



Stateville prison set for renovations

LUNA SCHAFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

On March 15, Governor Pritzker announced that there will be major upgrades to the Department of Corrections.

Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) stated their plans to demolish and rebuild two of the most important correctional facilities that the state has; the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln and Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill. The reason behind this remodeling is the increasing expenditure that the state has been investing into maintenance in both centers.

Stateville Correctional Center was built back in 1925. The facility has a capacity for 4,134 individuals but currently is home to 1,927. It is known for being a maximum security facility that has hosted many infamous individuals through the decades.

Its layout is designed according to the panopticon concept, which consists of having a layout known as roundhouse. This means that there is an armed tower in the center of an open layout that is surrounded by multiple floors with cells.

Historically, Stateville was one of three sites in Illinois where capital punishment was carried out. This was the case

up until March 1998 where the executions were moved to another facility. Many years later, on March 9, 2011, Governor Pat Quinn signed the legislation to abolish capital punishment in the state of Illinois.

Logan Correctional Center is located in Broadwell Township. It was built back in 1978, and it has a population capacity for 1,397 individuals, but it currently contains 961 inmates. The main purpose of the center is to contain only women and transgender individuals who have broken the law.

The reconstruction of the facilities will have a cost of a total between \$805 to \$935 million. According to the statement released on the Governor's website, this will save the state around \$34 million per year, by lowering the cost of maintenance, and the utility costs. The reason why the government has decided to tear them down is because both facilities are considered to be too old, and making improved facilities would benefit the conditions for the inmates and the personnel.

Michael Zegadlo, Chief of Police at the Lewis University Police Department says, "it's a good time to improve that [Stateville] and improve the security of the employees and the quality of life of the inmates."



MATTHEW CARLSON / PHOTOGRAPHER

Stateville to be rebuilt to improve the safety of the community.

"The higher the population in an environment like that the lower the security, it becomes more challenging to keep the inmates safe and it becomes more challenging to keep the corrections officers safe," said Zegadlo.

As he comments on his opinion, Zegadlo believes that this will have a positive impact on the community, since the gov-

ernment is making sure that the security measures are being increased and improved for the correctional centers.

Currently, the process will not begin until the requirements of the State Facilitates Closure Act are met. This reconstruction is expected to be completed within the next three to five years. The relocation of the individuals contained in both fa-

ilities has yet to be announced.

The planned upgrades and rebuilding efforts at Logan and Stateville Correctional Centers, underscore the state's commitment to modernizing its correctional infrastructure, ensuring enhanced security measures and providing a conducive environment for inmate rehabilitation.

Unprecedented FAFSA errors causing unease

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

On April 9 the Department of Education shocked college students when it announced that up to 40% of FAFSA applications that have so far been submitted this year could contain errors from glitches or other application issues.

The new Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form came out on Dec. 31, 2023. The form is an important asset for many college students in the U.S. as it assists with the paying of higher education costs. The new form however, is experiencing a major setback.

In the past, the application took a little over an hour to complete for first year students. The goal of the application is to determine a student's family contribution to their cost of education. In order to do that the form required the

answering of various questions related to family income, family assets/wealth, tax information and others related to financial status.

The application has traditionally opened up for students on Oct. 1, yet was postponed this past year due to substantial updates. The deadline to be considered for federal aid for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic school year is now June 30, 2024. However, major technical setbacks experienced by students at the end of December 2023 have implications for numerous applicants.

A new feature of the application is that applicants are required to sync their tax information with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) database, something that was optional before. Consent and approval by both parties, the applicant and contributor (parent or legal guardian), must

be provided before continuing the application. Even if contributors have not filed a tax return or do not have a social security number, consent and approval must be given otherwise, applicants will be disqualified from financial aid.

The main change that concerns most students is the new Student Aid Index (SAI) replacing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number. The SAI is not a dollar amount as the number can range between -1500 to 999,999. This number will be used by colleges to determine the type of financial aid applicants will receive and how much they will receive.

On April 11, congress members had a Higher Education and Task Force committee meeting where they addressed the FAFSA concerns after learning about the large number of problems with the new application.

The meeting concluded with lawmakers demanding more information regarding the application errors from the company that oversaw its update.

Tyler Avenatti, senior Sports Management major who plans on continuing his education at Lewis, voiced his concerns.

"As a Lewis Student hearing about the issues involving FAFSA I hope to hear from Lewis the plans in place to continue to help students succeed since FAFSA makes a big impact on a students time here at Lewis," said Avenatti.

The Federal Student Aid (FSA) office normally receives over 17 million applications, yet as of late March, has only received 70 percent of applications.

Colleges and universities across the country have experienced problems receiving students' applications since the roll-out of the new form. Furthermore, there have been

inconsistencies with student tax information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which could have a negative effect on the amount of aid applicants qualify for. According to the IRS, these issues have only impacted around 5 percent of applicants so far which will be addressed and corrected by the department.

The problems with the new form have an impact on incoming freshmen and transfer students across the country. Many colleges have extended their May 1 deadline in order to give students more time to commit to schools due to late FAFSA awards.

Students who have submitted their application in early December are still awaiting to receive their award. The Federal Student Aid has advised students to stay patient while awaiting their award information.

Campus comes together in support of Palestine

IRENA ILIC
NEWS EDITOR

War between Israel and Palestine broke out on Oct. 7, 2023.

However, support for those suffering in Palestine has not wavered to this day. Even on campus, groups are gathering to show solidarity. The Asian American Association along with the Arab American Association and the Muslim Student Association all collectively promoting these efforts.

The Asian American Association (AAA) has 20 members and aims to spread awareness, unity and fellowship regarding Asian culture.

Jade Provance, graduate computer science major, and member of AAA commented on the group's collaborative efforts.

"By working together, we wanted to raise awareness about the crisis by fundraising for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF). We sold ramen and cheesecake in the AS Hallway on Feb. 28. We also had a donation jar that people could contribute to. We'd like to thank everyone who promoted the fundraiser and donated," said Provance.

The event yielded \$500 and the groups donated funds to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

MSA is a large organization on

campus that aims to promote an enhanced understanding of Islam and the cultures that make up the Muslim Ummah. The organization provides a welcoming community for Muslim students on campus as well as students of other faiths and beliefs. The group currently has around 30 active members. MSA was established to share common moral commitments rooted in the message of Islam. These include: engaging in religious, social, and community activities, support educational and intellectual pursuits and continue to promote the goals of Muslim students. Ayesha Khan, President of MSA, commented on the success of the collaboration.

"Working with AAA was such a delightful experience. They are an incredibly hardworking and well organized team. We saw the crises happening in Gaza and knew that we wanted to take some sort of action. We talked out the details over email and at jummah prayer and had our fundraiser on the 28th of Feb. Despite it being a busy week for many students we were able to successfully sell ramen and raise \$500 in donation funds," said Khan.

The Lewis community came together for a cause dear to many. Zaid Sibai, President of the



Photo courtesy of Jade Provance

Muslim Student Association and Asian American Association working together to gather funds for Palestine in times of crisis.

Arab American Association on campus said, "Amidst the genocide and tragic events unfolding in Palestine, it was heartening to witness student organizations unite in solidarity, both raising funds and spreading awareness."

Other groups nationally have shown their support for Palestine as well. Protests around major cities in the US have sprouted since the outbreak of war in Oct. Chicago, holding a Palestinian population of approximately 100,000, has been a national leader in addressing the horrors of the conflict.

On the Muslim holiday of

Eid celebrated this year on April 10th, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson called for a ceasefire in Gaza. This is the second time the city has publicly announced its support for a ceasefire in Gaza in attempts to push the federal government and the Biden administration to do more to ensure the peace and safety of millions. The first resolution narrowly passed on Jan. 31, 2024 and called for a permanent ceasefire along with humanitarian assistance to the region.

In October the Chicago-land area experienced first-hand the effects of the war when a six

year old Palestinian boy was fatally stabbed in a religiously motivated attack triggered by the outbreak of war in Gaza.

Pro Palestine groups have repeatedly gathered around the Consultant General of Israel's building, located at West Madison in downtown Chicago. Protestors are now pushing for permission to march during the Democratic National Convention happening in August at the United Center in Chicago. Protestors are hoping to get their message across to President Biden and the Democrats in wake of the 2024 Presidential Election.

Upcoming events to conclude the 2024 school year

LUNA SCHAFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As the academic year draws to an end, Lewis University hosts a multitude of events designed to celebrate and enrich the student experience and foster community engagement.

In the final weeks of the spring semester, various departments across the university come together to host a diverse range of activities, each serving a unique purpose and contributing to the vibrant campus culture.

Best Buddies

Makayla Brady, President of Best Buddies at Lewis University states, "So our next event is April 25, 2024 from 6:15 to 8 p.m. in the university dining room." She goes on to explain how the Best Buddies and the Occupational Therapy club are collaborating to create an engaging event for students focused on fostering connections and providing valuable sensory experiences.

By engaging in activities such as parachute games to foster teamwork, yoga for relaxation, bracelet-making for self-expression and sensory tools tailored to individual needs, participants will find avenues for sensory processing, stress management and emotional support. Brady further elaborates on this comprehensive

strategy, highlighting its goal of fostering social connections, promoting emotional regulation and enhancing overall well-being. This approach creates a supportive and inclusive environment where students can learn and evolve together.

The Delahanty Awards

The university is gearing up to celebrate the outstanding achievements of its athletes through the Delahanty Awards on April 22. This event not only recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes but also highlights their dedication, resilience and contributions to the university's athletic legacy.

There are three rankings of awards for the event. Bronze is for those who accumulated a 3.25 to 3.499 GPA, silver which is for the athletes who accumulated a 3.5 to 3.749 GPA and gold, which is given to those who accumulated more than a 3.75 GPA. This event serves as a platform to honor their hard work and commitment throughout the year, reinforcing the university's support for its athletic community.

Teamwork and Collaboration Workshop

The accounting department in St Charles Borromeo (SB-152). During the Teamwork and Collaboration Workshop, students will get to partici-

UPCOMING

CAMPUS EVENTS

APR
22

DELAHANTY AWARDS

Flight Deck Dining Room SB 106

🏆

MAY
10

BEST BUDDIES O.T COLLABORATION

University Dining Room AS 104C

🧶

APR
27

ANNUAL PLANE PULL

Harold E. White Aviation Center Hangar HW 170

✈️

MAY
10

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Lewis University Fieldhouse

🎓

OLIVIA BRZEK / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

pate in hands-on activities, engage in discussions and gain valuable insights into effective teamwork strategies.

Plane Pull

The clubs, faculty/staff and athletic teams of Lewis will be gearing up for the annual Plane Pull event, which will take place on Saturday, April 27. The event is located at a university hangar to pull a plane and raise funds for the Special Olympics in Illinois. The purpose is to show-

case teamwork and community spirit, highlighting the university's commitment to inclusivity and support for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Graduation

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024 is set to take place on May 10 to 11. The ceremony will take place inside the fieldhouse of the Rec Center, and will be a joyous occasion where students, professors and family members

unite to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates.

As the academic calendar approaches its culmination, Lewis University continues to exemplify its dedication to fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus environment. This can be seen through a rich tapestry of events that celebrate achievements, promote learning and cultivate meaningful connections among its diverse student body.

OPINIONS

Clothing crisis: why fast fashion is killing the planet

ALEX STYRCZULA
CO-OPINIONS EDITOR

The Chilean Atacama Desert, long hailed as one of the best locations for star-gazing tourists hoping to catch a glimpse of the nighttime sky, has since gained fame through a different unforgettable sight, mountains of discarded cheaply-made clothes.

Fast fashion, a term used to describe the mass production of inexpensive clothing, has found popularity in today's quickly evolving world. With the ability to produce clothing as quickly and as cheaply as ever, people found themselves a new avenue of self-expression at a fraction of the cost. Despite the positives there are a myriad of reasons for why the fast fashion trend should be sacked.

According to a study per-

formed by the United Nations, clothes bought today are, on average, worn seven to 10 times before being thrown out which is 36 percent faster than that of 15 years ago. Along with the decrease in garment longevity, the production of clothes has doubled since the year 2000. Of the 100 billion articles of clothing produced each year nearly 92 million tonnes will end up in landfills or discarded in open areas such as the aforementioned Atacama desert.

The increase in waste as well as the overall growing production of clothes has also contributed to a considerable increase in carbon dioxide emissions from the textile industry. The growing amount of emissions has designated the garment industry responsible for nearly 10 percent of global emis-

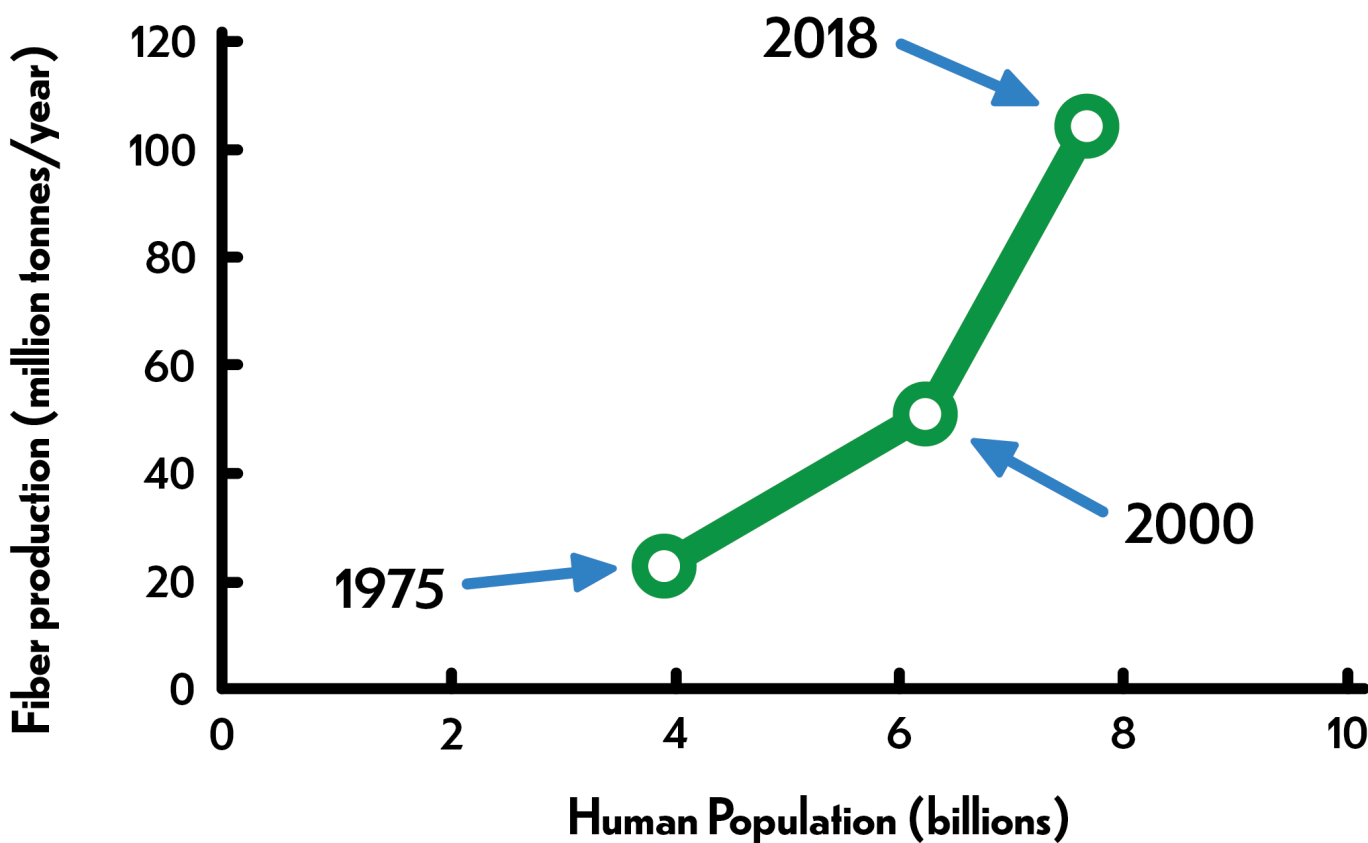
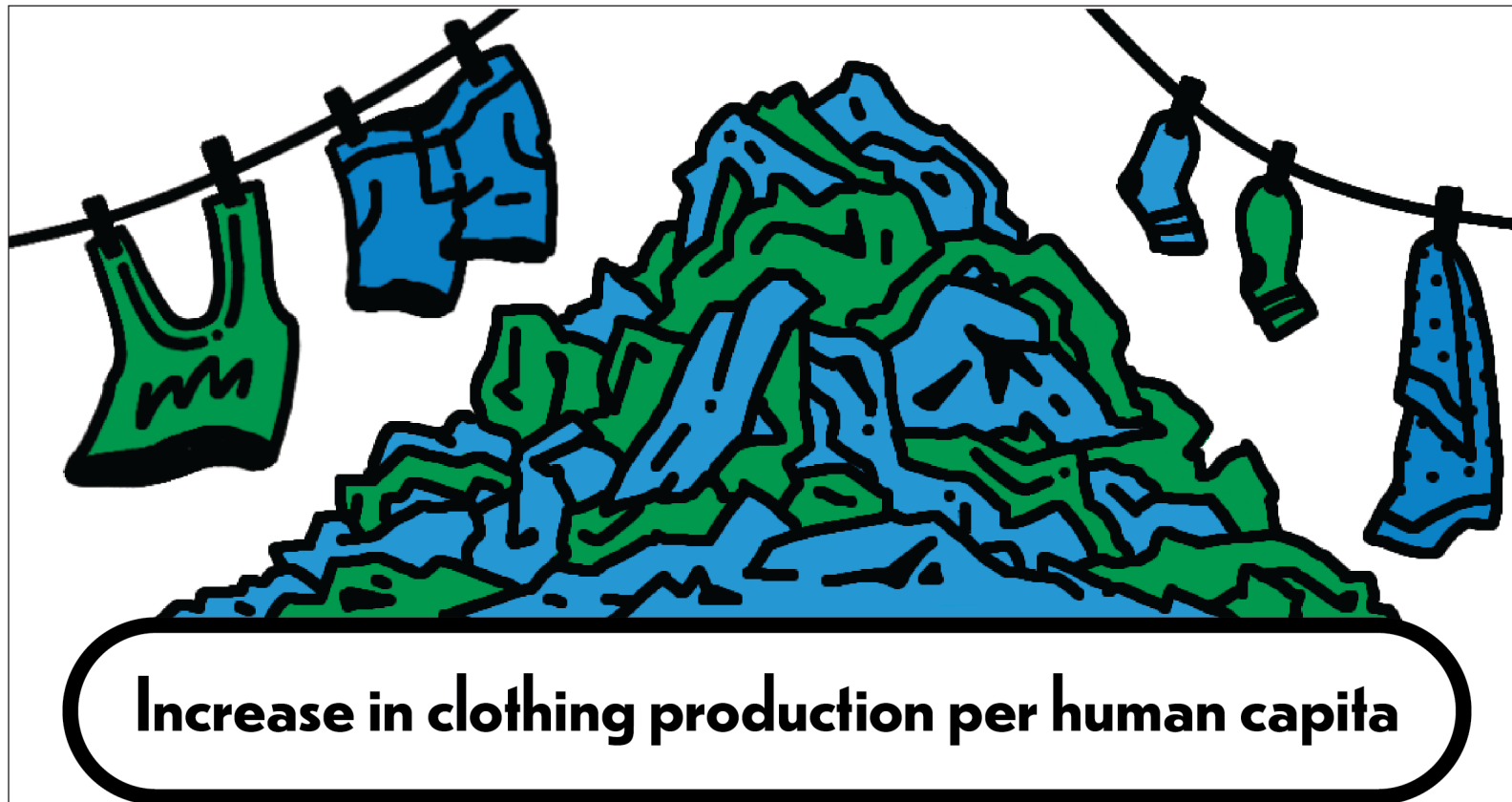
sions. In addition to increasing emissions, fast fashion is also responsible for an increase in water pollution. Today, about 17 percent to 20 percent of the world's water pollution can be attributed to the textile industry, a metric presumed to grow in the upcoming years.

The cheaply produced clothes also leave the wearer and the environment at an increased risk of microplastic exposure. The synthetic materials that make up the fabrics often shed microplastics during the manufacturing process and shed even more when being worn and machine-washed. The accumulation of microplastics poses a threat not only to the environment by affecting weather patterns but also to people by serving as a disease agent while harming the en-

doctrine reproductive systems.

The issue of fast fashion poses problems for more than just the environment. Many of the companies that are associated with fast fashion practices are also associated with profiting off of human rights violations. Despite companies refusing to unleash direct metrics, it is estimated that between 86 percent and 93 percent of clothing brands who outsource their workers do not pay them a livable wage.

Overall, the rise of fast fashion has led to an increase in not only human exploitation and harm but also considerable environmental damage. In order to prevent future human and environmental issues changes in our approach towards fashion must occur.



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

GRACE SUEFLOHN
MANAGING EDITOR
gracemsueflohn@lewisu.edu

ANABEL AGUILAR
WEBMASTER
anabelaguillarramir@lewisu.edu

IRENA ILEC
NEWS EDITOR
irenailec@lewisu.edu

LUNA SCHAFFER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR
lunacuevaschafer@lewisu.edu

LILY COOKE
CO-OPINIONS EDITOR
lilyccooke@lewisu.edu

ALEX STYRCZULA
CO-OPINIONS EDITOR
alexstyczula@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
CO-SPORTS EDITOR
jadalharvey@lewisu.edu

COLLIN MCCARTHY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR
collinbmccarthy@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
kaleymmurray@lewisu.edu

ORLA CLASBY
LAYOUT EDITOR
orlarclasby@lewisu.edu

ALEXIS PRAGIDES
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
alexispragides@lewisu.edu

OLIVIA BRZEK
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
oliviabrzek@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
CAMPUS LIFE REPORTER
jadaalaw@lewisu.edu

GRANT DORSEY
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR
giannabelcastro@lewisu.edu

HAYLEY MILLER
FACULTY ADVISER
millerha@lewisu.edu

TikTok: Potential ban of popular social media app and its repercussions

JULIA LESNICKI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In recent months, the possibility of a TikTok ban has emerged over the world of social media, sparking concerns about its impact on the economy and society.

While the reasons behind the potential ban range from national security concerns to data privacy issues, one aspect that deserves attention is its potential effect on the job market, particularly for influencers and marketers who rely on the platform for engagement.

TikTok, with its user-friendly interface and algorithm-driven content discovery, has become a powerhouse in the realm of social media, with over a billion users worldwide. For many indi-

viduals, especially for Gen Z and millennials, TikTok isn't just a platform for entertainment – it's a livelihood.

Content creators have built careers, amassed followings and monetized their content through brand partnerships, sponsorships and advertising revenue on the app. A TikTok ban would undoubtedly disrupt the livelihoods of these people, who have invested time, effort and resources into building their presence and audience on the platform.

For influencers and marketers, TikTok serves as a valuable channel for reaching and engaging with younger demographics – a demographic desired by brands.

Moreover, the potential ban could have ripple effects on related industries, such as in-

fluencer marketing agencies, content creation studios and digital marketing firms specializing in TikTok campaigns.

These businesses rely on the platform to connect with creators, develop branded content and execute marketing strategies tailored to TikTok's unique format and audience.

Beyond content creators and marketers, the job market in tech and social media industries could also feel the impact of a TikTok ban.

TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, employs 110,000 people globally, including engineers, developers, designers and marketing professionals.

A ban on TikTok could lead to job losses within ByteDance and its affiliated companies, as well as disrupt hiring plans and expansion efforts in re-

gions where TikTok operates.

Furthermore, the ban could create opportunities for competitors to fill the void left by TikTok's absence.

Rival platforms like Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts and Snapchat Spotlight have already launched their own short-form video features to capitalize on TikTok's success.

A shift in user behavior and creator migration to alternative platforms could reshape the competitive world of social media, potentially leading to new job opportunities and challenges for professionals in the industry.

The possibility of a TikTok ban raises legitimate concerns about its impact on the job market, particularly for content creators, influencers, marketers and profes-

sionals in related industries.

While the full extent of the repercussions remains uncertain, it's clear that a ban would disrupt livelihoods, alter business dynamics and reshape the digital landscape in ways that warrant careful consideration and strategic planning for those affected. Young voters need to be more aware and educated on who they are voting for as certain policies could impact their futures more than they know.

As the debate over TikTok's ban continues, people in the job market must stay informed and prepared in navigating the evolution of social media and digital technology.



Julia Lesnicki

"I never thought I would work in journalism at my university. But I am so happy I did because working on The Flyer has prepared me for the real world by honing my communication, organizational and leadership skills in a professional setting. Most of all, I'll miss the staff and the creativity."

Lanie Patterson

"I am so glad that I took on this role and tried something new. The Flyer has definitely been a highlight for me during my time at Lewis, and it has helped me become more prepared for the real world by guiding me to improve my time management skills, writing skills and communication with people in different roles."

Orla Clasby

"Being a part of The Flyer Newspaper team has been such a great part of my Lewis University experience. It has surrounded me with such an amazing group of writers, designers and photographers. It has prepared me for the real world by showing me what great teamwork can achieve, and how design can be applied to so many different fields, such as in journalism."

Kaylee Kosulic

"As a biology major, joining The Flyer was definitely out of my comfort zone. It proved to be one of my favorite experiences during my time here at Lewis. Having this opportunity to be on staff taught me the importance of collaboration and being able to give and receive professional feedback."

Alex Styrzula

"Joining The Flyer was one of the best choices I made during my time here at Lewis. Not only was I able to further develop my communication and writing skills, as well as my research and critical thinking abilities, but I was also able to do so in an encouraging environment with a great group of people."

Grace Suefloh

"The Flyer has given me the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and grow in my writing and leadership skills. I love being able to read a physical copy of the paper after weeks of hard work. I will miss the El Primo layout nights, late-night chats and friends I have made. Thank you Hayley for convincing me to join the staff!"

Katherine Groppe

"Joining The Flyer gave me the chance to expand my photography skills, as well as my ability to communicate with my peers as well as being able to communicate with faculty members and staff about photographing events. I was also glad to work for a news source that I myself had utilized when trying to stay up to date on the happenings at Lewis. I had a wonderful time while working on The Flyer."

Michael Sack

"I only ever really saw myself sticking to myself and just playing volleyball during my time here. I'm so glad I took a leap and decided to join The Flyer, as it has forced me outside of my own bubble by getting to write about interesting things that I did not previously know was happening on our own campus."

Gertie Casey

"Being a part of The Flyer has opened so many friendships and great opportunities for me. As well as help me expand my skills in communication and design. The team is so fun to work with. Layout nights in the basement of JP will definitely be a core Lewis memory that will stick with me. :)"

Colin McCarthy

"Being a part of The Flyer gave me the ability to work with individuals with different backgrounds and life trajectories all while working towards the same common goal. Working in that environment allowed me to understand how to succeed in the professional world."

Take to the skies in “Masters of the Air”

MELANIE PATTERSON
TEMPO EDITOR

The Apple TV mini series “Masters of the Air” is a show that is definitely fit for the aviation students – or anyone interested in history. Set in World War II, the series focuses on a group of U.S. Army Air Force airmen in the 100th Bomb Group flying B-17 heavy bombers from England to Germany for many missions.

These heavy bombers were nicknamed the “Flying Fortress” and based on the size of the aircraft seen in the flight scenes in the show, it is clear why they are called that.

This series is based on the non-fiction book by Donald L. Miller, sharing the same title as the show.

The book follows the story of an American bomber squadron in WWII who brought the war to Hitler’s doorstep, and the show portrays this through nine, one-hour long episodes.

Another influence on this series is John Orloff, who helped write the highly successful 2001 HBO series “Band of Brothers” about a

parachute rifle company of the U.S. Army during WWII. Orloff is one of the main writers for “Masters of the Air” and applied his previous experience to his current work on this show.

Most of the diehard fans of historical documentaries like this can vouch for the historical accurateness of “Masters of the Air.” In fact, there is another docu-

mentary on Apple TV that serves as a companion piece to the mini series titled “The Bloody Hundredth,” which is narrated by Tom Hanks. It puts real-life names, faces and places to the events fictionally depicted in “Masters of the Air.”

There were some changes in the show for the sake of storytelling, but the accuracy remains pretty spot on.

The series was produced by multiple people, including big names like Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg.

The primary stars in the series are Austin Butler (who played Elvis in “Elvis”), Callum Turner (from the “Fantastic Beasts” movie series), Barry Keoghan (Oliver from “Saltburn”) and Anthony Boyle (John Wilkes Booth

from “Manhunt” on Apple TV). Each of these actors portray real men who were a part of the Bloody Hundredth and the show does a little slideshow at the end with real pictures of the men that these actors portray.

The primary filming location was at Dalton Barracks in Abingdon, Oxfordshire in England, where two full-sized Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress airplane replicas stand. There are only a few original B-17’s still in existence, so the show is actually built models of the planes.

Some reviews criticize “Masters of the Air” for relying too much on computer-generated imagery (CGI), but based on the needs of the show and what was available, there wasn’t much that could be done in regards to the planes to make it more realistic.

“Masters of the Air” received a 7.9/10 from IMDb and an 86 percent from Rotten Tomatoes.

Personally, this series renders a 9/10 for me. The only thing that would’ve made it better is the use of the real planes and less CGI, but it is totally understandable



Callum Turner as Major John Egan in “Masters of the Air”.

IMDb

why that wasn’t an option. It was an enjoyable show, as the camaraderie seen among the men was inspiring and heartfelt. Compared to how times have changed since then to today, especially being a Lewis student who

can virtually look up at any time and see a plane above them. “Masters of the Air” is a show that is sure to please its audience, and is a good recommendation for anyone looking for a compelling watch.

“Fourth Wing” takes over booktok

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

“Fourth Wing” by Rebeca Yarros is a fantasy novel that made its way into social media about six months ago. Due to the publicity, the novel blew up in popularity and fans are eagerly awaiting the third installment of the series. Many book reviews followed its rise in popularity, and this article serves to be another one of many.

The adult fantasy novel focuses on Violet Sorrengail, the youngest daughter of General Lilith Sorrengail. Violet is being tested in order to be a dragon rider, the most dangerous career choice there is.

However, it’s not by choice – her mother forced her into the role with only six months of training, compared to the many years her competition had. So, naturally, Violet is nervous.

Once in the academy, Violet must attend classes and complete physical training. The thing is that many candidates die during this training, as the challenges are not intended to be safe or easy. Violet is at even more of a risk, having extreme joint pain and hypermobility. Although it is not directly stated in the novel, Violet is confirmed to have Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS). Violet is also

able to work around her condition at various points, showing the determination and skill of her character.

Her condition helps to develop her character, instead of having her character develop around it.

Violet’s previous training has been for the Scribe Quadrant, where people work in the archives to create and preserve historical and current documents for the kingdom.

Seeing the archives in the novel was a great addition, as the scene allows for nostalgia and a sense of becoming a new person. Her use of the archives when picturing a safe space with Xaden is brilliant, allowing her to keep her love of reading and writing preserved throughout her transformative character arc.

Despite the importance of Violet, there are many other characters who give the story its meaning. Two of these characters are Dain and Xaden, who effectively create a love triangle for Violet to figure out.

Dain is Violet’s childhood friend who she has had a crush on for the longest time. She finds him right after getting across the parapet, the first of many lethal physical challenges. Dain acts as a figure to support the Violet he knew before coming to the academy. But once she embraces her position

in the academy, Dain wants to preserve who she was before. This creates a high tension between the two, where Violet wants to let Dain down but doesn’t know how.

Xaden is the opposite of Dain. He’s powerful and a rebel child – a child of one of the rebels in the previous war. He is an orphan and is at the academy by the force of a deal he made with the king.

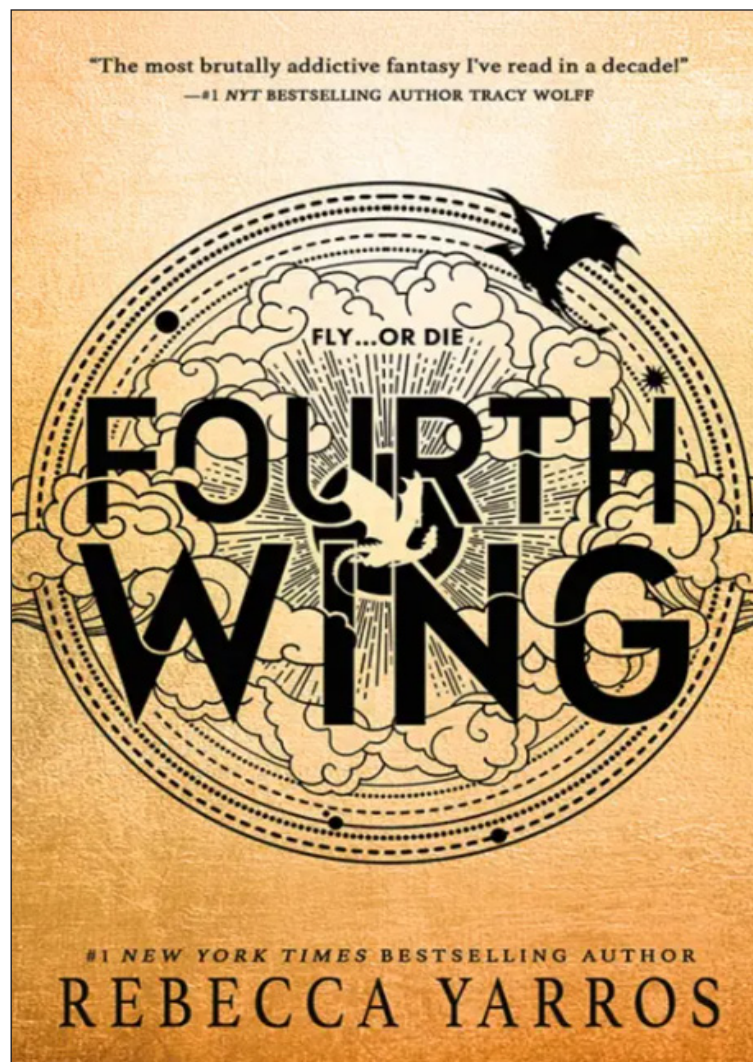
All rebel children are forced to attend the academy to become dragon riders, where they either become protectors of the kingdom or die trying. Xaden is closed off and reserved in the novel, encouraging Violet to change in order to survive.

Over time, they become linked not only through their growing romantic feelings for one another, but also through their dragons’ bond.

Yarros makes the romantic tension to support the plot of the novel.

This book, relationship wise, is like a 1980s sitcom – not completely innocent, but not making relationships the main focus of the plot. It’s acknowledged but not emphasized; giving Violet a sense of independence that gives her character the spark it needs.

All in all, “Fourth Wing” is a wonderful book. Violet, Xaden and Dain all bring together the



“Fourth Wing” was released on May 2, 2023.

Rebeccayarros.com

plot in a complex but beautiful way that makes readers enticed in the book for so long that they won’t even notice the outside world.

If looking for a fantasy with

dragons, this Rebecca Yarros’s “Fourth Wing” is sure to impress. Just do yourself a favor and get the second book in the series “Iron Flame” from the library while you’re there.

A musical journey to hell: "Hazbin Hotel"

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
ASST. TEMPO EDITOR

With the first season released on Amazon Prime, "Hazbin Hotel" has risen to meet the glowing reviews of many. The animated TV show brings forth many well known voice actors through the musical parading of Charlie Morningstar's perspective of hell. This encourages viewers to recognize the importance of healthy and strong relationships among family, friends, and lovers.

"Hazbin Hotel" follows the afterlife of Christianity – heaven and hell. One of the main characters of the series is Charlie Morningstar. Despite being demon-born and living in hell, Charlie has a bubbly and optimistic personality. Always helping those around her, she develops a hotel for sinners to redeem themselves. This hotel is called the Hazbin Hotel, where she lives full time with the hotel staff, her girlfriend, and the sole participant in this new experiment. Over the episodes, another resident joins to redeem himself.

The plot of this show is especially intriguing, incorporating aspects from today's

society while creating this depiction of the afterlife. However, the show is a musical. The music has gained much popularity, with songs such as "Poison" and "You Didn't Know" making their way onto social media. Both comedic and serious pieces of the show have blown up with fans declaring their favorite episodes and characters.

Charlie's optimism is easily balanced by Vaggie, her girlfriend. Vaggie is a human soul in hell who believes fully in Charlie but not in heaven's ability to change someone to have an open-minded mentality and allow redemption. Vaggie is the embodiment of the saying "I don't get paid enough for this," as she chases Charlie throughout heaven in the opening song titled "Happy Day in Hell."

Angel Dust is another pessimistic character, even more so than Vaggie. Angel sold his soul to Valentino (also known as Val), one of the famous Vees, in order to achieve fame in the movie industry in hell. Throughout the series, it is revealed that Angel is facing extreme abuse from Val. It starts in the first episode, where Val calls Angel and leaves voice-



The first episode of "Hazbin Hotel" came out on January 18, 2024.

IMDb

mails asking him to come back while shouting abusive insults. Angel's boiling point is seen in episode four, which is called "Masquerade." In this, he has a solo song called "Poison," where he displays the desperation to escape this life but also knows that he sold his soul to Val by choice. This song is loved among the fandom, with Husk's response in "Loser, Baby" later in the same episode receiving mass attention and love from viewers.

Another character who supports Charlie's journey is Alastor. Like Val, Alastor is another overlord in hell. He helps Charlie by protecting the hotel and getting repairmen for the several times in which the bar wall is blown down. Alastor's intentions are hard to grasp throughout the show, but the musical numbers he's a part of help bring the plot together. His voice has a bit of distortion on it, like an old radio static. He is a radio demon who runs

a podcast. Attention to detail is high within the show, seen within Alastor and other characters along with the animation.

"Hazbin Hotel" is a wonderful show, with songs that will stick in your head for days on end. The fandom for the show is large and growing. Overall, the show is worth a watch for the complexity of characters and the catchy tracks. Just don't be surprised if you can't stop singing the songs.

Local Eats with Lanie

ALLEGORY

Located on Main Street in downtown Naperville, The Allegory is a chef-owned, farm-to-table establishment with lots to offer. The relaxing, chill ambiance and tasteful decor combined with the incredible food options creates an experience for each customer that is unmatched.

The customer experience is something that the staff at the Allegory work on tirelessly. Their goal is for every new visitor to become a regular. Chloe Hild, a server who has worked at the restaurant for three years now, emphasized the importance of customer experience.

Hild says that they draw in people through "the ethos of the restaurant, as being a smaller and independently owned spot, and farm to

table" establishment sets them apart from other restaurants in the area. They strive to keep a cool and dynamic atmosphere in hopes of bringing in customers that will grow their business and community.

The restaurant itself is a beautiful setting, and is intentional in the way that it was put together. Even the paint color was specially chosen, as "the color the owner chose to paint the ceiling is the color of the sky right when the sun fully goes down." The owner's goal is to make it feel like you were coming into his backyard to sit down and eat.

As for the menu, it changes often due to the restaurant using fresh and local ingredients for their entrees.

Hild explains that "the biggest changes of the menu happen during the changing of the seasons because of the produce that's growing at the time, and the vibe that you want on the menu changes too."

Even though it changes a lot, the menu keeps their most popular dishes available, like their shrimp and grits, or 'Kiss My Grits' as it's seen on the menu. This is Hild's favorite dish as the blackened shrimp, really good grits, and brown butter never gets old for her. The shrimp and grits are a personal favorite of mine and deserve a 10/10.

She included how the rest of the staff at the Allegory adds to the vibe of the establishment. "Everyone who

works here is incredibly cool and we really do love our customers, and want to give you the best experience." Their influence on the community is greater than just in the space of the restaurant, though.

"This is one of the last community oriented spots in downtown Naperville. We attempt to be sustainable as best we can, we like to work within the local community, we take a lot of local beers and products from local distilleries," said Hild. The restaurant does this in an effort to stay locally sourced and make a positive impact on the community.

Their influence isn't just in Naperville alone, but extends beyond to the rest of the Chicagoland suburbs.

"This is the place where people who are locals in towns here will take their friends," and I couldn't agree more, says Hild.

While it's a smaller venue in downtown Naperville, that doesn't stop it from standing out in the crowd.

Hild finishes by saying that "this is a great place to show off, and is one that will keep you coming back." Each time you enter, you feel like you're right at home. There is always a reason to go back too, especially when the menu changes with the seasons.

Go listen to her advice and see for yourself where all the locals go, and be sure to spread the word about The Allegory!

CAMPUS LIFE

Inclusion and new Best Buddies

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Best Buddies is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing global and local volunteering movements.

They look to create opportunities such as one-to-one friendships, employment integration, leadership skills development and inclusive living all for people with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities.

Luckily, Best Buddies Illinois has its own chapter here at Lewis, led by faculty advisor Dr. Jen Buss. They help organize different events here for individuals with disabilities, and assign buddies to those who participate in the program. Students who are a part of the club help build connections through each pairing, associating students to a new friend through their favorite one-on-one activities or in groups.

One group event in particular that helps connect the buddies to the rest of the campus is what is known as the Best Buddies Olympics.

The event takes place each year and typically offers a vari-

ety of sports and athletic events for the buddies to partake in. At each sport, participants are accompanied by athletes from different athletic teams at Lewis to assist each individual and to join in on the fun.

"Participating in the Best Buddies Olympics as a student-athlete was an exciting way to build relationships and give back to the Lewis community," states freshman mathematics major, Zach Pekol.

"I had the chance to meet multiple new people of all different ages and backgrounds. I am beyond grateful that I had the opportunity to share my passion for volleyball with others and help them make unforgettable memories."

Pekol, being new to the event and the organization, was able to interact with new friends and faces through his love of his sport, volleyball.

"The interactions that I made with my new friends were priceless. Everyone was super outgoing, friendly and wanted to have fun. The buddies were super excited to have the opportunity to play volleyball with us, and they truly brought the energy," says Pekol. "We had some intense games and long rallies.



Photo courtesy of Zach Pekol

Best Buddies pose with the Lewis Men's and Women's volleyball team.

The experience is something I will remember for the rest of my life."

Hannah Alvey, a senior psychology major on the women's volleyball team believes, "The Best Buddies event is about connecting with others, and I think our team as a whole did a great job of building relationships in the short time that we had with the buddies."

She sheds light on the benefits of having the program on campus.

"Participating in the Best Buddies Olympics was a great opportunity to give back to the community and provide the buddies with a fun night of sports. All of the buddies that played volleyball with us had so much fun and it was awesome to get

to know each and every one of them," continued Alvey.

The Best Buddies organization revolves around the idea of providing opportunities for buddies to explore new activities and form connections with individuals who selflessly support and uplift their spirits each year at Lewis and across the world.

Experience the divine musical: "Godspell"

JADA LAW
CAMPUS LIFE REPORTER

It's time to clear your schedules because the Philip Lynch Theatre is ending this semester off with their newest musical production, "Godspell."

"Godspell" was originally written by John-Micheal Tebelak and musically brought to life through Stephen Schwartz. The play itself will be directed by professor of acting, improv and performance, Annie Calhoun. She will be accompanied by set designer Andrew Nelsen, costume designer Celeste Mackey, stage manager Janae Larry, assistant technical director Dave Pomatto and many more helping hands.

The musical is based on the Gospel of Matthew, with the usage of pop/rock musical influences to follow the story along. It adopts the many stories and parables that you find in the text of the Bible. However, the musical gives those stories a unique twist to share with the members of the audience.

"The show includes musical numbers and choreography, as well as a live band," says cast-member Molly Gustafson, junior English major and theater minor. "Godspell" is also a high-energy production complete with games, audience participation and unique prop work," says Gustafson.

With a description as lively as



KATHERINE GROPPE / PHOTOGRAPHER

Cast-members rehearsing for their final musical of the school year.

that, one can anticipate being amazed by the new elements that the theater cast and crew will be bringing to the stage.

However, if that wasn't convincing enough, Gustafson went on to emphasize that "People should come out to see 'Godspell' because the musical is a dynamic and unique take on a familiar story. The cast and crew have all put weeks of work into this production, and that effort really shows. The musical is filled with fun and

unique moments that invite the audience into a story about building a community, even when things seem hopeless."

The cast of "Godspell" is filled with Lewis University students including Gustafson, Robert Fudala, Rachel Hampton and many more gifted actors.

Gustafson went on to end with the statement, "Although there are many words that I could use to describe this play, the three that I would choose are compassion, acceptance and love."

So come one, come all, to experience the rich comfort that comes from those three simple words. Family and friends are all welcome to enjoy and cheer on all of the hardworking cast and crew members that were able to bring this show to life.

To support the cast and crew, ticket prices are \$3 for Lewis students, \$12 for non-students and seniors and \$15 for adults. Tickets also have the option to be paid for online with a credit card if you visit the web-

site www.lewisu.edu/plt and click the "buy tickets" link.

The performance dates are set to be on April 19-21 and April 25-28. For the first weekend, showtimes on Friday and Saturday will be at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on that Sunday. The second weekend will include showtimes of 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For help finding the Philip Lynch Theatre it is located at the Oremus Fine Arts Center.

The solar eclipse was a hit on campus

MICHAEL SACK
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On April 8, students gathered during the day on the campus green to witness the amazing phenomenon of the solar eclipse. While it was only a partial solar eclipse for natives and residents of the Chicagoland area, the natural event began around 12:40 p.m. and reached a near-total coverage at exactly 2:07 p.m.

Commuters, residents, student-athletes and faculty/staff at Lewis all came outside to safely watch the wonder by using solar glasses given out by the physics department. Those on campus were not as fortunate as those viewing the eclipse in the southern Illinois and Missouri region who experienced a total solar eclipse. Regardless, the next eclipse over the U.S will not be until 2044, so students took advantage of the unique atmospheric event.

"My professor let us out of class early so we could experience the eclipse. I follow NASA on different social media platforms so I had been looking forward to seeing this eclipse for a while now," said

senior biology major Juliana Van Loo. "My classmates and I went to the campus green to watch the peak of the eclipse at 2:07 p.m. Everyone was out and enjoying the nice weather and event! It was very nice to see our campus so lively and to enjoy it with all my friends."

What is a solar eclipse? Dr. Joe Kozminski, Physics Department Chair, had educated university followers on social media about the extraordinary event. Along with the rest of the physics department faculty and students, they had offered students the chance to watch the eclipse safely with protective ISO-certified glasses.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, blocking the sunlight and casting a shadow on the Earth's surface. During a solar eclipse, the shadow of the moon covers a specific region on Earth, known as the path of totality, where the sun appears completely blocked by the moon. In this eclipse, the path of totality had stretched from Texas up through Missouri and southern Illinois.

"I wasn't that interested because I saw the last one back



Photo courtesy of Lewis University

Sophomore Nathan DeGraaf, ready to view the solar eclipse through his protective eyewear.

in 2017 and I had homework and other stuff going on so it was not as big of a priority to see another one," says junior human resource management major, Ryan Collins. "I admit that it is a cool thing to witness, I personally don't value it like

others. Also, my vision and eyesight are important to me, and I didn't want to risk anything even with the glasses."

Collins' perspective is a polar opposite as compared to Van Loo's, but there is no denying how amazing it is to be

able to witness such a rare and awe-inspiring natural phenomenon like a solar eclipse. Teams had stopped practice, professors halted class and many had paused their daily activities in order to get even the smallest of glimpses of the historic event.

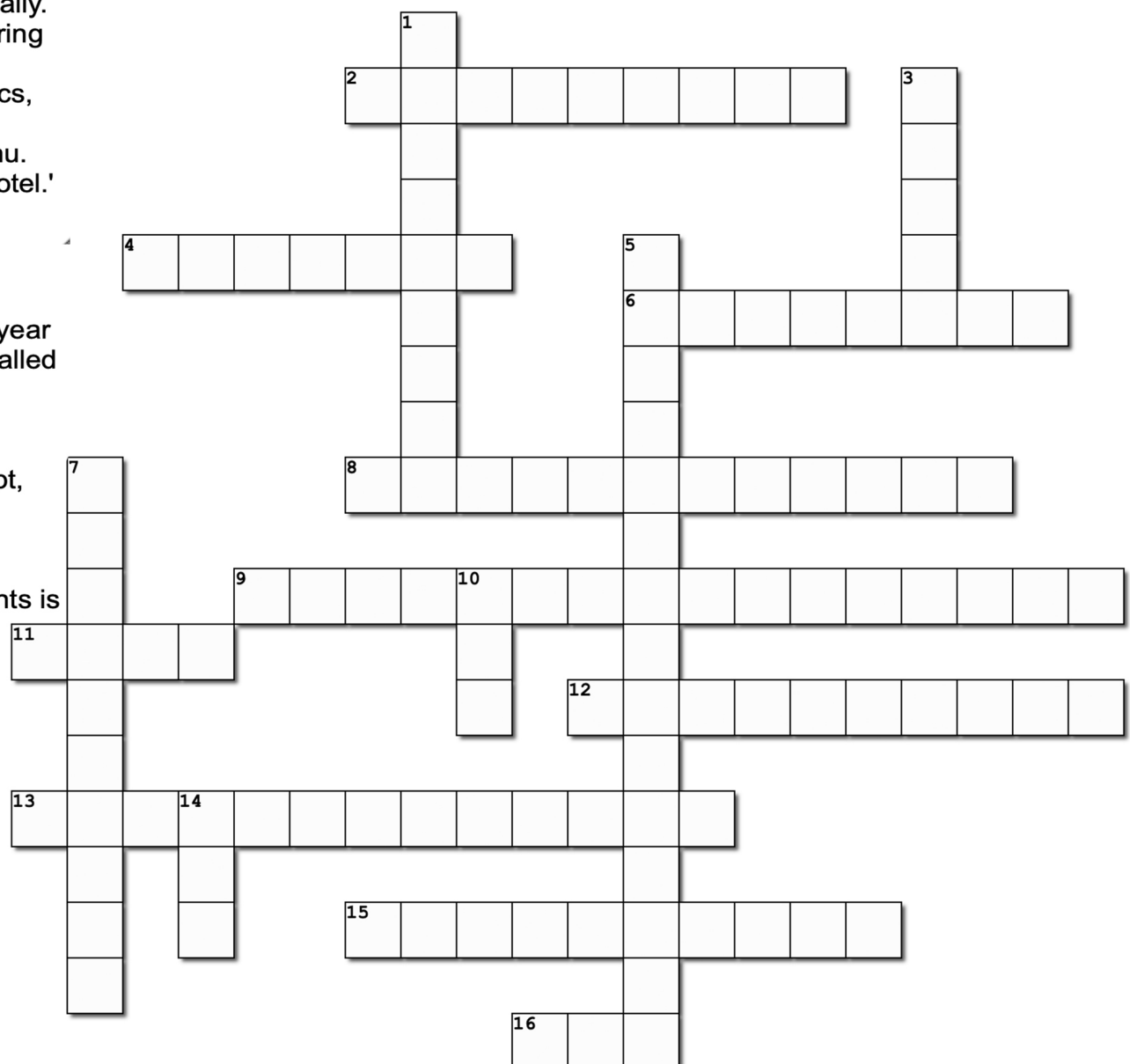
Campus Crossword

Across

2. _____ is a huge factor in this shift.
4. The Gospel the musical is based off of.
6. Body part that Stern tore.
8. Singer of song Beautiful Things.
9. Large campus Best Buddies event held annually.
11. Highest award given to a student-athlete during the Delahanty Awards.
12. Previous university Vice President of Athletics, John Ashaolu, worked at.
13. Name of Shrimp and Grits dish on their menu.
15. The title of the fourth episode of 'Hazibien Hotel.'
16. Violet's confirmed disability (abbreviation).

Down

1. On the Muslim holiday of Eid celebrated this year on April 10, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson called for a _____ in Gaza.
3. Country that is home to the Atacama Desert.
5. Nickname of the B-17 heavy bomber.
7. Its layout is designed according to the concept, which consists of having a layout known as roundhouse.
10. Specialized eclipse viewing glasses.
14. The main change that concerns most students is the new Student Aid Index _____.



Rules:

- Complete the crossword by reading the stories
- Return completed puzzle to room JP-012 before April 25
- First 3 winners to present a completed puzzle win a gift card



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New addition to athletics: John Ashaolu

GRANT DORSEY
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

“Why haven’t I heard of this school more often?” is what John Ashaolu asked when researching Lewis. On April 2, Ashaolu officially joined the Lewis Athletic Department as the Assistant Vice President. Ashaolu, who was previously the athletic director at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, is ready to create more excitement and have the Lewis’ sporting environment as riveting as it can be.

Originally from Toronto, Ashaolu grew up idolizing basketball teams like Duke and North Carolina. At the time, there were no opportunities at Canadian universities to play basketball, so Ashaolu decided he would work hard to earn a scholarship at an American university. He was eventually recruited to play at the University of New Orleans, and then transferred to Xavier University of Louisiana his junior year. After graduating, Ashaolu received an offer to become an assistant coach at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas. After that, he jumped around between a high school in Toronto, Duquesne University and East Carolina University, before taking a job as an athletic director at a private high school in Pittsburgh.

Ashaolu spent less than a year at the high school before becoming the athletic direc-

tor of Community College of Beaver County in Monaca, Penn. In his three years there, he added women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, built a weight room and student success center and gave athletes laptops.

The Community College of Allegheny County came calling after hearing about his success in Monaca. Ashaolu’s main job was to merge the institution’s four-campus athletic programs into one. However, Point Park University had an opening and someone there encouraged him to apply as the next athletic director.

At Point Park University, one of his biggest accomplishments was starting the move of the university from NAIA to Division II. The university is the last NAIA university in the state of Pennsylvania. The Mountain East Conference invited the university to join its conference, one of the pivotal steps in becoming a Division II institution. During this period, a search firm contacted Ashaolu about a job in Romeoville, Ill. After five and a half years at Point Park University, Ashaolu resigned and became a Flyer.

Ashaolu has many ideas on what he wants to accomplish at Lewis. One of those ideas is to enhance the image of the university. For starters, he talked about how the colors inside the Rec Center need to be updated to show off the school colors.

One thing brought up many times was the lack of Lewis presence in the community and online. “We need to meet people where they’re at. You have to tell your story and get compelling content that’s going to attract these people to look at you,” said Ashaolu. The place he is referring to is social media. Lewis doesn’t have an athletic department social media team like other universities do. Most teams have students, graduate assistants or even coaches running accounts. When it comes to Romeoville and Lockport, Ashaolu says that we as a university need to “own the area.” Whether it’s hanging up banners in downtown Lockport or having jerseys hanging up in Romeoville restaurants, Ashaolu is ready to spread the word about the Flyers and all of their success.

On campus, we need to spread the same Flyer message. He says we need to boast about everything the sports teams are accomplishing, whether it’s talking about the men’s soccer team making it to the Division II Final Four or the women’s basketball team becoming regular season and GLVC tournament champions. As members of the university, we need to “live in the moment” and celebrate the successes. The athletic department is thriving, but nobody knows about it. “Lewis is that shy person that doesn’t



MATTHEW CARLSON/PHOTOGRAPHER

Assistant Vice President of Athletics John Ashaolu sitting in his office.

want to boast and talk about their accomplishments,” Ashaolu said. Lewis currently is in 11th place nationally in the Learfield Directors Cup for Division II. The Learfield Directors’ Cup is an award for the best overall college sports programs in the U.S., based on their performances in various sports.

In regards to getting people on campus excited about Flyer athletics, one idea Ashaolu had is incentivizing students to come to games. According to him, we need to create an exciting environment, promote our successful teams

and do more promotional activities during games. “It’s not just about coming out to watch any games, you’re coming to watch successful, very good teams.” He also noted that many on-campus students are located a few steps away from these athletic buildings and fields.

Even though Ashaolu just started at the beginning this month and is still learning the lay of the land, he wanted to reiterate for the student athletes that he has an open door policy, “My biggest job here is to make sure that their experience here is a great one.”

PLAYER PROFILE



Senior | Psychology Major

ERICA LOHR

STATISTICS

First National Qualifier in Lewis Bowling History
All-GLVC Honorable Mention
Averaged 18.5 pins per frame
86.4% single pin spare conversion
5th place on All-Tournament Team at Youngstown State’s Penguin Classic in October
Averaged 217 at ISC sectionals to qualify for nationals.

When you walk up to the lane, what do you think about before you deliver the ball?

“Honestly, I try not to think too much while I’m on the lane before throwing the shot. I find that if I think too much about what I’m supposed to do and things to remember it makes me overthink and tighten up for the shot, instead of staying loose and executing. However, The most important thing I do is think positively and give myself positive self-talk, saying simple things ‘like you got this’ and other subtle words of motivation to myself before I throw the ball.”

What throwing technique do you use the most in bowling and which is your favorite?

“I try to keep my game pretty simple. As for approach and throwing technique specifically, I don’t really change it up, the only thing I might change a little bit is my hand position which varies the rotation a little bit. However, for my approach, keeping it consistent is key so it doesn’t get changed. When it comes to on the lane, I like to keep it simple by playing up the lane as much as I can.”

What’s the tiniest detail in bowling that actually makes a huge difference in your performance?

“For me, the detail that makes the biggest difference in my bowling is my timing. From getting the ball started in its swing at the right time, to the speed of my feet, it all affects the execution of the shot. If my timing is even a little too fast or slow then my position at the foul line will be affected, which then affects the release and accuracy of the throw, ultimately making a difference in my score and performance.”

In what ways has Lewis Bowling helped you grow (as a person/athlete, etc)?

“Lewis Bowling has helped me in many ways and I wouldn’t be the person I am today without the program. The biggest thing it’s made me realize is my work ethic. I truly wouldn’t have had the success I did, both individually and with my team, without all the hard work I put in from the beginning. This past year has made me realize that hard work really does pay off and it’s something I’ll never doubt in myself again. The program also has made me realize my leadership capabilities; being a senior this year, there were a lot of leadership roles that fell on me and my fellow seniors, and to be able to execute that role and see success in the team made me proud of the teammate I’ve become through my four years here. Overall, Lewis Bowling has pushed me both on and off the lanes, and to look back and see all that I’ve accomplished and the successes that I/we’ve had in my time being here, it’s truly made me into the person I am today.”

Alexandra Martinez: Senior Sentiments

JADA HARVEY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

For most athletes, their sport is something they see as part of them. Graduate student Alexandra Martinez, earning her Master's of Business Administration (MBA) with a focus in digital marketing and strategic management, laughed as she recalled a memory that shared this sentiment. "I played basketball in high school," she said, "and one of the most exciting things to me was when we would have to run suicides." As her teammates would grudgingly walk to the line to begin the conditioning exercise, her heart would be filled with adrenaline and excitement. She threw herself into the sprints with joy, something most athletes would say is crazy.

This unique quality made Martinez realize she had a special relationship with running. It isn't just a sport, "it's an escape." It's something she has that is wholly hers. She now calls the 60-meter, 100-meter and 200-meter home.

During last season, Martinez shared that she went through a rough patch. It came to a head when she was in the middle of practicing relays one day. In the midst of carrying the baton, she suddenly stopped. She couldn't do anything else; her legs wouldn't carry her anymore. Her worry and distress had gotten in between her and her ability to run. Instead of being frustrated, her teammate ran over and immediately gave her words of encouragement and comfort. "She told me 'just focus on what you can do on the track right now. Leave

everything else to the side.'"

Martinez explained how this moment helped her grow even more in her appreciation for the sanctuary her sport provides her and the solid support she receives from her team. She understood on a deeper level that her effort could go fully into her performance and she could lean on her teammates to help her get there too.

In fact, the only reason she ended up walking onto the track team was because of the women involved. She wasn't set on running track after high school, but at orientation, she met some of the team and fell in love. The commitment necessary almost drove her to quit after just two weeks of joining, but her coach encouraged her to stick with it for a while longer, ultimately being the reason she is still running to this day. "I'm really grateful for that because if he would have just let me walk away, I wouldn't have experienced going from the bottom to building up to the position I am now," said Martinez.

Track has given Martinez a lot. Not only has it been an opportunity to stay in shape and grow in discipline, she said, "I've definitely become more outgoing. It has helped me come out of my shell and meet new people," said Martinez. The sport opened new doors and expanded Martinez's horizon. It also helped her deepen her love for track and create a stronger mindset. "I had really bad race anxiety in high school. When I think about high school, I think about being sick. When I think about college, I think about pushing through that

and finding my strengths even when I am anxious." The support from the team and the coach completely shifted the way Martinez thought of the sport and taught her how to better manage negative and overwhelming thoughts.

However, her mental growth didn't come all in one wave. She explained, "I had to work on that shift in my mind. Those are the little things I worked on every single day. You don't realize the little changes like that until the end of the year." After each year, she could look back and see the progress she'd made along the way.

Self-talk is a huge factor in this shift. At the end of the day, Martinez emphasized that "you have to make that conscious decision to reframe how you think. No one is going to do it for you. You have to match your mindset to how you want to perform." Being a graduate student, Martinez has been able to develop this over a long time. Before a race begins, she said that getting one's mind right is key. Part of that is simply remembering the training that led up to that race. One of the biggest obstacles, though, is the physical barriers that come in the midst of the race.

Hitting a wall is something you can't avoid, but you can avoid letting it overwhelm you. When a race gets to be too much and Martinez's legs reach their max, she's learned what to say to herself to push through and continue chugging her legs through the pain. She said in order to overcome the physical barrier, "I count in my head and get in rhythm. The finish line is also in sight. It's right there in front of you."



MATTHEW CARLSON/PHOTOGRAPHER

Martinez focusing on her form in warm up before she begins practice.

At the same time, she's also learned that winning the race is not the goal. To Martinez, the goal is "PRing and executing a race well." This gets rid of the feeling of failure if one loses a race. A lost race is not a failure if one performed well and improved their individual time. "Oftentimes you run a race and it's not the time you want but [you can say] I fixed my form or I fixed my block start or I had a better finish. You can always find points in

your race to be excited about." To freshmen who are intimidated or discouraged, as Martinez had experienced, she highlighted the importance of understanding progress. She gave the parting sentiment, "I would encourage them to use their freshman year as a building block for the years to come. All the success is not going to come freshman year. There is so much more to come."

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Road to recovery leads to victory

COLLIN MCCARTHY
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

An athlete's worst nightmare is getting a season ending injury. The hard work spent getting ready for the season met with the heart wrenching feeling of watching your team play from the sidelines unable to help them in any way is excruciating.

Senior forensic criminal justice major, Anna Stearns, is no stranger to that feeling. While playing soccer in high school, she battled a torn ligament in her ankle that remained a problem long after her injury. Stearns came to Lewis to play soccer where she was able to ignore the post-injury pain her freshman year. However, after earning more playing time her sophomore year, she began to feel her ligament start to stretch out. "I went to an athletic trainer and a doctor and was told ev-

erything was fine and to spend time recovering. I recovered for six months and the first time I touched a ball, everything fell apart again," said Stearns.

The only solution was to have surgery. This time, she had something to fight for; with an entire team and coaching staff behind her, cheering her on along the way. Coming back from a major injury is hard, but it's easier when teammates and coaches help you get back on your feet.

After a year and a half of being in and out of a boot and long months on crutches, Stearns was finally free to run. "I felt like, if I could do this, I could do everything." She graduated from physical therapy and was able to play in the 2023 spring season. Leading up to her final year in school, Stearns was cleared by doctors to play in her senior season.

The question many people have

when an athlete sustains a major injury is if it will impact their performance when they come back. Stearns was well aware of this. Contrary to common thought, though, the time away from the field actually helped her. "Honestly, I feel like I came back better than before because I was so determined. I had a purpose. If I was gonna go through this, I was gonna come back better than ever. Taking time away from it allowed me to just watch for 18 months. I got to study my position and how I wanted to play when I came back," Stearns said.

The fall 2023 season for the Flyers was one for the record books. The women's soccer team got to the GLVC conference finals for the first time in 17 years. While they didn't come away with a victory in the finale, the team walked away with their heads held high. For Stearns, everything that she went through was



COURTESY OF ANNA STEARN

Anna Stearns in the GLVC Championship game.

worth it. "It was really validating that the pain I went through when I was doing rehab was worth something. It was worth it to feel like I did it for my team, but also for myself," said Stearns.

After a grueling rehab from a career altering injury, Stearns worked her way back to the pitch. She started every confer-

ence game over the course of the season. In her 21 appearances, she averaged 81 minutes on the pitch, attacking anything that penetrated the back line. Not only did she help in the effort to get to the conference finals, she was named in the All-Tournament team. She truly climbed the mountain.

SPORTS RECAP

[3/18 - 2/14]

MEN'S SPORTS

BASEBALL

3/19 @ St. Francis University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 12-0

3/22-24 @ Maryville University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 3-2, L: 3-8,
L: 3-5, L: 7-8

3/29-30 vs. Truman State University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 11-7, W: 13-3,
L: 1-2, L: 10-12

4/5-6 @ Quincy University
Quincy, Ill. L: 2-4, L: 1-2,
L: 3-6, L: W: 14-2

TRACK & FIELD

3/29-30 @ Joey Haines Invite
Cape Girardeau, Mo. 2nd place
98 pts.

4/5-6 @ Chicagoland Championships
Elmhurst, Ill. 4th place
79 pts.

LACROSSE

3/23 @ University of Alabama
Huntsville, Ala. W: 13-10

3/30 @ Quincy University
Quincy, Ill. W: 19-7

4/6 @ Maryville University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 20-12

4/10 @ Davenport University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 20-8

VOLLEYBALL

3/21 @ Queens University
Charlotte, N.C. W: 3-1

3/23 @ Queens University
Charlotte, N.C. W: 3-0

3/28 @ Ball State University
Romeoville, Ill. L: 2-3

3/30 @ Ball State University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 3-2

4/4 @ Purdue Fort Wayne University
Fort Wayne, Ind. L: 2-3

4/6 @ Loyola University
Chicago, Ill. L: 0-3

TENNIS

3/23 @ University of Chicago
Cape Girardeau, Mo. L: 2-7

3/24 @ St. Francis University
Lockport, Ill. W: 7-0

GOLF

4/5-6 @ Flyers Spring Invitational
Wheaton, Ill. A: 5th place, 618 pts.
B: 9th place, 679 pts.

4/7-9 @ Ken Partridge Invitational
Noblesville, Ind. 15th place
920 pts.

WOMEN'S SPORTS

SOFTBALL

3/22 @ Rockhurst University
Rosemont, Ill. W: 7-0,
W: 7-2

3/25 @ William Jewell College
Rosemont, Ill. W: 1-0,
W: 8-0

3/27 @ Grand Valley State University
Rosemont, Ill. L: 5-8,
W: 2-1

3/29 @ McKendree University
Lebanon, Ill. L: 3-4,
W: 5-4

3/30 @ University of Missouri - St. Louis
St. Louis, Mo. W: 11-1,
W: 11-2

4/6 @ Indianapolis University
Indianapolis, Ind. L: 0-2,
L: 3-4

BOWLING

3/22 @ University of Central Missouri
Warrensburg, Miss. W: 2-1

3/22 @ Maryville University
Warrensburg, Miss. L: 0-2

3/23 @ McKendree University
Warrensburg, Miss. W: 2-1

3/23 @ University of Central Missouri
Warrensburg, Miss. W: 2-0

3/24 @ Maryville University
Warrensburg, Miss. L: 1-2

3/22-24 @ Great Lakes Valley Conference
Warrensburg, Miss. 3rd place
190 avg.

LACROSSE

3/23 @ Aquinas College
Grand Rapids, Mich. W: 23-3

3/24 @ Davenport University
Grand Rapids, Mich. L: 10-24

3/30 @ University of Indianapolis
Romeoville, Ill. L: 10-20

4/5 @ William Jewell College
Romeoville, Ill. W: 22-9

4/7 @ Rockhurst University
Romeoville, Ill. W: 19-12

4/9 @ Dominican University of California
Romeoville, Ill. W: 24-13

GOLF

3/18 @ University of Findlay Spring
Richmond, Ky. 13rd place
990 pts.

4/5-6 @ Flyers Spring Invitational
Wheaton, Ill. 6th place
685 pts.

TENNIS

4/6 @ University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill. L: 0-7

TRACK & FIELD

3/29 @ Joey Haines Invite
Cape Girardeau, Mo. 3rd place
65 pts.

4/5 @ Chicagoland Championship
Elmhurst, Ill. 4th place
78 pts.