



College of Business prepares for future

LUNA SCHAFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As the spring semester begins, Lewis University's College of Business has been improving its facilities to provide students with the best advantages to succeed for their futures.

Located on the north side of the campus in the historic St. Charles Borromeo Hall, the College of Business has a rich history dating back to its construction in the 1960's.

Originally a seminary, Borromeo Hall transitioned to the Joliet Diocese before being acquired by the University in 2013. The building, featuring two dorms, 13 classrooms and labs and around 40 acres, has been the home of the College of Business since 2015.

Michael Progress, Assistant Dean of the College of Business explained that "The current purpose of Borromeo is to be a dorm and a Business college. We also house the Romeoville Chamber, a Lasallian publication Fe Y Vida and the university and College of Business staff. The building

serves as an innovation hub, a partnership between various academic disciplines, the Des Plaines River Valley Enterprise Zone and Lewis University."

In terms of ongoing renovations, Dr. Ryan Butt, the Dean of the College of Business shared that classroom SB-156 will be transformed into a state-of-the-art Finance Trading Lab thanks to the generous donation from Lewis alumni Bryan and Mary Durkin. The lab will provide students access to Refinitiv, an industry-standard data service widely used in the financial sector. In honor of the generous donation, the newly renovated classroom will be named Bryan and Mary Durkin Family Finance and Trading Lab.

"For the first time ever in our history, students will have access to Refinitiv, giving them a competitive edge in the job market. They'll be on par with graduates from other institutions, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle real-world financial tasks," Dr. Butt emphasizes.

The new lab will primarily be used for classes but also serve

as a space for the Economics and Finance Investment Club to manage part of the University's endowment.

Looking ahead, the College of Business has plans for additional renovations aligned with the university's objectives to enhance the student experience. These include interview labs with video conference capabilities, private offices for career services and a versatile space that may become a hub for student clubs and organizations.

Dr. Butt highlighted the college's commitment to providing students with a 21st-century business education. "In our Lasallian tradition, the College of Business is committed to enhancing the student experience, strategically aligning everything we do to prepare our students for the evolving business landscape."

The College of Business is currently working to bring in guest speakers to share their past experiences and knowledge. The reason behind this is to create opportunities for the Flyers to network and learn more about



Photo courtesy of: Miguel Turcios

Student volunteers enjoying the Signum Fidei celebration.

the professional world before they graduate.

One goal that the college has includes earning the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. This certification recognizes the top business schools. "Less than five percent of business schools have it," said Dr. Butt. He explained that it takes five to six

years and they would be working to start the process the following year.

As the College of Business continues to evolve, these renovations signify Lewis University's dedication to staying at the forefront of business education and ensuring its students are well-prepared for the challenges of the modern business world.

U.S. carbon emissions on the low

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

With recent demands to address the climate crisis, the U.S. has reduced its carbon emissions by 1.9 percent in 2023. The news comes after the U.S. reduced its consumption of coal used to produce electricity following the closing of more than a dozen large coal burning power plants. The plants were replaced with others that use lower-emitting natural gasses along with wind and solar power to generate energy.

Dr. Jerry Kavouras, Chair of the Department of Biology, comments on carbon emissions. "Although the pandemic saw an uptick in carbon dioxide emissions, the overall trend in the last 20 years has been a steady decline in per capita carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels in the United States."

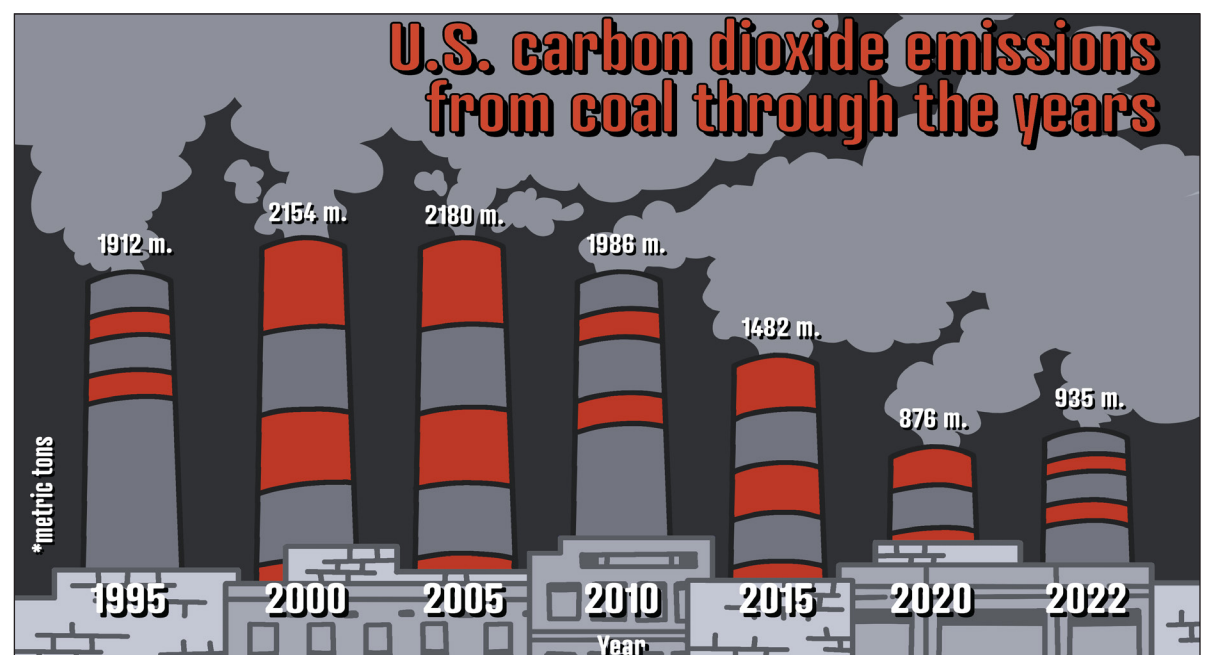
The use of coal-powered electricity across the country dropped to its lowest level since 1969. Furthermore, in 2023, coal power plants supplied only 17

percent of America's electricity which is lower than both nuclear and renewable energy did the same year.

Over the past decade, U.S. emissions have been on a downward trend, dropping around 17.2 percent since 2005. The U.S. is among 26 countries globally including Britain, South Africa and Brazil that have reduced emissions in recent years.

At the state level, "Illinois has a goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050. Currently, the state is the fifth largest generator of electricity from renewable energy resources in the US," said Kavouras.

However, transportation, the largest source of greenhouse gasses in the U.S., has been on the rise. Transportation emissions rose 1.6 percent in the past year as gas and jet fuel consumption increased. Other large sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the country come from industrial production and the residential sector. Agriculture, land use and forestry have recently been the lowest emitter of greenhouse



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

gasses.

Additionally, it appears that more reductions are necessary as global carbon dioxide emissions continued to soar to record levels last year. This is mostly due to the increase of fossil fuel use by China and India.

To further help reduce carbon emissions, Dr. Kavouras encour-

ages individuals to do their part. "To see what you can do as an individual, check out the Environmental Protection Agency's Household Carbon Footprint Calculator to determine your environmental impact and how to reduce your carbon dioxide emissions."

Lewis University is dedicated

to reducing carbon emissions and encourages sustainability. According to the University's sustainability mission over the past year, the University has saved 440 trees, 385 barrels of oil and has contributed to 915,641 lbs. of carbon offsetting.

An update on Jet's first semester

LUNA SCHAFFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

During his first semester as a member of the Lewis community, Jet brought happiness and help to those in need.

On April 19, 2023, LUPD posted a picture of President Dr. Livingston, Sgt. Lyle Netters and Police Cmdr. Margie Lill, announcing their search for a comfort canine program.

Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow sponsored Jet. In his role as the founder of the League of Extraordinary Canines and Friends, Glasgow played a crucial role to help assimilate Jet into the community. Benefiting from a positive relationship with the University, Glasgow chose to assist LUPD by giving them a canine companion.

The League of Extraordinary Canines and Friends is an organization that recognizes the needs of the community for therapy dogs. It has provided various police departments with police dogs. Although this league first aimed to address the drug epidemic in the community, Jet is one of the first canines that ad-

resses mental health and trauma challenges.

On June 20 Jet was sworn in as a support canine. LUPD stated "The Golden Retriever will serve as the LUPD's Emotional Support Animal with Sgt. Nettles as his handler."

Since his arrival, Jet has undergone extensive training to provide students and faculty the emotional support that is needed. Although Jet started his training at a young age, he will continue to improve all of his skills for years to come. Some of the future plans that LUPD had for Jet include training him to track individuals in case they get lost in places such as the Nature Trail.

During his first semester, Sgt. Nettles and Jet have made multiple appearances around campus at University-sponsored events. The friendly canine became one of the main attractions where staff and students could come up to enjoy his company. According to Chief of Police, Mike Zegadlo, multiple students reported that being with Jet has helped them lower their heart rate and feel at ease.

Contrary to popular belief, as articulated by Zegadlo, Jet isn't intended to serve as the school's mascot. Instead, his sole purpose is to provide comfort to those who require it.

For instance, Jet visits the library one to two times a week to offer comfort to studious students. His presence is heavily requested during midterm and finals week due to the high level of stress associated with that period of time.

Jet actively participates in training sessions and remains committed to continuous improvement in all his skills. Police Cmdr. Lill, who acts as Jet's supervisor states, "Integrating him into the police department and the community was pretty easy and flawless." Cmdr. Lill says one of the most significant improvements observed in Jet is his obedience and the manner in which he diligently follows Sgt. Nettles' commands.

As Jet diligently hones his skills under the guidance of his handler, Sgt. Nettles, he will continue to participate in events sanctioned by LUPD.



KATHERINE GROPPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

Sgt. Nettles and Jet ready for duty.

Fishermen bring drama to Supreme Court

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

Fishermen from the state of New Jersey are in the midst of a battle with the Supreme Court. Their hope is to overturn a previous 1984 ruling which allegedly gave more power to federal regulators. The 1984 Chevron v. The Natural Resources Defense Council ruled that an environmental agency regulation would stand after being challenged for its authority.

Chair of the Department of Paralegal Studies, Huma Zia, explains the significance of the ruling. "The Chevron v. The Natural Resources Defense Council case is a seminal case, decided in 1984, that directed the federal court to defer to agency interpretations, regulations and ruling when such language was ambiguous. This Chevron decision became known as the Chevron deference."

The Chevron doctrine also allows for federal agencies to change their policies once a new administration is in place, creating havoc and uncertainty for those subject to their laws.

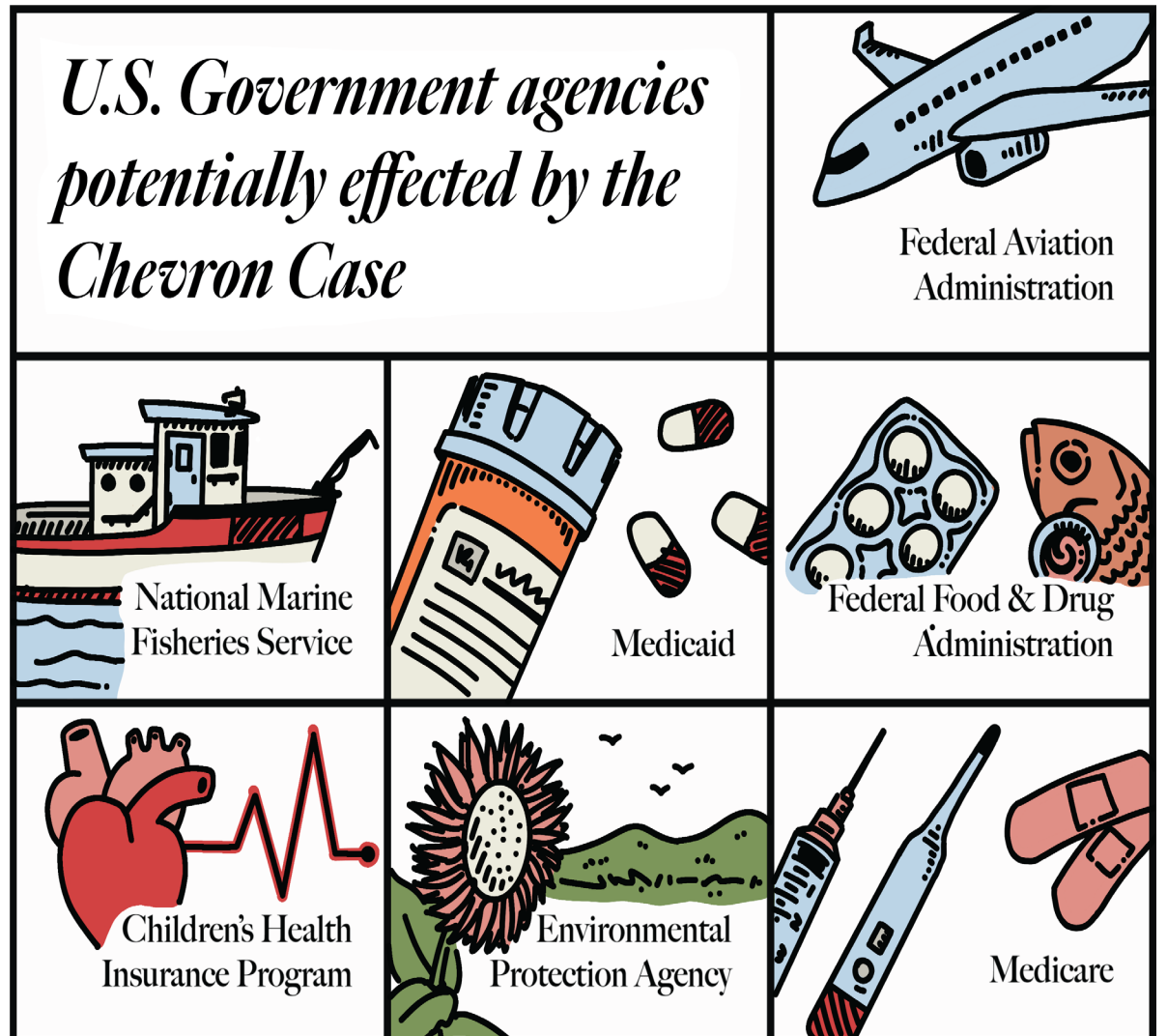
The case has recently been criticized and many have argued that federal judges should have more authority to set regulations and finely define laws instead of government employees. Additionally, suggestions have come from current conservative-leaning Supreme Court justices. They have encouraged judges to be reluctant to find more information in federal statutes and therefore assert more authority over regulatory agencies.

The case has become relevant after a New Jersey fishing industry challenged a National Marine Fisheries Service regulation. The regulation regards the payment of onboard herring monitors which are necessary for compliance with federal fishery-management laws. The 2020 law created by the agency demands that fishermen would have to pay up to \$700 a day for the monitors. The fishermen are claiming that Congress did not authorize the agency to make laws of this nature.

The Supreme Court has run into a problem when trying to decide this case as the Chevron precedent stands. The court is now more concerned about whether or not to follow what the Chevron decision ruled or if the Chevron case itself should be overruled. The question now is who has the final say on matters when cases are presented to courts which are based on vaguely written laws.

"From the oral arguments on Wednesday [Jan. 17,] it appears that the US Supreme Court is leaning towards curtailing administrative agency authority in interpreting ambiguous statutes if not outright overturning Chevron and allowing the federal courts more autonomy when dealing with administrative agencies," said Zia. "If this does happen, I anticipate some sort of replacement doctrine to Chevron will be implemented."

The overturning of the case could have potential implications for the power dynamic between federal courts and federal agencies. The question would



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

be which institution has say over matters regarding specific legal issues.

"If the US Supreme Court overturns the Chevron decision this would have significant implications for administrative law and the deference given to federal agencies in interpreting statutes," explains Zia. "This is because federal courts may be less inclined to defer to agency interpretations and could en-

gage in a more independent review of statutory language."

President Joe Biden and his administration did not agree with the Court's decision to challenge the case claiming that the Chevron precedent "promotes political accountability, national uniformity and predictability, and it respects the expertise agencies can bring to bear in administering complex statutory schemes."

The overturning of the Chevron decision would result in major changes in the administration of public healthcare programs across the country. Medicaid, Medicare and Children's Health Insurance are some of the programs that are likely to suffer the consequences of the Chevron overturning.

The case is still in session and is set to be decided in the near future.

OPINIONS

Casting controversy with “It Ends With Us”

JULIA LESNICKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Colleen Hoover’s bestselling novel “It Ends With Us” has captivated readers with its powerful narrative and emotionally charged storyline. As anticipation builds for the movie adaptation, fans find themselves at the center of a storm of disappointment over casting choices that diverge significantly from the characters portrayed in the novel.

“It Ends With Us” is an emotional novel that tackles complicated themes such as love, loss and resilience. Hoover’s storytelling prowess has attracted a dedicated fanbase that adores the depth and authenticity of the characters she created. The protagonist, Lily Bloom, and her love interests, Atlas Corrigan and Ryle Kincaid, are central to the novel’s success, with readers forming strong connections to these characters and their intricately woven relationships.

Originally set to release on Feb. 9, the premiere has been pushed back now to June 21. Recent photos have been leaked of scenes shot on set and fans are not happy with what they are seeing.

As news broke about the cast

of the movie adaptation, fans eagerly awaited the unveiling of the actors who would bring their beloved characters to life on the big screen. However, when the casting choices were revealed, a wave of disappointment swept through the fan community. Many fans expressed their disapproval on social media platforms, expressing concerns about the lack of resemblance between the chosen actors and the vividly described characters from the novel.

One of the most contentious casting decisions was for the role of Lily Bloom. In the novel, Lily is described as having distinctive features and a unique charm that endeared her to readers. Fans argue that actress Blake Lively, chosen for the role, does not align with the physical attributes and essence of Lily as portrayed in the book. Thus, leading to a sense of disconnection between the on-screen character and the one readers had come to know and love.

Similar concerns were raised about the casting of Atlas Corrigan (portrayed by Brandon Skelnar) and Ryle Kincaid (portrayed by Justin Baldoni.) Fans revealed their disappointment over the actors chosen for these pivotal roles, stating that the

chemistry and dynamics between the characters would be compromised due to the lack of authenticity in the casting.

With the popularity and ease of social media, fan reactions can significantly influence the success of a movie adaptation. The disappointment expressed by fans of “It Ends With Us” has created a buzz online, with hashtags like #NotMyLily and #CastingFail gaining traction. The production team now faces the challenge of managing the fallout and addressing the concerns raised by the fanbase.

Although the actors casted are

extremely talented with much experience, they do not portray the characters described within the novel. Fans expected a younger cast and in return, did not receive this. Lively, Skelnar and Baldoni are said to be “too old” to play the characters, according to fans. I would have to agree with this as I expected someone like actress Sadie Sink to play the role of Lily Bloom. Regardless, I will not let it take away from my experience and expect the best from the movie. Books are always better, and “It Ends With Us” is living up to those words.



Photo Credits: IMDb

Blake Lively and Brandon Skelnar in “It Ends With Us.”

JULIA LESNICKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
juliadlesnicki@lewisu.edu

GRACE SUEFLOHN
MANAGING EDITOR
gracemsueflohn@lewisu.edu

ANABEL AGUILAR
WEBMASTER
anabelaguilarramir@lewisu.edu

IRENA ILEC
NEWS EDITOR
irenaiic@lewisu.edu

LUNA SCHAFFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR
lunacuevaschaffer@lewisu.edu

LANIE PATTERSON
TEMPO EDITOR
melaniebpatterson@lewisu.edu

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR
raynegrabowski@lewisu.edu

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
michaelsack@lewisu.edu

JADA HARVEY
SPORTS EDITOR
jadalharvey@lewisu.edu

STEPHANIE AGUILAR
CAMPUS LIFE & OPINIONS
COPY EDITOR
stephaniekaguilard@lewisu.edu

KAYLEE KOSULIC
TEMPO & NEWS
COPY EDITOR
kayleevkosulic@lewisu.edu

TYRA CORPUZ
SPORTS COPY EDITOR
tyrarayavcorpuz@lewisu.edu

GIANNA CIACCIA
ONLINE COPY EDITOR
giannamciaccia@lewisu.edu

KALEY MURRAY
LAYOUT EDITOR
kaleymurray@lewisu.edu

ORLA CLASBY
LAYOUT EDITOR
orlarclasby@lewisu.edu

ALEXIS PRAGIDES
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
alexispragides@lewisu.edu

OLIVIA BRZEK
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
oliviasbrzek@lewisu.edu

GERTIE CASEY
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR
gertrudejcasey@lewisu.edu

KATHERINE GROPPE
NEWS & CAMPUS LIFE
PHOTOGRAPHER
katherinergroppe@lewisu.edu

MATTHEW CARLSON
SPORTS & TEMPO
PHOTOGRAPHER
mattcarlson2003@gmail.com

JADA LAW
NEWS & CAMPUS LIFE
REPORTER
jadaalaw@lewisu.edu

COLLIN MCCARTHY
CONTRIBUTOR
collinbmccarthy@lewisu.edu

HAYLEY MILLER
FACULTY ADVISER
millerha@lewisu.edu

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U.S. education: First or the worst?

GRACE SUEFLOHN
MANAGING EDITOR

We have all heard the phrase “first is the worst, second is the best,” but let’s be honest, we all want to be first. We want the title, prize, bragging rights, and attention. Only those who are shadowed by the winner say second is the best.

It is natural for us to desire first place - it’s in our nature. We are competitive, prideful and live in one of the most powerful countries in the world. We are the land of the free, home of the brave. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness- that’s us, right?

The United States recently was awarded first place by U.S. News. The category? Education. That’s great, right? Unfortunately, a little reasoning and additional research proves that there are some major holes in the evidence.

U.S. News ranked the U.S. #1. Biased? Maybe. If you don’t think that is questionable, listen to this: the article states that the rankings were based on a global survey of 17,000 people. These people were asked if they thought a country had a well-developed public education system or if they would consider attending university there. That is all the article described.

17,000 sounds like a lot, but for a global study? Who are these people? What is their professional background? Also, what do these people know about education? Where do they live? Just because people are willing to attend a university in a country doesn’t make it the best.

Yes, that is just one article but plenty of others still rated the U.S. highly. Yes, the U.S. has great opportunities, but how do we truly measure knowledge and the quality of education across the world? Thankfully, statistics expose the facts behind our education system.

The National Center for Education Studies reports that the average graduation rate per state for high school graduates across the nation ranges from 73% to 92%. At the same time, states like Texas didn’t even report information. How was that allowed?

Although some might argue that these are healthy rates, think about it this way, some states have three out of every 10 students dropping out of school before the age of 18. If the human brain grows and develops until age 25, then these students are not absorbing years of knowledge that could set them up for the future.

Even more concerning are

the shockingly low literacy rates in the U.S. The program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies conducts literacy studies of adults ages 16-65 and found that 79% of U.S. adults have English skills sufficient to complete tasks that require paraphrasing and making low-level inferences. That means that 21%, or 43 million Americans, are not able to complete basic tasks. 43 million Americans who are not able to read simple sentences, understand information, or fill out simple forms. And these adults are not just individuals for whom English is their second language. In fact, more than 1/3 of these 43 million low-literate people are U.S. born adults.

How are these people, who grew up in the U.S. education system, not able to complete basic tasks? Is the U.S. really #1?

At the same time, U.S. literacy rate data is difficult to find. It took me hours to find this study. Otherwise, all that I found were stats that said 65-85% of American citizens. What is this supposed to mean? 65-85%? That is a huge gap. Also, what classifies “literacy?” Keep in mind that a lack of facts is also information. If the U.S. was actually proud of their literacy rates, the rates would be public knowledge and easy to find.

Recent results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show historic declines in American students’ knowledge and skills. Studies have shown an increase in absences, increase in disruptive behavior from students, and lower test scores.

Additionally, there always is a natural gap between the highest and lowest scoring students in a

classroom but recently this gap has expanded at a rapid pace. This has resulted in a wide separation of student abilities, leading to an education gap that makes it harder for teachers to meet each student’s needs.

Parents have to pay more to send their children to private schools to get a better K-12 education. Why? Isn’t current society pushing for more equality? If so, why is wealth still required for quality education?

Our current education system is one with politics. What books should be allowed? What can be discussed in the classroom? At what point did learning become a controversial thing?

We have so much technology and an insane amount of resources. With these tools, shouldn’t our education sys-

tem be more advanced? Why then, is the quality decreasing?

How does this impact students at Lewis? Personally, I have noticed a decrease in the quality of work and increase in laziness. I used to worry about group projects because not everyone pulled their weight. Now I worry about group projects because half the group doesn’t care about their grade and the other half doesn’t even show up.

Ironically, I am getting my degree in Communications and have spent the last two years working for this newspaper where I have learned to accurately identify poor journalism. This U.S. News article is a prime example. This is proof that doing just enough is enough for some people. And I would know since I’m getting a quality education and know there are too many questions than answers in this article.

My experience at Lewis has taught me to be a critical thinker and identify gaps in the information. This article and these types of studies will always draw my attention. My training and research skills have prepared me to identify inaccuracy and question validity.

Last year, I was ridiculed by some classmates for taking notes in class. I was shocked. Are you kidding me? Since when has working hard and putting in effort become an uncool thing?

As college students, we represent the future. Are you content with the current education system? Do you feel smart? Do you feel prepared for your future? Is this the future we want for us, our country, our children? These are questions that I am constantly asking myself.

My mom tells me stories about how hard she worked in college. Late nights at the library, multiple study groups, the list goes on and on. I feel like I work hard, but do I work that hard? An education system should want to bring out the best in ourselves and challenge us to be the best we can be? Does it do that? Or do I have to bring out the best in myself? Is intrinsic motivation required to gain a complete and fulfilling education? When I compare my experience to hers, I have to wonder if my degree holds the same value that hers does.

The U.S. News article wasn’t the only one that rated the U.S. #1. Education Week released an article titled, “Why U.S. Schools are simply the best.” Would you agree? Would the literacy rate agree? What about the graduation rate? In this case, maybe first is the worst.



Groundbreaking milestone for women’s sports

JULIA LESNICKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It is 2024 and there is finally a way for women hockey players to reach a professional level. The Professional Women’s Hockey League (PWHL) launched its season this January with six teams.

For years, women hockey fans and players have been advocating for a professional league that mirrors the success and recognition enjoyed by their male counterparts. The launch of the PWHL marks a significant milestone not only in the history of women’s hockey, but for women in all sports.

While women’s hockey has gained popularity at the amateur, collegiate and Olympic levels, the lack of a committed professional league limited the opportunities for players to pursue a career in the sport beyond these stages. The PWHL aims to change this narrative by offering a stage for elite female players to compete at the highest level.

The six teams – Boston, New York, Minnesota, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto – represent both the U.S. and Canada, permit for a larger audience and attraction. Each team is a blank canvas, with no official mascots or names, allowing fans to be part of the exciting process of shaping the identity of their favorite teams. Fans have even posted on social media their thoughts and creative ideas for branding the new teams.

The PWHL comes at a time when women’s sports are gaining increased visibility and recognition. The success of women’s professional soccer and basketball has demonstrated the widespread appeal of women’s athletics, and the launch of a professional hockey league is a natural progression in this movement.

One of the most promising aspects of the league is its potential to inspire the next gen-

eration of female athletes. Young girls dreaming of a career in professional hockey now have tangible role models to look up to. The league showcases the athleticism, skill and dedication of its players, challenging stereotypes and breaking barriers that have obstructed the progress of women in sports for far too long.

The inaugural season of the PWHL has already seen fierce competition on the ice. The Toronto and New York teams engaged in a thrilling opening match on Jan. 1 that set the tone for what promises to be an exciting season.

Beyond the exhilarating games and budding rivalries, the PWHL is also making strides in promoting inclusivity and diversity within the sport. The league has implemented initiatives to ensure equal opportunities for players of all backgrounds and is actively engaging with communities to promote accessibility and participation at all levels.

While the league is still in its early stages, there are already discussions about potential expansion and the introduction of additional teams in subsequent seasons. The response from fans has been overwhelmingly positive, with attendance figures and viewership numbers surpassing initial projections. The PWHL has tapped into a market that is hungry for professional women’s hockey, and the league’s organizers are keen to capitalize on this momentum.

As the PWHL continues to stake its place in the world of sports, it also serves as a breakthrough of progress for women’s hockey. The league’s success will not only be measured by the number of goals scored or championships won, but by the lasting impact it has on the perception of women in sports. The PWHL is breaking barriers, shattering stereotypes and empowering a new generation of female athletes to dream big and aim high.

Rapping up the new “Mean Girls”

MELANIE PATTERSON
TEMPO EDITOR

Twenty years later, it seems we still haven't heard the last of “Mean Girls.” The iconic film continues to be referenced even two decades after its release. The original movie came out in 2004, inspired by Rosalind Wiseman's book “Queen Bees and Wannabes.” The original screenplay writer and actress of Ms. Norbury, Tina Fey, made the choice to adapt the movie to a stage musical which premiered in 2017. “Mean Girls” (2024) is the film adaptation of the stage musical.

Nonetheless, the new “Mean Girls” was enjoyable to watch even if the cast was breaking out into song every few minutes.

The vocals and choreography for each song were impressive, and this is no surprise, since the Broadway show was successful from 2018 until COVID-19 related shutdowns.

There was an extreme amount of detail given to each song, as the colorful set and backgrounds contributed to the lively experience for the audience.

The cast is filled with renowned names such as Jenna Fischer, best-known as Pam from “The Office,” and Reneé Rapp, who played the role of

Regina George on Broadway. Tina Fey and Tim Meadows reprised their roles from the original 2004 movie, each returning as Ms. Norbury and Principal Duvall. Lindsay Lohan, who played the main character Cady in the original movie, came back as the judge at the mathletes competition.

Filming for the movie took place in New Jersey from March to April of 2023. This is in contrast to the original which was predominantly filmed in Toronto, Canada and now is open to the public for visits.

The musical adaptation was released nationwide on Jan. 12, 2024. Opening weekend, the box office made roughly \$33 million in the US and Canada which was more successful than the performance of the original movie in the box office (adjusted for inflation.) Despite initial harsh criticism and poor reviews, the movie continues to be successful in theaters.

One of the main complaints is that the movie trailers did not include any bits of the musical aspects of the film. This misled viewers.

Personally I didn't know it would be a musical but I was informed through social media before I saw the film.

The music isn't exactly the same as the original, as



Reneé Rapp as Regina George in “Mean Girls.”

IMDb

changes were made in order to modernize, set it with current times and add musical components to it. However, it is pretty close to a remake with the storyline.

There were many people who didn't realize it was a musical adaptation, and as a result this movie fell short of their expectations.

IMDb gave this musical adaptation 6.3/10 and Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 70 percent. The audience score on Rotten Tomatoes was much lower at 66 percent.

The rating for this movie probably would have been higher if it was better marketed as a musical.

With iconic references to

the original movie like the burn book and Christmas dance, this new musical version of “Mean Girls” brings back old memories.

While reviews might have been mixed, make sure to pull out your pink shirts to wear because “on Wednesdays we wear pink.”

Contrasts in cozy games: “Stardew Valley” v. “Animal Crossing: New Horizons”

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

Finding yourself enticed into a new world can be exhilarating, as you get lost in it. Gaming is a hobby many indulge in, but gets lost as soon as a to-do list extends to multiple pages. Whatever reason you have to play, gaming becomes a part of your life you never knew you needed. There are endless games to play, and the release from real-life burdens causes many to turn to it when things just become too much.

Released back in Feb. 2016, “Stardew Valley” is available across many different platforms and devices, such as Xbox and Steam for PC and Nintendo Switch. The user plays as a farmer, working to make money, or gold, on their late grandfather's farm. Over time, more mechanics are unlocked including upgraded tools, new areas and more complex relationships with non-player characters (NPCs.)

“Stardew Valley” is more realistic and violent than “Animal Crossing.” Players can get mugged in town and pass out in the mines from over-exhaustion while performing tasks.

Additionally, players can get taken to the clinic where they are charged gold for medical care while unconscious. Although that outcome is unfortunate, it is better than having a problem in the mines where players can lose multiple items from their inventory and a range of gold.

The mines are unique in “Stardew Valley” as players can discover ores such as copper, iron and eventually gold, to upgrade and craft several of their items. Also in the mines monsters lure and players must attack the oncoming creatures with a sword or weapon to continue on. The monsters drop loot, which can be used for a variety of essentials in the game. In “Animal Crossing”, the concept of mines is not in the game. Rocks and stone material are

collected from six rocks scattered randomly around the player's island, which make more resources daily.

One upside of “Stardew Valley,” is that the game is not synced with real-time like “Animal Crossing: New Horizons.”

In other words, players can go to sleep and wake up with full energy the next day unless the health or energy bar ran out the day before. This makes it easier to make quick progress in a short time since new activities can be unlocked every in-game day.

Released in March 2020 during the early stages of the pandemic, “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” soared in popularity due to its family-friendly appeal. NPCs are programmed to be nice to the player and fainting can happen, though it's less common than passing out in “Stardew Valley.”

“Animal Crossing: New Horizons” doesn't allow complex relationships to be built with NPCs, unlike

“Stardew Valley.” The same text is reused multiple times among the same personality type, making the characters feel similar in many aspects except for their appearance and home design. The characters are meant to eventually move off the island and be replaced with someone else, unlike “Stardew Valley” which keeps the same people in the town for the entirety of gameplay.

Furthermore, “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” has no energy bar though gameplay is synced with real time. For example, if a user plays at 3 a.m., the game reads as three in the morning. This can make shop hours quite annoying for night owls or full-time employees and students. However, a mechanic called time skipping easily solves this issue. Unfortunately, due to the synced time, players miss an in-day game if they have to skip playing for whatever reason. This can cause some issues with developing the island, such as missing

Daisy Mae's turnips or missing Redd's art boat.

Overall, personal preference of the games will determine which of these games players would prefer to dive into.

“Animal Crossing: New Horizons” is definitely more geared towards all age groups and those who love the idea of designing their own island. “Stardew Valley” seems to do better with those who are familiar with more “traditional” gaming such as Minecraft and Roblox.

These games all prioritize grinding for resources and upgrading tools and weapons.

Both games have a wonderful player experience, are lifestyle simulations and have their own charm that draws players in.

“Stardew Valley” and “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” are two games that people looking to engage in a creative and interactive hobby should try out.

Reviving the On-Screen Percy Jackson

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

After grueling years of waiting and only receiving inaccurate movies (to put it lightly,) the Percy Jackson fandom has gained their new obsession: "The Lightning Thief" TV show. The first two episodes of the show were released on Disney+ on Dec. 19, a day earlier than the anticipated release date. Spoilers ahead!

The show focuses on two Greek demigods – Percy Jackson and Annabeth Chase – and their satyr (half goat half man) best friend Grover Underwood. They must travel on a quest to retrieve Zeus' missing master bolt which Percy was accused of stealing (despite not even knowing about the Gods his whole life.) To add to the pressure, they have a week to find the bolt before Zeus declares war on Poseidon.

The show is based on the book series of "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. Like many successful book to screen adventures, Riordan took on the role as writer and producer of the new series. The author openly stated his disappointment in the movie adaptations of the first two books of his series

and made sure the TV show was something fans would love. He didn't disappoint, as every expectation was exceeded.

The cast is filled with plenty of new talented actors such as Walker Scobell as Percy Jackson, Leah Sava Jeffries as Annabeth Chase and Aryan Simhadri as Grover Underwood. Each of the actors were casted by Riordan himself which shows in their performances of these iconic characters. Jeffries has just enough sass mixed with the toughness of the demigod Annabeth's mother made her to be. Scobell embodies the meme of "Persassy," while also being the boy who just cares deeply about his mom. Simhadri portrays Grover's kindness while also reflecting the character's trauma-filled past. Each of these characters are true to the original books, proving that Riordan selected an excellent cast for this massive undertaking.

There was some controversy revolving around the cast when the actors were first announced. Most of the controversy came from Jeffries being cast as Annabeth Chase. In the books, she is described to be a blonde with stormy gray eyes – actively opposing the "dumb blonde" stereotype. Lots focused on

the fact that Jeffries is black, disliking the casting for the physical descriptions. Jeffries had multiple TikTok accounts shut down due to the hate she was receiving and other social media accounts as well. It got bad enough to where Riordan went online to address the hate she was receiving as a 12-year-old at the time. However, Jeffries' performance blew everyone away once the show was released. Those who supported her and Riordan's decision confirmed what they already knew: Riordan is making the best possible decisions for this show to be as accurate and entertaining as possible.

The special effects within the show are also something to mention. Just from the first five episodes, monsters such as the minotaur, a bull-headed man, have come to life in such detail that Percy can launch on top of him using his technically generated tidy whities. When Riptide transforms from its disguised pen state into Percy's beloved sword, it is natural and flawless. The scene of the Chimera attack on top of the St. Louis Gateway Arch looks so realistic and painful. Every effect in the show has only furthered the plot more, allowing the descriptive details of the books to come out in this



Percy Jackson and Annabeth Chase go through the Tunnel of Love as a part of a side quest. IMDb

wonderful adaptation.

Additionally, the accuracy in the plot is a reason this show has been so loved among existing fans. For example, the scene where Percy receives Riptide from Mr. Brunner (Chiron) during the Yancy Academy field trip is spot on, a detail that gets commonly glossed over in other interpretations. As the story progresses forward, fans are more excited to see what will happen and how the show will fulfill the dream adaptation that has been long

awaited.

Writing for season two has begun, though Riordan has confirmed that there has been no green light yet. Fans, both new and old, are anxious for each episode to come out and love the ones already released. The show is a brilliant work of art that those with a Disney+ account should make time for and invite their friends and family without one. "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" (the TV series) has blown everyone's expectations out of the water.

Local Eats with Lanie



Looking for a place to eat? Look no further than Lock and Mule, located in the heart of downtown Lockport.

Offering an elegant but relaxing ambiance along with delicious food and friendly staff, this place is a fun hangout spot for the student body.

Lock and Mule offers a unique dining experience compared to other restaurants in the area by providing personable service and gourmet-quality food at a reasonable price.

The menu includes a wide variety of food such as:

salads, soups, chili, pizza and more.

The restaurant is also known for its classy cocktails and IPAs. Lock and Mule is owned by Tangled Roots Brewing Company which is one of the four restaurants they operate.

As a burger-lover, I was drawn to the cease and desist burger.

The description had my mouth watering before I could taste the food – "house-made patty, half and half ground beef and bacon, aged cheddar cheese, applewood smoked bacon, chipotle aioli, tomato and arugula."

The managers and other employees build relationships with customers during their dining experience. Cassy Byrne, the hospitality manager, shared that "We are looking for customers

to come in and have a great time.

It's encouraged for the managers to go around, chat with customers and get to know the faces that come in there."

Byrne sees a big future for Lock and Mule. "I see the restaurant continuing to rise, and customers continuing to come back, and the staff continuing to make it an enjoyable place for everyone, whether it's families coming in or couples wanting a night out."

The goal of the staff is for customers to be happy and keep returning.

The Lockport location has been open for a little over three years and Byrne has been there since the beginning.

She described herself as a social butterfly saying that interacting with the customers is her favorite part.

LOCK AND MULE

The busier, the better. Lock and Mule has a great social vibe and the staff wants to keep it that way.

Aside from the people she is surrounded by, Byrne loves to indulge in the food as well. Her current favorite is one of the chef's specials, the chicken adobo tacos.

Bartender Jalen Williams was also eager to comment on his employment at Lock and Mule.

He was inspired to work for the restaurant after being encouraged by a family member who worked there as a bartender.

Williams' favorite thing on the menu is the chipotle cheese steak panini, because "between the mushrooms cheese and chipotle ranch, and of course steak, you can't go wrong."

For Williams, Lock and Mule never feels like a job because he loves where he works.

Williams shared that the staff is so supportive and it is the first job he's had in a long time that allows him to be himself.

Similar to Byrne, Williams' favorite part of the job is interacting with guests.

This sentiment is felt in the service customers receive, because it is obvious that the employees enjoy what they are doing.

You can judge a place on how good their burgers are, and this one delivered and surpassed my expectations.

The next time you're looking for a place to eat near Lewis, Lock and Mule should be on the list!

CAMPUS LIFE

The Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Gallery: Showcasing spectacles for 2024

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Gallery, located in the Oremus Fine Arts building, delivers the campus with past and present artists that are looking to make a name for themselves. This semester, the gallery is hosting an Alumni Art & Design Invitational, the President's 16th Annual Art Exhibition and a Senior Capstone Exhibition.

To celebrate 100 exhibits, the gallery is hosting an Alumni Art & Design Invitational. A call has been put out to all alumni and anyone is welcome to enter up to three of their own pieces and each artist having at least one piece.

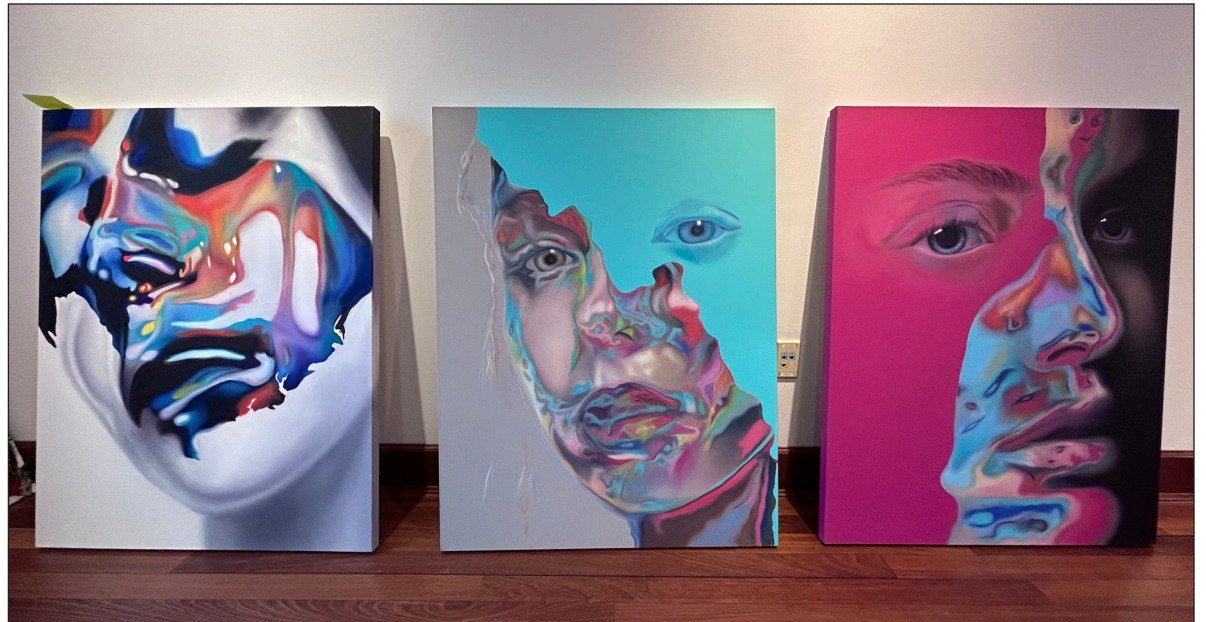
The majority of the alumni who participate typically hold an art degree but anyone from all departments and fields of study of the university. The Alumni Art & Design will be on display from Feb. 5 - March 22, concluding with a reception on the final day.

A fundraiser will also take place during the reception complete with karaoke, drinks and appetizers. Tickets will be available online soon.

Natalie Swain, the art gallery coordinator, is excited about this project. "We have been getting a lot of recent alumni but we have also been getting alumni from over twenty years ago submitting their pieces. It kind of spans the whole time here at Lewis, so it is very nice to see them coming back, connecting with each other and supporting the university and gallery."

The following show is the President's 16th Annual Art Exhibition, open to all interested students. "You can be in aviation, you may like web design, maybe you take great photos or maybe you just have a passion for art," states Swain. Students are able to submit up to five pieces to showcase their creative skills.

Dr. Livingston donates \$1,000 in prize money to this popular event. The money is split and awarded to multiple winners to



MICHAEL SACK / CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Three pieces by 2018 Lewis alum Larissa Barnat. From left to right: "South Carolina," "Virginia" and "Florida."

motivate all participants. While not common, non-art majors have won the competition prior to this year's event.

The opening reception and awards is on April 4 from 7-8 p.m. However, the gallery is on view from April 4-26. The gallery will also feature a special talk with the winners during the

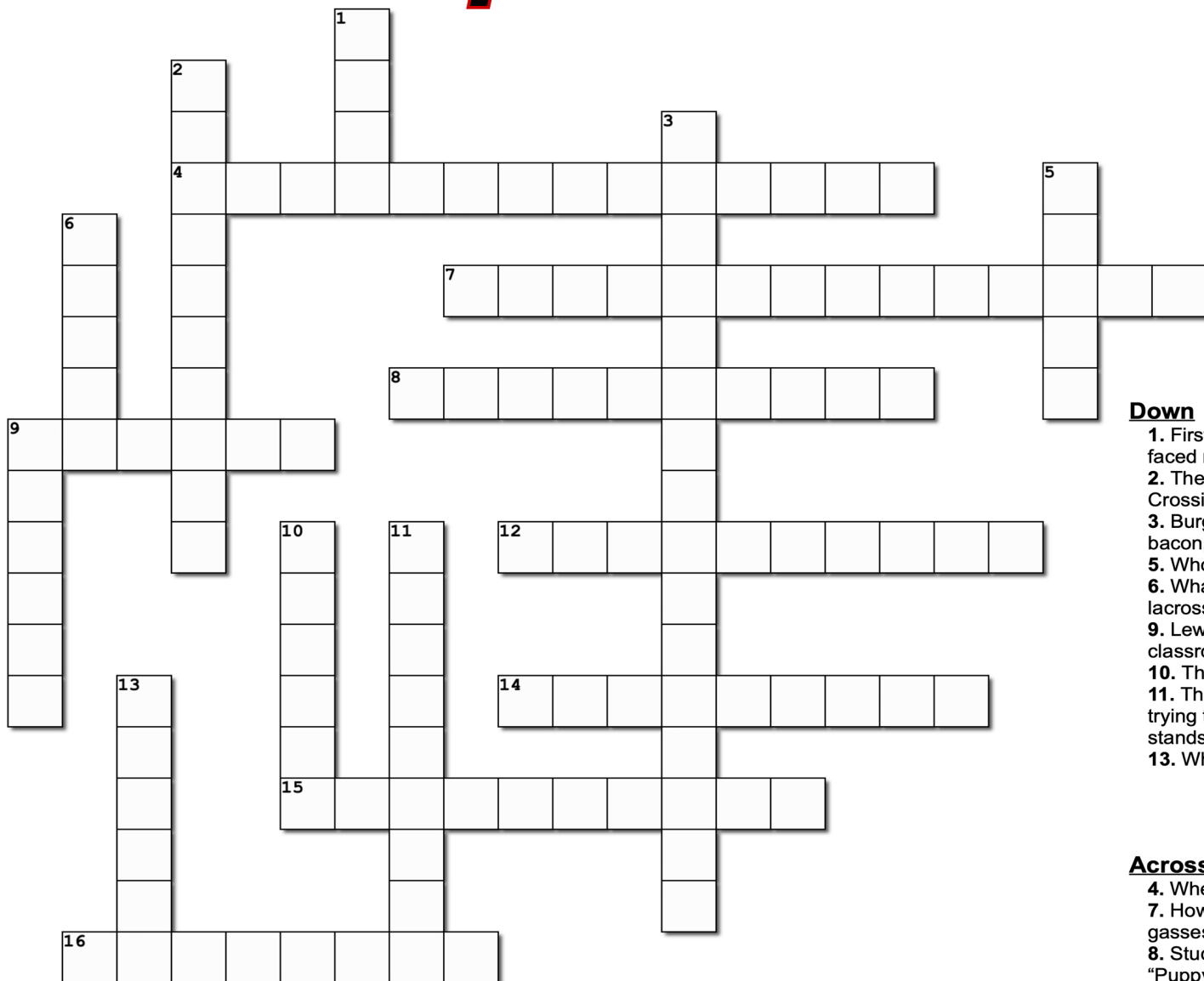
"Celebration of Scholarship" on April 18 from 2-3 pm. A panel of winners will answer any questions and share their impressive work.

The final show of the year is the Senior Capstone Exhibition, on view from May 2-12, beginning with an opening reception and gallery talk on May 2 from

7-9 p.m. A chance for students to earn Arts & Ideas credits and to be exposed to a new world of beautiful art being created on their very own campus.

If you have any questions or inquiries feel free to reach out to art gallery coordinator, Natalie Swain through her email, swainna@lewisu.edu.

Campus Crossword



Down

1. First name of the Percy Jackson cast member who faced racial discrimination...
2. The type of games "Stardew Valley" and "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" are...
3. Burger with aged cheddar, applewood smoked bacon, tomato, arugula, and chipotle aioli.
5. Who recruited baseball coach Vucsko?
6. What you call moving around an opponent in lacrosse.
9. Lewis alumni who donated to the new business classroom.
10. The _____ Fine Arts Building.
11. The Supreme Court has run into a problem when trying to decide this case as the Chevron _____ stands.
13. Who is Jet's supervisor?

Across

4. Where to go for light therapy on campus.
7. However, _____, the largest source of greenhouse gasses in the U.S., has been on the rise.
8. Student Engagement's upcoming event similar to "Puppy Palooza".
9. What team did Connor Bedard get hurt against?
12. The National Center for Education Studies completed a report about _____ rates.
14. Actress who played the role of Regina George on Broadway.
15. Who Julia expected would be a better role for Lily Bloom.
16. McKendree's mascot.

Rules:

- Complete the crossword by reading the stories
- Return completed puzzle to room JP-012 before Feb. 21
- First 3 winners to present a completed puzzle win a gift card

Fighting the freezing temperatures

JADA LAW
REPORTER

It's that time of year again. Freezing temperatures, blankets of snow covering the ground and the occasional yelp from someone slipping on ice.

How can Lewis best manage the cold?

January happens to be one of the coldest months in Illinois.

This leads to preventative measures taken by Lewis to ensure the safety of students and staff (especially those not used to this type of climate.)

With that in mind, the Campus Emergency Planning Team evaluates campus conditions, statuses of nearby schools, and road conditions when weather is severe.

This evaluation will determine whether the campus will remain open or shut down.

Updates regarding the school's weather decisions are sent to students and faculty through the Lewis University Emergency Notification System. This system delivers announce-

ments through email and phone as well as an online posting on the University's website.

Freshman, undecided major Tiyanna Carter finds the notification system beneficial. She stated, "Because of all the snow before the first day of school, I wasn't really sure if we would have class that day."

However she went on to mention, "after checking my email I saw a message had been sent out by our school that class was not canceled which was super helpful for me."

As temperatures drop, the concern for frostbite and hypothermia increases.

Additionally, the cold temperatures lead to a rise in COVID-19 and flu cases.

To help prevent these illnesses, Lewis has linked tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) on their website for students.

Ideally, it is important to stay indoors if possible during frigid weather but this may be difficult for students with in-person classes.

To combat the temperatures, make sure to dress appropriately for the weather including hats, gloves, scarves and a warm winter coat.

Additionally, covering parts of the body including the nose, ears, cheeks, chin and fingers with warm clothing are seen to be the most effective in preventing the chance of developing frostbite.

Knowing these precautions, as well as other tips provided by the school, is a way you can keep yourself out of harm and avoid shivering in the blistering cold.

To further support students, The Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Activities provided hot chocolate topped with marshmallows and whipped cream.

Additionally, the Health and Wellness Center offers light therapy to aid with the lack of sunshine.

Students such as freshman aviation major Shamah Chinyanga have implemented these tips.



KATHERINE GROPPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

The frigid and icy conditions make it difficult for students to get to class.

"Recently I've been wearing layers plus my winter clothes.

I also try not to be outside too much and go straight to my dorm after class."

He explained that he frequently checks the weather app and Lewis updates to see what measures he should take to stay safe during this winter season.

As the campus experiences

ongoing freezing temperatures, it's crucial for students and faculty to stay alert about the weather, keep warm and protect themselves from potential illnesses or other winter-related hazards.

Let's prioritize safety, bundle up and anticipate the arrival of warmer temperatures signaling the end of winter.

A glimpse into a great year for new Lewis events

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Activities works hard each year to organize events and experiences for the student body. With the fall 2023 semester in the rearview, the department looks forward to the events in store for spring.

The "Winter Involvement Fair" held Jan. 24 during the extended community hour kicked off the semester's events. Welcoming both new and returning students, the event allowed attendees to explore various clubs and even offered prizes. To encourage conversation, students were entered into a raffle to receive free Flyer swag after visiting 10 tables. In terms of refreshments, complimentary hot chocolate bars and s'mores were provided.

Looking forward to February, Black Student Union is cooperating with Student Engagement to celebrate Black History Month. The club is hosting a field trip to the city to watch a Chicago Bulls game. The opportunity presents a chance to spend a night with new or familiar friends filled with high flying dunks, three-pointers and a hopeful win for the historic Bulls.

Along with the basketball game, Student Engagement is collaborating with Sodexo Dining in order to honor and represent Black American cuisines. Sodexo, happy to prepare different cultural foods, looks to capture what makes Black Ameri-

can cuisine delicious and soulful for the month of February.

Looking for a break? Coffee & Conversation, hosted by the faculty of the Student Wellness Center is a way to converse with other new students. Occurring every Tuesday as a weekly event, some choose to go each week, while others may only go once for the experience. Even if you just wanted to stop for coffee, its purpose is to draw in different personalities to discuss different healthy habits for school, answer fun questions and enjoy downtime with fellow students.

Looking to compete on a virtual level? E-Sports is offering open gaming sessions within the E-Sports lounge. Including consoles and gaming platforms such as PC, Switch, X-Box, PlayStation, Oculus and various Racing Sims!

On Feb. 7, Student Engagement plans to enhance and broaden the beloved "Puppy Palooza" event with "Furry Bowl." This larger-scale gathering in the field house will feature a group of therapy dogs. This event is the perfect opportunity for students, faculty and staff to meet and play with these furry friends. It's also a great stress reliever to take a break from schoolwork.

Community Hour activities every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. encourage students to engage in a variety of interactive activities such as "Hunger Games" trivia, DIY projects, open improv sessions, mass, open gaming hours and an assortment of games that allow students to interact with



Photo courtesy of: Anjelika Angosta

Students gather in the University Dining Room to learn about different ways to get involved on-campus.

each other.

Charlie Rickerson, a junior aviation flight major and a student-worker in the Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Activities states that, "It is just a great way for commuters to

get involved on campus and for everyone to enjoy a break during the week. We have a blanket event coming up where you can make your own blanket with different colorful fabrics we bring. I also enjoy any D.I.Y. event or

any time there is Bingo." Make sure to mark your calendars with these special events and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to studentactivities@lewisu.edu.



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You can apply via the **myLewis** portal on the Records and Registration page.

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Questions? See your Academic Advisor for more information.

Getting loud for women's lacrosse

JADA HARVEY
SPORTS EDITOR

With three preseason wins already in the books, the women's lacrosse team is gearing up for their main season. Sophomore education major, Erin Cronin, spoke about the team's road to success and the goals they have set in place.

The program began in 2019 and continues to develop. This year is set to be one of the strongest yet, with two returning graduate students leading by example and four incoming freshmen spicing up the chemistry.

Though skill can be improved upon, team culture is an aspect that can be hard to master. However, to Cronin, her team's culture is what will lead them to victory. "I think our team dynamic is really good right now so I think that will transfer into the games in the season. As long as we can play well together I think we'll be successful."

She expanded upon this, saying, "We all get along so well on the field and off the field. We are always joking around and we hang out all the time. We're all just really close." She explained how even though they have a lot of fun with one another, they are able to draw the line and focus when necessary. Come game time, they are ready to

support one another with encouragement, always hopeful for each other's successes.

Along with chemistry, communication is a large aspect of the game. As a defender, Cronin highlighted that it is critical to smooth play, saying, "The defense always has to be talking. [For example] who has the ball and if we're a man down you have to say who has two girls. The ball is constantly moving so you have to constantly be telling people where you are."

The goalie is a pivotal leader in communication. Since they can see the whole field, they help guide the defense into the best positioning and get them marked up on an opposing player. At the same time, the offense is communicating and calling out plays. In short, the field needs to be loud. Cronin agreed that this is one of the harder parts of the sport, since keeping yourself on top of everything is taxing enough. However, in a team sport you must be able to communicate with those around you and hold them accountable. This way, every player is on the same page and can work towards the same goal.

The final pieces of the puzzle are gameplay and individual skills. This includes throwing accurate passes, different types of dodges and speed

and agility. Cronin described a practice week in the spring as consisting of two days of skill work and three days of team activities, like offensive plays and defensive strategies. With individual work, Cronin said, "We do a lot of shuttle lines and dodging shuttles. Two players will come at each other and do a face dodge, roll dodge [or] split dodge. It's how attackers attack the cage." Cronin elaborated that dodging simply means moving around an opponent, depending on how one wants to catch the opponent off-guard.

As the women continue to practice, they have one goal in mind: to beat the program's win record. To accomplish this, "we need to do better in our conference games, not playing at other teams' levels and doing what we know we can do. Instead of trying to do some complicated thing in the game, just doing what we practice. If we stick to the plan and execute that well we will be successful," says Cronin.

With two new coaches who work well together, great leadership skills and a work ethic to improve every detail of the game, the lacrosse team keeps their sights high. They know they are capable of the goals they have set and intend to prove it out on the field.



MATTHEW CARLSON/PHOTOGRAPHER

Cronin perfects her skill of throwing accuracy.

Bedard: The future for the Blackhawks

COLLIN MCCARTHY
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

This past summer, The Chicago Blackhawks won the draft lottery to get the first overall pick. With that pick, they drafted perhaps the most anticipated prospect in over a decade: Connor Bedard.

The 2023-24 season is well underway and the All-Star break is just around the corner.

The Blackhawks are steadily improving, but Bedard's debut season has been cut short. Despite the poor winning record, there is a bright future in store for the Blackhawks.

The team saw an average attendance increase of 3,000 patrons this season compared to the 2022 season. The main reason? Connor Bedard. It is no exaggeration to say that he is a prodigy in the making. Upon being drafted, the young star was 17 years-old and already declared NHL ready. He made such a shockwave in the hockey world that

by the age of 15, he was already on Wayne Gretzky's radar. In the world of hockey, Gretzky is nicknamed "The Great One."

Bedard made his presence felt immediately for the Blackhawks fans during his first appearance at home in the United Center.

Bedard scored his first goal in just 90 seconds and has since led the team in goals, assists and points. Now 18, Bedard is leading an entire franchise in all offensive categories.

Unfortunately, the Blackhawks have not fared as well collectively as Bedard has individually.

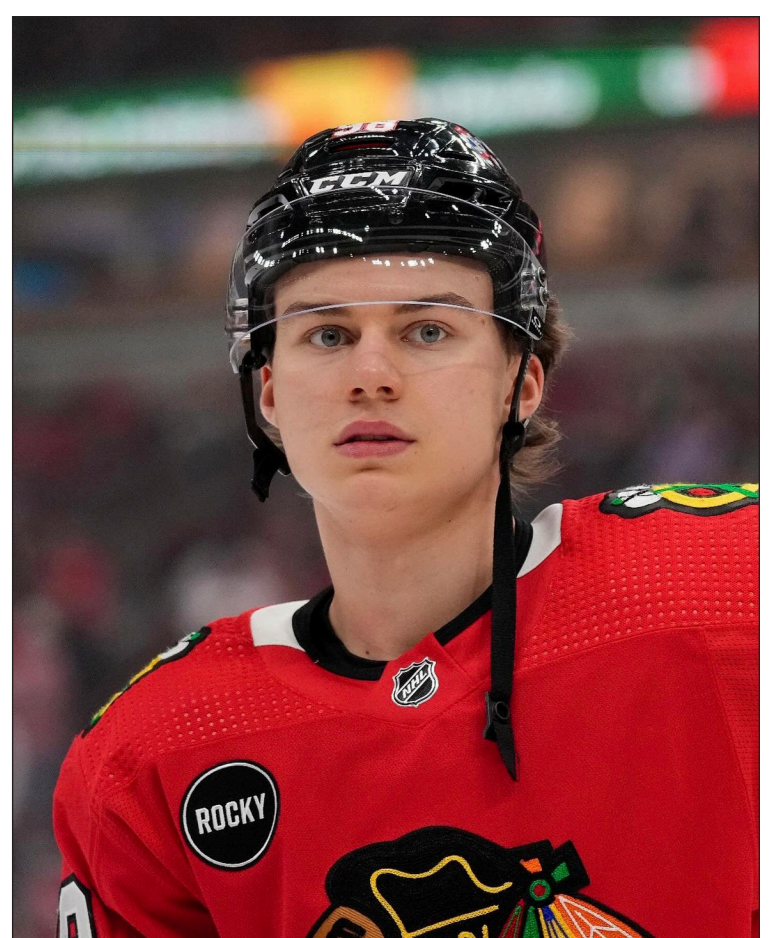
With just one week left before the All-Star break, they are in last place in the central division and have the second worst record in the entire league. The franchise woes can be attributed to the amount of injuries they've had over the course of the season. In the first week of January, their injured reserve list held nine names, including All-Star Connor Bedard.

During a road trip that added five names to the injured reserve list, the biggest blow to the Blackhawks was Bedard suffering a fractured jaw against the New Jersey Devils on Jan. 5. The 18-year-old was slated to become the youngest player in NHL history to make the All-Star game.

However with this injury, not only will he not play in the All-Star game, he won't be playing any hockey until late March.

Without their star player, the Blackhawks have had a rough January. Their offense has been nonexistent, and while their defense has steadily improved over the course of the season, it's not enough to win games. In fact, Bedard has been out for three weeks and still leads the Blackhawks in all offensive categories.

Chicago fans might have a hard time finding something to root for right now, but the future is promising for the franchise and Bedard has proven himself to be the real deal.



CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

Connor Bedard, the number one draft pick of 2023.

The Blackhawks are slated to get another high draft pick and are in the midst of a strong rebuild to once again lift the Stanley Cup.

The Flyers fight for top seed

JADA HARVEY
SPORTS EDITOR

While most of the students were resting from the fall semester, women's basketball has not stopped working. Over break, they spent most days in the gym or traveling for games, including trips to Florida and Missouri.

A moment came for their work to pay off with their game against the McKendree Bearcats. As both teams were fighting for the conference's number one seed, tensions were high.

Fans stood in anticipation as the ball was tossed up to begin the game.

Things were looking tough near the end of the first quarter as McKendree led with a score of 6-16.

Luckily, shots from graduate student Grace Hilber and senior Lily Courier, helped the Flyers take back the reins of the game.

The hot streak continued

into the second quarter with steals by redshirt junior Jenna Badali and junior Tara Gugliuzza, as well as a breakaway layup by Hilber.

Now only down by one, the team started a back and forth brawl for the lead the rest of the game.

Steals and breakaways flew left and right, making it a battle of which team could hang onto the ball better and keep the score in their favor.

With crisp passes and stellar combinations, the Flyers took control and gained a four point lead.

However, with just as much vigor, the Bearcats fought back and tied the game.

Fans were left on the edge of their seats as time ran out, the buzzer blared and the two teams were forced to go into overtime.

The five minutes of added time were filled with screaming in the stands, anxious nerves and the heat of competition. The Bearcats stole the

lead, but their next fastbreak was humbled and resulted in a foul in the Flyers' favor. Badali succeeded in making her two free throws and tied the game up once again.

In the last ten seconds of overtime, the Flyers huddled up in a timeout and tried for a last-second game plan to score the winning point.

As the ball was thrown into play, though, it was picked away by the Bearcats. They managed to get the ball down the court and score a fadeaway shot at the three second mark.

Despite their best effort, the Flyers were unable to recover and the game resulted in a victory for McKendree, 71-69. Although this was a very frustrating loss, the Flyers are determined for the moment that they get another shot at the Bearcats, and finish the work they started.

They defend their home court once again on Feb. 8 against Truman State.



MATTHEW CARLSON/PHOTOGRAPHER

Courier looks to switch the point of attack against McKendree.

PLAYER PROFILE



Senior | Sports Management Major | Marketing Minor

LARISSA ALVES

STATISTICS

- 2x NCAA DII Championships qualifier
- 4x recipient of the Brother David Delahanty Award
- Captain of the women's team 2022-23
- 2x Lewis Pool record holder
- 3x school record holder

What is your favorite part about swimming for Lewis?

"I love the people I have met here. My teammates and the support they give me make me a better swimmer and person. The competition in GLVC is top tier, and I am happy to be able to compete in such an ambitious atmosphere."

As the season comes down to its last few months, what are your goals?

"Enjoy the conference that is coming up next week with my friends. My biggest goal is to make it to finals at the conference and qualify for nationals for the third time"

When did you begin swimming and what made you start?

"I began swimming when I was six years old because I wanted to follow the footsteps of my older brother, who was also a swimmer."

If you did another sport besides swimming, what would that sport be?

"Football (not American) and basketball because I'm a big fan of both, and during the off-season [from swimming], I like playing for fun with friends."



High standards set for baseball

COLLIN MCCARTHY
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The baseball team is looking to return to the diamond to continue what they started last season.

With the guidance of head coach, Mike Vucsko, the team accomplished a 30 game win-streak, the program's first since 2013. Vucsko will be entering his third season as the Flyers head coach, hoping that this season will live up to the precedent that he and his team has set in 2022.

Coach Vucsko's success as a head coach has been a long time coming.

He began his career at Lewis as a player back in 2008. He was recruited by

head coach Irish O'Reilly.

Vucsko would play for and become the assistant coach under Tim McDonough before finally being named the head coach in 2022. "Being named in the same sentence as Gillespie, O'Reilly and McDonough is an honor," said Vucsko.

Vucsko discussed his new found responsibility being the head coach, "You have to make decisions on who's playing, who's sitting and some of the discipline decisions with grades or off-the-field issues.

You have to be the bad guy [sometimes.]" More importantly than being a disciplinarian, Vucsko says that a lot of being the head coach stems from having good re-

lationships with the players.

"As long as you show them care, they'll be mad at [you] for a day, but they'll get over it."

With five of their six premier offensive players from last season returning, the care that Vucsko has shown them pays off in their leadership.

They will be the ones that the younger players look to for guidance and culture. He explained, "a lot of the intangible stuff goes a long way.

A lot of that is taken care of, as far as the culture goes, which is a breath of fresh air for me."

The Flyers have every intention of winning the same way they did last year: with grit, effort and focus. Vucsko made a point to empha-

size, "you can't rely on talent to win, because if you do, you're probably going to fall short of your goals."

The Flyers' culture reflects this belief, building on fundamentals of hard work and trust that will win games. However, talent still helps. Last year the Flyers proudly named Angelo Cantelo, Michael Alt and Thomas Fox All-Region players and all three will be coming back for the 2024 season.

A star-studded roster of position players, and perhaps one of the most talented pitching rotations in recent memory, sets the Flyers up to bring even better results than last season.

While they have a strong schedule to start the year,

they know it's a long season. The squad has their sights set on the University of Indianapolis, who got the best of them down the stretch last season and in the GLVC Tournament.

"They kind of took our spot in the NCAA tournament last year. We were in the mix.

We got them circled and they came to us this year. So we'll be ready for them for sure." After a discouraging loss, it would be easy for the team to hang their heads and expect the same this year.

However, this team refuses to let up. Drive and mental strength will help them secure the wins they are fighting for this season.

SPORTS RECAP

[1/3 - 1/21]

MEN'S SPORTS

BASKETBALL

1/3 vs. Missouri S&T
Romeoville, Ill. W: 96-74

1/6 vs. Upper Iowa University
Fayette, Iowa L: 70-80

1/11 vs. William Jewell College
Liberty, Mo. W: 70-63

1/13 vs. Rockhurst University
Kansas City, Mo. L: 72-94

1/18 vs. McKendree University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 68-62

1/20 vs. UMSL
Romeoville, Ill. W: 79-68

VOLLEYBALL

1/5 vs. Central State University
University Park, Pa. W: 3-0

1/6 vs. Penn State University
University Park, Pa. L: 2-3

1/11 vs. UCLA
St. Louis, Mo. L: 1-3

1/13 vs. Brigham Young University
St. Louis, Mo. W: 3-2

1/19 vs. Merrimack College
Romeoville, Ill. W: 3-0

1/20 vs. Kentucky State University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 3-0

WOMEN'S SPORTS

BASKETBALL

1/3 vs. Missouri S&T
Romeoville, Ill. W: 92-66

1/6 vs. Upper Iowa University
Fayette, Iowa W: 68-65

1/11 vs. William Jewell College
Liberty, Mo. W: 72-67

1/13 vs. Rockhurst University
Kansas City, Mo. L: 53-55

1/18 vs. McKendree University
Romeoville, Ill. L: 69-71

1/20 vs. UMSL
Romeoville, Ill. W: 70-66

SWIMMING

1/20 vs. Maryville University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 240-13

BOWLING

1/20-21 @ Storm Baker Challenge
Addison, Ill. 3rd place
176 avg.

SWIMMING

1/20 vs. Maryville University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 221-14