



The Flyer

www.thelewisflyer.com

February 23, 2022

Volume 44 Issue 2

HBCU's receive bomb threats

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

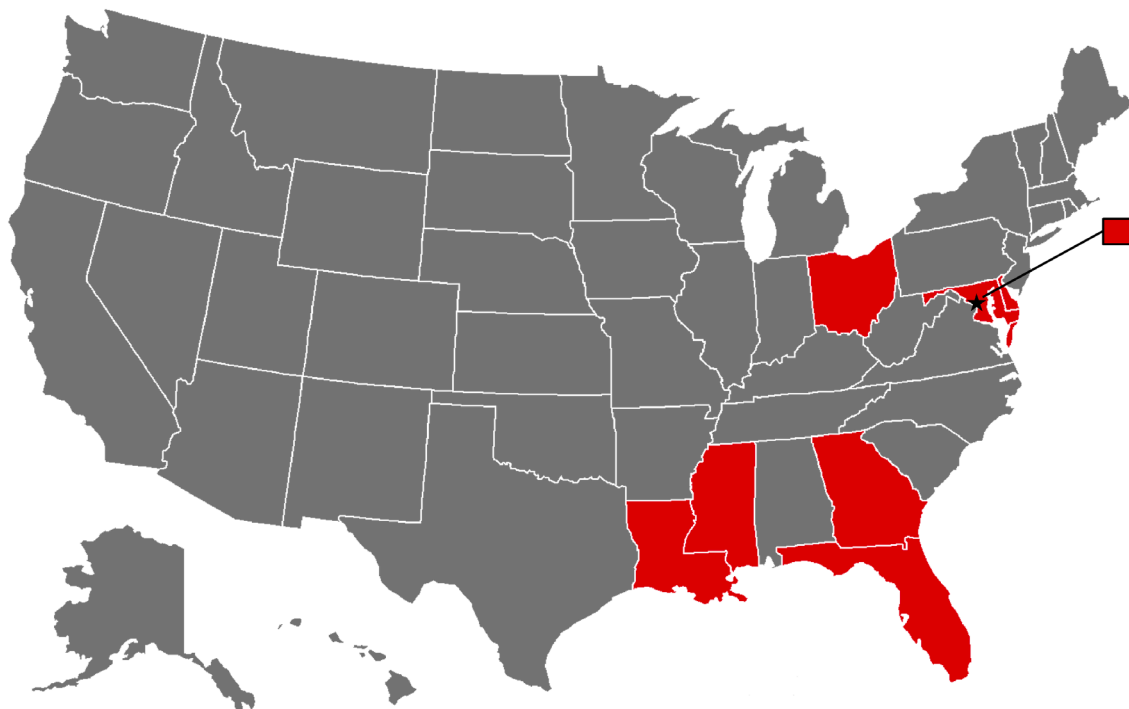
February marks Black History Month and this year, that has come with many Historically Black Colleges and University's (HBCU) receiving bomb threats. This caused multiple class cancellations and feelings of unease across campuses. Thankfully, no bombs have been found on any of the threatened campuses.

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force is investigating the threats made. The force had six suspects in early February, but has not yet released any information on the individuals nor why they are considered suspects.

Some HBCU schools, including Howard University, have received multiple threats over the past few weeks.

HBCUs are defined as any historically Black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of Black Americans. HBCUs surfaced in response to racial discrimination by universities against Black Americans. They are accredited

HBCU States Receiving Bomb Threats



HBCU states receiving bomb threats

ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

ited institutions that have the goal to provide Black people with the same secondary edu-

cation opportunities as their white counterparts.

Dr. Mark Schultz, a history

professor who specializes in African American Studies, reveals the historical significance

HBCUs have.

"Black Universities and colleges have been the widest channel for educating bright young African Americans for many decades [after the civil rights movement] so there is a long, strong, proud legacy of people attending these schools who are striving towards [higher] careers," said Schultz.

"They have been an institutional point of pride for African Americans for over 150 years. HBCUs and black churches were the two institutions that grew out of the Black community in America and that reflected their vision that reflected their interests and are still there today."

The U.S. Department of Education currently accredits over 100 HBCUs across the United States. Some of these include Alabama State University, Howard University and Virginia State University.

The bomb threats received by HBCU's are a reminder of the dangers and threats Black

'BOMB THREATS'
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Flyer celebrates 44 years of publication while Texas A&M halts print media

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 10, Texas A&M University announced President M. Katherine Banks' decision to eliminate the weekly print edition of their university newspaper, The Battalion, moving the paper to a completely online format after the spring semester.

The Battalion is an independent registered student organization which means decisions about the paper fall under the command of the paper's editorial staff and not university officials. Therefore, Banks could be in violation of First Amendment rights of free press and free speech.

Communications professor Dr. David Anderson believes the main problem lies in who gave the decision.

"The main problem here seems to be that the president

sought no input [from The Battalion staff]," said Anderson. "It would have been far better to have all of the stakeholders involved in the decision."

The decision lacks clarity as The Battalion has not been having financial issues and over half of the paper's revenue comes from its print publications. There has been speculation over whether the decision came in response to the type of stories published, which exposed certain unfavorable news about Texas A&M. These include allegations of sexual misconduct during a new student program and the lack of diversity on campus. According to Banks, the published stories had nothing to do with the decision. Instead the decision was a result of the university's plan for a better journalism degree program which would include The Battalion, therefore ending its status

as an independent student-led organization.

The decision to eliminate weekly print publications has been a shock and upset to many at Texas A&M and in the print industry. The Battalion, who have a 129 year publishing streak, expressed dismay through social media accounts, making it clear they do not agree with the university's decision. Students across campus voiced their outrage by handing out fliers that read #SaveTheBatt.

However, Dr. David Anderson disagrees with the backlash facing Banks' decision.

"I think the transition to digital is fine with respect to providing students an outlet for free expression and an outlet to comment on campus issues," said Anderson. "In fact, in many ways it is better. Students today use their smartphones, tablets and com-



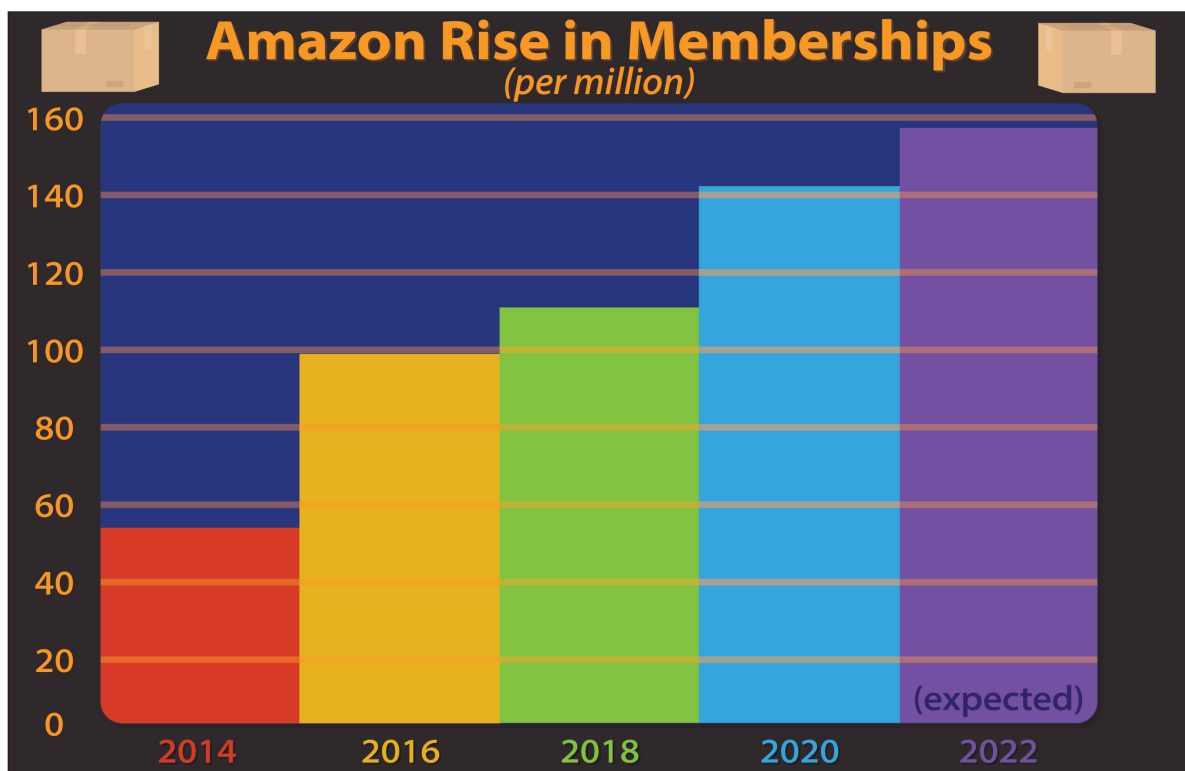
LUIS CHAVEZ / PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior history major Jack Zabilka enjoying the latest issue of The Flyer.

puters to access news and information. They participate in the debate on social issues in online venues. Having students start this process in college will only help them after graduation."

According to Pew Research Center, print publications are

'TEXAS A&M HALTS NEWSPAPER'
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Amazon unfairly raises membership prices

JULIA LESNICKI
OPINIONS EDITOR

It almost feels like everyone today has an Amazon Prime account. If I don't feel like going to the store or can't seem to find something at the store that I was planning on buying, I always order it from Amazon. Sometimes, I order things on Amazon because TikTok told me to.

Amazon recently released the news that they will be raising the prices of the membership from \$119 to \$139 per year and for monthly subscriptions it will increase from \$12.99 to \$14.99. The Prime Student is also increasing from \$59 per year to \$69 per year. These prices will go into effect for new members Feb. 18 and for people who already have memberships beginning March 25.

Doesn't Amazon founder Jeff Bezos have enough money? Why does he need to take more money from his loyal customers? According to Forbes, Bezos's estimated net worth is \$182.4 billion, which puts him as the third richest person in the world, behind Elon Musk and Bernard Arnault, and one spot

ahead of Bill Gates.

Amazon stated the reason for the rise of prices is due to increased Prime membership benefits. The benefits are supposedly going to include additional Prime Video content, various free same-day shipping, an increase of truck services/deliveries and to finally pay their workers the money they deserve by increasing the costs of labor throughout the network. This all seems too good to be true, as this response is the go to for companies when they increase their prices, and most of the time, those promises are left unfulfilled.

Amazon has grown so much over the last few years specifically during the beginning months of the pandemic. With no one wanting to leave their homes, people were buying more online and shipping straight to their houses, allowing the company's profits to skyrocket while others struggled to pay for basic necessities. With the pandemic still ongoing and continuing to bring financial hardship to many people, this increase in price is unfair.

According to Backlinko, 148.6

million people have an Amazon Prime subscription. This marks a 49.05% increase in just five years. However, the increase in pricing could potentially decrease the growth of Amazon Prime Memberships. Although, Prime subscribers have proven to be loyal in the past. The last time Amazon raised their membership prices was in 2018 and it didn't affect the growth of memberships for the company, so this increase may bear similar results.

According to NBC News, when Amazon first launched in 2005, the membership was \$79 annually with benefits like two-day shipping. 17 years later, the price increased \$60 annually to \$139, almost doubling the price the company originally began with.

The rise of the prices is creating a lot of commotion for Amazon from people all over social media, the news and TV. Some people are even going out of their way to figure out how to avoid the Prime membership increase. For example, News Nation published an article titled "Seven ways to avoid Amazon Prime's fee hike," and one way they list is to buy a Prime Video membership only. That membership has a 30-day free trial and once the trial is over it costs only \$8.99 a month. However, the problem with this solution is that this is only for Prime Video and not for the overall Amazon Membership to order groceries, clothing and everything else Amazon sells.

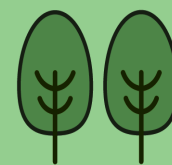
With Bezos having more money than any one person could ever need, this price increase is just another greedy move by the billionaire. It is time for consumers to take a stand against the company and show Bezos that higher prices are unnecessary.



STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Amazon promises more streaming content with this increased price.

SUSTAINABILITY WITH STEPH



Companies feed into our eco-guilt

STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I try to be sustainable in my daily life. I bring my own bags to the grocery store, I use a reusable bottle, I recycle and compost, I do what I can. However, I still am plagued with guilt anytime I make a choice that isn't great for the environment. I'm studying environmental science and I should be the master of a zero-waste lifestyle by now.

At least that's what corporations want you to think. It's a classic example of putting the blame on someone else. It is time to stop assigning blame to ourselves for climate destruction. Individuals are not the ones polluting our planet, corporations and politicians are. All the guilt I feel when I choose to save the extra dollar on the less sustainable option at the store is also caused by corporations. It's a classic example of putting the blame on someone else.

While I do truly believe every little difference counts, me buying the printer paper from 100% recycled material instead of the cheaper, less sustainable alternative is not going to fix anything. We need greater changes, particularly in our production and energy sectors.

According to an analysis by Richard Heede at the Climate Accountability Institute, over a third of all modern greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to just 20 fossil fuel companies. Their endless exploitation of oil, gas and coal reserves has emitted 480 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent since 1965. They are the ones causing the climate crisis, not an average consumer using a plastic grocery bag.

This eco-guilt is tapped into by greedy corporations who just see sustainability as a trend. Companies like Unilever have started creating "more sustainable" alternatives that cost significantly more. They move deodorant into recyclable cardboard or refillable packing. Furthermore, they're creating new brands under their corporation that are referred to as sustainable-living brands, yet the company still manufactures the same cheaper harmful products they always have with, in Unilever's case spe-

cifically, a carbon footprint of 32 million tonnes.

This makes them marketing geniuses. They now have products for the eco-friendly consumer and the not-so-eco-friendly consumer. However, it is all just greenwashing. In order to elevate their brand, they feed into eco-guilt with their "green" products, without changing any of their production procedures.

Popular clothing brand H&M sells products as part of their conscious exclusive line that is marketed to be sustainable with a hefty price tag to back it up. However, they're still a fast-fashion company that sends millions of tons of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, clothing into landfills and microplastics into the ocean. Consumers buy the company's clothing because of their own eco-guilt and end up paying more for the false advertising.

These companies see sustainability as a fad. They add sustainability sections to their website and hire a sustainability director, but make no actual changes, only false additions.

This is why we need to show companies sustainability is not just a trend they can play into to make money, it is a necessary change for our planet's future. Consumers can do this by holding corporations accountable, contacting politicians, spreading awareness and participating in protests or boycotts. In addition, try to avoid greenwashing. A good rule of thumb is the smaller the company is, the more sustainable it will likely be. Giant corporations are the greatest puppeteers of greenwashing.

This all isn't to say making small changes in your daily life to be more sustainable isn't impactful, every little thing helps, however, the average consumer is not the problem. For true change to happen, there needs to be a complete redesign of our production processes that include higher energy efficiency, less harmful chemicals and a reduction in waste. This in addition to small changes made by average people is the way to guarantee a healthy future for Earth.

Were Summer Olympians scammed with their rooms?

JULIA LESNICKI
OPINIONS EDITOR

We all have heard about the uncomfortable cardboard beds from the 2021 Summer Tokyo games. We saw them all over social media with athletes giving tours of the inside of their rooms. But what about the Beijing Winter Olympic Village rooms?

The 2021 Summer Tokyo Olympic Village had a lot of media surrounding it. The Village included 21 apartment towers which held 11,000 athletes, a two-story dining hall with 700 food options, a gym, photo room and even a “Fever Clinic” for those who had to go through COVID-19 testing and isolation. This all sounds amazing, but there was one flaw, the beds.

The beds for the athletes were made out of cardboard boxes. I am all about being environmentally friendly and reusing things, but for Olympic athletes, it was insulting to have them sleeping on these cardboard beds. For some time, there was a rumor circulat-

ing around that the cardboard beds were there to prevent the athletes from having sexual intercourse. However, according to an article in The Insider, an Irish gymnast disproved this theory with a recording of him jumping on the bed.

Not only were the beds poorly made, but the recyclable mattress was a twin size regular mattress. Athletes, especially professional athletes, need to have proper sleep and with these beds, it seemed like that wasn't the case.

The apartments were also super minimalistic, meaning the kitchen table was a small circular table with five folding chairs around it. Not to mention, each apartment housed eight athletes, so there weren't even enough chairs for all the athletes in the rooms to sit at once.

However, the 2022 Winter Olympics' accommodations were significantly better. Beijing saw the issues athletes had in Tokyo and made sure they did not repeat the same mistakes, outdoing the rooms provided in the summer

games. The athletes for the Winter Olympics have remote-controlled beds with eight different features of comfort. One of the features includes a zero-gravity mode, which according to an article from The Insider, “...is reminiscent of NASA's zero-gravity neutral reclining posture that helps astronauts equalize their weight prior to lift-off.”

Snowboard legend, Shaun White, showed off his room on social media giving the viewers a tour. White showed his room with practical furniture, blackout shades to cover the room to make it dark enough as well as snacks.

The beds weren't the only upgrade from Tokyo. The food was far better with robotic bartenders and waiters to help with COVID-19 restrictions. From pizza to stir-fried sliced lamb with scallions, the athletes had a full menu that provided them with nutritional options. The dining hall also served vegetarian, gluten free, halal and kosher meals to accommodate all diets. There were even restaurants

nearby such as Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

So this must be it right? Wrong. The athletes were also able to get their hair and nails done at no charge at the salon. They got to look nice and pretty for those action camera shots. In addition, the athletes had access to other facilities like laundry service, convenience stores, flower shops and book shops.

The Winter Games provided accommodations much more appropriate for the professional athletes. Even though the Summer Olympics have more athletes to host, the conditions they put the competitors in were unfair and I am glad the Winter Olympics addressed this issue.



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / ASSISTANT GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The committee overseeing future Olympics needs to ensure the accommodations for athletes are suitable, like those of the Winter Games, and avoid making the same mistakes Tokyo did. Our athletes deserve better.

CREATE A
**BRIGHTER
FUTURE
FOR YOURSELF**

You live with intentionality, aspiring to build a better world by helping others. Give yourself the credentials to fulfill your dreams with a **Master's in Health Information Management** from Lewis University.

APPLY NOW!

grad.lewisu.edu/apply

Begin impacting your world for the better.

Lewis
UNIVERSITY

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, MS

- ▶ Program is designed to equip you with the cutting-edge knowledge and skills to pursue a leadership role in the fields of health information management, health informatics, data analytics, healthcare administration, education or research – all of which are in high demand.
- ▶ The Bureau of Labor Statistics currently projects positions for Medical and Health Services Managers to increase by 32% by 2030. It's projected there will be approximately 51,800 job openings available each year on average.
- ▶ 100% online, 8-week accelerated program can be completed in 16-18 months if enrolled full time.

If you have questions about the program or the application process, please contact The Office of Graduate Admission at (815) 836-5610 or grad@lewisu.edu

TEMPO

'Love Is Blind' returns for Valentine's Day

LAUREN HARRIS
TEMPO EDITOR

The beloved and widely popular dating show returned to Netflix on Feb. 11, just in time for Valentine's Day. So far, season two has proven itself to be just as good as the last season and managed to pack a punch full of drama and soap opera entertainment for viewers.

The series follows 30 singles who date with the goal of finding the love of their lives, but there's one catch — they must date without seeing each other. The contestants are placed in windowless pods, where they can talk, get to know each other and build an emotional bond. If the contestants decide that they want to meet, they must get married, go on honeymoon and move in together soon afterwards. The concept of the show is very bizarre and has been compared to others, like "Married at First Sight."

Only the first five of 10 episodes were initially released,



IMDb

Contestants risk everything for a shot at love.

and for those of us who are extremely impatient, the wait for the remaining episodes was pure agony. But luckily, the last five episodes were released on Feb. 18 and Feb. 25 and are now all available to binge watch in one night with

your honey.

During Season two, viewers are able to meet some exciting cast members such as Iyanna, an incredibly sweet girl with an inspiring background. She's 27, likable and hilarious to watch. I'm definitely root-

ing for her and hope to see more of her in the future.

Next, we have Natalie, a 29-year-old hopeless romantic from Chicago, who's too serious if you ask me.

Her only goal is to find her husband and absolutely no

one will stand in her way. But I can't blame her either, that is the whole point of the show.

Lastly, we have Abhishek, also known as Shake, who, based on first impressions, doesn't seem to be there for the right reasons.

It's a long and complicated story, but I can't wait to find out more.

The show does away with the physical and shines a spotlight on people's character.

All they have to rely on is their personalities, which makes them more vulnerable than ever. It's kinda messed up if you ask me, but I'm also going to watch it anyway.

In theory, "Love Is Blind" is a great show with an interesting concept, but is it really applicable to real life?

If season one is any indication of that, then no as only two of the six couples tied the knot. Whether or not the new bunch will last can only be determined with time. Watch the show and take a guess for yourselves.

Rihanna, A\$AP Rocky announce pregnancy

RIA ECHOLS
ASSISTANT TEMPO EDITOR

Since Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky became a couple, several rumors have circulated about Rihanna being pregnant with her first child. On Feb. 2, 2022, all anyone could talk about was the post Rihanna had made on her Instagram page.

She had posted four pictures displaying her baby bump in full view.

As expected, these pictures were talked about for a couple days and many celebrities were posting their congratulations to the couple.

Lately, there have been many speculations about what stage of pregnancy she is in.

There were speculations previously about her being pregnant, but the star waited many months to officially announce the news.

The announcement temporarily broke the internet, causing many people to turn their attention to the celeb's page for more pregnancy updates.

Rihanna has not disappointed her fans, posting a new picture on Feb. 9 on her Instagram page.

She has also chosen to not change her style, instead continuing to wear the same style of outfits she did pre-pregnancy, as evidenced by her public appearances on Feb. 11 and 12. It is expected that as Rihan-



Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky show off her pregnancy bump.

na's bump grows, she is going to continue to work hard and showcase her style.

This pregnancy is likely going to be one of the most followed pregnancies in quite some time.

Rihanna has created quite a brand for herself, reaching billionaire status in 2021 from her lingerie, makeup and skin care companies. She continues to work on

her brand, promoting new products for her Fenty Beauty makeup line as she rides this wave of publicity from her announcement.

She had said in an interview a few years ago that she did want kids, but she had a lot of work to do first.

Doing what she has done in the last few years, she has now created an environment she deems suitable for bringing a

child into the world.

Some of Rihanna's fans feel as if she held on to this news to keep the suspense going but are still happy for her.

Since this announcement, most of the attention has been on the new family being created, however, there have been some creations of memes joking about how fans think her exes Drake and Chris Brown's reacted.

These memes depict the celebrities in tears as they learn the news about Rihanna's new baby.

They were created in abundance on the day of the announcement, causing Drake's name to trend on Twitter.

Fake tweets were created as well, in Drake's name, causing for slight confusion on the matter.

However, Drake himself had nothing to say regarding the announcement. Instead, he unfollowed both Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky.

Chris Brown's reaction to the news continues to be unknown as he has continued to keep silent on the matter.

The couple's new journey with their first child will be something that will be watched closely by both fans and parents-to-be, including those who are not fans.

Rihanna's style is expected not to change, and it seems she is becoming part of the group of iconic celebrity mothers along with Kylie Jenner and Angelina Jolie.

She appears to be enjoying her pregnancy and it will be interesting to see what kind of mother she'll be.

THE BOOKIE'S BET

These Shallow Graves - Jennifer Donnelly

By: Amineh Ayyad

February is coming to an end, and if I had to bet correctly, you are probably ready to move on from all things Valentines, including books and all love-related articles. Well, luck be in the air, because this is not a romance novel... mostly. It know it seems cliché, but I bet I can get you to tolerate love just long enough to consider this book. The Bookie doesn't normally go for books about romance, but "These Shallow Graves" by Jennifer Donnelly puts a murder-mystery spin on the whole forbidden-romance trope, entwining feminism, detective work and action all between two covers.

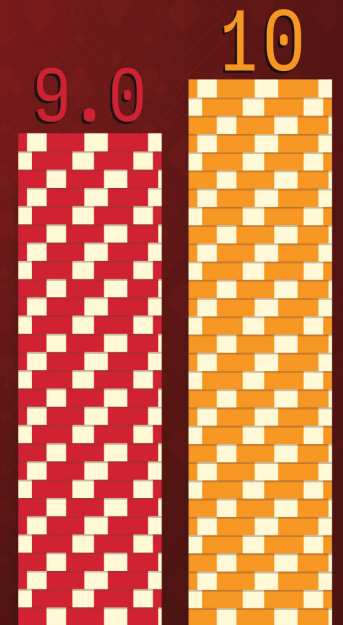
The scene is New York, 1890, when we are introduced to a 17-year-old Jo Montfort. Like the other girls in her finishing school, she is young, beautiful, of a very wealthy family and soon to be married off to an eligible bachelor. Unlike her classmates, Jo wants to do more, like be one of the few brave female investigative journalists of her time. It even helps that her father owns one of New York City's most prestigious newspaper publications... or should I say owned. Jo's father was found dead in his office by what was ruled an accidental suicide while cleaning his gun. Jo knew her father was much too smart to clean a loaded gun, however, and her suspicions were confirmed when she overhears one of her father's reporters, Eddie, talking about exposing this potential murder-cover-up that could be the story of his career.

As the Bookie, I really admired Jo's character. Even with everything she could ever need handed to her on a silver platter, she decided to risk it all for the truth, her independence and to become the great journalist that she knows she can be. It was exciting to see how each clue Eddie and her uncovered only further put their lives in danger.

Even with all the excitement going on, I thought I had all the book's angles covered; but I completely missed what was on the table the whole time: Jo was falling for Eddie! What she first dismissed as ego soon presented as wit and charm. But Jo can't like Eddie, can she?! It's not in the cards! Well, at least not in the cards her family dealt her, which is why I was proud of Jo for re-dealing her own hand. "These Shallow Graves" is a perfect blend of action, feminism, mystery and just a dash of romance, because even the Bookie needs to lose the poker face from time to time. Straight from the Bookie, Jennifer Donnelly's book is an ace in



RATING:



An honest review of 'DFMU' by Ella Mai

RIA ECHOLS
ASSISTANT TEMPO EDITOR

For those who have heard and enjoyed the songs "Boo'd Up" and "Love Me Like That" by Ella Mai, she has released a new song titled "DFMU" on Jan. 28. Her song "Love Me Like That" was featured in the movie "Creed II." This marks Mai's first release since her self-titled album in 2018.

"DFMU" is a song perfect for those who don't mind minimal swearing. The title itself stands for "Don't F*** Me Up." The song begins with a soft piano tune that is short but sweet, then the beat drops.

Mai's smooth, clear voice sings her lyrics in such a way that it flows well with the music. The beat and the lyrics are catchy, allowing the audience to vibe with the tune.

The song seems like it is about her asking her significant other to be a good lover to her and to not let her down.

This song is a good love song to put in an appropriate playlist. To be honest, compared to her other songs, this song is a similar style to her song "Love Me Like That" or other songs on her debut album.

The lyrics of the song are generally clear, excluding the chorus which contains one line of swearing.

The energy of the song also is one that would be suitable for playing at parties and in the car with the windows down. Mai's song style places



Cover art for DFMU by Ella Mai.

her in the R&B genre.

The song finishes with the same soft piano tune it starts with, bringing the song to a full circle by connecting the beginning with the end.

One aspect of songwriting that is important includes the lyrics being simple enough for listeners to sing to.

Mai fulfills this aspect wonderfully, giving her audience

lyrics that have the perfect amount of repetition- where the lyrics are not annoying, but they are easy to learn.

The melody of the music allows for just enough breathing

room for the lyrics to be sung without running out of breath. This song also allows for people of all articulation skills to sing freely, which cannot be said for some genres of music. Mai shows her musical experience in this area quite well.

This song was equally made for both the musically inclined and the ones who listen to music for the vibe.

Mai does not disappoint with her words and her music blending seamlessly. If R&B, soft piano, minimal swearing and a slow, romantic beat is in your repertoire, feel free to give this song a quick listen.

I also recommend listening to many of Mai's other songs to get a feel for her style of music in order to make the decision about listening to her new single.

After personally listening to several of Mai's songs, it can be safely stated that her music is worth listening to.

She has stated that "the sophomore era has arrived," so it can be said with great certainty that she will be releasing new music soon for her fans and new listeners to enjoy.

I would say to keep an eye out for any new music she may be releasing, because your ears will thank you!

Instagram @ellamai

MUSIC LAYDOWN

AMBER MARK



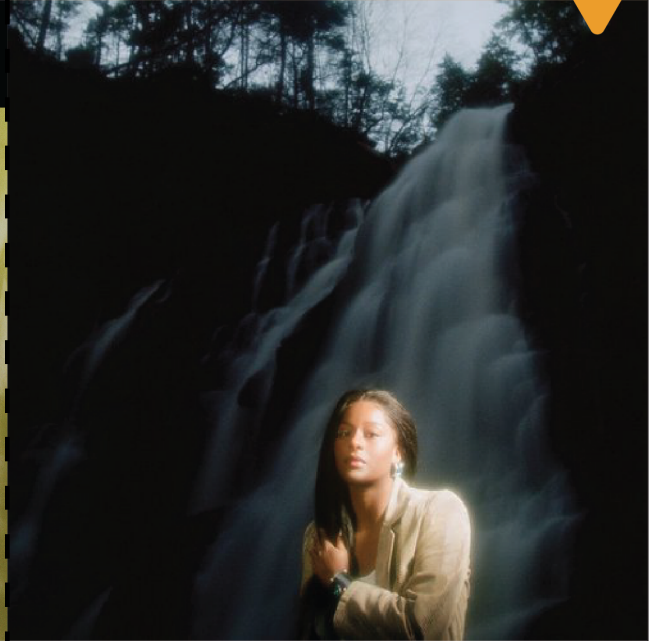
Amber Mark- Singer, songwriter and producer Amber Mark is pop, R&B and funk all wrapped in one. The New York native first stepped on the scene with her album 3:33 a.m., which explores serene sounds and peaceful ballads. Mark has truly stuck to her roots with her newly released album, "Three Dimensions Deep," where she sings about love, lies and growing as a person. Her voice is husky and melodic and marks her songs with a unique signature. She reminds me of a fairy and I think that if you're looking for music with an out of this world sound, then Mark is the way to go.

LE REN



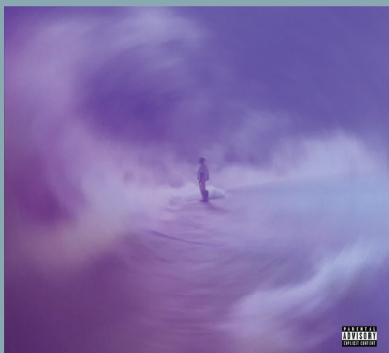
Le Ren- Lauren Spear, also known as Le Ren, is a fairly new and unknown artist, but her music sounds similar to those that have come before her. Her music reminds many of '70s folk and is extremely comforting to listen to. This is what I would call study music; music that simply makes you think about better times. Le Ren's heart-break music just can't be defined, she sings about tragedy which looks different for everyone. Certainly, her music makes waves; it is beautifully mastered and created. But most importantly, the message behind her music has proven itself to be timeless.

L'RAIN



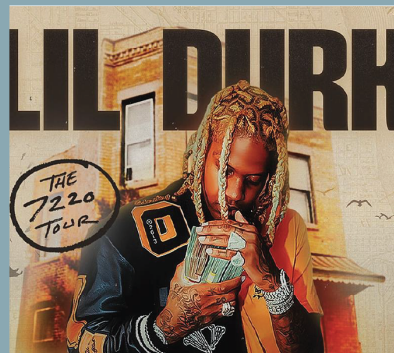
L'Rain- Taja "L'Rain" Cheek isn't just a singer, she's an instrumentalist, a creator of art. The artist from Brooklyn experiments with her sound full of small cries, melodies and secrets. It feels like I've found something I wasn't supposed to but I'm honestly glad I did. Her music gives those who listen a spiritual awakening, an epiphany of sorts. Stellar vocals with strings and synths make her songs sound depressing but incredibly genuine and real. L'Rain's newest album "Fatigue" features songs that are deep and meaningful, and it will probably require a second and third listen. So, don't waste any more time and give it a listen right now.

UPCOMING ALBUMS



Kanye West:
Donda 2

FEB. 22



Lil Durk:
7220

FEB. 22



Kaina:
It was a home

MAR. 4



Jack White:
Fear of the Dawn

APR. 8

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Half Alive
Mar. 15
House of Blues

Jazmine Sullivan
Mar. 30
House of Blues

Fletcher
Apr. 1
House of Blues

070 Shake
May. 8
House of Blues

CAMPUS LIFE

'Veronica's Room' hits stage

KATELYN LEANO
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On Feb. 11, the theater department had its first showing for the semester with a play titled "Veronica's Room," that was written by Ira Levin.

The play was a chilling mystery thriller, which explores the fine line between fantasy and reality, madness and murder.

"It's about a young woman who's been approached while she was on a date, by two older people who think she looks just like a woman that they used to care for back in the 1930s," said director and Theater Department Chair Kevin Trudeau. "They ask her to come to this house and pretend that she is this other woman and this is where it gets a little complicated."

There are a total of four characters in the play. "All the characters are given very generic names because the play sort of wants you to think who is who and what's going on between these characters," said Trudeau.

The older couple, in grief over their daughter Veronica,



Photo courtesy of Andrew Nelsen

Senior theater major Katie Horn, freshman computer science major Zac Birgen, senior forensic criminal investigation major Kylei Smith, and freshman in biochemistry Eduardo Cortez, rehearse a scene in *Veronica's Room*.

were played by freshman computer science major, Zac Birgen, and senior theater major, Katie Horn. The younger man was played by freshman biochemistry major, Eduardo Cortez, while the girl

was played by senior forensic criminal investigation major, Kylei Smith.

In the last few years, the theater department has put on many comedies and dramas, but not many thrillers.

"I think it's a lot of fun with this sort of play because there's a lot of things that when an audience first sees it, when they first watch it, they'll look back on it later, and have a whole new perspective, in terms of

what the characters are doing and why they're acting the way they are," said Trudeau.

Since there was a lot of stage violence and mention of adult themes in the show, it was recommended for people ages 13 and up.

The Philip Lynch Theatre has been putting on student productions since the school opened, providing students with valuable experience.

"Like anything, it's primarily about how it helps the education of the students to do this kind of play, and it is something where they have to think about behavior and what that tells to an audience, which is a very important skill for an actor," said Trudeau. "These kinds of plays are popular, so students getting a chance to be in one and learn how they work is really important too."

From April 1-3 and 7-10, the Philip Lynch Theater will be presenting "Return to the Forbidden Planet," which is a jukebox musical inspired by Shakespeare's "The Tempest."

Elevate bible study group explores faith

KATELYN LEANO
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On Feb. 8, the bible study group Elevate had their annual meeting in the D'Arcy Great Room located in the University Ministry at 7 p.m. Junior aviation major, Jessica Stice leads the group in conversations about faith and God.

"The whole goal here is just to share and get together to talk about God and read through scriptures," said Stice. "I've had experience of all kinds of people coming in here and we just get to have discussions and learn more about our own faith and each other's faith, and just ultimately learn what God means to us."

The purpose of an organization like this on campus is to expose students to scripture and have open conversations about what faith is and what God is.

"I feel like there's a lot of different opportunities and options for you at Lewis, different bible studies and things like that," said Stice. "But, I feel like this one is a little bit more targeted for exploring and having questions about faith and God, and being able to have an open conversation



Katelyn Leano / Campus Life Editor

Members of the Elevate bible study group have deep conversations about each other's faith in the D'Arcy Great Room at their Tuesday night meeting.

about it."

Students are encouraged to join and benefit from the conversations that the group has every meeting.

"I think anyone could benefit from any of the conversa-

tions that we get to have here," said Stice. "I feel like Elevate is just a group where you get to be able to discern what God is to you and that knowing God will help you know who you are, but we still have room for

people to explore it and learn more about it."

The theme of the group last semester was finding their purpose, the theme this semester is discussing more about pursuing a specific pur-

pose in life.

"With the theme being pursue, I feel like my goal this semester, more or less, is to guide my peers to pursue God and pursue a faithful life," said Stice. "Even if it's people who don't know anything about God, my goal would be just to inform them and let them know about the Gospel."

Elevate provides a safe space for students to ask questions about their faith. The group hopes to get more theology professors involved as well to further the dialogue.

"I feel like a lot of people in the community, like faculty and staff, especially theology professors, should be aware and be able to guide students in groups like this," said Stice.

At every meeting, Stice first leads the group in a prayer, then lets everyone in the group take turns sharing how their day went. After everyone shares their thoughts, they look at a specific verse from the Bible and analyze its meaning.

The bible study group is open for anyone to join and they meet regularly on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Katelyn's CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

Art, music, and performance

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert
March 13, 5-6:30 p.m.
Convocation Hall SB 130

Open Mic Night
March 14, 8-10 p.m.
Studio Theatre FA 229

Ministry and Mission

Busy Person's Retreat
March 3, 4-5:30 p.m.
Lewis Family Room SA 118, St. Charles Borromeo Conference Room SB 101N, Welcome Center Conference Room WC 209

7th Annual Lasallian Colloquium
March 13, 6-8 p.m.
Virtual-Online

Athletics

ICOPS High School Track Invitational
Feb. 27, 7 a.m-4 p.m.
Fieldhouse SC 105

Lewis University Men's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel Youth/Kids Night
March 4, 7-9 p.m.
Neil Carey Arena SC 140

Arts and Ideas

English Department Creative Writing Showcase
March 3, 4-5:30 p.m.
Academic Building Classroom AS 158A

Music in VR
March 15, 2-3:30 p.m.
Oremus Fine Arts Center Graphic Lab FA 107

Women's track team takes second

DAISY PADILLA
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The women's track and field finished second in the Hennan Invite at North Central College on Feb. 12.

The Flyers had four top 10 finishers in the 200 meter dash, with senior Jada Hoffman winning the race with a time of 25.10. The other three included: senior Kyla Chalmers who placed third (26.19), junior Essence Winters that came in at ninth place (26.87) and junior Alexandra Martinez who placed 10th (26.96).

In the 400 meter dash, the Flyers had two runners place in the top ten. Graduate student Vivica Philips placed fourth with the time 1:00.7 with sophomore Faith Wyman close behind in fifth with the time of 1:00.86.

"Our team goal is to move up in the ranking right now so that we can win the conference championship," said Wyman. One personal goal she has for herself is to run a 58 second 400 meter dash.

In the 800 meter run freshman Kristen Ess placed sixth



LUIS CHAVEZ / PHOTOGRAPHER

Womens track practice in the middle of the week for upcoming events.

with a time of 2:28.98 and freshman Jade Miller came in 10th place with a time of 2:30.50. Earlier that day Miller ran the mile and took a first place finish with a time of 5:19.77.

The women also did well

Chalmers, Phillips, Bernett and Wyman won the 4x400 meter event for the Flyers with a time of 3:57.57.

In the long jump the Flyers had six athletes place in the top 10. Senior Alecea Cardillo had a second place finish as

in the 60 meter hurdles, as senior Natasha Bernett posted a provisional qualifying mark time of 8.72. Senior Allison Mack came in sixth place with a time of 9.63 and junior Aliza Van Den Elzen placed seventh with a time of 9.67.

well as hitting a provisional mark of 5.79 meters. The Flyers then had back to back players starting with freshman Karmryn Kolb who placed third at 5.65 meters and sophomore Jaden Christian who placed fourth with 5.62 meters. Junior Jena Martin came in fifth place at 5.43 meters. Senior Tori Hagg came in eighth place at 5.16 meters and Van den Elzen came in 10th place with 4.91 meters.

Moving to triple jump, the Flyers had five of the top eight finishers. Winning the event with a leap of 12.15 meters, Cardillo was able to improve her provisional mark, moving her up the Division II National ranking into 13th place.

Christain came in second place with a jump of 11.61 meters and Hagg came in fourth with a 11.43 meter leap. Graduate student Anna Laudizio came in fifth at 11.40 meters and Martin came in sixth at 11.24 meters.

The Flyers will have their GLVC indoor conference meet on Feb. 26 and Feb. 27 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Women's bowling team makes history

MOLLY ST.CLAIR
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Women's bowling clinched their first tournament title in team history on Feb. 13. Since the team had their first season of play in 2018 the women have come very close to first place, but ended up with multiple second place finishes. The years of practice and anticipation finally paid off the weekend of Feb. 11.

The three day Flyer Classic tournament at Strike N Spare Lanes was full of ups and downs. The women sat in second place the whole weekend until the last day in bracket play. Although they lost the first two games, the women were not shaken and made a swift comeback by winning the last four games with scores of 216-182, 235-201, 180-172 and 209-203.

On Sunday, they earned their first place finish by defeating one of their biggest competitors, Maryville, TN, in the championship match. Junior business administration major, Kayla Dench, said, "Since this was our first win, I think it helped to prove to ourselves that we can do it... we just have to execute it and do it, so I think it helps a lot now that we've done it so we know that we can do it so we can try to do it again."

The win may have been determined by actual score in the end, but it was also the result of teamwork.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT TAYLOR

The women's bowling team celebrates their first tournament title together after a weekend full of tough competition.

Dench says that one of the team's biggest strengths, especially for the weekend, was their teamwork. The team has created a tradition for before and after tournaments in which each person shares with their teammates a word that describes what they want to strive for during their play. After the tournament is over, they come together again to reflect.

After their tournaments, they discuss if they achieved the goals they set for themselves. This exercise has helped build a positive mentality and healthy atmosphere, especially for competitions.

Spring is championship season for the team. Beginning with sectionals then conference and then hopefully to nationals, the

second part of the school year is an exciting time for the team. The women are feeling encouraged about what is to come after their recent win. While they have not traveled to the NCAA championships so far, the team hopes to get there this season.

Former Lewis student and now head coach of women's bowling, Scott Taylor has seen the program grow from the very beginning. "...They believe in each other and they support each other and I think all those things are what's making this team live up to the potential that they have," said Taylor.

Taylor looks forward to seeing the program grow as well as the athletes involved. The team begins their three-day sectionals at Vanderbilt University on Mar. 11.

Women's tennis is now a team sport

MOLLY ST.CLAIR
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Women's tennis begins their 2022 spring season in the midst of winter after an exciting and successful fall season. The team is encouraged going into their conference season with a 2-0 record defeating the University of St. Thomas and Quincy University.

The Flyers won against St. Thomas with a score of 6-1 by winning seven of nine matches. They later defeated Quincy University 6-1 as well by winning eight of their nine matches.

Since it is too cold during the winter, the women make the commute to two different indoor facilities in order to condition, practice and compete. Between morning and afternoon practices, the tennis team has been working towards building strength and teamwork.

While tennis is thought of as an individual sport as opposed to a sport like baseball where you must work as a team, the women's team begs to differ. They support one another on and off the court. In fact, sophomore physics major Casey Smith says this is her favorite thing about her team.

"I just really love how supportive we are. On match days especially, everybody is always watching each other and everybody is always cheering. I feel like that goes a long way especially when you're the one on court. Just to know that people have your back while you're playing and to know

that they care about you just feels really good," said Smith.

Similar to other teams, the women have been impacted by the pandemic of almost two years. Their 2020 fall season was canceled due to COVID-19, which for many made the team dynamic difficult, but Smith says everyone worked hard to get to know each other.

Smith mentions that this mindset will carry them into the season and help them during big matches. The women are keeping their energy and spirits up in order to maintain the strength they have gained for future matches.

The fall season sets the team up for their spring season that is mainly focused on conference that begins early April. One of their biggest competitors is the University of Indianapolis. Despite their losses to Ulndy in previous years, Smith has high hopes this season.

"We have so much more depth on our team this year and I'm really excited to see how we do against them and I think we can really be competitive with them and I'm really looking forward to that," said Smith.

Their first face off against University of Indianapolis is on Apr. 2, the first day of the GLVC Conference. With about a month and a half until then, the women have many matches to prepare.

Their next match is in North Canton, Ohio against Walsh University. They will return home on Mar. 25 to face off against University of St. Francis.

Swimmer Maria Rodriguez overcomes adversity

DAISY PADILLA
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

When graduate student Maria Rodriguez learned how to walk, she also learned how to swim. Rodriguez was about nine months old when her parents signed her up for swimming lessons. At the time, they did not think much of it.

When Rodriguez was five years old, her swim instructor told her parents that she was talented and should continue to swim. The instructor wanted her to keep swimming for their club in Seville, Spain.

Her parents did not want to make her do anything that she did not want to do but told her if that was what she wanted that they would support her.

That summer, at the age of six, she started to compete with a local swimming club. From then on she did not stop until the 2022 season, taking just one small break along the way.

Due to COVID-19 interruptions in 2020, college athletes were given the opportunity to compete for an extra season. Rodriguez took this opportunity to compete for a fifth year.

2020 hit Rodriguez hard as she had not seen her family since the start of the spring semester. Travel bans relating to COVID-19 prevented Rodriguez from being able to travel home. Instead, Rodriguez stayed at a family friend's house, leaving her feeling homesick.

At the time she thought that it was a good idea to stay and take advantage of the fifth year



Rodriguez diving at the 400 IM on February 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGHAN BANDY

to swim and further her educational career as well. However, her homesickness affected her motivation to swim.

Rodriguez did not want to leave and lose all the hard work that she put into her college career, including her athletic scholarship. Nonetheless, she did take the fall 2021 semester off of swimming for her mental health. She decided to do what was best for her at the time, putting her mental health first.

Once Rodriguez went back home she did not want to completely stop swimming, so she would swim at local clubs near her house... She started competing for the Lewis swim team again the spring 2022 semester.

"There are no words to describe how important this has been to me, finding happiness in my sport after the past couple of seasons is simply the best," said Rodriguez. "Before going home, I never thought I would

be able to accomplish anything in 10 weeks, but I proved myself and others wrong and I enjoy swimming just like I did my first day."

Rodriguez has accomplished much in her swimming career that include at the age of ten, she won second in the 50 freestyle at regionals. At the age of 11, she placed first in the 100 and 200 fly, first in the 400 Medley relay and second in the 400 freestyle relay at nationals.

When she was 17, she decided to leave Spain to come to Lewis to continue her swimming career. Rodriguez's accomplishments at Lewis happened during the 2019-2020 season when she beat school records in both the 1000 and 1650.

"...Being in such a bad place mentally and physically yet still able to make a comeback, is definitely the highlight of my swimming career," said Rodriguez.

Title IX's impact on the athletic world

MOLLY ST.CLAIR
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The Louisiana State University dance team returned to the Universal Dance Association College Nationals in January 2022 after being prevented from competing the year prior by their university. The university claimed this was due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the team was allowed to perform at school events and games all year.

Furthermore, other teams at the university were still allowed to compete in their events, including football, men's basketball and baseball. This led other athletes and fans to believe there were ulterior motives behind this decision, which would be in direct violation of the Title IX of the Education Amendments.

At the UDA Nationals, the team performed a dance to Ciara's "Like a Boy," to make a statement on their treatment compared to their male counterparts. After winning nationals in the D1A Hip-Hop National Championship, the team made it clear in interviews that they were able to achieve this despite the setbacks created by their university.

In 1971, Congress passed Title IX due to the lack of opportunities for women in education. This amendment would prevent further discrimination within universities and other federally funded programs. After years of unfair and missed educational opportunities, women were to be given equal treatment in all areas of education and athletics.

Now, 51 years later, this federal law has grown larger than what could have ever been imagined. This amendment changed the course of women's athletics everywhere. Title IX has grown to protect not just equal opportunity in education, but also in sports.

Title IX of the Education Amendments states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

The amendment mainly protects athletes from discrimination based on gender. This encompasses equal funding, opportunities, pay, sexual violence and much more. Over the years this law has given a voice to victims

of sexual assault as well as those mistreated by coaches, or even whole institutions.

It gives athletes the right and protection to speak out against abuse and take legal action if needed. Additionally, while the clear original purpose of this amendment was for women's rights, if a situation were to arise, Title IX protects men as well.

Former collegiate athlete and Lewis Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, Morgan Stenson, oversees much of the NCAA rules and regulations. With that, she also works closely with gender equity laws such as Title IX itself. According to Stenson, each year coaches must partake in NCAA coaches modules to ensure they are educated on following the rules, including Title IX.

Universities in particular are required to follow a certain set of regulations when it comes to Title IX. Equal funding and benefits to be given to male and female athletics is required of institutions. For example, if a university has a football team, there may need to be several women's sports added to create an equity of resources being distributed.

One of the quizzes coaches must complete focuses specifi-

cally on Title IX and sexual misconduct. Stenson says several of the quizzes require a perfect score in order to pass including the Coaches Assist for Sexual Violence quiz. "That [one] makes them understand the rules of Title IX and also the other aspects of the not so easy conversations they may have with a student athlete as well," said Stenson.

Institutions are also required to provide any resources needed by the complainant following the report of an issue. Failure of an institution to comply with Title IX regulations may result in the cutting of federal funding to that institution, which would therefore affect all teams and programs.

Despite the progress the law has made, there have been many recent cases concerning violation of Title IX. One that stunned the nation was the 2021 March Madness Tournament in which female teams were given significantly less and subpar equipment, food, gear and benefits.

The situation was brought to light by Sedona Prince, University of Oregon forward. She posted the glaring differences between the men's and women's weight room along with the women's meals. After her vlogs on TikTok

went viral, others began to join in on exposing the NCAA's violation of Title IX, revealing further lack of resources compared to the men's tournament.

The NCAA soon gave equal resources to both tournaments and has since released plans on how to prevent this in the future. The situation did not only force the NCAA to comply with Title IX, but it also helped remind the athletic and educational world of the amendment.

While this federal law has been in effect since 1972, that does not necessarily ensure that every one it affects knows about it. Following the events of the LSU dance team and NCAA tournament, it is clear that student athletes need to be informed of their Title IX rights as soon as they make their commitment to a school.

In order to help better inform student athletes on Title IX, Stenson says, "...we could have a separate sit down meeting or make sure that we give the coaches an educational document that they have to say and sign off on that they presented to their student athletes." She mentioned that social media can also be a powerful tool to voice education on the amendment.

FEBRUARY SPORTS RECAP

[2/3 - 2/13]

Bowling 2/7 vs. Flyer Classics 2/7 vs. Quincy 2/7 vs. North Central 2/7 vs. Carroll 2/7 vs. Illinois Wesleyan 2/7 vs. Augustana 2/12 vs. Aurora 2/12 vs. Alabama-Birmingham 2/12 vs. Kentucky Wesleyan 2/12 vs. Carthage 2/13 vs. Flyer Classics 2/13 vs. Maryville 2/13 vs. Alabama-Birmingham 2/13 vs. Maryville	Score: 1st place 1081-842 907-778 953-833 965-577 939-946 952-527 984-968 912-849 1027-995 1st place 1-4 4-1 4-2	Basketball 2/3 vs. Truman State 2/5 vs. Quincy 2/7 vs. Illinois Springfield 2/10 @ Rockhurst 2/12 @ William Jewell	Score: 61-74 57-55 72-60 76-68 84-50	Tennis 2/3 vs. St. Thomas 2/11 vs. Quincy	Score: 6-1 6-1
Basketball 2/3 vs. Truman State 2/5 vs. Quincy 2/7 vs. Illinois Springfield 2/10 @ Rockhurst 2/12 @ William Jewell	Score: 76-89 83-73 71-63 73-63 57-65	Softball 2/4 vs. Minnesota Duluth 2/4 vs. Concordia-St. Paul 2/6 vs. Missouri Western 2/6 vs. Minnesota State-Mankato	Score: 1-5 7-9 0-8 5-6	Swimming 2/9 vs. GLVC Championships	Score: 7th place
Volleyball 2/5 vs. Grand Canyon 2/10 vs. Ball State 2/12 vs. Ohio State	Score: 3-2 0-3 3-1	Lacrosse 2/6 @ Seton Hill 2/12 vs. Wheeling	Score: 14-13 18-6	Swimming 2/9 vs. GLVC Championships	Score: 6th place
		Tennis: 2/6 vs. Hillsdale 2/11 vs. Quincy	Score: 5-2 6-1	Track & Field 2/12 @ Heenon Invite	Score: 2nd place
				Women's	
				Men's	

High hopes for men's basketball

DANI NAVARRETE
SPORTS REPORTER

The men's basketball season runs from mid-November to March and includes almost 30 scheduled games. However, due to the pandemic challenges that have arisen, such as the Omicron variant peaking during the first weeks of January, the season has not run as smooth as the team wanted. Last year, the Flyers won the GLVC tournament for the third time, giving them an automatic qualification to the NCAAs. This year they are looking to repeat the deed even if that means defeating the odds.

The team started conference play at the beginning of December 2021 with a win against the University of Indianapolis at home. After that, the Flyers fueled their momentum and won the next three games that followed against McKendree, St. Francis and Ferris State, respectively, until cancellations began. Junior digital marketing major and forward, Vlado Zrnica, explained that several players tested positive for COVID-19 after Christmas break, consequently not having a full team to play.

"It was very crazy because everything was changing so quickly," said Zrnica. "Some of our games were canceled and some were rescheduled, so this is why right now we are sometimes playing three games per week,"

said Zrnica.

When the team had a full roster eligible to play again, the Flyers focused on adding more victories to their pockets, and have won seven out of their ten latest games since. In a couple of them, the Flyers would finish the first half down in the scoreboard, as they did by nine points when they faced the Quincy Hawks on Feb. 5, but after the break, the team managed to come back and ended up beating them 83-73.

Senior sport management major and guard forward, Bruno Williams, shared that if they are losing, head coach Scott Trost and the overall players usually motivate the team and remind each other of the common goal.

"He [coach] usually gives us some encouraging words, makes calls and just tells us we gotta keep executing our plan if we want to win the game," said Williams. "Within us players, some of us might want to say something to lift people up, but then we all eventually come together, get on the same page and remember why we want to win."

Both Zrnica and Williams affirmed that positive team chemistry was key to their accomplishments last season, and continuing to push and motivate each other will allow them to be conference champions once again.

"I think a huge part of our success was that the team just clicked, everyone put their in-



PHOTO BY: SOMKENE UGWU

Men's basketball team huddles together to pump each other up before their game.

dividualities aside and started playing for something bigger than themselves, focusing on what they know their strengths are," said Zrnica.

With the conference tournament starting in a few weeks,

the Flyers are looking forward to keeping the energy and champion mindset in order to get the GLVC title one more time. Yet, Williams admitted that they want to go beyond conference this year. "Last season, we lost in

the first round at nationals, so we want to try to go further," said Williams.

Next, the Flyers will travel to St. Louis, Mo., to face Maryville University at the Molony Arena on Feb. 24.