

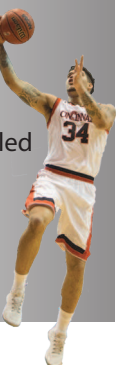
3 Brick Coffee Shop

The Brick Coffee Co. strives to create a more interactive and welcoming environment



4 NCAA Tournament

The committee has revealed their 16 seed picks



PP protest and counter protests

Pro life and Black Lives Matter groups faced off Saturday

JACOB FISHER | STAFF REPORTER
JUSTIN REUTTER | NEWS EDITOR

A protest of Planned Parenthood at Mount Auburn was met with a large counter-protest Saturday.

The counter-protest was organized by Black Lives Matter Cincinnati (BLMC), UC Students for Survivors (SFS), Cincinnati Socialist Students and their parent group Cincinnati Socialist Alternative.

"Like all human rights we have today, access to abortion was won not by legislation, but by tens of thousands in the streets," said SFS President Grace Cunningham in an email. "And that is how it will be defended."

The Mt. Auburn Planned Parenthood is the only abortion clinic in Cincinnati, and it is one of only nine in the state.

The counter-protest forced the protestors to the other side of the street.

At one point, a jogger ran through the counter-protest's picket, flipping off protestors and spitting on one of BLMC's Steering Committee members.

There was tension on social media before the event between Planned Parenthood and BLMC, as Planned Parenthood was worried that a counter-protest would only further disrupt patients' healthcare experience, according to a statement from Stephanie Kollmann Baker, Planned Parenthood's Southwest Ohio Regional Manager.

In the statement, Planned Parenthood also cautioned that "Because of the large fence around the Auburn clinic, patients can still access the clinic and their healthcare. HOWEVER, if the protest and counter-protest gets big enough, our security forces could make the call to shut down the clinic for the day for everyone's safety. So counter-protests could get the clinic shut down and patients could lose out on their healthcare."

But the clinic stayed open, and Planned Parenthood's security officer came outside to thank protestors.

According to Daniel Whitford, a member of Cincinnati Socialist Alternative, the clinic is regularly protested. "The reason we're out here is these have happened yearly,

the anti-abortion rallies, and we are trying to answer that — trying to show people that they are supported if they go here. They are not alone. There is a strong counter-opposition to the yearly protests."

Fourth-year computer science student John D'Allesandro said that it was about defending the disadvantaged.

"The women who need the services here are the women who are most disadvantaged in society — the most alienated. The services that we're defending, and practically the clinic that we're defending, serves the lowest in our society, and we need to stand up for them."

Respect Life Coordinator Erin Flege at St. Margaret of York Parrish said she was protesting the clinic because every life has inherent dignity and value.

"For me, it's about not only protecting the life in the womb, but assisting the mothers who are in need or in crisis and helping them in that situation," said Flege.

The philosophy of bodily autonomy is an important factor in Whitford's support of abortion access.



PROVIDED BY UC.

2017 UC graduation will call all names

JUSTIN REUTTER | NEWS EDITOR

It's official: the names of University of Cincinnati students graduating in the spring will be read at graduation as they walk across the stage, according to Student Government President Mitchell Phelps.

This announcement lies to rest the rumor that UC students graduating this spring would not walk at graduation, but would instead be asked to stand up together as a college to be recognized.

A petition on change.org gathered over 2,000 signatures to make sure that every undergraduate and graduate student from UC's class of 2017 walks across the stage as of Saturday morning.

While the petition erroneously asserts the university actually made the decision that students would not walk, the petition emphasizes the importance of having students walk as a symbol of their accomplishment.

"The call of action is to make the University of Cincinnati call each individual student's name, allowing the student to walk to the stage," reads the petition. "Graduation is about the student, on an individual level, receiving a 'rite of passage' marking a great milestone, ending one chapter and beginning another. Graduation is not about the keynote speaker, the president of the university, the newly renovated stadium or saving time; it is about the years of hard work and dedication that has finally paid off for that unique, passionate student."

The concern stems from the graduation ceremony being moved from Fifth Third Stadium to accommodate the \$87 million renovation of Fifth Third Arena.

Many students expressed an interest in walking across the stage on graduation day. "[Walking] was very important to me,"

said Sneha Buddharaju, a graduate student in electrical science. Buddharaju said she signed the petition on change.org.

Karthek Midde, an information systems graduate student who is graduating in December, said that walking across the stage would also be very important to him. "I came over from India for six years," said Midde. "Graduating with all my friends would be a big moment for me."

Last year, the school held three ceremonies, with one on Friday for graduate students and two on Saturday for undergraduates. Separating the undergraduate ceremonies allows them to be shorter.

But this April, the undergraduate ceremonies will be combined into one.

This change is partly made because Nippert is a larger venue than Fifth Third Arena, Vice President of Student Affairs Debra Merchant told the Enquirer. "It's a pretty big venue, so we want it to be full," she said. "We're doing something different, so we want to bring the same energy to the ceremony that we've always had."

Merchant also told the Enquirer that students were surveyed about what aspects of the graduation ceremony are most important to them. The survey determined that the two top priorities were keeping graduation on campus and having each student's name called.

An email from the Office of Student Affairs will be sent to the student body this week with more details on the ceremony, according to Phelps.

Nippert used to be the venue for graduation ceremonies, and UC has held as many as four graduation ceremonies there in the past.

The renovation of Fifth Third is on schedule to be completed by the fall of 2018.



Pro-Life protestors yell at Pro-Choice supporters outside Planned Parenthood on Auburn Ave. Feb 12, 2017.

AARON DORSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters gather outside of the Planned Parenthood clinic on Auburn Ave, Feb 12, 2017.

AARON DORSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Pro-Life and Pro-Choice protesters face off outside of the Planned Parenthood clinic on Auburn Ave, Feb 12, 2017.

AARON DORSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Futbol Club Cincinnati members reflects on their 2016 season

DAVID WYSONG | SPORTS EDITOR

Futbol Club Cincinnati had many accomplishments during their inaugural season in 2016.

The newest recognized accolade coming to the Queen City is a possible 2016 Fan's Choice United Soccer League Goal of the Year. FC Cincinnati midfielder Eric Stevenson has worked his way to the Goal of the Year Final against FC Montreal midfielder Jimmy Sanon.

"I think it's a cool little event they do, kind of get to see the highlights, the best goals of the year for the season between all the teams. It's just like a good little showcase," Stevenson said.

Stevenson's goal came in the team's first and only playoff match against Charleston Battery on Oct. 2.

"I took a touch and the defense didn't step to me, and I had plenty of space, so I just looked up and hit

it and it went in. So, that was a pretty big moment for us, because it was in a playoff game, obviously, and getting the first goal is pretty crucial," Stevenson said.

FC Cincinnati finished their 2016 regular season with a record of 16-6-8, but lost to Charleston in the playoffs 2-1.

They will begin their 2017 season with a rematch against Charleston.

"I think things are going really well," Stevenson said. "We've got some new players in this year, so everyone's kind of come together, and I think there's been good cohesiveness within the group."

The team will begin their preseason Sunday, where they will play their first of six friendlies against the OKC Energy out of Oklahoma City.

"That will give us a good gauge of where we're at, but so far, I think everything is going really well. We're definitely excited to finally be

back, it's kind of a long offseason," Stevenson said.

FC Cincinnati fans have large expectations for the 2017 season, following their trip to the playoffs.

"We just got to build off of last year," Stevenson said. "Just making sure that we're sticking together as team and keeping highs low and our lows high, trying to stay at an even keel throughout the season. I think we have a good shot this year. Our goal, obviously, is to win the USL Championship."

The team will look different than they did in 2016 because they added three new players: forward Andy Craven and midfielders Marco Dominguez and Aaron Walker.

"Last year's team was obviously a really good team," Stevenson said. "I think it's nice after the season, seeing how successful we were, being able to go out and grab the players that we want. I think the coaches did a

good job in the offseason with who they brought in. So, I think the group as a whole is pretty solid."

FC Cincinnati plays OKC

Energy in Bradenton, Florida, Feb. 19 at 3:30 p.m. Their first regular season game against Charleston will be in Charleston,

South Carolina, March 25, and the time has yet to be announced.



COURTESY OF FCC'S FACEBOOK

Cincy could battle out sanctuary status with Feds

TIM GOLDENBERG | STAFF REPORTER

With Mayor John Cranley's actions establishing the City of Cincinnati as a sanctuary city, the municipal government set itself up for a potential financial battle with its federal superior. President Donald Trump's press secretary Sean Spicer stated at his press briefing on Feb. 8 that "... the President is going to do everything he can within the scope of the executive order ... counties and other institutions that remain sanctuary cities don't get federal government funding in compliance with the executive order."

With the Brent-Spence Bridge rumored to be a high item on President Trump's infrastructure repair mandate, there were fears that such a move could risk losing a much-needed renovation. "We ought to believe him. Our funds are going to be

jeopardized. So, I'm asking Mayor John Cranley and the entire Cincinnati City Council to rescind this resolution next week," said City Councilor Charlie Winburn.

Cranley addressed the threats from the executive branch with dismissal. "Given that Mr. Spicer said that only cities that violate federal law will lose federal funds, and the City of Cincinnati has not and will not violate federal laws, the city is not in jeopardy of losing federal funds," Cranley said.

Numerous demonstrations have been held across the city in the past weeks, both in support and opposition to the actions taken by Cranley. Numerous state and local officials gave their input on Mayor Cranley's action. "Name a major city that's not part of this. I think it's an idle threat, and you know what? It's disrespectful," said City

Councilor Yvette Simpson, speaking against the statements by the Trump administration.

Speaking at the Hamilton County Commissioners office, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel also spoke on the matter, stating, "Over our dead body will Cincinnati become a sanctuary city."

Ohio Governor John Kasich indicated his support for President Trump's policy as well. "I think the president is right on this. I think this is a bad, bad thing. When people break the law, they need to be held accountable for something like coming here illegally," he said to the Ohio Newspaper Association.

The executive order in question for the situation, titled "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States," orders a denial of federal funding to municipalities that designate themselves as sanctuary cities. Sanctuary

cities are municipalities that choose not to cooperate with federal efforts in the reporting and deporting of undocumented immigrants.

The City of San Francisco filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of

the executive order soon after its announcement by President Trump. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio also indicated that if an "attempt is made to do that [cut off funding], we will go to court immediately for an injunction to stop it."

So far, the Trump administration has not taken any action to begin cutting the federal funding of cities with sanctuary city designation. A hearing date for the San Francisco lawsuit challenging the executive order has not



Downtown Cincinnati view from Bellevue Park, Saturday afternoon, February 11, 2017. JEAN PLEITEZ | CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL CLARK | CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY | NEWS.COM | ZUMA PRESS | TNS House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., at a mock swearing-in ceremony in the U.S. Capitol on Monday, Nov. 14, 2016. The legislating to repeal and replace Obamacare will happen this year, Ryan has said, though phasing in changes could take longer.

GOP continues to push for ACA reform

MOUNIR LYNCH | STAFF REPORTER

The repeal of Obamacare has been something Republicans across government have been pushing for years. Now that Washington is completely controlled by conservatives, the repeal of the healthcare law is becoming a true possibility. However, this possibility has proven to be a very long and complicated process that is dividing members of the Republican party.

With the insurance coverages of over 20 million people covered through Obamacare at risk, Republican lawmakers are at a standstill, and millions of Americans are concerned about the future of their healthcare coverage.

Republican lawmakers across the country have been met with heavy backlash by their constituents at public appearances to both express their frustration at President Trump and to defend the Affordable Care Act.

On Friday, a pro-Obamacare rally erupted in and around a Clermont Chamber of Commerce event. U.S. Rep. Brad Wenstrup, a Cincinnati native who was filling in for Sen. Rob Portman, hosted the event. "Obamacare saved my life," yelled a solo female protester during Wenstrup's speech. She was escorted out of the private-ticketed event to join her fellow protesters outside. "This is what America looks like," chanted the group outdoors, who carried signs showing their frustration with Portman on the nomination of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, as well as his stance on Obamacare.

In a taping obtained by

the Washington Post of a private meeting with Republican lawmakers, Sen. Portman is heard warning others about the very high cost of repealing and replacing Obamacare, which is said to be nearly \$500 billion. "This (\$500 billion) is going to be what we'll need to be able to move to that transition," said Portman.

The tapes have shown that there is a lot of uncertainty amongst Republicans in Congress on whether to repeal and replace Obamacare. The tape contains many other lawmakers' concerns with the process of repealing and replacing the law as well.

Last Tuesday, CNN aired a live debate between Sens. Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders on the future of the Affordable Care Act.

Sen. Sanders mainly discussed how important it was to keep the program how it is or to expand it. Meanwhile, Sen. Cruz fought hard against the Affordable Care Act and discussed the controversial process of repeal and replace.

The debate brought the viewers back to the 2016 election season and reminded us even more just how divided the parties are on the law.

The future of Obamacare is uncertain, and the timeline for repeal has extended from months to years from now.

Americans are concerned about how expensive their premiums are becoming and their potential insurance options becoming limited.

At a time of such division and uncertainty in the American health policy system, voters and constituents are simply asking for a clear plan; something they haven't heard about yet.

Kasich wants to rebrand Ohio

PARKER MALATESTA | NEWS EDITOR

In the weeks following President Donald Trump's Inauguration Day, Ohio Gov. John Kasich has been active and vocal.

On Friday, Kasich postponed an execution scheduled for next week, as well as seven others. The move comes in a muddled time as the state's lethal injection procedure is currently being questioned.

The governor also recently released his proposal for the state's 2017-2018 budget. The plan builds on a pedigree of sales tax expansion and income tax reduction. His proposed changes have the potential to cut income tax by 17 percent over the next two fiscal years for Ohioans.

The Republican governor established himself as a detractor of the president's immigration order in an interview with the Washington Post. "In probably many Arab capitals today, people are like, 'What is America doing?' If I were the president, I'd be very upset with the staff - that they didn't say, 'Hey, wait, hold on a second.' Because that's what executives do. They have people around them that help them to understand, 'Hey, your message is fine, but here is what's going to come from it,'" he said.

On Saturday, Mr. Trump said a judiciary rule that stopped his executive order allowed floods of refugees to enter the country. The president cited a Washington Times report in a tweet that stated, "77 percent of refugees allowed into U.S. since travel reprieve hail from seven suspect countries."

In an Associated Press forum this month,

Kasich discussed his efforts to eliminate Ohio's "Rust Belt" label. "We're a big manufacturing state. But we also want to change the image of Ohio into something from the Rust Belt to the Knowledge Belt," he said.

In 1984, Democrat Walter Mondale came up with the term Rust Belt during his presidential campaign against Republican Ronald Reagan.

Kasich is not the first Ohio politician to dislike the label. In 2006, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and former governor Ted Strickland both promised during their campaigns to make Ohio "the Silicon Valley on alternative energy."

The term for the region has been used for over 30 years, including by Mr. Trump, who said Ohio and Pennsylvania were places where "everything is rusting and rotting."

In an op-ed with Time magazine, Kasich discussed the growing trend of nationalism throughout global politics. "There is a rise of global nationalism. We're seeing it in France. In Austria it sort of rose but didn't prevail. We're seeing some of it in the Netherlands right now... But I think we have to be steady. We are the leader of the free world," he wrote.

The governor recently visited editors and publishers at the Ohio Newspaper Association to express his confidence in the current role of the press in democracy. "I'd like to stand for all of you, for all of you who have real content, for all of you who've decided in a really crazy, changing world that your point of view, your editorials, your writings, your articles are critically important," he said.



The main entrance to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in downtown Cincinnati on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017. CAROLE POSTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Implicit bias exhibit at Freedom Center

PRESTON PARRISH | CONTRIBUTOR

Discrimination is an issue that citizens on both sides of the political aisle wind up tackling at some point or another. But with various institutions around the country tackling the problems created by people's explicit biases, Cincinnati's own National Underground Railroad Freedom Center tackles the other side of that coin with the new "Open Your Mind" exhibit.

The exhibit was designed to enhance people's understanding of "implicit bias" and how implicit biases can affect our interactions with others, even if it's not noticeable at first.

Implicit bias, defined by the Freedom Center, consists of the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner, meaning it's not something we'd catch on to immediately.

This is opposed to explicit bias, in which bias is both noticeable and discernable when heard, read or

performed via someone's actions.

Because of the unconscious and barely perceivable nature of implicit bias, the Freedom Center has also set up the Open Your Mind Learning Lab, which, according to the Freedom Center's website, "... is designed to assist the public in understanding and recognizing bias and other forms of discrimination, as well as to explore recent debates in the realm of implicit bias research."

Both the exhibit and the learning lab serve the purpose of exploring people's personal biases, whether those are expressed in a private or professional setting. With regards to the classroom, there wasn't much of anything to discuss, so an accurate, generalized answer can't be given yet to how implicit bias affects the student-teacher relationship.

Jessie Taylor, a second-year engineering student, finds the topic of implicit bias to be far too complicated for just a simple discussion.

"Implicit bias is unconscious in nature, right? Everyone has them. They can range from good to bad, and [biases] are based off our own experiences in unique environments. I don't think implicit bias is a bad thing, but I do think that if it's affecting the students in a negative way that gets in the way of their work, then steps should be taken to curb it a little. It seems like a tough topic for just one exhibit or one conversation," said Taylor.

Tyler Donaldson, a third-year philosophy student, expressed that he feels that the teachers here on campus don't demonstrate a problem in terms of implicit bias having an effect on their teaching. "I feel that the teachers on campus are diverse and respect their profession enough that even if they were to have implicit biases [toward] certain students, they'd hold themselves to the ethical standards that teaching demands and not let it affect the student-teacher relationship negatively," he said.



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UC Feminists present 'The Vagina Monologues'

NOELLE ZIELINSKI | CONTRIBUTOR

University of Cincinnati Feminists presented Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," its annual event, on Friday and Saturday.

All proceeds from this event benefitted Women Helping Women. This program featured a series of monologues that varied in topics ranging from embracing your body and every part of it to more serious issues, such as rape, sexual assault and other forms of violence.

The monologues were performed in different ways to keep the general mood of the event light and comfortable. Some were performed with a humorous tone while others were performed in a sincere tone to express the message held within the monologue.

The performers were hand-selected through auditions held by UC Feminists, and each cast member was assigned a specific monologue, or monologues, to perform.

The cast included several people of various ethnic, sexual and personal backgrounds. This group of strong, independent individuals added a level of diversity and character to the event, which also connected each monologue in a unique way.

The inspiration behind these monologues developed through conversations between Eve Ensler and her friends. These casual conversations quickly transformed into a chain reaction of her interviewing a diverse group of 200 women in New York with different backgrounds and upbringings about their

views on sex, relationships and violence against women.

Since this initial phase, "The Vagina Monologues" has become widely known and popular, and the event was an episodic play for a time before becoming more of a series of performances.

The performers had their own motives and inspiration for participating in "The Vagina Monologues."

Mary Siskaninetz, a second-year health education student, said her inspiration comes from Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood.

"She was basically the only woman at the time to say that birth control is okay," said Siskaninetz.

Siskaninetz, who is also the treasurer of UC Feminists, worked with third-year communication

student Haley Fite to organize and perform within this production.

Fite said that she was inspired by her mother, and she also explained that for her, being a feminist means "Having choice over your life without the shaming of society or others."

For Siskaninetz, being a feminist involves not being ridiculed by the choices one makes. She explains that a feminist, in her opinion, is "Everyone having equal choices, and people not judging other people based on their choices."

Each unique monologue was performed with such a personal connection to the cast members, which kept the audience engaged and ready for more. All of the performers truly claimed the roles they were performing and made the audience believe their

characters.

This event strived to connect all communities and to show that it is possible to support each other in a positive way by

explaining the similarities that we all share through an array of distinct monologues that left the audience self-enlightened and empowered.



JEAN PLEITEZ | CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
The 2017 cast stand together on stage after reading through the monologues, Saturday night, February 11, 2017 at Zimmer Auditorium.



PROVIDED BY CCM.

'Her Naked Skin' highlights current events through the lens of women's history

RUSSELL HAUSFELD | SENIOR REPORTER

Sometimes events line up in ways so poignant that you could never have predicted them. For Richard Hess, a professor of acting at CCM, this has happened two years in a row when significant global events have lined up perfectly with productions he was directing.

Last year's "Pentacost" — a massive undertaking depicting the struggles of a group of Eastern European refugees in the '90s — was in rehearsal at the same time the Syrian refugee crisis was just beginning to take light in the media. And, during the rehearsal for this year's "Her Naked Skin" — a play revolving around the Suffragette movement in Britain — the world's largest women's march in the history of the world took place.

"I've had two in a row where the script and the world just kind of went 'bam,' and that's luck or something," Hess said. "It's a good opportunity for college students to look up and go, 'Man, these stories are not old reenactments of something from the past, they are parallels to the struggles of today.'"

Hess was just as surprised as anybody that these plays tied in so closely with global issues.

He had chosen the script for "Her Naked Skin" a year or so before the

elections were finished, under the assumption that it may be presented after the inauguration of the first female president of the United States. He told me — as I nestled into a corner of his office couch with his collaged Obama '08 pillow — that he really was not trying to take a political side. He just thought that the play would supplement the victory of the first female president had she won. But, as we all know, she did not.

"So, now this play means something else. The meaning of the play changed under our feet," Hess said. Instead of a celebration of women's rights, the production is now more of an assertion of them.

For instance, third-year CCM acting student Mafer Del Real played a part in garnering a "mature" label for CCM's production of "Her Naked Skin" by bearing a bit of naked skin of her own for the sake of women's rights.

In the beginning, the play was staged in such a way that during a scene in which Del Real was in the shower, her body would be hidden from view. But, after the appearance of the Second Amendment demonstrators brandishing their guns on UC's campus, Del Real decided to take a stance of her own.

According to Hess, Del Real said, "No, if this campus is afraid of women's skin or breasts but we're

letting men come on campus with guns and we're not afraid of that, then this world is upside down."

Not only that, but the leading roles of "Her Naked Skin" were two strong women who represent CCM's graduating senior class, Julia Netzer and Michaela Tropeano. Both students had previously worked with Hess as sophomores in another female-focused play, "The Heidi Chronicles." Hess says that to see these women two years later carrying a play like this on their shoulders is a real treat.

And on an even grander scale, many rights-related issues are still on the table for women. So, "Her Naked Skin" served as a piercing look into the past to examine the strides women have made and a reflection on the hurdles they have yet to overcome.

"The right to vote for these women did not come easily, they had to really fight for it," Hess said. "And who didn't want to give it to them? Men. The end. Which sounds similar to something like women's choice for reproduction now."

CHECK OUT THE NEXT PERFORMANCE AT CCM: "Valentine's Day: The Silver Rose" presented by the CCM Philharmonic, 8 p.m., Feb. 14.

Brick Coffee Co. provides community

ERIN COUCH | STAFF REPORTER

As you sip the last of your cappuccino while pounding away at that pesky term paper from your mandatory intermediate composition class, you look around and realize that enjoying your solitude in a coffee shop can, in fact, be a lonelier experience than you bargained for.

However, the folks at Norwood's new Brick Coffee Co. are turning around the coffee shop isolation narrative by promoting a sense of community that might make you switch off your MacBook and converse with fellow coffee shop dwellers for a change.

Brick opened its doors in December and has since created a long overdue meeting place for coffee lovers in Norwood.

For Jenesis Clark, a partner and administration team lead at Brick, community is the basis of the shop.

"Our first priority at this point is giving a space," Clark said. "We really believe that in spaces like this, meaningful relationships, meaningful conversation can grow out of it."

However, the sense of community Brick creates goes beyond the shop itself. They donate 50 percent of their tips every month to local nonprofits, which, so far, have included Cincinnati Urban Promise and Lydia's House.

A common coffee shop problem that Brick addresses is that customers can't always find an open



AARON DORSTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brick Coffee Company in Norwood strives to bring a sense of community into the coffee world. Feb 11, 2017.

spot to sit at. With one college student's study materials sprawled out at a table for four, it's not easy to stake out a place for yourself.

Brick remedies this by offering more spots with just two chairs, as well as an expansive community table in the center of the room, which is where Brick hosts their monthly Coffee Cupping.

As for the coffee, offerings are pretty straightforward, including standard — but classic — espresso beverages and coffee. From the pour-over to the cortado, there are plenty of solid standby options to get your daily caffeine fix.

Because the menu is so traditional, intimidation is a common thread for those who usually go for a sugary latte every time they stop in the local café. Clark said that with the emphasis on communication between the barista and the customer, it can be a fun, pressure-free experience to try something new.

According to Clark, while their menu is streamlined and to the point, Brick still caters to coffee lovers of all palates.

"We want people who know things about coffee," she said. "We want them to be able to come in and see that we're serving a cortado, so we want that to be a good cortado."

The definition of what a macchiato is tends to get jumbled with places like Starbucks who offer a not-so-accurate version of a true macchiato, which is meant to be espresso marked with a dollop of milk foam — a far cry from the latte-esque drink Starbucks sells, according to Clark.

Whatever your drink is, Brick has you covered. "Our goal is to know people beyond what they want to drink," Clark said.

Whether you walk out the door satisfied with your perfectly foamed cappuccino or jittery from drinking your first-ever espresso shot too hastily, one fact remains: you're always welcome at Brick Coffee Co.

Brewcats: MadTree "2.0" Grand Opening

RUSSELL HAUSFELD | SENIOR REPORTER

Last January, MadTree Brewing began demolition work on the old RockTenn manufacturing building in Oakley. Since then, they've created a 50,000-square-foot facility complete with a taproom, brewery, beer garden, renovated office space for the staff and an events space doubling as a barrel storage room. This weekend marked both the opening of the new location's taproom and the closing of the original.

Everything that defined the original MadTree has been expanded upon and tweaked for improvement at this new location. The tables and bar remain reclaimed wood, the same logo is stenciled on the floor upon entrance of the building and the same impressive selection of 32 beers is still on tap. But,

the size of this place — approved for up to 480 people in the taproom and just as many in the beer garden — allows for so much more potential than the original location could have ever lived up to.

The building was designed with large garage doors and wide concourses, so that staff can run a forklift from one side of the building to the other. It is a luxury which MadTree's Director of People and Social Strategies Mike Stuart says they did not have at the original location.

Additionally, there is an entire wing devoted to the storage of wood barrels, which also doubles as an event space that can hold up to 300 people. They had six weddings and a couple of corporate and charity events already booked before the place even

opened, Stuart said.

Catch-A-Fire Pizza, which has a small location inside MadTree's original location, got a revamped workspace. It is complete with three pizza ovens, as opposed to the previous single oven.

And, of course, the main event — the huge brewing expansion within the domed hangar on the left side of the building.

From the street, you can see a forest of massive chrome equipment gleaming through the hangar windows. And once the area is finished sometime around April of this year, visitors of the bar will be able to walk up to a balcony inside the room and view the whole brewing process at work while enjoying a glass of beer.

Within this area, massive tanks of different sizes,

ranging close to two stories, line the walls and dot the middle of the room in rows. From a control tower, brewers will be able to control the whole brewing process from an automated workstation. Underneath that workstation is the new and improved beer lab, where MadTree puts chemists, biologists and sensory experts to work on refining and taste-testing their products.

The crowd at the new MadTree location on Friday was huge, filling up the taproom and spilling out onto the tented patio. Help keep that crowd strong and check out MadTree's new location.

GO: MadTree, 3301 Madison Rd., Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday 11 a.m.-1 a.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-1 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-11 p.m.



COURTESY OF MADTREE'S FACEBOOK.

Students react to UC playing at BB&T Arena

JASON SZELEST | STAFF REPORTER

A decision has been made; the University of Cincinnati men's basketball team will play their home games at Northern Kentucky University's BB&T Arena while Fifth Third Arena is under construction next year.

While the amount that UC will doll out to NKU in exchange for the use of their arena has yet to be released, many believe the decision was made because BB&T was the most economically reasonable option.

"I think from an economic standpoint, the move makes a lot of sense," fourth-year engineering student Jacob Wergers said. "I believe the other main option was US Bank Arena, and although larger and closer, I would expect it came with a higher price. I would also imagine US Bank would cause for difficulty in scheduling, having to rotate between ice rinks on one night and a wood court the next."

Third-year business management student Andrew Alvey shares the belief that BB&T Arena was the best overall option for the Bearcat basketball team.

"Although I can only speculate, I would say BB&T Arena was our best option," Alvey said. "I feel

it most closely resembles our arena. Although it is a decent drive, the arena is the most conducive to our style of play and to our fans."

The location, which is 12.4 miles away from the University of Cincinnati and an estimated 18-minute drive, according to Google Maps, is a main concern many of the fans have.

"The venue change will definitely effect my attendance next year," Wergers said. "The added drive, coupled with the late start times, will often make it difficult to justify going. I also hope that either the university or another local establishment will stand up and offer a shuttle service or party bus to and from the games. This would at least give the students a safe and fun transportation option."

While the size of the arena should not be too much of a problem – BB&T Arena seats around 3,600 less than Fifth Third Arena – there appears to be a possible challenge in filling all of those seats.

Another problem the fans believe the basketball team will face next year is continuing the hype surrounding a program that is currently ranked No. 11 in the nation.

"I feel like the overall buzz around UC basketball

will be effected negatively," Wergers said. "I think Fifth Third's location, relative to campus, gives it a unique feel and attachment to the university. I do hope, however, that coming off of what has so far been an incredible season that we

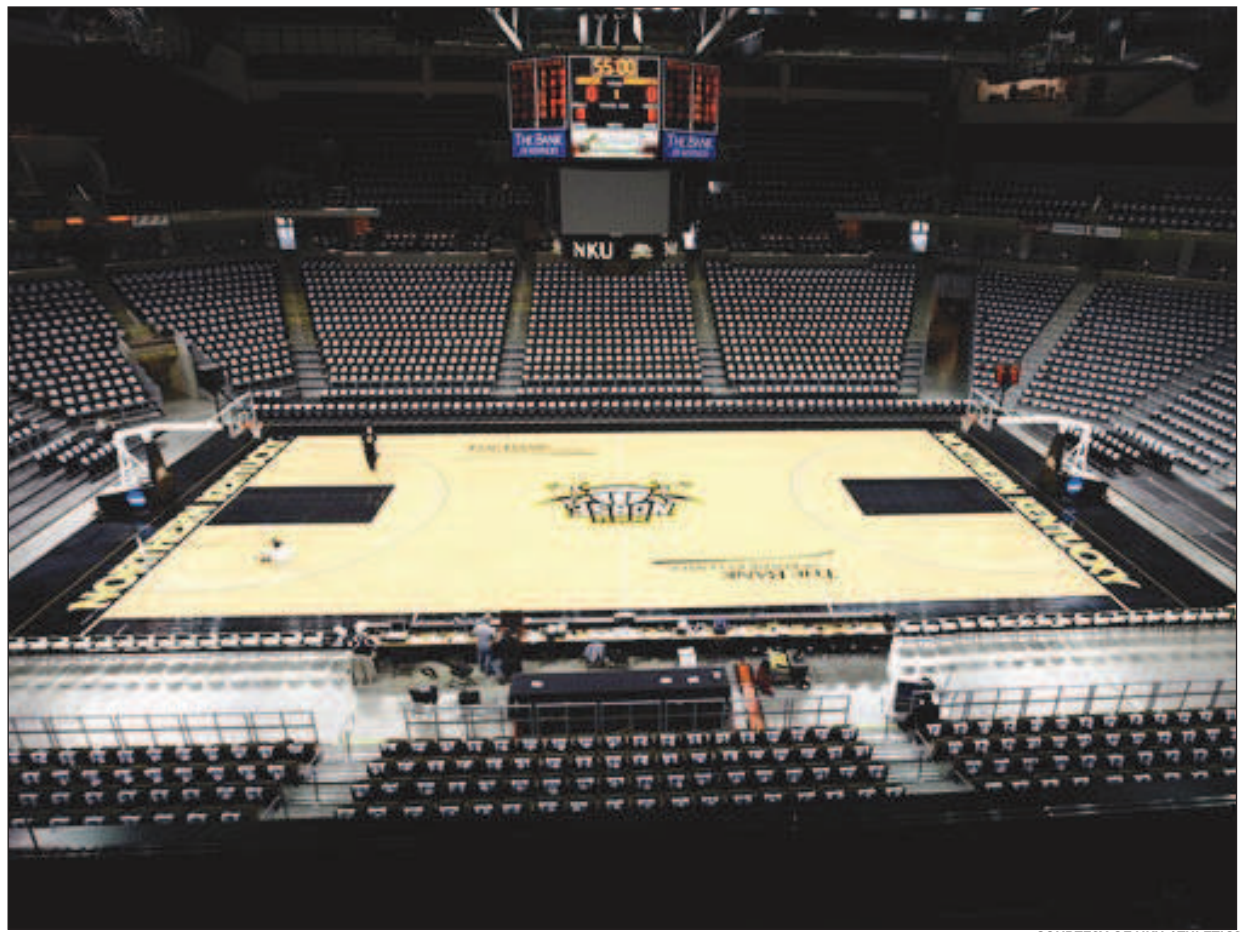
can take this excitement and carry it through next year, where we can reopen Fifth Third with a passion."

Overall, the general consensus from fans seemed to be that they felt the \$87 million renovation project, along with losing a

year of home-court, will be well worth it in the end.

"I believe the renovations to Fifth Third will be worth the investment, even though we are losing a year of playing on campus," Alvey said. "I think our team is playing

at an extremely high level, and our facilities should reflect that. Fifth Third is just another step in the transformation of the University of Cincinnati into the renowned aesthetic powerhouse we all know it can be."



COURTESY OF NKU ATHLETICS.



FILE ART.

Dayes discusses spring schedule

CLAUDE THOMPSON | STAFF REPORTER
WILLIAM HOUSTON | CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Cincinnati men's soccer team is preparing for their brief spring schedule beginning March 4.

The schedule features a match against select Futbol Club Cincinnati personnel March 11, as well as a matchup against a ranked Indiana University team April 21, closing out the six-game schedule before starting their proper regular season schedule in the summer.

Head coach Hylton Dayes returns for his 16th season at the helm of the men's soccer program. He looks to take advantage of the tough spring schedule to develop the team's younger players in preparation for the 2017 season and the seasons beyond.

One such test is the friendly match against FC Cincinnati, Cincinnati's United Soccer League team that made the playoffs in their first season and shattered numerous attendance records amid a bid to join the top-tier Major League Soccer ranks.

Dayes views the game against FC Cincinnati as a perfect opportunity for the

players.

"It's exciting for us," Dayes said. "They are a professional team, a playoff team. They've been successful in building their brand, so we are just honored to have the opportunity to play against them and to test ourselves and see how we do. The result is secondary, from our standpoint, to the experience of playing against them and knowing that they're going to show us the areas we need to improve on. How will we do? Will we hold our own? Will the challenge help our guys improve in the areas they need to?"

The team, despite having an overall winning record, finished with a 3-4 record in the American Athletic Conference. With Indiana ranked in the top 10 of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America rankings, Cincinnati faces a test against a team they wish to emulate.

"Again, it's another test for our guys," Dayes said. "With them being a top 25, team they are where we want to be. Competing against them is going to be a challenge for our guys, but ultimately, we want to use that as a learning experience for our guys to

be in those types of games and understand what it takes to play a team like that – and, hopefully, get a favorable result. The spring is about moving our team forward, and we believe the Indiana game will do that for us."

Coach Dayes, however, is keeping his eyes affixed on the here and now and does not want to speculate on goals for the fall.

"The spring gives us an idea of how far we've come and where this team is headed," Dayes said.

"That will tell us a little bit about what the expectations are for the fall, but I can tell you last year we finished tied for fourth, and we missed out on making the conference tournament. I certainly feel like our team is going to be motivated to make sure that doesn't happen again and make sure that we make the conference tournament and rise up in the ranks within the league."

Cincinnati begins spring play on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. in Westfield, Indiana, against DePaul University. The team will then come home for four-straight matches, including the FC Cincinnati match on March 11 at 7 p.m.

UC left out of top 16

DAVID WYSONG | SPORTS EDITOR

The NCAA college basketball tournament selection committee revealed their top 16 seeds Saturday – and No. 11 Cincinnati was not a part of it.

For the first time, the selection committee looks like before Selection Sunday, giving all their one, two, three and four seeds. Despite UC being ranked No. 11 in the AP Polls, UC did not make the selection committee's cut for the best 16 teams.

The teams considered to be above UC in the bracket are as follows: Villanova, Kansas, Gonzaga, Baylor, Louisville, Florida State, Oregon, North Carolina, Kentucky, Arizona, Virginia, Florida, UCLA, Duke, West Virginia and Butler.

This has caused an uproar from Cincinnati students.

"They lost me when they got to the three and four seeds," said third-year biology student Quinton Malone. "Their logic seemed very subjective and flawed. I couldn't understand how a school like UC could get passed up by West Virginia, Florida or a struggling Kentucky. Most of these picks right now are just schools with a big name on the front of their jersey."

Students were not the only ones upset by the rankings. UC head coach Mick Cronin's brother, Dan, voiced his frustration via Twitter.

"Just shows once again committee members r uneducated basketball people embarrassing really to game no surprise really about NAME on jersey [sic]," said Dan Cronin in a tweet.

Seven teams ranked in the committee's top-16 are lower than UC in the AP Poll. They are Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida State, Florida, Duke and Butler.

"The teams that stick out the most that definitely should not have jumped us include all of the teams that ranked below us in the AP, but above us in the selection committee. All of those teams have bad, unranked losses, and Cincinnati does not," said third-year finance and business analytics student Nic Ruscello.

Cincinnati is 22-2 as of Feb. 12, and they have won 15-straight games. All the teams ranked lower than them in the AP Poll, but higher in the bracket have at least four losses on the season.

"Some teams will collapse before the end of the season, and some teams will rise to the occasion and will prove themselves," Malone said. "It's hard to say how everything will unfold. As for right now, in my mind, UC should be a three-seed, fourth at the lowest."

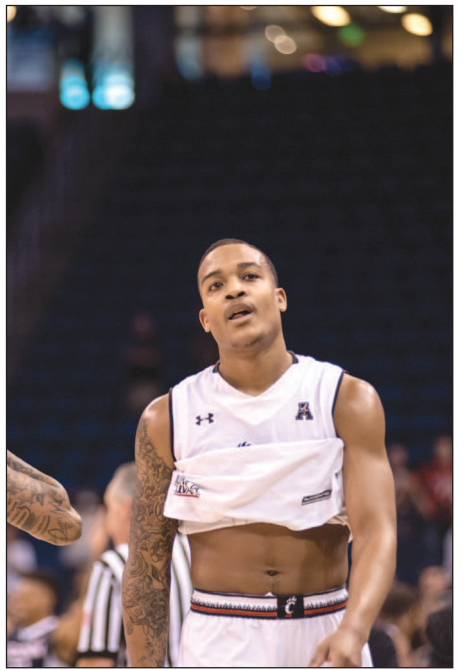
The selection committee has always waited to reveal their bracket on Selection Sunday, once the conference tournaments finish. This year is the first time they have released an in-season look at what their bracket looks like.

This has caused a mix reaction from fans. "I'm very much looking to see how the rest of [the] year turns out, but I think it's too early for these rankings," Malone said.

A reason to release an early bracket is for transparency.

"I do like that they give a preview because it will hopefully start the discussion about the flaws of their selections earlier so they can fix the obvious mistakes, like Cincinnati being snubbed," Ruscello said.

The new AP Poll is released Monday, and Selection Sunday is March 13.



FILE ART.

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