

Omicron variant strain brings concerns

JADA HOFFMAN
NEWS EDITOR

A new variant of COVID-19 was detected the last week of November in South Africa. This new strain called B.1.1.529, or Omicron, brings concern similar to that of the Delta variant.

So far there's over 30 cases with several states being impacted including California, Utah, Missouri, Pennsylvania, New York, Colorado, Minnesota, Maryland, Hawaii, Nebraska, Wisconsin and recently, Illinois.

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Sarah Powers says this strain is alarming.

"This strain can bring a significant change and alter how our immune system interacts with the virus," said Powers.

Similar to the Delta variant, it is spreading rapidly and the best thing to do is take precautions including wearing masks, washing your hands regularly, social distancing, getting vaccinated and receiving the booster shot.

Lewis hosted its second

booster clinic on Tuesday, Dec. 7 in Memorial Hall.

There are some who are ineligible to receive the booster shot yet, as the third dose cannot be received until six months after the second dose. Those ineligible are still safe according to Powers.

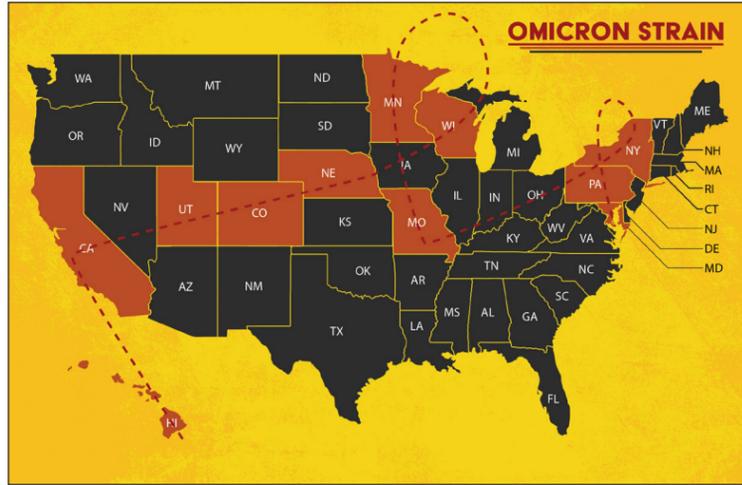
"You're doing as much as you can in that window, but once you're eligible go and get it [the booster shot] right away," said Powers.

According to NBC Chicago, as of Tuesday, Dec. 7, a fully vaccinated Chicago resident, who also received the booster dose, caught Omicron. It is believed they were exposed by an out-of-state traveler.

As winter break approaches, Powers suggests being as cautious as possible as many states may face a potential breakthrough.

"Anytime you're changing locale, it's a good idea to get tested," said Powers. "Even if you're vaccinated you may not be symptomatic and can potentially share the virus with others."

Powers emphasizes avoiding



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

large inside gatherings, especially during times like these.

"This [partaking in large inside gatherings] is probably one of the worst situations you can get yourself in because you don't know other people's situations," said Powers.

As of now, proof of vaccination or negative test results for those unvaccinated are required for domestic flights. If one wants to be the "smart" traveler, Powers suggests getting tested even if you are vaccinated.

For those unvaccinated, Powers suggests taking that step now.

"For those who haven't already, get vaccinated and if you have questions talk to a medical professional so you can make informed decisions," Powers said.

To continue following the Flyers' Promise, all residents must submit a negative PCR COVID-19 test within 72 hours of returning to campus in the spring. Those who are unvaccinated must continue to submit

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Students order plane tickets months in advance

JADA HOFFMAN
NEWS EDITOR

As winter break approaches, many out-of-state and international students are faced with the challenge of purchasing their flight tickets.

Resident students must be out of their rooms by Friday, December 17th at 6 p.m. For commuters or in-state students, this date and time simply means their cars must be packed to drive home. For out-of-state and international students, they must know this date prior to school starting so they can purchase tickets for their flights home.

Those who wait until as late as December face financial consequences as tickets become increasingly expensive.

Sophomore public policy and peace and justice studies major Dominick Bartels is from Nebraska, which is about a six to seven hour drive from Lewis, or about an hour and a half flight. Bartels tends to book flights for short breaks

like Easter break or Thanksgiving break, but for extended breaks he may drive. For this upcoming break, he's taking a plane home.

"Flights can be expensive, so buying them early is what saves me the most money," said Bartels.

His flights for Thanksgiving break and Christmas break were both purchased in September. He spent about \$500 in total for round trips for both. With Midway being close, he flies Southwest and encourages his peers to use them as well since one can gain points and potentially a free flight.

Driving is not always an option for some as their home may be in a different country. For graduate public safety administration student Lorman Johnson, his home is in the Bahamas. He spent his undergraduate years at Lewis and has been booking flights home since his freshman year. Due to COVID-19, he was unable to visit home for most of his graduate year. His last time

home was winter 2020.

Similar to Bartels, he orders his tickets months in advance.

"More than likely, I am ordering my tickets months in advance so I can have them cheaper," said Johnson.

It's never a direct flight for Johnson as he may stop in Atlanta, Miami or North Carolina, so he learned to just order separate tickets with different airlines, which saves him even more money.

Johnson ordered his ticket to go home back in September, which was about \$300 total. If he were to do that now, it would be over \$500. Johnson encourages international students to be as prepared as possible when it comes to ordering flights and staying on campus during breaks.

"Residence Life is understanding and will allow us to move in early, however for breaks like Thanksgiving or spring break, they stop serving food," Johnson said. "We [international students] don't always have the money to buy



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / CONTRIBUTING GRAPHIC DESIGNER

food or cook food, so essentially we may be stuck on campus with little to nothing to eat, so securing a flight home is beneficial."

Alongside Residence Life, Bartels explained that, so far, his professors have also been understanding about his flights and the potential changes. During Thanksgiving break, his flight which

was supposed to land on Sunday, was changed to Monday. He had to miss his class as there was no virtual option, but his professors did not penalize him.

Traveling home can be a challenge for international and out-of-state students, but planning ahead can mitigate the costs.

Self-defense trials spike controversy across America

JADA HOFFMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Within the past month several verdicts have been announced for major cases including the case of Kyle Rittenhouse, along with Gregory McMichael, Travis McMichael and William Bryan.

In the case of Kyle Rittenhouse, he shot three men, two of which died and one was wounded during a police brutality protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin. At the time, Rittenhouse was 17-years-old and visiting Kenosha, but resides in Antioch, Illinois.

Prior to the August 2020 protest, Rittenhouse had an older friend purchase an AR-style semi-automatic rifle for him, as he was not of age to do so. He testified during court that he wanted to use the gun as a way to protect a local car shop during the protest.

Rittenhouse, who is now 18, faced about seven charges. On the fourth day of deliberations, Friday, Nov. 19, Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all accounts in connection with the deadly shooting in Kenosha.

Though there is a possibility

of him being sued for damages, he faces no criminal charges.

Wisconsin businesses prepared for the verdict by closing several businesses early in fear of riots similar to those of the summer of 2020. Junior paralegal studies and peace and justice studies major Alexandria Wilson believes, "Instead of preparing for riots, justice should start being served."

She continued, "I look at rioting as a little child who is throwing a tantrum because they are not getting attention... If attention was given to the concerns and reasons behind these riots, there would be no reason for rioting."

This case was highly publicized and those at home were able to watch the live broadcast. Wilson believes cases that have a live broadcast hold judges accountable. "People can also gain more knowledge about a case from a primary source, as opposed to secondary sources like TikTok," said Wilson.

One topic that was heavily discussed during Rittenhouse's trial was self-defense and what that looks like. For then 17-year-old Rittenhouse, it meant firing multiple rounds to protect

himself from three men almost twice his age.

Wisconsin prohibits minors from possessing firearms unless they are hunting and are supervised by an adult, however the judge and statute said the argument about him possessing a firearm was "confusing."

According to the Wisconsin State Legislature's, self-defense is the use of "...force against another for the purpose of preventing or terminating what the person reasonably believes to be an unlawful interference with his or her person by such other person."

Rittenhouse testified that he was in danger and his life was threatened, so he fired. Wilson believes this case proves people should study their self-defense laws in their state, as each state is different.

"I encourage everyone to read the law in their state, because one minute it can be self-defense, but as soon as your life is no longer deemed threatened, you could become an aggressor," said Wilson.

Another public case was that involving Gregory McMichael, Travis McMichael and William Bryan. These three partook in

the killing of an unarmed Black man named Ahmaud Arbery on Feb. 23, 2020.

It took about two months for these three to be arrested, despite a viral video going around identifying each person involved.

They were arrested in May 2020.

Because of this tragic incident, Georgia passed their first ever hate crime law which allows extra penalties for crimes motivated by a victim's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

In the case of Arbery, his attack was motivated by his race.

All three assailants were found guilty and face life in prison. The verdict reflected the opinion of the prosecutor that Arbery posed no threat to their lives. The three stated they were protecting themselves and the neighborhood, as they said he was running down the street. They assumed he was stealing



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / CONTRIBUTING GRAPHIC DESIGNER

from neighborhood garages.

In the state of Georgia, self-defense is protecting oneself in the event one's life is threatened. Licensed residents in Georgia can carry firearms. However, firearms should only be used if the threat is real and not assumed.

Though they were found guilty, sentences have not been given. Wilson encourages peers to continue to speak up and watch cases similar to these to hold judges accountable.

"It's not a job well done," said Wilson. "Don't let those making these decisions believe what they are doing is enough. There's more work to be done."

Higher Ed Highlights

SIU faculty supports colleague facing criminal charges

EMILY KRIVOGRAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an official statement released in November, faculty members at Southern Illinois University (SIU) have banded together in support of professor Mingqing Xiao, who faces criminal charges for alleged grant fraud. A tenured mathematics professor who has worked at the university since 2000, Xiao has been accused of concealing information from the National Science Foundation in regards to previous grants he has applied for.

The Chinese American professor faces criminal charges concerning grants he has received

from Chinese government sources, as well as his contractual obligations to Shenzhen University, which is located in China's Guangdong Province. Though he was indicted in April, the SIU faculty have released several statements in support of Xiao this fall, and have even circulated a Go Fund Me for Xiao's legal defense expenses.

Though legal action has taken place throughout 2021, the charges Xiao faces regarding grants he applied for go as far back as 2018. Officially, the federal government is charging Xiao with wire fraud in an application for a \$151,099 grant submitted in September 2018 as well as for making false state-

ments for withholding information about a 2018-2022 grant received through the National Science Foundation of Guangdong Province of China, which totals \$180,000. The indictment also alleges that in March 2019, Xiao submitted an application to Shenzhen University in hopes of receiving a \$90,000 grant from the National Science Foundation of China.

Making the charges even more contentious, SIU faculty also pointed out that this case intersects with the U.S. Department of Justice' China Initiative, a move meant to counter Chinese national security threats. According to the DOJ's website, "the Initiative focuses on pro-

tecting our critical infrastructure against external threats through foreign direct investment and supply chain compromises."

Xiao's case is not the only instance in which a professor has been accused of trying to manipulate academic procedures to benefit the Chinese government. In 2020, professor Anming Hu at the University of Tennessee was accused of committing fraud, only for the judge to acquit Hu of all charges over a year and a half later when sufficient evidence that Hu was trying to defraud U.S. institutions was not provided.

While Xiao's legal team is preparing for their defense in court, SIU faculty continue to assert

that Xiao did nothing wrong and that this instance is an example of racial profiling. "Eerily reminiscent of the incarceration of Japanese-Americans in the 1940s and the McCarthy era witch hunts of the 1950s that destroyed so many American lives and careers, the China Initiative fuels anti-Asian sentiments, hostility and xenophobia," said SIU Faculty Association member and professor Edward Benyas in a statement released in November.

Xiao was released from his teaching and research duties at SIU when the charges were filed in April. SIU faculty members are working to reach a Go Fund Me goal of \$350,000.

Omicron variant raises concern across colleges

As students across the U.S. prepare for winter break a familiar concern begins to permeate discussions on the spring semester: the Omicron variant of COVID-19. As of Dec. 9, the confirmed cases of contraction of the variant have been reported in 19 U.S. states.

While the first U.S. confirmed case of the variant was reported on Dec. 1 in a California resident

who has returned from a trip to South Africa, universities across the world have already taken steps to enact stricter COVID-19 precautions once again. The Tshwane University of Technology, located in the metropolitan area of Tshwane, South Africa, postponed some of their final exams for the semester, while a student at the University of Nottingham became one of the U.K.'s first

confirmed cases of the variant.

With so many uncertainties surrounding the variant, U.S. colleges are increasingly reminding students of the importance of vaccination, testing and adhering to any COVID-19 safety measures already in place. Though the World Health Organization has identified the Omicron variant as "of concern," they say that it is not yet clear

whether the variant is more transmissible or has a greater severity of disease than other COVID-19 variants.

"It's hard to act right now, because you don't have a lot of information," said Antia Barkin, co-chair of the American College Health Association COVID-19 Task Force, in an interview with Inside Higher Ed. "Leaders on campuses need to communicate

that they are aware of this variant, that they are monitoring the situation carefully and that they will make decisions based on the best scientific information and the data available."

Omicron cases have been detected among U.S. college students, including those at the University of Southern California and Tulane University.

Shop sustainably this holiday season

STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER
MANAGING EDITOR

With Christmas around the corner and climate change forever looming, it's important to remember to shop sustainably this holiday season. Waste sees a great uptick in the winter months due to the holidays and many gifts being unwanted. This can easily be avoided by being mindful of your purchases.

Every year, I spend hours trying to find my picky brother the perfect gift. Then, it just sits in his closet, wasting my money and time. This happens often. According to a survey done by Finder, \$15.2 billion dollars are spent on unwanted gifts yearly.

To avoid this, shop practically. Think about what the person does for a living and in their freetime. When you visit them, are they missing any essentials? If you can't think of anything they would actually use, just ask them for specific items they need. It's also good to listen and keep a note in your phone if you're ever out with them and they mention something they want or need.

If they're one of those annoy-

ing people who say, "surprise me" or "I don't want anything," I recommend things like food savers, cord organizers, nice socks and other practical items. While they may seem lame, remember that practical gifts are also useful. In the aim of sustainability, there are plenty of reusable items like beeswax wraps, reusable baggies, metal straws and reusable cotton swabs that can replace some of their single use items. This will save them money, hit the mark on practicality and reduce their carbon footprint.

In addition to buying reusable items, shop locally and small. Etsy is a great place to shop for handmade, one-of-a-kind more sentimental items. There's all kinds of prints on the site as well if you know someone in need of some home decor. In addition to online sites like Etsy, visit your town's local businesses. They're likely to have more unique gifts.

Shopping these smaller, more local businesses is a great way to support your community members and artists. No need to give money to greedy corporations that are destroying our planet.

Another area to be cautious with during the holidays is

wrapping. Look for wrapping paper that doesn't have plastic. Kraft paper is customizable and looks so cute wrapped with twine, plus it's compostable. In addition, if you don't want to buy paper, you can use what you have at home. Magazines, newspapers, used wrapping, old papers lying around, tin foil and more make for unique, sustainable ways to display your gifts. I have also used reusable bags for my wrapping, then it becomes part of the gift.

Being sustainable during the holidays isn't something that's hard to do. Taking small steps makes a big difference and even saves you money. In addition to the tips I've just shared, also be practical with your decor. Purchase items you can keep using for years. If you're someone who likes to purchase holiday specific plates and napkins and everything, purchase reusable items that you can use year and year again, not disposables.

Together, we can all help prevent the 25 million tons of extra waste that are produced from Thanksgiving to Christmas every year, according to Stanford. We have to for the health of our planet.

The Column

Saying my senior goodbye

EMILY KRIVOGRAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After three and a half years, too many coffees and over 30 layout nights, we finally made it to my last layout night on The Flyer. While I'll admit, it does seem like I've seen some stuff (which Hayley can attest to) over the years, I'd still be remiss if I didn't say the phrase in every graduating senior's goodbye speech: oh my gosh, I can't believe time flew by so fast!

In a way, my first interaction with Flyer people kind of set the tone for the rest of my experience on staff; it was the first semester of my freshman year, and I was invited to sit in on a staff meeting in the basement of the elusive Pope John Paul Building. Seeing that the side entrance of the building has two doors, it was only natural that I chose the wrong one to attempt to open. As I struggled, another student walked past, shot me a pitiful glance and opened the correct, left hand door to enter the basement — so it was just my luck that he was headed to the same meeting I was having a bit too much trouble getting to.

Similar to my door faux pas, my time on staff has seen me perform my fair share of mistakes, from writing a little too edgy Lyer stories to waiting until the last minute to get quotes for an article. Even I still cringe at those dark moments.

Mixed in with the cringy moments though, there have been all of the good, geeky times you would expect a newspaper enthusiast to have. Seeing my name printed in a college newspaper, having random people tell me I "actually write pretty good" — let's momentarily ignore the multiple things wrong with that statement — going to ACP, and meeting a bunch of weird, cool and sometimes straight-up nerdy people on staff is what made me proud to say I was part of The Flyer.

Once I got a taste of what it was like to write for The Flyer, sophomore me decided to set a goal to one day be the Editor-in-Chief of a newspaper named after a literal airplane. I would imagine what it would be like to run a meeting, see my name alongside the words "Editor-in-Chief" in print and think about all the clout that I would undoubtedly have in saying I was in charge of a collegiate newspaper at a small Catholic university. That didn't all go according to plan.

While my original vision of

what it was like to be EIC looked a little different from reality since, you know, a global pandemic decided to derail some things, I'm still ecstatic (and sometimes, in disbelief) to see all that was accomplished during a nearly entirely online approach to running a college newspaper. I mean, we constantly met virtually, became experts in talking through story ideas over Zoom and persevered through socially distanced, pizza-less layout nights.

Not only did I learn about what it takes to lead a newspaper staff — spoiler: you have to accept that people will email you at ungodly hours in the middle of the night about stories, graphics and questions that definitely could have waited — but I learned what kind of culture I want to work in when I continue in my career as a journalist. It's the supportive, insanely witty and hardworking people I've met on The Flyer that have made me want to do my best and encouraged me to keep working hard. Bonus points if they get as excited about em-dashes as I do.

The layout nights this past fall have been the most fun I've had in a while. From Howard's hilarious, under-the-breath remarks, to coming back to an office that Rhys defaced, I mean decorated with lights, to working alongside Stephanie, who is an amazing Managing Editor and my go-to person whenever I have a sustainability question, I'm grateful for the time I've had here. But most importantly, we've finally gotten that pizza back.

Thank you Hayley for encouraging me to keep writing and giving me advice on how to run a school newspaper in a pandemic. I couldn't have asked for a better advisor as we did something that had never been done on The Flyer before. Thank you Stephanie for being such a supportive and compassionate Managing Editor. I know you're going to be an amazing EIC, and I can't wait to hear what you and Lauren come up with. And thank you to everyone for being a truly wonderful staff. You made my time at Lewis unforgettable — for better or for worse.

Well, that's enough of this love fest... time to get back to work!

Being Sustainable This Holiday Season

Shop local



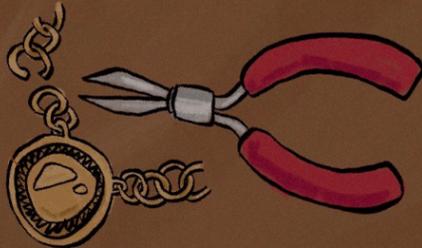
Buy practical gifts



Reuse wrapping paper or use things you already have



Make your gifts



Regift



Shop small



Environmental damage from deep sea mining outweighs benefits

STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER
MANAGING EDITOR

As if mining in caves and on land wasn't already enough, deep sea mining in our oceans is beginning. With the abundance of metals and minerals underwater, dragging up the seafloor to make money appeals to major technology companies. However, the environmental repercussions are not worth all of this destruction.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines deep sea mining as the "retrieving of minerals from the deep sea — the area of the ocean below 200 [meters]." Companies are after the aluminum, zinc, lithium, cobalt and manganese deposits that are abundant in the ocean floor.

While this operation has not fully begun yet and is still in testing phases, this invasive process will become a great source of habitat degradation within our lifetime. So far, the focus has been identifying where the best deposits are and mapping out the seafloor. Corporations across the globe are starting pilot projects and funding much of the testing. Some companies have already been practicing a version of this for diamonds, but it will truly begin when international waters are opened for mining. This is expected to occur by 2025.

The control over the mining was given to the International Seaboard Authority (ISA) by the United Nations, a group that receives little oversight. Instead of preventing the mining, the group is drafting a mining code that is supposed to mitigate the damage. According to IUCN, the ISA has already given out 29 contracts for the exploration of deep-sea mineral companies and set aside over 1.5 million kilometers of ocean for mineral exploration.

This exploration will likely turn into exploitation. None of our environmental protections have been sufficient so far, and it's likely the mining code won't be either. Therefore, this group needs to work to stop the ocean mining, not help it begin.

The largest consequence from this process is habitat degradation. When running at full capacity, companies are planning on extracting from thousands of miles of seafloor each year. Their ships will draw the ocean floor sediment to the surface via a hose. They will then take the metallic objects that are profitable and then flush the rest down. Drawing up that seafloor will take away millions of species' habitats and likely kill the animals living in the area being dredged. We really do not need to be contributing to more species' deaths when we're already causing the sixth mass extinction event.



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The sediment flushed back down will contain harmful substances — including lead and mercury — that will contaminate the surrounding ocean on the way back down. This could affect hundreds of miles of ocean, and that's just one extraction site.

The sediment plumes caused by the extraction "stirring up" the seafloor are also an area of concern. The true effects are still unknown, but they will likely harm marine life such as filter-feeding sharks that depend on clear water to be able to eat. The noise could also impact migratory species such as whales, dolphins and sharks that heavily depend on sound waves for

navigation. The loud noises will confuse the animals and could lead to them getting lost, with some possibly even being washed up onshore.

The true extent of the damage will not be known for many years, but we already know how damaging our practices can be to our ecosystems. This process is unnecessary and instead of travelling to the deep depths for more resources, we need to find alternatives. There are eco-friendly alternatives out there; we just need to invest in finding it instead of deep sea mining. The financial gain is not worth the incredible damage this process will cause to our marine ecosystems.

the  flyer

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Winter brings betrayal, lies, murders in 'House Of Gucci'

LAUREN HARRIS
TEMPO EDITOR

Released on Nov. 24, "House of Gucci" is the last exposé film of 2021. Directed by Ridley Scott, "House of Gucci" tells the story of lies, betrayal and murder all within the notorious family and fashion brand Gucci.

This film comes out swinging with its impressive cast featuring Lady Gaga, who plays Patrizia Gucci, Adam Driver, who takes on the role of Maurizio Gucci, and Jared Leto, who plays the under-appreciated brother, Paolo Gucci. While watching, I was thoroughly impressed with the team of actors and how well they portrayed their characters.

Lady Gaga comes off as willful, strong and ambitious. Her portrayal of the real Patrizia is a hard thing to replicate, but Lady Gaga does so with power and a pretty accurate Italian accent. Driver begins by playing his role softly and transforms into the powerful businessmen that people recognize and the company to be today.

Now, Leto on the other hand, well, he was just all right. I'll



IMDb

House Of Gucci tells the story of love, lies, murder and betrayal. Currently In Theaters. The film brought to light the darkest kept secrets of Gucci.

give him credit where it's due because he did a good job at playing goofy, but his role was certainly underwhelming in comparison to the other actors. At times, he came off as trying too hard and overdid it with his accent and his unfunny jokes.

The film went on for the du-

ration of two hours and 37 minutes. It was a lengthy film but truly, I think this running time was necessary to get to the meat and potatoes, the crime and thriller portion, of the film. If you didn't know, this movie is based on a true story, and many of the scenes will shock you. But

even having done my research beforehand, I was still surprised and entertained throughout. The film never stalled, which is truly a sign of good storytelling.

The film kept me on the edge of my seat as it shifted and moved quickly throughout the scenes. While this fast-paced

movie is ideal for those who enjoy the thrills, for others, the quick transitions can come off as rushed and incomplete. Personally, I thought of the rushed scenes as random and something the movie could do without. Certain scenes were just unnecessary and if you're not going to do it right, then why do it at all?

I'm not sure if I would classify "House Of Gucci" as a modern day classic, but it certainly has its stand-out moments. The movie was a tall glass of water filled to the brim with drama and glamour for all to see. The only thing that would have made this movie better is if it wasn't a movie at all. "House Of Gucci," dare I say, would have benefited more from being split into separate parts, perhaps a mini-series produced by HBO. Now, that series is something I would've watched and enjoyed more.

The film was interesting to watch but hard to decipher. With more direction, "House of Gucci" would have been the story it was projected to be by critics. But overall, I think this movie was worth the watch.

'Tick Tick Boom' continues famous playwright's legacy

LAUREN HARRIS
TEMPO EDITOR

Netflix tries their hand at producing musicals with their newest movie, "Tick Tick Boom." The film follows the life of aspiring playwright Jonathan Larson, who, before making it big with his iconic musical, "Rent," has to undergo hardships and loss. It's essentially a musical about writing a musical. But what makes this movie stand apart from other musicals is the story of Larson's own unique journey to success.

Andrew Garfield takes on the role of the musically talented writer, and if you asked me, he nailed it. Before this, I never knew that he could sing, but in the film, he proves himself scene after scene. Garfield flawlessly portrays Larson as an energetic and fidgety guy that lives and breathes music. He lives paycheck to paycheck in a small loft in New York and is being constantly reminded of the fact that he is turning thirty soon with no real career. Directed by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the film is a beautiful depiction of a real life icon.

As his friends grow up and turn over their dreams of be-



IMDb

Andrew Garfield plays the role of Jonathan Larson, famous playwright. Told the harrowing story of an aspiring man with a dream.

coming Broadway superstars for a briefcase, Larson refuses to give up, always seeing the potential in himself. He's spent the last eight years of his life writing his breakout play he has invested so much in. So when

producers finally start to take notice of him, you would think it would be a happy time, right? Well, not quite. Instead, Larson is faced with hard choices and must choose between reality and his passion.

Before watching, I was completely against the idea of musicals; song and dance is not my thing. But slowly, I got into the movie with the elaborate musical numbers about brunch and sugar and the drama stemming

from his uncertainty and career anguish.

Written by Larson himself, it truly is a touching and real autobiographical story that depicts his life before his untimely death. I wouldn't recommend watching unless you want to cry because this film touches on heavy issues, like the AIDS Epidemic and the common fear of failure that most people experience. Despite popular belief, musicals don't always have a happy ending, and this is precisely the reason why I like this film so much. I felt personally connected to the story that was being told, as it was accurate and true to the times. I felt especially sad knowing that the movie wasn't just about fictional characters, but real people.

The only thing frustrating about this film is the neglect that he puts his friends and loved ones through. It is hard to watch and at times makes his character seem self-involved and unlikeable, but it is an honest reflection of what he was going through at the time. It was written like that purposely, and I admire his dedication to getting his work out to the public for all to enjoy.

MUSIC LAYDOWN

By: Lauren Harris

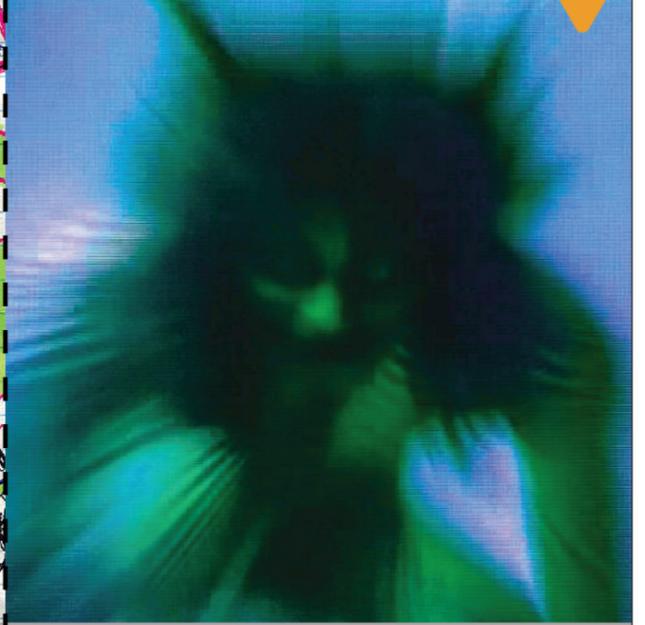
SEVDALIZÁ



MEET ME @ THE ALTAR



YVES TUMOR



Sevdaliza: Iranian artist Sevdaliza is truly spearheading the genre of electronica and is one of a kind with her sophisticated, rich, and weird music taste. Known for her visually appealing music videos and album covers, Sevdaliza sings, writes, and produces her own music. She is independent from a record label, free to explore with her sound and that makes it all the better. Listening to Sevdaliza is like finding something hidden that wasn't supposed to be found. That quality has helped her tremendously in standing out and has caught the eye of many fans, including me. Give her a listen, you won't regret it.

Meet Me @ The Altar: Pop Punk has a new face with Meet Me @ The Altar. The three members of the group Téa Campbell, Ada Juarez, and Edith Johnson all offer their own new flair to the genre and provide the much needed diversity that Pop Punk desperately needs. The girl group officially formed in 2017 and have been releasing rock acts ever since. Still widely underground, The group has been working hard to be noticed. But with their recent release of the song, "Garden", they've gotten a taste of mainstream attention.

Yves Tumor: Sean Bowie also known as Yves Tumor produces psychedelic rock to audiences with an eclectic taste. He is simply what I would define as a glamorous burst of energy, someone with heart and soul. Most known for his latest album, Heaven to a Tortured Mind, Tumor is keeping fans on their toes by putting out dark rhymes and scary blues. Tumor is unique and serves as inspiration to all listeners, he is queer, fabulous, and unpredictable. It certainly isn't for everyone, but it is something to look forward to or to turn on when you want to deviate from the mainstream tunes of radio.

UPCOMING ALBUMS



Moses Sumney:
Live from
Blackalachia



Alicia Keys: Keys



Rick Ross: Richer
than I've ever
been



The Lumineers:
Brightside

DEC. 10

JAN. 14

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Karol G
Dec. 14
Rosemont
Theater

Monsta X
Feb. 3
The Chicago Theater

Dababy
Feb. 17
Byline Bank Aragon
Ballroom

The Marias
Feb. 25
The Vic Theater

Bad Bunny
Mar. 10
All State Arena

Showcase presents students' writing

KATELYN LEANO
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On Nov. 30, the First-Year Writing Showcase took place in the D'Arcy Great Room. It featured work from a selected number of writers, who were nominated by their first-year writing professors.

"The First Year Writing Showcase is an event that takes place each semester and serves to celebrate our first-year writers and the powerful transformational writing they created in their first-year writing courses," said Director of First Year Writing Jennifer Consilio.

According to Consilio, this semester Lewis offered approximately 40 sections of college writing courses that were taught by 20 English Studies instructors and served around 600 students. The writing instructors nominate their students' writing and a faculty committee chooses the best pieces.

From the ones who were nominated, only 13 students were selected from three different writing courses: The Essay, and then the two required writing courses, College Writing 1 and College Writing 2.



Somkene Ugwu/ Contributing photographer

Sophomore psychology major Vanessa Flores reads an excerpt of her writing piece titled, "Finding Your Way Through" at the First Year Writing Showcase.

There were many different kinds of writing pieces at the showcase which included: literacy or identity narratives, profile writing, video remixes and researched writing.

"In practicing these and other forms of writing, students learn many writing skills and knowledge about writing and most importantly experience that writing is a powerful way of knowing—for growing self-

knowledge, for making art and for creating new knowledge," said Consilio.

The work that was featured in the showcase, included: "The Gym" by Matthew Hovorka, "Seeing Clearly" by Liam Jarrot, "A Rocky Relationship with Reading" by Madelyn Hayes, "This is who I am" by Alondra Garcia, "Sixth Grade Adventures" by Bibin Biju, "Connecting with my Filipino Culture"

by Gillian Comonal, "The Profile Essay Remix Video" by Caroline Pietrzyk, "Ever Since November" by Abigail des Groseilliers, "The Devil on My Dinner Plate" by Jenna Cheop, "Bruce Wayne: A Fallen Knight" by Jacob Prince, "Finding Your Way Through" by Vanessa Flores, "How Nurses can help Fix the Nursing Shortage" by Nicole Kittle and "The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: How to Assess the Implementation in High School" by Michael Yerkes.

"For the event, each writer read a brief portion of their work and then introduced the next writer," said Consilio. "At the end, each writer was given a certificate, writing journal and a pen and took some group photos."

The main purpose for holding this showcase every year is to show what students have learned in their course and give them the opportunity to write about what really matters to them.

"In our First Year Writing classroom spaces, writers find spaces for engagement, spaces to create [and] spaces to take risks..." said Consilio. "[This allows them] to write about what matters to them in real

ways, often pushing outside their comfort zones, making deep meaningful connections with writing, having the opportunity to explore what really matters to them, to learn about genre, bending genre to fit their writing goals, what they want to accomplish to make their purposes come to life, to connect and inspire their audiences in so many meaningful ways."

Students were encouraged to attend not only to earn Arts & Ideas credit, but to also see what these students wrote and hopefully become inspired to write their own pieces.

For those who were unable to attend, everyone is encouraged to browse the online showcase to read the writers' work.

"Those attending had the beautiful opportunity to learn about and witness the kinds of writing that takes place in College Writing classes, to create a larger audience for these course projects and also to support and celebrate these writers," said Consilio.



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Katelyn's CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Gender Sexuality Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m.

Multicultural Student Center JG 105

Flyers Rise Mentoring Program Kick-Off

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m.

D'Arcy Great Room SA 119

Fulfilling the Dream Conference

Saturday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m.

AS 157A, 156A, 158A, 155A,
D'Arcy Great Room SA 119

Art, Music and Performances

5th Annual High School Art Invitational Reception

Thursday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

The Brent and Jean Wadsworth
Family Reception Room RA 127

Open Mic Night

Monday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

Studio Theatre FA 229

Veronica's Room

Friday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Phillip Lynch Theatre FA 130

Arts and Ideas

Weisenthal Colloquium Series

Friday, Jan. 14, 2 p.m.

AS 158A

Douglass Day

Transcribe-a-thon

Monday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.

D'Arcy Great Room SA 119

LYNX Concert

Monday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Convocation Hall SB 130

Ministry and Mission

EmpowHER Women's Ministry

Thursday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Charlie's Place

Commencement Mass

Saturday, Dec. 19, 5 p.m.

Sancta Alberta Chapel SA 100

Elevate

Monday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m.

D'Arcy Great Room SA 119

Holiday Choral Concert rings in festive season

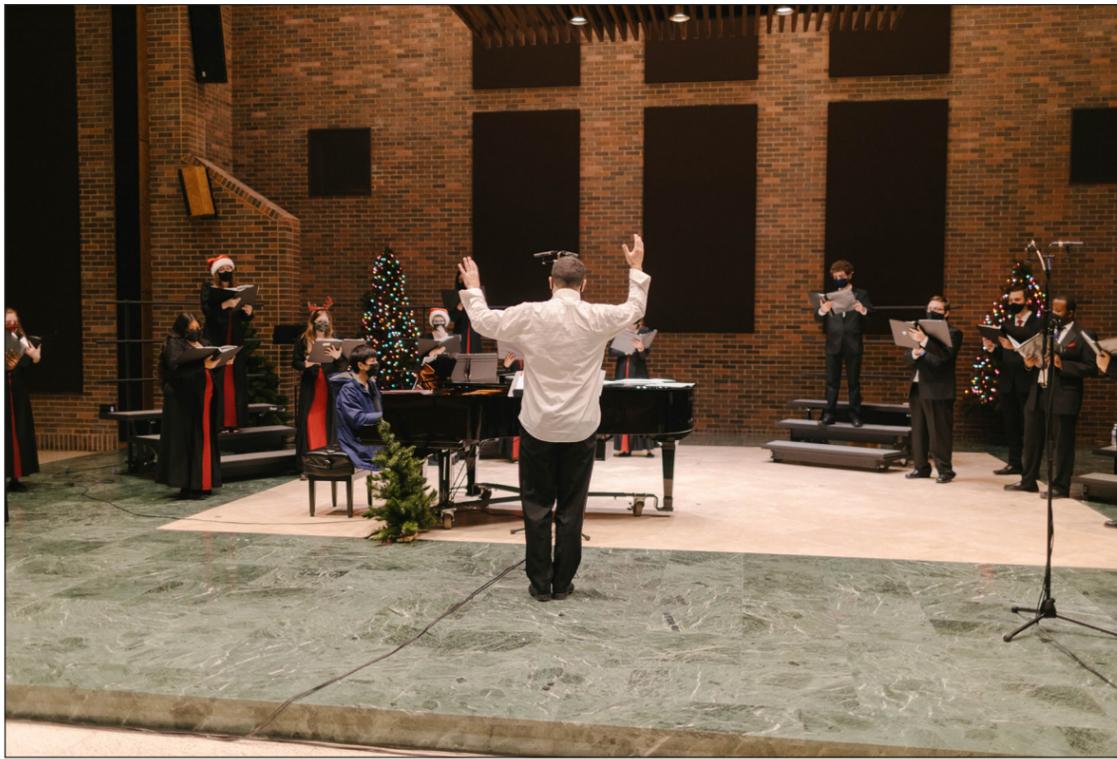
KATELYN LEANO
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On Dec. 6, The Chamber Choir, which consists of vocal ensembles and student instrumentalists, celebrated the Christmas season with the annual holiday concert of choral music and carols in the St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall.

The program consisted of many festive songs to encourage people to get into the holiday spirit. Songs performed included "Carol of the Bells," "The First Nowell," "O Tannenbaum," "Mary, Did You Know?" and "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas."

"It's a mostly traditional Christmas concert," said Jeremy Landig, director for choral and vocal ensemble. "The core of the program is made up of pieces you might hear in an English cathedral around this time of year: traditional carols from England going back the last few hundred years."

Interspersed with the English tunes, there were pieces from Spanish, Irish, African and American popular and folk traditions, like "Oba Se Je (Here



LUIS CHAVEZ / PHOTOGRAPHER

Chamber Choir performs their setlist of holiday songs during the concert, while practicing social distancing guidelines.

Comes The King!)."

"We've also added a couple of audience singalongs as we transition between different sections of the program," said Landig.

Along with performing a

number of songs as a complete choir, the concert also featured pieces that were performed by smaller groups of six to 12 students. Regardless of everything being mostly in-person this semester, the choir contin-

ued to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"In the past, we have performed some of the music 'surrounding' the audience, but this year we perform[ed] a bit further back for social distanc-

ing reasons," said Landig.

Students have been rehearsing for this concert since Nov. 3, right after their Fall Choral Concert.

"Some of the singers have sung a piece or two from this concert when they were in high school, or in a previous holiday concert here at Lewis," said Landig.

Students were encouraged to attend this concert because the choir worked hard to prepare for it. Their audience consisted of students and staff as well as anyone from the public that wanted to hear these amazing voices and warm up with holiday cheer.

"They should attend if they want to hear some great music sung by some fantastic singers," said Landig.

The main reason why Lewis holds this festive concert every year is to introduce the holiday season with a little singing.

"It's to ring in the holiday season for our campus and community, bring our families and alumni together to celebrate the end of the semester and the chance to connect with each other musically one more time before break," said Landig.

Congratulations December Graduates!

To speak with a Graduate Admission Counselor for more information about our programs, please contact us at **(815) 836-5610** or grad@lewisu.edu.



You did it! You're graduating with a bachelor's degree.

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The tuition rate should be confirmed and verified by the Admissions Counselor at the time of registration. Discount does not apply to the following programs: Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Master of Science in Speech Pathology, or to any program that is already discounted.

Sports events switch to digital tickets

DAISY PADILLA
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Since COVID-19, Lewis has made many changes in both the academic and the sports worlds, most recently with the transition to digital tickets for athletic events. The school has paired up with Hometown for Flyer fans to be able to purchase tickets for any sporting event hosted at Lewis.

Since the pandemic started, many major league teams and companies at other universities have gone through with this transition. COVID-19 played a big role for Lewis to make this change, as this proved to be a safer and easier way to handle sporting events.

An advantage of the digital tickets is money does not have to go back and forth anymore and there are no more problems with giving back change. This improvement eliminates fans' time in lines and gets them into the game quicker as well.

The Hometown App will alert ticket holders of any changes with the game times, as well as provide a platform to connect with the fans. The Hometown App also allows the institution to get a better understanding of their fan base.

When the university hosted a high school soccer game in November for the IHSA Regionals, the athletics department saw that IHSA had adjusted to a digital ticketing system. They



DAISY PADILLA / CO-SPORTS EDITOR

used another app system, but the athletic director, Dr. John Planek saw that many high schools are making the transition and realized how smooth the event went.

"We do think it is going to be a bit of a transition but people will get used to it, once they see that everything is cashless," said Planek. Many major sporting events nowadays are cashless and people are already adapt-

ing to it in other ways such as Apple Pay.

Another feature of the Hometown App is that it communicates data on teams' fan bases and allows users to track the number of students that attend the sporting events on campus.

Planek does not think that the digital tickets are going to affect the attendance rate that much because he thinks people will be coming to the games no matter

what, with the app or not. He does think that it is going to be easier to connect with students on campus because now they are able to send alerts.

Planek hopes to get a better understanding of the people that come to the games. Besides providing ticketing services, the Hometown App also shows who is playing during that game, the time of the game and the location it takes place.

The main goal for Lewis is to ease line wait times for tickets and to monitor who comes to the games, along with being able to provide better communication with fans.

Planek hopes to see more students at sporting events and reminds everyone that attending games is free for all Lewis students.

Lewis athletes compete at Junior Pan American Games

DANI NAVARRETE
SPORTS REPORTER

Two international student-athletes represented their respective countries at the 2021 Junior Pan American games. Guatemalan sophomore business major Miguel Turcios swam three individual events and two relays at the Hernando Botero O'byrne Swimming Pools. Puerto Rican senior volleyball player and aviation maintenance management major also played four games at the Evangelista Mora Arena. The multisport event took place in Cali, Colombia from Nov. 25 to Dec. 5.

On Nov. 26, Turcios raced in the 100-meter breaststroke and finished in 13th place with a time of 1:08. He also helped his team finish sixth as a member of the 4x100 free-style relay, splitting 53.9 in the last leg. That same day, Rodriguez had his Jr. Pan American debut as his team got defeated by Argentina 3-1 (19-25, 25-21, 25-21, 25-21).

The next day, Turcios swam the 200-meter backstroke and placed 17th with a time of 2:17. At the court, Rodriguez and his team made a comeback and beat Guatemala 3-0 (25-17, 25-17, 26-24).



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The Junior Pan American games branch out from the Pan American Games, which is the most important multisport event in the American continent.

On the third day, Turcios finished 17th in the 100-meter backstroke clocking in 1:01. Puerto Rico played against Colombia that same day, but got defeated by the host country 3-2 (20-25, 25-22, 25-23, 22-25, 15-7). However, it was a great day for Rodriguez as he received best performance honors as being the top blocker of the day from the North, Central and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation (NORECA).

The final day of competition for Rodriguez was on Nov. 29

as his team played for fifth place against Dominican Republic but lost 3-1 (26-24, 22-25, 25-21, 25-16). Turcios did not have any races on Nov. 29 but on Nov. 30 he swam his final race of the meet as part of the 4x100 medley relay in the backstroke leg with a time of 1:02.

Both Rodriguez and Turcios shared that although this was not their best competition in terms of performance, the overall experience at the games was memorable. According to Rodriguez, there

were strict COVID-19 protocols in place that included daily testing, masking at all times and not being allowed to support other sports at the games. Yet, even with such a burden, he still rejoiced at what it is like to represent his home country.

"Playing for Puerto Rico is very different from playing for Lewis because at Lewis, we have to stand up for the national anthem and everything, but it is not really my anthem," said Rodriguez. "Everything changes when my national anthem is playing... and is not like playing for the other, but playing for Puerto Rico feels like I am at home, that I am representing my home and my roots."

Rodriguez started playing volleyball at age 15 and a year later, he was selected to play for the junior national team. He has been part of the senior team for three years now. "I have played for Puerto Rico for a while now, so whenever there is a tournament that doesn't interfere with school, I go play with them wherever they are," said Rodriguez.

Turcios took the experience as preparation and training, considering the weekend be-

fore Pan Ams he had his mid-season meet and the weekend after he had the final dual meet of the semester.

"Cali has a very good environment, it is known for having a very happy atmosphere, so that really cheered me up for the games," said Turcios. "For me it was more like a swim camp; I got to swim with a lot of fast people from different countries that come to the States to swim and study and took advantage of learning from them."

Turcios started swimming at a young age but first represented Guatemala internationally in 2017, when he was selected to swim at the sixth edition of the FINA World Junior Championships held in Indianapolis, Indiana. "That was my first time swimming at such a high-level meet and I really got a lot of motivation and ambition out of that," said Turcios.

In the short-term, these Flyers are looking forward to continuing with their athletic and academic careers in college. In the long run, they want to begin the Olympic cycle and make it to the 2024 Paris Olympic games in their respective sports.

Blackhawks hurdle obstacles within season start

MOLLY ST.CLAIR
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The Chicago Blackhawks have drawn attention to themselves this 2020-21 season. The team set a record for the most games lost in the beginning of a season in franchise history. The Hawks' are one of the Original Six teams in the league dating back to 1926.

After the Hawks won the Stanley Cup in 2015, the team has foregone several rebuilding processes. This shift means many younger players were brought in and the Hawks roster will continue to grow in an attempt to not only give them a chance at the Stanley Cup, but continuously secure a top spot in the league.

Long time goalie Corey Crawford retired after the 2019-20 season. The Blackhawks then traded Malcolm Subban, who had stepped up for the Hawks following Crawford's leave. The team acquired goalie Marc-Andre Fleury from the Vegas Golden Knights.

There was much excitement about Fleury's trade, seeing as he had just won a Vezina Trophy and had the second best record in the league for the 2021 season. He averaged a .913 save percentage this season. The leading goalie in the league as far as save percentage is Jack Campbell of the Toronto Maple Leafs with a .942.

Fleury was not the only new player for the Hawks this season; there are many new faces on the ice. Center Tyler Johnson was acquired after having won the Stanley Cup the past two years with the Tampa Bay Lightning. Team captain Jonathan Toews also returned this season after sitting out all of last year due to illness. While the rebuilding process gave fans hope, the Hawks are a young team — meaning their team chemistry and skills are still growing.

Nick Kanzia, junior sports management major and member of the golf team, has been a fan since their Stanley Cup in 2010. "After Stan Bowman proclaimed in this last postseason

(2020-2021) that the Blackhawks organization was in the middle of a rebuild and that we as fans needed to be patient and have confidence... They still have a ton of work to do but seem to be pulling things together slowly but surely this season," said Kanzia

They began this season with a 0-7-2 record, making it the worst start the Blackhawks have ever had with the previous record being eight loses to start the season. They clinched their 10th game of the season scoring 5-1 against the Ottawa Senators.

As of now, defense Seth Jones, right wing Patrick Kane and left wing Alex DeBrincat lead their team in goals this season.

In November, head coach Jeremy Colliton was fired after four seasons with the team. Derek King took over in the interim as the head coach.

While fans' main focus is usually the games, there is always a different side of sports behind the scenes. Business, financial and player care in sports management is what makes the three-period games possible. This means there are other factors of an organization that fans do not know about.

The 2010 Stanley Cup win was the first of three wins in five years for the Blackhawks and a source of pride for the fans. When a full story came to light about the behind the scenes of that year, many were devastated.

This past May a 'John Doe' filed a lawsuit against the Chicago Blackhawks organization with accusations of sexual assault. The John Doe has since stepped forward as Kyle Beach, a former Blackhawks player that was called up during the 2010 Stanley Cup Finals.

The sexual assault claims were made against former video coach Brad Aldrich.

A new investigation was opened this year into the case. According to the report released in October, a meeting was held with then President John McDonough and several high ranking staff members after the situation was brought to the attention of the organization. The



Photo by Chris Sweda, Chicago Tribune/TNS

Center for the Chicago Blackhawks, Johnathan Toews faces off against the Nashville Predators in April of 2017.

sexual assault accusations were then dismissed and Aldrich was still kept on staff and allowed to celebrate the 2010 Stanley Cup Championship with the team.

While Aldrich was eventually asked to resign in June of that year, he was given severance pay and a letter of recommendation. He later was accused of sexually assaulting two college students and sentenced to nine months in jail for sexual assault on a high school player. When the organization was asked about Aldrich's experience with the Blackhawks, they refused to give any information. Aldrich was later convicted and sentenced for fourth degree criminal sexual conduct with a student.

This year, the NHL fined the Blackhawks \$2 million for the, "inadequate procedures and mishandling of 2010 matter related to conduct of former video coach Brad Aldrich," following an investigation. \$1 million dollars of the fine is to go to organizations within Chicago that help victims of abuse. Aldrich's name was also crossed out on the Stanley Cup from the Championship in 2010.

President of Hockey Operations for the Chicago Blackhawks, Stan Bowman resigned following the report released in October due to the lack of action taken in 2010.

Adjunct sports management instructor, Paul Zakowski applauded the Blackhawks public relations on the choices they made as well as the good message they sent through quick and just actions when the news of the lawsuit broke earlier this year. "For whatever reason, those people who were told about the situation and could have done something, decided not to say anything," said Zakowski. "Those involved have paid the price with lost employment and careers and their reputations tarnished. Once your integrity is questioned, you have a hard time getting it back."

Many of those within the 2010 organization are not present with the team anymore, but the blame and image from the fans still falls much onto the 2021 team. As for the fans, many are happy to see those that mishandled the situation leave and hope to see better management

in the future.

The team has undergone many changes within the first few months of the season and are now 9-14-2 meaning they have won nine of their last sixteen games. "The change in staff and coaching can ultimately do a few things for the team and organization, both good and bad," said Kanzia. "When bringing in so many newer individuals to such levels of power, there can be issues if too many changes are brought forth at once."

With such a long NHL season, the Blackhawks are not out of it yet. With the recent wins, the team appears to be trying to turn it around. "The Blackhawks will be fine," said Zakowski. "They have a strong core of fans that will stick by them thick or thin."

All fans can do right now is hope for the best and continue to support their team. The new changes in staff allows an opportunity to make a difference in the community, within the team and change the environment for those involved with the Hawks.

BLACKHAWKS WORST STARTS IN FRANCHISE HISTORY

	1953-1954	1997-1998	1999-2000	2021-2022
Opening Season Record	0-7-1	0-7-0	0-4-4	0-7-2
League Finish	6th	18th	21st	TBD

NOV/DEC SPORTS RECAP

[11/21 - 12/7]

Basketball 11/23 vs. Purdue Northwest 78-57 11/27 vs. Parkside 79-80 12/2 vs. Indianapolis 67-79 12/4 vs. McKendree 69-50 12/7 vs. St. Francis 68-61	Track & Field 12/3 @ GVSU Holiday Open 7th place Swimming 12/4 vs. Valparaiso 171-88	Volleyball 11/21 vs. Missouri St. Louis 3-2 12/2 vs. Missouri St. Louis 2-3
Basketball 11/23 vs. Hillsdale 52-67 11/27 vs. Lake Superior State 67-88 12/2 vs. Indianapolis 85-71 12/4 vs. McKendree 78-62	Swimming 12/4 vs. Valparaiso 192-70	Track & Field 12/3 @ GVSU Holiday Open 11th place

Women's

Men's

Cubs trade their core three players

DAISY PADILLA
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The Chicago Cubs held the longest drought in baseball history. They had not won a World Series Championship in a 108 years after their previous win in 1908. This meant many Cubs fans never got to see their team take home a World Series win. However, in 2016, the next generation of Cubs fans were finally able to share this with their friends and family.

This was only possible with the great team chemistry that the Cubs had at the time and their determination to win it all. A key player was first baseman Anthony Rizzo, which many say was the face, heart and soul of the Chicago Cubs.

Another player that played a big role for the Cubs was shortstop Javier Báez, who brought the fire and electric feeling to the game. Meanwhile, Kris Bryant was the third baseman known for his countless home runs the 2016 season with the Cubs — though some may say he was mostly known for his good looks.

Rizzo and Bryant were known for their bromance on and off the field and were even called Brizzo at one point. Sophomore Ryne Meriel, who plays



Chris Sweda/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo (44) and Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant (17) leap together as they celebrate with their world champion Chicago Cubs teammates after the Game 7 World Series win over the Cleveland Indians at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Nov. 3, 2016.

catcher and second base for the Lewis baseball team, said that he thinks that two players on his own team remind him of the Brizzo bromance. “Ben Davis and Michael Sclafani are always seen together as good buddies and give the same Brizzo vibes,” said Meriel.

After this past season, the Chicago Cubs ripped many fans’ hearts out when they made the decision to trade all three of the last players that were on the 2016 team. These were the players that most fans were attached to.

Many Chicago fans hope that

one day one of the big three players will come back to play for the Chicago Cubs.

“Out of all three players from the Cubs that were traded, I think Bryant will come back just because I heard talk about him this offseason,” said Meriel. “Also, he was so rooted in Chi-

cago as well.”

No one saw this coming, as it was in the middle of the season. Some die-hard fans were so hurt that they stopped watching the rest of the season. The Chicago Cubs organization released many statements about how they want what’s best for the team and the future of these three players.

“I don’t think it was a terrible trade choice, but it happened super suddenly but they are starting to do the rebuilding process,” said Meriel.

The Chicago Cubs were known for their bond and chemistry that they had on the field at one point with Rizzo, Bryant and Báez.

“I think that as a team we have a better bond than the Cubs because we see each other every day and we are all in college and this year team chemistry is through the roof.... As a team [as a] whole, we do have a way better bond than the Cubs,” said Meriel.

Meriel is excited for baseball this year and thinks that the team will make it far. He cannot wait for the season to start to be able to play some good baseball with his team. Also, he hopes to see more Lewis students come to the games this spring season. Their first game is Feb. 18.