



The reconstruction of the Investment Club

LUNA SCHAFER
NEWS EDITOR

The Investment Club is undergoing a significant restructuring. The College of Business is providing support and resources in hopes of making the club more innovative. This initiative aims to enhance the club's influence on campus and provide members with a robust platform for experiential learning in finance and investment.

In October, Marc Kirby, a sophomore transfer student currently pursuing a degree in finance with a minor in economics, was elected as the new president of the club. Shortly after joining Lewis University, he was approached by the former president Jordan Rozich, who recognized his potential and invited him to lead the club. Accepting the challenge, Kirby has since been committed to reconstructing the club from the ground up, fostering a more dynamic and modern

approach to its operations.

Under Kirby's leadership, a new executive board was elected, composed of various roles, including Vice President, Assistant, Marketing Manager, Chief Risk Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Together, this team is working diligently to elevate the club's stature within the College of Business, showcasing its potential as one of the university's most transformative organizations.

The club manages a portfolio currently valued at over a quarter of a million dollars, with plans to further expand its assets in the coming year. Originally launched in the 1960s with an initial fund of just \$5,000, the club's portfolio has grown substantially over the decades due to its members focusing investments on high-potential companies.

Kirby views the club as an invaluable learning opportunity, where students gain first-hand experience in financial



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

markets, asset management and strategic investing. "I really want this club to become one of the most prestigious clubs on campus."

He says that the practical exposure provided by the

club allows members to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting. The club offers insights into stock trading, asset allocation and networking within the financial industry.

The Investment Club operates with real funds, investing in well-known corporations such as Apple, Pfizer, Capital One, JP Morgan and Shell. This exposure to actual capital investment helps students develop a professional understanding of market dynamics, risk assessment and portfolio management.

Members of the club have described the recent changes as professional and well-organized. Sophomore Valentin Frutos, who majors in Business Management, recently became one of the club's members. Frutos shared his excitement at the opportunity to refine his portfolio and collaborate with like-minded individuals who share his interest in finance and investment.

With the mentorship of Dr. Mark Napier and David Townsend, the faculty advisors for the club, the Investment Club is positioned to grow into a leading organization at Lewis University.

Lewis deemed environmentally responsible

EMMA BERTOTTO
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Lewis University was recently named one of the country's most sustainable and responsible universities. This honor reflects the university's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint and fostering a culture of sustainability across campus.

Sustainability Club advisor, Laurie Kman explained that "this recognition affirms Lewis University's commitment to a healthy and sustainable quality of life on campus." The recognition emphasizes the importance of preparing students for a clean-energy environment. And at the same time acts as a reminder to continually review and improve sustainability activities.

Over the years, the main focus of the club was renewable energy initiatives, such as solar energy projects and campus-wide recycling. "Now the focus has shifted to electric vehicles and equipment," Kman commented. "It has also evolved to include awareness, education and environmental

justice."

These new areas reflect a more generalized approach towards sustainability. "Students play a big role in the university's sustainability initiatives and are encouraged to participate. The Sustainability Club encourages this and recruits new students to join the mission.

The Sustainability Club has started several projects that align with its commitment to environmental stewardship and community involvement.

One project includes the Community Greenhouse, where herbs planted by students are already beginning to grow. Laurie Kman indicated that the club aims to introduce new plant varieties and expand projects to enrich the sustainable agriculture initiative, offering hands-on experience for students and fresh produce for the campus.

Another project being introduced in spring 2025, is the Campus Race for Zero Waste, a campus-wide recycling competition. The competition is designed to foster engagement in waste reduction among res-

idents in campus halls. Kman expressed the hope that this event will bring a sense of friendly rivalry and enthusiasm to residence halls as students join together to promote recycling efforts.

Lewis' environmental dedication was recognized through a STARS Bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The STARS program, which tracks and assesses sustainability practices in higher education, awarded this rating in recognition of Lewis' commitment to consistently improving its sustainability efforts.

One of the biggest challenges, Kman said, is fostering campus-wide involvement and excitement. "Increasing attendance at events and club meetings is essential," she noted. Another big challenge is ensuring that these initiatives continue after the students who started them have graduated. A top priority is to maintain continuity and engagement across graduating classes.



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

Sustainability club working at the Greenhouse.

The club is also sponsoring the "Come Clean, Go Green" contest in spring 2025. The contest is about developing strategies to reduce energy and water consumption and creating formal policies that embed sustainability practices into campus life. One of their future goals includes the intention to grow biodiesel consumption, a new form of renewable biodegradable fuel.

Kman believes sustainability will grow through more courses, programs and initiatives. As the demand for green practices and jobs in

clean energy continues to rise, universities like Lewis are incorporating sustainability into their curricula and operations. "Higher education will need to prepare students for the growing demand for educated workers in the sustainability field," Kman explained.

If students are interested in joining this movement, go to sustainability's club Instagram account @lewisustainability to find out when and where meetings/activities are held.

Arts and Ideas program receives grant

EMMA BERTOTTO
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Lewis University Arts and Ideas program has been recently awarded an achievement grant from the Illinois Arts Council. The grant will aim to support and sustain the program by providing essential funding for ongoing activities.

Dr. James Tallon, associate professor of history and one of the Arts and Ideas coordinators, explained the source and purpose of the recently awarded grant, "There's an organization, the State of Illinois, that has an arts council. Dr. McFerron applied for the grant not just for a specific thing but for what they call a programmatic or sustaining grant. It helps fund the program just to kind of keep it going, paying for all the things we need to make it successful." These grants provide additional funding which helps the program's ability to run throughout the academic year with more flexibility.

The grant will be used to fund the Performing Art Series the university offers. The series is a core component of the Arts and Ideas Program. Tallon emphasized this by stating the importance of the program, "We're going to use

that to fund the programs we always do, and in this instance, the Performing Art Series. The musical programs that we bring to Lewis."

The series includes a wide range of performances such as piano recitals, quartets and various other musical groups where people from outside the university come and perform. The grant will help cover the costs associated with these contracts, as well as other essential expenses related to the program. "This money is going to be used in part to help pay for them, but also to pay for the check-in system, Arts and Ideas, and all the other things we have to pay for," Tallon explained.

The grant is not only a financial help, but also a recognition of the university's efforts to promote the arts. Tallon expressed his enthusiasm about receiving the grant, noting, "We're always happy, you know, especially at a school the size of Lewis. In a competitive field, it's always a good thing to get some kind of money. It recognizes your efforts."

This acknowledgment helps to notice all the hard work and dedication the faculty and staff involved in the Arts and Ideas Program contribute on their day to day basis.

Since the grant provides support to the program, there will not be any immediate plans for changes or new initiatives within the program. Tallon mentioned, "To be honest, Arts and Ideas could always use a little bit more money, like everybody. So, we're going to use it to fund the programs we always do."

Tallon and music professor Dr. McFerron work together and make the Arts and Ideas program what it is. "As the Arts and Ideas function, I tend to do the ideas parts, and he does the music. He's the one who got the grant, and I'm just supporting him and trying to sort of re-strategize on how to divide things up," Tallon explained. With their collaborative effort, they were able to get the grant and will help ensure that the grant is used effectively and that the program continues to grow and evolve.

On the other hand, taking into consideration the broader goals for the Arts and Ideas Program, Tallon highlighted the university's commitment to fostering a rich cultural environment. "In Arts and Ideas, we are always trying to provide high-quality cultural experiences that enrich the lives of our students and the community," he said. Tallon also pointed out that the pro-



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

Jesse Howard: *The Emerging of a Black Diaspora* art gallery in the Wadsworth Family Art Gallery.

gram's purpose is to promote and teach an appreciation for the arts and encourage creative thinking and expression among students and the university's community.

One example of this is the different musical performances at the different spots in the university, such as the piano concerts they have held at St. Charles Borromeo. The program helps broaden student's cultural horizons and provides them with unique experiences to learn from.

"The musical programs we bring to Lewis are not just about entertainment; they're educational opportunities that expose students to different cultures and artistic tradi-

tions."

This essential funding sustains the Performing Art Series and other program needs. The collaborative efforts of Dr. Tallon and Dr. McFerron have been fundamental for the program, which keeps enhancing cultural experiences for both students and the broader community. This recognition can be considered as a reflection of the dedication of those involved in the Arts and Ideas Program, affirming its role in fostering artistic appreciation and providing opportunities for creative expression at Lewis University. This support sets the stage and uplifts everyone to keep working as hard as they have.

The United States of America's 2024 Election

LUNA SCHAFER
NEWS EDITOR

On Tuesday, Nov. 5th, the United States of America elected Donald J. Trump to become the 47th president, bringing him back into office after four years.

Over the past several months, the Republican and Democratic parties have been preparing for the country's Presidential Election. On March 12, 2024, Trump was elected to run for presidency by the Republican party. He became the presumptive nominee after winning the Washington primary, which gave him enough delegates to pass the required threshold.

This nomination was made official at the Republican National Convention on July 15, 2024, where he and his running mate, Senator JD Vance of Ohio, were formally endorsed as the Republican Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates for the upcoming presidential race.

The Democratic party struggled more with their candidate, since the current U.S. President Joe Biden was the original candidate run-

ning for presidency. However, after the first debate, President Biden decided to step down, and Kamala Harris, his Vice President, was nominated to run for President.

Through the months that led to the elections, both Harris and Trump took different approaches to win over the nation. Harris focused on gender and minority inequality across the country and the world, while Trump focused on the economic and social state that the U.S. is in.

During the last couple of weeks, both parties realized that the elections would come down to these key swing states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

During the morning of Nov. 6th, the votes resulted in Donald J. Trump winning presidency as the next U.S. President, bringing victory to the Republican party. The Republicans also took the majority of the seats for both the House and Senate.

The Republicans obtained control over three government branches which allows the party to have more control over laws and legislations that could affect the

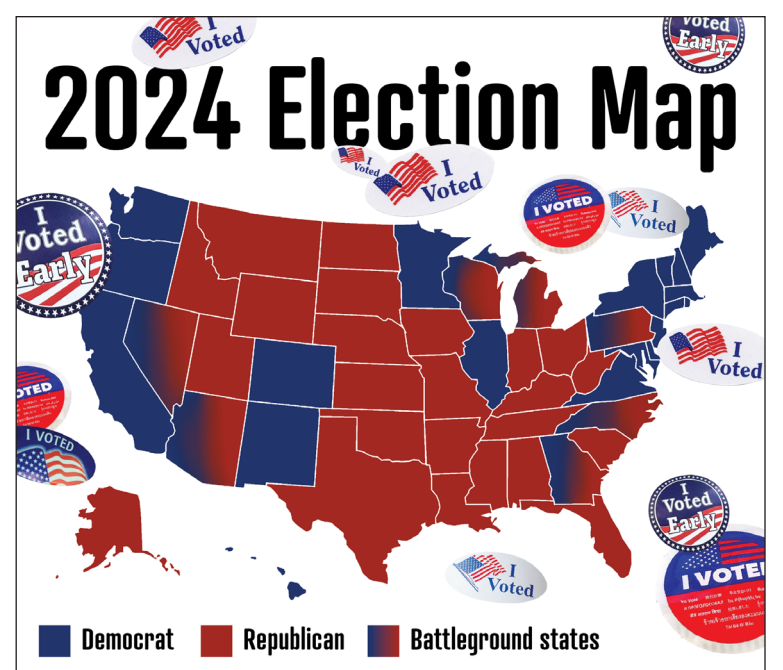
future of the country.

Dr. Steven Nawara, chair of the Political Science Department states that the reason why Trump won was "widespread dissatisfaction with the Biden administration and a sense that the country was just building in the wrong direction that, political scientists have known for years that economic conditions and presidential approval are strong predictors of incumbent party vote share in presidential elections."

Nawara explained that Harris struggled during her campaign because "She was unable to distance herself from the unpopularity of the Biden administration."

Trump's wins have been described as one of the greatest political comebacks in history. However, the previous 45th President of the U.S. had a campaign that political scientists described as controversial.

Nawara describes the Trump campaign, "It was very undisciplined as he was very undisciplined as a candidate and created controversy after controversy with his behavior and his words and actions. I think he was able to



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

overcome that deficit largely on the strength of the fact that the American public didn't like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's Administration."

With Trump's win, Americans hope for a better economy and overseeing the nation's global affairs. The 45th and 47th President has promised the public that he will make America "great again," with some of these promises including the largest deportation for undocu-

mented immigrants, no taxes on tips, better distribution of the economy and the lowering of inflation.

Since the victory that the Republican Party obtained, President Trump and President Biden have come together at the White House and released a video and promised a peaceful transition of power, showcasing to the nation that both parties are working together to bring a smooth change.

OPINIONS

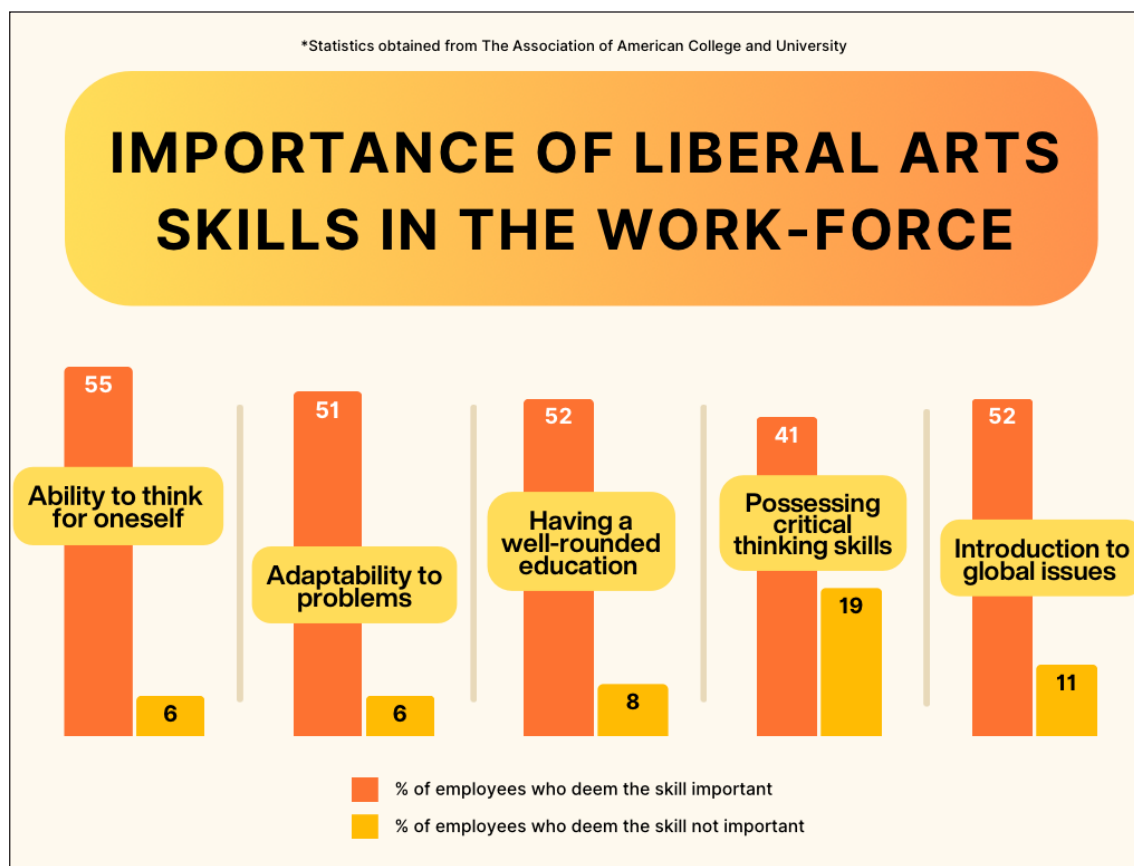
Staff editorial: Arts & Ideas

IRENA ILIC
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Liberal arts are increasingly portrayed with pessimistic attitudes. Oftentimes, students and parents alike scoff at university general education requirements of art, communication, English, history, music, philosophy and writing. Yet, subjects like these are imperative to receiving a higher education. They teach students to think in ways other than math formulas and scientific procedures. These classes allow for the expansion of skills like critical thinking, writing, communication, problem solving and creative thinking. These skills are necessary in both higher education but more importantly in many careers too.

Communication, creative and critical thinking and problem solving are all skills that employers are looking for in candidates, regardless of the field. The general education requirements at Lewis force students to get accustomed to skills through the classroom. The university also offers the introduction to and elaboration of these skills outside the classroom.

The Arts and Ideas program at Lewis serves as a place for students to develop these skills. The program provides countless lecture series and events available for students to discover and refine their taste as well as deepen their values while fostering civic participation in younger generations. The program reflects the university's commitment to the development of the



individual and attempts to provide events for life-long learners. All members of the Lewis community, including students, faculty, staff and alumni should aim to be life-long learners. One of the first steps to becoming one is attending Arts and Ideas events as a student and continuing after graduating.

The free events put on by the program include historical lectures, environmental lectures, discussions about current events, musical concerts, theatrical performances, art shows and more. Events are open to the Lewis community, welcoming students, alumni, faculty and staff, but also to the local communities as well.

The events are a success and fill up quickly.

Recently, the program qualified for and received a general operating support grant from the Illinois Art Council. Arts and Ideas was deemed to have a strong commitment to ensure ongoing artistic programs are available and relevant to diverse audiences. The grant provides Arts and Ideas with funding to help support its activities. The grant will be used to expand the Arts series which puts on concerts for the community to enjoy. This will provide opportunities to advance the program and bring more events onto campus.

Various courses require students to attend Arts and

Ideas events throughout the semester. However, students who are not required to attend by a class/professor should take advantage of these events that promote a well-rounded understanding of the complex world we live in today. Arts and Ideas events should be attended by all students who wish to expand their knowledge on a variety of subjects. Students should take advantage of the various events and support the intellectual effort by the university to educate on a variety of platforms. The program should be recognized more by the community for its continued and successful efforts to keep the arts alive.

Leap of democracy: Rights to suffrage

JOHN JEUS COLAYO
ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR

The vernacular of American democracy is voting. In the present day, young adults have been raised with numerous rights that have not always been regarded as rights, but rather as privileges. Previously, voting was regarded as a privilege exclusively available to individuals of a specific gender and ethnicity. This resulted in the exclusive right of white males to vote for an extended period of time. Today, it is possible for any individual to vote once they have reached the age of eighteen. The right to vote is a potent privilege that we must capitalize on, as not all citizens are fortunate enough to have a voice in their nation's government.

Currently, United States citizens are granted the opportunity to determine whether or not they wish to participate in the electoral process. This opportunity has not always been accessible to all Americans.

The implementation of literacy tests to restricted individuals in order to grant them the opportunity to vote was one of the initial modifications to voting rights in the 1850s. This was officially overturned during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

The ability to vote is a symbol of life and freedom. Voting is significant because it allows individuals to make life-changing decisions that affect their lives. The history of voting restriction has resulted in significant inequality between ethnicities and genders yet voting laws have been modified to promote equality among races and enable citizens to exercise voting rights.

Some American citizens fail to exercise their right to vote, despite the fact that it is available to all. As a result, the majority of voters lost faith in the government's ability to



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

"I Voted" sticker symbolizing pride in voters across the nation.

maintain integrity during election season.

Equitable representation is the foundation of American democracy. All citizens must possess equitable access to the ballot box to select representatives who will advocate for the issues and policies of their concern. Equal access to vote is a civic right acknowledged and safeguarded by the Constitution. The Constitution mandates that states allocate their federal, state and municipal electoral districts in accordance with the "one person,

one vote" concept, obligating state legislatures to guarantee equitable representation for all individuals. These commitments maintain the Fourteenth Amendment's assurance of equal protection and adhere to the stipulations of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Americans should take advantage of this right and take time to go to the polls in the future. Everyone's voice is important and has the opportunity to be heard.

Americans have the power to shape the political boundaries that determine who gets to represent you and who gets to govern. By doing so, people can have a say in policies that impact people's everyday lives, ensure that officials are held responsible, fortify civil rights, influence state constitutions, fight for justice in the courts and help achieve fair redistricting. In the fight for a more fair and equal society, every vote matters.

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Pretty hurts: The harmful effects of current beauty standards

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Beauty standards have been around since the beginning of time, encouraging people to go through a ridiculous amount of effort to meet those standards.

Corseted waists, foot binding and unrealistic physique expectations just scratch the surface of various standards that society has put in place over the years.

Beauty standards are a set of ideals that are applied to the appearance of both men and women to deem them physically attractive. These ideals vary depending on the culture and era.

Often, these standards are based on a person's body type, skin color, clothing, etc.

In the past decade, beauty standards have evolved at a rapid pace due to the introduction of social media.

Popular apps like Instagram, TikTok and X (previously known as Twitter) have made it easier for people all over the world to project their unfair opinions and insecurities onto others.

According to a study done by Dove's Self-Esteem Project, "1 in 2 girls say toxic beauty advice on social media causes

low self esteem... Over half of girls say they can't live up to the beauty standards projected on social media."

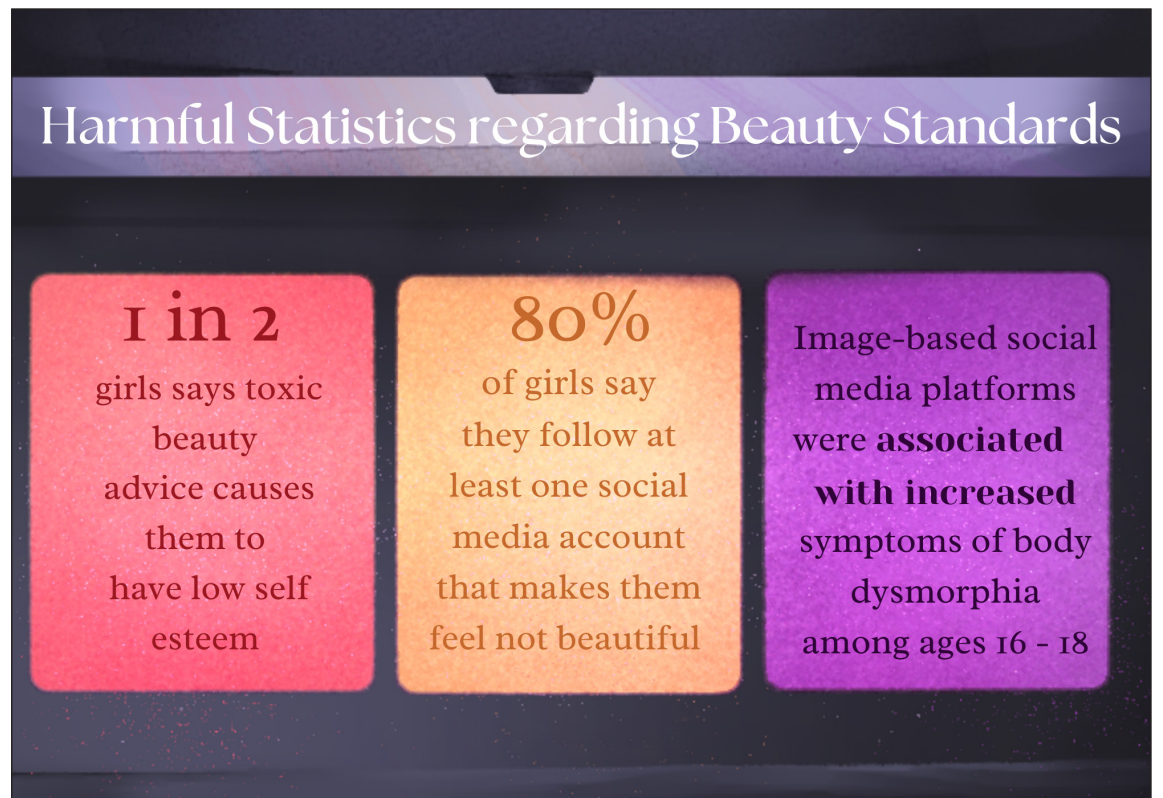
Prime examples of this toxic beauty advice is "#Thinspo", a hashtag on social media that displays images of immensely thin bodies and promotes the idea of restrictive and disordered eating.

Additionally, the trending hashtag promotes the glorification of plastic surgery such as lip fillers, botox and brazilian butt lifts, which is becoming increasingly targeted towards young adults.

The American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (ASPS), mentions that "...in 2020, nearly 230,000 cosmetic surgeries and nearly 140,000 non-invasive cosmetic procedures were performed on teens ages 13-19."

People often compare themselves to celebrities and social media influencers, but a lot of images these people share are not accurate portrayals of how they really look. The pictures often come with filters, angles and lighting. Not to mention that people usually take numerous pictures before posting the ones they think they look best in.

When on these apps, users can get overwhelmed with



OLIVIA BRZEK / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

these images and begin to develop a warped perception of beauty.

However, many people on various social media platforms have taken a stand against the harmful beauty expectations. With the popularity of the body positivity movement, numerous people from all shapes and sizes have spoken out against negative beauty standards.

Content creator and model Jade Fiona mentioned on her website that "...you don't need to be a size 2 to wear what you want... I've grown a community... that allows to share my confidence with others, and encourage them to be unapologetically themselves, no matter what that looks like."

Living in a society where beauty standards are always evolving to make people inse-

cure, it's important to practice loving yourself, as well as understanding that what other people think does not define who you are as a person.

Societal opinions will never matter as long as you acknowledge that staying true to yourself will get you way farther than constantly trying to chase unattainable expectations.

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TEMPO

The World of Magnus Chase

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
CO-TEMPO EDITOR

Rick Riordan is well known for his writing covering various ancient mythologies. "Percy Jackson and the Olympians," "Heroes of Olympus," "Trials of Apollo" and the recent solo novel "The Sun and the Star" all focus within Greek and Roman mythologies. "Kane Chronicles" is a twist on Egyptian mythology. These series are all set in the same universe, building up a world where heroes must save the world repeatedly. Riordan expanded into Norse mythology in the series titled "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard."

Magnus Chase is the main character of the series, which is ironic since he dies in the first chapter. The series follows him to the Norse afterlife of Valhalla, a hall for slain warriors. There, Magnus is introduced to the world of Norse mythology and learns his place in the larger picture. Riordan's usual sarcasm and jokes are littered throughout Magnus' telling of the story.

Several other characters are

introduced throughout the trilogy. Some of the most notable are Samirah, who goes by Sam, the Valkyrie who brings Magnus to Valhalla and meets the captain who doubles as Sam's enemy by the name of Gunilla. Magnus also gets introduced to his hallmates, some of the more influential ones being Alex, TJ, Halfborn and Mallory. Valhalla is set up like a luxury hotel, the main difference being the fact that the residents die most days. This is to prepare them for Ragnarok, the final battle for the world in Norse mythology.

Magnus's mentors are Blitz and Hearth, a dwarf and elf who looked over him while he was alive. The two add a sense of comedy and urgency to the series, being the ones who know everything while Magnus is going in completely blind.

Blitz has a passion for fashion, while Hearth knows rune magic. In making Hearth's character, Riordan took feedback from fans to include more minority characters in his writing. Hearth is deaf, using Alf Sign Language (a play on American Sign



IMAGE FROM AMAZON.COM.

Riordan also wrote a solo novel based in this world titled "9 from the Nine Worlds."

Language) to communicate with others. This trait adds a certain level of depth to the story, one of empowerment and understanding. Riordan also does well addressing some of the discrimination people hard of hearing face, specifically through the character of Hearth's dad. It adds a heart wrenching element to Hearth's backstory that evokes empathy from the readers.

As usual, Riordan mixes the current and mythological

world in the series. However, this series sets Valhalla in Boston instead of New York City, where previous mythological series were set. The difference makes run-ins between mythologies and characters less common, though Riordan does manage several references and interactions between characters of different storylines. Rules of the world are set up clearly, allowing the reader to be fully immersed in the storyline and character arcs Riordan creates.

The first book is titled "The Sword of Summer;" the second is "The Hammer of Thor" and the final book is called "The Ship of the Dead." Each book focuses on its own battle while also building up the overarching plot that is addressed in the third book. Using humor and a wide cast of characters, Riordan manages to engage readers with Norse mythology in a page turning, impossible to put down method.

The Eras Tour - Indiana night two

TYRA CORPUZ
MANAGING EDITOR

On Nov. 2 in Indianapolis Taylor Swift performed her second-to-last show in America on her final leg of the Eras Tour. The singer made sure to make every second of her three-hour set count.

Swift has been touring for almost two years now, singing songs from the 11 studio albums she has released throughout her career. However, the tour she performed in 2023 is a whole different experience from the one she performs now.

She embedded a completely new section for her new album, "The Tortured Poets Department".

The stadium echoed with screams as the song titles of her albums, "Lover," "Midnights," "Folklore," etc., blasted over the speakers. Her dancers took the stage with sunset-colored parachutes attached to them when Swift made her grand entrance singing, "It's been a long time coming."

Her song, "Miss Americana and The Heartbreak Prince" perfectly opens her tour with its high energy chorus and sets the tone for her entire performance—theatrical and powerful. She enters her "Lover Era"

in a magenta, hot pink and orange gemstone bodysuit and the Lover house graphic behind her.

The Lover house is then set ablaze as the fire turns into an explosion of sparklers, noting that she is in her "Fearless Era." Swift takes the stadium "back to high school" with her songs "Fearless," "You Belong With Me" and "Love Story," in a gold tassel dress, accompanied by her guitarist.

Taylor then switched the colors to bright red for her "Red Era," singing "22," "We Are Never Getting Back Together" and "I Knew You Were Trouble." She concludes her Red Era with "All Too Well (10 Minute Version)" and switches from red to purple to sing "Enchanted" for her Speak Now Era.

For her next eras, the lighting and screens enhance the experience. From the green snake created by the light up bracelets in the audience to her dancers being dressed as the older Taylor Swift music videos and trapped in boxes, her "Reputation Era" encapsulates the feelings of anger and revenge she had in 2017.

Then into the Folklore/Evermore set, she combined the sister albums, performing in her overgrown folklore cabin, mellowing down the crowd

with an acoustic piano and guitar. Ending the acoustic set with a three-minute standing ovation after "champagne problems" she put the theatrics back on for the next five Folklore/Evermore songs, ending as a mystical witch for "willow."

Swift then breaks the magic transitioning from the indie folk songs into the summer pop genre with the "1989 Era." She takes the stage in a sparkly bright orange halter top and magenta flowing mini skirt, playing her biggest hits from that album.

Then, she enters the "Surprise Song" section of her setlist. This acoustic section is what makes each show unique, as she plays different songs each night. For this night, she did two mashups. For the guitar mashup, she performed "The Prophecy" and "This Love." For the piano mashup, she performed "Maroon" and "Cowboy Like Me."

Then, reintroducing the theatrics of her performance, she dives into stage (and remerges in the newest era of her career, the Tortured Poets era. She leans into the 'tortured' aspect of the celebrity lifestyle, the aspects of her relationships being put into the public with "But Daddy I Love Him" to



GETTY IMAGES

Taylor Swift stuns during The Tortured Poets Department section of The Eras Tour.

pretending to be a puppet molded by those around her in "I Can Do It With a Broken Heart." The set fully encapsulates the struggle of being a public figure and Swift translates it perfectly through her theatrical black and white 1920s visual interpretation of her songs.

Finally, she reintroduces color into the final section of her set with her Midnights Era. The stage gets lit in lavender as the singer struts onto stage in her lavender fur jacket and glistening dark purple shirt-dress with the song "Lavender Haze." The Midnights set takes the audience on a rollercoaster of emotions from

the uptempo dance songs to the breakup ballads, perfectly ending the set.

She concludes with the song "Karma," taking the stage in a rainbow tasseled jacket and midnight blue bodysuit underneath. The show ends similarly to how it began, in an array of colors with the dancers all wearing similar jackets to Swift in all different colors.

The Eras Tour performance closes with confetti falling from the ceiling as the performers take their bows, ending the show with a colorful celebration of their work.

Solace: A world of the future

RAYNE GRABOWSKI
CO-TEMPO EDITOR

No one knows what will happen in the future. There are too many moving parts and possibilities. Jaleigh Johnson addresses one possibility in her books within the universe of Solace, following three separate but intertwined storylines.

Solace is set on Earth, far in the future. There are three main areas—the Dragonfly territories, the Merrow Kingdom and the Archives. The Dragonfly territories and the Merrow Kingdom are in the Iron War, while the Archives are quite literally stuck in the middle of the conflict.

Each book is set in a different area focusing on different sets of characters. “The Mark of the Dragonfly” is based in the Merrow Kingdom. Piper has grown up by the meteor fields, where scavengers rush out to find objects that come down in meteors. No one knows where these objects come from, though many theories are thrown out there.

Piper is thirteen, which Johnson is sure to remind readers of during the story. This reminder of her age makes the storyline more impactful, especially with the content of running for her life and living on her own. Piper’s

father has died by the start of the story and Piper has taken a caretaker role for her even younger friend, Micah.

Her age contradicts the grown-up and mature demeanor she has.

The story begins with Micah’s illegal journey into the meteor fields while a shower is ongoing. There, Piper finds a girl named Anna, who is unconscious. At Piper’s house, Anna awakens and the two are attacked by a dangerous man Anna calls The Wolf. Fearing for their safety, Piper and Anna sneak onto the 401 train, the main setting. The two are eventually caught by the crew and form familial bonds.

Chronologically, the next book in the timeline is “The Secrets of Solace,” set in the Archives. Lina is an orphan who is an apprentice to the archivists.

However, Lina has a strong tendency to break the rules, as is shown throughout her many adventures.

Lina meets Ozben, who becomes her friend as the two of them discover more and more secrets from within the mountain pass where they reside. Lina and Ozben have a strong friendship with no desire to advance into romantic territory. This relationship contradicts the one Piper has with a



IMAGE FROM READWRITEANDREFLECT.BLOGSPOT.COM

“The Mark of the Dragonfly” was published in 2014 while the other two novels were published in 2017.

401 crewmate in “The Mark of the Dragonfly,” showing Johnson’s ability to write a variety of impactful relationships.

The Dragonfly territories are represented in “The Quest to the Uncharted Lands.” This book is set after the war has been resolved, revolving around the character Stella. Stella’s parents are on a ship headed to the uncharted lands, which was a large cause of the war’s beginnings. Stella sneaks on, discovering magical abilities and incredible danger along the way.

Stella has a strong relationship with her parents, who discover Stella’s true wisdom

and skills once on board. Stella’s determination is a defining trait, bringing her closer to the truth despite the fear frequently racing through her. The book focuses on Stella’s familial relationship with her family. Each book is written based on the three major relationship types. Each type drives the separate stories forward, speaking to Johnson’s writing skills.

Though they are unrelated, the stories are all linked through mentions of details from other books. Johnson does these scenes flawlessly, making each story sound on its own and the trilogy

readable in any order. That rare quality makes the world more immersive to the reader, as one can pick up any book but follow along without any issues.

Johnson’s work within the world of Solace has resulted in three successful books. The characters and their relationships with each other are the main focus of the storylines, driving the plot forward in a way that wouldn’t be possible without their shared caring natures. So while no one can predict the future, the one of Solace isn’t a bad one.

Remembering pop star Liam Payne

LILY COOKE
CO-TEMPO EDITOR

One Direction member and successful pop star Liam Payne has passed away at age 31 on Oct 16.

The cause of death was a trauma injury caused by falling from his hotel balcony three stories high. At the time of his death, Payne was visiting Argentina with his girlfriend, Kate Cassidy. Prior to his catastrophic death, there are many impactful things that Payne has done not only for his family and friends but also for the public.

From donating to food pantries to helping out and starting multiple charities, he has left many, including his 7 year old son Bear who he had with singer Cherly Cole, with heavy hearts.

Starting at a young age, Payne had a massive passion for music.

His career picked up due to the show, “The X Factor UK”

where he was put in a boy band, One Direction at just 14 years old. With hit songs such as “What Makes You Beautiful,” “Drag Me Down” and “Night Changes,” One Direction had a huge impact on society and left a legacy on generations and young fans from across the world.

His former bandmates, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Niall Horan had recently released statements on Payne’s death. Tomlinson stated how he will look after Payne’s son Bear. Horan reminisced on the last time the bandmates saw each other. Styles described the kind of amazing and loving person Payne was while Malik expressed his respect for Payne. These messages were enough to blow up multiple social media platforms including Instagram, TikTok and X.

The group released a band statement on their now inactive social media account



GETTY IMAGES

Liam Payne performs in 2015.

which had major effects on fans worldwide. The post gained over 14 million likes and 370,000 comments. Just one day after Payne’s death, One Direction’s Spotify streams went from 5.9 million to 22.2 million, marking a 278 percent increase. It’s easy to say that the public has taken the news with great sadness.

Once the band had split up, Payne embarked on a solo career releasing his own music and collaborating with other artists. His hit song “Strip That Down” featuring Quavo has over one billion streams on Spotify, and the numbers keep rising.

While his solo career was not as successful as

the band’s, his name was still very well known. His last song, “Teardrops” was released in March 2024.

While the world is mourning over the loss of Payne, it has brought fans together from all across the globe. His songs, along with One Direction songs, were played at his memorials where fans came together and grieved with one another. There were memorials in Argentina, Chicago, Los Angeles and many other cities.

With Payne’s final moments being a tragedy, the legacy he left is nothing less than astonishing.

Payne had a crucial role in many people’s lives and childhoods and this had long lasting effects on his followers. From his success on “The X Factor” to his success in One Direction, to then carrying his talents to a solo career, he has touched the hearts and lives of many fans and will be greatly missed.

CAMPUS LIFE

Building bridges: Lewis's Peace Teach-In cultivates a culture of understanding

STEPHANIE AGUILAR
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

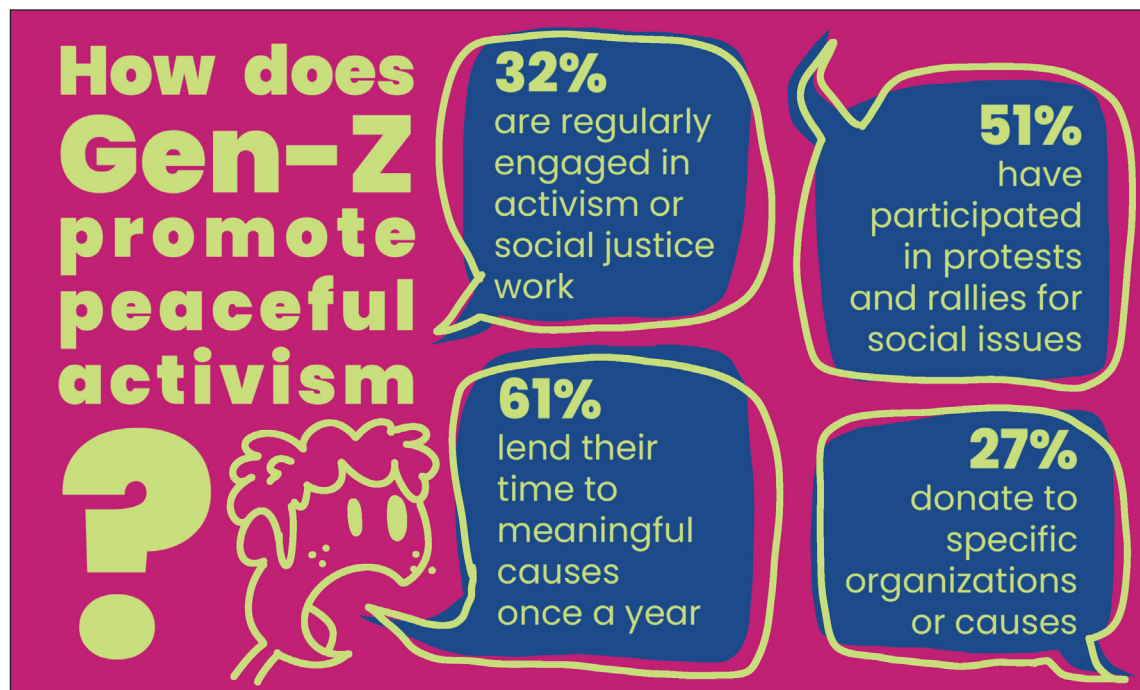
In a world that is unpredictable and chaotic, the 2024 Peace Teach-In event provided students, staff and community members with an opportunity to engage in thoughtful conversation on topics such as peacebuilding across the world, how art and music help overcome challenges and activism in social movements.

The Peace Teach-In has been a part of the Lewis culture for around 25 years.

The theme for each Peace Teach-In changes each year and is chosen to reflect important conflicts that are happening in the world at that point in time.

The event began on Tuesday, Oct. 22 and concluded on Thursday, Oct. 24. Organized by Lewis' peace and justice studies department, the Teach-In consisted of different workshops and panels that highlighted this year's theme, Catalysts for Change: Connecting Humanity to Cultivate Justice.

This year's theme aimed to highlight the importance of human connections and the potential peaceful protests have to promote change through shared experience and transformations. Differ-



ALEXIS PRAGIDES / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

ent events were held in the University Dining Room and students also had the chance to earn an Arts & Ideas credit through their attendance.

One of the main events of this year's Peace Teach-In was the 7th Annual Gros Memorial Event.

Initiated to explore inter-religious ideas about how to build bridges and seek justice and peace together, this annual event strives for justice and peace across religious and cultural differences.

In this year's two-part panel from the Gros Memorial,

two groups, Family Forums and Combatants for Peace, were the focus of the event. Both groups are made up of Palestinian and Israeli citizens who are working together to promote the key to humanity - peacebuilding among a highly polarized conflict.

Dr. Christie Billups, chair of the department of theology, co-director of peace and justice studies and director of the Gros Institute, urged students to attend, informing them of the benefits this event brings to the Lewis community.

"There was something in it

for everyone. The energy in the room of those who attempt to bring these ideas to life as a collective will be far more effective than 1 or 2 people spouting in a room. The more people that are striving for just peace together, the more progress will be made," commented Billups.

Aside from the two-part Gros Memorial event, students had the opportunity to discover different booths and panels. Some panels included "Creative Resistance: Designing Protest Posters and Discovering Protest Music"

by Dr. Adrienne Honnold and Kristin Callahan and "Non-violent Protest, Noncooperation, and Intervention: The Contributions of Gene Sharp" by Dr. Liesen. There was also a concert held by Syrian pianist, Riyadh Nicolas, where change was promoted for the people of Syria through the art of music.

Kat Svehla, a senior English major, had the opportunity to attend the event, "We Won't Pay: Resistance to War and US Militarism," hosted by Lincoln Rice and Bill Ruhaak, on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

"For the event I sat in, I learned about how much of our tax dollars go towards militarism, which was very interesting.

This event taught students where their tax dollars are going, which includes helping the current military, which includes family housing, personal army corp, and international security assistance" said Svehla.

The Peace Teach-In and Gros Memorial Event are hosted annually, but there are other peace and justice studies events students can attend throughout the year. For those interested in getting involved, contact Dr. Billups at billupch@lewisu.edu or Dr. Sartell at esartell@lewisu.edu.

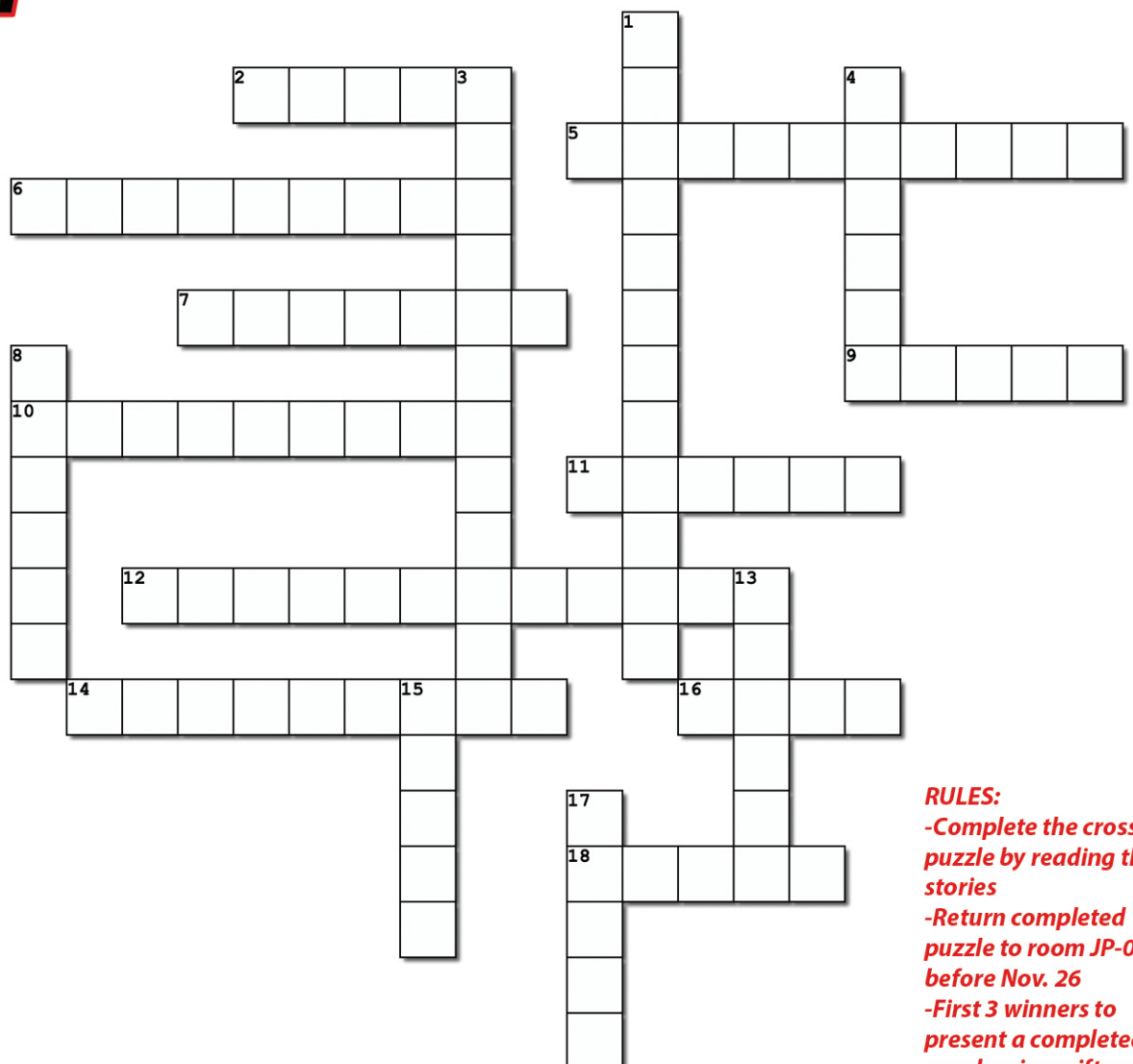
Campus Crossword

Across

- The instrument that Riyadh Nicolas plays.
- Who previously held the 8k record in cross country?
- Sustainability club's main focus was _____ energy initiatives.
- What is the rebranded name of the student section?
- Which team did Lorelee Smith get her 500th win in volleyball against?
- _____ representation is the foundation of American democracy.
- Where Valhalla is located?
- Where are the archives are located?
- What is the name of the content creator that has spoken out against negative beauty standards?
- Tallon highlighted the university's _____ to fostering a rich cultural environment.
- Arts & _____

Down

- Career services are there to help them get to their _____ goals.
- What band was Liam Payne in?
- What song does Taylor Swift turn into a witch for?
- The key states were Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, _____, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- Who is the 2023 and 2024 women's Cross Country GLVC Runner of the Year?
- What is Jet's new space?
- Last name of the president of the Investment Club



RULES:
-Complete the crossword puzzle by reading the stories
-Return completed puzzle to room JP-012 before Nov. 26
-First 3 winners to present a completed puzzle win a gift card

Lewis Police moves to West Hall

DELANEY COLEMAN
CAMPUS LIFE ASST.

Lewis Police are moving to a new location: West Hall. Previously, the Lewis Police had multiple locations across campus which hindered communication. All personnel and operations will now be moved to one location. Access to resources will be simpler and communication between officers in difficult situations will be much easier. Further, and various additions that will enhance campus security can be implemented. The official opening of this new location was Monday, Nov. 18, at 8:00 am.

While most operations will occur in West Hall, students will still be able to access temporary parking permits, the lost and found service and obtain ID cards on the ground floor of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) in room LR-G23. This helps maintain the convenience and accessibility of the LRC as students, staff and faculty go through the building every day.

The benefits to students regarding this move may not be seen in everyday life on campus, but there will be added resources and improved function of the department that can exponen-

tially help a student in need. In addition, the officers will have much more space than they currently do in their tiny offices scattered around campus.

Another benefit to this new space is that Jet, the campus comfort canine, will have his own outdoor oasis.

In order for optimal function between students, staff and the officers on campus, active communication is necessary. Anytime a student needs to contact the police department, they will be able to access the 24-hour communications center, allowing for quick conflict resolution and the ability to get help at any time.

As of Tuesday, Nov. 12, the Communications Center is no longer staffed in the booth at the entrance of campus and will be moved to its forever home in West Hall.

Even with the added benefits, some question if every change was necessary.

Lauren Wattawa, a sophomore criminal justice major, comments on the move, "I don't think it was very beneficial for them to move places because they would check IDs after a certain time and block off people coming into the campus, and I think when they move, they lose who enters the build-



VANJA BOGDANOVIC / PHOTOGRAPHER

Lewis University Police Department's forever home, West Hall.

ing at any time of the night. If anyone is allowed to come on campus, are they really keeping student safety in mind?"

When Wattawa was asked about whether or not she thinks that funding this move showed that Lewis valued students' safety, she reiterated, "it is important to know who is coming on to campus, especially at night when students

are in a vulnerable position. Because Lewis is funding this, there will probably need to be some changes in safety protocols for the night shift."

The main entrance and exit of campus will remain heavily guarded by surveillance cameras, which uses specific technology to run plate numbers and allow officers to keep an eye on potential threats.

Keeping each individual safe who is on campus is the top priority for the Lewis police department. With this in mind, Wattawa was asked about her overall thoughts on the move, "I do think that they [the Lewis officers] will be able to respond to emergencies faster because they will all be in one place, and things could run more efficiently with better communication."

Career Day hosted by Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies department

BRYNN KOEHLER
CAMPUS LIFE & NEWS

The annual Lewis Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies (JLPSS) Career Day took place at the Flight Deck in St. Charles Borromeo on Wednesday, Nov. 6. Over 20 organizations and agencies participated in presenting information and opportunities for career paths, jobs and internships to the dozens of students who attended.

The career day welcomed a range of offices from local police departments like the Orland Park Police Department, to federal agencies such as Homeland Security and the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

The career fair was an opportunity to introduce students to various career paths. Career days offer students in-depth information about not only professions they've been wanting to pursue, but also those they may have never considered.

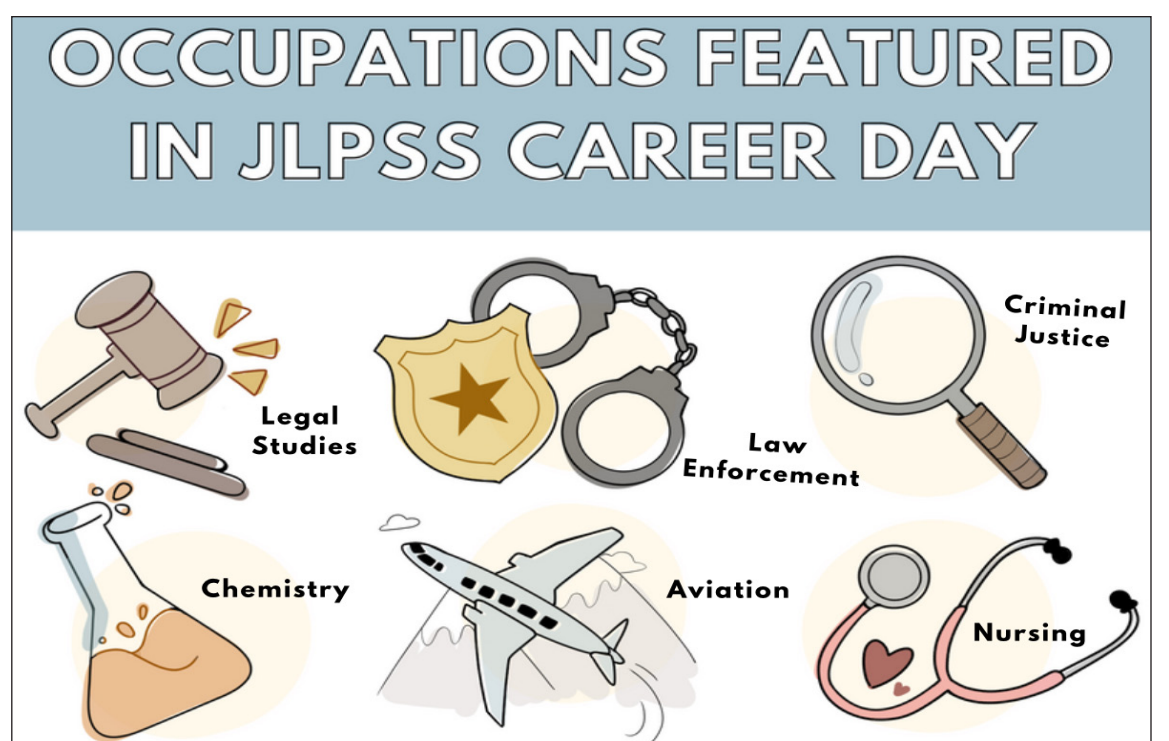
Dr. Stephen Sherwin, assistant professor of justice, law and safety studies, has been with the JLPSS career day since its beginnings. "It has grown exponentially," Sher-

win says. "My goal has always been to have a ubiquitous group of people who are not just from law enforcement but from various agencies and groups or organizations."

Despite the name, each year the JLPSS career day offers a wide array of opportunities for students in any major to get their foot in the door. "None of them are explicitly just for criminal justice students. Everybody who was there was open for any major," Sherwin explains.

Throughout the years, Sherwin has seen the success that the JLPSS career day continues to bring Lewis students, "It was really really great because that offered a better insight for students realizing there are jobs out there, there are opportunities out there."

Many undergrad students don't know where to begin when looking for a career path. The broad range of opportunities that career days offer can make the job seeking process even more daunting for many. According to Sherwin, there are plenty of resources on campus to guide students to what they want to do. "Obviously, career services



OLIVIA BRZEK / GRAPHIC DESIGNER

itself has a lot of agencies that they work with because they put on more career fairs here at Lewis University," says Sherwin. "I think that's a really important thing for students to be aware of, that career services are there to help them get to their professional goals."

Most notable, however, is Lewis' own faculty—people who have extensive experience

and knowledge in their field. Many professors, including Sherwin, have guided students through to their success.

"Students communicating with faculty and actually sitting down and having a cup of coffee, tea or Coca-Cola and telling them what they think and what they're looking at" can be a way to talk about the future in an easy

manner according to Sherwin.

For students who missed the JLPSS career day, there are still lots of resources on campus at their disposal to help explore their future careers. Placing trust in the faculty at Lewis and opening up about career goals and interests is a crucial part of discovering and reaching professional goals post-college.



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SPORTS

Student section gets new name

GRANT DORSEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Max Roquet and Tyler Morgan, two senior men's volleyball players and last school year's Flyer Fanatics president and vice president, were involved in the section's rebrand. The Cockpit pays homage to where a pilot and their crew sits during a flight. New banners featuring the title have been added to the student sections in Neil Carey Arena and Lewis Stadium to show off the new branding.

Head men's volleyball coach, Daniel Friend, is the faculty lead for the Flyer Fanatics, alongside head women's volleyball coach Lorelee Smith and head men's lacrosse coach Joe Perruzzi. The trio oversees the student board for Flyer Fanatics, which is currently made up of 11 student-athletes and one non-student athlete. The current president of the board, senior sport management major Keegan Carey, is a member of the women's volleyball team. Sophomore business administration major and baseball

player Seth Nanna is the vice president.

The goal for Flyer Fanatics is to get more students out to sporting events. Whether they are commuters, residents or student-athletes—anyone can be a member of Flyer Fanatics. They hope that with the new branding, more students will come out to support the Flyers. Lewis was top 10 in the nation for women's volleyball attendance 10 years ago. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the student section has struggled to fill seats in recent years. With a plethora of events to take place this school year, they hope to see old and new faces supporting the Flyers.

"This is not an athletics thing, this is a Lewis thing," Perruzzi said. "We want our Lewis students to have a better experience, whether they are an athlete or a non-athlete."

Flyer Fanatics' first big event of the school year was Flyer Fan Fest, an event held annually to celebrate the start of the men's and women's basketball season. Flyer Fa-

naties board members handed out new "Welcome to the Cockpit" t-shirts to the first 30 students that arrived at the event. Fans after that received either a rally towel or a cup. After getting their Lewis ID scanned, students were handed raffle tickets by the men's and women's basketball teams. This gave students the chance to win Lewis gear or an opportunity to shoot a half court shot to win \$500 toward books for next semester.

The seats were packed as a three-point challenge, ring ceremony, dunk contest and skills challenge took place. Fans in The Cockpit helped judge the dunk contest. The group had decorated white poster boards to showcase their score. "I thought [that] Flyer Fan Fest, from my four years of going to it, was probably the best one," Carey said. "It engaged the students in [The Cockpit] with the dunk contest and by having us do our votes."

Former Assistant Athletic Director for External Relations Capel Henshaw started the "Swipe to Win" program



GRANT DORSEY / SPORTS EDITOR

Fans in The Cockpit cheering at a women's volleyball game.

last school year. The athletic department is continuing this incentive program to fill up the seats at games. Students can swipe their ID at any game entrance to earn points. At the end of the school year, the student with the most points will win a flatscreen TV. Other prizes fans can win through this incentive program include a Nintendo Switch, Crema gift card, Raising Cane's gift card and Flyer dollars. The five winners of these prizes will be announced at the Charlie

Awards in late spring. Fans can see where they stand each month with a top five leaderboard posted on the Flyer Fanatics Instagram page each month.

While there is no easy or correct way to figure out how to bring more students to athletic events, the group has a few ideas. According to Perruzzi, the best way to get fans in seats is to create a fear of missing out. The group wants to create an atmosphere that is enticing and inclusive for all fans.

WOMEN'S SPORTS

BASKETBALL

11/8 vs. Michigan Tech Wisconsin Dells, Wis. W: 68-57

11/9 vs. Northern Michigan University Wisconsin Dells, Wis. L: 48-53

CROSS COUNTRY

11/9 @ NCAA Regional Championships Romeoville, Ill. 2nd place 64 pts.

SOCCER

11/1 @ Indianapolis Indianapolis, Ind. L: 0-1

11/3 @ University of Illinois Springfield Springfield, Ill. L: 0-3

SWIMMING

11/1 @ Valparaiso University Valparaiso, Ind. W: 148-114

11/1 @ Butler Valparaiso, Ind. L: 89-170

11/2 vs. Lake Forest College Romeoville, Ill. W: 115-18

11/2 vs. Illinois Institute of Technology Romeoville, Ill. W: 115-72

VOLLEYBALL

11/1 vs. Missouri S&T Romeoville, Ill. W: 3-0

11/2 vs. Maryville University Romeoville, Ill. L: 2-3

11/8 @ Upper Iowa University Fayette, Iowa W: 3-1

11/9 @ Truman State University Kirksville, Mo. W: 3-0

SPORTS RECAP

11/1 - 11/13

BOWLING

11/8-10 @ Ladyjack Classic

11/8 vs. Vanderbilt University Kenosha, Wis. L: 895-1027

11/8 vs. Wichita State University Kenosha, Wis. L: 837-1097

11/8 vs. Marian University Kenosha, Wis. L: 906-978

11/8 vs. Carthage College Kenosha, Wis. W: 949-752

11/8 vs. Oklahoma Christian University Kenosha, Wis. L: 897-976

11/9 vs. Newman University Kenosha, Wis. W: 918-894

11/9 vs. Jacksonville State University Kenosha, Wis. L: 1009-1010

11/9 vs. Carthage College Kenosha, Wis. W: 997-745

11/9 vs. Valparaiso University Kenosha, Wis. W: 930-878

11/9 vs. Louisiana Tech Kenosha, Wis. L: 894-1059

11/10 vs. University of Wisconsin - Whitewater Kenosha, Wis. L: 3.5-4.5

11/10 vs. Valparaiso University Kenosha, Wis. L: 3-4

11/10 vs. Newman University Kenosha, Wis. L: 3-4

MEN'S SPORTS

BASKETBALL

GLVC/GMAC Challenge

11/8 vs. Malone University Romeoville, Ill. W: 78-71

11/9 vs. Tiffin University Romeoville, Ill. W: 73-64

11/13 vs. Ferris State University Big Rapids, Mich. L: 66-69

CROSS COUNTRY

11/9 @ Regional Championships Romeoville, Ill. 2nd place 71 pts.

SOCCER

11/1 @ Indianapolis Indianapolis, Ind. W: 2-1

11/3 @ University of Illinois Springfield Springfield, Ill. W: 2-1

GLVC Tournament Quarterfinals

11/10 vs. Rockhurst Romeoville, Ill. W: 2-0

SWIMMING

11/1 @ Valparaiso University Valparaiso, Ind. W: 176-86

11/2 vs. Lake Forest College Romeoville, Ill. W: 135-30

11/2 vs. Illinois Institute of Technology Romeoville, Ill. W: 135-40

Athlete feature: Hannah Smrcka

GRANT DORSEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Since transferring to Lewis in 2022, senior distance runner Hannah Smrcka has had a collegiate career for the Lewis record books. On the cross country side, a time of 20:40 in the 6k, second best in school history, can be boasted by the 2023 and 2024 women's Cross Country GLVC Runner of the Year. A time of 9:44.83 for the 3000m event in indoor track is also second best in school history.

The English major from Corry, Penn. led the Flyers on Oct. 26 in the first clean sweep in GLVC and Lewis history. This not only secured the team title, but an individual title as well. A clean sweep happens when all of your teammates finish one after the other in a race.

Outside of recording a perfect score, the team also won by 52 points, the largest margin of victory in GLVC history. At the NCAA DII Midwest Regionals, Smrcka finished in 11th place, second best on the team. The women's team overall finished in second, behind Grand Valley State University. Smrcka was named to the All-Midwest Region team after finishing in the top 25. After a successful conference cham-

pionship and showing at the NCAA DII Midwest Regionals, the Flyers are currently ranked fourth nationally and second in the Midwest by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll.

On top of all the titles, Smrcka is unique in a personal way too. Smrcka is one of the few athletes who identify as nonbinary in NCAA athletics.

In a 2020 study conducted by Elizabeth Mullin of Springfield University, Anna Baeth of Athlete Ally and Kayla Vieira of Columbia University, the trio found that of 880 student-athletes polled, 1.6% identified as nonbinary or transgender. These student-athletes are a minority of the 14.2% that identify as being a part of the LGBTQ+ community. Of the student-athletes surveyed, 176 compete at the Division II level. The study noted, "...at the D-II level, where performance is still the focus and scholarships can still be levied, individuals with LGBTQ+ identities may feel less welcomed or supported."

Merriam-Webster defines nonbinary as "a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that is neither entirely male nor entirely female." Some people, like Sm-



MATTHEW CARLSON / PHOTOGRAPHER

Hannah Smrcka running at the NCAA DII Midwest Regionals.

rcka, use they/them pronouns instead of traditional gendered pronouns like she/her or he/him. Smrcka started identifying as nonbinary in high school. "It's one of those things where you always know it within yourself," Smrcka said. "But I feel like most [nonbinary] people have had an idea for a long portion of their life."

There is no correct way to be nonbinary. Identifying in that way can mean different things for different people. For Smrcka, being nonbinary is something that is just a part of their identity. To them, identifying differently or not following gender norms is just normal. "I won't think about the fact that I'm gay or that I'm nonbinary,"

they said. "It's just who I am."

Smrcka cares more about how others are treated in regards to their identities before thinking about themselves. Even though some articles written about Smrcka use the incorrect pronouns, that does not bother them. If someone is purposefully being rude about their pronouns or identity, then it becomes a problem. While they are not a representative of the community as a whole, they are ready to answer questions if people doing research are curious or confused. "I am not here to educate you," Smrcka said. "I am not a representation of every single person in the community because that's what I feel like I have to tell people the most."

On Nov. 23, Smrcka will look to continue their dominance in the sport at the NCAA DII National Championship in Sacramento, Calif. Last year, Smrcka finished with a time of 21:01.5, landing in 47th place, first on the women's team. The Flyers finished 15th overall.

At the end of the day, Smrcka is just another person in the LGBTQ+ community who happens to be a student-athlete. "They are actually pretty much just like you," Smrcka said. "They just use a different pronoun."

A history of winning 500 games

KREE NUNNALLY
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Women's volleyball head coach Lorelee Smith accomplished her 500th Lewis win. This happened against Walsh University at the Midwest Region Crossover October 18. Smith is currently in her 18th season as the women's volleyball coach. In every season she has made it to the National Tournament. In 2016 and 2018, Smith coached her team to NCAA Final Four appearances.

Smith started her career at Lewis in 2007 as the fourth women's volleyball head coach in school history. She has accumulated 11 regular season titles and nine GLVC Championships. She also set the 14th longest home game win streak in NCAA division II history of 41 career games. Smith also had an undefeated conference run in 2009 and is on a career streak of three GLVC tournament championships. She has created a culture of winning in women's volleyball at Lewis.

Before the game against Walsh, the team had lost to Grand Valley State earlier

that day in four sets. When it came time to play Walsh, the game started off even, one team scoring a point while the other retaliated and gained two more. During the first set, the Flyers lost 16-25. In the second set, the team fought strong but ended up falling short 28-30.

Losing the first two sets put them in a difficult position, but Lily King, sophomore English major, knew that the team was determined to get the win for Smith. "Going into it we all had our minds made up," King said. "We needed to get this win for Lorelee."

In the third set, the Flyers rallied back and won 25-23, which gave them momentum to win the fourth set by the same score. With the tied match, the final set was crucial. The Flyers came out and completed the reverse sweep to finish the job, reaching 15 points to Walsh's 11 points.

King recorded 27 assists during the game to help set the Flyers up for a win. The team's united perseverance allowed Smith to get her 500th win of her career at Lewis.

Smith feels "it is not necessarily the 500, it is that they



GRANT DORSEY / SPORTS EDITOR

Coach Lorelee Smith (Left) talking to her setter Lily King (Right).

[women's volleyball team] all care enough... they signed a card and they were all cheering."

This was a special moment and a huge milestone for Smith and her players. Smith has dedicated the last 18 years to create winning seasons for Lewis women's volleyball and 500 wins is not accomplished by every coach.

With the GLVC conference tournament starting Nov. 22, the Flyers face the test of possibly winning the fourth tournament title in a row, potentially Smith's longest active streak in the tournament.

Smith wants to create a legacy that allows "players that graduate here to still love volleyball... because Lewis kept [their] passion alive." She

believes the environment she has created here can definitely foster this legacy.

Smith plans on continuing and growing this legacy throughout this season and many more to come. She continues to add to Lewis' history and grows the Flyer name through her accomplishments on the volleyball court.



Men's cross country takes first in GLVC Championship

CHRISTIAN GOODE
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Lewis University Men's Cross Country team made history this past October at the GLVC Championship meet, where they captured the first place title. Along with the team's stunning victory, sophomore aviation flight technology major, Evan Horgan, set a new conference record. Head Coach James Kearney was named GLVC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year, cementing an extraordinary time for the program.

The event, held in Springfield, Ill., saw Lewis' team put on a dominant performance, fending off strong competition from Drury University and Missouri S&T. The team showed up and showed out, finishing with an overall score of 34 points, half of the points second place, Drury University, scored. Their victory shows the months of preparation and proves the depth of tal-

ent and commitment within the team and coaching staff.

The team's success was showcased by outstanding individual performances as four of Lewis' runners were within the top 10 and eight of Lewis' runners received all-conference. Horgan not only helped lead his team to victory but also etched his name into the GLVC history books by setting a new course record with a time of 23:23.64 in the 8k. That record had previously been held by Johnnie Guy from the University of Southern Indiana back in 2013. Ten years later Lewis' Horgan beat that record by 23 seconds.

"My team is the biggest part of it, we all train together, we all encourage each other, we all know what each other can do," says Horgan. "Everyone has crazy potential on our team and our team is getting faster by the year."

Under coach Kearney's guidance, Lewis has developed one of the most

formidable cross country programs in the region.

"Seeing them do something that they weren't necessarily sure they could do but it was something that they were really striving for I think is the part that I think keeps me coming back," says Kearney. "The joy of watching them accomplish is really one of the main motivators for me."

Kearney has built a reputation for cultivating not only elite athletes but also leaders who value hard work, teamwork and personal growth. His coaching philosophy emphasizes personal relationships and building a strong understanding of his player's needs. This approach has clearly paid off, with the team now being considered one of the top programs in the GLVC.

The team's victory at the GLVC Championships also serves as a strong statement heading into the upcoming NCAA National Championships on Nov. 23. The men's



PHOTO COURTESY MARCO CASTAÑÓN

Evan Horgan running at NCAA DII Regional Championships.

cross country team took 2nd place at regionals on Nov. 9 and is poised to continue its dominance in the weeks to come and other teams will need to keep an eye out as

the team is ready to advance to the next level. This team is on track to build a legacy of excellence for the program, one race at a time.

PLAYER PROFILE



Sophomore | Finance Major

RYAN RENFRO

STATISTICS

Career high 21 against UMSL 1/20/24
 Career high 15 rebounds against Drury 11/30/23
 9.3 points per game
 7.1 Rebounds per game
 .536 FG

What has been your favorite game-day memory?

"Last year our team coined the term 'separation week' to the three games where we played Mckendree, UMSL, and UIndy. All very competitive teams with schematics that differ from each other. Our goal was to go 3-0 and put ourselves in contention for the top team in the conference. Each practice was so fluid and our connectivity was unmatched. When beating each team I enjoyed every second, and individually I accomplished statistics that I never thought I could do. It was so electric, you had to be there internally to know how special of a moment it was."

What is your go to hype-up song for basketball games?

"Turn on Luxury by JAWS or So Much in Love by Sub Focus remix, and I'll feel great. It reminds me of summer and that joy helps me feel loose and enjoy the sport for what it is."

What is a lesson you have learned on the court you use in your daily life?

"Basketball is beautiful because success depends on all five players being connected and working together, which requires great communication and discipline. I apply this lesson to my life by ensuring that each area - friendships, school, family, and personal goals - is balanced and aligned. Just like a team, these parts must work together for me to reach my full potential. The game has taught me such incredible lessons as such."