

XAVIER REVIEW



Frank Nugent '15 and Jack DeFuria '15
Staff Reporters

It was a dreary seventh period at 1:15 P.M. on September 25th when the whole Xavier community heard word from Mr. Livigni about the passing of Mr. Gerard Walker. In the eight years that Mr. Walker spent at Xavier, he was a major presence in all aspects of the community, immersing himself wholeheartedly in each endeavor he took part in—as Athletic Director, teacher, coach, mentor, Kairos retreat leader, friend, husband, and loving father. Mr. Walker was a man of great integrity and loyalty, an individual who influenced the lives of countless Xavier students, colleagues, family members, and friends who had the opportunity to get to know his fun-loving persona.

Mr. Walker, frequently referred to as “Rod” by family and friends, was born on July 31st, 1953 in Brooklyn. A graduate of Brooklyn Prep and Fordham University, Mr. Walker was familiar to Jesuit education before coming to Xavier. He credited his Jesuit education for giving him his Christian roots and shaping him as a person. In 2004, after a long career in health

care administration, he joined the Xavier Football staff as the coach of the freshman football team. In 2005, he became the head JV Football coach. That year, he was named Xavier’s Athletic Director, which he humbly referred to as an “improbable miracle.”

Mr. Walker greatly impacted the athletic program at Xavier during his tenure. He touched the hearts of his fellow coaches and players with his renowned sense of humor and overall jovial attitude. Current JV Football coach Jonathon Cambras said, “Rod Walker is the reason why I am involved in Xavier Athletics. If it were not for him, I wouldn’t have been able to coach any of teams that I have been a part of at Xavier. He was a really good guy, and I am truly going to miss him.” To honor their former coach, the JV Football team all signed a football with the score of their winning game opener against Fordham on it, 16-8, and sent it to Mr. Walker as a gift, because as Coach Cambras adds, “there was nothing that Rod Walker loved more than beating Fordham.” The Xavier athletic teams dedicated their success on the weekend of the funeral to Mr. Rod Walker. The Varsity Football team beat Cardinal Hayes 41-14, while the JV Football team beat Mount Saint Michael 8-6. Varsity Football coach Christopher Stevens stated, “Rod was generous, loyal, gregarious, loving, fun, and supportive. He was a true football guy.” In addition, the Varsity Track

team placed 6th at the McQuaid Invitational in Rochester, NY. These performances were efforts that showcased how far the programs have come under Mr. Walker’s leadership. His influence at Xavier is not only seen on the sports field, but more importantly, on the coaches and players with whom he worked.

The spirit that Rod Walker imbued at Xavier was truly genuine. Mr. Walker led the teams he coached with enthusiasm, passion, supportiveness, and a sense of humor. When asked to reflect on Mr. Walker’s influence in his life, Senior Evan Toucey '13 said, “Mr. Walker was a great coach and mentor for all of us here at Xavier. His continuously positive attitude fueled our determination to do well, not only in our sports, but in the way we carry ourselves and build our character.” Mr. Walker’s positivity and enthusiasm followed him off the field and through the halls of Xavier; he would greet everyone he met with the same passionate and caring attitude. President John Raslowsky said in the Xavier Alumni newsletter, “It may have been a smaller proportion of time, but Rod always felt it was a privilege and a blessing to be at Xavier.” President Raslowsky remembers Mr. Walker saying, “Thank God for my time at Xavier; the boys, their families, the coaches, and the faculty and staff were just the best people I ever met.”

(continued on page 2)

15th Street Building Progress

Kevin Ko '15
Staff Reporter

My fellow Xavier students, we may have all heard bits and pieces of the rumored expansion project regarding a new building on 15th street. In fact, we have already experienced many of the arguably obnoxious and clamorous sounds of drilling, clanking, and the occasional booming reverberation due to the construction work that is in progress. Truth be told, progress is exactly the discussion in light of this new building that is destined to be the next substantial addition to the Xavier campus in over a 100 years. Taking into account a recent interview with our school president, Mr. Raslowsky, many of these mysteries will be answered with gathered information on the current developments of this additional building.



Without a doubt, many of the faculty members have quite been optimistic on the construction activity, in expectation that the extra space will be more than worth the wait and inconvenience. Well, what does this ‘extra space’ specifically entail? Fortunately, our student body will be pleased to know that there will not only be more classrooms, but also more common spaces for lounging, studying, sport practices, and school events. As stated by Mr. Raslowsky, the main objective during the planning process was to find a way to optimize the usage of the space in an effort to benefit the daily student life as well as relieving any issues regarding crowdedness.

“I am convinced that many of the students are aware of the high congestion within the hallways during those four treacherous minutes between periods. So one of the longing benefits, mandated by our large student body size, has been to redirect traffic into this new building and alleviate the congestion in our current arrangement.” Of course, we should never forget our valued teachers and faculty members who will be delighted to hear that a majority of the faculty will be assigned their own home-rooms. Teachers would dramatically benefit from this adjustment, such that students can

easily locate their teachers without any mayhem of the sorts. In addition, teachers would be able to establish a ‘home-base’ within their

(continued on
page 2)

Rod Walker

(continued from page 1)

At the funeral, the whole Xavier community came together not only to mourn the passing of a sincere, light-hearted man, but also to celebrate his life, his achievements, his great personality, and the amazing courage he showed during his battle with Cancer. Father James Van Dyke asserted in his Homily that “Rod was the kind of guy who would make the best out of a bad situation. For example, his Facebook statuses once said, ‘It is pouring rain out today, and there is great thunder approaching. Thank God.’” Father Hederman, S.J. remarked, “It was like the whole community came together to help each other get through the loss. It really showed a sense of brotherhood in that everyone has each other’s back when something goes wrong.” Even though Mr. Walker and the Xavier community knew that he was seriously

ill, he did not take for granted any moment that was given to him. Instead, he made each moment spectacular and memorable. Still, the announcement on that September day left everyone at Xavier speechless, grieving the death of an amazing faculty member. He may no longer be with us, but will never be forgotten. Mr. Walker’s legacy is carried on through the people who have been touched by his spirit over the years. He leaves behind his wife Joan, three children in Kristen, Lindsay, and Matthew, his father Gerard, Sr., his sister Mary Grace Savage, his godfather Henry Bryan, and a host of family and friends.

Mr. Walker serves as an amazing example for how we should live our lives everyday. He left us with extremely wise words that he told as the keynote speaker at the com-

mencement for the graduating class of 2011: “You are about to graduate from a school that is completely authentic and that’s somewhat rare these days. Xavier is the real thing. Often times you may not realize what you have until it’s gone, and in the future, make sure you take full pride in your successes no matter what.”



Xavier E-News

Commotion on 15th St (continued from page 1)

classroom, remaining stationary to avoid the tedious and frustrating migration from room to room every 40 minutes.

Although this remarkable edifice certainly is a revolutionary experience for the school, there is still a multitude of work to be done. As of right now, the basic and key component of the building process has been completed, which was the layout of the foundation. That is not to say that up to this stage there have not been any troubles along the road. For example, water residing on the site of the foundation delayed the construction process for more than a couple weeks. There has also been some major difficulty with transporting the heavy

equipment, due to a host of work in progress within the same vicinity as well as some minor delays in scheduling. In retrospect however, there has not been any drastic obstacles that have delayed the plans for more than a couple weeks. In fact, the estimated time of arrival is the spring of 2015 at the very earliest and the availability of more portions of the new building towards the fall. From now until 2015, the upcoming steps, in terms of constructions, involve the installment of the steel infrastructure, which will take approximately 6 months or more, adding concrete floors and walls, and lastly working on the

interior layout. In spite of the idea that this may seem like a 3-year project from here on out, this is actually just an integrated part of a master plan, which is targeted to take 20-25 years in total. In other words, constant changes will be made to not just the 15th street building itself, but also all the current buildings and common places throughout the next two or three decades.

Such an addition has never been performed before for over a century in Xavier’s history. This additional building for the school community will set the new standard for future Xavier students to obtain a superior learning experience and a stronger sense of community.

Maroon and Blue Day VI Crowns Blue as Champs

David Fonseca ‘14
Staff Reporter

On Friday, October 12th, the Xavier community eagerly gathered together to celebrate the six year tradition of Maroon and Blue Day. This year, the Maroon side comprised of the Juniors and Freshmen, while the Blue side consisted of the Seniors and Sophomores. After opening remarks from Mr. Ventrella, Mr. LiVigni, and a prayer from Father Rivera, the competition was set to begin. The Blue team was fervently seeking revenge for their disappointing loss to the Maroon team last year. They got off to a quick start as they easily captured wins in the Costume competition and the “Make Some Noise” contest. However, the Maroon team bounced back quickly as they solidified wins in all three events of the tug-of-war matches: the male faculty, the female faculty, and student matches.

Before the festivities of the day, faculty members secretly prepared for a “flash mob” on the gym floor. The student body excitedly cheered as they watched their teachers dance to hit songs such as “Gangnam Style” and “Teach Me How to Dougie”. As this surprise concluded, Maroon and Blue alike were set to go about the day with high-spirits and great excitement.

The competition was fierce throughout the whole morning. From a three on three basketball tournament in the main gym, to the activities laid out on 16th street, Maroon and Blue each battled it out for top position. Large crowds gathered around



Xavier students ready for the annual competition to begin

Xavier E-News

the boxing ring and high striker, which were among the most popular activities, as the students tried to rally points for their respective teams.

When everyone eventually gathered together in the gym, Xavier’s Got Talent was prepared to showcase itself for the very first time. Everyone was anxious to see the talent that would be involved. Representing the Maroon side, Angel Alvarado ‘14, Nick Velez ‘14, and Ben Profaci ‘14 grouped up in a rock performance. Representing the Blue side, Sean de Los Santos ‘15 electrified the crowd on both sides. with his yo-yo performance. Also a member of the Blue team, Matthew Langaman ‘13 captivated the audience with his break-dancing. After these performances,

the judges - Mr. LiVigni, Ms. Velazquez and Mr. Walsh, crowned sophomore Sean de Los Santos as winner of Xavier’s Got Talent.

As the scores from the day’s competitions were being tallied up, both teams waited apprehensively to hear the results. Celebration roared from the blue side as Mr. Ventrella announced that the seniors and sophomores had won it all. The Blue side thus regained the title of Maroon and Blue Day Champions after a losing effort at last year’s event.

After the dust settled, Mr. Reinhart concluded the fun day by leading the entire Xavier body in singing “Sons of Xavier”, serving as a reminder that Xavier is not divided by maroon or blue, but rather united as a single community.

Five New Teachers and One New Counselor Welcomed to 16th Street

Henry Cooke '15
Editor

Every instructor who has taught for countless years at Xavier High School has had their "first day", a day in which they gathered their first impressions of Xavier and realized their love of teaching here on 16th Street. Whether it be Xavier veteran Michael Wlach, who concluded his thirty-seven year run last year, or Mr. Vargas, a Spanish teacher of more than thirty years, every current staff member likely remembers this day vividly when they fell in love with Xavier and the art of teaching.

This year, six newcomers begin their career at Xavier High School; five of them joining the departmental teaching staff, while one is set to join Xavier's college counseling division, and possibly even begin a long and successful career at the greatest high school in the city.

Ms. Cynthia DeRose, Algebra 1, Geometry

Ms. DeRose arrives with both a masters from Fordham University and a B.A. from Colgate as she excitingly begins her year instructing mathematics. Ms. DeRose commented on her first impression to the school: "I feel very welcomed at Xavier. The staff and students have made me feel like I am already part of a community that supports one another and works well together." Ms. DeRose lives in Westchester with her husband and two daughters, Madison and Emma, both 16 and 13 respectively, and her golden retriever Sierra. When not working or enjoying time with her family, you can find Ms. DeRose practicing yoga, her favorite leisure exercise.

Fr. Jim Hederman, S.J., Religion 9, 10

Fr. Hederman is a welcome addition to the Jesuit community of teachers at Xavier High School. Graduating from Boston College with masters in Divinity Studies and Theology, and Downstate SUNY with an M.D., Fr. Hederman discovered his call to work with young people while being a soccer coach during high school. "[Coaching] led to my desire to work with kids, then my interest in medicine and working in adolescent psychiatry. My Jesuit life then allowed work in the campus ministry, my presence in the classroom, and more than thirty five Kairos retreats. Fr. Hederman is thankful to Xavier for teaching him & his inaugural student leader team from Fairfield Prep Kairos over sixteen years ago.

Mr. Joseph Korfmacher, College Guidance

Mr. Korfmacher is new to the college guidance board of Xavier, continuing to assist young men proceed into the larger world of adulthood. Mr. Korfmacher graduated from Seton Hall University with masters in school counseling along with a B.S. in sociology. Mr. Korfmacher was an avid player of rugby in his college years, and will be coaching here at Xavier. Save the date: Mr. Korfmacher also will be getting married come October 2013.

Ms. Mayce Makani, Spanish 1, 2

This year, Ms. Makani joins the Xavier language department. Ms. Makani graduated from NYU with a masters degree in education plus UCSD with a B.A. in International Studies & Linguistics. Ms. Makani is very excited to be apart of a school where "students and faculty work together."

(continued on page 4)

Xavier Debate Prepares for Second Year



courtesy of Mr. Bill Gallagher

James Raleigh '14
Staff Reporter

Xavier takes home 3rd Place at the first major tournament of the new school year

upperclassmen are providing for the new members, these

With alumni like Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia '53, the Xavier Speech and Debate Team has a great legacy to live up to. Last year, the team met some of these expectations when the current President Malik Horton and the Vice President, yours truly, were awarded with 9th and 19th places in the State Championship. This occasion marked the first time that Xavier attended the tournament in 10 years. This year, our school hopes to send more students to the State Championship and perhaps send some to the elite National Tournament.

Luckily for the team, Xavier is a school that promotes academic and extracurricular excellence, qualities that allowed students in the club to excel last year. This year marks the second year since our team was reinstated. Members of the team compete in various categories, including Student Congress, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Oral Interpretation of Literature. Student Congress is perhaps the most diverse of the categories, with a wide range of topics pertaining to legal, moral, and ethical issues. Last year, team members were given the opportunity to travel to and compete at some of the most elite universities in the United States, including Harvard and Columbia. While the congress team excelled last year, Head Coach Mr. Walsh points out that "Categories like extemporaneous speaking and prose/poetry are becoming much more popular this year.

categories are going to be very successful." The newest members this year have shown in the first few weeks that they are informed, intelligent, and committed, three elements that Xavier has been encouraging in its youth since the founding of the school.

One of the major reasons for the team's early success has been its dedicated coaches. One such coach, Bill Gallagher '95, when asked about this year's recurring topics stated that "We will be debating warrantless wiretapping, the second amendment, and violence in Syria." When asked about the potential of this year's team, he responded, "This year, the sky is the limit. The new class is very impressive and the returning members act as great mentors." Fellow Coach Jeremy Norris '98 also stated, "Last year, there was so much improvement, and so much success, from so many of our guys. Despite this, there were only one or two "wow" moments, where you could tell right away that someone was going to be special. This year, it's been immediately obvious that there's a ton of potential." Both Mr. Norris and Mr. Gallagher play important roles on the team, but not without help. Head Coach Mr. Walsh has been absolutely instrumental to the success of the team. It is largely because of the coaches' leadership that Xavier Speech and Debate is a team worth joining.

If you have any questions about the team or are interested in public speaking, politics, or current events, talk to Mr. Walsh in 5L6 during home-room hours or 4D6 during practice. The team practices every Tuesday after school with addi-



From Left to Right : Mr. Korfmacher, Mr. Petri, Ms. DeRose, Ms. Makani, Fr. Hederman, S.J., and Mr. Wendel

courtesy of Xavier E-News

New Teachers

(continued from page 3)

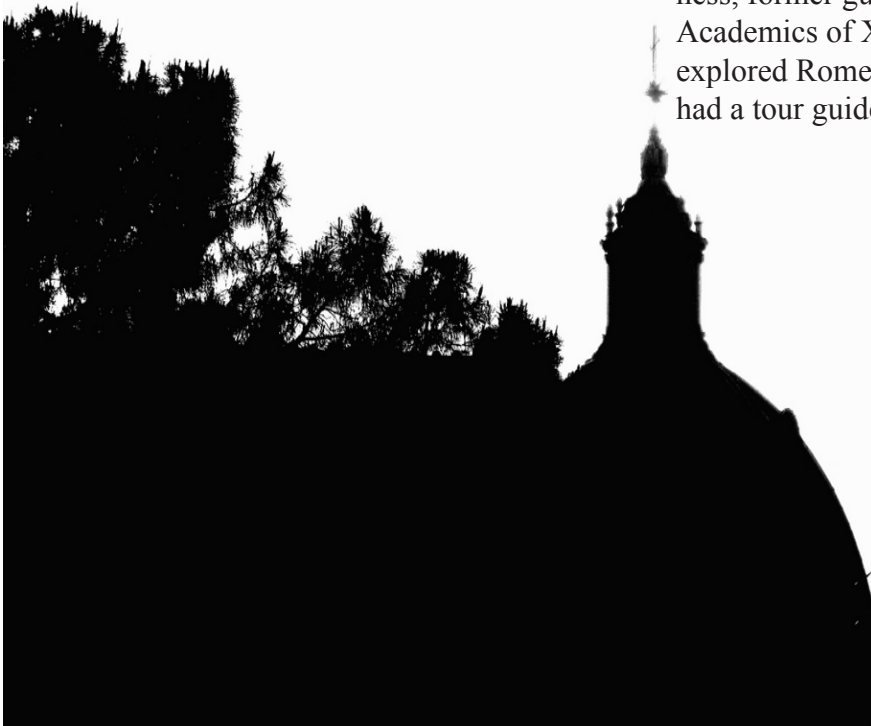
education plus UCSD with a B.A. in International Studies & Linguistics. Ms. Makani is very excited to be apart of a school where “students and faculty work together and learn inside and outside of class.”

Mr. Michael Petri '02, *Physics I, Biology*
A Xavier Knight from the past, Mr. Petri returns to his high school after acquiring a B.A. in Life Science from Penn State. “It’s an amazing feeling to be back at Xavier. The school and the people here made such a profound impact on my life. I’m just really happy to have the opportunity to give something back to the Xavier community.”

Mr. Paul Wendel-Director of Ignatian Service Program, *Religion II*

Mr. Wendel fills a significant position at Xavier High School, for becoming Director of the Ignatian Service Program, Mr. Wendel will continue the “central focus on social justice and service at Xavier.” Attending both a Jesuit high school (Loyola High School of Los Angeles) and Jesuit college (Boston College), Mr. Wendel graduated from Harvard University Graduate School of Education with a masters in Higher Ed. Administration. He said, “The Jesuit philosophies of educating ‘men and women for others’ and focusing on education of the whole person, ‘cura personalis,’ have always resonated strongly with me. I am excited to return to my roots at a Jesuit high school and look forward to being a part of the Xavier community.”

Once again, from all Xavier students and staff, welcome to Xavier! We wish you prosperity and happiness as you embark on your career of education at 16th street. As the lyrics go, Maroon and blue will see you



The Travels of Father Louis Garaventa, S.J.



John Settineri '13
Staff Reporter

As some of you may know, one of our teachers, Father Louis Garaventa, S.J. did not teach last year. He was busy on his sabbatical, or his year off from teaching, and spent much of his time at the Jesuit Curia in Rome, Italy. So what did he do in Rome? He was commissioned to edit the Jesuit journal *Archivum Historicum Societatis Iesu* while staying with a group of Jesuits from all over the world. Some of these Jesuits worked in the infirmary while others worked in the Vatican Radio. However, he found the locales of Italy much more exciting than the Jesuits in the Curia, who were mostly Northern European.

The local regions of Italy were much more inviting to Father Garaventa. In Rome, he flocked to buildings that were of the Renaissance, Baroque, and fascist style. He walked virtually everywhere, even all around Pisa in a day. He made many overnight trips to places such as Umbria, Genoa, and even met his family in Piacenza. And, he even met Mr. Harkness, former guidance counselor and Dean of Academics of Xavier High School. The two explored Rome better than they would if they had a tour guide----they went up

to the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica, went to the Acquadotto, and even went near Cine Citta’, the film capital in Italy.

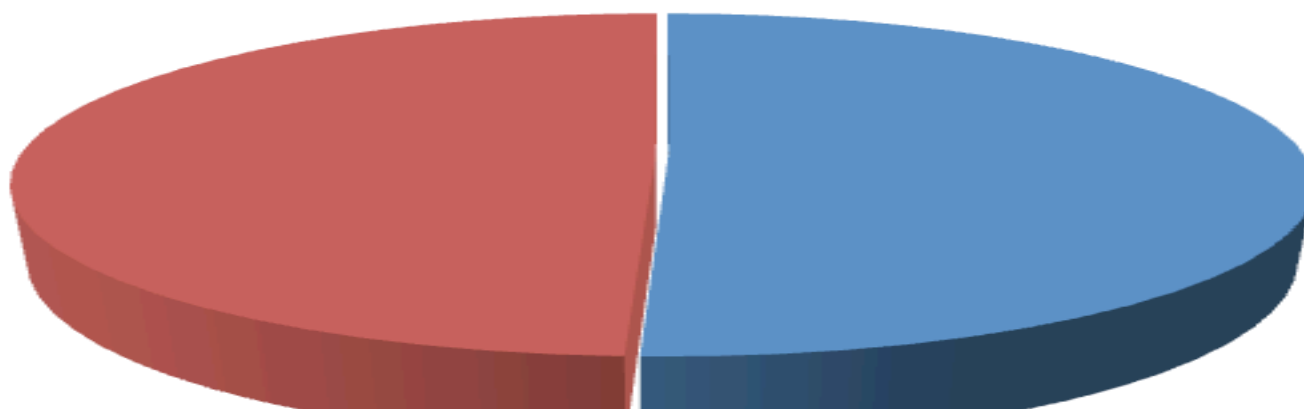
Some Xavier students saw Father Garaventa as he went on Xavier’s Europe trip to Spain. From there, he went to Germany, and saw Charlemagne’s tomb, and then came back to Genoa.

In Genoa, Father encountered some old family, but also was mistaken for Genoese several times. The locals continually bombarded him with Genoese dialects and Italian to which, luckily, Father was able to respond. Then, he came back to the Curia in Rome.

Did Father encounter any interesting people on his journey? He met the Jesuit Superior General, Adolfo Nicolas, who he described as “an interesting, nice fellow, who spoke a little English, and had many experiences across the world, especially in Asia and Africa.” Was Father Garaventa homesick at all? When speaking to him, he stated, “I wasn’t really homesick, because I always knew I would come back home to teach.” However, he did miss the feel of the classroom and the feel of teaching history once again, and after he flew from Heathrow Airport in London back home in New York, he felt good to be home.



Short Order Days- Monday or Thursday?



Results of a Survey of
493 Xavier Students

■ Monday: 51%
■ Thursday: 49.8%

State of the School

SC PRESIDENT TIMOTHY KELLY '13 ADDRESSES THE STUDENT BODY

To the Xavier Community,

Hello everyone; welcome back to 16th street and to a new school year. The student council and I look forward to a productive and dynamic next ten months here at Xavier. The gears of planning and organizing started moving late last school year and my Cabinet and I are eager to hit the ground running and jump right in to fulfilling our duties as the representatives of the student body.

Our overall goal for the next year is to enhance the student experience here at Xavier and make a lasting impression on our school as it celebrates its one hundred sixty-fifth year of education. However, this task is not as easy as one might think. I write this letter to ask for the help of the student body. The student council needs

your opinion on what you think this school needs and what the students need as a community. There are no dim-witted opinions, except the ones that are not expressed and heard. This year, we will need the help of every senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman. If you think your opinion does not matter, we hope to prove you wrong.

If the student body is receptive to what we have to say and do, if the student body unites and acts as one unit, the student council will be able to do more that it has every done before. We look forward to donating to more charities than ever before (which include the Wounded Warrior Project, the Jesuit Relief Services, and the Ronald McDonald House), receiving the suggestions of out classmates, and creating a community of

Sons of Xavier. So far, the soda can tab collection for Shriner's Hospital for Children is off to a great start. In the first week alone, we collected over five hundred tabs; however, this is only a fraction of what we can be doing. Every week, about 3,000 cans are recycled through Xavier's cafeteria and only one sixth of the tabs are being collected. Just think about it, we can be donating six times more than what we are currently donating.

Once again, welcome back to Xavier for another successful year and remember that the Student Council cannot wait to hear your opinions and put them into action. We need your help and support. United, there is nothing that we cannot do or accomplish.

Xavier Fall Sports Strong as Always

William Dunn '13
Staff Reporter

It has already been a couple of months into the school year, and the Xavier Athletics Department is already in the full of swing of things. Soccer, football, and cross country teams have already enjoyed some early season success.

The varsity soccer team kicked off with a 1-0 victory over Iona Prep on the way to a solid 9-4-2 record, good enough for second in their division (they trail rival Fordham Prep by only two points). Their captains, midfielder Matt De La Ossa, forward Trystan Montero, and goalkeeper Sal Borgognone lead the varsity team. This marking his fourth year on the team, Montero has the most experience; he leads the team in scoring with six goals. The team, as a whole, has played well to start off the season, and still has plenty of game time to lead the standings. The JV squad is still improving from its 3-7 start. Xavier's soccer teams should expect a solid

run into the postseason. The football teams have enjoyed early season success on all levels. The freshman squad has started off 2-1, posting two shutouts in their first 3 games. The JV team has shown early season toughness, compiling a 2-2 record, winning each game by one score or less. The varsity team has had quite an impressive season at 6-2 as of November 9th. Led by their four captains, Ricky Comis, Connor Sweet, Jimmy Wolfer, and William "Tre" Solomon, Xavier has dominated the competition. In each of their first 3 victories, the team has posted 258 points. The defense is not to be unnoticed, giving up no more than 14 points in seven of their eight games. Solomon has made his mark this season, averaging eight yards per carry on two hundred and three rushes. The team has all the necessary tools to make a run in the playoffs and, possibly, a victory at this year's Turkey Bowl. Xavier's cross-country has enjoyed a start like no other in the team's

history. After the varsity's sixth place finish at the McQuaid Invitational, armorytrack.com ranked the team 11th in the state, and number one in New York City. The varsity seven includes captains Isidro Camacho, Nick Karam, and Jimmy Buckley, as well as senior Braham Berg, juniors Jordan Berka and Eliot Kaufmann, and sophomore John Rice. The sophomore and JV teams are both enjoying success on their own levels, with three of them already under the 15:00 barrier at Van Courtland Park, and over five more knocking at the door. The freshmen, led by Christian Raslowksy, have had a strong start, as well. In Mr. Dormer's 20th season as the helm, Xavier's XC may just be at its best ever.

This fall, Xavier's athletics have jumped out to strong starts. All athletes have been improving day by day, week by week, and it is shown out on the field. There is still time for improvement as teams begin to look toward their playoffs and championship seasons.

courtesy of Dominic Ricciardi of MSG Varsity



courtesy of Elio Velez of MSG Varsity



courtesy of xavierhs.org

Xavier Decides 2012



Liam Coles '15
Staff Reporter

Winston Churchill once said, "Politics is not a game. It is an earnest business." And there is not a more earnest businessman for politics than former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. Polling shows that the bitter race between Obama and Romney is growing closer; in fact, seven of eleven major polls show Romney to be leading by up to four percent (according to Real Clear Politics). Considering the current state of the economy, Romney is clearly the perfect person for the position of president at this point in American history. As is evident in both his policies and experience, Governor Romney exhibits great competency in dealing with the challenges facing the next president.

Mr. Romney has the makings of a great president. As head of the executive branch of government, the president needs to be a talented executive, and that is precisely what Governor Romney has been all of his professional life. With his law and business graduate degrees from Harvard University, he has an impeccable track record for being exceptionally educated. Romney used his degrees to found and lead the highly successful private equity firm, Bain Capital, to run companies and create jobs. He left his thriving company when offered the CEO position of the troubled XIX Olympic Winter Games, which was in desperate need of strong leadership to recover from scandal and severe financial struggles. Mr. Romney fixed its problems and then went on to be elected governor of Massachusetts, propelling the state out of economic hardship. Governor Romney is a man who should become the leader of this country—a man who knows how to run a prosperous business. Running a country is not much different from running a company. Arguments claiming that he should not be elected due to his successes are quite hard to fathom, for being successful should recommend one to presidency, not disqualify one from such a position.

As far as his platform goes, Governor Romney has a firm grasp on how to run a country, which is evident in his policies. One of Governor Romney's strongest policies addresses the major concern of excessive national debt by cutting spending by 25%. The United States is in a total of \$16 trillion of national debt and Governor Romney's proposal will lower our budget to about 20% of our national GDP, as opposed to 35% where it currently remains. Also, Governor Romney, in a shrewd business maneuver, chose Paul Ryan, a known budget expert, as his vice presidential pick.

With all of this evidence showing support for Governor Romney's campaign, it is hard to lean towards Obama. Mitt Romney is an all-American success that has the skills, experience, and determination to take this country out of the dire economic abyss into which it has plunged that President Obama has shown he can not mitigate.

Editors' Note: *Due to Hurricane Sandy, the Review was unable to make its intended press date. Before the election, these two Xavier Students offered their opinion on who they wanted to see elected.*



Ryan Gilmartin '14
Staff Reporter

Barack Obama establishes himself as a "man of the people" rather than a wealthy bureaucrat that thinks of himself as "higher" than the general population. He runs a grassroots campaign that accentuates interaction with the many industries and employees that make up the American people. He is an articulate speaker and straightforward, a stark contrast to the corrupt and selfish leader that a politician is often portrayed as. He has the "upper hand" because he is experienced, having served one term already. Mr. Obama's main goal is to work for the "greater good of the people" and make positive changes to our country rather than make empty promises by working with Congress.

Following the economic collapse in 2008, the Obama administration put in place a series of stimulus packages for some of the nation's largest companies. Obama's healthcare plan, the Affordable Care Act, intends to reduce healthcare spending and deficits while stimulating its delivery and the amount of it to American citizens, serving as a better alternative to Republican plans. He also intends to keep car companies in business to save them from dreaded bankruptcy. This has proved to be a smart decision as Chrysler reported a 12% increase in sales with Obama in office. Although his economic policies may require a lot of spending, Obama feels that it is the necessary thing to do to reform the country and restore it to a prosperous nation it is known to be.

In its mission to spread democracy worldwide, the United States has involved itself in much international conflict, resulting in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama's policy on this corresponds with the general public's stance on these conflicts, contempt and he has acted on this policy. He has proceeded to withdraw troops from these two areas to wind down fighting on both fronts. These wars have been a detriment to the country as it has drained finances and cost a lot of American lives. This money should be focused on rebuilding the country and spent internally on reforming the infrastructure within.

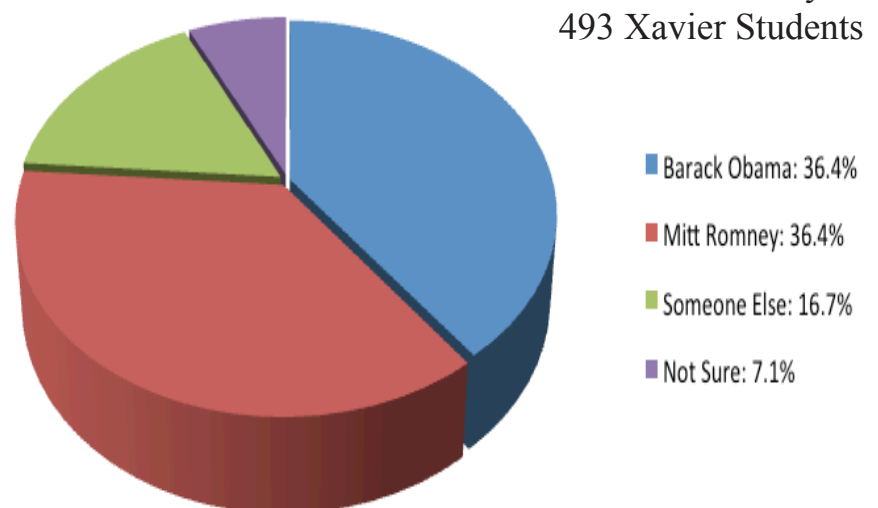
A country in recovery needs a leader to step up and work to improve the country rather than further personal agendas. He also needs to be sympathetic to the masses and a representative of the majority of citizens. Obama has shown in the last four years that he is the clear choice for the upcoming election as he is the closest to this ideal candidate. He is a virtuous individual with a well-formed conscience and a good head on his shoulders. So, for those of us who can vote come November 6th, please keep in mind this quote from the president. As he so eloquently stated, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Demetri Sofides '14

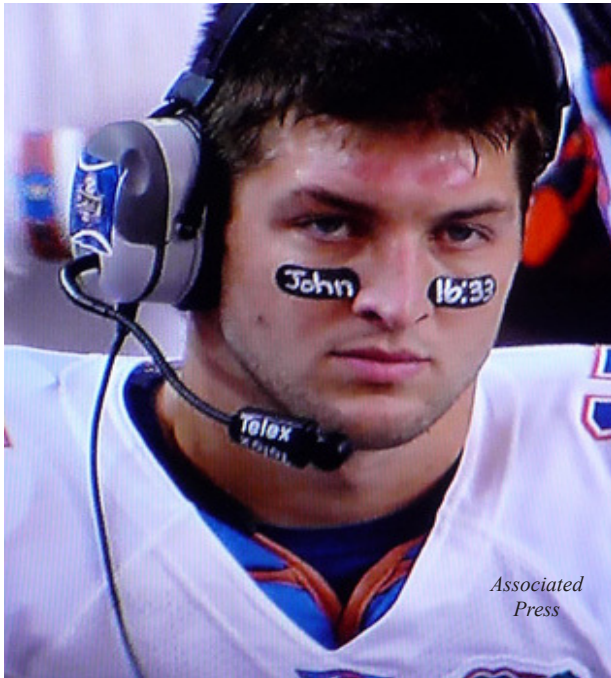


Presidential Election- Who would you have voted president in the 2012 Presidential Election?

Results of Survey of 493 Xavier Students



What Tebowmania Says About Religion in Sports



James Gallagher '14
Editor

Religion and Sport are innately connected. Whether you are a Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, or even an atheist this is a simple fact that must be accepted. This innate connection can be seen in Ancient Greece where athletes prayed to the gods before big sporting events. That same connection can also be seen in Tim Tebow "Tebowing." Even Bills wide receiver Stevie Johnson represents it well when he infamously tweeted to God after a big overtime dropped pass, "I PRAISE YOU 24/7!!!!!! AND THIS HOW YOU DO ME!!!!!! YOU EXPECT ME TO LEARN FROM THIS???. HOW???.!!! ILL NEVER FORGET THIS!! EVER!!! THX THO." Yet, although that last bit garnered a bit of negative media attention, no athlete has ever been as polarizing a figure as Tim Tebow. Everyone has an opinion on the Jets backup QB. You love him or you hate him, there is no middle ground. So, why is his outward faith so controversial? This is a question more complex than it may seem and the answer really gets at the overall view of religion in society.

Altar serving for the Cardinal at St. Patrick's Cathedral has its advantages, with one of them being the opportunity to hear Cardinal Dolan speak during his intriguing homilies. One such homily was wrapped around the idea that good Catholics don't necessarily "wear their religion on their sleeve", but rather they are willing to stand up for their faith when it

is called into question. His homily is easily relatable to "Tebowmania" and why so many have taken issue with it. People take issue with Tim Tebow not because he wears God on his sleeve, but because he doesn't have the skill set to back up all the hype about his religious beliefs.

This says a lot about religion in sports and about society as a whole. It is a bit alarming that someone has to have football skills in order to voice their religious beliefs in the sporting world. The same applies for the rest of society. Someone should not have to "back up" their openness about their faith on any platform. Other football players have been openly religious. For example Kurt Warner, the Super Bowl winning quarterback for the Rams and later a member of the Cardinals. Yet his openness about God was a nonissue. This was because he was an extremely talented, successful NFL quarterback. Someone should not have to be a talented NFL quarterback or a successful business man or successful at anything in order to speak of their faith. In a country with many atheists and where thousands of campaigns are in effect to amend our dollar bills and our Pledge to exclude God, we must remember that America is largely a Christian nation, and it is even more so a religious nation. This nation was built around God and the idea that no religion should be persecuted. Now, let me say that Tim Tebow is not being "persecuted", but rather he is being unfairly treated by some because of his open-mindedness about his spiritual life. While Cardinal Dolan would probably say that the best Christians aren't necessarily outward about their faith, our society is not heading in the right direction in regards to religion.

While Tebow's situation is definitely a unique one, we can certainly take it and see that it perfectly reflects American society's declining acceptance of outward religious faith. Such a decline is a problem. While some may say Tim Tebow's stats from last do not justify all the hype, he should not be criticized for his outward faith in God. Just because he may not be the greatest football player of all time does not mean he can not "Tebow" after touchdowns or scribble John 3:16 on his eye black. A world in which those actions are problems is a world I do not want to live in.

No More Gun Control

Joe Rovito '15
Staff Reporter

Considering the recent tragedies in Aurora, Colorado and the common gang shootings that have occurred lately, it is a natural response to believe that firearms are the problem. The case made by those who support gun control is that firearms cause too much violence and must be banned. They also claim that if we ban firearms, violence rates will drop. Again, it is natural to think this, but in reality, it is the exact opposite. The fact that gun control deters crime is an undeniable myth and its flaws must be exposed. I do understand the saying is cliché, but "Guns don't kill people, people kill people" holds a lot of truth.

As students taught at a Jesuit School, we are educated about ethical issues and logical decisions—two factors that play large roles in this debate. From foreign policies to crime on the streets, we always want the most peaceful way out of a situation. Though this is true, we have to recognize that legal ownership of firearms does not contradict our stance. In an interview on 20/20, Tom Palmer, a man who sued Washington, DC based on their restrictive gun laws, said that when DC put gun control into effect, crime rates went up. Statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that Palmer is right: the murder rate (in Washington DC) per 100,000 people increased from 20 in 1977 to 80 in 1995. This happened even while America's murder rate, as a whole, dropped during those years.



We also have to look onto the economic aspect. According to a Washington Times article published on January 6, 2012, "Gun control is killing jobs." Richard Diamond, the author of the article, says that removing restrictive gun laws will benefit our economy. Businesses don't know when to invest in the firearm industry because they are worried about the gun laws that might pass. The firearm industry is crucial to our economy, and taking it away would be failing the American people when they must rely on the economy the most.

Finally, we need to realize the freedoms we would lose from gun control. In the words of former President Ronald Reagan, "Government exists to protect us from each other. Where the government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves." Guns gave us our freedom from the British. Guns fought our way through Omaha Beach where our soldiers faced the tyrannous threat of Nazi Germany, a nation that notably had very strict gun control laws. Those patriots gave their lives for our freedoms, and I feel it is the government's obligation to protect those freedoms today.

Xavier High School is a Jesuit institution serving New York, the Church, and the nation since 1847.

30 W. 16th Street
New York, NY 10011-6302
Tel. (212) 924-7900

President Mr. John R. Raslowsky, II

Headmaster Mr. Michael LiVigni

Faculty Moderators Mr. Nick O'Shea
Ms. Kara Whelan

Layout Editor..... James Gallagher '14

Editors Harry Cooke '15
Braham Berg '13
Demitri Sofides '14
Nick Inglese '15

Editors' Note : The Review editors are responsible for revising and approving all content within the paper. Please email them with any suggestions, questions or comments at reviewxhs@gmail.com.

View the Review online at
<http://www.xavierhs.org/review>

Borderlands 2 - Bazillions of Guns

Demetri Sofides '14
Editor

When the original *Borderlands* was released by Gearbox Software in 2009, it was accompanied by a single premise: lots of guns. It quite lived up to this expectation, featuring a randomizing AI that could populate the world with up to 987,564 unique guns and weapons. It was also applauded for its cartoony art style, very much a rarity among the company of the bloody first-person shooters that are so very popular in today's games market. The rampant success of the game practically mandated a sequel; thus, following the trend, *Borderlands 2* advertised itself with the slogan, "A Bazillion Weapons Just Got Bazilliondier." Despite the many ways in which that last word unnerves me, I can say without doubt that *Borderlands 2* is a worthy successor to the original, fulfilling that promise and many more.

Expanding off of this first topic, guns truly are the backbone of the game's universe. Within every container your character can open- whether it be an armory, a locker, a mailbox, or even an outhouse- you'll certainly find either guns, grenades, or ammunition. The guns themselves are also quite interesting; as was the case in the first game, there are different guns produced by different manufacturers, each of which has a distinct effect- for example, all guns made by the Torgue Corporation fire

explosive rounds; all of the Jakobs Corporation's guns fire unfailingly straight; and, most interestingly of all, the weapons forged by the Tediore Corporation all explode like grenades when thrown, regenerating in your hands shortly thereafter so you can keep on fighting. The process of constantly obtaining new weapons, sloughing off those you no longer need when you've discovered far better, truly quantifies your progress in the game.



If nothing else, I'm sure you've seen the four playable characters of *Borderlands 2*- they've made appearances on billboards, they've made appearances on billboards, television commercials, and even (if I was correctly informed) have their own themed Pandora Radio channels. These are Axton the Commando, Salvador the Gunserker, Maya the Siren, and Zer0 the Assassin; each with his or her own unique skill tree filled with amazing perks and abilities.

There are a few issues I had with the game, but they were few in number and mainly inconsequential; in fact, once the "tutorial" levels of the game were finished, they'd all faded away, nowhere to be found. In conclusion, *Borderlands 2* is an excellent game, full of stark, witty humor, a lovably dysfunctional yet totally amazing cast of characters, and more guns than you can shake a stick at. If any of that sounds appealing to you, then get this game right away.

Global Citizen Festival

Jack Harrington '13
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, September 29, over 60,000 people gathered on the Great Lawn in Central Park to attend the Global Citizen Festival. Featuring sets from Neil Young, Foo Fighters, The Black Keys, Band of Horses, and K'Naan, the Global Citizen Festival was created to use music as a way to rally support for multiple causes taking place in developing countries.

The event was headed by the Global Poverty Project, a charitable organization that is centered around the goal of eradicating extreme global poverty and relieving the 1.4 billion people who have been proven to live on \$1.25 a day. Tickets were free, but they had to be earned by creating an online Global Citizen account and earning "points" by signing petitions, sharing causes on Facebook, and taking other forms of action to support the project. After earning three points, participants had their names placed in a raffle. The more points somebody earned, the more likely he or she would win tickets through the raffle.

Following the great performances of K'Naan and Band of Horses, John Legend made an unannounced guest appearance. He sang his own version of John Lennon's "Imagine", a song of hope for the world that was perfectly fitting for this event. Next came The Black Keys, a garage rock duo that gives '70s blues rock a modern twist. They made sure not to waste a second, barely taking time to introduce themselves before beginning to play song after song of hard-hitting guitar riffs with few interruptions in between.

Probably the most anticipated act of the night, Foo Fighters did not disappoint to their thousands of screaming and energetic fans. They played songs from all different eras of their nearly two-decade long career, focusing mainly on their well-known late '90s to early '00s cornerstone singles. Frontman Dave Grohl made the announcement early on that the Central Park concert would be the last one they would schedule, possibly their last as a band. This made their set all the more emotional for fans; the entire audience joined in on all the lyrics, and no one could stand still in the sea of jumping people. Foo Fighters used their formula of songwriting and great playing that was hard to resist and made for a great live performance.

Finally, Neil Young headlined the festival with his band Crazy Horse. On their first tour together since 2004, these giants of classic rock brought veteran appeal to the lineup that was directed towards the overwhelmingly young audience. Though a noticeable number of people left after seeing Foo Fighters, those who stayed were treated to a performance that in some ways felt more like a jam session than a gig. The festival ended with an anthem-like rendition of "Rockin' In the Free World". Dave Grohl and many other band members from prior acts joined the stages to sing the chorus. The Global Citizen Festival lived up to its expectations and proved to be a performance that will be remembered for the ages.

Upcoming Movie Previews

Thomas Lally '15
Staff Reporter

On the ninth of November, another "retread" of the James Bond series, sporting familiar faces and unforgettable characters, will hit the big screens. The twenty-third film of the series has Daniel Craig reprise the role of James Bond in the new film, *Skyfall*. The brilliant Sam Mendes, director of "American Beauty", takes the reigns of the \$150 million film starring Academy Award winner Javier Bardem, who plays Bond's main antagonist. Judi Dench returns as M for her seventh consecutive Bond film. The all-star cast looks to deliver a box office hit in this Columbia Pictures revival with a captivating plot: James Bond is presumed dead after an operation goes awry. Soon MI6 is under attack, but while on the case to find out whose behind the scheme, Bond uncovers secrets from M's past that challenge his loyalty to her.

Additionally, the ninth of November marks the arrival of Abraham Lincoln. Daniel Day-Lewis is anticipated to deliver an Academy Award-worthy performance in the upcoming film, *Lincoln*. Based upon the last few months of his life, President Lincoln must fight within his own cabinet to abolish slavery and simultaneously deal with the unrelenting carnage that resides on the battlefields of the Civil War. Saving Private Ryan and critically acclaimed director Steven Spielberg directs the project that is anticipated by movie critics to contend for an Oscar this year. Inception's own Joseph Gordon-Levitt will be seen as the president's son, Todd, while Oscar winners Tommy Lee Jones and Sally Fields take on the roles of Thaddeus Stevens and Mary Todd Lincoln, respectively. Good Night, and Good Luck's star David Strathairn will portray William Seward. The mind-blowing cast looks to deliver an intimate portrait of one of America's most prominent figures in this DreamWorks biographical drama.

What was your favorite superhero movie of the summer?

