

The Bernard Journal

National



Champions

The Happiest Victory at the Happiest Place on Earth

By Mary Fieler '20

Seton's dance team has fought their way to a national title for the second time in four years. So now the time has come to ask ourselves again, what does it take to be a national champion? Hard work? Persistence? A good attitude? The truth is it's a lot more than just those things combined.

I had the opportunity to go to Disney and observe the dancers in their most stressful week of the year. I could feel the nerves and intimidation pouring from every dancer in the competition from the second I got there.

So what exactly does it take to be a dancer? Ri-



The UDA stage for the final performances! Where our lovely winners danced!!
Picture credit Molly Kock

ley Volker says, "12 hours but during 'Nats' season about 16 hours per week!" All of this hard work ultimately shows what it takes to be a national champ. It is a commitment that must be followed through.

Winning a national title is something everyone has dreamt about in one sense or another. Walking into Disney's ESPN worldwide sports gym and hearing the blaring music and the flashing lights created a reality that you cannot be here to mess around. Although I was the same age as most of the girls there I felt like a little kid watching my big sisters.

Standing in the crowd and hearing those names get called starting at 16th place and traveling to 1st is probably the most stressed I've ever been. I prayed, along with every other Seton fan, that the next name would not be ours. A look of fear on everyone's face as each name was counting down filled every seat in the arena.

Finally, third place was called and it was not Seton. Second... then first place. I cannot describe the feeling of joy and pride I felt to be a Seton student being able to watch these girls since freshman year. All of them screaming and hugging each other made up for my feeling of envy that I was born with zero flexibility or talent in dance.

Riley explains to us what her thought process was when winning her second national championship, "Honestly, I can't find words to describe it. In that moment you just realize that all the work, time, and effort was so worth it. It is just a moment of pure joy

and the amount of love you feel from the other teammates is insane."



Riley Volker putting her game face on!! So adorable!

Riley gave her final statement on what being a champion is to her. She said, "To me a champion is someone who never fails to give every practice and performance there full 110%. A champion is a hard worker who does everything to the best of their abilities and knows that it is okay to fail, that's how you learn! Overall a champion to me does not mean you placed 1st, but that you gave everything you had and you are proud of yourself and your team!"

Dads: The Perfect Built-in Dance Date

By Molly Guenther '20

Dances. Typically you spend hours searching for the perfect dress. Contemplating what date to take. What shoes to wear. But there is one dance a year that is stress free: father-daughter dance.

This dance has been a Seton tradition since way back in the day. Just look at this picture of Mrs. Ciarla and her dad!



Kathy tries hard not to step on Mr. Allen's toes again.

A year book picture of Mrs. Ciarla and her Dad way back when! Photo Credit: Seton Yearbook

I spoke with my mom, a Seton graduate of 1987, about her four Father-

Daughter dances here.

She said her dad "was not a big dancer, but he looked forward to the dance each year - just like I did. Not because we loved to dance, but because it allowed us the opportunity to spend time together with other dads and daughters."

This year, the father-daughter dance took place on March 7th from 8:00-11:00. This dance was in the gym.

This is different from when our moms, aunts, and grandmas went to Seton. As my mom told me, "Back in those days, the dance was held at the Music Hall Ballroom."

Seton's Father-Daughter Dance is something that connects all Saints- whether they graduated in the 20th century or just last year.

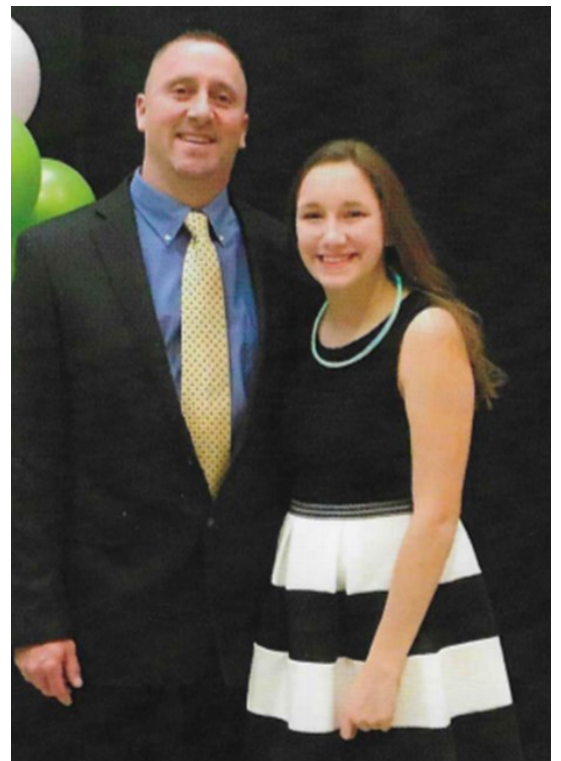
As my favorite alumnae herself said, "Now that I am a parent I see how precious time truly is and am grateful for anytime that I get to spend with dad and my girls!"

I also spoke with some graduates of 1970 at their 50th Reunion Lunch with the senior class. At their father-daughter dances, they

voted for a princess! All of the Alumnae looked back with fond memories as they spoke about the good times they had with their dads.

Whether you brought your dad, uncle, grandpa, or another loved one, the Father-Daughter Dance is a great time for anyone! Just ask senior Suzanne Klosterman! It's her favorite dance of the year!

And for the seniors that already are missing it, there is also always Seton's Alumnae Association father-Daughter Dances to look forward to as well!



Abby Withers and Mr. Withers sophomore year dancing the night away! Photo Credit: Seton Yearbook

The Lenten Season Is Upon Us

By Morgan Mevers 20

The Lenten season kicked off on February 26th, Ash Wednesday, and will continue until April 9th, Holy Thursday. Lent is comprised of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which is a significant number in the Bible. Noah's flood lasted 40 days and nights, the Hebrews spent 40 years wandering, and Jesus spent 40 days in the desert being tempted. During these 40 days we fast and prepare for Easter.

Many think of Lent as having to give something up. This is in recognition of Jesus's sacrifice for all of us. People may give anything up from cookies and sweets, use of electronic devices, or other things we love. Although this is common practice, it is not a requirement but an example of sacrifice and avoidance of temptation. It may be substituted for other things or not done at all as long as the season's true intentions are kept. For instance, Mrs. Daubenmerkl prays for a student each day especially for those she knows need it the most. She keeps in the spirit of Lent by caring about others and staying reverent.

Another Lenten tradition is fasting on Fridays. The teaching is not to consume meat as a form of penance and sign of self-discipline. If you wonder why fish and seafood is "safe" on these days. It goes back to a

long time ago when meat was considered a luxury item, while fishing was a common practice and fish was much cheaper. It may also have to do with the fact that fish is cold-blooded. For instance, in certain areas it is ok to eat alligator, capybara, muskrat, and even beavers.

While fishing is not something you see in often Cincinnati, many parishes prepare fish fries to raise money. Every Friday schools like Saint Williams and Saint Lawrence have delicious foods like fried shrimp, crab cakes, hush puppies, grilled cheese, salads, and pizza.

The Saint Williams fish fry begins at 4 p.m. and continues until around 7:30 p.m. You can drive thru or go inside and sit down to a family-friendly and lively atmosphere. Time moves quickly with the live music

and lines even more so due to the diligent staff and volunteers. Then, when you're finished eating there is a wide selection of treats from chocolate chip cookies, cheesecakes, red velvet cakes, and cupcakes for only \$1.



Dessert Table at Saint Williams Fish Fry

The Bernard Journal strives to entertain, inform, spark conversation, and provide a snapshot of student and community life. The content of The Bernard Journal is determined by Seton High School's Journalism Class and aims to reflect Seton values. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the faculty adviser or of the administration of Seton High School.

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Take a Chance at Setonsation

By Emma Poli '20

Setonsation. Months and months of preparation from every staff member and student in the building. But why? What is it all for?

This event, along with many others are the true definitions of Seton and what this school is all about.

Seton's mission as a school is to "develop a diverse population of young women for a life of faith, service and leadership and engage them in achieving academic excellence in a college preparatory environment".

Setonsation is one of the many ways that Seton lives out this statement. It is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for this school.

The money brought in from this event benefit Seton's tuition assistance fund and other programs for our students. In other words, it goes right back to the students. This allows more scholarships to be awarded and lowers the cost of tuition.

The event will be held at Seton on Satur-



Students showing off the 2020 Honda Pilot. Photo Credits: Seton High School Website

day, March 28. Last year, the event set a new attendance record for the most people and sold out two weeks in advance!

There is food served throughout the night, and lots of options to choose from. For some people, food is the last thing on their mind on this night.

There are many prizes that you can bid on, in-

"That's why the people are there, to support the students of Seton".

cluding things from both a silent and live auction. The prizes for the night include anything from baskets to jewelry to the brand new 2020 Honda Pilot. Our very own Mrs. Daubenmerkl got to drive the luxury vehicle home last year.

The hype surrounding the car raffle is obviously lived up to. Stu-

dents competing against each other both as individuals and as a group to see who can raise the most money by selling chances is one of the main focuses here for months leading up to the actual event.

There are multiple Seton students who work the crowd and try to sell as many raffle tickets and other prizes. President, Mrs. Ciarla says, "That's why the people are there, to support the students of Seton. It's good for them to see the girls working hard and showing love for their school".

Even the MC's are two Seton graduates coming back to help host the fun filled night. Robin King, a meteorologist on Spectrum 1, and Alanna Martella, who is a reporter on Channel 5 will be the voices of the night.

Although, this night would not be possible if it weren't for our amazing faculty and staff. Their work often goes unnoticed, but never unappreciated.

The creativity and dedication to this night is what makes it so great. Keep selling those chances and get ready for a fun filled night.

The Development of Senior Capstone

By Madison Otten '20

Seniors have reached the time all Seton students have been dreading since their freshman year, Senior Capstone *dun dun dunn*.

The class of 2020 learned the beginning parts of their Senior Capstone in January. However, they had permission to begin thinking and planning it before as long as their English teachers were involved and had given their approval. Senior Capstone consists of many small parts, but the outcome is a ten-page research paper and a presentation in front of a panel of judges all due by April.

Don't let that scare you though! The English teachers have developed a well written and dated plan so that you know exactly when certain parts of the Capstone should be done, just to keep you organized.

After Senior capstone has started it's time for the seniors to chose their topics. There are going to be tons of different topics running through their heads but, they can only pick one. Senior Oliva Ohradzansky said, "I enjoy how broad everyone's topic can be. Like, the person next to you can be on a different side of the spectrum of topics and have no similarities to you whatsoever."

A huge part of the Senior Capstone is the active research. After choosing a topic to research stu-

dents will have to find a professional to interview. After finding someone to interview the seniors need to chose to only interview or job shadow and interview their source.

Now that we know what Senior Capstone is, let's talk about what it was. When the class of 2020 were in their freshman year at Seton, the Senior Capstone was called, "Senior Project". It was a completely different project altogether. It was more of a hands-on, get involved project. For example, there was a senior in the class of 2016 that started a coffee shop in the morning.

Lee says, "I remember all of the seniors being stressed out over how much work they had to do and how confusing it all was. They always said they never knew what they were doing."

Even though there was a struggle last year with the new Capstone the English teachers this year have made a plan together with the same outlines and rules to make sure that they are all on the same page and there is no longer any confusion.

Seniors might dread the Senior Capstone talk, but they are all aware that this experience will help them tremendously in their college careers. The teachers know how it will help them more than anything. They want the seniors to be well prepared for the many papers they will have to write in the upcoming years of college. Mr. Collins said, "There has been a shift with the Senior

"It's the student who drives the capstone"

The first class to experience the big change was last year's senior class, class of 2019. It wasn't completely organized and both the students and the teachers were still trying to work out the kinks in their big new plan. Despite all of the mishaps and confusion, they made it through the new Senior Project, now being called Senior Capstone. Many students remember the struggle and confusion the former seniors were going through. Senior Ayana

Capstone to an emphasis on research. We want to guarantee that our students are ready for "next", which for most is college. We emphasize research with coaching the students through the successful completion of a research paper AND the completion of active research. There is an emphasis, however, on self-regulated learning. It's the student who drives the capstone."

The Sweetest Tradition

By Sophie Kwiatkowski '20

A boy named Brandeon, who is restricted to his wheelchair, was waiting patiently for his favorite song to be played at the sweetheart dance, suddenly, his friend, Jarrod came running over. Jarrod just wanted Brandeon to know he had a friend, and someone he could sit with. This event showed not only friendship, but love. Emily Gramke started the dance back in 2013 for

it is ten times more rewarding." Two things that she has gotten better at over the years are her ability to juggle multiple things at once and manage her time effectively. However, her favorite part about being a special needs teacher is simply working with my students and building relationships with them."

Emily's favorite memory from the dance would have to be the time Teddy Kremer, who was the bat-boy for

was cool seeing the kids excited that someone just like them was there and even "famous." She included, "Another aspect I love every year is how inclusive the



I met Mark eight years ago at the first sweetheart dance. He is now the "cart guy" at Target.

Credit: Sophie Kwiat-

her senior project. She is now an intervention specialist at Oak Hills and absolutely loves it. Emily said, "Being a special education teacher is exhausting to say the least, I can't lie. However, as exhausting as it can be at times,

the Cincinnati Reds, came to surprise everyone. He brought a bunch of books to sign along with the chance to take a picture with him. It

who help the dance run smoothly every year. The coolest thing I see every year is how friendly her students are to one another.



Emily's friends who have helped her all eight years.

Above: Brandeon and I this year at the dance.

Credit: Sophie Kwiatkowski

dance is. I have so many volunteers and I love the interaction everyone experiences."

Emily's support system is one of the best anyone has. She is surrounded with her friends and family

Aging Is a Hop, Skip, and a Leap Day

By Cass James '20

You wake up to a couple text messages filled with cake and balloon emojis. It's your special day. Your birthday! It was already fairly rare to be born on that day, a 1 in 365 chance. But every four years come around and an extra day is tacked onto our calendar making 366 days. Adding that 29th of February keeps the calendar year aligned with the astronomical year.

But what happens to the babies born on that day? The odds of being born on that day is bumped up from 1 in 365 chance to a 1 in 366 chance and accounting for the fact that it only happens every four years, that number sky rockets up to a 1 in 1,461 chance. These rare babies only make up .07% of the population.

What is it like for these leapers, or leaplings?

Debbie Rumpke, 52, turned 13 this leap day. She tends to celebrate her special day on February 28th. As a leaper, she feels that "the best part is it is unique!" She told a fun story about meeting a fellow leapling in high school. She says "We still text each other every year on our birthday - although I celebrate my birthday on the

28th she always celebrates hers on March 1st - so I don't text her until March 1st!"

She told a funny story of when she turned 18. When she was younger, the legal drinking age was 18. She said that "the year I turned 18 I tried to get into a bar on the night of February 28th - after some convincing they finally let me in!" I guess a pro to being a leaper is that you get to be ahead of the game sometimes!

Ms. Rumpke will be spending her special 13th birthday in Florida this year. Nothing like starting your teenage years in the warmth of the coast!

However, Lindsey Sturwold, 24, turned 6 this year. She also celebrates on the 28th, even though many people wish her happy birthday on March 1st. She was

featured on the announcements on the 28th for a special little birthday Q + A right after this interview. Ironically, she feels like the hardest part about having a leap year birthday is, "people asking you about it. There's always general second guessing because it's so rare."

On the other hand, she likes that it's rare. She told "when there's actually a birthday, you see all the news articles. It's fun reading about how other people celebrate it."

Leap Day Facts!

- Leap years happen the same year as a presidential election.
- There's a tradition of women proposing to men on Leap day!



Not many people are born on this rare and special day! Photo Credit: Bustle

St. Patrick's Day Traditions in Cincinnati

By Eve Cooper '20

Shamrock Shakes. Leprechauns. Parades. Potatoes. Irish dancing. These are ways that people celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The month of March is filled with the luck of the Irish and the glorious midday runs to McDonald's to pick up a famous Shamrock Shake-- followed by the McDonald's worker saying that their ice cream machine isn't working. As you recover from the heartbreak of not receiving a cold, mint flavored, green shake, you may feel that there is no chance for a successful St. Patrick's Day. But wait, there's still hope!

Did you know that there's a bunch of St. Patrick's Day festivities that happen right here in the heart of Cincinnati? March 17th marks the official day of St. Patrick's Day, but people celebrate all week long. St. Patrick's Day is a big deal to Cincinnati, and many West Siders have been participating in St. Patty's Day traditions for years!



Senior Kelly Monahan and her brother posing in their dad's iconic green car!

Photo Credit: Kelly Monahan

On March 14th, Cincinnati will hold its 54th St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown. It begins at noon, but the celebrations last all day. The parade starts at Mehring Way, runs through Pete Rose Way, and concludes at Paul Brown Stadium. According to the parade committee, "The parade NEVER cancels. It will be held in rain, snow, or shine!" People who participate in the parade dress as leprechauns, play loud Irish music, and dance.

Seniors Kelly Monahan and Kristen Schoenfeld and their families have been in the parade for the past few years. It has been a tradition that brings families together where they can have a good time and celebrate their Irish heritage. Kristen says, "We all sing Irish songs with some Seton and Elder singers, alums, and current students...It's really a great experience and I enjoy it."

Kelly vividly remembers going to the parade for the first time when she was just three years old. Her dad was asked to drive his 1971 green Oldsmobile Cutlass, which is a rare, vintage car that was

loved by many. Kelly and her brother Joseph would sit in the backseats of the car and would wave to the



Senior Kristen Schoenfeld and her family pose with smiles before the start of the parade!

Photo credit: Kristen Schoenfeld

crowd with joy. She says, "I remember just being so excited. It was a big deal in my family that we went. Everyone just seems so happy and full of energy."

After the parade, a number of restaurants and activities keep the energy going throughout the afternoon. Kristen says, "We usually go to Price Hill Chili or a restaurant downtown. There's such

"I remember just being so excited...Everyone just seems so happy and full of energy."

-Kelly Monahan

a wide-variety of places to go to and so many delicious food options!" Also, from noon to 8 o'clock at night, there are live Celtic Rock

bands, face painting, food, and so much more. This is a family-friendly event where people of all ages can have a good time.

Lessons of the Holocaust Inspire Action Today

By Ella Hartung '20

Local survivor Wernel Coppel shares, "I arrived in Cincinnati at Union Terminal with a wife, a baby, and a suitcase. And that ended the first part of my life."

The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center exists to ensure the lessons of the Holocaust inspire action today.

After the Holocaust, survivors from Eastern Europe came to Cincinnati to rebuild their lives. Many of the survivors formed a group to help one another adapt into their new culture. In 1994, many of the survivors were aging so they began to pass on the organization to their children who kept it alive to preserve the history and remember their families. They also developed and delivered educational content and outreach and social programs relating to the Holocaust history. The Holocaust and Humanity Center has moved a few times, but the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center relocated to Union terminal and opened its doors in January 2018.

Union terminal is a sacred and important site because it's where many Holocaust survivors arrived in Cincinnati to rebuild their lives and start over. The Holocaust and Humanity Center aims to not only tell the story of tragedy, but to recognize the triumph of the human spirit and the bravery of many who stood up to Nazis.

For example, Andrea Herzog told the story of her distant cousin named Mordechai Anielewicz who at 20 years old led 300 to 500 young men and women to fight back against the Nazis in what is known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. This inspires audiences to act as an upstander in their lives by never giving up fighting for what is right. Their Humanity Center's purpose is to showcase modern people who

are upstanders, people who are standing up for what is just.

The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center pledges for each person who walks through the doors to be an upstander, to act when you see something wrong.

The marketing and communications manager at the Holocaust and Humanity Center, Kara Driscoll, shared why the Holocaust and Humanity Center and its mission is so important to her. "I'm passionate about the mission of the center and ensuring that the history of the Holocaust inspires action today. I think there are a lot of lessons that we can learn from that history and we never want to forget it."

The Holocaust and Humanity Center is open Monday through Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Ticket prices are adults \$10, students \$5 and seniors \$7.50.

The history and the stories you hear at the museum are very inspiring. "We have people today who are first generation survivors who were actually there and survived the Holocaust and so hearing their stories is really moving and inspiring and I want as many people as possible to hear those stories."

Driscoll believes that everyone should learn about the Holocaust and especially Cincinnati's connection to the Holocaust. In the US, we're seeing a rise in Anti-Semitic attacks and according to a National Anti-Defamation League 2016 survey, there has been a 14% increase in the number of Americans who hold Anti-Semitic views. And the Pew Research Center says that Americans who visited a Holocaust museum were more likely to have a better understanding of the Holocaust and be able to recall

specific events. Driscoll adds that "students and people who go through the museum are more likely to be upstanders and are more likely to recognize hate and tolerance in their own communities."



Local survivor Leo Wilich's uniform from Auschwitz. He was deported to Dachau where he was liberated and he later immigrated to Cincinnati. \Photo Credit: Ella Hartung

It's important younger generations are educated on the Holocaust because "it's harder for younger generations to really understand the magnitude of what happened. We're only 75 years away from the Holocaust and that's a pretty short amount of time." The Holocaust and Humanity Center hopes to tell the story of the Holocaust in a compelling way so that younger generations understand the magnitude and to make sure it never happens again. Driscoll continues, "I think you can learn so much from

people telling their own survivor stories or from their children telling how it impacted their family. That's one of the most powerful ways is through storytelling. I think when young people hear stories it's much more impactful than reading it from a textbook."

The Humanity Center is designed to showcase the best examples of humanity and those who are making a difference in their communities. "Showcasing those stories in the Holocaust exhibit who fought against the Nazis is really important. There were people who protected the Jewish people in their community and helped their Jewish neighbors. So while we are learning and honoring the heartbreaking part of that history, we are also inspired by the people who acted, and who continue to act today. I want people to know that they are going to learn, but they will also be inspired to be upstanders in their own lives."

A Hometown Girl Living Her Dream

By Emily Haufler '20

"It's a crazy, unpredictable, demanding job but I still love it." Sheree Paolello started working at WLWT as a Crime reporter and worked her way up to main anchor. "I love that it changes every day. I love meeting new people, and I love that people trust me to tell their stories and deliver the news to them every night." I interviewed Sheree Paolello from Channel 5- WLWT.

Paolello is from Cincinnati and graduated from NKU. After graduating she worked as a writer at Channel 19, then she moved to South Bend, Indiana, for her first reporting job in 1997. Paolello moved around to Dayton, Ohio, and Charlotte, North Carolina. After covering 9/11 she came back home. She said that, 9/11 was the hardest story she's had to cover. "90% of the time we meet people on the worst days of their lives."

A typical day for Paolello starts at 2:30PM, unless there is major breaking news. Anchors are on call and if there is a major news story then they will come in early. When she is driving to work she listens to Talk Radio, so she knows what is going on in Greater Cincinnati. Once she gets to work she attends editorial meetings where they get briefed by producers and managers. She anchors the 5PM, 6PM, and 11PM news. Sometimes in between shows she will go out on special reports and investigations that she is working on, and other times she will host charity events. Paolello leaves the station around 11:45PM, unless there is breaking news then she

"It doesn't matter what you came from, you can be anything you want"

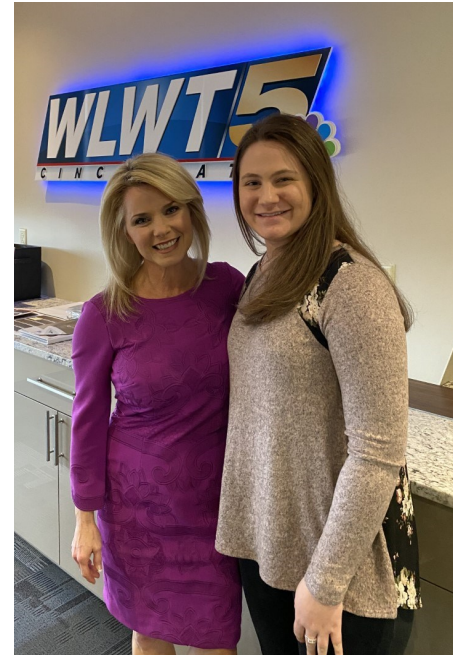
will stay later.

Anchors do not get to pick which stories will be on the news each night, but can voice their opinions. When they are in the editorial meeting, they give their input on what they think the big stories are that day. It is up to their News Director, Assistant News Director, and Managing Editor to decide.

Most of the news Channel 5 covers is decided that day, unless there are big investigations, anniversaries, or stories they know are coming up. Since everyone has the news available on their phones 24/7, no one wants to know what happened 2 weeks ago, so news directors have meetings to choose stories that are relevant, timely, and impacting people now.

The clothes that reporters wear are theirs. Years ago TV stations paid for clothes, hair and makeup. Now reporters provide everything. If their bosses do not like the dress or if their jewelry is too distracting, they are told not to wear it again. They also don't have anyone that does their hair or makeup. The station brings in hair and makeup artists to teach them how to do their hair and makeup. But it is up to them every night to do their own. Paolello said, "There are times where I'm racing to the station from doing an interview or a story and fixing my hair 30 seconds before we go on air."

When news directors determine which reporters get which stories, they pick the reporter that is more suited for a particular topic or if a reporter gets the scoop on a certain story, then they choose that reporter. Paolello said, "Our reporter Jatara McGee loves stories about kids, so if



A hometown girl living her dream of becoming a main news anchor

Photo Credit: Emily Haufler

there's a story where a little girl is battling cancer, we may send her."

Paolello was the first person in her family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. Paolello paid her way through college and commuted to NKU. "I hope I'm a role model for young people that if you work hard, it doesn't matter what you came from, you can be anything you want."

Paolello is one of the four main female anchors in Cincinnati and for 18 years she has been doing what she loves in her hometown. She spends more time at work than with her family, but she loves her job and believes in fighting for the people's right to know.

She is a hometown girl living her dream, found success in her career and still has that personality that Cincinnatians have grown to love.

Ohio State Legislators

Misfire with House Bill 178

By Audrey McQuillan '20

Reported 415 mass shootings, 15,381 gun deaths - including homicides, suicides, and accidents- and 29,568 injuries in the United States (2019), according to [The Gun Violence Archive.]

As the report of gun violence rises in the United States each year, many state legislators are passing stricter laws involving the ownership of guns. Movements such as the "March For Our Lives" have been taking active steps towards ending gun violence. Young people, especially high schoolers across the nation, have been making peaceful protests in order to

troduced the Ohio House bill 178. This bill will abolish the state law requiring Ohioans to obtain a concealed carry permit. This means if citizens age 21 or over, and live in the state of Ohio have the right to conceal and carry a gun without a license and or proper training. Ohio House bill 178 contradicts the gun violence movements happening across the country.

So if the entire nation is pushing for stricter laws involving gun ownership, why would the State of Ohio make guns more accessible? Won't that contribute to more violence?

Cincinnati Police Officer Mike Roth said, "I do not believe this new bill would increase crime. That was the same argument the opponents of the CCW (Concealed Carry Weapon) made when the CCW law first went into effect. Crime did not go up then, so I do not really believe it would go up now."

Unlicensed and untrained gun owners also concern Ohioans. Making guns more accessible without proper training could result in more accidental shootings and injuries.

Officer Roth says, "If someone just carries a gun just because they can, but they don't know how to properly shoot it, that could put themselves and other people in danger. Would you be comfortable letting someone drive a car just because they are 16? Or would you rather have training on how to drive a car first?"

The Steady Rise Of U.S. Gun Deaths
Number of U.S. gun deaths due to firearms (1999-2017)



U.S. Gun Deaths Graph. Graphic Credit: Statista.

bring awareness of the rise in school shootings.

Our nation is starting to reevaluate the Second Constitutional Amendment of the right to bear arms. The debate of gun-owning rights has caused a great political divide in our country. As reported gun violence continues to rise, more Americans are pushing for these stricter laws.

However, this is not the case for the State of Ohio. Ohio legislators have just in-



Cincinnati Police car. Photo Credit: Cincinnati Police Department.

Officer Roth expressed his concerns as a police officer about unlicensed gun owners. "I do not think legislators are making the right decision. I believe if you are going to carry a gun, you should be properly trained in all aspects of the gun. That includes knowing how to fire it, knowing how to take it apart, and knowing how to safely carry and manage it. As a police officer, we are trained to deal with these kinds of situations. We are trained to automatically think at all times that anyone could have a gun, so it does not necessarily scare me as a police officer."

Since June 30, 2019, Ohio House bill 178 has been in committee. There is no specific date regarding voting or passing of this bill. However, it is still very possible that Bill 178 could go into effect soon.



Cincinnati Police Badge. Photo Credit: Cincinnati Police Department.