Inside UC’s growing pension crisis

University of Cincinnati faculty and staff who are signed on with university-offered retirement plans are at risk of not seeing their pensions fully funded.

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Annual contributions are determined based on the amount

Pension Continued on Page 4

Next-level Bearcats

SPENCER SCHULTZ | STAFF REPORTER

With half of the regular-season complete, it’s time to point out how former University of Cincinnati men’s basketball players are faring at the professional level.

Here are this month’s updates on four former Bearcats:

Sean Kilpatrick (2010-2014) – Panathinaikos B.C.

The former Cincinnati standout signed to play for the Euro-league team Panathinaikos B.C. of Athens, Greece Jan. 9.

Kilpatrick joins former University of Louisville and University of Kentucky head coach Rick Pitino, who was recently named to the same position of Panathinaikos.

The 29-year-old guard made his debut appearance for Panathinaikos Friday, Jan. 22, scoring 11 points and three assists in 24 minutes.

Gary Clark (2014-2018) – Houston Rockets

The undrafted power forward has seen his minutes per game increase from 8.4 in December to 14.8 this month.

Clark has played 20-plus minutes in three-of-eight appearances in January, including his first career NBA start last week against the Brooklyn Nets.

Despite shooting 0-of-5 on field goal attempts in his first start (all three-point attempts), the Smithfield, North Carolina, native is averaging 3.2 points and 2.8 rebounds per game in 33 appearances.

Clark has expanded his range since his days at Cincinnati, having three games with at least two three-point field goals, bringing his average to 35

Pro Bearcats Continued on Page 7

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Pro Bearcats Continued on Page 7
UC branch campuses to adopt green energy

GABRIELLA MULISANO | CHIEF REPORTER

The University of Cincinnati’s branch campuses are transitioning to 100 percent wind energy after finalizing a deal with American Electric Power (AEP).

The Department of Utilities came forward with the proposal that put the plan into motion. After signing the deal in October 2018, the college is now officially locked in to a three-year plan with AEP.

Once the changes go into effect and the plants are constructed, the college hopes to reduce energy spending by up to 30 percent and energy usage by up to 40 percent.

UC’s focus on reducing its environmental footprint isn’t new. The university has already been implementing similar ideas on main campus. “As a component of utility operations and the supply of energy to campus buildings, our team is continually striving to find ways to reduce our environmental footprint,” said Michael Hofmann, director of utilities. The proposal is designed to encourage prospective suppliers to identify and include other potential renewable energy resources.

“In selecting the supply of wind power from AEP Energy, UC was able to achieve a significant impact on our carbon footprint and provide a large reduction to carbon emissions related to our electric usage,” he said.

Before the proposal and the subsequent contract with AEP, no UC campuses were wind powered. Now, all branch campuses — excluding main campus — will be affected. According to Hofmann, all UC regional campuses and satellite buildings are now being supplied by 100 percent renewable wind energy.

“UC is continually investigating new and innovative ways to reduce its carbon footprint,” Hofmann said. “This includes solar energy, biodiverse fuel sources, electric vehicles and a variety of other ways to reduce annual carbon emissions including, most importantly, reductions in energy consumed.”

The switch is not only greener, but also saves the college a good chunk of change for the long haul. Gabrielle Kirker, a senior business student at Clermont College said she is excited about the changes. “I think it’s cool how they are using wind power, as that is not as commonly used in Cincinnati,” Kirker said. “It’s especially cool how they are using it to not only go green, but to save the college $25,000 annually to use on other things that the school needs.”

UC is making several updates to its Clermont campus across the board, including replacing outdated chillers and boilers and switching out old lights in favor of energy-efficient LEDs.

UC to host 48-hour game creation event

ALEX MARTIN | STAFF REPORTER

Global Game Jam, a worldwide game-creation event, will hold a program in Cincinnati hosted by the local chapter of the International Game Developer Association. The event, which is hosted in over 800 locations with more than 40,000 participants, gives teams 48 hours to develop a video game. The game must be based off a randomly selected theme that is not disclosed to participants until the day of the event.

The University of Cincinnati will host the game jam in room 128 of the Teachers-Dyer complex. The event runs from 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, until 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.

Despite the high number of participants, organizers say the event isn’t about being the best. “We are a collaborative event, not a competition,” said Seven Siegel, executive director of Global Game Jam. “Global Game Jam is about bringing people together … We don’t need to compete to showcase global culture, and that is truly what GJJ is about — showing how every culture around the world makes games.”

From a cultural standpoint, Siegel views the event as an opportunity for participants to showcase their unique experiences on a global stage.

“People all over the world are making games,” he said. “It’s really easy to get caught up in ideas and stereotypes of people from other states or countries, and we often lose the fact that everyone is three-dimensional, just like us. Global Game Jam gives the world an opportunity to see people’s experiences expressed through the medium of game development.”

UC instructor Clayton Belcher, who organized the local event, said the Global Game Jam is designed to provide a creative outlet for developers.

“The purpose of most game jams is to get people away from being stuck in bigger projects, and to let them take a break to get creative juices flowing and bounce ideas off each other,” he said. “It’s a nice change of pace to just put everything else — all your responsibilities — away for a while, and just make something together for the weekend.”

During last year’s game jam, Belcher’s team developed a title called “Unstoppable Pigeon Shipment Service” — a game in which a pigeon must run through several streets and collect letters while dodging obstacles, like traffic cones, along the way.

This game jam is free to join. Interested participants can sign up for the local event by visiting the Global Game Jam website and typing “IGDA Cincinnati” into the search bar. The event is also a great starting point for those who want to get involved with game development but have no prior experience, Belcher said.

“You don’t have to know how to make games — none of us did at one point,” he said. “So, you kind of just have to jump in. The team I was on last year, we probably had three or four people who had never made a game before.”

Last year, the local chapter saw roughly 40 members in seven teams participate. The event continues to grow in Cincinnati and around the globe.
GABRIELLA MULIANO | CHIEF REPORTER

Grace Thome, an associate professor of Arabic at the University of Cincinnati, has a unique connection with language that she shares with UC students almost every day.

Language has played a natural and constant role in Thome’s life since she was a child, she said.

“In Lebanon, it’s mandatory to learn languages — you don’t have a choice,” Thome said. “You go to school and you start learning three languages at the same time.”

She credits Lebanon's trilingual standard to the culture and history of the Middle East, which has endured comingling of cultures for thousands of years.

Thome graduated from Nazareth High School in Beirut — the densely-populated capital of Lebanon that borders the eastern Mediterranean Sea. After high school, Thome went on to receive her undergraduate degree in business at Saint Joseph University in Lebanon.

She moved to the U.S. when she was 25 — a decision she made after visiting her brother and her aunt, both of whom already lived in the U.S. In 1988, she began her graduate studies at the University of Cincinnati. There, she received dual degrees in French literacy and second language studies.

As a mother, Thome strives to empower her children through language. Even though Thome’s children have grown up in the U.S., she has taught them French, Arabic and English — the same languages she learned as a child in Lebanon. Practicing several languages with her children from an early age, she said, made it easier for them to learn.

Thome also applies her trilingual skills to the classroom and encourages her peers to practice languages together, much like she and her friends did as children.

“If it was up to me, I would probably implement [Spanish and English in all schools … in kindergarten],” Thome said. “Have all the students grow up learning them, and then you can choose a different language when you are in high school.”

Understanding language is critical in understanding culture, Thome said. A rich respect for the culture and history of a civilization is afforded to those who learn the language of its people.

“You are learning the culture, and that’s more important than the language,” Thome said.

**UC hosts VR experience to celebrate bicentennial**

A virtual reality (VR) experience is happening on campus to celebrate both the history of the school and what’s happening now.

Booths located in Tangeman University Center (TUC), University Pavilion and the CARE-Crawley Building were designed by the University of Cincinnati’s Center for Simulations and Virtual Environments Research (UCSIM) — a collaborative group consisting of both students and staff.

The experience, which consists of five different interactive vignettes, brings together different groups from the university to show what the school has accomplished in the past 200 years.

Richard Harknett, head of the political science department, began on the original bicentennial planning committee nine years ago. Six years later, when Harknett was asked to chair the legacy committee, he proposed that the university create a modernized tribute instead of something more traditional.

“I hoped people would experience the history,” he said. “Once the executive committee approved the idea, we formed a great team of people, including our UC Sim Center, and agreed that we would build the entire virtual reality experience in-house, putting the modern creativity and expertise of UC to work to capture our history.”

In the first simulation, “The Cutting Edge: Research,” users find themselves in Albert Sabin’s laboratory on April 9, 1959. This vignette has the user help Sabin create the oral polio vaccine — one of the university’s crowning scientific achievements.

“You can tinker around in Sabin’s lab and help put drops of the oral polio vaccine on sugar cubes in preparation for the ‘Sabin Sundays,’” said Tracy Herrmann, a co-faculty chair of the UC Foundation’s Bicentennial Planning Committee.

In another vignette, “Living Learning Leading: Pedagogy,” users are transported into the student bodies of 1819, 1919 and 2019. This vignette celebrates technological progress throughout the years and recognizes the growth of campus diversity.

The “Bearcat Spirit: Boldly Bearcat” vignette is about the school community. In this simulation, the user becomes the Bearcat mascot and leads school chants in the fall of 1924, when the football stadium received its current name, Nippert Stadium, after James Gamble “Jimmy” Nippert.

Then, in “Diversity and Inclusion: An Ecosystem of Inclusion,” the user joins Marian Spencer in 1939. There, the user interacts with the civil rights activist to curate an exhibit about the civil rights history of the university.

The last simulation is “Campus on the Move: Architecture.” This VR experience puts the user in an almost model-like version of the university. The simulation features a time-lapse of the university’s architecture through the present day.

Early reactions to the VR booths have been positive, said Harknett.

“Our goal is not only for people to have fun, but to walk away from each experience learning something new and wanting to learn more about our 200 years,” he said.

The VR experience is free to try and will be in the following locations until Nov. 9:

- TUC — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday
- CARE-Crawley Building — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday
- University Pavilion — 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday
Why UC’s pension fund could fail in 18 years

Pension Continued from Cover

that is expected to fund the cost of benefits, as well as any unfunded pension liability that accumulates during the year, said Bob Ambach, UC’s senior vice president for administration and finance.

Beyond those contributions, the remaining responsibility falls upon the State of Ohio pension plans, Ambach said.

UC is not the party that provides benefits once retirement has commenced. Therefore, the $538.7 million reported in the financial audit is the state’s obligation to repay.

Ambach said that UC offers three different state retirement plans to employees hired after 1977, including the STRS for academic faculty, OPERS for non-teaching staff, and the Alternative Retirement Plan (ARP) — an alternative, fixed plan for UC employees who work full time.

OPERS and STRS are at the heart of what several news outlets have called the “pension time bomb.” State retirement plans like these have financial obligations specially customized to individuals based on careers, and they aim to provide benefits to people in retirement.

But due to the amount of unfunded pension liabilities in Ohio, OPERS has only a 50 percent chance of being able to meet these obligations by 2037, according to research published in 2017 by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

STRS faces an even greater risk of not meeting obligations in the future, according to the Mercatus Center.

Those counting on their pensions, including many UC employees, may be forced to endure benefit cuts if these plans fail to meet their obligations.

UC employees are not alone in the pension crisis stemming from unfunded liabilities. In 2015, Ohio’s unfunded pension liability was an estimated $312 billion, according to Mercatus Center research.

Estimated pension liabilities are calculated based on several variables, including discount rates, investment rates of return, bond rates, wage inflation rates, projected salary increases, estimated health care cost rates and cost-of-living adjustments, said Ambach.

UC employees are not alone in the pension crisis stemming from unfunded liabilities. In 2015, Ohio’s unfunded pension liability was an estimated $312 billion, according to Mercatus Center research.

“From an accountability perspective, it is the plan’s responsibility to ensure funding... From a university perspective, we are working to identify the appropriate tools to keep the retirement plans accountable.”

- Bob Ambach, Senior Vice President for UC Administration and Finance

Although it isn’t the school’s financial responsibility, UC financial administrators are reportedly making efforts to see that employee pensions are delivered.

Pama Mitchell, a communications and journalism professor at UC, plans to retire in 2019. While Mitchell does not have a pension plan through STRS or OPERS, she said the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) at UC recently asked faculty to complete a survey that included questions pertaining to health insurance costs, faculty development funding, faculty salaries and faculty hiring. Those inquiries were made to help the AAUP in its negotiations with Executive Council.

The areas of interest in the survey also affect retirement plans and benefits.

UC was among the first universities to ask leaders of the pension fund to talk to UC’s finance department, Kowalski said in October. He described a need for the university to hold the state of Ohio accountable for the unfunded pension liabilities and ensure the financial safety of UC’s retired employees.

“From an accountability perspective, it is the plan’s responsibility to ensure funding—and the representatives we met with take this responsibility very seriously,” Ambach said. “From a university perspective, we are working to identify the appropriate tools to keep the retirement plans accountable — but establishing these relationships and meeting with them on a consistent basis is a good start.”

BY THE NUMBERS

UC’s Unfunded Pension Liabilities

$538.7 MILLION

in unfunded pension liabilities for UC faculty and staff, as of the 2018 financial audit

$538.7 MILLION

The financial audit reports the amount to be paid by the state of Ohio as...

50%

Ohio Public Employee Retirement Systems’ (OPERS) chance of being able to meet financial obligations by 2037

$312 BILLION

Ohio’s estimated amount of unfunded pension liabilities in 2015, as reported by Mercatus Center

See story for more details
Available on news stands now!
**Winter festivities**

**Chloe Rosenberger | Contributor**

The weather outside remains frightful this time of year. Folks who are counting down the days until spring might search for indoor refuge from the frigid temperatures, while the bold and brave might wish to enjoy the freshly-fallen snow. Spending a day in Cincinnati is great for people on both ends of the spectrum and those in between, with Eden Park and Downtown Cincy promising artsy afternoons and energetic evening fun.

**Eden Escapes**

Eden Park is an exciting destination for Cincinnatians this winter, as the Krohn Conservatory is exhibiting its "Fabulous Foliage" show now through March 10. This seasonal event provides a warm, vibrant sample of spring as snow continues to accumulate outside the enclosed botanical gardens. For just a few dollars, visitors are treated to unique "moss graffiti" and "living walls" during this limited showcase of colorful flora. In conjunction with "Fabulous Foliage," "Krohn Grown/Grown-Ups!" groups on Jan. 25 and 27 present opportunities for patrons to learn more about the featured botany, and attendees can even take home their own potted plants.

Pick up brunch across the street from Krohn Conservatory at the Cincinnati Art Museum’s Terrace Café, which serves sandwiches and vegetarian fare as well as coffee and other warm beverages — essentials for cold days. The café provides a gorgeous overlook of the Alice Bimel Courtyard. Terrace customers can also enjoy the art museum’s free exhibits before or after grabbing a bite.

An upbeat evening in Eden is provided by the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park company, which is bringing "In the Heights" to the Marx Theatre this winter. This spectacular show transports audiences from the chilly Midwest to warm summer days in Washington Heights, a Hispanic-American neighborhood in New York City. "Heights," a story of community and culture, is the first Broadway play from "Hamilton" star Lin-Manuel Miranda, and it won a Tony Award for Best Musical. Cincy Playhouse will run its production of "Heights" now through Feb. 17.

**Frozen Fun**

Downtown Cincy is the place to go for a more traditional taste of wintertime. For an outdoor activity, look no further than Fountain Square, home of the O’Keefe’s Ice Rink. This downtown staple is open seven days a week now through President’s Day. Offering food, hot cocoa, safe locker spaces and skate rentals, Fountain Square is the perfect location for date night or girls’ night out. Nestled in the heart of the city, nothing beats the view of colorful Cincinnati lighting and impressive architecture while gliding across the ice.

Those who wish to experience ice from afar will want to check out the Cincinnati Cyclones, the local hockey team, housed at U.S. Bank Arena, plays at home frequently this February. The first of the month marks a special bobblehead giveaway for fans, and $1 Beer Nights are listed for Feb. 13, 15, 20 and 21. Cyclones games are some of the most affordable sporting events in the city, with advance single-game tickets available for just $15 per person — great for college students looking for excitement that won’t interfere with start-of-semester bills.
The University of Cincinnati men’s basketball team used a strong second-half to defeat the Wichita State University Shockers 66-55 Saturday afternoon in Wichita, Kansas.

The Bearcats (16-3, 5-1 American Athletic Conference) led 24-23 at halftime before erupting for 42 points in the second half. Junior guard Jarron Cumberland (11 points), forward Tre Scott (20 points and 10 rebounds) and guard Gianni Hunt (11 points) each scored double-digit points in the second half.

Wichita, Kansas.

“A great win for our team,” UC head coach Mick Cronin said. “I thought we matched their energy. We’ve got a lot of guys that are going through this for the first time. They were on our bench last year, but they weren’t relied upon. So, we continue to show growth.”
The Shockers, in the midst of a rebuilding year after losing six seniors and first-round NBA draft pick Landry Shamet, fell to 8-9, 1-4 AAC. The team finished 25-8, 14-4 last season.

Below are a few takeaways from the win:

Hostile environment
The city of Wichita takes great pride in its university’s athletic program, and understandably so. The nearest major league sports hub is Kansas City — nearly 200 miles away. “They don’t have the Reds or the Bengals,” Cronin said Thursday before the matchup. “Wichita has Wichita. They’ve got the Shockers. They have great support … [the fans] don’t just come out when the team’s great.”
The Bearcats won 62-61 in Charles Koch Arena March 4, 2018, to clinch the regular-season AAC championship. Aside from Cumberland (11 points), the next-highest scorer on UC’s roster is guard Cane Broome, who had six points that day.

More than 10,000 fans filled Charles Koch Arena Saturday in the hopes that their .500 team could upset the reigning champions. “As a team, it’s not an easy place to play for a lot of reasons,” Cronin said.

“Great fans. Tough venue. More importantly, as long as Gregg [Marshall] is over there coaching, they’re going to be a tough out. I don’t care how many guys they lost from last year. [Marshall’s] going to find a way to make them competitive, and he has.”

Back to outrebounding opponents
After being outrebounded in its three previous conference games, UC won the battle on the boards 36-24. “Really pleased with [the rebounding],” Cronin said. “Tre Scott was extremely active on the offensive glass, which is something I’ve challenged him to do. Defensively, we did a really good job.”

Scott finished with five points to go along with 10 rebounds.

Getting to the line
The Bearcats were 25-of-35 from the free-throw line, compared to the Shockers 5-of-7.

“You can’t get fouled if you don’t play with strength,” Cronin said. “A team that is an aggressive, tough defensive team, you’ve got two choices: either be strong enough with the ball and beat them to loose balls, beat them to rebounds and play with unbelievable intensity, or they’re just going to not let you run a play, and [they’ll] take you out of everything you do.”
The Bearcats return to the two teams previous meeting Jan. 10.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. on ESPN2.

Bearcats in the pros:

Pro Bearcats Continued from Cover

percent on those attempts on the season.
The Rockets have been without injured guards Chris Paul, Brandon Knight and center Clint Capela, which has led to Clark’s increase in minutes.

When the team returns to full health, Clark will more than likely see a decrease in minutes, assuming he doesn’t completely fall out of rotation.

On a two-way contract, Caupain scored his first career NBA points Dec. 31 against the Charlotte Hornets.
The 6-foot-4 point guard scored five points and converted two-of-three field goal attempts, including a three-pointer.

Since scoring in back-to-back NBA games over the new year, Caupain has since returned to Orlando’s G-league affiliate, the Lakeland Magic, where he is averaging 16.1 points per game accompanying 6.8 rebounds and 5.6 assists.

Caupain has appeared in the starting lineup in all 26 appearances for Lakeland.

The three-year UC standout continues spending time with both the Warriors and its G-League affiliate, the Santa Cruz Warriors.

Evans has appeared in 23 games for Golden State, compared to 10 games for Santa Cruz.
The 6-foot-6 forward has played only two games for Warriors this month, averaging 1.0 points, 1.0 rebounds and 0.5 assists in 13 total minutes.

However, Evans has found success with Santa Cruz, averaging 10 points on 42.7 percent from the field accompanying 3.3 rebounds and 1.8 assists.

The 28th overall pick in June’s NBA Draft serves as all-star Klay Thompson’s backup on the depth chart and veteran Shaun Livingston has taken over the majority of the back-up point guard and shooting guard minutes.
Women’s basketball looks to extend home winning streak

The University of Cincinnati’s women’s basketball team is 11-7 overall, but 9-1 at Fifth Third Arena this season. The lone home loss occurred on Monday, Nov. 12, to Old Dominion University in a tightly-contested 76-72 game that went into overtime. Since then, the team has pulled off seven consecutive home wins.

The Bearcats look to extend the streak Wednesday evening, as the 9-8 University of Houston Cougars visit for the two teams’ only matchup of the season.

Looking to gain any momentum after two road losses, UC responded last week with a 72-52 win over Temple University Wednesday at Fifth Third Arena and a 70-50 win over the University of Tulsa on the road Saturday.

“The mood is great,” first year head coach Michelle Clark-Heard said. “I think our biggest thing right now is that we’re just trying to get better every day and focus on the things that we need to focus on in order to improve. We’ve always talked about since day one that you should be playing your best basketball in February. So, we’re working to get to that point.”

Much of UC’s success can be credited to the play of sophomore Iimar’i Thomas. The 5-foot-10 forward was named the American Athletic Conference (AAC)’s Freshman of the Year last season and is currently averaging 13.1 points and 7.4 rebounds in 26 minutes per game this season.

The AAC named Thomas its Player of the Week on Monday after she posted double-doubles in both wins while averaging 20 points, 10 rebounds, 2.5 blocks, two assists and 1.5 steals. The achievement marked the fourth time that Thomas has received weekly recognition from the conference this season.

“She’s very talented,” Clark-Heard said. “Her IQ is very high and she’s still young. She’s only a sophomore. We have to continue to challenge her every day. The staff and I really work to make sure that we can push her. I always say, ‘practice should be harder than the games.’”

Conference play has proven to be a struggle to maintain momentum for UC, which sits at 3-2. Clark-Heard attributed any success in conference play to understanding opponents’ strategies and meticulously preparing.

“We have to make sure we’re doing all the little things that helped us get the 20-point win on the road at Tulsa and focus on the things that helped us find a way to win the last two games,” Clark-Heard said.

“Everyone now, when you get into conference play, is prepping the same way. They’re understanding and knowing what different teams do. We have to be locked in and ready to follow a scouting report … everyone knows, in the league and in the country, you’ve got to protect your home court.”

Tip-off with the Cougars is scheduled for 7 p.m., and ESPNU3 will televise the action. Follow Sports_TNR on Twitter for live updates.

Grading men’s basketball conference games to date

93-61 Victory vs. Tulane

(Grade: A)

The first conference game was never in doubt. Tulane came into conference with a 4-9 record. The Bearcats jumped out to a 50-23 lead in the first half and never looked back.

Junior guard Jarron Cumberland scored 22 points on 6-of-10 shooting. Senior guard Justin Jenifer added 18 points.

UC shot 47 percent from the field and 10-for-21 (47 percent) from three-point range.

The Bearcats held the Green Wave to 36 percent from the field, blocking eight shots.

73-71 Loss at East Carolina

(Grade: D+)

In its first conference road game of the season, UC struggled to find its rhythm. The Bearcats found themselves trailing 36-27 at halftime — the team’s largest halftime deficit this season.

One of the only positive aspects is that UC had four starters in double-digit figures, combining for 58 of the 71 points. But the Bearcats couldn’t buy a basket from three-point range, shooting just 3-19 (15 percent).

The team couldn’t find the bottom of the net on free throws down the stretch either, converting just eight on 18 attempts (44 percent). UC was led by Cumberland with 18 points.

70-65 (OT) Victory at Tulsa

(Grade: B+)

Despite dealing with illness throughout the week, the Bearcats pulled out a nail-biter in their first overtime game of 2018.

Broome was the story in this one, knocking down a long two-point field goal with seconds left in regulation to send the game into overtime, bringing his second-half point total to 16. Cronin’s defensive mindset paid off, as the Bearcats came up with 15 steals off 21 forced turnovers.

UC outscored Tulsa 12-7 in OT to come out on top.

74-72 (OT) Victory vs. Connecticut

(Grade: C+)

UC struggled to defend the three-point line, as UConn converted on 11-of-27 attempts from beyond the arc.

Jenifer was the hero for Cincinnati, draining a three-pointer to put the Bearcats up 70-65 with barely more than a minute left in overtime. He also drew a charge with one second left in overtime to seal the win.

Jarron Cumberland led UC with 22 points.

Despite the victory, UC head coach Mick Cronin wasn’t pleased with how his team played.

“The lack of discipline defensively, getting outrebounded by eight in your own gym … It’s embarrassing,” Cronin said.

UC outrebounded the Bearcats 38-30.

82-74 Victory vs. South Florida

(Grade: B)

It was a hot start for the Bearcats, as the team led 43-31 at halftime.

A much-improved USF team made things interesting in the second half after Cronin was ejected with 18 minutes remaining. The Bulls cut the deficit to one with just five minutes left.

Cumberland scored a career-high 34 points as the Bearcats held off USF down the stretch. Junior forward Trevon Scott added 12 points and four rebounds.

UC was terrific at the foul line, going 29-for-32.

66-55 Victory at Wichita State

(Grade: A-)

Playing in arguably its most hostile environment thus far, Cincinnati used a late run to defeat the Shockers.

Cumberland and Jenifer led the way for the Bearcats combining for 35 points.

University of Cincinnati basketball player Justin Jenifer joins his teammates celebrating their victory over South Florida on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 at Fifth Third Arena. JUSTIN HILES | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Los Angeles teachers have found themselves in the national spotlight while striking for better pay. Between 1992 and 2014, teachers’ pay declined nationwide by 2 percent, according to Forbes. Last year, teacher strikes swept through Oklahoma, West Virginia, Arizona and Kentucky. The National Education Association (NEA) found that teachers in those states were paid between $45,292 and $52,338 annually. Non-educational employment — administration, janitorial, culinary and office staff — has hampered teachers’ wages. In Kentucky, during the same timeframe, non-educational employment grew by 41 percent, which could be the culprit intercepting teachers’ well-deserved raises.

As a result of being trapped in low tax brackets, teachers in the Los Angeles area responded with a good old-fashioned strike — one which lasted nearly two weeks, in some cases. Some of these strikes were successful. Arizona teachers will receive a 20 percent increase in salary by 2020, and West Virginia will give its teachers a 5 percent pay bump. But what did it cost? Some students paid for their teachers’ salary hike by losing time in the classroom.

Many students joined their teachers in protest. Students argued that their textbooks were dilapidated and missing pages. In Muskogee, Oklahoma, a school’s volleyball games were rained out due to a leaky roof. Conditions like this are despicable and preventable, and they should be illegal.

But what’s worse: having an underfunded education, or giving up time in school to propose better conditions at school? Teachers in Oklahoma received a $6,000 salary hike by losing time in the classroom, but it cost their students more than a week of in-class learning time. The Los Angeles strike disrupted classes for 500,000 students, according to The New York Times. If your job is to educate students and you instead disrupt their learning, maybe you should consider another career path.

Teachers are vital to our country’s youth. They work tirelessly to educate our future citizens, and leaders should be compensated fairly for their role. But unions, in attempt to gain leverage in negotiations with state governments, will dangle students as a bargaining chip by shutting them out of schools. These unions are dragging students into a mess they shouldn’t be involved with. Sleazy acts like these damage communities by pitting parents, teachers, government officials and students against one another. Students need to worry about homework — not their teachers’ pay. Both students and educators are entitled to the First Amendment and have the right to express their opinion; however, it’s possible to express an opinion without disrupting the education system.

Teachers and students should speak out, but they should do so while still ensuring outstanding academic performance. A community with great schools will attract businesses and thus attract public funding. Massachusetts, for example, ranks first in pre-K–12 education, according to U.S. News and World Report. It’s the prime destination outside of California and Florida for businesses, primarily thanks to its great education system. Responsible staffing priorities — giving administration staff more roles, for example — could lead to higher pay for teachers, improve school infrastructure and give families even more quality schools to choose from. Teachers deserve higher pay, but students deserve their teachers as well.

Netflix launched a new boy meets girl TV series that quickly spirals into a deadly obsession. A second season was announced on Dec. 3, 2018.

LS LA N TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE FOR SIX DAYS AND COUNTING, RESULTING IN A $125 MILLION LOSS IN REVENUE ACCORDING TO CNN.
Trapped in purgatory

Being a 20-something feels a lot, I imagine, like being stuck indefinitely in purgatory. As I’m nearing the end of my college career at a steady clip, I’m becoming more disillusioned with the promises of post-grad success. For years, I’ve been groomed to take on each assignment as a tool of professional development so that somebody will give me a job. Keep up the GPA, minimize outside distractions, stay involved on campus, never stop networking, polish that portfolio — I’m starting to feel the constricted environment to smooth out the mistakes; I’m relishing these training wheels while I can.

I remember learning to ride a bike as a child and how much I wanted to take off those damned training wheels and ride without the guiding hand of my dad ready to catch me when I fall. But if I’ve learned anything in this life, it’s that positive change comes at the cost of comfort and an ounce of curiosity goes a long way. It’s the curiosity that encourages you to take those training wheels off and you can’t learn to ride a bike without falling and skinning your knees.

By now, my knees are calloused from my many tumbles and falls and getting back on the bike to try one more time. I always thought that growing up meant acting less and less like a child, but I’m still as brave as I was as a six-year-old with bloodied knees and elbows, determined to keep my balance on that bike.

Bad boys and good men: Another mixed week in America for masculinity

KARLY WILLIAMS | SENIOR REPORTER

With an internet connection and just a couple of clicks on your web browser of choice, you too can discover just how hurt some men have become over a razor advertisement this past week.

“MEN!!! Your wallet is your greatest weapon against left wing thought police. Don’t fund these leftist ideologues buy continuing to purchase their products.”

“I accuse Gillette of misandry.”

These are just some of the YouTube comments posted on “We Believe: The Best Men Can Be,” Gillette’s recently released advertisement — or as they call it, “a short film.”

In the video, Proctor and Gamble’s iconic razor brand tackles classic examples of toxic male behavior — especially toward women—like bullying, sexual harassment, objectification and workplace discrimination. Gillette challenges viewers by simply asking, “Is this the best a man can be?”

Critics of the ad — shockingly, mostly men — have swarmed to stand up for masculinity, claiming that the male population has been vilified by Gillette and their parent company. Others have compared the ad with Nike’s hugely successful Colin Kaepernick ad, which used the outspoken football player to urge customers to “believe in something, even if it means losing everything.” This was a nod to the backlash Kaepernick received for protesting the national anthem during America’s treatment of black citizens and other minorities.

So, what exactly does this tell us? Men in America can embrace political advertising that calls for action against racism and unfair treatment of minorities as long as it is offered through a male lens. These men are not ready or willing to confront the realities of the social problems they create under systems that benefit their sex.

As long as there is even the slightest implication that some men could simply do better — in their workplace and home behavior, in their attitudes toward their sons and daughters and their actions and ideas toward women — American men will never accept ads like Gillette’s. Political advertising should not be romanticized. It’s an aspect of emotional marketing that plays into the tenants of sales growth and publicity, but the bigger negative here is the sheer fact that men can show up for certain movements but too cornered to examine they and their brothers negatively impact the world.

As the Gillette drama to sizzle down, another maleness gone bad into the country’s A Covington Catholic High School — just a stone’s throw across the Ohio River in Washington, “Make America hats for an anti-march. In front of Memorial, the surrounded and Nathan Phillips, a protester, veteran, American and activist, approached them.

Phillips is a picture of what it means to be a positive male figure. If you have a problem with a razor brand asking men to be better, or the story out of D.C., take a step back, read the news, digest the conflict, try on some different lenses, and ask yourself again why people keep asking men to do better.
### Crossword Puzzle

**Across**
1. Far from homogeneous  
8. Fight back  
14. Threatening  
15. Red hot chili pepper  
16. Bed buyer’s concern  
17. Still on the plate  
18. Suffix for Gator  
19. Like cactus-friendly climates  
20. “... making a list ...”  
21. Family guy  
23. “Oliver Twist” criminal  
25. “Sommersby” star Richard  
26. Deeply absorbed  
27. Clickable pic  
28. Skippy rival  
29. Roadie’s load  
30. San Antonio Spurs coach Popovich  
31. Worth having  
32. With 36-Across, mass-produced ... and what each of four black squares in this puzzle is?  
36. See 34-Across  
37. “Spun” tales  
38. Arm bone-related  
41. News letters  
42. Trike riders  
43. Having no slack  
44. Soft French wheel  
45. Bump up against  
47. Coastal flock  
48. Blues-rocker Chris  
49. Somerhalder of “The Blues”  
50. Winnebago relative  
51. Prompt on stage  
52. Stun gun brand  
53. Japanese  
54. Bump up against  
55. Mobster’s piece  
56. Red hot chili pepper  
57. Savvy  
58. Indian title  
59. Rodeo ropes  
60. Rhode Island  
61. “Dover Beach” opening  
62. Dangerous wave  

**Down**
1. Bashful pal  
2. Texter’s “If you ask me”  
3. Vigor’s partner  
4. “Terrible” French kid  
5. Crucifix  
6. Foolproof  
7. Guinness suffix  
8. Carted off to jail  
9. Looked at closely  
10. “The __ is calm tonight”: “Dover Beach” opening  
11. Coming up  
12. Show contempt  
13. Present perfect, for one  
15. Saving one’s bacon?  
19. Really excited  
21. Polynesian nation  
22. One who strikes while the iron is hot  
24. Top pitcher  
25. Birthday  
26. Risqué  
28. Soup du __  
29. Roadie’s load  
30. Essence  
31. Worth having  
32. Vintage hue  
33. Scary-sounding  
34. Prompt on stage  
35. Nautical speed unit  
36. Cross-sectional X-rays  
37. With 36-Across, mass-produced ... and what each of four black squares in this puzzle is?  
38. Development site  
39. Winnebago relative  
40. Woman with a habit?  
41. “Spun” tales  
42. Trike riders  
43. Having no slack  
44. Soft French wheel  
45. Bump up against  
46. Iranian faith  
47. Coastal flock  
48. Blues-rocker Chris  
49. Somerhalder of “The Blues”  
50. Winnebago relative  
51. Prompt on stage  
52. Stun gun brand  
53. Japanese  
54. Bump up against  
55. Mobster’s piece  
56. “2 Fast 2 Furious” actress  
57. Sleep acronym  
58. Indian title  
59. Rodeo ropes  
60. Rhode Island  
61. “Dover Beach” opening  
62. Dangerous wave  

### Office Hours

**Monday**
11AM-5PM  
**Tuesday**
11AM-1:30PM, 2PM-4PM  
**Wednesday**
12PM-3PM, 3PM-4PM  
**Thursday**
12PM-2PM, 3PM-6PM  
**Friday**
3PM-4PM  

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