors, six brand new classes will be offered as well.

The GDST department inquires students to acquaint themselves with scholarship on gender and diversity in their broadest, most inclusive sense. All three of the new professors within the program will be full time and are either on a tenure-track or are already tenured and are the first faculty members fully devoted to GDST.

Dr. Tyrone Williams, member of the hiring committee and English professor, stated that this is the first year that the department is hiring professors to be fully dedicated to GDST.

“The point is to promulgate the teaching of diversity in a number of different disciplines and fields,” said Williams. “The reason we hired on these new professors was to take the broad topics of gender, race and class and have them talk about them in specific ways.”

Dr. ShaDawn Battle is teaching First-year Seminar: State-Sanctioned Violence in the U.S., and Gender and Diversity Studies and Social Justice. This course is designed to investigate the relationship between late 19th-21st century African American literature and Black musical forms of expression, with respect to how both contest and have contested multiple forms of oppression.

She has also taught courses centering the lived experiences of Black women — examining topics such as the invis-



Photos courtesy of xavier.edu

GDST welcomed three faculty and six classes this fall. Pictured left to right: Dr. Kayla renee Wheeler, Dr. Mich Nyawalo and Dr. ShaDawn Battle.

ibility and hypervisibility of Black women and girls in literature, media, medicine and the criminal justice system.

Dr. Kayla Renée Wheeler is teaching First-year Seminar: Race in the Digital Age and GDST 210: Introduction to African American Studies.

Wheeler is a first generation college graduate, having earned her PhD from the University of Iowa in 2017.

Wheeler’s research explores Black Muslim women’s material culture, digital religion, and contemporary Islam in the Americas. She will soon be releasing a book entitled *Fashioning Black Islam*.

Wheeler is also a curator of the award winning Black Islam Syllabus: a project that

seeks to provide teachers, professors, researchers, journalists, and people interested in learning more about Islam with resources on Black Muslims to promote a more inclusive approach to the study of Islam.

And finally, Dr. Mich Nyawalo is teaching First Year Seminar: Infectious Diseases and the Culture Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality and GDST 310: Theoretical Perspectives.

Nyawalo holds a PhD in comparative literature from Pennsylvania State University. He also studied at Gothenburg University in Sweden, where he received his second masters degree.

Nyawalo spent time liv-

ing and studying in Kenya, Uganda, France, Sweden and the United States, which have greatly influenced his academic projects throughout his life. He is also fluent in five languages: French, English, Swedish, Swahili and Luo.

While discussing the GDST department, junior sociology and GDST double major Amber Brooks reflected on the importance of societal change and awareness.

“Society is always evolving,” they said, “and in 30 years things we do and say today will be considered politically incorrect so we must always try to stay open to new ideas and information so we can grow with society instead of regressing.”

They noted that through the GDST department, Brooks has had the opportunity to critically analyze hard topics involving things they may not have been aware of previously as well as what they are already passionate about.

Brooks explained that any Xavier student could benefit from this degree due to its flexibility and sheer range of topics. They also encouraged any student interested in the degree but unsure of where to start to pursue one or two GDST classes as electives.

Any student interested in pursuing a GDST degree or in taking any of the new classes should visit the GDST department website, or reach

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Let our writer (who actually knows science) fill you in on the COVID-19 vaccine trials.



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Brazil follows England’s lead commits to equal-pay for national soccer teams



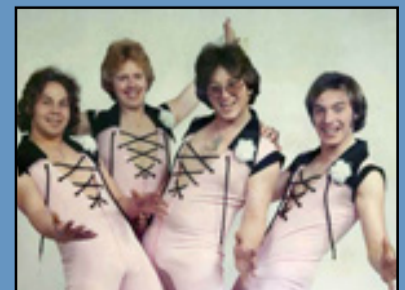
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Read our expert review on the newest addition to the Phineas and Ferb universe.



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Inverted Kazoo is the band below, we swear it’s not a weird sex thing.



New study spaces offer options

Alternative spaces open up to help students follow COVID-19 guidelines



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

Matt Dixon, pictured above, works the welcome desk at the new study space in the Cintas Center concourse.

BY ROBBIE DZIER-ZANOWSKI & JOSEPH COTTON

Guest Writer and Campus News Editor

The COVID-19 Campus Operation Team opened several alternative study spaces on campus to accommodate social distancing.

Throughout the summer, the COVID-19 Task Force met to discuss ways of ensuring that a return to campus was both healthy and academically successful.

The team wanted to find ways to maintain a real col-

lege experience by continuing to offer study spaces throughout campus, as well as opening some new spaces.

Chris Marshall, the Gallagher Student Center (GSC) Director and a member of the COVID-19 Campus Operation Team, said that one of the team's main focuses was to assess the new capacity of the campus study spaces with the newly adapted social distancing practices.

"The university quickly found that most campus spaces, including classrooms, event spaces and common areas, were going to be op-

erating below 50% capacity, in some cases closer to 30%," Marshall said.

With those new numbers and the worry of not enough study space in mind, the team started exploring the possibility of opening alternative spaces to ensure the continued academic success of Xavier students.

"Ultimately, we landed on the Cintas Center concourse, the Cintas Banquet Rooms, the Health United Building Rec Center basketball courts and adding additional space on the second floor of the McDonald Library by relocating

some books," Marshall said.

By offering these spaces, the team set out to ensure each space had a specific atmosphere.

"The Cintas Center concourse was made to be a lively, student center type space, the Cintas banquet rooms would be a quiet study space, the Rec Center basketball courts would be a single study space and the Library would be a learning space," Marshall said.

Throughout the entire planning process, the team was unsure of what the demand would be for study spaces.

"Through the first few weeks, we have found most of the repurposed spaces to be used fairly little," Marshall said. "The Cintas Center concourse and banquet rooms have seen a slight uptick recently, but the Rec Center Basketball Courts are still seldom used at this point."

Despite Marshall's comments, however, sophomore engineering physics major Andrew Druzina stated that he appreciates the alternative space in the Cintas Center since it is so quiet.

"I usually come here when I really need to get a lot of work done. It's cool that we have access to the Cintas Center." Druzina said. "I plug in headphones and get my grind on."

When asked what he would do if the space wasn't offered, Druzina went on to say that he would go back to trying to find a table in the Conaton

Learning Commons.

Some of the study spaces also have front desk workers to help students locate things on campus while keeping the space clean and tidy.

Junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major Matt Dixon works at the help desk just past the doors of the Cintas concourse.

"I've worked here three times and I like it a lot. It's quiet and anyone can come here and get work done without many distractions," Dixon said. "Every hour I do rounds just to make sure nothing needs to be cleaned and ensure that nothing is out of order."

Dixon noted that when he works the 4-8 p.m. shift, he usually sees around eight people come in to study. At peak hours the Cintas concourse sees 30-50 people.

One of the alternative spaces the team considered was tents to cover outdoor spaces. In the end, the team chose not to go with this option.

The good news for students is that the team plans to maintain the availability of the alternative study spaces, as they believe that as word spreads, the spaces will begin to be used more.

"Some spaces like the GSC have seen steady traffic, so we just want to make sure all students are aware of the alternative spaces, as traditional spaces like the GSC reach capacity and demand increases," Marshall said.

Visit xavier.edu for updates on the availability of the new alternative study spaces.

D'artagnan drip eport: student mask showcase

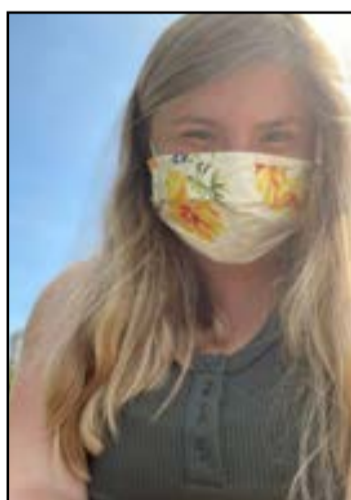
We asked students where they got their favorite mask and why they love it

BY EMILIE KRACIK
Staff Writer



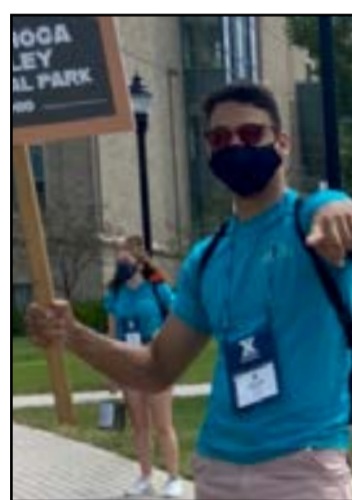
"My favorite masks are the ones with Xavier logos. I like them because they show school spirit. I've gotten all mine online."

Dieonte Miles
Sophomore sports management major



"My favorite masks are from Old Navy because they have a great assortment of colors and patterns, so you can match your mask with any outfit. They're a great deal, you can get 5 for \$12.50 or 10 for \$25!"

Kellie LeTart
Junior communication major



"My favorite mask is this one I got from Target. It's plain blue so it doesn't attract attention and can go with any outfit. It's perfect because it's easy to breathe in and navy is my color."

Jacob Tarter
Sophomore entrepreneurial studies major



"Surgical masks are my favorite to wear. They're basic, comfortable and easy to breathe in. Before you throw them out, be sure to cut the strings so they don't become a danger to animals."

Angelica Molen
Senior nursing major



"My favorite mask is one I got from Etsy. I love it because I love anything sparkly and pink! It keeps me stylish while also keeping the people around me safe."

Mary Mahaffee
Sophomore biology major

Tutor services adapt to COVID-19

Tutors find way to keep students engaged despite new safety guidelines

By GRACE HAMILTON
Guest Writer

The Office of Academic Support (OAS) has switched to mainly virtual tutoring to adapt to the needs of social distancing.

The transition has been a big change for newcomers, like first-year tutor Lexi Acierto, and head tutors, like senior Macey Windley.

“I was prepared coming in—as prepared as I could be,” Windley said of how she and the OAS planned for a majority online semester of tutoring.

Throughout the summer, Windley and OAS met on Zoom, emailed one another and had sessions to ready themselves for the changes taking place.

In Windley’s opinion, it paid off.

“It’s definitely taken a lot of stress off people in the Office of Academic Support,” she mentioned, describing the new way to schedule sessions.

“The current system for scheduling tutoring is provided by the Education Advisory Board (EAB), and it is a welcomed replacement for the previous method, which was one person in the office handling hundreds of appointments alone.”

Acierto said she also believes certain aspects of virtual tutoring are easier, especially for the students. She said it may be preferable for students to join sessions from their dorms and leave the sessions just as comfortably.

However, the problem that comes with joining in from the dorm, that is engaging with students over Zoom sessions can be difficult.

Acierto describes a regular session as 30 students on a call, five to six with their cameras on, and at most, 10 participating.

But both Acierto and Windley do their best to interact with students, whether it be by sending worksheets out in advance, screen-sharing, using diagrams, visual aids or even Kahoot.

While Acierto and Windley both admitted to preferring in-person tutoring over the new digital format, they still recommend virtual tutoring for students who wish to utilize academic support resources the OAS has to offer.

According to Windley, the option of virtual tutoring is here to stay.

“There is certainly a convenience to virtual tutoring with new ways of scheduling and the advantage of using Zoom to meet,” Windley said.



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

As COVID-19 challenges arise, tutors are finding effective ways they can connect with and engage students.

Despite the changes, the OAS is looking for ways to put its best foot forward. Windley and Acierto give credit to Xavier for all of the resources provided and the efforts to make this change as painless as possible for tutors and stu-

dents. This doesn’t guarantee a semester free from challenges.

Acierto said, “It felt like a sink or swim moment. In fact, “sink or swim” could be used to describe the whole year: online classes, social distanc-

ing, quarantining, wearing masks.”

Students looking to take advantage of tutoring services can fill out the intake form on the OAS web page or visit the Student Success Center.

Residence Life COVID-19 quarantine procedures update

COURTESY OF MAGGIE SCHROEDER
SUMMARIZED FROM RESIDENT LIFE

- Previously, quarantine procedures for on-campus residents required self quarantine for all roommates and suite mates of students who met “close contact” criteria provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Xavier and TriHealth have not observed a greater risk of infection among the roommates and suite mates of close contacts.
- As a result of these developments, effective Thursday, Sept. 10, on-campus close contacts will be relocated to quarantine space located at the Hilton Garden Inn on Dana Ave.
- The on-campus roommates and suite’ mates of those close contacts (who are not close contacts themselves) will not be required to continue or begin a quarantine period. These students will be advised to follow CDC guidelines for daily health monitoring and will be provided with more specific resources and support.
- Xavier will continue to provide separate isolation spaces for students who may receive a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result and some on-campus quarantine may still be required.
- Xavier continuously analyzes community health metrics and will take immediate action to ensure the health and safety of the community if there is a significant increase in the infection rate resulting from

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Scan to Apply on EngageXU

COVID-19 vaccine due in November

Pharmaceutical companies try to quickly create a vaccine in coming months

By JOSEPHINE PYLES
Guest Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced last week that it should be ready to launch COVID-19 vaccination campaigns by early November.

Vaccines can often take up to 10 years to develop according to a 2013 study conducted by Esther S. Pronker and others, "Risk in Vaccine Research and Development Quantified."

However, researchers and pharmaceutical companies aim to bring their potential coronavirus vaccines to market in 12-18 months.

Some hope to get government-issued emergency-use authorizations before the end of 2020.

Scientists say that previous knowledge of similar viruses combined with recent improvements in viral genome sequencing technologies have contributed a great deal to the ability to expedite the production of a COVID-19 vaccine.

These sequencing devices have enabled researchers to identify the "spike protein" of the pathogen, which the virus uses to enter human cells, as the vaccine's primary target.

Approved altered-testing timelines have also contributed to the ability to speed up the production process.

Normally, vaccine devel-



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that, with companies Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson and Moderna, it expects a vaccine to be ready by Nov. However, some experts warn that this release date may be too soon.

opment occurs in six general stages, moving progressively from trials on animals to trials on humans. However, as companies and countries rush to stop the spread of COVID-19, several vaccine developers, including Johnson & Johnson, Moderna Inc. and Pfizer Inc., are running these testing stages in parallel.

"We're not skipping steps, but we are doing things at the same time," Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of Viral Vaccines at Pfizer Inc. Philip Dormitzer said in a recent interview. "(This) of course costs a lot more and

is a lot more work than if we did it one after the other. But that's really the key to this."

The newspaper also reported that pharmaceutical companies are working to address concerns about a rush to mass vaccination. To ease these concerns, they plan to issue a joint, public pledge in the coming weeks.

The pledge will allegedly uphold the companies' initiative to not seek government approval for the vaccine until it can be shown to be "safe and effective." The pledge will also reportedly assure the companies' adherence to high scientific and ethical

standards in the conduct of clinical studies and in manufacturing.

The draft statement claims that drug makers will submit applications for a government emergency-use authorization of vaccines based on "substantial evidence of safety and efficacy" from Phase III clinical trials conducted under Food and Drug Administration guidance.

Phase III studies are the final stages of testing and are designed to prove whether the vaccine can significantly reduce rates of COVID-19 symptomatic infection compared to people without

vaccination. Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. currently have vaccines in late-stage Phase III clinical trials in the United States, with Johnson & Johnson preparing to enter Phase 3 as well. Collaboratively, the companies are testing four main types of vaccines, including weakened viruses, proteins, viral vectors and genetic code vaccines.

Pfizer, Moderna and Inovio Pharmaceuticals have reportedly been optimistic about the efficacy of these vaccines.

This type of vaccine injects pieces of the virus's genetic code into skin cells, which instructs the cells to make many copies of the COVID-19 "spike protein." Once these proteins are produced, the immune system fights against them, which builds immunity against a patient's encounter with the true, live virus.

Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla said that the company expects to have enough data on its genetic code vaccine to file for an emergency authorization that will enable them to begin vaccination campaigns with the CDC.

Bourla said the company would never submit any vaccine for approval before Pfizer feels that it is safe and effective.

Bourla also said Pfizer hasn't felt any political pressure to rush a vaccine out. Bourla said, "We will not cut corners."

Week in review — Labor Day weekend edition

Tiki priests, Doom pregnancy, Ted Cruz, K-9 return, Jelly Belly, goat cop, naked golf, license plates

- A college student in Vermont spent his quarantine building a fully-functioning roller coaster for his 83-year-old grandfather in their backyard. The student said the project cost approximately \$1,500, is over 100 feet long and runs on gravity alone (Sept. 4).
- A programmer successfully uploaded the *Doom* video game onto a pregnancy test. Unfortunately, the coder determined that peeing on the Icon of Sin will not accurately give medical results (Sept. 7).
- A Kentucky man was pulled over and subsequently arrested after police realized his license plate was hand-drawn. "Pro Tip: Don't forget to draw the registration sticker," the police department posted on Facebook (Sept. 7).
- Senator and *Princess Bride* superfan Ted Cruz (R-TX) expressed disdain on Twitter after learning that the Wisconsin Democratic Party is hosting a live-streamed script reading of the film, including many of the original actors. "Inconceivable," Cruz said. (Sept. 7).
- Norwegian research team OceanTherm is studying whether hurricanes could be prevented by pumping massive air bubbles through underwater pipelines (Sept. 7).
- An 84-year-old Tokyo woman considered to be the world's oldest porn star has announced that she will continue working when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted (Sept. 8).
- A Kentucky man was arrested for stealing a K-9 pup by luring the dog with Vienna sausages. The police pooch was returned safely to the department in late August (Sept. 8).



Photo Courtesy of @Foone on Twitter
A programmer uploaded the video game Doom onto a pregnancy test.



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images
A Kentucky man made his own hand-drawn license plates but was arrested.

- A Georgia sheriff left her driver-side door open while delivering civil papers to a citizen and discovered a goat had jumped into the car when she returned to the vehicle. The hollow-horned hooligan ate police paperwork and knocked over the cop's coffee (Sept. 8).
- An Alabama man stole a golf cart and drove around his city fully nude. One citizen, when asked by police to describe the buck-naked bandit, said, "Ma'am, it's the only golf cart being driven by a naked white guy" (Sept. 8).
- Denver hit 30 degrees on Wednesday after an unseasonably warm September Tuesday with a high of 101 degrees (Sept. 9).

Facebook announces upcoming ban

The platform announced that it will limit political ads in the week before the election

BY BRYCE OLDS
Guest Writer

Facebook announced on Sept. 3 that they will be banning any new political ads one week before the election to fight disinformation.

"We've voted during global pandemics before. We can do this. But it's going to take a concerted effort by all of us," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg stated.

Additionally, Facebook plans to limit the number of messages that people can forward on its Messenger app.

There are many critics of this action, including members of the Trump administration.

"When millions of voters will be making their decisions, the president will be silenced by the Silicon Valley mafia, who will at the same time allow corporate media to run their biased ads to swing voters in key states," Samantha Zager, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said about Facebook's decision to limit ads.

Facebook has received negative attention for allowing misleading political ads on its site.

Earlier this year, some Facebook employees staged a walkout to protest Zuckerberg's lack of response to Trump's posts about Black Lives Matter protests.

Facebook is not planning



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

Facebook plans to ban new political ads from appearing in users' feeds during the week before the election. Some believe that this move will help the platform, often associated with misinformation campaigns during the 2016 presidential elections. Others believe it suppresses users' access to information.

to limit any approved ads that come in before the Oct. 27 cut-off date. Political ads that were approved before that date will still be running at a normal capacity on the site.

Xavier students have mixed feelings about this topic.

"I think it's a non-factor... the people who use Facebook and consume political media on Facebook are probably not the kind of people who

would care about last-minute advertisements. It seems like a cop-out," Garrett Andrews, a sophomore accounting major, stated.

"It's a shame because being one of the biggest social media platforms in the world, they should be some of the last ones to be censoring free speech," junior sports marketing major Tyler Anderson said.

"I don't really see how stopping this one week from

the election does anything, but I could see how one of the candidates could make up a big story, say two weeks before (the election), and that doesn't give the other candidate any time to release an ad defending themselves, and then a bunch of people believe the misleading ad," Anderson added.

"Cutting off the ads a week before the election would be good because I think some ads can be wrongfully per-

suasive and lead people in the wrong direction," Caroline Castrucci, a first-year early childhood major, stated.

"I think it is a suppression of thoughts and a suppression of the media," junior psychology major Ethan Gogel said.

"I think it's something that we've been doing for a long time and we need to decide whether private companies have the right to suppress (the) media or not."

Shinzo Abe, Japanese PM, resigns

BY SOPHIE BOULTER
Guest Writer

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, 65, resigned on Aug. 24 citing ill health.

Abe led Japan for eight years, the longest consecutive run of any Japanese prime minister.

Abe had been the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Prime Minister of Japan since 2012. He resigned amidst pandemic response issues, undelivered reforms to Japan's constitution and uncertainty regarding the 2020 Olympic Games.

Though Abe's approval rating currently stands at 34% according to The Economist, he led his party to large majorities in the legislature in 2012, 2014 and 2017.

Prior to his premiership in 2012, Japan had six prime ministers that lasted approximately a year each — including Abe in 2007.

Abe has ulcerative colitis, a condition that caused him to step down in 2007. Upon his return to politics in 2012, he had the condition under control.

The condition resurged and worsened this year, causing Abe to go to the hospital



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe resigned on Aug. 24 after a prolonged period of illness. Abe led the country for eight consecutive years, the longest rule of any modern Japanese leader. A legislative election will be held on Sept. 14.

twice last week. His term as prime minister was supposed to end in September of next year.

During his tenure as prime minister, Abe led Japan through several disasters, including a tsunami, earthquake and nuclear meltdown. He also strengthened Japan's relationships with the United States, Southeast Asia and Europe.

Abe forged a particularly strong relationship with President Donald Trump, with whom he would regularly

golf. According to White House spokesperson Judd Deere, Trump said that U.S.-Japanese relations were stronger than ever, and that Abe had done a "fantastic job."

Abe spearheaded initiatives to revamp the ailing Japanese economy, which is the third-largest in the world. His economic initiatives are known as "Abenomics."

To counter the rapidly aging population, he supported free child-care policies that brought more women into

the workforce. To fight deflation, he increased welfare spending and reformed monetary policy.

Abe also cut tariffs, increased immigration and was a strong supporter of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In his resignation speech, Abe expressed regret for not amending Japan's constitution. Drafted after World War II, the constitution is explicitly pacifist.

Citing threats from China and North Korea, Abe increased military spending

and believed that the Japanese Constitution should acknowledge the role of Japan's military.

According to the Washington Post, amending the Japanese Constitution in favor of the increased role of the military has only "lukewarm" public support.

Abe also lamented that he was unable to secure a peace treaty with Russia regarding disputed territory or the release of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea.

"It is really with a very heavy heart that I am resigning without being able to attain those things," Abe said..

Abe drew criticism for a slow response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He was reluctant to postpone the 2020 Olympic Games, which were scheduled to take place in Tokyo in July.

Eventually, Abe announced that the Olympic Games would be delayed for a year.

"[Japan] must fulfill our responsibility as the host country of the Olympics," Abe reiterated.

Abe's successor will be chosen on Sept. 14 by LDP members of the Japanese legislature.

I was not educated about Xavier's racist history

I'm a very strong believer in the phrase, "Those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it," and Xavier has a very dark past.

While they have taken action to move forward with the Stained Glass Initiative and renaming Fenwick Hall, I still don't think it's enough.

If you didn't know already and this article is serving as a form of education to you, Bishop Fenwick, Xavier's founding president, was a slaveholder. There is an article about this on Xavier's online library, but the article says some things that don't sit right with me.

The very first thing this article says is, "Xavier has no direct connection to slavery from the school's founder." This comes off as Xavier trying to cover its ass, saying, "Well, our founder did own slaves, but they didn't help build the

university, so that's not our bad."

Some other quotes from the article that didn't sit right with me include, "By the time Fenwick opened Xavier in 1831, he had not been an active slave holder for 19 years," and, "As a young man, Fenwick inherited some enslaved people from his father."

These pieces of information are only in the article to make Fenwick seem like less of a villain, and to treat him like he was reformed when he opened the school.

This article isn't informative about what the school's ties to slavery really are; its only purpose is to serve as an out for the responsibility of the founder's actions.

I respect the work by Dr. Gollar to find this information and make it public, but if this article is going

to serve as the school's education on our past, it needs to paint Fenwick in a much more negative light and be more thorough about what ties to slavery Xavier actually has.

Like the title states, as a new student I wasn't told anything about this past, and I feel like I'm not the only one left in the dark. I have a very bad feeling these incidents get swept under the rug commonly.

I have read through some @blackatxavier Instagram posts, and the things I see are just awful. From staff members to the student body, there is a glaring problem with race on this campus that needs to be addressed.

We as a student body need to make sure minority students are being treated

fairly and kindly. Being a bystander to incidents of racial bias and saying nothing is as bad as committing an act of racial bias yourself.

I don't know how many staff members read these articles, but for the ones who do, this especially applies to your co-workers. If the people at the highest level of the university are racially biased and rigging the game against our fellow students, then nobody is going to win.

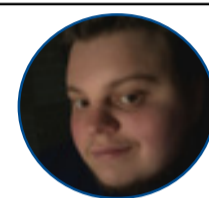
If you are being treated poorly based on your race, or if you know someone who is, reach out. You aren't ever alone, and I know that many people on this campus are willing to help you, even if it feels like that isn't true.

We only defeat issues like

this together, so as a community we need to band together and be there for our brothers and sisters who need it the most.

I consider this community to be a family, and I want others to feel the same way when they walk on this campus. Treat others as you'd treat your loved ones and give them that sense of community we all deserve to have here.

If the people at the highest level of the university are racially biased and rigging the game against our fellow students, then nobody is going to win.



Bryce Olds is a junior communications major. He is a guest writer for the *NewsWire* from Ilion, N.Y.

America's pastime is dying

Entering month six of the pandemic, people around the country seem pretty desperate for any kind of entertainment.

One would think that a time in our culture when people have been so starved of new movies, new TV shows and sports to come back would lead to major growth in struggling sectors of the entertainment industry. Baseball, however, is the exception to this rule.

America's greatest pastime has been on the decline for years now. Viewership and interest from populations under age 50 have never been lower.

In-game attendance in 2007 was slightly fewer than 80 million people for the season. The 2019 numbers show attendance clocking in at about 68.5

million people. This staggering drop is an effect of a pattern of lesser attendance that has developed this decade.

The league would argue that the drop in attendance is a result of more viewers going online to watch games, but that argument doesn't hold up, either.

The New York Yankees, who command their own broadcast network, [have] seen a 10% decrease in their Nielsen ratings from 2019 to 2020. The most famous team in baseball, the New York Yankees, who are such a large entity that they command their own broadcast network, has seen a 10% decrease in their Nielsen ratings from 2019 to 2020.

The other troubling news for baseball is its complete lack of popularity among young people. As a 19-year-old, I can attest to this myself. People my age talk about basketball and football almost

exclusively. I actually have more friends who are interested and consistently discuss what is going on in the world of golf than I do friends who love baseball.

Being from Chicago, I was around when the Cubs broke their World Series losing streak and finally won in 2016.

Everyone was extremely into baseball following the Cubs for about two weeks during that stretch. Then, as soon as they won, everything went right back to normal, that is with people not caring about what happened in the world of baseball.

With all of that said, there are a few things baseball can do to help itself out. First and foremost, the games are simply too long. Baseball

games can last up to three hours easily.

Seeing as we live in the cell phone era where the attention span of the average viewer is far less than ever before, asking the viewing population to sit down and watch a game for three hours is too much.

This leads me to my second point. Football games are usually about two to two and a half hours long, but the big difference is that football is played at a much faster pace.

The most action-packed moments in a baseball game usually last for no more than 10 seconds, and they typically come few and far between. In order for baseball to be more attractive to the average viewer, pace of play has to

be increased.

The final thing I would argue that baseball needs to do is market toward a younger audience. Continuing to encourage players to speak out on issues of social justice, encouraging player individuality and finding other new ways to engage with young people to pique their interest about baseball are quintessential methods for creating a baseball friendly environment.

Is baseball dying? Yes, it absolutely is, but it isn't quite dead yet.



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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.

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On morality, ignorance and poverty

A very common idea brought up in regard to poverty in modern Western discourse is that individuals and communities are not poor because of their lack of money and resources. Instead, poverty is due to them exemplifying dishonorable qualities, which somehow causes the absence of wealth and the dissipation of these people's integrity.

According to this logic, a lack of morality is a causal factor in the creation of poverty. The evidence that is brought to support this claim, you ask? Racist and classist dogma and the promotion of hierarchy in our societies.

To those who maintain these ideals of self-reliance and individualism, it is the people's fault for being poor, and the people's fault for remaining poor.

But when the conditions of the people are so abominable that it would be foolish to claim that they should simply rise from their destitution, the only conclusion they can concoct is to point to the perceived unintelligence and intrinsic moral

inferiority of these materially deprived people.

There is a village called Zinat, located 20 kilometers from my home city of Tangier. Here, like many villages in the snowy mountains of Morocco, the people lead difficult lives raising cattle and harvesting what little vegetation they can. They source their clothing from the backs of sheep and cows. They mobilize their hay and wood with mules.

Even though their means are not plentiful, they still have the same priorities as any people, with one of the most important being education. The children trudge to the base of the mountain and wait for rusty buses to take them to the nearest school, which for some is over an hour away.

Alongside education, another priority is basic survival. For them to survive, the men, women and children are all expected to contribute to the maintenance of the village, with little free time for themselves.

The villagers speak the

same languages, share the same culture and worship the same God as their more developed metropolitan counterparts in Tangier.

Given these circumstances, what would be the most reasonable and realistic conclusion one can come to as to why their circumstances are so different? Are the villagers simply unwilling and unmotivated to better their conditions?

Surely it isn't because the city people have garnered closer economic relations to Europe. Surely it isn't because the metropolitan areas have diverse industries, which include agriculture, solar energy, wind energy and tourism. Surely it isn't because Tangier is a port city while the village of Zinat is not. How preposterous.

From a logical understanding, suggesting that lack of virtue and reason are the only causal factors in the creation of communal poverty fails miserably at providing any solutions or preventative measures to poverty.

Material problems re-

quire material solutions. There is no science that supports the claim that a community must simply make better choices if its needs are unmet. The ideal does not create humanity's circumstances. The material, however, does, as material forces are at play when poverty is being maintained.

Let's say that, in some way, we were able to provide a solution based on an idealistic understanding of why poverty is maintained. The analysis is that people need to make better choices.

The only solutions must be scientific and material. The unfounded conclusion that bad choices and a lack of morality are the reasons as to why poverty exists is debunked because of one simple logical truth: you can't make better choices when you don't have many choices to make. The only choice a poor person has to make is whether to spend his last paycheck on rent or food.

If you couldn't think of a reason to help the disenfranchised in our society, my only assumption is

that you don't want to help them at all. You'd much rather the hierarchy be maintained. You want the poor to be left dead in their homes as a form of punishment for their mere existence in a lower caste. You want them to be punished for their supposed sins, lack of virtue and financial irresponsibility simply because any implementation of every conceivable solution would go against your values.

If that is the case, then the argument can be made that your heart is just as deprived of mercy as the poor are of wealth. With that being said, I wonder what material solutions can help you with that poverty.



Waleed Majid is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major from Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a guest writer for the *News-wire*

Ban the ban on sports betting

It is 10 p.m. on a Saturday, and you are relaxing and watching some baseball. The (input your favorite team) is playing a west coast game, and you feel like they have a good chance at winning. Why not make a few bucks tonight? Well, that is because 32 of the 50 states do not allow sports gambling.

They don't allow you to make a decision with your



Curt Berry is a senior finance major from Boston. Berry is a guest writer for the *News-wire*.

own money. They let you in on all other addictive habits such as drinking and smoking, but when it comes to you winning money, it is a no go.

They allow you to buy scratch tickets and lottery tickets, and you can gamble all you want at the casino, but finally you have the power in gambling and they don't let you do it. In Blackjack they fix the cards so you don't win most of the time, and don't get me started with the slot machines.

Yes, there are reasons for the U.S. banning sports gambling, such as the classic cases of the Boston College basketball team in the '70s, the Tulane scandal in 1985 and most famously our Cincinnati legend Pete Rose, who is banned from Cooperstown because he gambled on his

own team. There are terrible examples like these, but if you legalize gambling everywhere, people will not feel inclined to hide it and cheat.

It is like prohibition in the 1920s. Bootleggers were a huge deal in that era, but once they finally legalized alcohol, they stopped.

I believe the bookies will go away as well if gambling is legal in all 50 states. Not only can you and I make money off of our own teams, but sports can as well. Everytime I watch a game I gamble on, I pay so much more attention.

However, if there is a Monday Night Football game I have no money on, there is a good chance I'm not going to watch it all. This means that the NFL could make money off of

more viewers.

Fantasy football and DraftKings actually exist for this reason. The NFL has cut a deal with DraftKings, and they get a percentage of the profit they make. Let's make gambling sites like Bovada or FanDuel a bigger deal, and let's feel comfortable with sports betting so we can get rid of the sketchy bookies and the illegal activity.

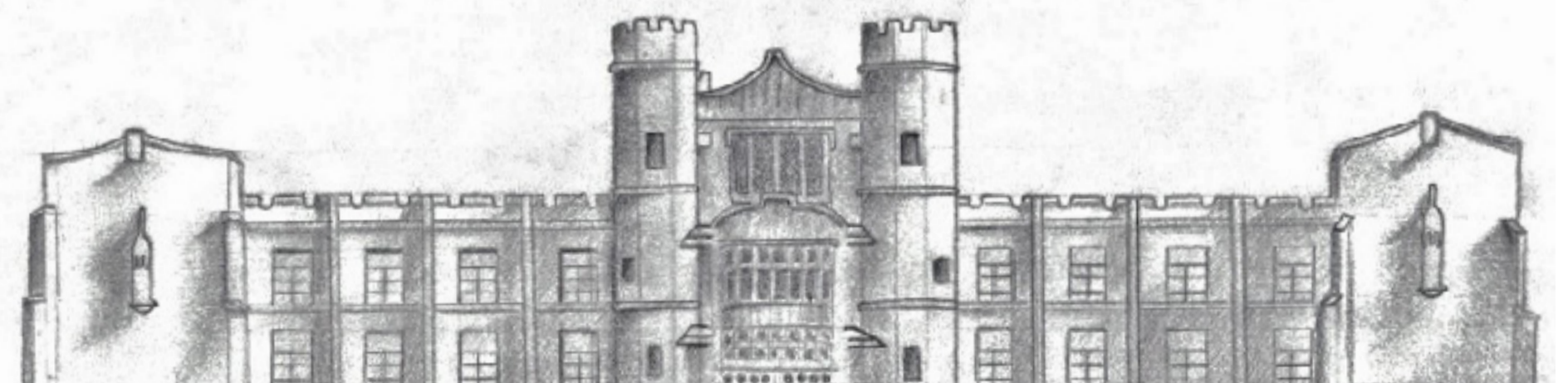
Yes, sports gambling is a risk, and it can get you in trouble financially, but that risk should be up to the bettor, not the state you live in. Sports gambling can be as addictive as coffee, video games and exercise, and there are no restrictions on those.

We should make those summer baseball games fun, and we should have fun with our friends and

family with a couple bucks on the game. Luckily, I am able to gamble on sports in Massachusetts and I have my own right to win as much money as I want. Gambling is a sense of risk and freedom that everybody should be able to obtain.

Let us end the narrative of the scary bookie or the referees cheating at their jobs. Let us make it fun and safe for all. We should embrace sports gambling as a business opportunity as well, and understand that everybody here could win financially.

If you lose money, then that is money won for another company, and it is more views for the sports league. I think we could kill those dog days of summer and we should make 10 p.m. baseball games fun again.



Xavier looks to continue positive recruiting trend

After two early commitments, Xavier is looking to round out its 2021 class

By JOE LAURICH
Guest Writer

Following back-to-back recruiting classes ranked in the top 30 nationally, the Xavier men's basketball team is looking for one more player to cap yet another promising class.

The team has already added two commits in the class, Cesare Edwards, a 6-foot-10 inch center from South Carolina and Elijah Tucker, a 6-foot-7 inch power forward from Georgia.

The last missing piece to this puzzle is a small forward with athleticism and a reliable shot.

Recently, Xavier has been most active with Nate Santos, Lucas Taylor, and Jusuan Holt.

After struggling from the three point line for the past two years, Travis Steele is looking for a wing who can shoot the three and isn't afraid to get physical in the paint.

Nate Santos from Windsor, Conn. is regarded as one of the top exterior shooters in the class of 2021, although one drawback to Santos is his lack of versatility on the interior and tendency not to rebound.

Taylor, from North Carolina, is another prospect that



Photo courtesy of On The Radar Hoops

Xavier is looking to close out their 2021 recruiting class, and wing Jusuan Holt is the most likely to be the next recruit to commit. Holt was teammates with current Xavier guard Dwon Odom in high school.

Steele and staff have been interested in. His ability to drive, shoot and rebound has attracted the attention of

high major schools across the country.

Taylor's recruitment is looking like a long shot as

blue bloods like Kansas and North Carolina have reportedly considered offering the rising prospect.

Holt, the final player, already has connections with the current Xavier squad, as Holt was high school teammates with Xavier point guard Dwon Odom.

The two combined to win two state championships at St. Francis High School in Alpharetta, Ga., which is also the same school former Xavier player Kaiser Gates attended.

Holt is a wing who can rebound, defend and shoot the three at a high major level.

As it stands right now, Holt is also the most likely to commit to Xavier among the three. 247Sports' Brian Snow and Rivals' Dan McDonald have recently predicted a commitment from Holt to join Xavier and likely round out their 2021 class.

Holt is currently ranked as the No. 110 prospect in the recent 247Sports Top 150. He attracted a lot of new interest due to his play in the Amateur Athletic Union. Holt also holds offers from Alabama, Georgia, Wake Forest and Washington.

Xavier assistant Jonas Hayes is the lead recruiter on Holt, and he has a track record of successfully recruiting in Georgia that he could add to if Holt commits to Xavier.

NFL season preview: Chiefs look to repeat

Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes are both looking for another Super Bowl

By WILL PEMBROKE
Associate Multimedia Editor

As the NFL season kicks off this week with the Chiefs playing the Texans on Thursday evening, there are a lot of questions to be answered.

How will Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs defend their Super Bowl win from last year? What will the NFL look like this year playing in a pandemic? Will Tom Brady capitalize on his new opportunity with the Buccaneers and win the NFC?

The new season marks new beginnings for a number of teams such as our hometown Cincinnati Bengals and rookie first overall pick Joe Burrow.

Familiar faces like Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay, Dak Prescott in Dallas and Lamar Jackson in Baltimore are hungry to prove they can be better than their playoff shortcomings last season. With these storylines in mind, let's jump right in.

Coming off of a brilliant Super Bowl victory, the Kansas City Chiefs are looking to replicate their success in the new season. Patrick Mahomes entered himself into the discussion as one of the most talented quarterbacks the league has ever seen with

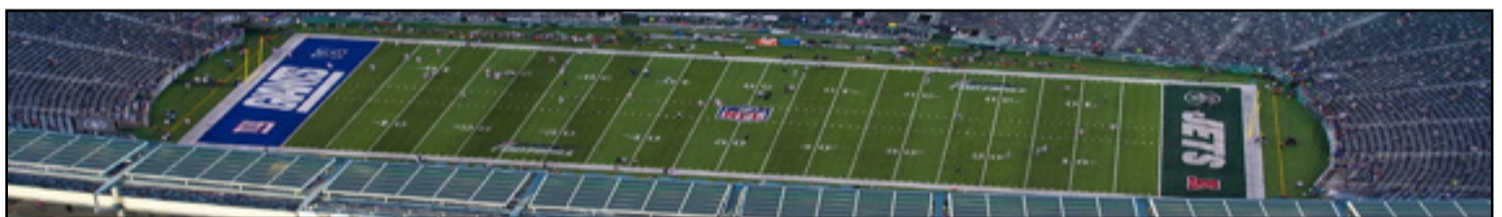


Photo courtesy of USA Today

The NFL season is set to kick off on Thursday with plenty of intriguing storylines. Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs are looking to repeat as NFL champions, but will face tough competition from Tom Brady's Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Lamar Jackson's Baltimore Ravens.

his magical performance in the playoffs last year, winning a Super Bowl in only his third season.

Along with his receivers Tyreek Hill, Mecole Hardman and Sammy Watkins, as well as tight end Travis Kelce, Mahomes and the Chiefs seemed absolutely unstoppable last year.

With that said, NFL fans are well aware of the Super Bowl hangover phenomenon that has seemed to plague so many teams in their seasons following a win on the games biggest stage.

For the Chiefs, having arguably one of the greatest quarterbacks the game has ever seen in Mahomes and an extremely gifted offensive mind in head coach Andy Reid should help offset any possible hangover.

However, the Chiefs' questionable defense that was no stranger to allowing big plays time and again last year could prohibit this team from re-

peating as Super Bowl champions.

The big question on everybody's mind this year is how playing football amidst a pandemic will affect both the quality of play and player availability for teams across the league.

The NFL opted not to play any preseason games this past year due to complications from COVID-19, and while that was overwhelmingly the right decision the lack of live game action heading into the regular season could prove to be an issue especially for the younger players who rely on those preseason games to find their footing.

Team travel has also been a hot topic issue. It would be nearly impossible for the NFL to have its own version of the NBA bubble given the sheer number of people who are needed for an NFL team to function.

With that said, it will be interesting to see how many

teams could be wiped out simply by one player on the team contracting COVID-19 and being forced to shut down in the middle of the season to quarantine.

Even without fans in most stadiums across the league, it will still be difficult for teams to keep the virus out of their locker rooms given the amount of travel required in order to play the games.

Arguably the top story of this offseason, non-virus related, was the move from Tom Brady to leave the New England Patriots, with whom he has won an NFL-record six Super Bowl titles, in favor of going to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to play under mastermind offensive head coach Bruce Arians.

The Buccaneers are not short on offensive talent by any stretch. Brady will get to play with Pro Bowlers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, Leonard Fournette and former Patriots tight end Rob Gron-

kowski. Tampa Bay's roster, at least on paper, could compete with nearly any team in the league.

The catch for Brady and the Bucs, however, similar to Mahomes and the Chiefs, will be their unproven defense.

On top of that, with this being Brady's first year on the team, chemistry and a lack of cohesion could be an issue for the 43-year-old quarterback who is having to learn a new system for the first time since he entered the league almost 20 years ago. It's also his first season not playing under legendary coach Bill Belichick.

If anybody has proven themselves to be up to the challenge though, it is Tom Brady, the greatest quarterback of all time.

This weekend, sit back, and watch some NFL games with your favorite people because this season is already full of fascinating storylines, destined to create some uniquely special outcomes.

ACC coaches vote for new format

Would see every team make NCAA Tournament

BY JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

On Wednesday morning, Stadium's Jeff Goodman reported that the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) men's basketball head coaches had voted unanimously for an all-inclusive 2021 NCAA men's basketball tournament that would include every division one team.

The basis for the decision comes as teams are looking to avoid non-conference games that would prompt frequent travel, which several ACC coaches would like to avoid due to complications from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Goodman reported that "One of the big questions that came up on the ACC call today was 'who is actually making the decisions at the NCAA with college basketball and the NCAA tournament?'"

He also reported that an NCAA source told him that the tournament was more likely to shrink to 32 teams than expand.

Wake Forest head coach Steve Forbes, who will be entering his first year at the



Photo Courtesy of USA Today Sports

ACC Men's Basketball Coaches voted unanimously on Wednesday to hold an all-inclusive NCAA Tournament. While it would likely be a financial windfall for the NCAA, the format seems unlikely to be implemented.

school, released a statement on Twitter to express his excitement with the ACC's vote.

"I am so proud to stand UNITED with every coach in the ACC in the belief that every Division I college basketball program should be allowed to participate in the NCAA Tournament this year!"

"This is what's best for our student-athletes, fans and the

sport of college basketball. It will incentivize everyone that loves and cares about our great sport during these unprecedented times, and it will provide a safe environment for all to participate in. LET'S GET THIS DONE!"

Current Louisville and former Xavier coach Chris Mack also released a statement on Twitter.

"For the last 21 Wednesdays, we as ACC head coaches have been meeting to discuss options

for college basketball in 20-21. We are united. The safety of our players is paramount. The ability to incentivize the regular season without mandating a select number of non-conference and conference games provides options and flexibility for all member institutions. As ACC head coaches, we strongly believe it's in the game's best interest to have an all-inclusive 2021 NCAA Tournament."

CBS Sports' Seth Davis doesn't believe an all-inclusive

tournament is likely due to Title IX, tweeting "I'm sure everyone understands that if college hoops is going to an all inclusive men's tourney they need to do the same for the women, right? Or are we suspending Title IX because of the pandemic?"

In a later tweet, though, Davis acknowledged the financial aspect of the tournament, writing "There is only one good reason to do an all-in tourney: money. I am not being snarky. The NCAA lost a ton of dough when tourney got cancelled. That is a legit reason, as long as it doesn't compromise safety. If more teams=more \$\$ they would have expanded to 96."

A decision on college basketball is expected later this month, according to NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt.

As of now, the first games are scheduled for November 10, although it's widely expected that the start of the season will be pushed back by a few weeks to the end of November or into early December.

Brazil and England enact equal pay for soccer

The men's and women's national teams will be compensated equally

BY JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

Following in the footsteps of the English Football Association (FA), the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) announced last week that both their men's and women's soccer teams are to receive equal pay.

"The FA pays its women's players exactly the same as their male counterparts for representing England, both in terms of match fees and match bonuses," an FA spokesperson said.

There was a push for the move from multiple members of the England National Women's soccer team, who advocated for the same pay as the men's team.

CBF president Rogerio Caboclo said in a statement that equal pay for both men's and women's teams went into effect in March.

The CBF also appointed two new women's football coordinators, Duda Luizelli and Aline Pellegrino.

"There is no more gender difference; the CBF is treating men and women equally," Caboclo added.

"What they will gain by conquering or by staging the Olympics next year will be the same as the men will have," he continued.

England and Brazil are the first two soccer federations to



Photo courtesy of bleacherreport.com

The Brazil women's national soccer team is now receiving equal pay to the men's national team. The decision comes on the heels of the equal pay lawsuit filed by the U.S. women's soccer team getting thrown out in court.

enact equal pay between both their national teams.

In November, Australia's

football governing body reached an agreement with the player's union to close the

pay gap between the men's and women's teams, a move also made by New Zealand

and Norway.

The pay disparity between men's and women's soccer teams has been in the international spotlight since 2019 when the U.S. women's team sued U.S. Soccer, alleging gender discrimination in pay and working conditions.

The lawsuit argued in part "female players have been consistently paid less money than their male counterparts. This is true even though their performance has been superior to that of the male players."

Those claims were dismissed by a federal judge in May 2020.

The battle garnered attention from Joe Biden, the U.S. Democratic Presidential nominee, who tweeted in wake of the court's decision. "To @USWNT U.S women's soccer): don't give up this fight. This is not over yet. To @USSoccer (United States soccer) equal pay, now. Or else when I'm president, you can go elsewhere for World Cup funding."

After the case was dismissed, U.S. Soccer released a statement saying, "We look forward to working with the Women's National Team to chart a positive path forward to grow the game...we are committed to continuing that work to ensure our Women's National Team remains the best in the world and sets the standard for women's soccer."

Opinion: The price paid for fame

BY GRACE HAMILTON
Guest Writer

We now live in the post-MeToo world. This, by all means, is a good thing. We all watched as media moguls like Harvey Weinstein, beloved celebrities like Bill Crosby, talented actors like Kevin Spacey and even our president has faced accusations of sexual misconduct, assault and rape.

We entered a world that demands more accountability and more respect. “Locker room talk” is no longer an accepted excuse and positions of power stopped being accepted as protection from justice or repercussions.

However, the fight doesn't end there. Today we have TikTok, the social media platform that lives on almost everyone's phones.

Users upload videos with limits from 15 seconds to a full minute. Many have gained popularity and fame from these videos, with Charli D'Amelio leading the pack, boasting over 85 million followers.

There seems to be a price to pay for fame, however. Or maybe positions of any kind



Photo courtesy of Qutnews.com

of power lead to corruption, since many of these stars have been faced with allegations spanning from grooming to sexual assault.

Tony Lopez, one such popular creator (19 million followers), has been accused of messaging underage girls. These allegations are serious enough that he has been dropped by Bliss, the spa and beauty brand that sponsored him.

His brother Ondreaz (14.5 million followers) has now had a sexual assault allegation brought up against him by a girl who claims that he assaulted her when she was 17 and he was 21.

Gauge Burek, known on TikTok as @heir.of.atticus (1.8 million followers) is facing claims of grooming minors. And Kio Cyr (eight million followers) has not only been accused of talking to

underage girls, but he has also said the n-word. It doesn't stop there.

Bands like GRLwood, solo artists like Borns, comedians like Chris D'Elia, actors like Ansel Elgort; there are countless cases of people with power abusing their power.

The list of accusations and rumors goes on and on and on. And of course, so many TikTokers have said the n-word that at this point most of us

have lost count.

It's a story of power. More specifically, it's a story about the abuse of power. And it's a story about us.

Read the comments, read the Reddit posts, watch the TikToks.

Witness, in real time, the lengths people — mostly minors — will go to just to defend their favorite celebrity. They'll send death threats, they'll dox you or they'll find your nudes.

Everything their favorite creator did will be excused because their accuser is not a saint. #BelieveWomen fell apart pretty quickly when it went up against the powerhouses of the acting industry and the dancing boys of TikTok.

So what's the answer? How do we reconcile a post-MeToo world with a celebrity-obsessed one? Maybe our worship has gone a little too far, our pedestals rose a little too high.

It's obvious that no one is perfect, but if our standards have fallen to “He's only said the n-word once!” or “Those accusations are from 2014, and it's not even rape!” then maybe we haven't come as far as we thought.

New *Phineas and Ferb* movie brings nostalgia to fans

BY JACOB SMITH
Staff Writer

There's 104 days of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the new *Phineas and Ferb the Movie: Candace Against the Universe* is here to brighten up your quarantine.

All of your favorite characters are back including the titular siblings, Perry the Platypus, Dr. Doofenshmirtz, Norm the robot and even that one farmer dude that always gets yelled at by his wife for starting an unnecessary business.

As the title suggests, the role of the protagonist is passed from the two brothers to their older sister, Candace, as she struggles with the feeling that she's not as special as her genius brothers.

Her journey of self-approval involves aliens, mind-controlling plants and a gadget that swaps anything with the nearest chicken. Making Candace the protagonist is a great decision as she has always seemed more fleshed out than Phineas and Ferb.

While they could carry 12-minute episode segments, the brothers are too stagnant as characters to make an hour and a half film compelling. Candace, on the other hand, has real motivation and flaws, allowing an actual character arc to occur.

Even though Ashley Tis-



Photo courtesy of Commons.wikimedia.org

New Disney+ film, *Phineas and Ferb The Movie: Candace Takes the Universe*, brings back many childhood memories for viewers and provides a new and enjoyable spin off adventure for our two adventurous brothers.

dale (Candace) is taking the top billing, the other characters get more than enough room to shine.

Phineas and Ferb team up with Doofenshmirtz and get plenty of time to invent, Isabella and Baljeet utilize their strength and Buford carries around a canoe the whole time. I don't know why.

Of course, everyone's favorite pet, Perry the Platypus, gets a couple scenes to remind us why we all carried around

'Agent P' lunch boxes up until eighth grade.

While *Phineas and Ferb* has never been a stranger to musical numbers, this film amps up the amount of singing to make this a full-blown musical.

While the story works better as a musical, I didn't find any of the songs very memorable. As a direct-to-Disney+ movie, I wasn't expecting the movie to have *Lion King* or *Beauty and the Beast* tier mu-

sic, but this soundtrack didn't even live up to the *Phineas and Ferb* music of yesteryear.

Who could forget the classics such as “Busted” or “Ain't Got Rhythm” tunes that are catchy almost to a fault. It took years to get “Gitchee Gitchee Goo” out of my head, and as I have revisited it for this review, it will probably take many more years to successfully exorcise the melody once more.

I couldn't recall a single

note of any of the songs in this movie after finishing it, but the animation that went with the music was entertaining enough.

Having not watched *Phineas and Ferb* in many years, I was impressed by how witty the writing is. The writers utilized meta humor and clever subversions of genre clichés in such a way that it felt like I was watching a PG version of *Rick and Morty*.

Since Disney+ has been out, I've rewatched a few of my old favorites such as *Hannah Montana* and *Zack and Cody*, and while the nostalgia is undeniably strong, the jokes don't hold up for me.

I was pleasantly surprised by how funny I still find *Phineas and Ferb*. I might not have been laughing like an episode of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, but I was smiling the whole time.

Overall, I recommend *Phineas and Ferb the Movie: Candace Against the Universe* to anyone who grew up watching the stepbrothers building roller coasters and backyard beaches and anyone who refused to take off their Perry the Platypus onesie on the first day of school each year.

Total score:



Popular app prompts bidding war

BY GUS NATIONS IV

Staff Writer

As if 2020 needed more strife, the talk of the social media town lately has been whether President Trump will ban the popular app TikTok.

After allegations surfaced of the Chinese-based app skewing COVID-19-related information during the surge of the virus in the United States, along with allegations of data farming users, President Trump quickly jumped on the idea of completely banning the app across the U.S.

This prospect sent the social media community into a virtual tizzy with popular creators lobbying for the app to remain accessible to those in the United States.

In the days that followed this announcement, Microsoft and more recently, Walmart, entered talks about potentially purchasing the company and moving it to a domestic location.

On the one hand, the false information given by the app at the beginning of the pandemic undoubtedly played a role in downplaying the ef-

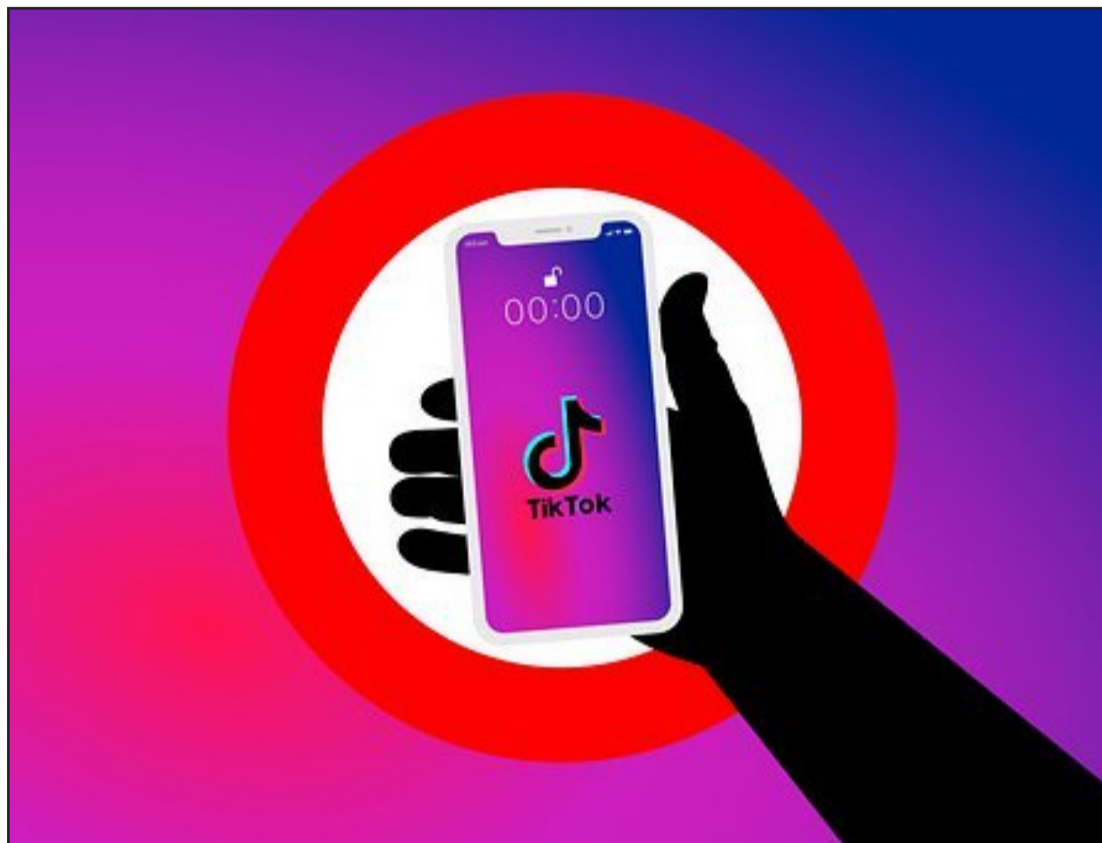


Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

fects of the virus, creating a bit of a devil-may-care attitude among U.S. citizens.

This, along with the data farming practices of the company, paints a less than optimistic picture about the status of the app in the U.S.

Despite this, the app's popu-

larity continues to grow, with more than 500 million users worldwide, and 80 million of those users in the U.S.

TikTok's owner, ByteDance, will certainly take a massive blow if the app is banned in the U.S. The app has provided instant fame to many peo-

ple and even allowed certain popular users to earn massive amounts of wealth from sponsored videos.

Because of the app's popularity and opportunity to gain revenue, it seems like completely banning the app's in the U.S. would be a massive

waste.

Microsoft and the president will move forward in negotiations to purchase TikTok and its faithful users will be satisfied to know that their precious dances are here to stay.

Many content creators on TikTok have subsequently been vocal this summer about the app's potential banning and sale.

Nick Tangorra, a 22-year-old singer-songwriter with 1.2 million followers on the platform is among those adamant that the app is doing everything correctly.

TikTok employees have accordingly backed content creators, assuring that they will do all they can to keep the app alive.

"We are reiterating that we are committed to their long-term success on TikTok, so they can continue to be their creative selves," said Kudzi Chikumbu, TikTok's director of creative community.

From the uproar that has come from banning the app, there is no doubt that TikTok will maintain its popularity and remain on the app store for many years to come.

Avatar spin-off series yields new experience for fans

BY OLIVIA BIGHAM

Guest Writer

Avatar: The Last Airbender (ATLA) was released on May 18 on Netflix, and it caused a wave of childhood nostalgia. The big release could not have come at a more perfect time.

With the wave of *Tiger King* far behind, hoards of locked up college students and millennials flocked to the long-awaited re-released hit Nickelodeon TV show.

Appa, the "gaang," the best redemption arc of our generation and the slow, soothing music were all welcome as fleeting moments of peace from this sh*t storm of a world. Sadly, the peace always shattered at the flicker of a TV or a peak at Twitter.

However, it left many with questions: What happened to the "gaang" after the show? What about the previous Avatars? What in the world happened to Zuko's mom?

Then on August 14, the world got yet another fix from childhood memories: *The Legend of Korra*. Before August, it wasn't a readily available show and not many had seen it so there were fresh audience eyes watching.

However, it wasn't quite what anyone was expecting.

Set about 70 years after the end of ATLA, we see the next Avatar in the cycle: a water-bender named Korra. She is a short-tempered, rash, punch-first and ask-questions-later



Photo courtesy of Id.wikipedia.org

Avatar: the Last Airbender spin-off series, *The Legend of Korra*, goes to show how a TV show can age alongside its audience, while still maintaining its appeal and creating a new experience for devoted fans of the series.

badass of a woman. Essentially, she's everything that Aang isn't.

This is one of the first points established in the show. In her first scene she is seen as a toddler whipping not one, not two, but *three* elements around all while yelling "I'm the Avatar, you gotta deal with it!"

Her reaction is the total opposite reaction seen in Aang, who preferred to deny his role, run away to his old man friend and eat cake. Additionally, she is bending all but Aang's preferred and birth element.

If you came here for ATLA part two you're in the wrong spot. Plant that in your mind

before continuing past the first two minutes of the show.

The Legend of Korra is not without criticism, however. Many viewers didn't want a new story — they wanted the original. To that I have to say: too bad.

Of course, we all want our questions answered from ATLA, but that isn't what the

writers wanted.

While we do see glimpses of our beloved "gaang," the writers wanted to tell an entirely different story from their original show.

Everything from the main character's attitude and age to the setting, the villains and even the use of on-screen death was different.

Korra and her team are all in their late teens; they aren't children. The world is set in an incredible pseudo-steam-punk, industrial revolution, early American 1920s scape and not a classical pre-imperialist world. There is no authoritarian fascist government to dismantle.

This show is so reversed that in the first season, the Avatar doesn't fight fascism — she fights communism. They are polar opposites on the political scale.

By doing this, the writers opened up an infinite number of stories to tell about the Avatar universe. More shows could be made off any Avatar from any time — future or past.

Overall, the show did a great job filling a hole in our hearts and opening up a whole new world for the fanfiction writers to delve into until we get to see a new Avatar.

Total score:

Who is the funkiest Bunch in town?

BY MARIETTE WATERHOUSE
Guest Writer

Five disco bands were judged by a panel of qualified and intelligent judges (me, myself and I) to determine once and for all who is the funkiest bunch in town.

5. **Inverted Kazoo** is at the bottom of our list. Not because their music is bad, but simply for the reason that I'm tired of having to explain to my family that it's a band and not a weird sex thing.
4. **Abducted Funk**. Sorry fans, but your favorite quintet is placed very close to the bottom of our list. They would be higher up on the list... if all five members hadn't been kidnapped last week.
3. **Red Bag of Love**. Unfortunately, after the failure of their last album, *The Love Juice of Funk*, RBL hasn't been able to find their footing. Critics think perhaps *The Love Juice* was just too slippery.
2. Attendees of **Agile Wombat's** last concert will know that indeed, the wombat is frighteningly agile.
1. Coming into our number one slot is **Vibes Except Tasty**. They're the newest band on the disco scene and the highest on our list, and what can we say? With cookies at a concert, those are indeed some tasty vibes.



Inverted Kazoo, doing a weird sex thing.



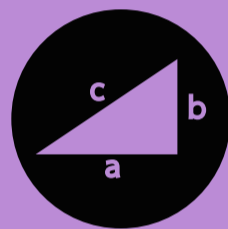
The last known sighting of Abducted Funk.



The eponymous Agile Wombat.



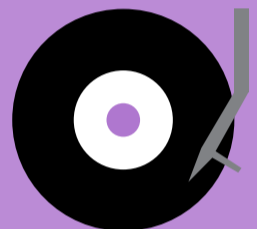
Vibes Except Tasty getting ready to serve you up a tasty knuckle sandwich.



Fictionary

Groovometry™ Edition

BY TESS BREWER
Staff Writer



Abbacursed (ah-BAH-cur-/s/ed):

1. The inability to do math above the number 10 without the use of a calculator
2. When the soundtrack of *Mamma Mia* has been perpetually stuck in one's head over a period of two months — extremely debilitating

Isosleys (eye-SAUCE-lees):

1. Incredibly rare fourth side of the triangle (mathematicians hate her!)
2. Destruction on the atomic level caused by the extended repetition of the "A Little Bit Louder Now" on the song "Shout, Pts. 1 & 2." DJs everywhere remember the Great Isosleys of '61, and beware.

Triggee (trih-GEE):

1. Denotes a very difficult problem/proof, specifically within trigonometry
2. High stress situation (ex: trigonometry) that causes one's voice to emit many short, high pitched "ha" sounds at 'Barry Gibb frequency'

Ex: Due to the triggee question on Reginald's math coursework, he found himself making very loud triggees in the middle of the GSC.



Aries: Don't catch COVID-19 by going to the disco on Friday. You don't want some sort of *Saturday Night Fever*.



Leo: Don't give in to peer pressure. Just because everyone was kung-fu fighting doesn't mean you need to as well.



Sagittarius: Don't be sad *That '70s Show* was taken off Netflix — be glad you'll never have to watch that horrendous last season ever again.



Taurus: It's time for bell bottoms to make a comeback for girls AND guys. Guys deserve to let their ankles breathe too, damn it!



Virgo: The war on drugs is over, and drugs have won. Mercury wants you to celebrate by smoking a joint while flipping off a picture of Richard Nixon.



Capricorn: These protests won't be complete until some hippie does a bed-in. And no, you sleeping until 3:00 p.m. doesn't count.



Gemini: Drop acid this weekend. You may or may not mess up your brain chemistry, but you'll definitely make a sick three-hour concept album.



Libra: Go to a roller disco this weekend! It's like ice skating, but when you fall and break your arm you can't tell anyone how it happened.



Aquarius: You can't solve all your problems with a disco demolition night. Only most of them.



Cancer: Demand satisfaction from life with the same ferocity in which funk artists demand more funk.



Scorpio: You may hate the *Village People*, but they'll never be as bad as people who live in the Village Apartments. Those "Village People" think they're hot sh!t.

