

# New mandate requires unvaccinated to submit weekly COVID-19 tests

**JADA HOFFMAN**  
NEWS EDITOR

On Sept. 16, Dr. Livingston sent an email to students, faculty and staff informing them about the new mandate in the state of Illinois. All individuals currently enrolled in higher education must submit weekly COVID-19 tests. In regards to Lewis, the vaccine is required for all students; this mandate is primarily focused on those who currently have exemptions.

Lewis started their weekly COVID-19 tests on Sept. 22 in Memorial Hall. Each week, unvaccinated individuals can go on Tuesday's from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Wednesday's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. People must bring their IDs and insurance, if they have it.

Nanci Reiland, associate professor for undergraduate nursing and a member of the COVID-19 Hotline team, explained this as a "surveillance system."

According to Reiland, those experiencing symptoms



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

should immediately contact the hotline, while routine testing is intended for those not experiencing symptoms.

Many question the need for a test even though masks and social distancing precautions are put in place; yet, Reiland explained, "Masks are a great mitigation effort, but they are

not full proof. If you're eating, dorming with someone or even going back home, there is a higher degree of spread. So we would rather just know sooner, than later, to help identify who may have what and stop that potential spread from occurring."

Lewis is using PCR testing,

as opposed to rapid testing.

"PCR is the golden standard," explained Reiland. "It has the highest sensitivity and specificity and gives far less false positives and negatives and it's much more accurate."

Reiland explained that those doing rapid tests usually test twice to three times a week,

but for a weekly test, she believes PCR testing is best.

"Getting a negative on a rapid, especially since we're only doing it weekly, isn't best for surveilling," explained Reiland. "The downfall is that it [PCR testing] takes much longer, because it's looking at the molecular level of the virus, while rapid testing will give you the results in about 15 minutes."

For those still unsure about receiving the vaccine or those with questions about testing and the virus in general, Reiland encourages them to contact the hotline.

"All we are trying to do is mitigate risks in a way that isn't too intrusive," explained Reiland. "Usually, concerns are based on anxiety and that's what we are here for. We want you to know that no one is here to change your mind. We are here to educate you."

Reiland encourages students experiencing symptoms to call the COVID-19 hotline at 815-588-7000.

## VR lab comes to life in Arts and Sciences Building

**ANDREW J. MILLIGAN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The grand opening of the Thomas "Fly Guy" Virtual Reality (VR) lab took place on Sept. 9 in the Arts and Sciences building. The new facility will provide students with many new opportunities to augment their academic experience.

All eight workstations are equipped with the necessary specifications to surpass system requirements for virtual reality activities. This includes Nvidia RTX 2060 graphical processing units, Intel i7 central processing units, 16GB RAM and solid-state drives. The key components of the lab come in the form of Oculus Quest 2 VR headsets paired with each computer.

As for software, the default Oculus operating system, which is similar to softwares like Windows and iOS, will be used the majority of the time.

"Other platforms like Steam VR are also going to help us in our search for the

best content for our students and faculty," said business analytics graduate student and VR Club President Juan Ramirez.

According to Ramirez, when students start working to create and develop in the virtual space they "... will be using the Unity cross-platform game engine to develop and test our future projects."

The new VR Club has been responsible for setting up and maintaining the lab. The first club meeting with an open lab occurred on Oct. 3. Students were allowed to come and test the new equipment and gain insight on the new club, which is open to students of all majors and backgrounds.

Many students are looking forward to using the lab to enhance their academics, and professors are already looking for ways to implement VR technology into their courses.

The idea first came about after a visit with alumni and donor Scott Likens.

"His team was working on projects related to using

VR technology for various business purposes", said Dr. Ray Klump, associate dean and professor of computer science. "Scott and I talked about how it would be good to introduce VR technology to Lewis computer science coursework and how that might offer opportunities across campus. That was the start of the idea."

Around a year and a half ago, Klump drafted the proposal for the VR Lab and Likens generously agreed to donate the funding for the lab once the draft was complete.

Klump explained that ideas for improvement and upgrades are already in the works. "We are in the begin-



LUIS CHAVEZ / PHOTOGRAPHER

Oculus Rift 2 Headset, controllers and workstation peripherals are available for student use.

ning stages of planning a VR application development course for computer science students," said Klump. "We are considering connecting the headsets wirelessly to the PCs to 'cut the cord' and enhance the VR experience."

Klump emphasized that as virtual reality technology improves, so will the lab.

"This incredible act of generosity by Scott Likens has the potential to impact programs all over campus," explained Klump. "I hope that faculty and students all over campus think about how VR could be used in their courses and research and make use of what we have."

# Arts and Ideas program awarded three new grants

**ANDREW J. MILLIGAN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Arts and Ideas program was recently awarded three grants by Illinois Humanities and the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA).

Illinois Humanities is a non-profit organization that provides free public programs, grants and educational opportunities to help strengthen and build civic engagement across the state. It is also Illinois' affiliate for the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency established in the Humanities Act of 1965.

The IACA is a state agency that develops statewide public arts policy and aims to create culturally diverse programs that thrive. They also approve grants and funding.

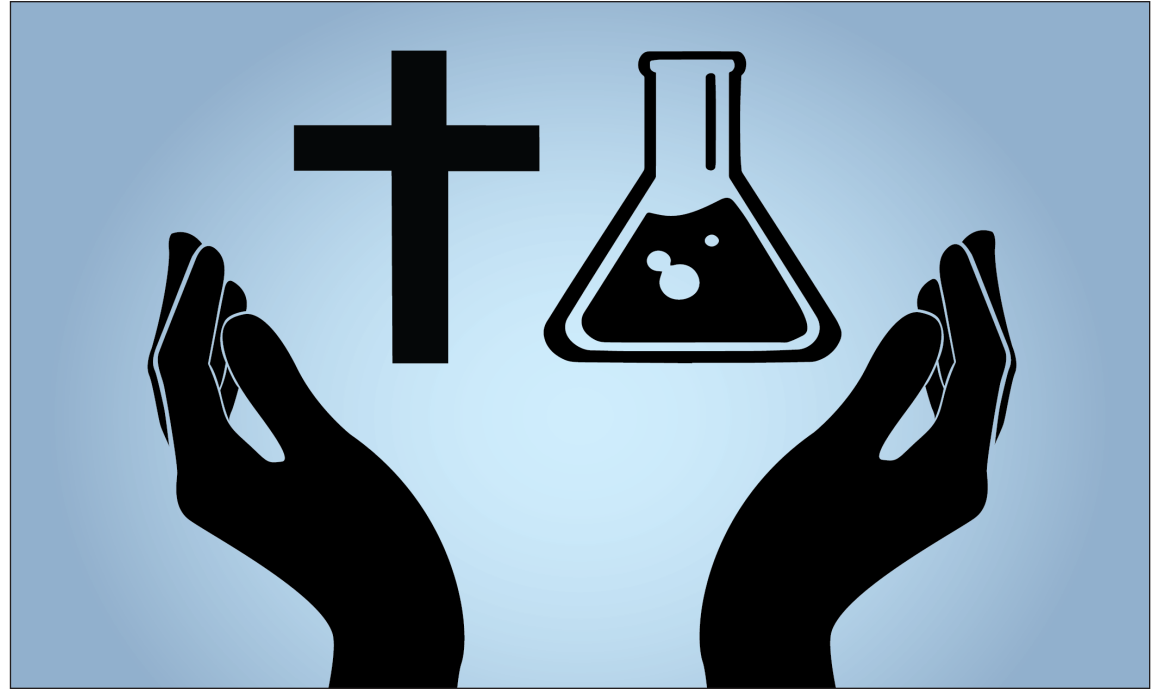
IACA awarded grants to endorse events towards the performing arts series. The first event sponsored was a performance by the Alloy Horn Quartet that primarily showcased classical pieces but was complemented by other music genres to highlight the flexibility and charm of the french horn.

The second event encompassed in the grant is a performance from the Lynx Project's Amplify Series that will take place on Feb. 21, 2022. This performance will bring more awareness to the autism community as the musical composition features poetry and prose from neurodivergent youth.

The Illinois Humanities awarded a grant towards the science and faith series. This series of lectures is named for the late Brother Bernard Rapp, FSC. Rapp taught and instructed chemistry and served as university archivist. In 2018, Rapp retired from service after dedicating 45 years to Lewis.

The event will be presented by Brother Guy Consolmagno, the director of the Vatican Conservatory in Rome. Consolmagno received his Ph.D. in planetary science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is also a Jesuit brother.

Many faculty members are excited to have someone with great distinction like Consolmagno be part of a Lewis event. "It's really a great honor," said Dr. Dominic Colonna, professor and faculty liaison



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

for mission at Lewis. "This is the kind of thing that drops people's jaws."

According to Colonna, students can expect, "...the opportunity to listen to a scientist who is actively practicing and who has learned how to balance his faith with his professional life."

There is often a perception that the Catholic Church and the realm of academia do

not mix.

"The awarding of the grant demonstrated the strength of the talk..." said Colonna. "It's a way of finding common ground with those who are not Catholic."

When applying for grants, Lewis focused on what really needed to be emphasized, as well as what was available. Colonna explained the Arts and Ideas leadership team, "...

saw the program and thought that this is the sort of co-curricular programming we should look at developing."

Arts and Ideas events enrich students' academic careers and are held weekly, ranging from lectures to hands-on activities. Over 100 events are available to students each semester in both hybrid and face-to-face formats in support of various fields of study.

## Higher Ed Highlights

### Universities struggle to educate on sexual assault

**EMILY KRIVOGRAD**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Sept. 14, Campus Safety at Auburn University sent out an email reporting a rape that had occurred the previous week. The email, which followed two prior emails reporting two separate sexual assaults that occurred earlier in September, received backlash from students, as the email did not include information on which fraternity house the rape took place.

That same day, Auburn students organized a peaceful protest, where they expressed their concerns that the university's actions were to protect those who contributed to the assaults, rather than the victims or other students. Auburn joins a list of other colleges, including the University of Nebraska and the University of Kansas, to hold protests advocating for universities to do more when sexual assaults are reported.

Though protests against

sexual assault on campus are not new, it is likely that more reports could surface across campuses as students return from a year of online learning. As a result, more students and administrators are calling for universities to educate on sexual assault and provide resources for students.

"When you're combining two classes of students who are new to campus with returning juniors and seniors who are anxious to make up

for lost time and party with friends, colleges are having that potential crisis of sexual assault on their hands due to what those environments or groups may create," said Kenyora Parham, executive director of nationally-recognized organization End Rape on Campus, in an interview with Inside Higher Ed.

In July, the Biden Administration made additional guidelines on how colleges should investigate reports of sexual assault under the

Title IX guidance, including investigating reports of rape that happen off-campus as well as removing students and employees from campus when a case is active. While the changes to these guidelines are a step to make it easier for colleges to investigate occurrences of sexual assault, the American College Health Association (ACHA) is also calling for better programming at universities.

### Harvard draws back from legacy fossil fuel investments

In an announcement made earlier this month, Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow announced that the university will begin to phase out its legacy fossil fuel investments. While Harvard officials have yet to outline the finer details, Harvard student groups are calling the move a step in the right direction.

Though the university published a statement in February that outlined similar plans, Bacow's announcement this fall

specified that some indirect legacy investments, which make up less than 2% of Harvard's \$41 billion endowments, will end over the course of the next few years.

"[Harvard Management Company] HMC has not made any new commitments to these limited partnerships since 2019 and has no intention to do so going forward," Bacow said in the official statement to the student body. "These legacy investments are in runoff mode and will end as these

partnerships are liquidated. HMC is building a portfolio of investments in funds that support the transition to a green economy."

Overall, of the 1,339 religious, educational, government and other types of institutions that have divested in fossil fuel endowments, the entities hold \$14.68 trillion worth of assets in committing to an alternative to fossil fuels. While faith-based institutions make up the majority who have divested, at 35%, educational institutions come in second

at 15% percent.

Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, a group that has advocated for climate justice and has fought against Harvard's investments in fossil fuel companies for over 10 years, celebrated the announcement. "We think that Harvard's announcement is a growing recognition that fossil fuels are a violation of fiduciary duty," said Sofia Andrade, a student involved in Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, in an interview with Inside Higher Ed. "It will hopefully have a na-

tionwide impact, so we definitely expect other schools to follow suit pretty soon."

Despite the support the university received following Bacow's announcement, there are still gray areas in this plan. Words such as "divest" were not used; the announcement read that the university would "reduce its exposure" to fossil fuels. The announcement also failed to include any information on if Harvard has any money circulating in indirectly managed funds.

# Social media plays a vital role in solving crime



EMILY KRIVOGRAD / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Social media app Tiktok played a vital role in finding missing person, Gabby Petito.

**STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Social media can be both a tool and a weapon. On one hand, it has increased self-doubt, harmed our vision and led to a rise in bullying, but on another, it has increased connectivity and access to information tenfold. This unlimited access to information and communication has even proved to be a vital tool in solving crime and can be a valuable resource for police officers.

This is best illustrated by the Gabby Petito case that blew up on TikTok in mid-September and made its way onto every social media platform. Millions of shares, likes and comments later, the entire country was following the case, championing for the return home of the 22-year-old travel vlogger who traversed the country in a van with her fiancé, Brian Laundrie.

Unfortunately, the worst fears were confirmed as Petito's body was found near a campground in Grand Teton National Park on Sept. 19. Her death was ruled a homicide. While this is not the best news, it did help give the family some answers and allowed them to bring their daughter home.

The speed in which she was found can be accredited to social media, specifically the video sharing and streaming platform, YouTube.

YouTube travel vloggers Jenn and Kyle Bethune had vlogged in the area Petito and her fiancé were traveling. In their footage, Petito and Laun-

drie's van was spotted. It was easily identified because of the stickers on the van that was shared on Petito's Instagram. The YouTube couple immediately alerted the FBI and authorities began their search near where the video was taken and within a few days, Petito's body was found.

The search continues as the primary suspect, Laundrie, is missing. Social media continues to be a tool in this case as the entire country is on the lookout for her missing fiancé, including Dog the Bounty Hunter, who believes Laundrie is still alive. Followers of the case continue the manhunt to locate the ex-fiancé so Petito's family and the world can get answers.

This case is just one of many in which social media has rallied the world to help find justice.

Social media has also helped police officers catch subjects without public attention. In a survey by LexisNexis Risk Solutions, four out of five law enforcement officials reported using social media during investigations to gather information and 67% of those surveyed believe social media helps them solve crime faster.

Social media does have its flaws, with its ability to unite as well as divide people, but it has proved a vital tool in investigations and should continue to be utilized by law enforcement to solve crimes, especially missing person cases. The more people looking, the faster someone can be

found.

Other benefits include increasing the public persona of law enforcement as police departments can show a more personal side on their department's social media profiles that help humanize the officers. This increases trust in law enforcement and in turn decreases crime rates as communities are more likely to agree and help with crime reduction strategies.

There are some valid privacy concerns with police access to social media that need to be addressed, but when used as a tool with proper permits and warrants, social media should be used to bring justice and help families like Petito's get the answers they deserve. Despite all the negative aspects of social media, helping solve missing person's cases is inarguably a helpful positive and social media will likely continue to be beneficial.



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## The Column

EMILY KRIVOGRAD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When I initially signed up for the last of my college classes, I was looking forward to finally being able to breeze through one semester with a laid-back courseload. With electives including several lower-level humanities classes, I was thinking I was about to sit back and, for the first time in college, take a breather from dense lectures and fifty-page readings.

I was wrong. Turns out, these electives are the same types of tedious genres that I remember a past me taking what feels like eons ago. Only this time, I'm not an eager freshman trying to do my best in my classes before getting the belly of the beast, my journalism classes. Instead, I'm feeling more like a washed-up senior who has been there, done that and has had enough of anything that doesn't include the words "reporting" or "AP style" in the syllabus.

Looking past my personal lack of motivation, I noticed that, despite my "easy" classes, I spent the first few weeks of the semester feeling more stressed and busy than I had in previous semesters. Last year's online school made everything seem a little easier — gorging myself on a lunchtime feast with my laptop camera off might have been the best "time saving" hack I discovered — but I still believed that this semester had to feel harder for another reason.

Once I started scrolling through job postings on my monthly LinkedIn kick, it hit me: I'm graduating and I have to start applying to jobs. It's time to adult and saying that I feel unprepared is an understatement.

And so, in an unlikely turn of events, what started as an easy senior semester became a near repeat of my freshman year, only this time, my thinking cap is absent and all my free time to "hang out with friends" is me reading my resumes and cover letters aloud to myself.

So after this long-winded narrative of my senior semester trials and tribulations, the last thing on your mind may be, "How does she do it?" Regardless, I'm going to answer it for all of the seniors that will be in my situation this upcoming spring. Think of me as your guinea pig.

My first tip: time management is key. Ground-breaking, I know. In all seriousness though, having a place to write down a list of everything I need to do, a set of goals to achieve for the day (such as how many cover letters I want to look over again or hey, even when I can write The Column) makes a world of difference. Especially for me, as a writer, getting my

ideas down on a piece of paper clears my brain of the jumbled thoughts that were my mental to-do list, and allows me to take a look at and prioritize what I need to do first.

Looking for jobs, and staying up to date with which companies are posting can be exhausting. Making myself watch YouTube videos and read a slew of articles on how to find the best job opportunities? Still exhausting, but it's paid off in the long run.

Especially for jobs as a freelance journalist, not only are job boards like Indeed and LinkedIn gold mines for opportunities but, as it turns out, Twitter is an amazing resource as well. I find that following seasoned journalists, the kind that are already established in their careers and have a blue verification checkmark next to their handles to prove it, can be kind of inspiring. Oh, and of course, there's the other reason: so many journalists post freelance and entry-level job opportunities on Twitter, making the platform a great place to look for opportunities.

In addition to looking for job opportunities, doing homework, getting eight hours of sleep each night (I wish) and eating three meals a day, it's important to take some time for yourself. While this may sound like the self-care bogus a wellness instructor might spew, if there's anything the pandemic taught us, it's that burnout is a real thing.

Working every day all the time, in a sick way, can be satisfying — knowing you worked yourself to the bone and tried your best definitely makes you feel like the type of person America's hustle culture tells us we should be. Needless to say, this isn't healthy or sustainable. While I may hate to do it myself, I at least try to take a couple of days each month to rest and reset. That way, I return to a workweek feeling fresher, with new ideas in my head and maybe even a good night's sleep to help me get through my classes.

Senior semester is definitely a stressor, but with these habits I've formed, it's more bearable, and, dare I say, I'm one step closer to the magical world of adulthood. But before I go, I'll leave you with one final tip. Please ask your advisors for the deadline to apply for graduation. I applied for my December graduation today, on a September afternoon, and you won't believe how many people asked me if they needed to apply for their May graduation eight months in advance.

# Sears closes last location as world chooses online retail

STEPHANIE LINGENFELTER  
MANAGING EDITOR

The big-box store, Sears, first opened its doors in 1893 in Chicago. Now, 119 years and over 3,500 locations later, the once-popular shopping center is shutting the doors on its last store that also happened to be its first, at the Chicago location. This shutdown, along with numerous other store closings, showcases the end of big-box stores as online retail dominates.

The ease of online shopping appeals to consumers now more than ever. Why waste your time driving to a store that might have what you need when you can just order it online from the comfort of your couch? The pandemic further exemplified this evolution, as the only option for anything besides necessities was online sites like Amazon as stores blocked off aisles.

The pandemic drove Amazon profits up by over 220% and the company just kept hiring, while across the world, small businesses were failing and people were losing their jobs. This doesn't paint a great picture for Amazon, but the consumers are allowing the morally inept company to dominate. I won't lie, I order from Amazon weekly despite my efforts not to, but the convenience is unmatched.

Other retailers are also seeing upticks in online orders, but nothing beats Amazon with their free Prime two-day shipping. The less work a consumer has to do and the quicker their order arrives, the more likely they are to use a service. Amazon is the epitome of convenience and other retailers are



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

just trying to keep up. Unfortunately, big-box stores like Kmart, Sears and JCPenney are failing.

Nonetheless, big-box stores aren't known for their high moral grounds either; their

mass production tends to cause irreversible environmental damage and take advantage of poor countries. They aren't any better than Amazon, but Amazon has convenience on their side that prevents people's

morals from stopping them from clicking "Buy Now."

What really needs to happen is we need to start buying local and supporting small businesses. Small businesses source their products more locally, allowing for more sustainable production practices and for consumers to support their neighbors, rather than sweatshops utilizing unethical child labor in other countries. This makes supporting small businesses better for local economies, the environment and social justice.

The pandemic did see an increase in support of local businesses as people rallied together to try and prevent shutdowns and shared "Support local businesses" graphics all over their social media accounts; that still wasn't enough. Thousands of small businesses and even thousands of chain stores shut down during the pandemic and the trend to support local businesses has since dwindled. Supporting local businesses tends to be easier said than done.

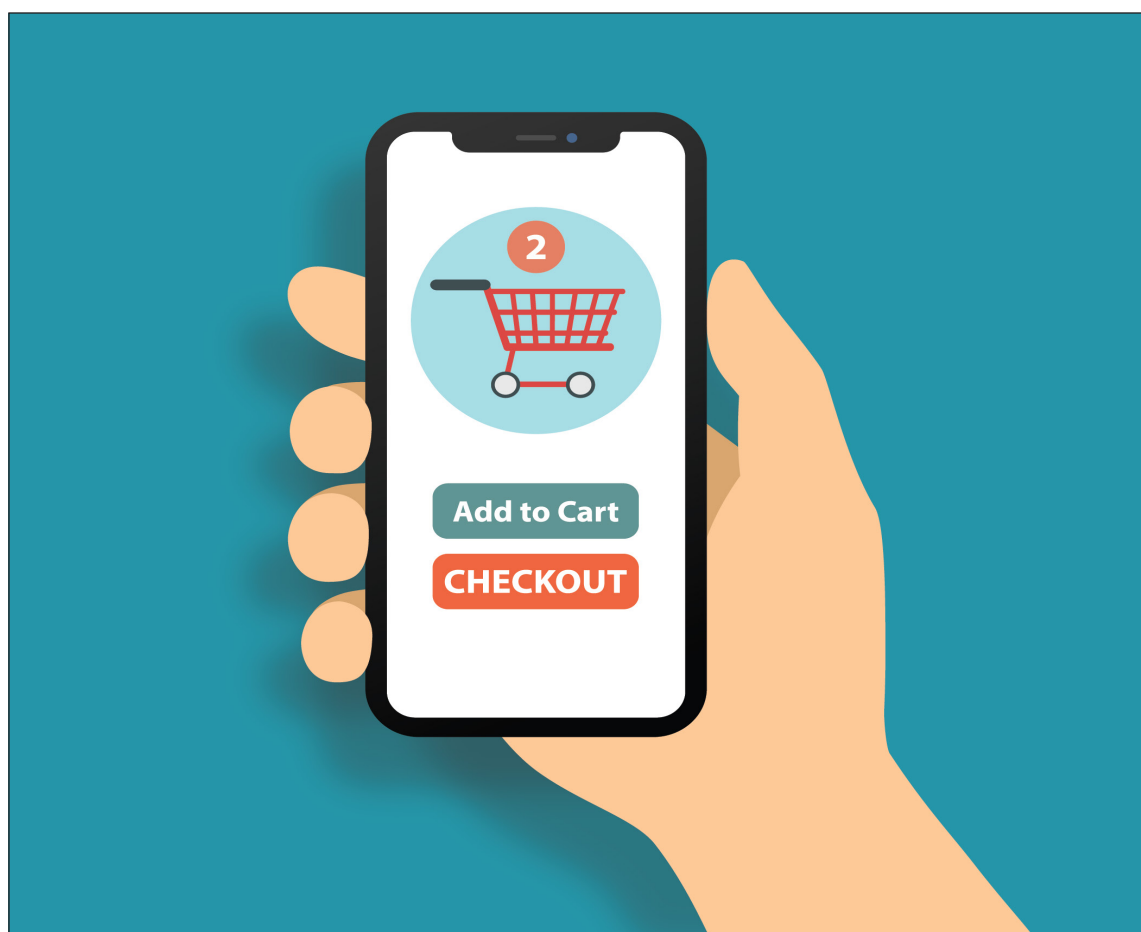
Utilizing sweatshops in undeveloped countries gives corporations the advantage of cheap prices, something most people tend to care about more than ethics. Amazon is also rich

enough to employ their own delivery team, allowing them to work on their own quick schedule rather than relying on other shipping services.

This yet again puts small businesses at a disadvantage as they are unable to avoid annoying shipping delays. These higher prices and quicker shipper rates mean not everyone can afford to shop small and not everyone has enough patience to wait, morals aside.

The pandemic banded us together in support of local businesses for a short time but now has left us with new shopping habits that hurt small businesses. Most people, including myself, are continuing to utilize the convenient, less time-consuming options that don't require us to leave the couch. We're even seeing this shopping trend with cars with Carvana's car vending machines and Tesla's online ordering service.

With the possibility of even a new car being delivered straight to your home, it is clear the world's shopping preferences are changing and they don't include the need for stores like Sears. The end of big-box stores was already coming, the pandemic just sped up the ending.



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

# TEMPO

## 'Candyman' sets the bar high for horror movies in 2021

LAUREN HARRIS  
TEMPO EDITOR

With spooky season just beginning, you might be looking for a scary movie to watch but have no clue where to start. But don't be frightened; I have not only the perfect movie for you to watch, but the scariest as well. "Candyman," currently in theaters as a reboot, is the horror movie that this generation never knew it needed.

"Candyman" follows the events of the original movie made in 1992. Anthony McCoy, played by Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, is an artist born and raised in Chicago looking to make it big with his next painting. Once learning of the terrible story of the killer with a hook for a hand from the haunted neighborhood of Cabrini-Green, he gets sucked into a world of horror. His mind flooded with thoughts of the one-handed killer, he must stop his obsession from consuming him before it's too late.

This movie comes from the mind of highly esteemed director and producer Jordan Peele and screenwriter and director



Yahya Abdul-Mateen II frightens audiences in the new 2021 reboot of "Candyman"

IMDB

Nia Dacosta. Both are twisted but wonderful at evoking emotion in people and introducing weird, unconventional concepts and plot points to the mainstream. They're mad geniuses, I tell you.

Fair warning, this movie has a considerable amount of gore and lots of disturbing imagery. It's truly horrifying, but that's

the whole point, isn't it?

Reminiscent of the 1992 film, the Candyman comes to kill his victims once they recite his name five times in the mirror. He comes to you bloody, surrounded by bees and is very angry. Watching this movie with a fear of bugs was a great idea, probably my best one yet. But if I did it, so can you.

"Candyman" is somewhat of a unique movie due to its cast of mainly black actors. Actor Teyonah Parris, who plays Brianna Cartwright, basically carries the entire movie with her performance. She expresses an array of emotions such as anguish, confusion and fear and somehow, flawlessly makes it all look real. It's uncommon to

see minorities in horror movies and even more uncommon to see them make it to the end, making her role even more refreshing and entertaining to watch.

The plot surprisingly held its own throughout. "Candyman" had substance and wasn't just about death. Though seemingly just a horror movie, it actually had messages about heavier topics such as gentrification, racism and trauma.

The producers did a terrific job at focusing on why the killings were happening in the first place instead of only the killing. It kept the attention of myself and audiences alike; it was actually sad to see how bad things got for the people of Cabrini-Green.

Even better, the movie finishes off with one final twist, one that I certainly didn't see coming. "Candyman" is one of the better horror movies of today and it's one of the best I've seen in a long time. Watch the movie, just don't you dare say his name.

## Two rappers, two albums: Which is better?

LAUREN HARRIS  
TEMPO EDITOR

The newly released and highly anticipated album of the year is finally here. On Aug. 29, Kanye West released "Donda," his tenth studio album named in honor of his late mother, Donda West.

The album was scheduled to be released on July 24, 2020 but was unfortunately delayed multiple times. It seemed as though the album was just a joke and would never see the light of day.

As you can imagine, fans and even casual listeners were excited to discover that it was real and were eager to hear what exactly Kanye has been up to for the past couple of months. Kanye West is one of the more successful rappers in the world and his album quickly went viral.

Just as listeners were forming their opinions on "Donda," Drake released "Certified Lover Boy," on Sept. 3. Released just five days apart



ANTHONY BEIMAL / GRAPHIC EDITOR

from each other, the two artists have been placed in competition and now the question remains: Which album is better?

Admittedly, the two albums are similar, but they also differ from each other greatly. The subject matter, beats and finished sound truly cannot be compared. When listening to either, it really depends on

your personal music taste or what mood you're in.

Kanye's "Donda" is a mix between rap, trap and gospel in which he heavily references his recent divorce, his mother and his relationship with God. In contrast, Drake's "Certified Lover Boy" is a traditional rap album featuring mostly love song ballads, in which he sings

about his past relationships.

"Donda" touches on several serious topics with more lyrical insight, but that doesn't mean you should count Drake out just yet.

Fans went wild for Drake's album because it was reminiscent of some of his older works. Listening to it was a nostalgic experience for old

fans of his. It reminded them of one of his very first albums, "Take Care."

Unfortunately, "Donda" had no clear direction. It was an album with 27 tracks that spanned over 100 minutes. Each song was different from the last, making it feel more like a jumbled mess. This is most likely indicative of Kanye's mind, thoughts and feelings; still, this variety didn't make the album more artistic, just cluttered.

On the other hand, "Certified Lover Boy" has a clear R&B theme and vibe. Most tracks were sad songs with an upbeat tempo. Judging from some of the samples used, Drake was clearly inspired and influenced by 90s artists such as The Notorious B.I.G. and Montell Jordan.

Both albums were met with mixed reviews but in the end that doesn't matter. Both have high points and low points. If you're looking to address the question of which album is better or which will stand the test of time, your search for an answer will remain indefinite.

# CAMPUS LIFE

## Comfort dog Raisa helps students relax

**KATELYN LEANO**  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Every first and third Tuesday of each month, students can head on to the library alcove and meet Raisa, a comfort dog that is brought in to help relieve stress. Pat Perrier, a Lewis alumna, is the owner of the 10-year-old Siberian Husky. This often means that she is usually surrounded by several people at once, holding conversations and petting her.

"Sharing their experiences with me, and often talking about their pets at home, Raisa helps students relax and relieve their stress," said Perrier. "She acts as a de facto 'mascot' and over the course of the visits, she will have many regular visitors."

Raisa first started as a comfort dog in the Spring semester of 2020, so she was only at the library a few times before the pandemic sent everyone home.

Raisa can act as an ambassador for dogs by engaging with people who may not be used to interacting with animals, allowing them to gain exposure and confidence around animals.

"Interacting with a gentle and loving animal has a calming and comforting effect on



KATELYN LEANO / CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

*Students can visit Raisa at the library alcove whenever they need a break from stress.*

people," said Public Services Librarian Kristin Anderson. "We want to do our part at the library to make sure that all of our Lewis students benefit from having Raisa visit."

Even though Raisa can be thought of as a therapy dog, she is considered to be more of a comfort dog because she hasn't been fully certified. "That is a specific certification which allows an animal to visit in certain settings, like schools,

nursing homes, hospitals, hospice and provide comfort to people in different situations," said Perrier. "Therapy dogs are used in many places, such as courtrooms, funeral homes, offices and even rehabilitation facilities."

Before Raisa became Lewis's current comfort dog, Perrier owned another dog named Tippi, who was Lewis's first therapy dog for the past 10 years ago. They started vis-

iting outside near The Flyers' Den, but the chipmunks were too distracting, so they moved into the Arts and Science building, then finally to the library.

"A little over 10 years ago, Michelle Manassah from Student Health & Counseling had a New Student Orientation, and was seeking a therapy dog," said Perrier. "I was working at Lewis University's Shorewood Campus, and had

just finished certifying Tippi. We talked, and arranged Tippi's visits — Tuesdays with Tippi was born."

For the next few years, Tippi became known as Lewis' resident therapy dog. Sadly, she was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2019 and because of this, she didn't have the energy to continue being a therapy dog. This is why Perrier decided to introduce Raisa to the Lewis community. Unfortunately on Sept. 11, at age 14, Tippi passed away.

"Tippi touched many people's lives during her time at Lewis; from professors to staff to students, she charmed everyone she met," said Perrier. "On her last visit, she was extremely tired, and I knew that it was probably time for her to just enjoy her retirement."

In order to honor and cherish Tippi's memory, Perrier would like to donate something special.

"I'd love to put a Dogwood tree near the chapel or wherever students gather outside," said Perrier. "I'd really like to put a plaque there and mark it as 'Tippi's Place' so that students could sit and relax and she'd have a permanent place where she spent so much time giving happiness and helping people."

## Students fully immerse themselves in virtual reality experience workshop

**KATELYN LEANO**  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On Sept. 24, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Assistant Professor of Art and Design Simon Dai held a virtual reality workshop titled, "An Exploration of Virtual Reality Space" at the Oremus Fine Arts Center.

Students who attended the workshop learned all about what virtual reality (VR) is and were able to test out the VR software for themselves.

"The event is an opportunity for students to experience and learn something about VR technology and to see our new prototyping room," said Dai. "I want students to start getting an idea of how VR can impact lives and how designers can use VR in their future work."

Virtual reality encompasses an experience in which the user becomes fully immersed in a fake, but semi-realistic environment. Today, VR is commonly used for games and simulations which can take

the form of goggles or headsets, and there are many experimental projects for users.

"The field of VR is still quite new and there is a lot of opportunity for design work, both now and in the future," said Dai. "This event is a chance for students to explore the world of VR and see if it's something they may want to consider as part of their education."

At the workshop, students who came to the studio were able to try out the VR gadgets, which included a headset with hand controllers.

When they put on the headset, Dai helped out the students by showing them how to manage the settings on the controllers.

There are a myriad of minigames in the virtual lab within the headset, including one that lets the player use a bow to shoot arrows at characters who are trying to escape a castle.

Along with these minigames, Dai also showed attendees the Google Earth feature, which lets the user virtually experi-



KATELYN LEANO / CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

*Junior illustration major Rachel Fosler attends the VR workshop and plays with a headset that came with hand controllers.*

ence different places around the world.

Each destination has its own story and students were able to change the time of day to either daytime or nighttime.

The event didn't go into detail about how virtual reality works, but if students are interested in learning about it, they can attend other workshops and classes regarding

VR.

"It is an advancement of technology that brings the virtual world closer to the user than ever before," said Dai.

"It can also help with training and has a lot of potential for bringing people closer together."

Even though it can be thought of as great technology, there are some drawbacks

when it comes to the VR experience, such as motion sickness and feelings of discomfort.

For example, if someone wearing glasses were to wear a headset, depending on how bad their eyesight is, the picture might be blurry, preventing them from being able to see clearly, as well as not being able to keep the headset on because of the strain put on their eyes.

The Art and Design department is working with the College of Nursing as well as the computer science department, in order to develop a simulation to help train nursing students.

"VR is not a fad, but it is a new industry," said Dai. "There is a lot of room for innovation and growth, and VR is going to play a bigger and bigger role in our lives as the technology continues to advance."

# SEPTEMBER SPORTS RECAP

## [9/16 - 9/30]

<b><u>Volleyball</u></b> 9/16 vs. Quincy 3-0 9/18 @ William Jewel 3-1 9/24 @ McKendree 3-0 9/25 vs. Southern Indiana 3-1 9/28 vs. Indianapolis 3-1	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 3-0 3-1 3-0 3-1 3-1	<b><u>Cross Country</u></b> 9/17 @ National Catholic Championships 3rd place <b><u>Golf</u></b> 9/25 @ Gilda Club Invitational <b><u>Score:</u></b> 7th place 9/26-9/27 @ Lady Bulldog Invitational <b><u>Score:</u></b> 5th place	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 3rd place	<b><u>Soccer</u></b> 9/17 vs. McKendree 0-0 9/19 vs. Missouri 1-0 9/24 vs. Indianapolis 1-2 9/26 vs. Southern Indiana 0-0	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 0-0 1-0 1-2 0-0
<b><u>Soccer</u></b> 9/17 vs. McKendree 2-1 9/19 vs. Missouri 1-2 9/24 vs. Indianapolis 1-1 9/26 vs. Southern Indiana 1-2	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 2-1 1-2 1-1 1-2	<b><u>Golf</u></b> 9/27-9/28 @ Cedarville Medal/Match Tournament <b><u>Score:</u></b> 5th place	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 1st place	<b><u>Swimming</u></b> 9/25 vs. Olivet Nazarene 76-183 <b>Women's</b>	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 76-183
<b><u>Soccer</u></b> 9/17 vs. McKendree 2-1 9/19 vs. Missouri 1-2 9/24 vs. Indianapolis 1-1 9/26 vs. Southern Indiana 1-2	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 2-1 1-2 1-1 1-2	<b><u>Golf</u></b> 9/27-9/28 @ Cedarville Medal/Match Tournament <b><u>Score:</u></b> 5th place	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 1st place	<b><u>Swimming</u></b> 9/25 vs. Olivet Nazarene 196-65 <b>Men's</b>	<b><u>Score:</u></b> 196-65

# Will this be the year for the White Sox?

**DAISY PADILLA**  
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The White Sox are the talk of Chicago as many Sox fans are saying that this is their year for greatness. After seeing the lineup for the Sox, there is a huge possibility that they will win the World Series for the first time since 2005. With the help of some key players, the White Sox have made many accomplishments.

Jose Abreu is the first baseman for the White Sox and has been with the team since 2013. Abreu won the American League for the third time in his career and is also the first Cuban-born player on the team and the first to go deep into the postseason. Notably, on Aug. 24, he reached 1,000 hits in his 870 career games with the White Sox.

Another key player, Craig Kimbrel, is a pitcher known for the way that he poses before throwing the ball. This was a great pick up for the Sox as they expressed their need for a better closing pitcher.

This is also the season where the White Sox were able to make dreams come true and play in the Field of Dreams against the New

York Yankees, bringing the eponymous 80s movie to life. While the Sox had a rough patch, they came back strong, causing fans to say the game was like a movie ending with Tim Anderson hitting a two-run, walk-off homer right in the ninth inning. The game's ending score was 9-8 and many fans could not believe the White Sox's recovery.

This season, the White Sox clinched the American League Central Title for the first time since 2008. This is why many fans are excited to see what October will bring for the White Sox. Will this be the year that they bring the south side of Chicago another world series since 2005? By the way the team and players are looking, it seems that this may be the year after all. Seeing the success of the team is refreshing after COVID shortened last year's season.

Mike Vucsko, head coach of the Lewis baseball team is passionate about baseball and has history with baseball as he is a second generation Lewis baseball player.

The Lewis baseball team is trying to follow in the White Sox's footsteps and



THEARON W. HENDERSON / GETTY IMAGES / TNS

Tim Anderson, Jose Abreu and Yasmani Grandal shake hands while celebrating a win.

stay healthy as COVID persists. Last season, the Flyers were able to stay healthy and practice safety precautions on and off the field.

Vucsko thinks that great things are in store for the team this upcoming season, with the possibility of them making it into the postseason. The Flyers have a lot of fresh young talent coming in, just like the White Sox do.

Vucsko is excited to start

working with all the new recruits as well as the returning seniors.

"They have been practicing hard the off-season and on-season," said Vucsko. Given the current circumstances of the pandemic, Vucsko's primary concern is to keep his players healthy.

Though Vucsko's main focus is the success of the Flyers, he is still following along with the current MLB

season.

"The White Sox need to keep up in the postseason because many teams, once they get into the postseason, start to slack off," said Vucsko. "They need to keep up the pace and keep pushing through."

The White Sox have a great chance of winning the World Series this year but they need to keep their momentum and stay hungry for more.

## Men's soccer spirit, drive remain unstoppable amidst upsets

**DANI NAVARRETE**  
SPORTS REPORTER

The men's soccer team started off its fall season unbeaten during their first four games. As the season continued, the Flyers stumbled a little bit after a challenging game with the number two team in the nation and a couple of losses. However, despite the setbacks, the Flyers continue to push through with hard work and belief in their team culture, which will help them succeed throughout the season.

Last year, college soccer was one of the fall sports that had to be pushed to the spring due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, even with a limited amount of matches, the team had a great performance toward the end, as they won eight out of their last nine games. Head coach Evan Fiffles affirmed that their early winning streak at the beginning of the season accounted for what was achieved last semester.

"This is just a carryover from the spring; they also started playing better this season and we got pretty much nine out of 11 starters back, so we are now car-



Junior goalkeeper Riley Widney saves a shot during practice.

LUIS CHAVEZ / PHOTOGRAPHER

rying it all over to the fall," said Fiffles.

The coach also recognized that the team captains, senior midfielders Domenic Baumann and Matt Budrek, are great leaders that guide the team to focus on the important things. "I think they are strong captains and it is always good to have strong captains," said Fiffles. "We have a lot of new kids, 17 new players, so I think by having good role models that can lead by example and go with that culture around helps the team a lot."

On Sept. 19, the team fell against University of Missouri-St. Louis 2-1. Although the Flyers had a 5-3 advantage in shots and 4-3 in shots on goal during the first 45 minutes, Flyers' freshman goalie Sebastian Doppelhoffer committed a foul in overtime that cost him a yellow card and a penalty. After that, the Flyers had to reset quickly because they had to face the number two team in the nation: the University of Indianapolis (UIndy); in less than a week.

Fiffles acknowledged that

playing against UIndy was going to be a tough game. According to Fiffles, the Greyhounds had not lost a game in almost two years, so the Flyers were going to face them with a loss in their pockets already. Nevertheless, the team was going to do all that it takes to bounce back.

"Like any other team we are going to approach, we will get prepared as best as we can... watching films and focusing our training on what they like and want to do," said Fiffles. "For this kind of opponent, we usu-

ally break up half the team at practice, one plays as if it is UIndy and one is Lewis, and it helps to execute the game plan effectively then." The Flyers did succeed in their plan, as they tied against the Greyhounds 1-1. Yet, two days later, the team suffered another loss against the University of Southern Indiana.

Fiffles wants the team to be as successful as possible, but he understands that it is all about being prepared for each single game. Therefore, taking the losses as learning experiences and using them as motivation for what comes next. Regarding team goals, Fiffles explained that they want to play in the postseason, league's postseason and nationals postseason.

"We always talk about that, those are kind of our goals," said Fiffles. "We have four championships over the year: regular, tournament, regional and national championships, but we take one step at a time... how we can go ahead and be the regular season champion first."

Next, the Flyers will play against Truman State at home on Oct. 8.



LUIS CHAVEZ / PHOTOGRAPHER

The Flyers are looking forward to creating game plans for their upcoming home matches against Truman State on Oct. 8 and Quincy University on Oct. 10.