

Xavier University

Exhibit

All Xavier Student Newspapers

Xavier Student Newspapers

2022-04-21

Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student_newspaper



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



XU names Al-Nsair nursing dean

New dean to focus on cura personalis, grad programs and faculty well-being

BY MARTY DUBECKY
*Digital Communications
Manager*

Dr. Nezan Al-Nsair will be appointed dean of the College of Nursing after an almost three-year period during which the position has been held by Interim Dean Dr. Judith H. Lewis.

Al-Nsair, who will be newly joining the Xavier faculty, expressed his appreciation for the appointment, adding that he has always admired the Xavier nursing department's high achievement.

"I wanted to associate myself with such an institution that is highly regarded and ranked in the region," he said of the Xavier community.

Al-Nsair began his education at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan, receiving his B.S.N. in 1993. He then continued his education in the U.S. in 1995, obtaining an M.S.N. from Villanova University and later his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati.

Al-Nsair currently works as the dean of nursing at the York College of Pennsylvania, where he has striven to make the student experience "a pleasant and impactful one." He added that he hoped to create a welcoming classroom environment where students are excited to engage with their community.

At Xavier, Al-Nsair said that his first goals are going to be faculty-focused and expansion-driven. He added that growing the nursing college's graduate programs is at the forefront of his mind as he starts his new role.

Xavier nursing faculty



Photos courtesy of xavier.edu (left) and ycp.edu (right)

Dr. Nezan Al-Nsair, new dean of the College of Nursing, strives to aid faculty and grow graduate programs within the college.

Drs. Debra VanKuiken and Pat McMahon and Williams College of Business Dean Dr. Tom Hayes headed the selection committee.

Three potential candidates for the role were invited to campus after Zoom interviews, and the selection committee asked candidates to share their perspectives on the role of Jesuit values in education and the future of the nursing program.

The selection committee sought to ensure the new dean was the best candidate to head the College of Nursing, but also that they aligned well with campus culture, values and Jesuit identity. VanKuiken stressed the importance of "how they felt the Jesuit values would fit."

For Al-Nsair, these values mean a lot. Since his introduction to Jesuit education at Villanova, he has incorporated these values into his work as

a nursing education administrator.

"Cura personalis in particular is the one that I think aligns very well with my values and beliefs and the profession of nursing," Al-Nsair said.

His goals and ambitions for the College of Nursing are heavily influenced by Jesuit values as well.

"(We must) make sure that we are serving our students to become competent and professional graduates... that would reflect the values of the Jesuits' education," Al-Nsair said.

Al-Nsair reiterated his goals to establish a "strategic plan" for nursing that aims to make the program a distinct regional leader.

"This is an opportunity for me to work with the faculty in the college and across the institution to... make the college more prominent within the college, within the uni-

versity and within the city of Cincinnati and surroundings, to build partnerships and grow the college," he said.

Xavier nursing students expressed some trepidation at the arrival of a new dean, with sophomore nursing major Mackenzie Pierce adding that she's unsure about a faculty-focused approach for the college.

"It was really disheartening to hear that he didn't have any kind of plan in place on how to support students," she said. "It seemed like he was more focused on how to help staff."

"The amount of students experiencing mental anguish that so many of the nursing students suffer from because of strict policies and an attempt to weed kids out is unacceptable," sophomore nursing major Liddy Monaghan added.

Other students wondered about the choice to hire a male

dean for the nursing college, which represents a field often dominated by women. This gender gap represents a controversial topic in nursing, with a 2019 study from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics showing that approximately 12% of nurses are men.

"In almost every field, leadership positions are dominated by men," Monaghan said. "With a female-dominated profession like nursing, it would've been nice to see a qualified woman earn the spot."

"Male nurses are making more than female nurses when they are in the minority... Even when females are the majority of the nursing field and Xavier nursing program, Xavier chose a man to be the new dean," she noted.

Al-Nsair will officially take on the role on June 1, after the summer semester begins.

In this issue...

World, Page 3

Finland's parliament considers joining NATO in response to Russian aggression.



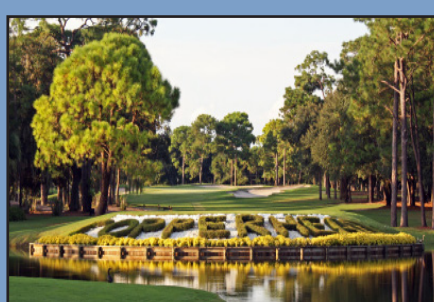
Opinions, Page 4

World News Editor Sophie Boulter reflects on authenticity as she departs from Xavier.



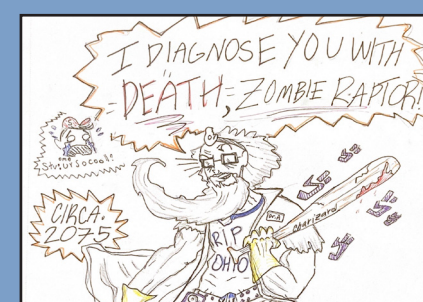
A&E, Page 7

Our critic loves Lady Whistledown's gossip column so much, maybe we'll start our own!



Back, Page 8

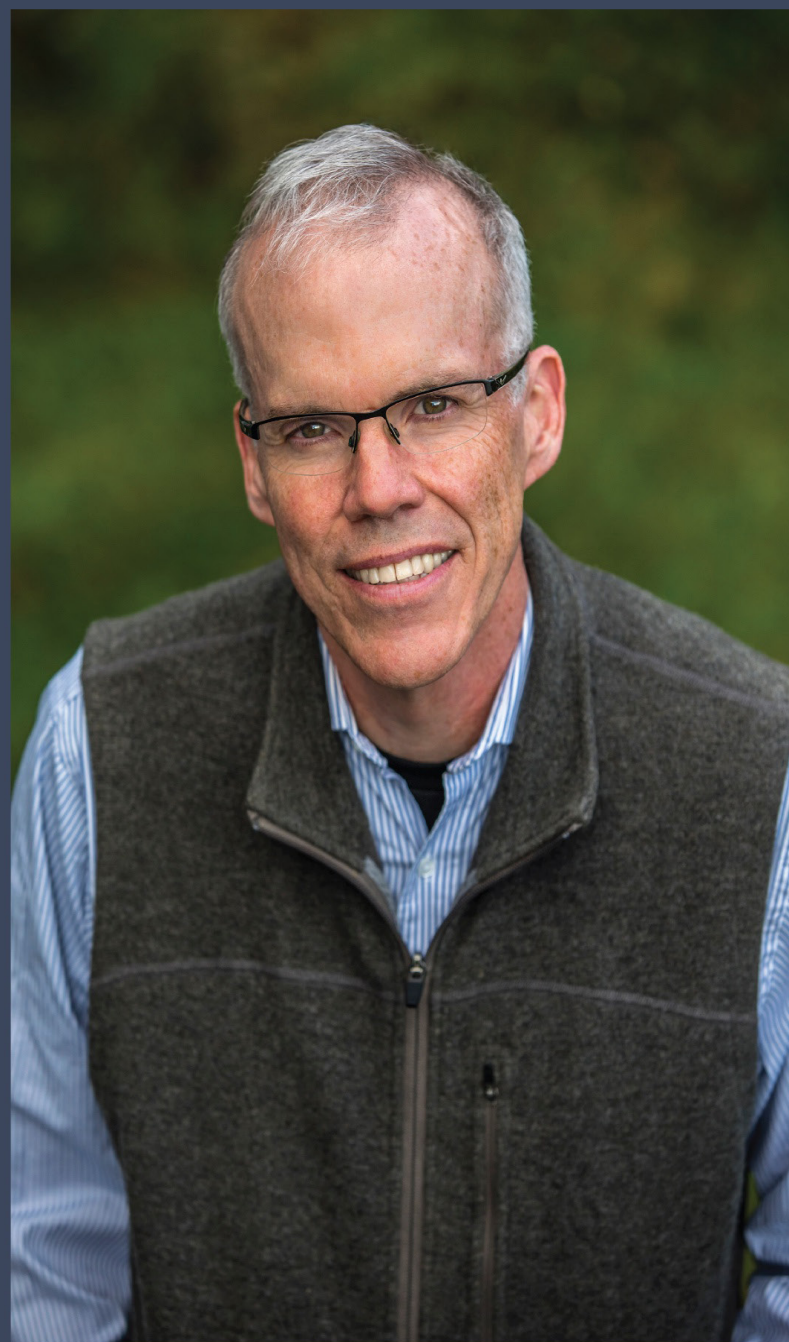
Dr. Almanzo bids *News-wire* farewell in his last-ever satire advice session.



Ethics/Religion and Society Program and the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue
present

A Conversation with
BILL MCKIBBEN

Author · Educator · Environmentalist



Wednesday, April 20th @ 4PM
Register Online at www.xavier.edu/ers

NYC subway shooting injures 29

James, the alleged Brooklyn subway shooter has been detained and charged

BY JACKSON HARE
Staff Writer

On April 11, 67-year-old Frank R. James detonated two smoke grenades and fired 33 bullets in a Brooklyn subway train full of morning commuters.

Police reported a total of 29 people injured during the attack, 19 of whom suffered injuries related to the smoke or panic. In what New York police officers have called “a miracle,” none of the 10 victims who were shot have died or are expected to die from their injuries.

After 33 shots were fired, the gunman’s 9-millimeter handgun jammed and prevented further action.

“If that gun didn’t jam, the probability of somebody dying is very high,” Detective Paul DiGiacomo, president of the Detectives’ Endowment Association, said.

While some attribute the phenomenon to luck, some witnesses have suggested James was aiming for lower limbs. Hourari Benkada, who sat right next to the assailant at the time of the attack and was shot through the knee, attested to this.



Photo courtesy of cnn.com

James, the alleged Brooklyn subway shooting suspect whose attacks left 29 injured, was arrested in New York’s East Village neighborhood. None of the victims of his attacks are expected to die from their injuries.

The motive for this attack is still unknown. However, some investigators have theorized it was related to YouTube videos James posted of himself discussing violence, mental health and mass shootings. During one of these videos, he suggested that he battles post-traumatic stress disorder. One video specifically showed James in a New York City subway car, silently pointing to other passengers.

Members of the New York

City government have perceived the shooting as an indicator for the need for significant improvement to mental health programs.

“We’re looking at people who are stating that they’re dealing with mental health issues right now, and so we have to get it right,” NYC Mayor Eric Adams said. “This is generational in the making, a broken system, but we need help also on a state level and on a federal level.”

City officials have expressed hopes to improve security in the subway systems, seeking to add technology to detect firearms. However, the scale of the subway system — an average of 4.6 million people per day — poses a significant challenge.

“It is extremely challenging to identify every person that enters the subway system because of the vastness of our system,” Adams said.

Police announced James’

arrest on April 15, extending their thanks to the public’s tips, especially to the five individuals who provided information that led to his arrest. These tipsters shared a \$50,000 reward for the information.

“The public is who we serve, but they are also often our best partner,” NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell. “We appreciate all of those who responded to our call for information to locate this suspect.”

Additionally, the city commemorated five Metropolitan Transportation Authority workers who helped people evacuate after the train finally came to a stop. This included operators David Artis and Joseph Franchi, conductors Raven Haynes and Dayron Williams and bus operator Parla Mejia.

“You stayed calm, stayed focused, and you saved lives,” Adams said, honoring their actions after the shooting. “Thanks to you, no passenger was left behind.”

James was arrested last Wednesday after he called to inform the police of his location. He was charged with a federal terrorism offense.

Finland moves toward NATO

BY IVY LEWIS
Staff Writer

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has prompted Finland to consider joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a security alliance with 30 member nations. This goes against the nation’s long history of military non-alignment.

Prime Minister Sanna Marin announced that Finland would likely make a decision on whether or not to become a member of NATO within weeks.

Finnish politicians are scheduled to have internal talks and meet in parliament to reach consensus on the matter.

“The difference between being a partner and being a member is very clear and will remain so. There is no other way to have security guarantees than under NATO’s deterrence and common defense as guaranteed by NATO’s Article Five,” Marin said in an interview.

Finland shares an 810-mile border with Russia. The country is strongly considering joining NATO, despite Russia’s threats that it would deploy nuclear weaponry against it and other Baltic countries should they join.

“There can be no more talk of any nuclear-free status for

the Baltic — the balance must be restored,” Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia’s Security Council and former Russian president, said.

Russia has the largest collection of nuclear missiles and warheads in the world and is a global leader in hypersonic missile technology.

Medvedev also suggested that Moscow would need to focus efforts on increasing air forces, land army and naval presence, as well as invest in its military, should Finland officially become a member.

The war in Ukraine has dramatically changed public opinion on NATO, with a recent poll suggesting that 68% of Finnish citizens are now in favor of joining. Should Finland accept the invitation, each of the 30 member states would have to agree to their membership.

NATO was formed in 1949 following World War II in response to the Soviet Union and serves as an international security council.

The bloc offers collective security, and member states agree to mutually defend one another from aggression. An attack against one of the 30 member states is treated as an attack on all, and military and diplomatic assistance is offered to NATO countries that are being threatened.

The Finnish government

has made monetary contributions, participated in exchanges of information with members and been generally viewed as a strong ally with NATO over the past several decades.

In 1994, Finland joined the Partnership for Peace initiative which sought to improve relations between non-member states and NATO. Consequently, should Finland’s political parties reach consensus on whether or not they want to join, they may accept.

“Finland in particular but also Sweden are very stoic on these matters and see Russia with clear eyes. And that’s why I think ultimately they will join NATO,” Sean Monaghan, a visiting fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, suggested.

Finland will be internally debating the matter over coming weeks among parliament. The Finnish Parliament, a unicameral legislature, consists of 200 members.

Prime Minister Marin noted that Finland will probably make a choice very quickly as tensions continue to rise between Russia and the rest of the international community.

“I won’t give any kind of timetable when we will make our decisions, but I think it will happen quite fast — within weeks, not within months,” Marin said.

The Lighter Side

Swiftly millipedes, Israeli nuclear facilities

- Texas state troopers have been instructed to “slim down” or face consequences. The report states that troopers with waist sizes over 40 inches will need to track and report weight loss efforts (April 18).
- Israel’s top-secret, state-of-the-art nuclear facility is under assault from porcupines. The small creatures set up near the facility and have been digging under the building, causing concerns (April 19).
- A new species of millipedes has been named after Taylor Swift. The species has been dubbed *Nannaria swiftae*, or in common vernacular, Swift Twisted-Claw Millipede (April 20).
- A Maryland man has been found dead from “snake envenomation.” Police found 124 snakes in his home (April 13).



Photo courtesy of wikimedia.org

Israeli nuclear scientists were terrorized by aggressive porcupines.

I'm obsessed with being real

"You know," I said earnestly to a close friend. "I've been on an authenticity kick lately. I've been obsessed with being real."

He laughed and indulged me, saying, "Don't I know it." But after I talked to him about my "authenticity kick," I realized the idea's absurdity. Isn't the idea of an "authenticity kick" completely antithetical to the idea of authenticity?

Isn't the very drive I've had toward being real and honest, inherently dishonest? In other words, authenticity is supposed to be natural, not something pursued off a whim. Having to chase authenticity, to make an effort to be my real, non-contrived self — isn't that as far from natural and as far from honest as you can get?

I thought about this a little more and still couldn't really make sense of my identity. Was my real self just that — real — or just another thing created by a convergence of societal forces and interpersonal interactions? Strip away the things that society wants me to be, and what remains?

After four years at Xavier, I still don't think that I can externally express my authentic self.

I remember my first year

being cripplingly insecure in just about everything. From my intelligence to my femininity to my future, it was as if everything was in flux.

Nothing was constant, except for my drive, curiosity and self-loathing. My femininity always seemed to return with vengeance, too; it was a constant in my life, but I couldn't discern its meaning.

There is a sort of ambiguity to femininity. Was my girliness anything more than an outwardly expressed social construction, or did it have a deeper significance?

The summer prior, I had been rejected from all of my top schools while suffering a debilitating mental health crisis. That summer sapped me of steadiness, exchanging it for doubt. I entered Xavier with these forces whirling within me, with academic success my only recourse and escape.

I was my achievements (or lack of them); I was my appearance (and insecurity); I was my outwardly expressed self. This didn't feel like enough, and I felt arrogant for demanding more.

Over these four years, not enough has changed. Too often, my self-worth is still easily broken by these shallow

external forces, like flowers scattered across the floor in a shattered glass vase.

It hurt to know that people saw me as those external things. They'd assume I was a dumb blonde or someone obsessed with grades and image, and in some ways I became all of those things and none of them. I was never dumb but always retained a certain naivete; my grades and image never took me over, but they were a seductive distraction from my mental health.

Eventually, I found *News-wire* and realized that writing was the escape, the way to turn the stereotypes and assumptions into something creative and meaningful. To

let myself be led by naivete and a certain simple, silly faith in the power of knowledge and truth.

I became immersed in a group of turbulent, fascinating and emotional people that I met via *News-wire*, people who led me to writing as a means of not only self-expression, but of pursuing the truth. In our frenzied Internet

age of airbrushed influencers selling us a manufactured, revised image of reality, truth has never been more important.

The only way to fight the falsely-created images marketed towards my peers and me was to create things myself and to create myself through writing. To pursue truth even if it's unclear what truth is in our cynical age.

I wrote *News-wire* pieces crying out for something deeper, feeling dissatisfied by our current cultural moment. In these pages I advocated for a civic, inclusive nationalism that would infuse democracies around the world with something deeper, more imagina-

Maybe, through *News-wire* and introspection, I've finally found the answer to the absurd, yearning feeling encapsulated in my "authenticity kick."

tive and perhaps more authentic.

I moved the U.S. and World News section in a more international direction, believing that reporting on the wider world could help expand the perspectives of our campus community while also leading us to be the best Americans we could be — to be true and authentic to the spirit of our

country's founding.

My work with *News-wire* has led me to conclude that there's nothing more authentic than writing. Writing requires delicateness and weakness: vulnerability through inspiration and creation. With an unabashedly feminine voice, embodying every word I choose — writing emancipates me, lets me touch something tantalizing, something typically just out of reach.

Maybe that "something" that my external self can't touch, that writing easily touches, is my authentic self. Maybe, through *News-wire* and introspection, I've finally found the answer to the absurd, yearning feeling encapsulated in my "authenticity kick."



Sophie Boulter is the outgoing World News Editor for *News-wire*. She is a senior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major and political science double major from Wadsworth, Ohio.

SGA seeks strategic student input

Xavier's Strategic Plan is our seven-year road map that is lacking comprehensive student input.

Many of you have heard the phrase "strategic plan" thrown around the last few months since the arrival of several new university administrators. But what exactly is a strategic plan, and how does it fit into your role as a student?

The plan highlights Xavier's pillars of strength. It will eventually include several initiatives, or goals, that the university will strive to achieve during the course of the plan. This document will be referenced in Xavier's

work across the board, so it is crucial that it is comprehensive and true to our accomplishments and struggles.

The Student Government Association (SGA) has had two opportunities to offer input on the strategic plan. Our feedback has focused primarily on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, so we are pushing for more anti-racist language to be included in the themes of the plan. The pillars of the university that stand out in the recent draft of the plan include data collection, community engagement, health programs, basketball and

our Jesuit values. These are strengths of Xavier, but it is important to establish where we have room to grow. As students and future graduates, we want to come from a university that is willing to work for change, welcome diverse people and perspectives and advocate for those on the margins.

At the recent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Town Hall hosted by SGA, the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of the President, students voiced these concerns for Xavier loud and clear. Students of color voiced that they do not feel included in

the Xavier community in the same way as their White counterparts, and that is not something that SGA takes lightly as a group representing all students on campus. The strategic plan has the opportunity to be a "living, breathing document," as members of the steering committee have called it. However, to be that, it must be something that students, especially our underrepresented students, are excited to read. The only way we will get there is by working together.

Currently, there isn't a clear avenue for widespread student input outside of

SGA. However, if you feel strongly about what the plan should include, speak up. To find out how you can share your vision for Xavier, please reach out to SGA President Annalese Cahill at cahilla1@xavier.edu.



Annalese Cahill is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major and the SGA President from Crescent Springs, Ky.

THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Alex Budzynski

Print Managing Editor
Mo Juenger

Multimedia Managing Editor
Hunter Ellis

Campus News Editor
Robbie Dzierzanowski

World News Editor
Sophie Boulter

Opinions & Editorials Editor
Charlie Gstalter

Sports Editor
Joe Clark

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Kate Ferrell

Back Page Editor
Aidan Callahan

Head Copy Editor
Molly K. Hulligan

Copy Editors
Stella DeMarco, Maggie Schroeder, Tess Brewer, Tess Dankoski

Staff Writers
Marty Dubecky, Jake Geiger, Jackson Hare, Ivy Lewis, Ethan Nichols, Spencer de Tenley, Olivia Valkner

Online Editor
Nina Benich

Digital Communications Manager
Griffin Brammer

Education & Enrichment Coordinator
Joseph Cotton

Show Managers
Tyler Clifton, Will Pembroke, Chloe Salvesson

Photography Editor
Desmond Fischer

Distribution Manager
Emily Croft

Breaking News Response Team
Grace Hamilton, Olivia Valkner

Adviser
John Stowell

Mission Statement
The Xavier *News-wire* is committed to reporting the news, as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the *News-wire* hopes to foster a dialogue on campus and among students, faculty and staff.

Advertising
All inquiries should be directed to the Business Manager,

Melissa Navarra, by email at newswire@xavier.edu or at www.xaviernewswire.com

For Your Information
Xavier *News-wire* 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.

News-wire also releases online articles and a newsletter on Monday mornings and works with XUFM to produce a weekly radio show, *Xavier News-wire Live*, the *Debates and Discussions* podcast and *Inside Xavier Sports*.

Xavier University Sustainability Committee
in collaboration with the E/RS Program and the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue

present

The 2022 Sustainability Lecture: "While Nations Promise, Cities Deliver"



David Miller,
North American Director
of C40 Leadership Group
Former mayor of Toronto, Canada

Thursday, April 21st @ 7PM - 4th floor Commons, Health United Building



The Edward B. Brueggeman
Center for Dialogue

Boston Marathon makes yearly return

Kenyan runner Evans Chebet takes home first Boston Marathon win since 2019

BY JOE CLARK
Sports Editor

The 126th Boston Marathon took place last Monday, returning to its usual April date for the first time since 2019.

Kenyan runner Evans Chebet won the men's elite race with a time of 2:06:51, while fellow Kenyan Peres Jepchirchir finished with a time of 02:21:01 to narrowly edge out Ababel Yeshaneh. The Ethiopian finished just four seconds behind at 02:21:05.

Outside of the winners, one of this year's most touching moments of the Boston Marathon was Henry finishing with a time of 04:02:20. Henry Richard was the older brother of Martin Richard, who was killed during the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013.

Martin, at eight years old, was the youngest of the three people killed in the attack. Henry was met at the finish line by his parents and sister, along with 2014 Boston Marathon winner Meb Keflezighi.

"It's great to get here finally. It's been years in the making for me, so I'm just so happy I could finally be here," Henry said. "I know Martin would have been doing it with me — so happy to finish it, that's all I can think about."

Adrienne Haslet, who lost



Photo courtesy of flickr.org

Henry Richard, brother of Boston Marathon bombing victim Martin Richard, finished with a time of 4:02:20 in his first race back in Boston.

her leg in the 2013 bombings, also finished the marathon, running it in 05:18:41. Shalene Flanagan, a former Olympian runner from Marblehead, Mass. accompanied Haslet as her support trainer.

The 126th Marathon marked the 50th anniversa-

ry of the first time women were allowed in the field. An eight-person women's team ran in honor of the eight women who made the first women's field in 1972. Former U.S. women's soccer team members Kristine Lilly and Sarah Fuller, who became

the first women to take part in a Power 5 college football game, were also members of the team.

Other notable participants in the marathon included former Bachelor Matt James and former Bachelorette winner Zac Clark.

James ran to raise money and awareness for the United Service Organizations. James finished with a time of 03:49:38. Clark, who began running as part of his recovery from addiction, finished with an impressive time of 03:43:46.

Musketeer Baseball goes 2-1 against Villanova

BY JAKE GEIGER
Staff Writer

Xavier baseball had a big weekend series on their home turf against the Villanova Wildcats. The Musketeers came out victorious as they won two out of three games in the series and hold a formidable record in Big East play.

The Musketeers had a no-hitter going through 6.1 innings and were up 8-1. They almost blew the game, allowing six runs in the last three innings.

Xavier started the contest hot as junior outfielder Tyler DeMartino hit a two-run jack in the first and catcher Jerry Huntzinger followed suit in the third to make it a 4-0 game. Xavier got a little erratic on the mound, with two walks and two hit by pitches in the fourth inning to allow Villanova's first run of the game.

Senior outfielder Luke Franzoni responded in the fifth inning with a two-run double followed by a single RBI from DeMartino. Xavier got a team effort from the pitching staff as juniors Luke Bell, Jon Kelly and Bryce Barnett pitched six scoreless innings. Junior pitcher Jack Lynch got the final two outs



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

After winning Game One in close fashion, with an 8-7 victory, the Musketeers fell to the Wildcats 7-5 on Saturday. Xavier rebounded on Sunday, picking up the series win in an 11-5 defeat of Villanova.

of the game, and Xavier survived a scare as they picked up Game One of the series on Friday.

Xavier then lost a close battle against the Wildcats in Game Two on Saturday evening by a score of 7-5. The Wildcats got off to the hot start in this one with a 4-0 lead after three innings. All the runs scored were off of either singles or doubles,

and Xavier did not allow any home runs to that point.

Xavier's comeback started with another two-run bomb by Huntzinger. Senior Andrew Walker knocked in an RBI single to make it a one-run game, and junior outfielder Garrett Schultz had a sacrifice fly to tie the game at four.

Villanova's Chris Rotondo hit a solo home run to give

the Wildcats a one-run lead. The Wildcats added two more insurance runs to give them a comfortable 7-4 lead. Senior Jeff Holtz would get the Musketeers within two runs off a sacrifice fly of his own, but that would be all as the Musketeers fell to 18-18 overall and 2-3 in the Big East.

Xavier had quite possibly their biggest win of the sea-

son this past Sunday as they crushed Villanova in the finale 11-5 to win the season series.

DeMartino hit a two-run shot in the first inning to get things started for Xavier. Jared Cushing quickly responded with a solo home run of his own in the second, and Franzoni added a two-run double to give Xavier a commanding five-run lead.

Villanova would pick up four runs from innings five to seven, but it would not be enough. Xavier's bats were dominant as Franzoni hit a two-run homer to give him four RBIs on the day.

DeMartino backed it up with a solo bomb on the next pitch for his second home run of the day to make it 11-5 after six innings. The Musketeers also had a great day on the mound with 13 total strikeouts and a standout performance from Lynch. Lynch had three scoreless innings and six strikeouts.

The Musketeers will travel to the nation's capital to face the Georgetown Hoyas, who are 22-14 overall and 4-5 in the conference. It will require another monumental series in order for the Musketeers to stay at the top of the conference.

New *Bridgerton* romances viewers

Eldest *Bridgerton* brother shines bright in new season of hit Netflix show

BY OLIVIA VALKNER
Staff Writer

CONTAINS SPOILERS

The Netflix original series *Bridgerton* just released its second season on March 25, and dearest reader, after giving the public enough time to watch it, this author has quite the opinion of it.

While I have my qualms with the historical inaccuracy of the costume choices — and the strange inclusion of instrumental pop songs throughout the show — the story truly makes up for it all.

This season follows the romantic interests of the eldest *Bridgerton* son Anthony, viscount and heir to the *Bridgerton* estate, and his quest to find a wife this social season.

He quickly finds himself torn between his societal expectation to marry well and his deepest, most lustful desires.

His gentlemanly side quickly wants to call on Miss Edwina Sharma, Queen Charlotte's diamond of the season. He also harbors a passionate desire and clear chemistry



Photo courtesy of flickr.com
Jonathan Bailey and Simone Ashley star in Season Two of *Bridgerton*, Netflix's most watched English-language show ever.

with her older sister Kate.

With the progression of his story as well as that of the other supporting characters, the season did not disappoint.

When it comes to Anthony, I loved the exploration of his past and his young and abrupt assumption of his role as Lord *Bridgerton*. Since he and Kate both come from damaged pasts, they see it as their duty to ensure security for

their family as their number one priority. This both complicates their relationship but also makes it that much stronger. They fight against their passion and desire for one another until they simply cannot anymore — despite their duty and the plans made for themselves.

I continue to adore the side stories that are explored in addition to the main plot.

For example, Eloise *Bridgerton* explores her life as an independent woman trying to find exactly how she fits into high society, to which she is strongly opposed.

Additionally, her best friend Penelope Featherington had some close calls herself and many developments as a character.

I really appreciated the in-depth depiction of how Penelope continues to publish her gossip column. She is an inherently selfish character and keeps the earnings to herself while knowing her family is in a financial crisis. She also hides her success from her friends and family. I adored the way in which her story intertwined with everyone's romantic endeavors. It is truly fascinating, and I am both excited and nervous for her as the seasons continue and stories progress.

I appreciated that Daphne was included and played a notable role this season. The advice and encouragement that she offers her brother Anthony shows her wisdom and grace. With the departure of the Duke, I was intrigued

to see how this would affect her character arc. While it is disappointing that her husband did not make an appearance this season, I think that Daphne got to shine more as an individual. I have more of an understanding of who she is through her involvement in the show without the presence of her love interest.

While the plot of the show is very predictable, this author loved the good, slow burn this season. While I know not everyone agreed, I found there to be satisfying resolution of greatly-anticipated sexual chemistry.

I am very excited for the future of the show as we get to follow the viscount and his viscountess and, of course, the pending nuptials in the *Bridgerton* family's future. The Netflix original has been confirmed for two more seasons, and I am so excited to see where it takes the *Bridgerton* family.

Total score:
★★★★☆

Fran Lebowitz enchants Aronoff audiences

BY ETHAN NICHOLS
Staff Writer

Sardonic humorist and award-winning author Fran Lebowitz graced the stage at the Aronoff Center for the Arts with her classic and iconic uniform (though she hates it when you refer to it as such) of a crisp, blue button-down with cufflinks, a pinstripe blazer, cuffed jeans and leather boots.

Lebowitz, known for her books *Metropolitan Life* and *Social Studies*, is frank and to the point. She never pulled a punch, from calling Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a "baby" and sharing her strong feelings on, well, everything.

Lebowitz ensnared the audience with her plain-spoken and unreserved talk, titled *An Evening with Fran Lebowitz*.

While Lebowitz is widely known as an author, she

hasn't published a book in nearly four decades. Her last piece, a children's book titled *Mr. Chas and Lisa Sue Meet the Pandas*, is about a group of giant pandas who reside in New York City but desire to move to Paris. She joked that whenever she introduces people to her editor, he claims he has "the easiest job in town."

"I have a hard time writing. Most writers have a hard time writing. I have a harder time than most because I'm lazier than most," Lebowitz said.

"I would have made a perfect heiress. I enjoy lounging. And reading. The other problem I have is fear of writing. The act of writing puts you in confrontation with yourself, which is why I think writers assiduously avoid writing," she added.

This decades-long writer's block, or a "blockade," as Lebowitz referred to it, led her to pursue other projects to make

ends meet. Lebowitz had a recurring role in *Law & Order* as Judge Janice Goldberg from 2001 to 2007; was the feature of Martin Scorsese's documentary *Public Speaking* and the Netflix show *Pretend It's a City*; appeared as a judge in Scorsese's film *The Wolf of Wall Street*; and travels the country on speaking tours.

When Lebowitz remarked that she just hates to work, the audience applauded rather loudly. That's a part of her down-to-earth charm that sets her audience at ease — she manages to express what we all feel in some way or another.

"I hate work. I hate all work. I have never had any work that I've enjoyed. I am by nature a sloth. I am really lazy, and I really don't like to work," she said, and we all clapped. And you know why? Because we all relate to the sentiment. Lebowitz manages to encapsulate the exhaustion all of us feel.

That's exactly why such a large crowd came out at 7 p.m. on a Tuesday to sit for two hours listening to Lebowitz and why I waited in line for almost two hours to get my copy of *The Fran Lebowitz Reader* signed.

She speaks directly to us: the people. She's straight forward, she's down to earth and most of all, she's real. She's one of the few social critics able to form real connections with her audience, even if she's not speaking directly with them.



A&E SINGLES

BY SPENCER DE TENLEY
Multimedia Managing Editor

- Johnny Depp took his ex-wife Amber Heard to court in a \$50 million defamation lawsuit (April 14).
- Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival began its 20th anniversary event with performances from artists including Harry Styles, Billie Eilish and The Weeknd (April 15).
- Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith are close to divorce after his conduct at the 2022 Oscars (April 19).
- Ewan McGregor and Mary Elizabeth Winstead will marry this Friday after dating for five years (April 20).



Photo courtesy of Ethan Nichols

An Evening with Fran Lebowitz drew enthralled crowds (including Julie and Ethan Nichols, above) to the Aronoff Center last Tuesday.



Aries: Delete Tinder. When was the last time anything remotely interesting came from it? Maybe try falling into a disastrous friends with benefits situation like everyone else.



Taurus: If you're gonna be stupid, you gotta be tough. You're the pretentious asshole who picked biomedical sciences for your major.



Gemini: Go tan on the lawn. You deserve a little break and some vitamin D (both kinds of Vitamin D would do you some good, girlboss!)



Cancer: Put down "Subway Surfers." It's time to go study. We only have six academic days left, so stop avoiding your twenty-five Canvas notifications.



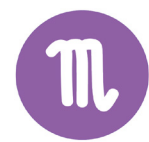
Leo: Your sneaky link is less sneaky than you think. You guys ate in the Caf alone together and proceeded to walk back to her room. There was nothing sneaky about this link.



Virgo: Start cleaning out your room for move-out now. You only have two-and-a-half weeks left, and I know you probably have three-month-old food in your room. If you have stains on your floor and don't want to get fined, try the all-purpose OxiClean spray. It's only \$4 at Target.



Libra: I know he's cute, but he is one hundo percent talking to other b*tches. Please don't catch feelings now. The semester is almost over, and you need to start manifesting your hot girl summer at this precise moment. Katy Perry, Pharell, and Calvin Harris are wrong. *Do* be afraid to catch feels.



Scorpio: You are girlbossing it. You ate three meals today, you got eight hours of sleep last night, you showered today and you got all of your homework done. You slayed today, bestie. If all of that was a lie, use this message as a manifestation and try again tomorrow.



Sagittarius: Stop killing yourself to try to prevent your friends from making bad decisions whilst they are extremely hydrated 🥰. You don't deserve all that pressure. Just White girl dance your cares away and call the Uber when you see fit.



Capricorn: You can't keep skipping classes. There are only like three classes left. Woman up, and wake up at 9 a.m.; I promise it will not kill you.



Aquarius: Drink more water. It's going to be 80 degrees this weekend, and it will help clear up the stress acne and flush out the Caf food a little better.



Pisces: It's ok if you're failing a class or two at the moment. It happens. Eat gummy bears while you study; it will help. Slive your best life. (Like live, laugh, love, but with a dash of Paris Hilton Y2K realness and a side of slay.)

Dear Almanzo,



These last weeks as a first-year are the worst weeks of my life! Nothing is going right. I need to write two 10-page essays in the next two weeks. That's 20 pages! I also have to learn 23 verbs for Italian... all while studying for my finals. I don't even think that's humanly possible. Outside of class, my friend situation is falling apart. I still feel like I'm only acquaintances with everyone I know after an entire year here. I miss the support of my high school friends. My one real friend just started spending all his time with this sketchy Wednesday Addams-looking dude, so now I watch *Victorious* alone. My family is also super unsupportive of my girlfriend. Yes, Mom, I do love her even if she's a Protestant. Yes, Dad, I am old enough to get engaged. No, Grandma, she's not a cradle-robbing cougar. She's a 22-year-old senior; a three-year age difference is irrelevant. I can't wait to get this semester over with and marry Laura in August before she starts her teaching job. I hope you, my future self, are having a much better year than 19-year-old me. Sincerely,

Almanzo, 2019

Dear 19-year-old Almanzo,
Boo-f*cking-hoo, you ungrateful pr*ck. You're a first-year in college! You're living the best time of your life! Twenty pages is nothing. Just drink an extra hydrated Redbull and spend a night on it. Of course you don't have as strong of friends as in high school yet. It's only been a year. And how dare you insult Sebastian like that; he's more Edward Scissorhands than Wednesday Addams. He was also one of your best friends and a groomsman at your wedding. Speaking of which, listen to your family. Do not marry Laura! She'll bring you nothing but pain from which you'll never recover. You're in the golden age of Almanzo right now. I'm a senior in college, and it's absolute hell. I'm working on two capstone projects for my two majors and both are due next week. I have no free time for friends between my job and all my assignments. And I made the brilliant f*cking idea to lie my sophomore year about being a licensed psychiatrist, so now I must keep up that act and teach a 400-level psychology course, which I myself am also enrolled in. Life is terrible, and I wish more than anything that I could go back to where you are again and hang out worry-free with my friends.

Sincerely,
"Doctor" Almanzo, 2022

Dear 22-year-old Almanzo,
I want to kick you in your youthful, stupid face. You're 22. That's the age Taylor Swift romanticizes about! You're living the life. Stop crying about Laura! She was your first wife. That barely counts as a relationship. I'm on my third wife, and I have four children. Do you know how many episodes of *Rick and Morty* Season 21 I've seen? Three, and it's been out for two months. That's how much free time I've had in total: 66 minutes. I haven't seen any friends in three years. I wish I was working on a capstone project. Try 16 years of a 9-to-5. I haven't slept in weeks because of my infant daughter. The toddler twins just figured out how to use Uber Eats on my phone and spent \$3,400 on T.G.I. Friday's (yes, somehow, they're still around in 2038) cheese sticks. My eldest son just came out as a baseball player. How the hell am I supposed to relate to him? And how many goddamn youth sports games will I be required to go to over the next decade? Why couldn't he just be in the school musical like a normal kid? I would give all 27 strands of hair remaining on my head to spend an hour being 22 again. Shut the f*ck up and enjoy it.

Sincerely,
Almanzo, 2038

Dear 38-year-old Almanzo,
If only I could hold your young, still-strong hand, I would bite your thumb off and spit it in your face. You're living in 2038 with your lovely wife and your four children. That's the setting of my dreams every night. I live in 2055, and the world has gone to sh*t. You haven't seen your friends in years; they all died when Ohio sank back into the ocean in 2046. You better give your wife and daughters a hug, because my wife and daughters left me to join the Amazonians when society finally realized men were redundant in 2049. Stay at your calm 9-to-5; I beg of you! I had a mid-life crisis at 50 and decided to pursue my dreams of cloning real-life velociraptors. Congratulations, Dr. A, you were right: Raptors aren't chickens. They're badass; so badass that they've devoured 12% of the U.S./Canadian population. The only state that's safe is Vermont, which I'd rather die than live in. And my son, my sweet boy Charlie (short for Charizard), died heroically, saving me from velociraptors with his bat. How I wish I would have shown more interest in his hobbies. If I had played baseball with him in the backyard more, maybe I'd be strong enough to save him from those Jurassic beasts. My only companion now is Stu, the same Stu that Laura left me for. And you know what? He's actually a chill dude. How many years did we waste hating this gentle man? So, all three of you: Stop whining about the bland and annoying aspects of life, because one day you'll realize those are the best parts. Take a deep breath, and acknowledge the blessings in your life, because one day you'll lose those blessings one way or another. Go hug your parents, your friends, your current wife, your children, Sebastian, Percy the fish, your classmates, your students, Stu, Olivia Rodrigo and everyone of importance in your life. Love is the only thing that lasts.

Sincerely,
Almanzo, 2055



Dear 55-year-old Almanzo,
You thought velociraptors were bad...?