Athens police accused of excessive force during arrest of UC student

Numerous Twitter users as well as UC student leaders are criticizing Athens, Ohio, police for holding an African American UC student down to the ground in a video that went viral Sunday evening.

Ty Patrick Bealer, a 21-year-old chemical engineering student, was arrested Sept. 29 by the City of Athens Police Department (APD) outside a bar in Athens, Ohio, according to a police report.

According to Athens Municipal Court records, Bealer pleaded not guilty to resisting arrest and obstructing official business, both misdemeanors. He has since been released on an $800 bond.

At 12:53 a.m., APD received a 911 call of an unruly and belligerent patron at The J Bar fighting with staff and trying to force his way into the bar, according to a police report.

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Follow the White Rabbit: Mysterious artist tags UC

An anonymous graffiti artist has left their mark on and around UC’s campus with spray-painted symbols on landmarks, campus buildings and even in bathrooms.

A Sept. 4 post on Reddit shows the graffitied symbol resembling the letter W on a bathroom wall inside the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Spray-painted underneath the tag was an Instagram handle for a local graffiti artist who goes by the moniker “White Rabbit” — seemingly a reference to the character in the classic Lewis Carol book “Alice in Wonderland.” And just like Carol’s titular character, with each post the viewer is begged to “Follow the White Rabbit.”

Scrolling down White Rabbit’s Instagram profile provides a veritable collage of tags and stickers that discreetly dot Cincinnati’s landscape, often near beloved landmarks. The White Rabbit has tagged multiple structures around Cincinnati at Newport Aquarium, International Friendship Park and in Over-the-Rhine.

“Whenever you put up a new slap, sticker, tag or piece, you’re adding to that bread crumb trail of your name and your work,” the artist told The News Record.

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White Rabbit’s tag, spotted near campus, can be found around campus and throughout the city.
UC students open clinic

Students and faculty at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine opened a free health clinic this summer to help local citizens without health insurance. The clinic, which opened July 13, is located in the Healing Center in Springdale, roughly 20 minutes from UC’s uptown campus. The clinic helps to provide care to uninsured residents around the Tristate area from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday. Maria Espinola, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, has for worked for more than three years to establish the clinic.

“THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS WE HAD TO FIGURE OUT ALONG THE WAY,” she said. “THERE WASN’T ENOUGH MONEY, THERE WERE SOME LEGAL ISSUES AND WE NEEDED TO FIND AN UNDERSTANDING HOW WE WERE GOING TO OPERATE WITHIN UC.”

While the clinic is open to help any uninsured person in Cincinnati, the main target is native Spanish speakers who may encounter language barriers. Espinola said.

The Latino population in Greater Cincinnati is estimated to be 70,000 (including undocumented immigrants), of which 96% have reported experiencing barriers to health care, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Twice as many uninsured persons live in Springdale, Ohio, than in the city of Cincinnati.

Espinola recalled her own struggles in accessing health care when she first immigrated from Mexico in 2001 with only $500 to her name.

“I EXPERIENCED A LOT OF BARRIERS TO HEALTH CARE AND TRAUMATIZING SITUATIONS, TRYING TO GET HELP WHEN I NEEDED,” she said. “SO, I AM VERY MUCH AN ADVOCATE FOR ALL MARGINALIZED GROUPS THAT MAY EXPERIENCE THIS.”

The clinic’s workers were able to collect supplies over the duration of its establishment through fundraising and donations. The volunteer staff is made up of medical students and physician faculty from UC.

The clinic will initially operate an urgent care center handling flu, fevers and other minor injuries that can be treated in one visit. As the clinic acquire more services, the staff hopes to expand to be able to help the community for more long-term treatments.

“Our long-term goal is to become a comprehensive primary care clinic,” said Joseph Zegar, a second-year medical student.

The Healing Center is a community partner with UC College of Medicine, providing opportunities for medical students to gain firsthand experience in the community. The clinic was created to expand on the college’s services and provide culturally competent care and collaborate across health sciences fields.

“The clinic has called on pharmacy students, nursing students, medical students, undergraduates at UC and faculty from those respective departments to both volunteer as well as contribute to the operations behind-the-scenes,” said Shawn Krishnan, a third-year medical student.

Along with aiding the uninsured, the clinic has also helped UC students develop leadership skills and cultural competency.

“The students’ initiative is incredible,” Espinola said. “I CAN’T TELL YOU HOW MANY OBSTACLES THEY HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD. THAT ENTIRE PROCESS WILL HELP THEM IN THE FUTURE AS THEY BECOME LEADERS IN OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.”

Cincinnati Zoo, UC partnership offers an evening just for students

The University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden have partnered once again for UC at the Zoo, an event that will offer students discounted tickets to the zoo during this year’s HalliZOOween.

The Oct. 5 event promises an exciting evening spent with some of the world’s most exotic animals, as well as Trick-or-Treat stations, a Scare-ousel, Phil Dalton’s Theater of Illusion and even a ride on the Hogwarts Express.

The event is an annual effort to get UC students more involved with the Zoo, said Dr. Theresa Culley, department head of biological sciences.

“That’s a great event because it’s getting people from our UC community, and it sort of solidifies that partnership that we already have,” she said. “There has been a lot of collaboration between the university and the zoo.”

Culley said her department often sends classes to study at the zoo, and that she is excited for students to experience the incredible diversity of plant and animal species on display.

“I would encourage people to watch them—try not to just pass by, but actually sit and watch them for a few minutes because it’s so amazing how they interact with each other and their environments,” Culley said.

The zoo’s educational resources are also something to pay careful attention to.

“There’s a lot of really rich signage and information around each exhibit that’s just amazing,” she said, adding that even seasoned veterans of the zoo ought to pay close attention. “There’s always something new to discover.”

UC at the Zoo will be held from 4-9 p.m. Tickets are $8 for students and can be purchased online or at the Tangeman University Center (TUC) information center. Parking at the zoo will be free; however, the university is advising to students to take the free shuttle which will pick up students at CCM, Tuner Hall and Eden Garage. The shuttle will be running continuous stops to the Zoo’s parking lot and back from 3:30-9 p.m. Students attending the event will also get a chance to purchase discounted tickets to the upcoming Nov. 23 Bearcats football game vs. Temple University by using the promo code: UCZOO19.
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to a news release provided by the
department’s chief of police, Tom Pyle.
Bealer and The J Bar’s staff could not be
reached at the time of writing.
Responding officers received a height,
weight, age, race and clothing description
of the person and were advised this
person may have assaulted other patrons
in the bar, according to Pyle. Upon
arrival, officers were told by The J Bar
staff the person had put a flannel shirt
over his clothing.
“Two APD officers approached the
individual pointed out by bar staff and
asked him to stop and identify himself,”
Pyle said. “The subject pulled away from
officers and attempted to flee and an
altercation ensued that ended on the
ground.”
The Athens Police Department declined
to share any video, photos or audio of the
incident, as it is evidence in an ongoing
investigation and court proceeding, said
Lori Weisend, administration assistant
for the department, in an email to The
News Record.
However, according to The Post—Ohio
University’s (OU) student newspaper—a
video was posted on Twitter by Jiy Brooks
that showed footage of the arrest.
“At Ohio University, three police officers
ran up on a group of boys beside a car on
court street, and took down an African
American boy,” read the tweet. “Slammed
him, punched him, and holding all parts
of his body down when he wasn’t fighting
back and was unarmed!”
According to The Post’s report, the video
only lasted about 30 seconds, but Brooks
said the entire altercation lasted about
five to seven minutes while a crowd
amassed on the sidewalk.
Brooks’ video does not show the events
leading up to the arrest as described by
Pyle. However, the video shows three
white officers on top of Bealer.
One officer held Bealer’s head to the
ground while another officer pinned
Bealer’s arms behind his back
to handcuff him. The third officer was
shown holding Bealer’s legs to the
ground.
In the video, several comments can be
heard from witnesses of the arrest.
“Really? Is this what you gotta do?
You got him now, don’t you?” said one
witness. “He better stay alive,” shouted
another, repeatedly.
After Bealer was taken into custody,
he was treated by EMS personnel for a
small abrasion to his right and a TASER
barb puncture before he was transported
to Regional Jail pending arraignment,
according to Pyle.
In a news conference held Sept. 30, Pyle
identified the three officers involved as
Ethan Doerr, Andrew Jacob Spear and
Dustin Wesselhoeft.
Doerr and Spear have a pending case
regarding excessive force violations,
resulting from an April 2018 arrest of
another OU student, Jacob Francis,
according to court documents. Several
other APD officers were also named in
the lawsuit.
Pyle denied any relation between
Francis’ lawsuit and Bealer’s arrest
during the news conference, despite
Spear and Doerr’s involvement in both
altercations.
After public outcry regarding the
incident on Twitter, Pyle refuted the use
of excessive force during Bealer’s arrest.
“I need all of their badge numbers , this
man was not resisting, fighting back or
anything, and it took 3 officers to get
him down,” wrote Twitter user @_eciruam.
“Excessive force at its finest.”

Ty Patrick Bealer was pinned down and arrested by Athens, Ohio, police Sept. 29. VIA FACEBOOK

“I understand the need to call the cops,
but I don’t think the use of force was
necessary,” said user @bassdscho74. “At
the same time I wasn’t there so .”
“Imagine just chillin and BOOM,” wrote
user @PharaohSuave. “Felony charge for
not letting the cops slam you into the
cement.”
Pyle said he had reviewed the incident,
including available AVI footage, and
found the officers’ actions reasonable,
restrained and within policy guidelines.
“The notion that the use of three officers
to arrest this person was excessive lacks
proper context,” he said. “The notion
that this arrest was based solely on race
is without merit as evidenced by the
complaint and positive identification by
bar staff.”
During the news conference, Pyle said
the office is conducting an internal
investigation into the use of force.
Investigations are a routine protocol in
the department after officers use force
during an arrest, according to Pyle.
Tweets surrounding the incident also
claim APD arrested the wrong person—a
claim that Pyle also denies.
“I saw the fight at J Bar with my own
eyes and this is not even the right guy!!!!,”
wrote Twitter user @740clo. “They do not
even resemble each other!”

“This shit makes me so sad I grew up
with Ty and he never would do anything
to deserve this they obviously have the
wrong person and it makes me sick,” said
user @its_foo_daw_lee.
Pyle said the video posted to social
media at the end of the incident did not
depict the prior actions of the officer or
the subject.
“Social media rumors that the wrong
person was arrested are wholly
inaccurate,” he said.
Chandler Rankin and Abbie Smith,
president and vice president of UC’s
Undergraduate Student Government
(SG), have spoken out regarding Bealer’s
arrest through a news release posted to
SG’s official Twitter account Sept. 30.
“On behalf of University of Cincinnati’s
Student Government, we would like to
stand in solidarity with Ohio University’s
Student Senate in condemnation of this
discriminatory and brutal behavior,”
they said. “We support the University
of Cincinnati student involved, and his
family in this difficult time. We will be
working diligently with our Student
Affair administrators and other Ohio
University student leaders to see that this
issue is addressed with the attention it
deserves.”
I tried it: Studying abroad in London

Shannon Smith, chief reporter for The News Record, studied abroad in London for a semester at the beginning of 2019.

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News Record via social media on the condition of anonymity. “You put stuff where the most people will see it, so campus and Clifton are perfect for that.”

So, who is White Rabbit?

The artist began their graffiti career when they were young and cited punk rock as a major influence.

“I developed interests in music, photographic illustration and making s--- in general,” White Rabbit said. “Years of photographically documenting everything I saw soon turned into constantly seeking out new places around the city, more pictures of writers (graffiti artists) I hadn’t seen before. After that, I just got lost in it at started writing.”

In an email to The News Record, UCPD Chief Maris Herold said graffiti is not a chronic problem on campus. However, serial taggers can become problematic as graffiti removal is both expensive and difficult, she said.

Herold cited a collaborative effort with the Department of Facilities and business partners such as Keep Cincinnati Beautiful — a local nonprofit dedicated to getting Cincinnatians more involved in upkeeping their neighborhoods — to prevent and quickly remove graffiti as soon as it happens on campus.

“Our main focus is to decrease litter, promote sustainability, decrease blight and really just cultivate community pride through education and beautification,” said Alistair Probst, greenspace program manager at Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

The organization claims to have removed over 7,000 tags throughout the city since it was founded in 1978. It works with volunteers and local law enforcement to remove graffiti all around the city. In addition to litter and graffiti cleanup, the organization also uses murals and street art to beautify neighborhoods and cover up graffiti hot spots.

Probst said keeping a database of known taggers is crucial for law enforcement to tamp down on graffiti, and the White Rabbit is definitely on the organization’s radar.

“Obviously, I’m aware that what I’m doing is in a legal gray area, but you can’t let that stop you,” White Rabbit said. “If you’re not getting up in visible spots nobody’s going to see it. At the same time, the repetitiveness of it and idea of getting caught is a lot of what makes it addicting.”

Even though graffiti is a legally sanctioned practice, that doesn’t exclude it from being considered an art form, said Derrick Woodham, professor emeritus at UC’s school of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning (DAAP).

“Once you accept that it can be an art-form, the issue is up to interpretation,” Woodham said.

Woodham noted that practitioners of graffiti should be willing to accept the consequences of their actions.

“Any street art or art in general, anything from the big murals downtown to the little throwups in OTR, all begin with a tag or something small,” White Rabbit said. “Tagging is [graffiti] in its most distilled form, so if you value any of that art, see a tag and can’t recognize that they’re one in the same, you’re a hypocrite.”
The University of Cincinnati College of Nursing is providing pediatric nursing students with an innovative, new way to learn. UC partnered with the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) to open a dedicated education unit (DEU)—a model the College of Nursing uses to provide clinical instruction to its students, said Dr. Donna Green, director of the Undergraduate Nursing Program.

“Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and the College of Nursing are all part of the Academic Health Center,” Green said. “We’re strong partners; we have several collaborations that we work on together. Conversations among leadership teams evolved into another opportunity to further expand our partnership together.”

The DEU, opened Aug. 27, is housed on the ninth floor at the children’s facility in Avondale. The 24-bed surgical unit serves postoperative patients and is staffed by seven nurses during the day and eight each night.

The unit pairs each nursing student with a clinical registered nurse who serves as his or her clinical instructor (CI). Responsibilities of clinical nurses selected to precept includes modeling and coaching nursing assessment, goal planning, intervention design and evaluation of nursing practice interventions, said Mary Sitterding, vice president of Patient Services at the CCHM.

Selected students are partnered with their matched preceptor to acquire knowledge, skills and abilities describing medical-surgical pediatric nursing assessment, goal-planning, intervention design and evaluation, said Sitterding.

“Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. ZACHARY SITCH VIA GOOGLE

“One major objective of the Cincinnati Children’s University of Cincinnati College of Nursing DEU is to positively influence competence and confidence during early clinical rotations and throughout the student experience with the anticipated impact of positive transitions to practice from student practice to independent nursing practice,” she said.

The CI works with the student to provide one-on-one training and guides the student’s clinical learning to help them become a full and active member of the patient care team. A clinical faculty coordinator from the College of Nursing supports the CI’s teaching efforts and remains accountable for the educational outcomes of students.

The DEU model supports clinical teaching development, facilitates knowledge and skill transfer, allows students to experience immersive engagement in the clinical practice setting and patient care and fosters development of practice readiness.

Green, who was instrumental in the development and planning of the unit for the school’s pediatric nursing course, also said the unit will help further develop undergraduate nursing students in their future role as new nurses at graduation.

Certain courses in the nursing school’s curriculum have a clinical component, and one of the courses in the undergraduate nursing curriculum is pediatric nursing.

The DEU gives students an opportunity to experience pediatric nursing in an innovative framework of clinical instruction.

So far, feedback from students working at the DEU has been overwhelmingly positive, said Green.

“They’re really are enjoying their time there and they are excited to be a part of the unit,” she said. “[Medical staff have also mentioned to us how proud and pleased they are about the student’s preparation and engagement in the unit so far.]”

Overall, the College of Nursing is very excited and proud to be a partner with Children’s Hospital and is excited to continue to develop their academic partnership and support for their students, said Green.

“We’re thrilled to be able to provide our students with another experiential learning opportunity where they get to really be immersed in the unit culture, pediatric nursing care and spend time with their nurse preceptor,” she said.

**LGBTQ Center searches for new program manager**

The University of Cincinnati’s LGBTQ Center is currently searching for a new program manager, with the hopes of having the role filled by the end of the semester or early next year.

Previously recognized as “program coordinator,” Jayson Douglas served in the role from August 2017 to June 2019. Douglas also served as interim director from April 2018 to February 2019, when Preston Keith was appointed director. In June, Douglas accepted the role of associate director for the office of intercultural engagement and leadership at the Texas A&M University-Commerce.

For the new program manager, the center is working toward expanding educational opportunities to further support LGBTQ students, faculty and staff. The program manager is in charge of the center’s “Safe Zone Ally” program, which is a monthly workshop that provides resources and strategies to increase advocacy and allyship for the LGBTQ community.

The center is looking for someone who has a keen understanding and awareness of LGBTQ identity, and someone who is able to affectively facilitate conversations around the community. In addition, someone who students can relate to and feel comfortable talking with, whether its issues with family, friends or just navigating college.

“We’re trying to invite our campus community into being more inclusive,” Keith said. “We’re also looking for someone who has an understanding who puts intersectional social justice at the forefront, and is able and willing to support our students across their identities and make sure that they have an understanding of what could look like from a support standpoint, from a resource allocation standpoint.”

Further, the program manager will facilitate workshops, developing curriculum for various programs, and create new programs and workshops that focus on different aspects of LGBTQ identity and its intersections.

“We really went to look at intersectionality as a whole and try to create workshops and training materials to help support folks in their effort to create inclusive spaces,” Keith said.

Workshop topics may include micro aggressions that impact the LGBTQ community, looking at the intersections of race, gender and sexuality, and examining how social economic status impacts the experiences of the LGBTQ community. Keith is also interested in beginning a program focusing on queer and undocumented students.

The position will also manage the center’s social justice oriented curriculum. The center is looking to start a variety of “learning series,” including monthly “Lunch and Learns” and an alternative spring break trip which will be more social justice oriented than in previous years.

This will be third year the center is doing an alternative spring break trip. Last year, the center went to Pittsburgh and it is going back again this break.

“We want to really embed leadership into the work that we’re doing,” Keith said. “Our leadership being from a social justice lens is really important.”
Celebrate the season with these five festive fall events around the city

HALAY PARNELL | CONTRIBUTOR

It’s October, and that means it’s officially fall. Here’s five festivals throughout the month to get you in the spirit.

37th Annual Fall Festival
This festival hosted by Wyoming, Ohio, features over 80 vendors and is sure to offer something for everyone. You can expect a variety of artist, crafters and food booths, along with local musicians for all day entertainment. What makes this event even better? It’s free. Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Wyoming Village Green, 400 Wyoming Ave.

Sunflower Festival
Cut your own sunflowers at this unique festival. Let your fall spirit kick in by exploring the corn and sunflower mazes or picking a pumpkin. Enjoy craft vendors, food trucks, a MadTree brewing beer booth and live music. Admission is $8 for adults. Tickets can be purchased online or on site. $1 per flower or 12 for $10. Saturday, Oct. 5- Sunday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Gorman Heritage Farm, 10052 Reading Road.

Harvest Hootenanny
Interact with 30 different animals at this festival which features the Honey Hill petting zoo. Along with the animals, food trucks, vendors, craft beers and pumpkin picking will be available for your entertainment. Free admission. Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Story Woods Park, 694 Pontius Road.

Fall Food Fest
Craving a little bit of everything this fall season? Sample a variety of fall-themed goodies at Findlay Market’s Fall Food Fest. With items ranging from Taste of Belgium’s pumpkin waffles, Maverick Chocolate’s pumpkin pie truffles, and Dean’s Mediterranean Import’s sage and brown butter pumpkin ravioli. Enjoy live music all day while sipping on a variety of beer and fall-themed cocktails. Tickets can be purchased online in advance (1 for $2, 6 for $10 or 15 for $20) or on site (credit card only). Sunday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Findlay Market, 1801 Race St.

Fright Night Weekend
Capitalize on a whole weekend of fall activities with Washington Park’s Fall Fest Weekend! Local vendors will be in attendance selling craft and homemade goods. Cop a T-shirt from Cincy Loyal Clothing or pick some fresh flowers from Daisy Jane’s Flower Truck. You will have many opportunities to snack from food vendors like Just Q’in BBQ and Chino’s Street Food. Live bands will also be performing to further your weekend fun. No tickets necessary for admission. Saturday, Oct. 26- Sunday, Oct. 27, 12 p.m.- 6 p.m. Washington Park, 1230 Elm St.

Get Out And Do Something: Oct. 4 to Oct. 6

EMMA BALCOM | CONTRIBUTOR

Take advantage of the moderate weather, grab some of your friends and explore what the Queen City has to offer.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

OTR Film Festival: This weekend, the Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival is sharing its plethora of films with the community. Each film is intended to honor the diversity of mankind and allow each viewer a glimpse into another’s life, discovering the struggles and triumphs of those around us. This Friday will host five different films aimed at exploring identity, place in the American South: This Sunday launches the exhibition of Sohrab Hura, a talented photographer who elaborates on themes of connection, perspective and place in his works. His pieces delve into layers of personal emotion, crafted with the intention of reflecting upon the travels of a previous road trip he took through America. Take advantage of this opportunity to bear witness to Hura’s gifts and explore your own theories behind the meaning of his work. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Cincinnati Art Museum, 953 Eden Park Dr.

Northside Flea: The Northside Flea showcases a variety of vendors and creatives across the city who’ve come together to celebrate the miracle of sustainability. This outdoor market’s focus is selling items crafted purely from recycled or salvaged materials in order to do their part in saving the environment. Make sure to check out all the goods this flea market has to offer and leave feeling satisfied that you’ve done your part to support green values. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Building Value, 4040 Spring Grove Ave.

SUNDAY, OCT. 6

The Levee: A Photographer in the American South: This Sunday launches the exhibition of Sohrab Hura, a talented photographer who elaborates on the meaning of his work. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019. FluoR | SHW402Z

HarlZOOween: The Cincinnati Zoo is embracing the spirit of October by transforming its park into a Halloween wonderland. Bring a bag for candy as you can stop by various trick-or-treat stations, and check out Phil Dalton’s Theater of Illusion Shows in the afternoon. The wildlife is getting involved in the festivities, and you should too. Noon-5p.m. Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St.
White Lighter: From marching band to rock band

“UC marching band to rock band. From left to right, White Lighter band members Christian LeDuc, Dan Matthews, Ben Jervis and Ethan Qureshi at the 80 Uptown Sept. 19, 2019. @UC4Renta via Instagram.”

CHLOE ROSENBERGER | STAFF REPORTER

For the past few weeks, bulletin boards across campus have boasted flyers urging students to support local music by attending a show in October at MOTR Pub, where two acts will perform. Keen observers, however, will notice one group’s name on the poster stands out boldly, with a thick circle of Sharpie marker drawn around it on each iteration of the flyer.

That band is White Lighter – a group made up of four UC students. They were brought together in 2018 via the unlikely vessel of the UC Bearcat Marching Band, according to drummer Christian LeDuc, a fourth-year electronic media major.

“I’d been doing drumline in marching band for a long time, and last year the marching band at UC put on a show where they needed a giant stage and they wanted a rock band on the stage, so I auditioned to play drum set and I got that,” LeDuc said.

Dan Matthews, a fifth year majoring in chemical engineering also stumbled upon the opportunity to audition.

“...I was walking down Mainstreet one day and I saw a sign for this production, and I was like, ’Oh, that’s kind of neat,’” he said. “I tried out for the bass part and I got that, and our original guitarist got the guitar part.”

Following what they describe as a six-month forced practice for the marching band, the members decided to stick together and form their own group, bringing vocalist Ben Jervis – who is in his fifth year studying archeology – into the picture.

White Lighter immediately developed a classic rock sound the members attribute to their musical roots, but they emphasize their goal to keep from adhering to a single genre. For instance, LeDuc is inspired by funk sounds, while Matthews tends to incorporate a lot of jazz elements into his playing.

Over the past year, White Lighter has encountered many opportunities to play their original and cover songs for a Cincinnati audience. One of those occasions was a series of recordings done in collaboration with Bearcast Media at the Monastery studio, which included making videos and a mini documentary.

“I like performing on camera and it’s fun because it’s our project, it’s not for anyone else,” Matthews said.

Through Bearcast Media, White Lighter found a connection to newest member and guitarist Ethan Qureshi, a second-year majoring in marketing and electronic media, who assisted with making the group’s videos.

“It’s a little weird being on the other end because I’m always behind the camera,” Qureshi said. “With my last band, I was playing gigs with them for three or four years but we never had a video or anything. It’s cool that I went from recording these guys to playing with them.”

UC students may also recognize White Lighter from participating in the “Last Band Standing” event at Top Cats over the summer, which was a rewarding experience but also taught the members valuable lessons about life in the music industry.

“The first part of the competition was super awesome because it was based on crowd voting and judges voted for us,” LeDuc said. “For the second part they were like, ‘By the way, there won’t be any judges and whoever wins will be the group whose fans buy the most alcohol.’ Nothing against them, but I was so angry because it was no longer a competition of whose band was better – it was whose fans bought the most beer, which is just exploiting everybody.”

Despite this, every member of White Lighter agrees showing up to play music for an audience makes every negative aspect worth something – including the lack of income.

“I’d rather get paid zero dollars and have a crowd of people that are really enjoying the music than a hundred dollars and two people watching that hate us,” Qureshi said.

“Conquering the struggles that come with being working artists is what White Lighter is all about, down to the origin of their band name. The idea for the title is credited to Jervis, who describes it as a reference to a superstition in the music world.

“It has different meanings, and one of them is laughing in the face of stigma behind white lighters; that they’re bad luck and bring misfortune,” Jervis said. “There’s also kind of the weird connection with music that it goes back to – overcoming those things that people say by telling yourself, ’Oh, using a white lighter’s not going to kill me.’”

In the future, White Lighter hopes to bring more of its content to a wider audience, with around a dozen songs in its back pockets to potentially put toward an album. The group also hopes to get back in the studio with Bearcast Media to produce additional music videos.

White Lighter’s music is available on Spotify. The band will play at the Thompson House in Newport Sept. 28, and the 21-and-up show at MOTR with Coy Comer & The Wanderers takes place Oct. 14.
UC volleyball sweeps opening weekend of AAC play

The University of Cincinnati volleyball team swept East Carolina University 3-0 Friday, Sept. 27, 2019 at Fifth Third Arena.

SPENCER SCHULTZ | SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Cincinnati volleyball team won two matches this past weekend to open American Athletic Conference (AAC) play.

Redshirt senior Jordan Thompson also broke UC's all-time kills record in volleyball, as the Bearcats defeated East Carolina University (ECU) in straight sets (3-0) Friday night.

Thompson surpassed Julie Dupont's school record of 2,137 kills during the second set on an assist from sophomore Armania Heckenmuller. “I didn’t realize what was going on at first because everyone was excited for that one point, then I realized what was happening,” Thompson said. “To hear the crowd all of a sudden start cheering ... It felt special to have that happen at home and feel that support and the people who’ve been supporting the team for the past five years I’ve been here was a special moment.”

UC had arguably its most efficient opening set of the season with 18 kills on 17 assists and a .417 hitting percentage in route to a 25-14 win. The hitting percentage may come as a surprise to some, as ECU held opponents to .191 through its first 13 matches.

ECU was able to exploit UC's offense in the second set, as it forced the Bearcats into six attacking errors, which resulted in three blocks.

“You always have to expect against any opponent you play a point-for-point type style,” UC head coach Molly Alvey said. “When you have those opportunities to score two points at a time — to go back and serve — those are what helps you separate those sets out ... We were able to pick up the aggressiveness on our serves again and finish out the set.”

Sophomore Maria Mallon's jump serve caused the Pirates trouble, as she began the second set with two straight service aces, and the second caused ECU's right-side hitter Bri Wood into confusion whether to set or bump it.

Mallon finished with three service aces.

Mallon led the team in digs (13) and kills (17), which doesn't happen too often with Thompson averaging 5.84 kills per set.

“Maria played great defense right off the bat,” Alvey said. “That's something we knew we had to do. We knew they had the ability to tip a lot. We knew that they had some pretty heavy arms that were going to be swinging at us.”

ECU entered the match behind UC’s AAC leading .275 hitting percentage. Wood, who averaged a .335 hitting percentage, finished with five kills on .167.

Alvey got what she envisioned in a crowded Fifth Third Arena, as the Bearcats had a home crowd of 924, the largest since November 2018.

“A great win to open up conference play no doubt,” Alvey said. “It’s nice to be at home. There were specific things we wanted to make sure we accomplished strategically from an offense and defensive perspective, so we did a nice job of that and came out and took care of the match.”

The Bearcats also took down Wichita State in straight sets (27-25, 25-12, 25-22) Sunday on the road. The team had a season-high seven service aces and outscored the Shockers in every category except blocks. UC sits last in the AAC in blocks, averaging 1.24 per match. Thompson led the team with 18 kills.

UC football: Pierce devloping into go-to reciever

The University of Cincinnati football offense showcased wide receiver Alec Pierce at Joan C. Edwards Stadium Saturday evening, as he set three career-highs and led the Bearcats in all-purpose yards.

The sophomore scored his first collegiate touchdown on a 17-yard reception from quarterback Desmond Ridder late in the first quarter and ended the first half with 108 receiving yards on six catches.

“He’s a go-getter,” Ridder said postgame. “He’s a person we can look to go get the ball. He’s got a great vertical jump, great speed and we put the ball up and know he’s going to come down with it ... I know I can count on him whether to top something off or go out and do what he does.”

Ridder found Pierce for a 46-yard completion later in the half that set up UC’s third touchdown. The catch marked Pierce’s third game of the season with at least one 40-plus-yard reception (52-yarder against UCLA and 46-yarder at Ohio State).

“I love running down field routes, it’s my favorite thing to do,” Pierce said. “There’s nothing like running downfield and seeing the ball coming your way ... Since fall camp [the connection with Ridder] has been building every day. We have a lot more to build up on, but it’s off to a good start this year.”

The two’s chemistry has developed as of late, as Pierce is beginning to settle in at the wide receiver position. Head coach Luke Fickell had him playing linebacker during practices for the Military Bowl last December and was unsure what side of the ball he’d be on heading into this season.

Pierce saw the field on special teams and defense last season, contributing six tackles.

Playing both sides of the ball isn’t unfamiliar to the Glen Ellyn, Illinois native however, as Pierce had five touchdowns, three sacks, four interceptions and returned punts for Glenbard West High School during his senior season.

With a 6-foot-3, 212-pound frame, Pierce has settled into a deep group of receivers for the Bearcats and is one of the youngest in the five-man group.

Nonetheless, Pierce has proven his worth. He entered week five with the most receiving yards on the team (169). His 108-yard performance Saturday brings his total to 277 — 94 more yards than tight end Josiah Deguara, the team’s second-best receiver thus far. No other receiver has more than 100 yards on the season.

With the fast start to the season, it’s worth noting UC hasn’t had a receiver with a 1,000-yard season since 2010 (Armon Binns finished with 1,101).

“He is [stepping into a leadership role] for us,” Fickell said. “He’s taken some ownership in the things we’re doing. When you build a connection with your quarterback, it makes it a little bit different as well.”

Both Pierce and Ridder have two years eligibility remaining after this season, and only time will tell how far this duo can take the Bearcats offense.
What to watch for: UC hosts No. 18 UCF Friday

UC Athletics brings back ‘Bearcats Madness’ after 15 years

SPORTS

ZACH FRIES | STAFF REPORTER

Less than a week after throttling Marshall 52-14, The Bearcats return to Nippert Stadium Friday night to face the University of Central Florida (UCF) Knights. The Bearcats offense broke out to the tune of over 520 total yards. Sophomore quarterback Desmond Ridder completed 18-of-22 passes for 221 yards and tossed four touchdown passes. Fellow sophomore wide receiver Alec Pierce caught six passes for 108 yards with a touchdown, which was the first of his career.

UC’s defense held Marshall to just 256 total yards. Marshall quarterback Isaiah Green completed just 11-of-29 passes. Junior linebacker Jarell White led Cincinnati with six tackles and linebacker Ethanucky added five tackles and a sack.

“It was a very complete game for us,” UC head coach Luke Fickell said at his weekly news conference Tuesday. “Creating and building that momentum is a big deal for us.”

No. 18 ranked UCF (4-1) comes to Cincinnati after demolishing UConn 56-21. The Knights lost at Pittsburgh 35-34 Sept. 21. This was their first regular-season loss since November 2016 at University of South Florida - a streak that spanned 27 games.

Adrian Killins Jr. and Greg McCrae spearhead a rushing attack that averages over 200 yards per game. Killins Jr. scored two touchdowns in UCF’s 38-13 rout versus the Bearcats last season.

Despite losing quarterback McKenzie Milton to a gruesome leg injury last year, freshman quarterback Dillon Gabriel has been impressive through the first five games. Gabriel has completed 74-of-120 passes (61.7%) for 1,338 yards and has 14 passing touchdowns while throwing just two interceptions.

Eight of Gabriel’s touchdown passes have gone to Gabriel Davis. Davis ranks second in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) in receiving yards (490).

“They still have their core and they’re a very good running football team … everything is set up because of the offensive line and their ability to run the football,” Fickell said.

On defense, UCF ranks just outside of the top 30 in scoring defense, allowing just 19 points per game. Senior linebacker Nate Evans leads the Knights in tackles (29) and tackles for loss (4.5). Evans made All-AAC first team in 2018.

Redshirt junior cornerback Richie Grant led the Knights in tackles and interceptions in 2018. He was also an All-AAC first teamer in 2018.

Fickell has been waiting for opportunities like these since he was hired in 2017.

“When we came here we wanted these opportunities… to make these events especially for students who want to be there… what you get from your student body and your home crowd is a big part of it,” Fickell said.

The Bearcats have lost three straight games to UCF. Their last win over the Knights was in 2015, when Cincinnati rolled 52-7.

The Knights enter as four-point favorites.

Kick-off is at 8 p.m. ESPN will provide television coverage, while 700 WLW AM will supply radio coverage.

Although the basketball portion of Friday night won’t be televised anywhere, keeping fans and alumni committed provides insight into what’s new around campus.

Head football coach Luke Fickell and Brannen are clearly on the same page when it comes to captivating as many people as possible.

“It was an opportunity to show what kind of energy we really have on campus,” Fickell said of the environment during the UCLA football game, which boasted the seventh largest crowd in Nippert Stadium’s history.

“I know it’s a sporting event and you can see it, but you can learn so much about what’s going on around campus by these events. This was an opportunity for us to show the country not just our football team, but our university and the energy that is behind us.”

Notable UC men’s basketball alums expected to attend Bearcats Madness includes Terry Nelson (1991-93), Steve Logan (1998-02), DerMarr Johnson (1999-00), James White (2003-06) and Kevin Johnson (2013-17).

Skyline Chili returns as the title sponsor after promoting the event previously.

Worth noting is the lack of a slam-dunk contest on the schedule, which was a fan favorite in the late 90s and early 00s.

Admission is free, and the full schedule of events is listed below:

- 10 p.m. – Fifth Third Arena doors open
- 10:30 p.m. – Fornica autograph session begins on west concourse
- 11:30 p.m. – Event begins with introduction of men’s and women’s coaches, staff and student athletes
- Midnight – Fifth Third Bank $100K Half-Court Shot
- 12:05 a.m. – Men’s and women’s basketball three-point shooting contest
- 12:20 a.m. – Women’s basketball scrimmage (20 minutes)
- 12:41 a.m. – Skyline Chili Gift Card Parachute Drop
- 12:45 a.m. – Men’s basketball scrimmage (20 minutes)

Upcoming exhibition games at Fifth Third Arena:
- Women’s basketball vs. University of Charleston (Oct. 29, 7 p.m.)
- Men’s basketball vs. Thomas More (Oct. 31, 7 p.m.)

Get some extra sleep. Drink some coffee for dinner. Friday night will be a long one.

First the University of Cincinnati football team will host the No. 18 University of Central Florida Knights at Nippert Stadium on ESPN. Then they’ll open Fifth Third Arena to host Midnight Madness to jump start the men’s and women’s basketball seasons.

After a 15-year hiatus, “Bearcats Madness” as it’s now branded, will make a return. The event will provide a first look at the University of Cincinnati’s basketball teams Friday, Oct. 4, after the football game.

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The presence of a fun preseason event to create anticipation for the start of the season was nonexistent during Mick Cronin’s tenure.

Brannen’s initiative to bring back Bearcats Madness in his first year shows his desire to increase fan engagement around his team.

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Opinion: This could be the future of the Republican party

Trump’s appeal to the far-right that demolished conservativism and made Trump the Republican leader, I think otherwise. The party has had the likes of Strom Thurmond, Lee Atwater and Jesse Helms in its ranks for decades, yet those “conservatives” didn’t complain while fringe characters and far-right groups were still there.

In terms of appealing to the rust belt states, I don’t believe it was enough. For one, Trump won fewer votes in many of those rust belt states compared to President George W. Bush’s 2004 re-election. Some of these states include Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. It was more of Hillary Clinton’s unpopularity that gave Trump the victory.

In terms of being a celebrity, I don’t believe this is the case either. Actor and bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger didn’t take over the Republican party despite being the Governor of California for two terms. It took two decades for an actor named Ronald Reagan to become the face of the party. It took Trump just two years.

I believe it’s because Trump was willing to call out the party and its politicians. The phrase “All talk, no action” has meaning.

Trump called out what Pastor describes as the current situation, which is “Today we have near complete erosion of our 4th and 5th amendment protected constitutional rights, trillion dollar never-ending wars, a failed war on drugs, bloated budget, increasing paternalistic government, preoccupation with consenting adults sex lives, cronyism run amok, but most troubling is the fact that the party that fought and championed the maximizing of individual freedom is a complicit partner.”

Trump made it his mission in the primary to degrade his opponents while pointing out the truths Pastor speaks. While Trump has kept many of his promises, he has failed to keep many, such as a balanced budget, non-interventionism, a border wall and repealing Obamacare.

Pastor believes “Americans have been thirsty for a sort of ‘philosopher-official’ who stands flat-footed and speaks the damn truth even if his voice quivers.”

“Trump, while more of a gaffer and an alarmist, on a philosopher level fits the mold Pastor speaks of. If the Republican party can find more candidates who are fiscally conservative and socially libertarian — but without the character problems — the party might survive. In the end, contrary to what people tell you, Trump won’t last forever, and the party will need to find a new identity. The philosophy of the “New Age Republican” would be a good bet.

Recently, Cincinnati City Councilman Jeff Pastor wrote an article on Medium on his political upbringing, why he is a “New Age Republican” and how the current politicians have failed to act on their promises.

As Pastor correctly points out, the two main political parties, when in power, have carried out policies that go against their own platform. The Democrats with foreign policy and the Republicans with economic and domestic policies. I believe Pastor dove into something even greater that explains the current state of the Republican party under President Donald Trump and could foreshadow its future.

The current state of the Republican party is, for the time being, the party of Trump. Debate has circulated on why a celebrity was able to take over the party of Lincoln in a matter of two years. Was it that Trump appealed to the darker sides of the party? Was it that many rust belt Americans felt welcomed by Trump? Or was that a famous person finally supported the Republican party?

While I believe all the possible explanations are probable, they can’t explain the rapid shift from presumed frontrunner Jeb Bush to Donald Trump. For one, while never-Trump “conservatives” Bill Kristol, Tom Nichols and Jennifer Rubin contend it was

Opinion: The attack on Juuls reeks of Prohibition

Unless you live under a rock, the popular e-cigarettes Juuls have attracted the attention of the federal government. The Trump administration announced a few weeks ago that it would ban the sale of the popular flavored e-cigarettes. Michigan was the first state to ban flavored e-cigarettes and other states such as New York, California and Massachusetts are in a similar trajectory. The government action comes after the death of nine people, with 530 others sickened in 38 states. Juul Labs, the company that makes Juuls, has stopped advertising and will comply with the Trump Administration, until the cases of those sickened are examined.

If you have paid attention in history class, you’ll know that a similar movement which involved the intervention of the government to ban a taboo substance occurred a century ago, Prohibition.

Prohibition, the ban of alcoholic beverages in the United States, is looked at as one of the most boneheaded acts of federal action in U.S. history. Of course, at the time, the ban of alcoholic drinks was looked on as something that need to be done.

For instance, in 1887 Supreme Court Justice John Harlan said “We cannot shut out of view the fact, within the knowledge of all, that the public health, the public morals, and the public safety, may be endangered by the general use of intoxicating drinks; nor the fact established by statistics accessible to everyone, that the idleness, disorder, pauperism and crime existing in the country, are, in some degree ... traceable to this evil.”

Only the opposite was true. Crime rose and the tax revenue which could’ve helped minimize the impact of the Great Depression, was absent. People who wanted an alcoholic beverage would do whatever was necessary to have it. Prohibition was ineffective and only hurt the consumers.

The ban on Juuls, while not on the scale of Prohibition, strikes a similar tune. I see many people use Juuls or other flavored e-cigarettes. In fact, if you told me flavored e-cigarettes were under government scrutiny, I would’ve had no idea.

While health concerns over flavored e-cigarettes are likely well formulated, it should be up to the consumer to decide if the negatives of flavored e-cigarettes outweigh the positives. It doesn’t take government action to tell the populace you shouldn’t use flavored e-cigarettes. There has never been a federal ban on traditional cigarettes for instance, and the effects of smoking tobacco are well documented. Kind of odd, don’t you think?

With this mind, it should be up to the consumer to decide whether to use Juuls or any flavored e-cigarette. It should be obvious when libertarians, socialists, conservatives and progressives are all siding against you; you aren’t in the right.

As Milton Friedman once said, “Governments never learn. Only people learn.”
Sudoku is played on a grid of 9 x 9 spaces. Within the rows and columns are 9 “squares” (made up of 3 x 3 spaces). Each row, column, and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square. Does it sound complicated? Each Sudoku grid comes with a few spaces already filled in; the more spaces filled in, the easier the game – the more difficult Sudoku puzzles have very few spaces that are already filled in.
And the winner is...
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