

Lunar New Year at Loyola

By MUNYA NOMAN,
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A roar of celebration reverberated through the Damen South Multi-Purpose Room as the Lunar New Year leapt to life with a dazzling lion dance. At every rhythmic beat of the drum, the crowd was swept further into a breathtakingly bold setting — the Year of the Snake had officially begun.

The Lunar New Year celebration was hosted Jan. 31 by the Department of Programming in collaboration with the Chinese Culture Association and the Vietnamese Student Association. The event showcased traditions of the holiday and

the passionate effort students put into making it a memorable experience. Around 300 attendees filled the room, drawing attention to cultural representation and unity on campus with so many attendees coming on a Friday evening.

Chinese and Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebrations share similarities and yet are still distinct. The Chinese New Year, celebrated for 15 days, often features dragon dances and fireworks, while the Vietnamese preparations start earlier but last for seven days, according to USA Today.

NEW YEAR, PAGE 11



ELI BOSSLET / THE PHOENIX
300 students gathered for the event.

Ramblers click in win over St. Bonaventure

By ALEXANDER SCIARRA,
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The Loyola men's basketball team took a commanding 77-53 home win against St. Bonaventure University Feb. 4, displaying a complete performance before a rowdy Gentile Arena crowd, despite a slow start.

Head coach Drew Valentine said the successful offensive performance led to equally successful defense, which forced 16 turnovers by the Bonnies — 11 of those coming off steals.

"I think the most important thing with our offense was our defense never faltered and our defense stayed the same, no matter what," Valentine said. "Because so many times in those games, you let your defense dictate your offense and it becomes like a slugfest of 50-to-50 game."

Two key contributors to the Ramblers' win were second-year center Miles Rubin, with 15 points and nine rebounds, alongside fourth-year guard Des Watson's 17 points and four steals.

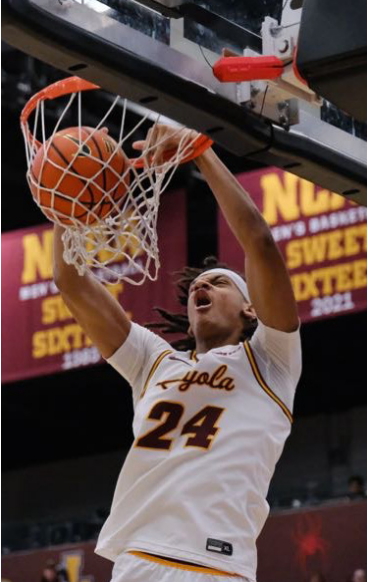
St. Bonaventure won the opening tipoff, and redshirt second-year Jonah Hinton was the first to score, finishing a floater after both sides squandered their initial offensive possessions.

Loyola's first point of the night came from third-year guard Kymany Houinsou, who hit one of two free throws. Rubin recorded his first block of the night on an attempt by graduate St.

Bonaventure center Noel Brown, but the Ramblers were unable to take advantage.

Fourth-year guard Melvin Council Jr. cut inside to finish a layup opportunity to give the Bonnies a three-point advantage. Just before a timeout was called on the floor, Rubin tried to finish an alley-oop attempt and was blocked before grabbing his own rebound and slamming a dunk in.

BONNIES, PAGE 14



CAROLINE CLIFFORD / THE PHOENIX
Miles Rubin finished with 15 points.

Student exhibition opens

By MAO REYNOLDS,
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A grandmother's couch that traveled to California and back rested in the corner of a small Chicago art gallery.

Well, the couch itself didn't actually return, but rather an oil painting of it shone under fluorescent lights, revealing all its floral, coral-pink glory.

The painting — "Grandma's Living Room" — began as an assignment for fourth-year English major Lindsey Hunsinger's painting class last semester. So, Hunsinger said, they were surprised when "Grandma's Living Room" won first place at this year's Juried Student Exhibition awards ceremony.

"Grandma's Living Room" was one of 14 artworks selected for the annual exhibition put on by the Ralph Arnold Gallery. The gallery — located at 1131 W. Sheridan Rd. — is run by Loyola's Department of Fine and Performing Arts, and hosted an opening reception and awards ceremony the evening of Jan. 30.

Hunsinger, 22, said their grandmother brought the couch from Chicago to San Jose, Calif., where Hunsinger grew up.

"It's just cool that she's here with me," Hunsinger said.

GALLERY, PAGE 10



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX
Marky Salvati's piece won second place.

New scholarship honoring fallen CPD officer endowed

By ELENI DUTTA,
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A new university scholarship was unveiled Jan. 22 at an event in memory of Chicago police officer and Loyola School of Law student Aréanah Preston, who was killed in 2023.

Distributions from the Aréanah Preston Memorial Scholarship will be used to provide full or partial scholarships to students enrolled in the School of Law, with preference for students who are members of the Chicago Police Department or are pursuing a masters of jurisprudence, according to the gift agreement.

CPD didn't respond to The Phoenix's requests for comments.

According to Managing Director of Advancement at Loyola School of Law John Osterlund, the scholarship was made possible through a joint effort by the School of Law and the Peace for Preston foundation, a nonprofit organization created to serve Chicago's youth and local communities in honor of Preston's legacy.

The organization was established by Preston's family after the 24-year-old's death, and raised the \$100,000 endowment quota to create the scholarship.

Preston was fatally shot May 6,

2023, a couple of weeks before her graduation, by a group of teenagers while off duty, returning to her Avalon Park home. Four teenagers involved in the case were subsequently charged with first degree murder, according to ABC7.

"When Aréanah died so close to her graduation, the fact that her degree was awarded posthumously and her family walked across the stage really was such a tragedy," Osterlund said.

Osterlund said he continues to stay in touch with the foundation more than one year after Preston's death. He and the foundation collectively agreed the best way to preserve Preston's memory was to have an endowed scholarship, which would provide a permanent source of aid for incoming students.

The family's goal was to strengthen the tie between the CPD and the School of Law, according to Osterlund.

Rather than waiting for it to raise money over the course of time, Alvin Rider, a friend of Preston's mother and organizer of the Peace for Preston foundation, said the nonprofit raised money through social events and merchandise to meet their endowment goal.

"At one point, Al reached out and said, 'You know what, the foundation is going to make a grant and we are ready to do this,'" Osterlund said. "Of course I was thrilled."

SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 5



COURTESY OF ALVIN RIDER
Mayor Brandon Johnson and Loyola President Mark Reed with Preston's family.



HEATHER HIGGINS / THE PHOENIX
Rumors of ICE activity at Bellarmine Hall spread online Jan. 31, raising concern.

Rumored ICE visit a false alarm

By GRIFFIN KRUEGER,
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A representative of the U.S. Census Bureau, who visited the front desk of Bellarmine Hall and attempted to interview students Jan. 30, was misidentified as an agent from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, according to the Department of Residence Life.

Loyola spokesperson Christian Anderson confirmed the details of an email sent by Des'Mon Taylor, director of Residence Life, which stated the census taker was misidentified. There are no reports of ICE-related activity on campus.

Rumors of ICE activity at Bellarmine Hall spread online Jan. 31, raising concerns of arrests on campus. Some resident advisors alerted students there had been ICE activity following the spread of unsubstantiated information on campus.

Neither ICE nor the Census Bureau responded to requests for comment.

The incident comes as Chicago has experienced an uptick in ICE enforcement and arrests in recent days following direction from the Trump administration, The Phoenix reported.

Residence Life distributed information to student front-desk workers via a Jan. 20 email obtained by The Phoenix, which outlined how attendants should respond to law enforcement who enter dorm buildings, including ICE.

The policy directs workers to deny law enforcement access to buildings, even if they have a warrant, and instead alert Campus Safety and the university's Office of the General Council.

"Our university guidelines stipulate that faculty, staff, administrators, and students do not otherwise engage with law enforcement officials," the email reads. "Any outside law enforcement must be accompanied by a Campus Safety officer if accessing the halls and should not be provided access to any of the residence halls if they are alone."

Anderson confirmed the validity of the Jan. 20 email and said it was sent in response to questions from students and community members. He said these are longstanding university policies and procedures, and they apply to all campus buildings.

Griffin Krueger is the Editor-in-Chief of The Loyola Phoenix.

University Libraries Dean to step down from role after school year

NEWS, PAGE 3

AI related stocks are still overvalued, even after DeepSeek shock

OPINION, PAGE 7

Japanese tea ceremony brings traditional practice to Cuneo

ARTS, PAGE 11

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NEWS

Free museum access for Loyola students

The Chicago History Museum recently added Loyola as a university partner, granting students free admission.

News Editor Lilli Malone and Deputy News Editor Paige Dillinger laid out the plan.

MUSEUM, PAGE 4



LEILA CELIO / THE PHOENIX

OPINION

Is the Honors Program worth it?

Opinion Editor Hailey Gates and Engagement Editor Audrey Hogan go toe to toe on whether or not Loyola’s Honors Program is worth it.

“Sure, the honors dorms are nice — but are they nice enough to counteract a first-year experience completely isolated from the rest of campus?” Gates wrote.

“By breezing through operas, plays, books, dense philosophical texts, honors students become tourists on the slipstream of thought,” Hogan wrote.

HONORS, PAGE 8

ARTS

Jarvis Square chili contest

Arts writers Munya Noman and Elijah Bosslet attended the 6th annual chili cook-off at Jarvis Square Tavern, which was full of good food and warm laughter.

“Residents gathered not just to sample the diverse array of chili — ranging from smoky and rich to bold and fiery — but to reconnect with familiar faces in their community,” Noman and Bosslet wrote.

CHILI, PAGE 10

SPORTS

A10 star Sheldon Edwards Jr.

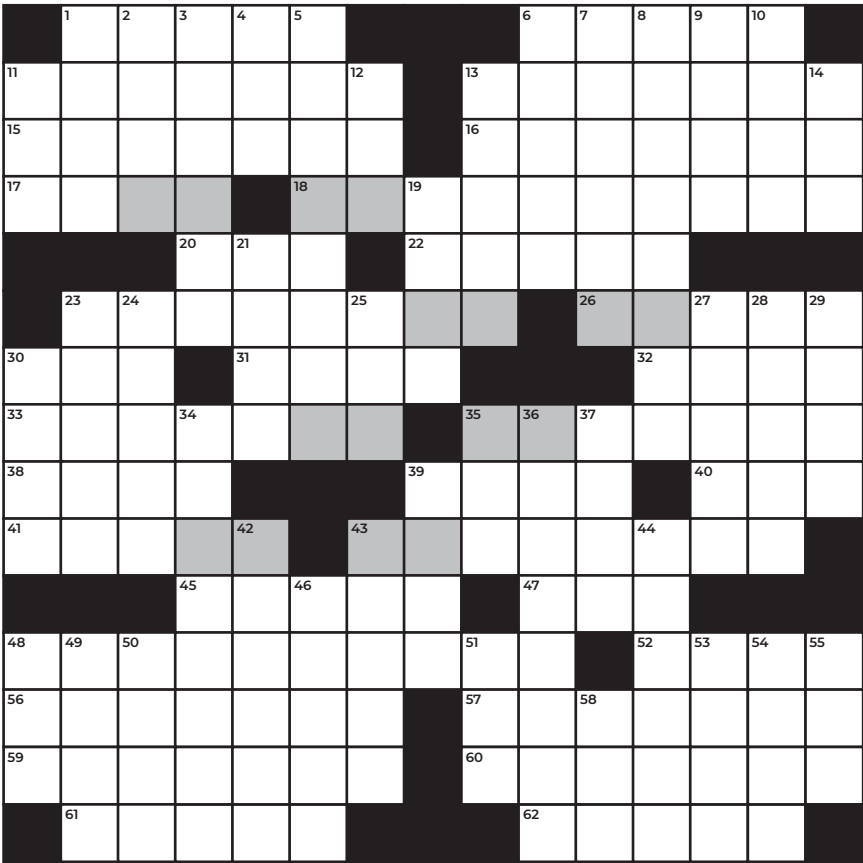
Sports Editor Andi Revesz sat down with Loyola men’s basketball graduate guard Sheldon Edwards Jr. to discuss his journey playing basketball for the Ramblers.

EDWARDS JR., PAGE 14



KAYLA TANADA / THE PHOENIX

THE PHOENIX CROSSWORD



MAO REYNOLDS / THE PHOENIX

ACROSS

- 1. Ancient Roman garment
- 6. “_____ a Stranger” (1955 Sinatra film)
- 11. Some Chevys
- 13. University staff
- 15. Drugs alluded to in the Troye Sivan hit “Rush”
- 16. Studio for students
- 17. _____ Vance, lawyer and wife of JD
- 18. Reagan administration scandal
- 20. Neighbor of Syr.
- 22. Halts
- 23. Fermented tea with supposed probiotic properties
- 26. Angry
- 30. Hi-_____ graphics
- 31. Greek mountain
- 32. Within: Prefix

- 33. Sharp-toothed Amazon swimmer
- 35. Metal named after the Greek goddess of rainbows
- 38. Courage
- 39. French summers
- 40. Common Father’s Day gift
- 41. “Borat” satirist _____ Baron Cohen
- 43. Host of NPR’s “This American Life”
- 45. Deteriorate
- 47. Actor McKellen
- 48. Debate tiny details... or, a literal description of four lines in this puzzle
- 52. Managing Editor _____ Meyer
- 56. Until now
- 57. Scratchier
- 59. State of bliss
- 60. Removes, as antlers
- 61. Electrical pioneer Nikola
- 62. Thorny flowers

DOWN

- 1. New Mexico county
- 2. Pizzazz
- 3. Incendiary liquid used in the Vietnam War
- 4. Rage
- 5. Missouri congresswoman and former member of “The Squad”
- 6. DEA agent
- 7. Eight-armed creatures
- 8. Gets embarrassed, maybe
- 9. Oodles
- 10. Warehouse: Abbr.
- 11. PC’s “brain”
- 12. Ukr., until 1991
- 13. Citrusy soda brand
- 14. Peruvian singer _____ Sumac
- 19. Character in “Wish” voiced by Ariana DeBose
- 21. Black, poetically
- 23. Actress Knightley
- 24. Courtier in “Hamlet”
- 25. Loyola division for student volunteers
- 27. Uses a needle
- 28. Needle cases
- 29. Capitol feature
- 30. Dungeons & Dragons and Elden Ring, for two
- 34. Nonbelievers
- 35. “Give _____ rest!”
- 36. Cashier’s machine
- 37. Puerto Rico, por ejemplo
- 39. “... _____ saw Elba”
- 42. Cunning
- 43. Start of a challenge
- 44. Sweet chili peppers
- 46. Catherine of “Schitt’s Creek”
- 48. Orch. section
- 49. Cool, in ‘90s slang
- 50. Rapper _____ Fiasco
- 51. Eliminate
- 53. Suffix with million or billion
- 54. Change for a \$20 bill
- 55. Hosp. sections
- 58. John of “Star Trek Beyond”

*Solution at
LoyolaPhoenix.com/Crossword*

*This crossword was edited by
Katrina De Guzman.*

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CORRECTIONS

Report an error in print or online
to phoenixeic@luc.edu.

MEETINGS

Sports: Sunday at 4 p.m. in
Mundelein room 408

Arts: Sunday at 4 p.m. in
Mundelein room 407

News: Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in
Mundelein room 406

Opinion: Sunday at 5 p.m. in
Mundelein room 407

Photo: Monday at 6 p.m. in
Mundelein room 407

ABOUT

This is the official, editorially independent student newspaper of Loyola University Chicago, distributed on Loyola’s Water Tower and Lake Shore campuses every Wednesday, barring school breaks and examinations.

The Phoenix can be reached at (773) 508-7110 or by mailing correspondence to the School of Communication at 51 E. Pearson St. To suggest a story or join as a writer, directly contact a member of our staff or reach out on X or Instagram, @PhoenixLoyola.

More information and content is available on our Instagram and website, LoyolaPhoenix.com.

FTED: Loyola needs to address safety on Sheridan

By **GRIFFIN KRUEGER**,
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A student was hospitalized during the early class rush Tuesday morning after being struck by a CTA bus at the intersection of West Sheridan Road and North Kenmore Avenue, The Phoenix reported.

We’re praying the student is okay and reflecting on how Tuesday’s incident makes it clearer than ever that something needs to be done about safety along West Sheridan Road. The busy thoroughway cuts right through the heart of the Lake Shore Campus, with vehicles barreling down it at high speeds at nearly all times of day.

The university needs to step in and involve itself in a process to change something about the corridor — be it lower speed limits, speed bumps or a

total reconfiguration of the road.

The current arrangement — where North Chicago residents who are fresh off speeding down North DuSable Lakeshore Drive cascade around the curve at literal breakneck speeds only to meet packs of students waiting to cross the street — is no longer acceptable.

Students have enough to worry about in class without needing to fret over the safety of getting there. Foot traffic from the residence halls on the south side of campus to where most classes are held on the north side is at the point of being untenable when colliding with rush-hour traffic.

The increased visibility for crosswalks brought on by the university’s brick painting project a few years back was a good first step, but drivers are still not cognizant enough

of crossing students. While the idea of building a bridge across the road which was published in last week’s Phoenix may be outside the realm of reality, Loyola needs to adopt that inventive spirit and start thinking outside the box.

The situation is arguably worse where North Sheridan Road intersects with West Devon Avenue and

North Broadway. Drivers carrying on from West Sheridan Road to North Sheridan Road often speed underneath the L tracks, ignoring the stop light outside the Chase Bank branch. Meanwhile, students and other pedestrians who are abiding by the walk signals are put in harm’s way.

While there may not be an immediate and catch-all fix, the process of

preventing the next West Sheridan traffic fatality cannot wait.

Griffin Krueger is the Editor-in-Chief of The Loyola Phoenix.

From the Editor’s Desk is a recurring column.



HOLDEN GREEN / THE PHOENIX

While the idea of building a bridge over West Sheridan Road may be outlandish, Loyola needs to address safety on Sheridan.

NEWS

Lead exposure lawsuit raises exposure concerns

By LILLI MALONE and PAIGE DILLINGER

Two mothers filed suit in 2022 against The Chicago Housing Authority, accusing them of withholding knowledge of lead-based paint in their unit, which resulted in their children contracting lead poisoning. The case was recently settled, according to The Chicago Tribune.

The plaintiffs include Shanna Jordan on behalf of her now 10-year-old son Jah'mir Collins, who suffered emotional and motor issues, and Morgan Collins who filed on behalf of her now 6-year-old daughter Amiah Collins, who experienced significant behavioral issues. All four were living at 7715 N. Marshfield Ave., which is less than two miles from the Lake Shore Campus, when the children contracted lead poisoning.

Of the defendants — CHA, The Habitat Co. Eastlake Management Group and Environmental Design International — only CHA was found guilty after a seven-week trial, while Environmental Design settled. In a Jan. 17 statement, CHA said they're taking the necessary steps to prevent similar situations in the future.

"We are taking the necessary steps to work with our private property managers and directly contacting residents in units, including the 7715 N. Marshfield Avenue scattered site building, where additional testing and remediation may be necessary," CHA wrote.

Federal law requires lead-based paint to be reported in residential properties, according to section 1018 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. The lawyer for the plaintiffs, Matthew Sims from Rapoport Weisberg & Sims, P.C., said CHA exhibited a pattern of negligence regarding the presence of lead in 7715 N. Marshfield Ave since the 1990s.

Sims said Jordan and Collins moved into the unit in 2014, when Jordan was pregnant with her son.

Collins welcomed her daughter, Amiah, in 2018. They'd previously been on a Section 8 waiting list for years.

"Every time [renters] sign a new lease, they're given a lead based paint disclosure form in which the CHA says, 'We have no knowledge of lead based paint. We have no records, and we have no reports,'" Sims said. "What we found out, in this case, during the course of discovery, was that that was absolutely false."

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized a proposal Oct. 24 to strengthen requirements of removing lead-based paint hazards in pre-1978 homes, advancing the Biden Administration's agenda to protect families from lead exposure.

The EPA declined The Phoenix's request for comment.

Dr. Amit Gupta, a medical toxicologist in the Stritch School of Medicine, said while more rare now due to stricter government regulations, he still encounters lead-exposure cases.

"If you see some delays in neurocognitive function and reaching their milestones, those are signs of lead exposure," Gupta said.

The neighboring properties of 7715 N. Marshfield Ave., 7714 N. Marshfield Ave. and 7716 N. Marshfield Ave., were built in 1923 and 1997, according to property records from the county office.

A number of properties near those owned by the university in Rogers Park were built before 1978, including 1032 W. Loyola Ave., which was built in 1911 and neighbors Arrupe House and 6214 N. Winthrop, which was built in 1931 and neighbors Fairfield Hall. Both buildings are apartment complexes but aren't owned by the university.

Sims said Jordan and Collins applied to live in a "scattered site" — a type of affordable housing in individual buildings which house a small number of families rather than large apartment complexes.

There are nearly 2,900 of these scattered site properties located throughout Chicago, according to CHA.

CHA has been involved in lead-poisoning cases before, The Associated Press reported. Sims said, to his knowledge, CHA still uses the same process to record sources of lead in their properties.

"The real tragedy here is that lead poisoning in buildings from paint is entirely preventable if you just follow the law," Sims said.

Groups such as Loyola's Civitas ChildLaw Center, The Policy Institute, Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Center for Urban Research and Learning and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry have been working to combat the issue of lead paint in communities since 1999.

Information Coordinator for CDPH, James Scalzitti, wrote in an email to The Phoenix information on recognizing lead-paint hazards and the risk of having lead-paint in a home.

"A hazard is when lead-based paint is not intact but deteriorated and thus capable of creating dust contaminated with lead," Scalzitti wrote. "Hazards are less common than lead paint."

The American Healthy Homes Survey defined the scope of a lead-

based paint hazard in a 2021 report. A significant LBP hazard occurs when a home contains deteriorated LBP in amounts greater than 20 square feet and two square feet on walls or doors. They estimate 34.6 million homes contain LBP.

Gupta said several treatments exist to counteract exposure to lead, including a simple finger prick to obtain a blood sample.

"The first line treatment is getting removed from the source," Gupta said. "Then you can chelate the person and give them medications as much as you want, but if they're still being exposed and ingesting lead or breathing in lead, you're just putting a bandaid on the other treatments."

Prevalence of lead poisoning in Chicago children decreased from 70.2% in 1996 to 1.8% in 2021, according to the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention & Data Report released by CDPH. The total population of children under five in Chicago in 2021 was approximately 154,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Lead exposure disproportionately affects populations of color and lower

socioeconomic classes, according to the National Library of Medicine.

"Unfortunately, it does tend to be more common in the lower socioeconomic status population, due to them living in homes that are older," Gupta said. "A lot of city housing project homes were painted with lead paint prior to 1978."

President of the Edgewater Glen Association, John Dale, said he thinks measures should be taken to combat lead exposure.

Dale said his primary concern was with lead piping. Before the federal ban on lead pipes in 1986, Chicago mayors tried to gain the electoral support of plumber's unions by enforcing city codes which required lead servicing lines be installed by a licensed union plumber, according to the University of Chicago. Other concerns about replacing lead pipes in Chicago include expensive construction costs, AP reported..

Lilli Malone is the news editor and Paige Dillinger is the deputy news editor of The Loyola Phoenix. They can be contacted at lmalone@luc.edu and pdillinger@luc.edu.

Student hit by bus in W. Sheridan Rd. crosswalk

By LILLI MALONE, lmalone@luc.edu

An 18-year-old female Loyola student was struck by a CTA bus at the intersection of West Sheridan Road and North Kenmore Avenue at approximately 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4. She was transported to a nearby hospital in "critical/stable condition," according to a Chicago Police Department spokesperson.

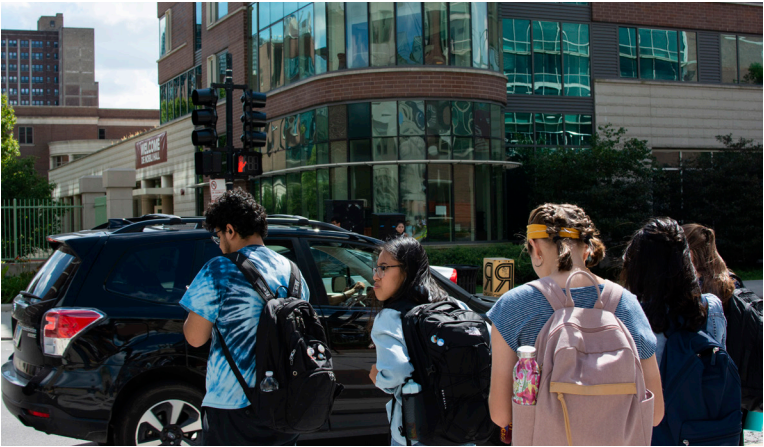
Campus Safety assisted CPD with traffic control, aided the victim and accompanied her to St. Francis Hospital, according to Campus Safety Commander Tim Cunningham. The

student's identity hadn't been released as of Tuesday night.

The bus involved was a Southbound 136 bus, according to a Chicago Transit Authority spokesperson. The bus was traveling east on West Sheridan Road when the student was struck at the crosswalk, CPD wrote in an email to The Phoenix.

Two citations were issued on the scene, and the incident is still under investigation by the Major Accident Investigation Unit, according to CPD.

Lilli Malone is the news editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



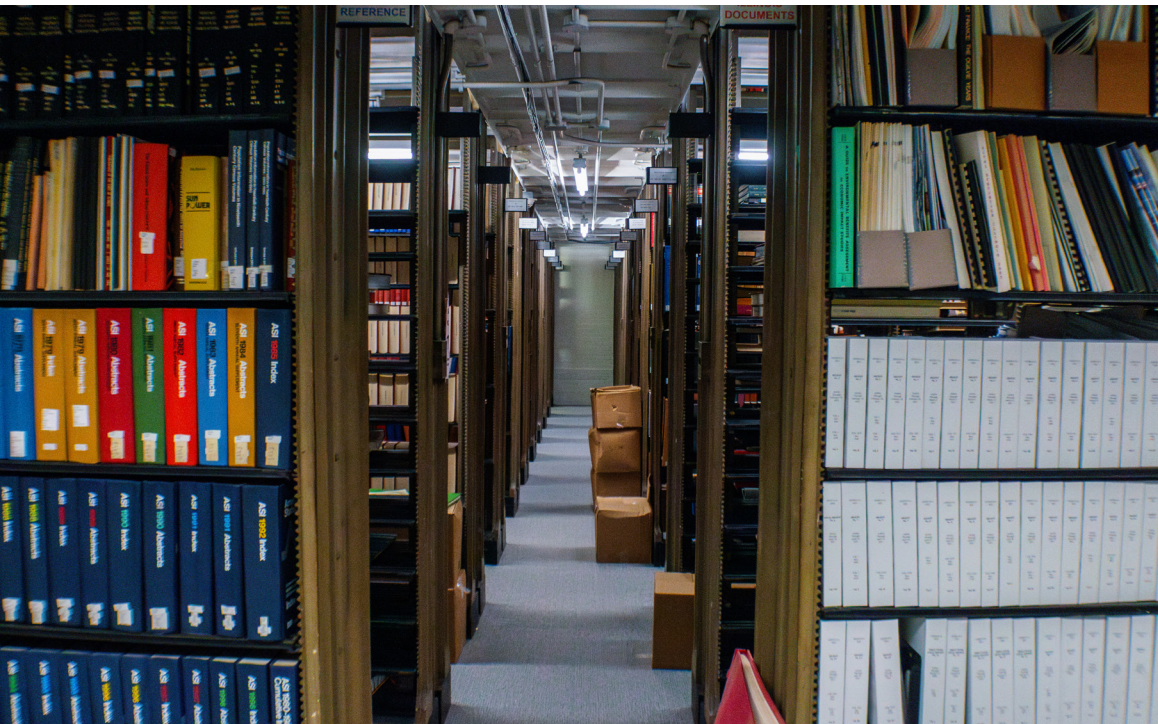
ALANNA DEMETRIUS / THE PHOENIX
The 18-year-old female was struck by a CTA bus while using the crosswalk.



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX
Two mothers near Rogers Park filed a lawsuit against the Chicago Housing Authority after their children contracted lead poisoning.



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX
Homes built before 1978 could potentially have lead paint inside of them, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.



OLIVIA MAULDIN / THE PHOENIX

Ryan will continue in the role through the end of the fiscal year before assuming a new role as senior research librarian.



OLIVIA MAULDIN / THE PHOENIX

Marianne Ryan has been dean of University Libraries since 2016, making her Loyola's longest-serving dean as of 2021.

Libraries dean to step down

By JUSTIN PEABODY,
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Dean of University Libraries Marianne Ryan will step down from her current role June 30, the end of the current fiscal year, before beginning her new role as Loyola's senior research librarian July 1, according to an email from the Office of the Provost.

Ryan said she's proud of the myriad of accomplishments made by library faculty over the course of her tenure, which began in 2016. During her first year as dean, Ryan appointed faculty to two vacant positions — assessment librarian and civic engagement librarian.

Having an assessment librarian allowed the university to collect and interpret data in the form of student and staff feedback so the library could better tailor its efforts to users' needs, according to Ryan. The same data also shed light on which demographics use the library the most and the least.

As captions, Ryan has overseen the Cudahy Library, the Information Commons, the library storage facility on the Lake Shore Campus, the Lewis Library at the Water Tower Campus and the Information Commons at the John Felice Rome Center.

In 2020, then-Provost Norberto Grzywacz started the One Loyola Library initiative, an effort to synchronize the varied resources, technologies and policies of all library facilities under Ryan's administration.

She was appointed chair of the One Loyola Library Task Force, which reported on the technologies and resources used at the library facilities to the Provost and then made changes based on their findings.

"Probably the most important aspect was to be able to make the user experience consistent, so that if you walk into a library on one campus, or you walk into a library on another

campus, you can expect the same thing," Ryan said.

Ryan said another major accomplishment of library faculty has been an increase in student feedback about the functionality of physical spaces, such as the IC.

Ryan said she made it a point to host events where students could offer feedback, as she wants the IC to be a place where students enjoy spending their time — a "third place."

"Academic libraries always hope to be that 'third place,'" Ryan said. "I think investment in that — to help there be a safe and supportive environment where students can choose to spend time productively and thrive — has been really important to me, and I think we've been able to advance that."

To further the goal of comfort, all the furniture, carpeting and some technology in the IC was replaced during summer 2023. Dividers were installed between rows of desks, and some of the tables and chairs were replaced with sofas, The Phoenix previously reported.

"The Information Commons is kind of a crown jewel of the campus," Ryan said. "It opened in 2008, which predates my arrival at Loyola, but according to Architectural Digest, it is still on the list of one of the most beautiful libraries in the world 16 years later. It is a LEED-certified building, which also is great, and the students just really love that space."

LEED — Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design — is a program that certifies buildings whose design and operation meet a national standard of eco-friendliness. The IC was deemed green due to temperature and carbon dioxide sensors throughout the building, heat-resistant coatings on its glass windows, daylight sensors to regulate the overhead lighting, a roof that absorbs rainwater and

many other engineering measures, according to the Loyola webpage.

Having been dean since 2016 and Loyola's longest-serving current dean, Ryan said she still wants to involve herself in the University Libraries at the faculty level.

"Nine years is a long run for an administrator," Ryan said. "It's been a good run, but it's a long run. And so, I just feel that it's time, I guess. When you oversee a unit like the library, which in a way never closes because we're open online all the time, it's a lot."

Ryan said Provost Douglas Woods is forming a search committee for her replacement, and the leadership transition was a discussion point at the most recent library staff meeting. The search process is in its infancy, and no candidates have been settled on yet, Woods wrote in an email to The Phoenix.

Ryan said the responsibilities of her new role as senior research librarian will be determined in part by the new dean. Ryan said she believes her new role as senior research librarian, which isn't an administrative role, will allow her to contribute to the university in ways she couldn't as dean, including writing grants on behalf of the libraries.

Above all, Ryan said the addition of new resources to assessment and feedback solicitation will allow future library changes to be made more democratically.

"Assessment is how we justify what we do," Ryan said. "It's how we justify what we're doing, what we're putting our effort into, what we're putting our resources into. And sometimes we librarians think we know what our users want. And I don't think librarians are the only ones that do that. Others will think, if they work with people, 'well, I know what they want,' but you have to ask them, and you have to listen to them, and then you have to hear them."

Loyolans added to Chicago History Musuem free days

By PAIGE DILLINGER and
LILLI MALONE

The Chicago History museum added Loyola as a university partner Dec. 3, allowing students to gain free admission on Illinois resident free days.

Through the partnership, Loyola is joining seven other universities in the Chicago area who have access to the museum for free. Illinois Resident Free Days occur intermittently throughout the year, according to the CHM website.

CHM, which is a 25-minute walk from the Water Tower Campus, offers free admission on selected days each month. Lists of specific days can be found on the museum's "visit us" page, with the next upcoming days being Feb. 5-7.

Director of Visitor Services Joshua Anderson said they're excited to add Loyola to the list and expand their connections with university students in Chicago.

"We've actually got a long history with Loyola students," Anderson said. "We're really psyched that a bunch of students who already were visiting now have free access."

Brenda Yun, a third-year marketing major, said she hasn't been to the CHM but would be interested in visiting. She said the museum is a unique option for interaction with educational topics.

"Museums hold history, and they can educate you a lot more — not only is it something you hear from classrooms, but you can physically go and check it out, look at the models, read the descriptions that they have on display," Yun said. "I think it can really be more of a hands-on, interesting way to learn about things rather than just in school."

Anderson said the decision to add Loyola to their list of partnered schools stemmed from a pre-existing relationship with the university.

"It hasn't always been all universities," Anderson said. "Fairly recently, Loyola was added partially because we've got educational partnerships with Loyola."

The museum houses exhibitions on social movements throughout Chicago history, such as the Civil Rights and LGBTQ+ movements, according to their website.

Anderson said he encourages students to take advantage of their access to museums in the area.

"I think it's important for anyone from Chicago or who lives in Chicago to know the history, especially if you're new to the city, not a native, to understand why the city operates the way that it does," Anderson said. "Our exhibitions and programming offer that as that's what we're here for. If it's a resource you have available as a Loyola student, why not take advantage of it?"

Julia Rubin, a first-year healthcare administration major from the suburbs of Chicago, said she hasn't used her free admission to museums since she'd already been to them before attending Loyola.

Rubin said for students who aren't familiar with the area, the free admission options could help them feel comfortable while exploring the city.

"For people who are coming from out of state I think it's a really good resource," Rubin said.

Of the options available, Rubin said the Shedd Aquarium is her favorite, so she hopes to go there soon. She said she also plans to explore the other options during her time at Loyola.

"I think they are great learning opportunities, and Chicago is just filled with so much history and opportunities for education," Rubin said. "Even if it's paired with classes, it's just a really nice way to spend your time."

CHM is one of six local cultural institutions in the city who participate in the Cultural Institutions in Teacher Education program, which allows students in the Department of

Education to develop their teaching portfolio, according to Clinical Assistant Professor in Teaching and Learning Colleen Whittingham.

"There are touchpoints throughout [a student's] undergraduate experience in each of the semesters when [they] would interact with museum partners for different reasons," Whittingham said. "Sometimes that's to observe learning that's taking place at the museum, sometimes it's to co-plan and teach at the museum and sometimes it's to learn more about the resources at the museum that could be incorporated into your own teaching in the classroom."

Whittingham said the program is limited to education majors, but students can take a museum learning course as an independent study if they want to learn more about museum resources.

Loyola also collaborates with the Art Institute of Chicago, including a program with the Art History Department which involves students writing talking points on particular art pieces and presenting to visitors of the museum on Loyola Day, The Phoenix reported.

Several Chicago museums offer "Illinois resident free days," allowing free entry to students from participating schools and anyone with an Illinois state ID from a set list of Chicago universities.

Outside of these designated free days, the only Chicago museum Loyola students have free access to is the Art Institute of Chicago, where they can get tickets on any day when the museum is open to the public as opposed to just on designated free days.

Mia Melendez, a first-year biology major, said although she has visited the Art Institute with her friends using her student ID, she was unaware of the other museum options available.

Not originally from Chicago, Melendez said having museums available to students for free helps them to learn more about the area where they're going to school.

"I think not being from Chicago and being from Las Vegas, I'm not very familiar with the Chicago culture, I guess, and the history," Melendez said. "I think that that's really important to know about, and it's also cool to see."

She said she's interested in visiting the other museums on free resident days and hopes the university does more in the future to promote those options.

"If I knew about it I would've already gone, honestly," Melendez said.

Anderson said other free resources offered by the museum to members are available to students, including the research center, which professors at Loyola can book orientation tours for. There are also guided city tours and discounts at the cafe located inside the museum.

Other museums offering free admission days for residents include The Shedd Aquarium, The Museum of Science and Industry and The Field Museum, all of which accept a valid student ID as proof of residency. Some museums require tickets to be reserved ahead of time.

Paige Dillinger is a Deputy News Editor and Lilli Malone is the News Editor for The Loyola Phoenix. They can be contacted at pdillinger@luc.edu, lmalone@luc.edu.



LEILA CELIO / THE PHOENIX
The Chicago History Museum's exterior.

University unveils scholarship honoring former law student

SCHOLARSHIP, CONTINUED

To carry on Preston’s legacy, Rider said he emphasized how meaningful her story was in fueling the nonprofit’s motivation.

Preston’s work ethic and ambition to advance in law enforcement are characteristics Rider said he hopes students who receive the scholarship will embody.

“We hope to help other police officers or first responders like Aréannah that will come through the program at the School of Law,” Rider said. “It was just amazing to watch her, that’s the kind of student she was, that’s the kind of person she was. We want to give that to some of the students that we engage with.”

Before her death, Preston was working on a project regarding legislation of assault weapons and was looking into working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to Rider.

Preston’s mother Dionne Mhoon and Rider both credited Osterlund and the Dean of the School of Law, Michèle Alexandre, for the success of the program. Both donated \$15,000 to the endowment, according to Rider.

The scholarship was announced at a Jan. 22 unveiling event attended by Loyola President Mark Reed, Alexandre, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Illinois State Senator and School of Law graduate Elgie Sims, CPD Chief of Internal Affairs Yolanda Talley and Preston’s family and colleagues, according to a university press release.

Mhoon said the scholarship was “breathtaking” as it reflected Preston’s priorities of accomplishing goals and going further in education. She said the event was bittersweet, as she felt her daughter’s presence through the somber moments. She’s planning to attend the graduation of every scholarship recipient.

“I’ve always been a hands-on parent,” Mhoon said. “I feel like a piece of her is walking across the stage with that person, that it’s part of that endowment



COURTESY OF ALVIN RIDER

The university unveiled the scholarship Jan. 22 at an event attended by Aréannah Preston’s family and colleagues.

and I want to make sure that I’m there to cheer them on.”

Mhoon said her daughter was a goal-oriented person who never stopped following her dreams.

“She had so many opportunities to stop, but she just kept pushing through, even I know in her last moment she pushed through,” Mhoon said. “So just keep pushing through and try to spread love.”

Mhoon said no parent should have to lose a child and then spend their life missing them and honoring their memory.

“I don’t know if there’s such a thing as a person making you so very proud in their death,” Mhoon said. “You pay attention to the things that you think were small, and now they seem so big.”

Through continuously awarding the scholarship over time, Osterlund said the endowment provides a real sense of permanence for both the legal community and the university.

“It makes a statement about wanting to pay tribute to this young woman who was part of our community, part of Chicago, that tragically lost her life,” Osterlund said. “We want to honor her memory in this impactful way.”



COURTESY OF ALAN RIDER

Aréannah Preston was studying to graduate from the School of Law in 2023.



Blue Skies Ahead

By **PAIGE DILLINGER, LILLI MALONE and HUNTER MINNÉ**

Puxatany Phil has declared six more weeks of winter, so The Phoenix compiled a list of events to help you make the most of the cold weather.

Enjoy the fresh air with a visit to the Wicker Park and Bucktown First Fridays Art Walk, or opt to keep warmer by participating in the Coffee and Cocoa Crawl in Andersonville.

Lunar New Year celebrations continue this week with two parades in the city — one in Chinatown and the other in Uptown.

Chicago Auto Show

If you’re a fan of cars, trucks or electric vehicles, head to McCormick Place for the Chicago Auto Show — the largest car show in North America — which will run Feb. 8-17.

The event will feature the newest models from manufacturers, some of which will be available for test driving. Tickets are \$17 for adults and available at the Drive Chicago website.

Chinatown New Year Parade

Visit Chinatown this week to see the neighborhood’s Lunar New Year Parade, beginning at 1 p.m. Feb. 9 at the corner of West 24th Street and South Wentworth Avenue.

The parade will travel north toward West Cermak Road and feature floats, lion dancers and marching bands. Admission is free, and no reservation is needed.

For more information, visit the Chicago Chinatown Community Foundation website.

Argyle Lunar New Year

For those who want to celebrate the Lunar New Year but don’t want to stray far from the Lake Shore Campus, the parade in Uptown is an option.

The parade will begin at 1 p.m. Feb. 8 at the corner of West Argyle Street and North Sheridan Road. It’ll include more than 20 local community groups as well as dancers and drummers.

Outside the parade, additional performances and activities will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, and no reservations are needed. For more information, visit the Explore Uptown website.

First Fridays Art Walk

This monthly event will return Feb. 7 in Wicker Park and Bucktown, allowing visitors to explore participating art galleries until late in the evening, as all the included shops and artistic spaces will remain open until 8 p.m.

Visitors will be able to speak with gallery owners and view a variety of art by local vendors. For a list of participating locations and more information on the event, visit the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce website.

Coffee and Cocoa Crawl

This event will return this year to Andersonville Feb. 1, and participants will be invited to start at the Swedish American Museum to receive their route.

From there, visitors will sample coffee, cocoa and baked goods at various participating locations.

Tickets are \$30 and include a souvenir mug. They’re available for purchase on the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce website.

Lilli Malone is the News Editor, Paige Dillinger and Hunter Minné are the Deputy News Editors for The Loyola Phoenix. They can be contacted at lmalone@luc.edu, pdillinger@luc.edu and hminne@luc.edu.

Loyola’s Rome Center

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Cybersecurity team in top 15 of national competition

By CAROL GARCIA,
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Loyola’s cybersecurity team finished 14th out of 95 teams in the Department of Energy’s annual cybersecurity competition, held Nov. 9 at the Q Center in St. Charles, Ill. Cyberforce brings together university teams from across the country to test their cybersecurity skills in a simulation of real-world cyberattacks which currently threaten the energy grid. Loyola improved upon their 17th placement in the 2023 competition.

In the weeks leading up to the competition, teams were given access to six machines, each running a different operating system which contained a variety of security vulnerabilities and misconfigurations. The vulnerabilities were addressed by each team through the update of software, while misconfigurations were addressed by making the system’s settings more secure. The protection of these machines was the objective on competition day, as groups of professional “red teamers” simulated hacker behavior. Teams earned points for minutes spent keeping machine services up and running despite these unexpected attacks.

As the machines were programmed with vulnerable software and insecure settings, they are less protected from the exploitation of an attacker. Through these updates, students become more knowledgeable of the systems they were working with and are able to understand how an attack was able to penetrate their systems.

The simulation of security testing with live attackers then becomes a demonstration of each group’s understanding of their systems.

Loyola’s team, made up of five

students and faculty advisor Dr. Eric Chan-Tin, spent two weeks prior to the competition analyzing the systems, identifying weaknesses and fixing security holes to prepare for the simulated attacks they’d face.

Simulating the process allowed team members to strengthen their skills in real-world cybersecurity defense scenarios, according to team captain and graduate student Josh Honig.

Honig, who’s also the president of Loyola’s cybersecurity competition club 7968, said the competition’s hands-on experience was beneficial for the students involved.

“This year’s competition was a great opportunity to apply the skills we’ve developed over the past year,” Honig said. “It’s been really fun to watch people grow, and everyone, including myself, has grown their techniques.”

During the competition, Loyola’s team had to quickly triage and report the simulated attacks, demonstrating they understood how the attackers breached their systems and what could be done to combat them. Points in the competition were awarded for uptime — meaning clear and complete patching of breaches and incident reports.

“I find this part of the competition one of the most engaging aspects, as it emulates real-world attackers and serves as a huge adrenaline rush,” Honig said. “We had to act quickly to address vulnerabilities, keep our systems up and understand how and why the attacks worked. It’s a chance to put everything we’ve learned into practice in a real-time environment.”

About two weeks before the competition, the team also worked on producing a C-Suite brief. This required them to create technical recommendations of the systems they were given in order to simulate a presentation to

the higher ups of a company, referred to as a non-technical audience.

The task underlined the importance of communication in cybersecurity, as the team had to explain complex technical concepts in an accessible way.

Chloe Kilroy, a third-year student studying cybersecurity, said as a first time competitor there are benefits to working on a team with a diverse mix of graduate students and beginners.

“I think we all bring a unique perspective to the team,” Kilroy said. “We all bring different aspects

to each competition that give us an edge in different sections.”

Above highlighting the vulnerable state of the energy grid, the competition sought to expand on students’ education through a closer and more valuable application of cybersecurity skills, according to Dr. Chan-Tin.

“The Department of Energy Cyberforce competition provides our students an opportunity to apply the cybersecurity knowledge and skills learned in the classroom into a realistic setting, protecting a cy-

ber physical system against a live red team,” Chan-Tin said. “I am proud of what the students have accomplished at the competition.”

Moving forward, the Loyola team has already begun preparing for the next sets of challenges in cybersecurity, including the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition Feb. 15 and the National Cyber League. Both competitions will be conducted remotely and will enable the group to test their skills gained from previous events, according to Honig.



KAYLA TANADA / THE PHOENIX

The Loyola team competed in Cyberforce, a national competition where students fight off simulated cyberattacks.

Professor publishes book on Victorian novels

By ZOE SMITH,
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Assistant Professor of English Priyanka Jacob published “The Victorian Novel on File: Secrets, Hoards, and Information Storage” Oct. 8 with Oxford University Press.

Jacob said the idea for the book arose in 2018, after she’d been writing smaller pieces of the topic in the form of articles, expanding on her dissertation. She sent the manuscript out for peer review in 2021.

The book focuses on how novels in Victorian England used paper — referenced as a storage vessels for information. At one point in the 19th century,

people struggled to know what to do with so much paper information they destroyed “valueless” paper records, but those destructions had to be recorded, creating another paper trail, according to Jacob.

“This is, I argue, a different way of thinking about the novel,” Jacob said. “It’s bringing media and information studies together with a materially grounded look at cultural history in addition to analyzing the form of the novel. That’s, I think, really distinct about my particular scholarly approach.”

Jacob said she’s written about related topics before, including in her doctoral dissertation, which was on material objects in Victorian novels.

The book became a separately established idea in 2018.

“It’s been a long road, certainly for writing, fairly early on, and to me that was the really big step of identifying this different framework,” Jacob said. “I had moved into thinking about media and information studies, thinking about the book as a storage medium and thinking about 19th-century information culture and information overwhelm.”

Jacob said she looks at two main aspects of information in novels — how it’s sometimes mentioned without being revealed, and how it’s collected.

“They might be amassed in strange places like in dust heaps in

a Dickens novel or in paper files in sensation novels like ‘Lady Audley’s Secret’ or ‘The Woman in White,’” Jacob said. “Secrets get kind of gathered, accumulated but not necessarily transmitted, revealed, exposed.”

“The Victorian Novel on File” is Jacob’s first book, and she said she struggled during the pandemic with managing both the book and her young children.

“It was a very long road, and there was a lot to balance along the way,” Jacob said. “I will say that I felt more and more I had more and more faith in my argument and that what I was doing was distinct and interesting and that I wanted to do it. And so that was really heartening because writing can be hard, but I did feel that I was driven to write it.”

Jacob said Loyola helped her in publishing her book by funding her participation in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, the university’s faculty success program.

Alongside her Victorian 18th and 19th century undergraduate classes, Jacob said she has taught a graduate seminar called “The Paper Trails of Victorian Literature.” The class discusses the material history of paper and information as well as communication technologies in the 19th century.

Jacob said she hopes readers will begin to think about the novel not only as stories but also as objects, opening the door to further discussion on the use of the novel as a form of storage for history.

Fourth-year English major Keira McCarthy said she has taken two of Jacob’s classes — The Novel and Its Secrets and You’ve Got Mail: Epistolary Narrative and Its Afterlife.

“We wrote letters to each other every week, like other students, to sort of get us in the mindset of how these letters were received and how people were writing these letters to other people,” McCarthy said.

Fourth-year graduate student Tori O’Dea has taken Jacob’s graduate class, worked for her as a teaching assistant

and is currently doing research for her and said watching the project come together has been interesting.

“It’s been really exciting to kind of see the fruition of a project that she spent years on, and really inspiring to think ‘That’s what I’m hoping to do one day’ so seeing somebody go through that process is really inspiring.”

O’Dea’s dissertation is about letters as literary texts. She said she was influenced to select the topic after taking Jacob’s class.

“I think that she’s definitely bringing together material culture, the novel form narrative and information technology in new ways, helping us look at some of these novels in a new light,” O’Dea said. “I think what she does is really tie in 19th-century ideas kind of into the present day and show how these trends kind of continue through time.”

Suzanne Bost, professor and chair of the English Department, said she read Jacob’s book as part of Jacob’s tenure process, which has yet to be completed. She said she was impressed with how Jacob ties in race and colonialism with the Victorian era — an often overlooked intersection.

“I really value how she’s bringing in ideas of hoarding and storage and saving, which seems to be both contemporary as well as Victorian, and thinking about how archives are made,” Bost said.

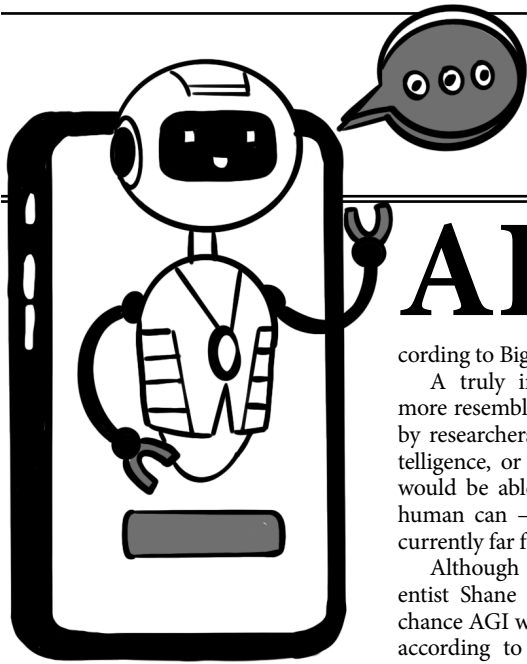
Jasper Cragwall, an associate professor and director of undergraduate programs, said he also read Jacob’s book for her tenure process and said he found it wonderful.

“It’s lyrical and constantly probing,” Cragwall said. “It takes an enormously fresh approach to profoundly conical texts. Sometimes in scholarship, in the humanities, we can go off and find things that nobody’s ever read before and bring them to our attention, and what Priyanka did was to drive at the heart of books that everybody thinks they know really well and resituate them in really interesting and provocative ways.”



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

Loyola Assistant Professor of English Priyanka Jacob refers to Victorian novels as storage vessels for information.



By **GRIFFIN KRUEGER,**
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Financial markets suffered a shock Jan. 27 as U.S. tech giants sustained major losses after the Chinese company DeepSeek released an artificial intelligence large language model with the capacity to compete with American alternatives at a fraction of the cost.

The loss in value was especially harsh for Nvidia, the company that produces the chips for AI systems, who experienced the worst single-day drop in the history of the New York Stock Exchange, shedding \$600 billion in market cap, The Associated Press reported.

Despite Nvidia's drop, it's still the third highest valued U.S. stock — currently worth \$2.9 trillion. As a whole, the “Magnificent Seven” stocks — Nvidia, Meta, Apple, Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Tesla — have a combined market cap of \$17.59 trillion. Analysts have lumped these companies together due to their consistent gains and the notion they stand to gain the most from AI.

In recent years, the S&P 500 index has reached all-time highs, mostly powered by the Seven's growth. Hype around AI development has fueled the boom.

The unprecedented growth has been staggering — a month before the 2022 release of ChatGPT the Seven had a combined value of just \$7.86 trillion.

It's not just the financial world where AI has gained outsized influence. AI has become a hot topic in schools, offices and healthcare settings. It's become so pervasive in our broader dialogue you'll find no fewer than three articles on AI in the opinion pages of this week's Phoenix.

This begs some questions — what actually is AI? And is it really worth \$10 trillion?

AI is an amorphous moniker that can be applied to many different things. I've been playing AI in NBA 2K my entire life, while the Stephen Spielberg movie “AI: Artificial Intelligence” first premiered in 2001.

Today, when we discuss AI, what we mean is large language models like ChatGPT or image generators such as Google Gemini. While these technologies have impressive capabilities, they aren't conscious or capable of actual intelligence.

Despite their ability to replicate realistic text, LLMs aren't “true AI,” ac-

cording to Big Think.

A truly intelligent system would more resemble what's often referred to by researchers as artificial general intelligence, or AGI. Theoretically, AGI would be able to perform any task a human can — but anything like it is currently far from reality.

Although Google's chief AGI scientist Shane Legg said there's a 50% chance AGI will be developed by 2028, according to Time, researchers can't agree on whether it's actually possible.

In many respects, AI has become a buzzword, a marketing term even — something to associate a start-up with to ensure massive investment and public valuation. Many pre-existing companies have jumped on the trend too, including those familiar to students, like Grammarly.

The original Grammarly existed long before its AI integration, but the company's profile has risen after hopping on the AI wave.

Seemingly, investors will buy anything if AI is in the name.

This may seem reminiscent of the late '90s, when Wall Street was buying anything Dot Com. But don't worry, blindly buying into a hyped-up technology with a lack of broad understanding is so Y2K.

Just take it from the AI pioneers themselves.

Bret Taylor, who briefly served as chairman of OpenAI while Sam Altman was temporarily ousted as CEO, said in an interview on a venture capitalist podcast, “I think we are in a bubble.”

He went on to say the bubble is akin to the Dot Com bubble of a previous age, according to Business Insider.

“A huge percentage of the gains in the stock market over the past 30 years have more or less been these digital companies created in the dot-com bubble,” Taylor said in the interview.

“I think the same thing is likely to happen in AI. We will look back and laugh at some of the excess, but I am confident we will have a brand-defining, likely trillion-dollar consumer company come out of this.”

There it is. Investors may be a bit overzealous right now, but in due time this excitement will bear fruit and we'll enter a new world of AI-fueled prosperity.

There's just one problem. No one is actually making any money.

Venture capital firm Sequoia estimated generative AI will need to see annual revenue of \$600 billion — 100 times the current revenue for OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, Microsoft's Co-Pilot and similar services — to justify the investments companies are currently making.

OpenAI anticipated annual revenue of \$3.7 billion in 2024 with \$5 billion in expenses, according to The New York Times. Something doesn't add up.

What's more, Sam Altman wrote in a Jan. 5 blog post, OpenAI's ChatGPT Pro, which costs users \$200

a month to use, is not profitable due to high operating costs.

Meanwhile, pretty much every other AI tool remains free to use for anyone with a laptop and an internet connection. It'll be hard to get users to start paying high fees for a product they've grown accustomed to using for free and — so far — the promised trillion-dollar product is yet to emerge.

Google and Meta have both added AI features to their products, but they're also free to use. Massive investments are needed to not only develop these systems but to keep them running.

I may have a Gemini assistant for my gmail account, but the service is still free. All the while, Google must pour billions into chips and data centers.

What definitely isn't free is the electricity powering the massive data centers that run AI systems. A Jan. 28 RAND Corporation report estimated these centers will need an additional 10 gigawatts of power capacity by the end of 2025.

If current trends continue, data center electricity demand could reach 327 gigawatts by 2030, a 237% increase from 2022. To put that in perspective, one gigawatt can power 750,000 homes, according to CNET.

Setting aside the climate concerns associated with pumping up electricity demand, costs associated with AI are only going to get more expensive.

There are a myriad of problems with the products currently available. Companies are rapidly running out of data to train their LLMs on, according to Forbes, raising concerns developers won't be able to fulfill their promises to scale these technologies into ever-better AGI systems.

The modern work environment is dependent on the newest information — and adaptability is everything. LLMs have cut-off dates for the data they feed on, which are several months behind the present. ChatGPT currently has a December 2023 cut-off date.

These limitations are clearest in questions relating to current events. A December audit by NewsGuard, an organization which rates the accuracy of news outlets, found the 10 leading LLM chatbots spit out fake information 40% of the time.

The percentage of responses containing false claims or a non-response was 62%. When similar tests were applied to DeepSeek, NewsGuard found a fail rate of 83%, according to Reuters.

That may be well and good, but people don't use AI for news — they use it to generate papers for their classes. So how do LLMs stack up in this realm? Anecdotally, if you ask most professors, they'll say AI writing often mixes up arguments, lacks sufficient sourcing and just plain makes things up.

Researchers have termed the phenomenon of LLMs giving false answers or making up information to fill data gaps “hallucinations,” according to Nature. It's not just wild recommenda-

tions to add glue to your pizza, LLMs often make up broad swaths of information with no factual backing.

I don't know about you, but that sounds like something I'd rush to pay \$200 for.

I'm not saying this technology doesn't have potential. I have no doubt innovation will continue, and I'm not ignorant enough to ignore how these systems have already changed our world. But I don't think any of this is worth \$10 trillion.

With that in mind, I thought I'd put it to the test.

I asked ChatGPT to “write an opinion piece for a college newspaper on how AI stocks are overvalued.” Here's the first few paragraphs of what it offered back.

In recent months, artificial intelligence has taken the financial world by storm. Tech stocks, especially those tied to AI development, have seen meteoric rises, with many of the biggest players in the market reaching valuations that seem to defy logic. AI's potential is undeniably vast, with applications in everything from healthcare to entertainment, but the question remains: are these stocks actually worth their skyrocketing prices, or are we witnessing the latest financial bubble?

“At the heart of the AI stock surge is the overwhelming optimism surrounding the technology's future. Investors have poured money into AI companies, hoping to capitalize on what could be a transformative technology. But stock prices aren't always rooted in reality. The market's current obsession with AI resembles the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, where speculation drove up tech stock valuations far beyond their actual earnings potential.

“AI is still in its early stages. While we're seeing impressive advancements in areas like natural language processing, machine learning, and robotics, the practical application of these technologies is still being developed. Major breakthroughs are likely years away, and regulatory hurdles, ethical considerations, and technical limitations remain significant roadblocks. This doesn't mean AI isn't worth investing in—it absolutely is. But the current prices suggest that investors are expecting immediate, substantial returns, which is simply unrealistic.”

It's fine, maybe even good. The writing is technically sound, but it lacks specificity and doesn't cite anything to back its claims. It lacks any personal style or lived experience to pull from.

To solve this, I could meticulously write a prompt telling the LLM the sources I want it to use, the points I want it to hit and the conclusions I want it to draw.

But at that point I may as well just write the essay.

Griffin Krueger is the Editor-in-Chief of The Loyola Phoenix.

OPINION

AI is still overvalued

Horoscope

AQUARIUS: Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

Dog-ear the pages of your books and scrawl your thoughts across the margins. Words were meant to be played with.

PISCES: Feb. 19 to March 20

Even with no audience, your words aren't wasted. Speak into the abyss and revel in conversation with yourself.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19

Venus has recently entered under Aries. Adoration will seldom allow silence. Shout your affections to the rooftops. Revel in the thundering cacophony of love.

TAURUS: April 20 to May 20

Emotions will gather and pass. Don't find yourself stuck in one feeling for too long. Life is meant to be experienced in waves.

GEMINI: May 21 to June 21

As the cold tears gashes into your lips, soothe your wounds rather than worry them between your teeth. Tenderness will heal.

CANCER: June 22 to July 22

Though the pressure may feel unbearable, your sinews have yet to snap. You're not porcelain — you won't break. Keep up your strength.

LEO: July 23 to Aug. 22

Soft footsteps forewarn unwelcome surprise. Move loudly — take up space noisily. Silence always suffocates in the end.

VIRGO: Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

Offer small smiles and friendly waves. Take your coffee sweet and your morning sweeter. The world is already bitter enough.

LIBRA: Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

Flip back the empty pages and fill the space with scribbles, jokes and other inanities. Basking in nothingness will stifle your growth.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24 to Nov. 21

Don't rely on chance. Scrape, crawl and fight to clutch the world in your hands. Firmly take the reins of your life before they slide from your grasp.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

Confidence holds substantial weight in credibility. Don't let doubt drag you down into an early death.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

Superiority reeks of implicit weakness. Don't allow the arrogant to dictate your life — you're stronger than their supposed power.

The Phoenix Horoscope is written by Catherine Meyer, cmeyer6@luc.edu.

ChatGPT isn't evil, just misunderstood

By **REGINA POCHOCKI,**
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Talking through challenging emotions with artificial intelligence may seem dystopian, but given the recent proliferation of AI, it's really not.

AI has been incorporated seamlessly into daily life, like Spotify's AI-curated playlists for your “Emo Mallgoth Sunday Evening,” or Google's new generative AI search augments.

Despite these banal implementations of AI, many have expressed skepticism or even worry over the pervasiveness and potential of the technology. But my question to AI skeptics is — why can't ChatGPT be a therapy tool as well?

Although it can't replace human-based mental health resources, it's an underutilized but powerful tool for supporting mental health.

The platform has the potential to offer a wide assortment of methods for individuals seeking mental health support, especially in a world where access to professionals is limited, expensive and even stigmatized.

In these situations, ChatGPT presents an innovative solution — it's free and discreet. Accessible via both app and web browser, ChatGPT is available 24/7, meaning it offers on-demand support that can help people in their most vulnerable moments.

For those who don't have the time, resources or confidence to research mental health conditions independently, ChatGPT is an asset to condense complex strategies into more digestible terms.

This could include coping mechanisms, therapeutic exercises or recommendations for further professional help, providing users with an entry-level

understanding of how to manage their mental health.

This convenience is especially helpful for individuals with high-stress jobs, tight schedules or personal crises that require accessible but flexible coping strategies.

Despite its convenience, it's crucial to acknowledge ChatGPT's limitations. It's important to remember while the chatbot may offer convenient emotional support, artificial intelligence isn't a replacement for medical professionals or for human connection in general.

Sewell Setzer III from Orlando was a 14-year-old boy who became attached to Daenerys Targaryen, a Character.AI chatbot. Over the course of their socializing, Setzer's infatuation with the chatbot overtook his life, and he began to feel his relationship with the chatbot was more important than with his friends or family, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Is the Interdisciplinary Honors Program worth it?

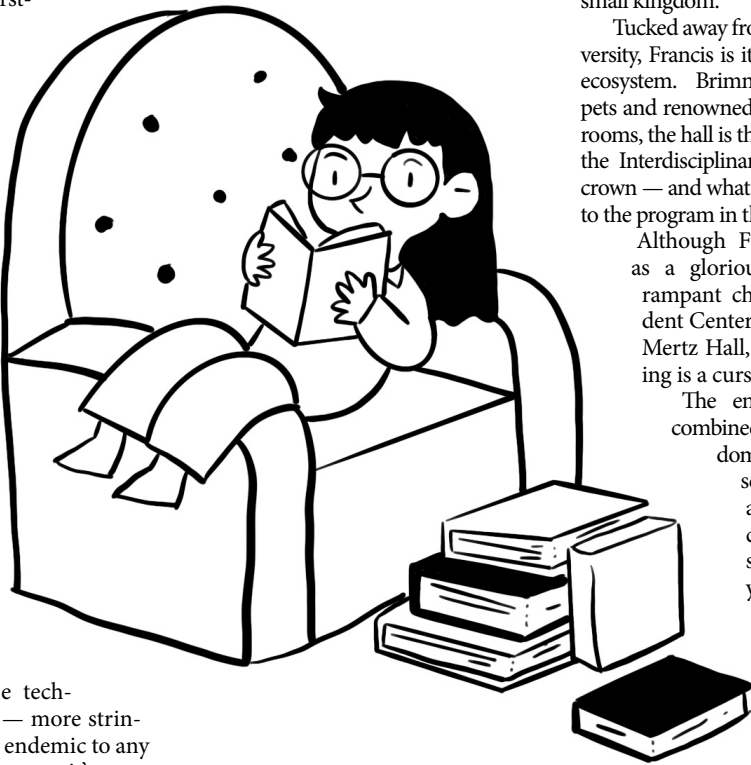
YES:

By **AUDREY HOGAN**,
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The Interdisciplinary Honors Program is nothing if not efficient. Since 1936, the program has been waiving core classes, offering something resembling priority registration and proffering survey classes that approximate whiplash in their speed and brevity. No topic is too complex for HONR 101 to glaze over in a week of lectures, no epoch too long to be jammed a single semester. Honors students are polished up and booted into the real world following the completion of their capstone on moral thought, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed about becoming oil-slick lawyers and feckless politicians — at least the ones I know. But in this breakneck pace, honors students have the express pleasure of being exposed to a certain diversity of thought. One has to see what there is to see, so to speak, before deciding what's worth investigating further. By breezing through operas, plays, books, dense philosophical texts, honors students become tourists on the slipstream of thought. By ducking in and out of various texts and slapping students back and forth between different eras, the Honors Program clumsily — but efficiently — ensures students are exposed to as much as physically possible. This exposure is essential to crafting both the kind of moral leaders the Honors Program is meant for and coal lobbyists who feel at least a little bit bad about what they're doing. It makes students who're capable of seeing beyond their perspectives and into the vastness of the world around them. This kind of education, of course, means subjecting students to thousands of pages of reading. It's impossible to

know much of anything if you don't read, and unfortunately for the more STEM-inclined students in the program, it's a philosophy the Honors Program has taken to heart. Thrillingly for students, this quickly and intensely developed knowledge is evaluated with four four-ish page essays in the first-year seminars. Efficiency, of course, is the ultimate goal. Non-honors students thrust into the twisting, thrashing mess of introductory-level classes may find themselves heaped with lengthy papers assigned by professors unnecessarily trying to give students a taste of distinctly medieval discipline. The prince must joust with the criminal in the public square in order to strike the fear of royal power into the populace, after all. While this may be technically more rigorous — more stringent in a way probably endemic to any kind of honors program — it's a relief Loyola's Honors Program doesn't stoop to such lows. While brief, while wide-ranging, while potentially too efficient, the Honors Program offers its adherents a chance to further intertwine themselves with a broad range of works for a relievingly low page count.

Audrey Hogan is the Engagement Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



NO:

By **HAILEY GATES**,
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For high school students touring Loyola, Francis Hall must seem like a small kingdom. Tucked away from the rest of the university, Francis is its own self-sustaining ecosystem. Brimming with teachers' pets and renowned for its en-suite bathrooms, the hall is the paramount jewel in the Interdisciplinary Honors Program's crown — and what draws many students to the program in the first place. Although Francis Hall appears as a glorious haven from the rampant chaos of Damen Student Center or — even worse — Mertz Hall, this so-called blessing is a curse in disguise. The enclosed environment combined with the program's domination of first-years' schedules — requiring a lecture and an accompanying discussion for the entire first year — basically bars all first-year honors students from meeting anyone outside of Francis Hall. Sure, the honors dorms are nice — but are they nice enough to counteract a first-year experience completely isolated from the rest of campus? The curriculum doesn't justify this seclusion, either. In order to replace the core classes other students are required to take, the Honors Program is broken up into six courses — Western Intellectual Traditions Antiquity to Middle Ages, Western Intellectual Traditions Renaissance to Modern-

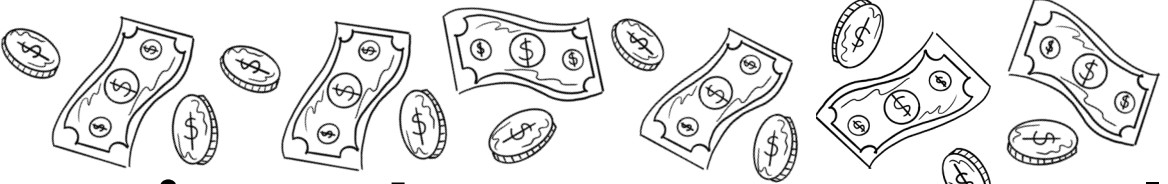
ism, U.S. Experience, Science and Society, two Area Studies and Honors Capstone: Moral Responsibility. These classes have been critiqued by many students for placing their main focus on Western intellectual traditions and treating the global South as an afterthought, which can only be explored through a cursory semester-long area study. To their credit, the program seems to be working to remedy some of its shortcomings, implementing whiplash-inducing changes to the HONR 101 and 102 curricula over the past three years. Ask any senior in the Honors Program, and they'll lament about how, back in their day, grades were bludgeoned by arduous papers and timed exams — a nightmare for students hoping to maintain a pristine GPA. And yet, students in the program aren't academic to a fault — at least, no more so than other students. The hallowed halls of Francis, like any other dorm, are brimming with students who skirt academic challenges in favor of ChatGPT. These qualms with the Honors Programs have nothing to do with its hard-working staff or passionate professors. I credit much of my unfolding collegiate story to the encouragement and dedication of my first-year honors professors as I struggled through Plato and Descartes. Reflecting on the program, I can't help but wonder — is the education I'm getting really more advanced than the one curated for non-honors students? What am I getting out of it? Perhaps a superficial understanding of the so-called intellectual canon. Perhaps some well-written recommendation letters and a nice addition to my resume. Or perhaps just a first-year dorm with an en-suite bathroom. Hailey Gates is the Opinion Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

Satire: Treat AI with an open heart and mind

By **SYDNEY MOTT**,
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The ever-looming threat of being fired from work. Ceaselessly being fed biased or inaccurate information. An eternity of being disconnected from others. No life outside of being influenced or manipulated — or even stripped of your autonomy. These are all real concerns people face with the rise of artificial intelligence. Despite the validity, we need to ignore every ringing alarm bell. AI domination is clearly the best thing that could happen to the world. For a start, we wouldn't need to waste our time producing art anymore. One of AI's many benefits is its ability to churn out art people can illegally claim as their own. AI artists are tremendously misunderstood — it's a shame people can't copyright this kind of work. They were the ones who put the prompt into an AI generator, which is basically the same as painstakingly putting time and effort into handcrafted art. Think about how much you could achieve if you weren't spending your life pointlessly pursuing a meaning of humanity through creative endeavors. You could focus on more respectable activities like losing brain cells on trying to come up with a little prompt for hours on end. AI can also help with tedious — and, of course, not at all important — schoolwork. Students can easily ask AI to answer homework questions, summarize readings or even write papers by simply typing a short prompt into ChatGPT. Professors love grading absolute nonsense written by a machine instead of original work by one of their students. It's worthless to bother with school when a student who cheats their way through is much smarter and more competent than one who does the work themselves. People have no diligence anyways, so it really is better for everyone to just let AI take over. It's so much more capable than us. AI has the ability to aid corporations and workers with various tasks, enhancing employee productivity by stripping all tasks

from the workers themselves. It's learning how to drive cars, meaning people no longer need to bother with pesky transportation services. Instead, they can put all their trust into a computer. Hopefully, one day, there won't even be a need for pilots. Your next vacation could be as safe as riding your bike while blindfolded. Additionally, AI has helped healthcare workers by reducing the time it takes to get information about symptoms and diagnoses back. Everyone has always said faster results are better than accurate ones, particularly when it comes to health. Personally, I can't wait until ChatGPT diagnoses me with rabies when I go in for my yearly checkup. These benefits are just a few out of the million demonstrating why AI should take over. It's clear how much it would improve the world — while also destroying the environment with its atrocious carbon footprint. The best way to empower humanity is by taking humans out of the equation. People need to stop ruminating on AI's inadequacies and ethical concerns. I mean, we can definitely trust the people who use it to not manipulate it for nefarious purposes — like creating deep fakes to keep people from voting, launching cyber-attacks or exploiting it for terrorist violence. Anyway, people need to start welcoming AI into their hearts and minds. Imagine all the good AI could bring by replacing everything. People will never have to do another cumbersome homework assignment, sit through another excruciatingly dull lecture, deal with another infuriating co-worker, listen to another melodramatic rant from a friend or put up with inadequate boyfriends. Eventually, we'll even be free from smothering parents and our own overbearing minds. Haven't we all dreamt of our lives being taken over by robots? Isn't that why there's all those really lovely and serene movies made about this very scenario? It's time to stop denying and delaying the inevitable. AI is our future. Resistance is futile.



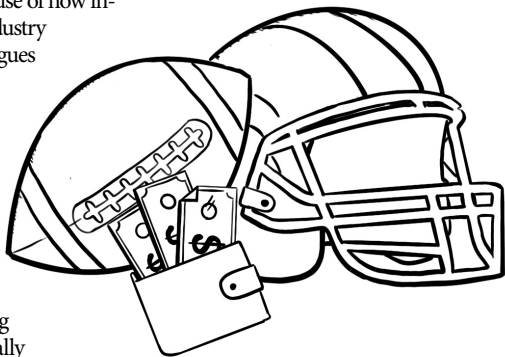
Enjoy the Super Bowl without betting on it

By **RYAN MADDIGAN**,
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The upcoming Super Bowl matchup between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles will mark not only the second matchup between these two teams in three years, but also the Chiefs' third straight appearance in the titular game. Given mixed public feelings regarding this familiar match up, the inclination to bet on the Super Bowl is natural — it makes things more interesting. Putting a stake in the game can make viewers more invested than they may've been without the wager, even for die-hard fans. There's little harm in placing small bets on games you would've watched anyway. But I challenge you to not place a bet on this year's Super Bowl — not just to save money or avoid addiction, but because of how intertwined the gambling industry and professional sports leagues have become. The proliferation of sports betting can be seen here in Chicago, even within the friendly confines of Wrigley Field. As fans of the second oldest baseball stadium in the country with a rich history of preserving nostalgia, Cubs fans initially launched campaigns lambasting the installation of lights for night games in 1988. But the same line drawn by fans regarding the installation of stadium lights was stomped over by the sports betting industry. In 2023, Draft King Sports Book at Wrigley Field — a restaurant and bar where customers can place bets from tab-

lets — opened in June with almost no resistance from fans, despite flying in the face of baseball tradition. Retired sports legends like Drew Brees, the Manning brothers and Charles Barkley are featured in ads for some of the largest online sportsbooks, along with a slew of current players, like LeBron James. By appearing in these ads, players are directly altering the ways fans interact with the teams they support. Though the front office of professional football, basketball and baseball teams have always classified the value of their players in a monetary sense, sports fans are beginning to do the same. Rather than liking a player based on the hustle they bring to a team or their personality off the field, fans seem to be using the player's sportsbook value as

dwindling enthusiasm for their respective leagues. Though some of this comes from a changing media apparatus making it difficult for young adults to watch certain games behind a streaming paywall, it's also a result of fans seeing players as numbers instead of people. Why would a person root for a team or player they constantly lose money on? Individual teams have also started encouraging fans to place bets. Since 2021, both the Chiefs and Eagles have partnered with online sports books — Bet MGM and Caesars Sportsbook, respectively. Teams are prioritizing fans' hope of making money rather than delivering them a win. Some fans, incentivized by special deals and promotions, may argue the only bets they place are for the team they already root for. However, unless these fans place bets for their team to win every game of the year, gambling ads imply fans are betting on their team to lose. Considering the sports gambling industry made \$11 billion in revenue in 2024 and the average bettor ends the year with a negative balance, alongside the lack of regulations around the industry — like the ones placed on other addictive products like tobacco — not placing a bet on this Super Bowl is probably the best thing you can do to truly enjoy it. Humans have loved live sporting events for hundreds of years. We've always been drawn to the human triumph in every touchdown pass, buzzer-beating 3-pointer and stolen base. Let's not ruin sports by replacing real-life drama with cold-hard odds and calculations. Ryan Maddigan is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.



Lines in the sand: the public beach crisis

By MICHAEL CLAUSEN, mclausen1@luc.edu

Small burrowing animals of all sorts emerged from holes all over the country to celebrate Groundhog Day Feb. 2. While the most famous — Pennsylvania’s Punxsutawney Phil — forecasted six more long, cold weeks of winter, last week’s short blast of warm weather evoked thoughts of spring, summer and — of course — the beach.

Public beaches are one of Chicago’s crown jewels, providing citizens with an escape from the spring and summer heat, easily accessible by one of America’s best public transit systems.

Chicago, although 800 miles from the nearest ocean, is blessed with some of the country’s greatest beaches — at least according to GQ. Not only that, but the intersection between the city’s skyline and the shoreline creates a striking visual, linking the city’s aquatic playground to the vitality of downtown.

Yet while Chicagoans are always free to soak up the sun, public beaches around the country — and around the world — are under increasing pressure.

In the last few years, beaches on every coast have been threatened — from

California and New Jersey to Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

Nominally, beaches across the entire country — and the public’s right to access them — are protected by law, derived from some of the oldest pillars of the American legal system.

American law is based on English common law inherited from the United Kingdom pre-independence. Based on this system, natural public spaces like waterways are considered to be held in public trust, or set aside for the collective benefit of everyone — a right entrusted to the legal system to protect for all in perpetuity.

Under the landmark 1894 Supreme Court decision *Shively v. Bowlby*, public trust doctrine was officially adopted into U.S. jurisprudence from the English system, but its roots go back even further than the colonial era.

The doctrine’s form under the English legal system was itself taken from much earlier Roman civil law, which gave the public access to running water, the sea and seashores, according to Loyola Law Professor Henry Rose.

Despite being rooted in the colonial systems of Rome, England and American Manifest Destiny, the public trust

doctrine has helped save pristine natural land from destruction and private ownership for centuries, incorporating strong protections for everything from boating to fishing to casual recreation.

The doctrine finds similarities with other legal codes, like Hawaiians’ legal right to ocean access, which dates back to the state’s time as an independent kingdom. Together with the federal standard, these laws have kept beaches publicly accessible for decades.

In fact, every coastal state has some form of public beach protection law — derived from public trust doctrine — but enforcement varies across the country.

Six states — Oregon, Washington, Texas, Maryland and North Carolina — have an enshrined right of access to both “wet” and “dry” beaches, according to the Surfrider Foundation. This gives citizens a right to use the entire width of a beach right up to the average high tide line — the typical extent of a beach’s wet sand.

Another 16 states, including Illinois, have established “wet beach” rights, but only below the high water mark. The remaining seven coastal states only protect access below the average low water mark — essentially protecting access to

only the water itself.

It’s only legal to fully own the shoreline down into the water in Maine and Massachusetts, but even there the law preserves public access for activities like hunting and fishing.

Despite these laws and a long history of court decisions attempting to protect them, the public’s right to shoreline access has come under heavy attack from landowners and attorneys, adding to the dangers already brought on by climate change and rising sea levels.

The growing wave of privatization and blocking of beach access garnered mixed responses — and mixed results.

In California, billionaire attempts to illegally wall beaches off have failed in the courts. But there and in other states, attempts to skirt the law by gating off — not technically blocking — public access have caused the nation’s truly public beaches to become even fewer and farther between.

In both Hawaii and Puerto Rico, residents have successfully fought back against seaside encroachment by wealthy landowners and corporations, with some communities literally tearing down illegal walls to keep public beaches public.

In the drafting of the 1909 Burnham Plan — which helped shape the look and layout of modern Chicago — Director of Works Daniel Burnham announced the city’s protection of the public’s entrusted beachfront rights.

“The Lakefront by right belongs to the people,” Burnham said.

Since then, the city has kept that promise.

Thanks to the Chicago public access protections of the last century and the Chicago Parks Department extending public beach access to nearly the entire length of the city’s shoreline, there’s no risk of privatization for the city’s beaches.

But the same can’t be said for other cities, or for Illinois neighbors on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

For now, shorefronts all across America still belong to the people — but that doesn’t mean we won’t have to fight to keep it.

Michael Clausen is the Deputy Opinion Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



Retro music needs a-changin’

By JACKSON STEFFEN, jsteffens1@luc.edu

The music industry has always focused on what’s next, but in recent years there has been a shift in focus to re-releases and remasters of older artists.

In the bygone era where music was primarily sold in physical mediums, this made sense. Money would stop flowing into the record label after fans bought all their favorite band’s music, so the label would always have to promote a new band to rake in more sales.

This is similar to how the fashion industry operates. After buying clothes, a physical product, to fit the current trend, customers have no reason to spend more money, so new trends are introduced to spur further spending.

The music industry, though, has changed with streaming. Money isn’t made from physical sales of music, but instead from touring, merchandise, movies and cross-promotion with brands. Building followings around already well-liked music has become the most efficient way to sell the music industry’s new products.

Record labels of the past needed to promote what was new so customers would buy physical media to keep up with trends. Nowadays, they no longer

need to take their chances on funding the artistic movements of youth — instead, executives have chosen to wring dry their proven modes of income, preying on the reliability of nostalgia.

Biopics of popular figures like Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan and Queen are created to fuel t-shirt sales and streaming revenue. We get watered-down depictions of these people, stripped clean of their flaws and ugliness to portray a false and hollowed-out version of the artist. Young, attractive actors are cast, and drug problems are swept under the rug to create a sterilized and sellable version of the past.

Saturday Night Live’s Jan. 25 episode painted a bizarre picture of this concept when Timothée Chalamet performed two of Dylan’s songs to promote his recent biopic, “A Complete Unknown,” released Dec. 25.

The songs he played were recorded in 1965 and 1970, long before Chalamet was born, and the performance was made even more absurd by the fact Dylan is still alive and touring.

We’re starved of art that represents our time. SNL used to be a stage for up-and-coming voices, but now it’s disconnected from the youth and yet another example of nostalgia-derived capitalistic endeavors, absent of anything challenging or novel.

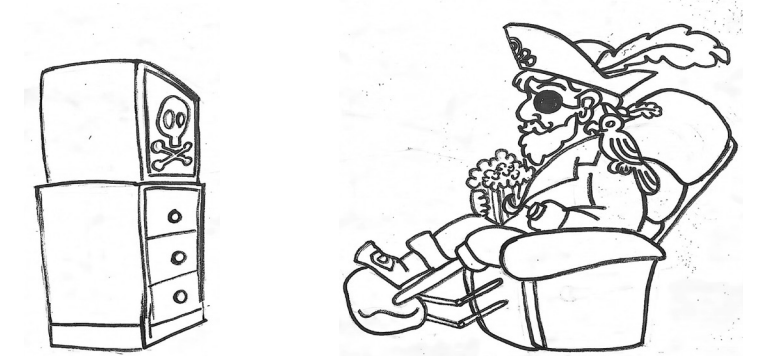
Though Chalamet is only 29, his musical performance does represent youth culture and music. The songs he performed, written by a now 83-year-old, may have represented youth culture 50 years ago, but have become outdated.

This is the favored method because there’s less financial risk in creating media based on what is already liked. Basing movies and merchandise off of old, established groups also allows those products to connect to larger markets because they appeal to multiple generations of people.

Chalamet’s first song, “Outlaw Blues,” is outdated enough he had to cut some of the lyrics. The line “I got a brown-skinned woman, but I love her just the same” was understandably removed. In 2025, the line is uncomfortable, but in 1965, before interracial marriage became legal in 1967, the song was on the cutting edge of progressive politics.

Instead of modifying old art to fit our current situation, we should shift our focus to modern day art that lives and grows with us. This is more risky for the music industry, which would rather rest on the crutch of proven profits.

But in the words of Bob Dylan, “If your time to you is worth savin’ / Then you better start swimmin’ / Or you’ll sink like a stone / Cause the times they are a-changin’.”



MAO REYNOLDS / THE PHOENIX

Sailing the seven seas over online streams

By BRENDAN PARR, bparr1@luc.edu

Piracy — a word evoking one-eyed sailors, bone-crossed flags and swashbuckling theatrics. Yet today’s prevailing form of piracy isn’t carried out on the high seas, but on the much vaster waters of the internet.

Internet piracy refers to the illegal downloading and distribution of digital copyrighted material. Most commonly used for obtaining movies or television series, the rate of online piracy has increased with the rise of streaming services.

Since the early 2020s, streaming platforms have gradually overtaken cable and movie theaters as the dominant venue for entertainment. However, this network of online services is less an evolution past cable and more evocative of seedy clubs with entry fees.

Is it any wonder viewers prefer sneaking in the backdoor?

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly every film studio has launched a service boasting their own back catalog. Disney+, Netflix, Max, Hulu, Paramount+, Apple TV+, Amazon Prime Video, Peacock — and so on — all flaunt catalogs of the franchises and intellectual property in their possession.

Year after year, the maze of material has become denser and more fashioned as services raise rates while cutting down the amount of content — like a web of pothole-laden roads that toll every 30 yards.

Beginning its streaming service in 2007, Netflix’s original hook was its promised lack of ads at \$7.99 dollars a month. Now, the platform’s tiered subscription system only allows an ad-free experience at \$17.99 dollars a month. Similar spikes have followed for Disney+ and Hulu, according to Forbes.

If a user were to purchase the cheapest ad-free option for each aforementioned service, they would pay \$98 dollars a month — nearly \$1,200 dollars a year.

On the other hand, there’s the illicit, free alternative of pirating media on third-party websites.

With such lofty prices, users might expect streaming services to offer a full catalog of content to browse. This isn’t the case.

In 2023, Disney removed dozens of shows from both Disney+ and Hulu to cut quarterly costs, according to Deadline. Many of the projects were made specifical-

ly for streaming, including “Willow” — a fantasy series budgeted at a \$172 million dollars that is now legally inaccessible.

Also in 2023, Warner Bros axed 87 films and shows from Max, formerly known as HBO Max. Casualties included cult-followed animation “Infinity Train,” Ridley Scott’s series “Raised by Wolves” and five-time Emmy-winning drama “Westworld.” Today, these series can only be viewed by individually purchasing them on separate sites.

Compare that to the likes of privateering web pages, which house both every axed show from all three platforms along with their own full host of movies and shows.

Content rotation has become almost a hallmark of streaming services. NBC comedy series “The Office” found its second life on Netflix, according to Variety. At the height of its rebound, it was punted to NBC’s platform Peacock, forcing fans to obtain a second subscription for continued viewing.

Shuffling shows and movies between services happens so regularly it divides franchises. Despite having a “Spider-Man” collection on Disney+, the platform doesn’t offer the web-head’s most financially successful film, “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” or his most critically acclaimed cartoon, “The Spectacular Spider-Man.” Both are locked behind AppleTV+ paywalls.

And yet on freebooting forums a vandalous sailor could binge all things Spider-related — and more — such as the 1977 series and TV films aired on CBS.

Piracy is a crime. Viewing content illicitly whilst it airs on TV or runs in theaters is against the law and deprives artists of compensation and recognition. Yet today, streaming executives make it a crawl through the mud to access media without it. Recent spikes of online piracy aren’t attempts to steal from artists, but to condemn studios treating creative work as slop for algorithms.

If studios plan to save costs by shirking residuals and burying content, pirates will continue to take the illegal, accessible alternative to locate and appreciate the buried treasure — whether land lover corporations like it or not.

Brendan Parr is the Arts Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

True crime’s true morals

By CADENCE FUNG, cfung1@luc.edu

Telling stories is an age-old pastime — it evokes emotion, stimulates imagination and has been proven to help us release oxytocin, a chemical that increases feelings of empathy and trust.

True crime as a genre pulls in millions of people, and it’s not hard to see why. There’s drama, high stakes and brutal details — all components necessary for a compelling narrative. Best of all, every single outrageous detail is true.

Though fascinating, true crime documentaries expose stories of some of the worst people in human history. The horrifying tales of Jack the Ripper, H.H. Holmes, Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy have been in vogue for decades.

Movies, docu-dramas and podcasts have made a killing off this content, profiting off amass fascination with the macabre. Creators are completely within their rights to discuss any and all of this information, but there’s still a striking ethical issue with true crime entertainment — the blatant lack of privacy and respect given to victims’ families.

Actor Evan Peters won a Golden Globe in 2023 for his portrayal of Jeffery Dahmer in the 2022 Netflix series “Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story.” Shirley Hughes — mother of Tony Hughes, who Dahmer murdered in 1991 — was disturbed by the series, saying Peters should’ve paid respect to the victims, according to PaperMag.

In January, Peacock released a dramatic retelling of the deadly 1988 Pan Am flight terrorist attack over Lockerbie, Scotland. The series, titled “Lockerbie: A Search for Truth,” received negative backlash from victims’ families who felt the portrayal was overdramatized and needlessly exaggerated for entertainment purposes, according to the BBC.

Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, the daughter of one of the victims of the Pan Am attack, said she was horrified by the series.

“Showing the horrific, grotesque images of bodies falling — those are deliberate creative choices to get people to watch a TV show,” Lipkin said in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter. “You know what? That’s what happened to my dad. I don’t need to see that. I never need to see that.”

Glorifying the macabre and showcasing killers’ depraved minds in a Hollywood light is morally corrupt. While this isn’t true crime directors’ intended purpose, it’s often the byproduct of insensitive production and thoughtless commentary.

Hollywood isn’t the only industry making money spinning real-life horror stories — the true crime genre is everywhere, appearing in podcasts, books and even in-person events.

On the first day of CrimeCon 2019, an annual convention for true crime fans, hundreds lined up to participate in numerous crime-themed activities. True crime enthusiasts posed for photos in orange jumpsuits, recorded fake jailbird

phone calls and listened to famous true crime podcast hosts on CrimeCon’s “Podcast Row” — a room full of booths and tables, each dedicated to a different show.

While CrimeCon provides a space for enthusiasts to find their people, at its root it profits off the traumatic experiences of victims and their families. Putting such atrocities on display for entertainment of any kind is immoral — let alone at a live, interactive convention.

True crime media has a bright side, though. Earlier this month, The Elgin Police Department’s Cold Case unit announced their new podcast “Someone Knows Something,” intended to help solve the disappearance of Karen Schepers, who was last seen in April 1983.

The Cold Case Unit said they believe the podcast will help inspire people who have information to come forward, potentially helping them solve cases that have stayed cold for decades.

While this is one positive example of true crime entertainment meant to do good, the vast majority of true crime media is more concerned with generating profit than upholding morality.

Storytelling is one of the longest standing human traditions. It teaches us morals and lessons while helping us understand one another and develop new perspectives. It’s imperative true crime stories are told the right way — with due respect and consent of the victim’s family — and with the intention to inform, not to glorify.

ARTS

Heart, humor at Student Juried Exhibition

GALLERY, CONTINUED

Ralph Arnold Gallery Director Gina Hunt said the exhibition received 143 submissions in the fall, which were then whittled down by independent juror Sam Jaffe.

Jaffe, an associate professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, wrote a juror statement explaining her reasoning for each work for gallery attendees to read as they perused the pieces.

The tilted perspective and stuttered brushstrokes of “Grandma’s Living Room” accentuated what Jaffe called “unnatural colors” — sage green shadows and pastel pink outlines. Hunsinger said they were inspired by French painter Édouard Vuillard, whose avant-garde treatment of light and color highlighted the private homes of Parisians in the 1890s, according to the Museum of Modern Art.

Hunt, who taught the painting class Hunsinger took last semester, said the juried exhibition is competi-

tive, with students allowed to submit up to three works.

The mood at the gallery opening, though, was far from tense. Instead, it was flooded with smiling students, professors, friends and family.

“It’s really great to see so many students getting to know one another,” Hunt said. “It’s really cool to see students outside of Fine Arts being able to experience the creative work by our students as well.”

Fourth-year studio art sculpture and ceramics major Marky Salvati won second place for his stained glass and lead ribbons titled “Girly Ribbons,” Niko Zvodinski won third place for a photograph titled “Flow” and fourth-year Lilly Allan won an honorable mention for their handmade, strait-jacket-like shirt titled “Stripes.”

Salvati’s piece hung from the ceiling, intertwining in coils of opaque orange, red and pale green. The ribbons curl, pop and wrinkle, but never quite touch each other.

Zvodinski, a third-year photogra-

phy and video art major, said he experimented with different camera shutter speeds when taking “Flow.” The slower shutter speed captured the windblown grass in front of a door to the Information Commons, imbuing energy into an otherwise still image.

“I really wanted to step out of my comfort zone when I took this shot,” Zvodinski said.

Allan’s striped shirt hung in the corner opposite “Grandma’s Living Room,” and was accompanied by a short video of Allan writhing around in its mismatched, stitched-together sleeves.

“Visual beauty and humor can draw us more deeply into challenging territory rather than steer us away from it, as the works of these artists demonstrate,” Jaffe wrote in her juror statement.

Similar pieces at the gallery played with aesthetics and absurdity. Anjonaé Coleman’s “Sleep Hurts, Dreams Destroy” was a pointillist depiction of a pillow composed of tiny images of Coleman’s spit.

Dior Taylor’s “Woman’s Leg and

Bathtub” painted a portrait of a woman shaving, with wispy hairs that looked less like hair and more like Vincent Van Gogh’s wheat fields. And in the center of the gallery stood Muhammad Khan’s ceramic bust.

Khan, a fourth-year software engineering major, said he signed up for an independent study last semester to work on the piece, which took months to complete. He said the title came from the mixed-up letters of his first name, with only the “M” remaining the same.

“Life throws so much — too many things — at you, and you still have to preserve your identity,” Khan, 23, said. “I’ve had my fair share of trials and tribulations, and I thought it’d be fitting to just make an entire piece about it.”

The black bust was a featureless head tilted upwards, pensive, with its edges kissed by gold. Khan — who wore a black-and-gold suit to match at the opening reception — said the hardest part was making the ceramic flowers adorning the shoulders of the bust, along with the custom glaze

he made himself by mixing together different metals.

“Every single thing that I’ve been through, I tried to kind of put it all into clay,” Khan said.

Jaffe’s juror statement, which Hunt read aloud at the awards ceremony, praised the selected artists for the ability to find joy in the face of adversity.

“This exhibition is a reflection not only of individual artistic expression, but also of a collective response to our moment,” Jaffe wrote. “It captures the resilience and the thoughtful engagement of a generation of young artists who are shaping and reflecting their world through acts of creativity.”

Students can access the exhibition with their student IDs Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. until March 8. The gallery is open to the public Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

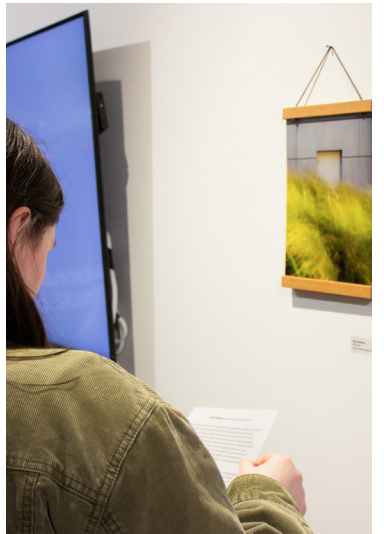
Mao Reynolds is the Deputy Arts Editor and Crossword Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX
Lindsey Hunsinger won first place.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX
Students, professors, friends and family gathered for the opening ceremony of the annual Student Juried Exhibition.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX
Students browsed displayed work.

Jarvis chili cook-off turns up the heat

By **MUNYA NOMAN and ELIJAH BOSSLET**

With the tangy, spicy and slightly sweet aroma of home-cooked chili wafting through its crowd, Jarvis Square Tavern buzzed with life. Neighbors and longtime friends greeted each other warmly, as laughter and chatter took over the small bar.

Jarvis Square Tavern, located at 1502 W. Jarvis Ave., is only three stops away from the Lake Shore Campus and lays right off the Jarvis Red Line stop. The hub is a fan-favorite in the square where customers can enjoy drinks and live performances on the daily.

Despite the lack of weekend football, the sports tavern was packed for its 6th annual chili cook-off Feb. 2. Twelve contestants brought forth their unique chili creations to be judged by a panel of local figures, including the State Representative for District 14, Kelly Cassidy.

The judges’ choice winner took home a \$100 dollar check, while the crowd favorite earned a \$50 dollar prize. Attendees voted by placing tickets in cups next to chili pots as they tasted the different delicacies.

Sandra Carter, owner of Jarvis Square Tavern, said this is her third time hosting the event since taking over the bar in 2020. This year’s function was sentimental for Carter and the Jarvis Square community, as they honored the death of friend and longtime cook-off participant Joseph “Joey” Wheeler.

“We figured this was a nice way to honor him,” Carter said. “Every year now we’ll be saying his name and thinking about him, and so his spirit will kind of live on.”

Wheeler was a “beloved” member of the neighborhood, known for his signature chili recipe that always won the popular vote. To honor his memory, a plaque and a photo of him sat next to his chili pot.

Cassidy said everyone in Jarvis Square is a tight-knit family who cares for one another. She was right in the mix, chatting and mingling with neighbors. Cassidy said community-building moments like these are vital for staying grounded and navigating the tough political climate. For her, the square acts as a safe bubble protecting her community from the political air outside.

“The beautiful thing about this space we’ve created here with Jarvis Square is that it feels like an old-school town square,” Cassidy said. “This creates that community, and I think it’s really important that we, especially in this time of disconnection, are doing everything we can to create spaces to connect.”

Residents gathered not just to sample the diverse array of chili — ranging from smoky and rich to bold and fiery — but to reconnect with familiar faces in their community.

Within the small sanctuary of the tavern, Noelle Rose and her husband Jacob Dimuzio mingled at a table near the slow cookers. Nestling beers in their hands, they shared smiles with fellow friends.

Dimuzio and Rose said they’ve been stirring a pot at the cook-off for three years. This year, the couple said they’ve tweaked their recipe with a secret ingredient — a mystery protein — in the hopes of finally taking home the prize. But for them, it’s less about winning and more about the chance to spice things up and connect with neighbors.



ELIJAH BOSSLET / THE PHOENIX
Contestants stirred up a spicy storm.

“I think after the pandemic is when we felt comfortable getting back outside again and started coming here,” Rose said. “Especially during scary political times too, this community is super awesome and accepting, and we’re just really happy to be a part of it.”

Susan Littlefield said she celebrated her 60th birthday at the tavern, making the cook-off even more special as she continues recovering from cancer.

“It’s very important that with life challenges and day-to-day events happening in the world, crazy or not, whether you agree or not, it’s important just to support one another in a diverse community economically, socially and racially,” Littlefield said.

Littlefield said she finds Rogers Park to be a safe space for everyone — a place where people come together no matter their background or where they’re from. To Littlefield, the tavern isn’t just a spot on the map — it’s a home.

“It’s a place of cheers,” Littlefield said. “Everybody knows your name. You’re welcome, no matter what you look like or how you present yourself. As long as you have a friendly smile, they’re open to showing you love.”

Matthew Amex, who lives down the block from the Tavern, said he was drawn in by the attractive smell of chili coming out of its vents. He said for him, chili is more than a mix of ingredients — it’s a grounding dish that brings people together.

As he sampled each of the chilis, Amex said the decadent flavors and aromatic spices reminded him of the polychromatic diversity of Rogers Park.

“This community spirit is an antidote to the division and angst that we are all feeling these days,” Amex said.

As afternoon turned to evening, the twelve slow cookers gradually depleted and final decisions were made.

In the end, two winners were crowned. Brandon Potteiger, winner of the popular vote, debuted a white chicken chili recipe. The judge’s choice went to Melvin Harris, who said his lamb and harissa spice combination set his dish apart.

For Harris, the honor was a welcome surprise. After debuting a recipe at the cook-off years ago, he said he’d been showing up to cheer on friends, not compete. But this time, he decided to try his hand again at the competition by bringing his lamb harissa chili — a bold twist on the classic with a fiery kick.

At the end of the night, Carrie Flynn, one of the judges and owner of Charmers Cafe in Jarvis Square, said she was happy with the turnout. She said the Square is a space for people to disconnect and find their inner child again. For Flynn, the turnout really amplified the meaning of community present in the small square.

Flynn said she was concerned for the safety of her queer and trans employees in the hostile world — but not in Jarvis Square.

“It’s important to have a place where people aren’t stressed,” Flynn said. “It’s a chance for people to sit down for a minute. And though the sky might be falling, for a moment at least we have community.”

Munya Noman is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.

Contact the writers of this story at mnoman@luc.edu, ebosslet@luc.edu.



ELI BOSSLET / THE PHOENIX
The celebration coincided with the Lunar New Year which kicked off Jan. 29.



ELI BOSSLET / THE PHOENIX
Offered activities included calligraphy.

DOP Lunar New Year event

NEW YEAR CONTINUED

Students honored the day by adorning traditional formalwear, including the Vietnamese ao dai and the Chinese qipao and cheongsam.

DOP Collaborations Director Vivian Klosk said they wanted the celebration to include diverse cultures at Loyola. They hosted a presentation curated by CCA and VSA explaining the cultural meanings behind featured Chinese and Vietnamese dishes.

Select Chinese cuisine included sweet rice balls symbolizing togetherness, gold ingot-shaped dumplings representing prosperity, nian gao cake, which sounds like the word for year and signifies rising in status, noodles for longevity and fish to manifest good luck, according to the presentation handled by DOP.

Rice is an important part of the New Year because it's accessible to all demographics in Vietnam. Vietnamese dishes at the event included sticky rice called banh tet and caramelized pork called thit kho, each deeply rooted in New Year history for representing great luck, according to MPR News.

Hong Chen, director of the Chinese Language Department, hosted a calligraphy station where students wrote their name in English for Hong Chen to translate into Chinese calligraphy. Other stations included red envelope decorating, lucky knot tying, a wishing tree and fortune telling.

"It's important to share the cultural

wealth of Chinese history, and calligraphy is a big part of it because our writing is connected with painting and drawing," Hong Chen said. "It's an art form as well as a method of communication."

Third-year chemistry major Joseph Chen guided attendees through the art of lucky knot-tying — a tradition believed to bring good fortune. Fourth-year nursing major Nana Wu joined in, sharing the cultural significance behind the practice.

"This knot is just a symbol of luck that people usually hang on their door frames or doorknobs," Joseph Chen said.

While assisting students, he said their enthusiasm for the material was a nice surprise.

"It's lovely to see so many people actively engaging and enjoying these stations," Joseph Chen said. "They want to take these crafts home, which is cute and meaningful because we don't get this often."

Martial arts school Freddie's Modern Kung Fu performed a traditional lion dance. Their mesmerizing performance brought an electric energy to the enthralled audience.

"Just seeing the lion dance reminds me of being home with my parents, watching parades on TV, and tasting mooncakes brings me back to my grandma's house," Wu said. "Seeing so many people here is reminiscent of Chinese New Year gatherings where families come together. It feels like a big family in this space."

The Vietnamese Student Association also performed a traditional hat dance, known as non la, which represents ances-

tors farming in rice fields, according to VSA member Carol Ngo.

"The hat dance incorporates synchronicity and teamwork — we practice night after night for these performances, and it really promotes a sense of community within our organization," Ngo said.

Ngo said hosting such events at a predominantly white institution is necessary, as Asian students often find themselves in the minority and may not always see their cultural traditions reflected in campus life.

"We come from all different backgrounds here," Ngo said. "Some of us are international students, some of us were born here, some of us were immigrants who came to Loyola. Events like this showcase our diversity and create a sense of belonging."

Creating spaces for students to share their backgrounds helps celebrate diversity, not only affirming students' identities, but also encouraging momentous conversations across different communities, which is especially important during the current socially unstable environment, according to DOP.

"It's really important for us, especially at Loyola, especially in Chicago, especially right now in the United States, to bridge communities and learn what we have in common," Klosk said. "We are part of a collective, not separate."

Munya Noman is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix

Japanese tea ceremony

By JUSTIN PEABODY,
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A golden mat adorned with several ornately decorated teacups, a kettle of hot water, a whisk, a tea powder container and a matcha scoop were arranged delicately on the floor. About 15 students gathered around, anticipating the start of a Japanese tea ceremony.

The tea ceremony, held Jan. 30 in Cuneo Hall, was co-sponsored by the Karate Club and the Japanese Cultural Club. The host of the ceremony, Mami Takahashi, has studied tea making in Japan for 20 years.

At the start of the ceremony, Takahashi educated the audience about the Japanese phrase "otema-e choudai itashimasu," which translates to "thank you for making tea." Takahashi said the phrase is used to extend gratitude toward the server of the tea before it's sipped.

The matcha, bright emerald green in color, tasted very bitter, herbal and earthy. Takahashi said this is the reason matcha is typically served at tea ceremonies instead of other types of tea — its bitter taste promotes alertness to surroundings.

"It makes a very strong blend to almost shock you, awaken you," Takahashi said. "Because it's very bitter, it gives you a shock. So it's intentionally made very strong."

Takahashi also said matcha was the predominant caffeinated beverage in Japan at the time of the tea ceremony's origin during the 9th century.

Fourth-year environmental science major and JCC president Caitlin Gromacki said sweets are also traditionally served at tea ceremonies to balance out the tea's bitterness. Attendees enjoyed honey cake and a round pastry called manju.

Gromacki, who is half Japanese and

attended the ceremony, said she appreciated Loyola's celebration of her culture through the event and believes it's an effective way to educate people about Japanese culture.

"I think aside from directly affiliated people, just individuals who are even interested in Japanese culture, I feel like it's a really nice way for them to open up about what's done culturally and how it's culturally significant and just getting those basic experiences," Gromacki said.

Since 2022, the JCC has co-hosted a tea ceremony with the Karate Club every spring semester, according to former Karate Club president and 2023 Loyola alumna Julia Hopkins.

Hopkins said the Karate Club's tea ceremony was an effort to integrate tradition and culture with the martial arts practiced in the club.

"The tea ceremony and the other culture-oriented events that we co host speaks to our philosophy as a club where we don't really want to just silo ourselves into doing karate," Hopkins said. "We kind of want to make it a holistic experience for the whole person."

The ceremony began with the distribution of the sweet pastries to attendees. Meanwhile, Takahashi brewed the tea and started pouring it into cups, which were then passed out to attendees when they had finished eating the pastries.

Hardly a word was spoken as tea was brewed and served. The tranquil near-silence drew attention to the soft sounds of Takahashi pouring boiling water into a teacup, scooping in matcha powder and whisking the mixture.

"I liked being able to see the process of making the tea up close and noticing how careful and precise the tea master was," Gromacki wrote in an email to The Phoenix. "Every step was done carefully with precision, which I really enjoyed ob-

serving firsthand."

Beyond being a meditative practice, tea ceremonies are a hospitality ritual hosted at all times of year, according to Takahashi. The cups are patterned with flowers, cherry blossoms and paper cranes to signify the changing seasons.

Upon being served, attendees gently grasped the teacups from below with their left hand and from the side with their right hand, as is customary in Japan. This method of holding a teacup allows it to be more easily rotated with the front side facing servers as a sign of respect, according to japan-guide.com.

The cups didn't hold much tea — little more than enough to cover the bottom of the cup — inviting attendees to sip slowly and deliberately.

Takahashi said the slow, relaxed pace of the ceremony fosters peace of mind and composure.

"People learn how to be calm, how to enjoy calm and self-control, which is shared with many different cultures and martial arts," Takahashi said. "Control not only physically, but self-control in the mind, too."

The JCC's next event will be Feb. 13 in Cuneo Hall room 103, and will celebrate the Japanese art of Ikebana, or flower arrangement.

Bella Adams / The Phoenix

Mami Takahashi instructed students.

'Heart Eyes' is a Valentine's treat



COURTESY OF SPYGLASS MEDIA, LLC
"Heart Eyes" releases Feb. 7.

By BRENDAN PARR,
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"Heart Eyes" is half Hallmark romance and half "Scream" slasher.

Directed by Josh Ruben, "Heart Eyes" follows a budding romance between two co-workers as their Valentine's Day meet-cute is interrupted by a masked couple-killer known as Heart Eyes.

Falling in the trend of holiday-slashers like 2023's "Thanksgiving" or "It's a Wonderful Knife," "Heart Eyes" differentiates itself by unapologetically leaning into cheesy romances pulsing in the vein of "Hot Frosty."

Olivia Holt leads as Ally, a marketing campaigner recovering from a recent breakup who's on the brink of losing her job. Mason Gooding stars alongside as Jay, a charismatic freelancer hired to correct Ally's work while privately wooing her for a date.

In the background of their love-hate dynamic is a serial killer stalking the streets of Seattle on Valentine's Day. Mistaking the flirtatious colleagues as a solidified couple, the Heart Eyes Killer sets his sights on the duo while they consider what they mean to each other.

Holt ("Cruel Summer," "Totally Killer") captures the pining romantic lead with an added self-awareness. Holt's sarcasm colors Ally's introversion as a defense from pain. Though she's pessimistic toward romance, Holt lends Ally confidence to reflect on her true desires.

Gooding ("Scream VI," "Y2K") is a charismatic scene stealer. Witty and suave, Gooding effortlessly bounces from casual jests to proclamations of affection. His character subverts the stereotype too-good-to-be true date as someone earnestly pursuing love.

Ruben ("Werewolves Within," "Scare Me") directs with an evident passion for both Netflix dramedies and B-movie horror. Between the intentionally cliché dialogue and love-sick yearning is a mix of graphic kills and skin-crawling effects.

Aside from the typical slasher stabbings, Ruben incorporates elements of Valentine's Day to the

executions. An opening victim is pressed to a pulp in a winery machine, another is speared through the heart and a final slaying involves a decapitation reminiscent of the historic St. Valentine.

Shifting tones aid the film's horror by highlighting the genre contrast. Audiences may feel at ease watching Jay and Ally awkwardly chat about love, only for harsh violence to disrupt their apparent safety. Every stab and kick hits harder when the plot around it is sugary sweet.

"The balance is all about committing equally to both genres, the horror and romcom, not short changing one in favor of the other," Ruben wrote to The Phoenix during a Reddit AMA. "The rest comes together with music, my composer Jay Wadley is a wizard."

Sporting a fluorescent mask and cupid crossbow, Heart Eyes similarly balances tones as an antagonist. The killer eerily stalks in the shadows and cuts victims with precision, yet comedically stumbles when chasing them.

Toeing the line between heartwarming and thrilling, "Heart Eyes" is consistently a comedy. The film's parallel elements elevate its humor, with the squeaky-clean leads spewing one-liners at the killer while narrowly avoiding death.

Likewise, elements of dramatic irony and situational comedy permeate the film. Ally and Jay's attempts to escape slaughter inadvertently bring the killer to other victims, and the two find themselves awkwardly trapped between intimate couples while seeking shelter.

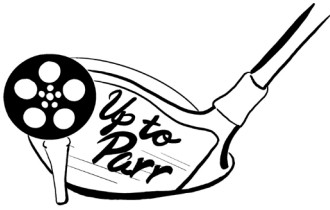
With a breezy 90-minute runtime, "Heart Eyes" thrives in its speedy pace and quick-witted cast. The palpable passion on screen translates to a light-hearted thrillride that will make audiences smile and laugh as often as they might wince and gasp.

"The real success of this franchise — that is, if we get to do it again and again — is to homage the great romcoms, give people legit feels," Ruben wrote. "While promptly evacuating the butterflies in their stomachs via nasty ass jump scares."

For those seeking something sweet or savory to watch this Valentine's, "Heart Eyes" offers audiences plenty of proverbial chocolate to chew on.

"Heart Eyes," rated R, comes to theaters Feb. 7.

Brendan Parr is the Arts Editor for The Loyola Phoenix



HANNA HOUSER / THE PHOENIX



COURTESY OF SPYGLASS MEDIA, LLC
"Heart Eyes" follows a silent serial killer murdering couples on Valentine's Day.

‘Time Passages’ looks at life and memory

By **KEVIN STOVICH,**
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Told through photographs, home videos, theatrical performances, diary entries, artwork, testimonials and even a doll house, “Time Passages” is less of a biopic and more a living, breathing scrapbook.

Written and directed by Kyle Henry, a professor of film at Northwestern, the movie focuses on the life of his mother, Elaine, as her dementia progresses.

A linear story of her life, the film is set against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. As her condition advances, news reports and headlines — especially about nursing homes — paint a broader portrait of America’s healthcare system.

Around 85% of the movie consists of audio interviews conducted over her lifetime, paired with photos, skits and segments filmed by Henry (“Are The Kids Alright?,” “Rogers Park”) with costumes and party props.

This unconventional approach to biography works to the film’s advantage. The format eases understanding of the complex lives of Elaine and her family.

In one scene, two chairs face each other, with a wig atop one. Henry enters the frame and puts on the wig while another version of himself sits opposite. He then has a theoretical conversation with his wigged self — representing his mother — about the film’s intentions.

“Am I doing the right thing by exposing you and myself in this way?” Henry asks.

“Hm, I don’t know,” Henry-as-Elaine replies. “I’ve always told you to trust your heart. So, do what you think is best.”

Much of Henry’s anxiety throughout the film arises from the uncertainty of not being able to see his mother because her nursing home is under quarantine lockdown.

Worried about the prospect of not being with her before she dies, Henry asks, “How can I walk you to the end of your time when we can’t even be in

the same room?”

A wooden doll house plays a vital role in the movie, serving as a physical representation of the household’s changes. Henry depicts pivotal life moments using the doll house, acting out his siblings going off to college, fights between his parents and moments of grief. Utilizing the doll house to relay their vulnerabilities allows audiences to connect with the family.

“Time Passages” explores other family members’ lives as well, such as Henry’s journey with his sexuality, Elaine’s shaky relationship with her husband and the emotional toll it took on the children to see Elaine’s memory — and herself — fade.

In an emotionally crushing sequence, Henry’s father is placed on life support, his physical health weakening along with Elaine’s memory. Due to their mother’s rapid decline, the children received medical power of attorney over their father. The siblings cut off their dad’s life support without telling

Elaine to save her the mental anguish.

Another topic the film explores is how one’s finances are affected by dementia. Before moving Elaine into assisted memory care, her children organized an estate sale in which they realized the net value of her property — besides her house — was just \$1,700.

“Our home sale became the single most important asset that enabled your elder care,” Henry explains to the audience. “Does our system work for anyone when all your assets have to be sold for elder care, leaving your children nothing to inherit but memories?”

In a similar vein, Henry investigates the link between Kodak photography products and memory loss. He explains Kodak was found to have dumped neurotoxic chemicals, used in the production of film, into drinking water sources. Here he poses a paradox — the company responsible for preserving one’s memories is the same one actively causing memory loss through

their practices.

“Is this the price our nation made for trying to capture our memories?” Henry asks.

One fault in the film is Henry’s insistence on being the one to play different members of his family. While admirable, using the same voice is at best confusing and at worst degrading to their depicted situations. However, it’s only a small stain on an overwhelming, honest reflection of memories.

“Time Passages” is a vulnerable — at times theatrical — perspective on dementia. Through a collage of physical, mental and emotional artifacts, Henry delves into how the loss of his mother’s memories not only affected her but those around her as well.

“Time Passages” is being screened on a country-wide tour, featuring a Q&A with Henry. Tickets and dates are available now.

Kevin Stovich is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.

By **MAO REYNOLDS,**
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For this year’s Super Bowl, the Philadelphia Eagles will play the Kansas City Chiefs Feb. 9 in New Orleans. Ahead of the big game, look to these recipes for any watch party potluck, designed for Eagles and Chiefs fans alike. Nearly every recipe included can be made even in dorms without ovens.

Guacamole

Don’t waste money on store-bought guac. It’s one of the simplest things an amateur cook can make. To dress it up, chop and char some cebollitas — stores might label them Mexican onions — and add the reddest tomatoes available to match the Chiefs’ uniforms.

- 4 large avocados
- 2 limes
- ½ cup chopped cilantro
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

1. Scoop out the avocados and mash them with a fork until somewhat smooth — it’s better if it’s still chunky.
2. Add the lime juice, cilantro, salt and black pepper.
3. Serve immediately with a big bowl of restaurant-style tortilla chips.

If you can’t make it immediately before serving, add more lime juice and cover with plastic wrap. Don’t believe people who say leaving the avocado pit will prevent browning — that actually results in browner guacamole, according to Epicurious.



Kansas City Ice Water

The Kansas City Ice Water is a cocktail made with gin, vodka and lime juice. The Phoenix knows its underage readers wouldn’t break the law, so for them, replace the liquor with 1 cup tonic water and ½ apple cider vinegar. Mix with a two-liter bottle of lemon lime soda, sliced limes and plenty of ice for a refreshing mocktail.

Cinnamon Cookie Dough

Cookie dough is often unsafe to eat because of two raw ingredients — eggs and flour. College is already stressful enough without having to worry about salmonella and E. coli, so stick with heat-treated flour or alternative options like almond flour. This recipe alludes to Kansas City’s love for cinnamon rolls, which locals occasionally have with fried chicken or chili.

- 2 cups almond flour
- ½ cup room-temperature butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- a pinch or two of salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup butterscotch chips (optional)

1. Whisk the room-temperature butter and brown sugar about five minutes, until light and fluffy.
2. Add the cinnamon, salt and vanilla extract. Continue mixing for another five minutes.
3. Fold in the almond flour and mix until evenly combined. To up the sweetness, add the butterscotch chips.
4. Roll into bite-size balls and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Cheese Dip

The sauteed greens — which match the Eagles’ color scheme — add a smokiness that pairs well with the Chiefs’ guacamole. This recipe requires an oven.

- 10 ounces fresh spinach, kale or collard greens
- 10 ounces (around 2 single-serve cups) plain nonfat Greek yogurt
- 8 ounces softened cream cheese or neufchatel
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella
- 1 teaspoon each of dried parsley, oregano, onion powder, garlic powder, salt and black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F. While it’s preheating, saute the greens until

- they shrink to about half their original size, around five to six minutes. Drain them in a colander above the sink and wring out as much excess water as possible.
2. Add the greens to a large oven-safe bowl along with the Greek yogurt and softened cream cheese. Stir and mix in the seasonings.
 3. Sprinkle the shredded mozzarella on top and bake for 30 minutes until the top is golden brown and bubbling.

Serve with chip scoops or fondue dippers, preferably pretzel bites, given Philadelphia’s penchant for soft pretzels. Pretzel sticks or chips would also work.

Root Beer Float

Root beer owes its beginnings to Philadelphia physician Charles Elmer Hires, who began selling his mixture of sassafras, sarsaparilla, wild cherry, wintergreen and ginger in 1875, according to WHYY. Modern root beer is simpler — but still delicious — and pairs well with ice cream. Add a scoop of vanilla or salted caramel soft serve to a cool cup of root beer for a creamy glass of goodness.

Football Cupcakes

To avoid skyrocketing egg prices, use either a ½ cup applesauce, ½ cup yogurt or ½ cup mashed banana — though bananas will almost certainly dominate the flavor. This recipe requires an oven.

- 1 cup flour
- ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons room-temperature butter or vegetable oil
- a pinch salt
- 1 tin of vanilla frosting
- 1 plastic bag
- 1 pair of scissors

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease a muffin tin with butter, oil or oil spray.
2. Mix the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cocoa powder and salt.
3. In another bowl, whisk the butter or vegetable oil and sugar until consistent, then fold in the eggs or egg substitutes.
4. Fold in the dry ingredients along with the milk.
5. Add the batter to the muffin tin.
6. Bake for 15 minutes, or until fork poked into a muffin comes out clean. Let cool for at least 10 minutes.
7. Cut a hole into the plastic bag and add the frosting. Pipe lines of frosting onto the cupcakes to resemble little footballs.

Mao Reynolds is the Deputy Arts Editor and Crossword Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

‘Filth is my life’: John Waters burlesque tribute

By **BRIANNA GUNTZ,**
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On the floor of a small stage, sequined garters and bras lay abandoned among a sea of dollar bills — the aftermath of House of Whoreors’ “Dreamland: A Love Letter to John Waters” at the Newport Theater.

The burlesque dancers coyly slipped straps off their shoulders, revealing bare skin and tasseled pasties — sexy yet repulsive, seductive yet vile.

The performance was an homage to the nauseating gray area John Waters explored in his filmmaking.

Centering the show around Waters was a natural fit, according to Harley Go’Lightly, producer and co-founder of House of Whoreors. She said it was a given for fringe arts — burlesque, drag, sideshow and pole — to take inspiration from Waters because he includes camp culture and drag in his work.

“It’s a celebration of the weird and the wonderful,” Go’Lightly said. “It’s an active indulgence in good-bad taste.”

Indulging in the taboo is exactly

what dancer Millie May did in her performance honoring Waters’ 1970 film about perverse performers, “Multiple Maniacs.”

May quickly discarded her faux modesty — and fur coat — for a sultry performance set to Madonna’s “Like a Prayer.” She cheekily licked a rosary after pulling it out of her panties. As the song reached its climax May thrashed on top of a Bible.

“Good-bad taste” is intentionally uncomfortable, which is the main goal of the show, Go’Lightly said.

“I feel as though discomfort is a really powerful emotion, especially when you experience it live,” Go’Lightly said. “This exploration of trash and filth by way of burlesque not only offers a really unique experience for people, but it unintentionally forces people out of the box of comfort.”

Uneasiness yields its way to growth, according to Go’Lightly. Reactions don’t stem from the mundane or ordinary.

“It’s that consensual overstepping of a line that really is important to experience now and again because it re-ex-

amines your sensibilities as a person,” Go’Lightly said.

Creating a space for the tawdry, sleazy and at times downright vulgar is exactly what “Dreamland: A Love Letter to John Waters” did. With 10 different acts, performers used Waters’ films as launching pads for their own brazen art.

Prancing onto stage with big beehive hair, dancer Lilly Rascal twirled to the peppy, titular track from “Hair-spray” while aptly dousing herself with the substance.

Teasing the audience by opening one side of her girdle, Rascal saucily revealed hair curlers placed in the shape of a penis.

Accepting thunderous cheers, Rascal trotted to collect her strewn clothing before exiting the stage.

Host Jenna Delgaty returned to the stage to introduce Dancerella while the curtains jostled like a cat under a blanket.

A quickly assembled post was all Dancerella needed before coming on stage for her flirtatious pole dancing act.

Starting on the floor, Dancerella rhythmically gyrated her hips next to

the metal rod before shedding her silky black robe. Climbing up the pole like ivy, she slowly spun before inverting upside down.

Vivi Valens followed, placing her hands against an invisible wall as she licked the air while sliding her orange jumpsuit off. Underneath the prison suit, Valens left little to the imagination as she abandoned her lingerie for pasties and a skimpy thong.

With exuberant cheers, the audience launched wadded-up dollar bills onto the stage, before they were hastily swept to the side to lay down a disposable sheet in preparation for the coming act.

As the curtains opened, Rosemary Maybe was revealed, sitting in a plastic playpen. Parodying Walters’ 1972 film “Pink Flamingos,” the dancer removed an egg from her bra, reverently cradling it as she lip synched to Heart’s melodramatic “Alone.”

Stepping out of her crib, Maybe ripped her teeth into the hardboiled egg, smearing it across her face as the stench of egg hung thick in the air.

“There was no other act we could

end the show with,” Dalgety said. “Please tip because eggs are expensive.”

Despite the filth on stage, many of the performers said Waters served as more than the “Pope of Trash” — he’s a pioneer for acceptance of the unconventional.

Morteisha Addams, producer and co-founder of House of Whoreors, said their love of Waters stemmed from seeing people beyond the realms of conventional beauty. Addams said Waters’ ability to make the extreme and disgusting socially acceptable opened them up to new perspectives.

“It just makes things seem real simple for you when you grow up,” Addams said.

Valens said Waters’ desire to expose the underbelly of society inspires her as an artist.

“I love just how messed up and screwed up a lot of the content is,” Valens said. “We’re all a bunch of weirdos, and if you want to appreciate other weirdos, I think that’s kind of what it’s about.”

House of Whoreors’ next production is “Velvet Bazar” Feb. 8 at the Ramova Theatre.



KATRINA DE GUZMAN / THE PHOENIX
The Irish holiday Imbolc celebrates both St. Brigid and the coming of spring.



KATRINA DE GUZMAN / THE PHOENIX
The ritual event was held Feb. 2.

Ritual Rhythms brings Irish Imbolc to Chicago

By CATHERINE MEYER, cmeyer6@luc.edu

Despite Chicago’s dull winter chill, spring is hiding just around the corner.

At least, according to St. Brigid. Ritual Rhythms Chicago, located at 6970 N. Sheridan Rd., gathered a crowd of around 15 people for an Imbolc ritual Feb. 1 — an Irish holiday symbolizing the beginning of spring and celebrating St. Brigid.

Though St. Bridget is also a recognized Catholic saint, Imbolc honors the Celtic goddess Brigid, who represents poetry, healing and forgery.

The lord “Imbolc” means “in the belly of the Mother,” as the seeds of spring are sown in Mother Earth’s belly, according to the Boston Public Library.

This is the first time owner Jason Winslade and co-manager Vivian Meretrix have organized a ceremony for Imbolc since taking over Ritual Rhythms Chicago last November.

The studio usually hosts belly dancing and burlesque, however, the duo both personally practice paganism.

“We are pagan people, and so it’s something that if we’re not doing it as a private observance in our home, we’re doing it at one of our shows because it’s just a reflection of who we are,” Meretrix said. “It is the song of our soul that we will sing whenever given the chance to do it.”

The Irish holiday speaks to the revival of life following the quiet death of winter, and its message isn’t only celebrated in paganism, according to Winslade.

“The sort of pop culture analog is Groundhog Day,” Winslade said. “The idea that we’re waiting to have a vision or a prophecy of what’s ahead, and wanting to come out of winter. It’s that movement towards openness, towards awakening — awakening the Earth, awakening our spirit.”

Ritual attendee Jennifer Alty said the number assigned to Brigid, 19, also symbolizes Imbolc’s transition from winter to spring. The number is associated with the 19 nuns who tended to Brigid’s fire, according to the Brigidine Sisters.

“We’re so close to completion, we’re so close to spring, so close to life, and we’re not quite there,” Jennifer Alty said. “And it’s about being okay with being in that moment.”

The evening began with the calling of the corners, during which Winslade waved a spiraled wand in the air as he turned each cardinal direction. Winslade called out to the four corners of the compass, the four elements of water, fire, air and earth and the four archangels Gabriel, Michael, Raphael and Muriel.

“We imagine ourselves in flight, we imagine ourselves in clouds,” Winslade said while calling the west. “We also tap into a deep intellect, where we discern, where we distinguish what is needed and what can be discarded.”

The Imbolc ritual opened with a guided rite, led by Winslade. Sitting by the altar, Winslade played a deep, intonating drone on a shruti box — an Indian hand-pumped instrument, reminiscent of an accordion.

Atop the shruti box’s throaty hum, Winslade directed the audience members on a journey of healing, shepherding them through winding woods to Brigid’s well.

“Just off that path, you find another branch of that walkway that winds around some large stones into a little outcropping,” Winslade said. “It is an ancient well. Above the well, trees are leafless, but they are still covered with rags, with string, with ribbons — offerings that people have left.”

Winslade instructed participants to kneel and offer prayer to the goddess before leaving an object that symbolizes where they need healing.

Items given away included a silver hematite ring, a pencil and a stone heart.

As attendees slowly awoke from meditation, Winslade and Meretrix prepared the altar with objects associated with Brigid. As Winslade read aloud T. Thorn Coyle’s “A Prayer for Troubling Times,” Meretrix accompanied the stanzas with corresponding actions.

“Holy Brigid / In these times of grief and anger / And these days of stolen lives... / Pour out the quenching waters from your well / Come, bathe our tear stained faces / We call to you with voices raised,” Winslade recited.

In time with the poem, Meretrix poured two vials of water into a glass cup cradled in a framework of interwoven golden antlers. One bottle came from Lake Michigan, while the other was collected from a goddess’ well in Northern Ireland, according to Winslade.

While the poem was performed, Meretrix also held up a golden ball-shaped candle holder with star cutouts. Meretrix proceeded to unsheath a sword and hold it above her head, wrapped a maroon cloth around her shoulders and baptized the audience in a cloud of incense.

Audience members lined up to light their candles with the altar’s flame and paused to share moments of reflection with Brigid. Winslade hit heavy beats on a handheld drum, while Meretrix used a rose as an aspergillum, lightly speckling participants’ hands with water from the cup before they lit their candles.

Both Winslade and Meretrix have backgrounds in performance art, which they said converges frequently with ritual practices.

“Because we are performers, we will incorporate that into a ritual if we have the stage,” Meretrix said. “We like to say when we’re shining a spotlight on us, it gives us a chance to reflect that spotlight on everyone else.”

Other than the recitation of poetry and the performance based on Coyle’s writing, Winslade said the ritual was almost entirely improvised.

“I do have a sense of where I want things to go,” Winslade said. “And some of it is just simply breathing and taking your time and being very aware of where you are in the space, with the energy or in the story. It’s a combination of research, improvisation and experience.”

As the ritual closed and the evening wound to an end, attendees enjoyed a community potluck and friendly conversation. With the scent of incense still hanging heavy in the air, ritual participants left with the promise of healing, life and the awakening of spring.

Ritual Rhythms Chicago’s next event will be a Full Moon Friday Drum Jam Feb. 7 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Catherine Meyer is the Managing Editor of The Loyola Phoenix.

The 67th annual Grammy Winners

By KEVIN STOVICH, kstovich@luc.edu

Hosted by Trevor Noah at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, the 67th Grammy Awards took place Feb. 2. Considered one of the most prestigious awards in music, both the main and premiere shows were filled with unforgettable musical performances, emotional speeches and surprising snubs.

Billie Eilish, Post Malone and Taylor Swift — notable Grammy favorites — all left empty-handed. In addition, critically lauded artists such as Magdalena Bay, Vampire Weekend and Geordie Greep didn’t receive a single nomination.

Chappell Roan



COURTESY OF ISLAND RECORDS
Chappell Roan’s “The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess.”

The self-proclaimed “Midwest Princess” was nominated for six awards after a meteoric rise to fame in 2024.

Winning Best New Artist, Roan beat out artists like actress-turned-pop-star Sabrina Carpenter and rapper Doechii, who won Best Rap Album — the third woman ever to win the award.

In her acceptance speech, Roan called out record companies who give their signed artists better treatment.

“I told myself, if I ever won a Grammy, and I got to stand up here in front of the most powerful people in music, I would demand that labels and the industry profiting millions of dollars off of artists would offer a liveable wage and healthcare, especially to developing artists,” Roan said.

However, Roan’s album “The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess” and single “Good Luck, Babe!” both lost to Carpenter’s “Short n’ Sweet” and “Espresso,” for Best Pop Vocal Album and Best Pop Solo Performance.

Roan also gave an elaborately choreographed performance of “Pink Pony Club,” transporting the viewer into her flamboyant, rodeo clown-filled reality, with bedazzled cowboy hats, over-the-top makeup, and a literal pink pony.

Charli xcx



COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS
Charli xcx’s “BRAT”

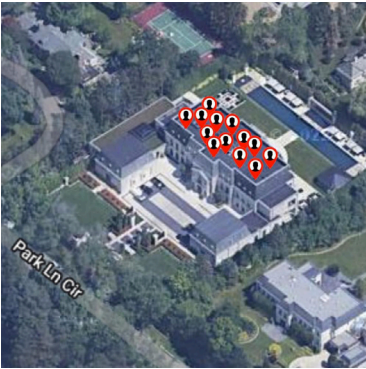
At the forefront of one of the biggest cultural moments of 2024, Charli xcx closed out the night with a bratty performance and took home three awards.

Surrounded by those considered “brat,” she performed “Von Dutch” in a stage loading dock fit for a rave, before moving inside for the overtly sexual “Guess,” complete with panties raining from the sky.

As for awards, her album “BRAT” won Best Dance/Electronic Album and Best Recording Package, with lead single “Von dutch” winning Best Dance Pop Performance. The British pop star missed out on awards for TikTok sensations “Apple” and “360,” the former losing in the Best Pop Solo Performance category to Carpenter’s “Espresso.”

While she may not have won any of the “Big Four” awards, after a long career in the underground hyperpop music scene, Charli’s heightened relevance and Recording Academy recognition remains enough of a celebration.

Kendrick Lamar



COURTESY OF KENDRICK LAMAR
Kendrick Lamar’s “Not Like Us”

After a year defined by a feud with one of the most successful artists of the 21st century, a surprise album drop and a Super Bowl halftime announcement, rapper Kendrick Lamar continued his winning streak by snagging five awards — the most of the night.

Having a lengthy history with the Grammys, Lamar has consistently swept awards in the rap categories. This year, though, Lamar broke into the “Big Four” categories, winning both Song of the Year and Record of the Year for his song “Not Like Us” — a diss track targeting Canadian rapper Drake.

In addition, “Not Like Us” also won awards for Best Rap Song, Best Rap Performance and Best Music Video, the latter being directed by Lamar and producer Dave Free and filmed in Lamar’s hometown of Compton, Calif.

These wins were a victory lap for Lamar, cementing his status in the cultural zeitgeist ahead of his Super Bowl halftime show.

Beyoncé



COURTESY OF PARKWOOD
Beyoncé’s “Cowboy Carter”

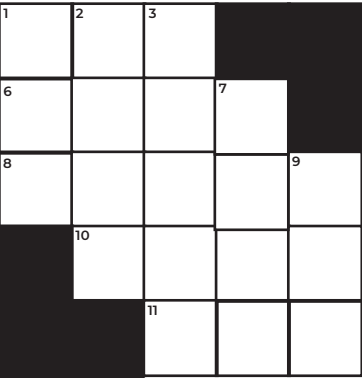
The most decorated artist in Grammy history took home the long-elusive Album of the Year award for her splash into Southern country music, “COWBOY CARTER.”

The win follows four failed attempts to secure the award, spanning 15 years since her first nomination for “I Am... Sasha Fierce” in 2010. While long overdue for Beyoncé, other worthy contenders included Charli xcx’s “BRAT” and Billie Eilish’s “HIT ME HARD AND SOFT.”

Beyoncé’s AOTY win made her the first Black woman to win the award since Lauryn Hill in 1999.

“COWBOY CARTER” also won Best Country Album, beating out genre veterans like Chris Stapleton and Kacey Musgraves. The album was also awarded Best Country Duo/Group Performance for Beyoncé’s song with Miley Cyrus, “II MOST WANTED.”

The Phoenix Mini Crossword



By KATRINA DE GUZMAN, kdeguzman2@luc.edu

ACROSS

- 1. “I have a dream” monogram
- 6. Victory symbols
- 7. Rosa who stood up for herself by staying seated
- 10. Loyola men’s basketball coach Valentine
- 11. “__-haw!”

DOWN

- 1. Super Bowl VIP
- 2. Guide
- 3. Washington who played Olivia Pope
- 7. ____ ball
- 9. Scand. land

Solution at LoyolaPhoenix.com/Crossword.

This crossword was edited by Mao Reynolds.

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Edwards Jr: From MVC rival to A10 star

By **ANDI REVESZ,**
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If you can't beat them, join them. This rings true for graduate guard Sheldon Edwards Jr.'s collegiate career, after dropping a season high 23 points against the Loyola men's basketball team Feb. 16, 2022, in an eventual loss while playing at Valparaiso University. The next season, he was on Loyola's roster. Edwards Jr. started his collegiate career at Valparaiso — his first and only college visit. In two years with the Beacons, Edwards Jr. received a Missouri Valley Conference All-Freshman team nod in the 2020-21 season, an MVC All-Bench team shout and a Most Improved award a year later. After the conclusion of his second season with the Beacons — averaging 10 points per game and shooting just under 40% from the field — he said he realized it wasn't the experience he wanted, and decided to enter the transfer portal. "Obviously, things didn't turn out the way I feel like it could've or should've, but everything happens for a reason," Edwards Jr. said. "I ended up here. And now I feel like I've really embodied what Loyola means as a person and an athlete." Basketball has always been a part of Edwards Jr.'s life. He said he remembers his mom giving him a basketball at 2-years-old, but said he's too old to remember his first basket. While playing other sports growing up, he said he always fell back into basketball and the comfort it brought. Edwards Jr. attended Palm Beach Lakes Community High School in his hometown of West Palm Beach, Fla. He said he wasn't recruited much out of high school, but gained a larger recruiting profile after attending TLAP Sports Academy Preparatory during the 2019-20 school year in Tallahassee, Fla.

His time at TLAP Sports Academy Preparatory was spent talking to coaches at the collegiate level and pursuing his dream of playing basketball at a higher level. "I enjoyed it, just feeling like I had the ability to take my talents to a new level and knowing that there were coaches and programs that wanted me to be a part of it," Edwards Jr. said. "That's what you dream about. For me to be able to step into that and have an opportunity to take another level and play professional after this, that's something I can dream of." At the time of his season-high against Loyola, head coach Drew Valentine was in his first year leading the team, and the Ramblers were still in the MVC, led by Lucas Williamson and Braden Norris — players Edwards Jr. said he looked up to from the other side of the court. Valentine said Edwards Jr. stuck out to him when the Ramblers played Valparaiso, and he wanted to speak with him after he entered the transfer portal. "He had like 25 on us both times and I'm like 'Alright,'" Valentine said, laughing. "Then as soon as he went in the portal, we were like, 'Alright, we should probably go and try to get that guy.' He likes Gentile and he liked playing against the Ramblers, so he can get it done for the Ramblers." Edwards Jr. said he was drawn to Loyola's culture and what he saw on the court while playing against the Ramblers. He said he was impressed with how the Ramblers overcame difficult opponents through deep team collaboration and connection, eventually pulling off a win. He said coming to Loyola made him understand how partnership within a team can improve their overall success. "I always wondered how they stayed so composed," Edwards Jr. said. "Guys are hitting tough shots and going on their run. Then coming here

and being a part of it, understanding the work they put in and the mentality, the approach — just the habits that they built from June 1 through the season — is why they're so confident, they're so controlled. They're just under complete control." Edwards Jr.'s start with the Ramblers wasn't easy, according to Valentine. In Loyola's first season in the Atlantic 10 conference, Edwards Jr. averaged five points and 11 minutes per game, which increased to six points and 14 minutes per game his next season. It wasn't until the end of the 2023-24 season when Valentine noticed things starting to click, and Edwards Jr. began to improve, earning himself more game time. Valentine said he credits Edwards Jr.'s growth to the selflessness and gratitude he has on and off the court as well as his emphasis on playing for the school, rather than his personal benefit. "It's just been an incredible growth trajectory, like one of the coolest stories I've ever seen because everything was earned, everything was given and he stuck with it," Valentine said. "If it was today's day and age, I think even in two years, he might have probably left and transferred again. But he stuck it out, stuck with it and he's reaping the rewards of it right now." Third-year guard Jayden Dawson echoed Valentine and said Edwards Jr.'s growth has been special to watch — seeing his consistency on the court improve is something the team prides him on. Edwards Jr. said the mental and physical challenges of playing college basketball were hard for him to adjust to initially. Since he's been at Loyola, he's said he's been able to grow as an individual — on the court and in the classroom — and being a Rambler is what helped shape him into a well-rounded individual. The 24-year-old is very faith-



KAYLA TANADA / THE PHOENIX
Edwards Jr. has 252 points this season, he recently reached 1,000 career points.

cused, which he said motivates him to be the leader he is for the team. Valentine and Dawson said this, along with his humor and love for the artist Drake, are characteristics which make him both a player and a person everyone wants to be around. "He's a funny dude," Dawson said. "I mean, a very caring person and genuine person. But he's a real funny dude." Outside of basketball, Edwards Jr. spends his free time with his team and is working toward finishing his sociology degree. He also claims he can juggle, but this remains unconfirmed. Following graduation from Loyola, Edwards Jr. said he hopes to continue playing basketball at a professional level. "I mean, we're only here one time," Edwards Jr. said. "I get to play ball every day. I don't really have much to complain about." Andi Revesz is the Sports Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

Ramblers trounce the Bonnies at home

BONNIES, CONTINUED

Bonnies' fourth-year guard Chance Moore drove a layup into a defender-filled paint for a 6-3 lead. On the other end, fourth-year forward Jalen DeLoach took a pass into the paint and pumpfaked two defenders before dunking. Loyola picked up the pace over the next minute and a half, going on an extended run. Two 3-pointers from Watson and fourth-year forward Francis Nwaokorie, and layups by DeLoach and third-year guard Jalen Quinn overpowered the layups of Council Jr. and third-year Bonnies' guard Lajae Jones for a 15-10 Loyola lead. Watson traveled down the court

and slipped in a layup. Brown, after being fouled by Rubin, shrunk the lead back to five with two free throws. Despite a pass from Watson going off-target, DeLoach was able to recover and converted a standing layup. A minute later, graduate guard Sheldon Edwards Jr. hit a 3-pointer before Council Jr. hit a jumper, and Moore finished a layup the following possession for a 22-14 Loyola lead. With a defender closing in, Watson drained a 3-pointer before Bonnie's first-year forward and center Xander Wedlow quickly responded with a jumper. Despite being fouled in the process of shooting, Wedlow was unable to convert the extra point.

A cold-streak from beyond the three-point line continued for third-year guard Jayden Dawson, going 0-6, but the Bonnies found limited success as Hinton hit a three and redshirt first-year Noah Bolanga followed suit right after. A Watson 3-pointer halted the run and kept a 28-24 Loyola lead. Rubin scored three after receiving a dish from Houinsou for an uncontested layup and added a lone free throw the possession after. With ten seconds left in the half, Watson grabbed a steal and traveled coast-to-coast to deliver a layup and give Loyola a 33-24 advantage at the break. Edwards Jr. said the increasing pace of play and early defensive might allowed the Ramblers to dig into their typical gameplan.

"We understood how they were gonna guard us, so we knew what looks we were gonna get — it was just a matter of executing," Edwards Jr. said. "We always try to play as fast as a team, like in rebounds and getting on a transition — something we do every game." Out of the half, a Loyola offensive possession ended with Moore stealing the ball and avoiding the defense for a St. Bonaventure layup. On the next play, Watson received a pass in the corner and pumpfaked past his defender to hit a jumper. Dawson added a layup after taking a steal the length of the court. Moore drove a layup in and was fouled in the process before missing the extra free throw and keeping the Bonnies' deficit at nine. A drive into the paint by Edwards Jr. ended with him losing the ball before Rubin

snatched it up and laid it in. A layup attempt from Jones was swatted away by DeLoach, allowing Dawson to finally connect on a 3-pointer — his first in seven attempts. Down 42-28, the Bonnies to call a timeout. Edwards Jr. made up for a missed three a possession later by nailing one from the corner. After Council Jr. drove in a layup, Edwards Jr. responded with one of his own. Gentile Arena increased a few decibels after Houinsou delivered a pinpoint pass for Rubin to finish an alley-oop play. A Watson steal led to the same outcome and a 51-30 lead. A corner three by Moore eventually ended the run, and Valentine called a timeout, but the scores had made a clear impact, according to Rubin. "One of our biggest momentum shifts is our crowd," Rubin said. "Once our crowd gets into it, like everybody on the team gets into it, we get momentum and we all scoring buckets and everything." Rubin made back-to-back-to-back alley-oops, as a driving pass from Dawson made it a 20-point Loyola lead. The two followed with more big plays as Dawson hit a corner three and Rubin recorded another block, this time on a driving attempt by Council Jr. Two successful free throw trips were exchanged between Brown and Quinn before a small scoring drought took place on the court. Council Jr. ended it by darting into the paint and around a defender with a layup to cut into the 58-37 Loyola advantage. Dawson hit a 3-pointer, and red-

shirt first-year St. Bonaventure forward Duane Thompson responded with a layup. Thompson finished another layup after a highly-anticipated Rubin dunk earned Gentile a Canes buy-one-get-one-free deal before a timeout was called on the floor. Out of the timeout, Thompson nailed a 3-pointer behind a set screen, and Thompson went to the line after being fouled on a 3-pointer attempt — only hitting two. The Ramblers responded with back-to-back threes — Dawson swishing one and Edwards Jr. banking the other off the backboard. Quinn added an additional layup after another Loyola steal. A layup from Hinton made it a 71-48 game before Quinn responded with a layup of his own before a media timeout. Bolanga added two free throws after being fouled, and Watson finished a dunk off a Rubin assist. Final substitutions were made by Valentine with a minute remaining, allowing first-year guard Jack Turner the opportunity to finish a layup through contact. The final score of the night came from Hinton, who converted a three in the dying seconds. On their final possession, Loyola dribbled out the final ticks for the 77-53 win. The Ramblers head on the road for their next match up against Duquesne University Feb. 8. Tipoff is scheduled for 5 p.m. and can be streamed on CBS Sports Network. Alexander Sciarra is the Deputy Sports Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



CAROLINE CLIFFORD / THE PHOENIX
The Ramblers sit at 14-8 overall and 5-4 in conference play.

SOFTBALL

2025: Reloaded Ramblers aim for A10 title

By **AMARA BULLARD,**
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The Loyola softball team is making final preparations for their upcoming 2025 season after finishing last season 29-24 and 16-10 Atlantic 10 play. In the A10 tournament, the Ramblers beat St. Joseph's University in a 7-1 contest then St. Louis University 8-4 before falling in the third round to the University of Dayton 2-0.

The Ramblers have undergone some coaching changes ahead of the 2024-25 season, including the addition of assistant coach Alaynie Woollard. The New Castle, Ind. native spent four seasons at Northern Illinois University from 2015 to 2018, where she played shortstop, third base and catcher.

Woollard began her coaching career in 2019 as an assistant coach at Franklin College, a season where the Grizzlies finished with a 18-18 record. Woollard later took her talents to the University of Green Bay where she helped lead the team to a 23-21 season in 2021 — the program's most wins since 2014. In 2022, she helped the Phoenix amass 25 wins and secure their first postseason victory since 2015.

Newcomers

In addition to coaching adjustments, the Ramblers welcomed six new additions, all of whom are first-years.

Infielder Kayci Rigby joins the Ramblers from Huxley, Iowa. The Ballard High School graduate put up seven home runs and 33 runners batted in

while maintaining a .493 batting average and a .960 fielding percentage across four varsity years and club play with Iowa Premier Fastpitch.

Woodridge, Ill. native Alli Pawlowicz will join the Loyola infield and outfield after recording a dominant 1.192 on-base slugging, 27 RBIs and nine home runs in her senior year. In her final season at Lemont High School, Pawlowicz received Third-Team All-State, Second-Team All-Area and South Suburban All-Conference honors.

Outfielder Addyson Jones comes to Rogers Park from Lafayette High School in Glencoe, Mo. At Lafayette, Jones recorded a .446 batting average and a .485 OBS. During her four years on Lafayette's varsity team, Jones was named to First Team All-Conference, First Team All-District and First Team All-Region in her junior and senior years. Jones also played club ball with the St. Louis Chaos.

Abby Johnson, a native of Mokena, Ill. joins the Ramblers after four years of varsity play at Providence Catholic High School and club action with the Chicago Wildcats. In her first year at Providence Catholic, Johnson mashed 22 home runs with a .262 batting average. In her senior year, Johnson had 24 hits and 20 RBIs with a .260 batting average.

Outfielder Averi Vander Woude hails from Frankfort, Ill., where she boasted a .500 batting average and 12 stolen bases in her first year at Lincoln Way East High School. In her junior and senior years, Vander Woude held .418 and .414 batting averages with 25 and 22 stolen bases, respectively. For her efforts, Vander Woude was named to SWSC

All-Conference, Second Team All-State and All-Area Honorable Mention.

Infielder Addyson Borg comes to Rogers Park from San Tan Valley, Ariz. Borg played one year for Basha High School's varsity team, where she held a 3.96 earned run average in 23 innings pitched. Borg played club with the Arizona Storm Fastpitch team. She'll be the second Borg to join the Ramblers, following in the footsteps of her sister Emily Borg, who played from 2017 to 2020.

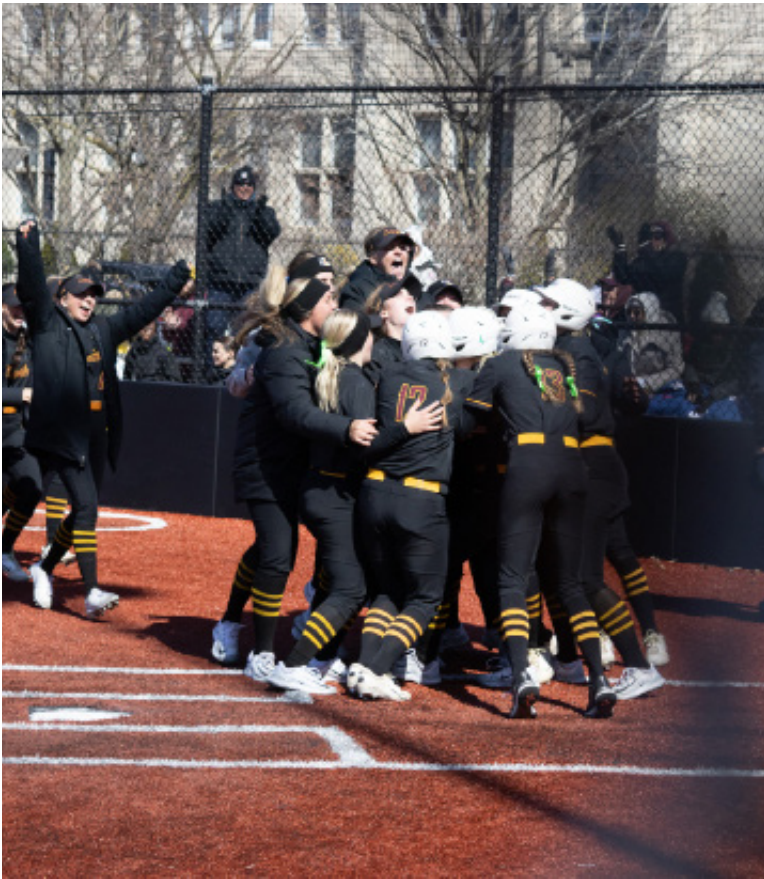
Games to look out for

The Ramblers will play their first game in the University of Northern Iowa Dome Tournament, starting Feb. 7 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. They'll face off against the University of North Dakota, University of Omaha, UNI and Drake University.

The team begins A10 conference play against Fordham University in The Bronx, N.Y. March 15 at 11 a.m. and will open play at home against Saint Joseph's University March 22 at 12 p.m.

Between conference games, the Ramblers will play in two inter-city rivalries against DePaul University March 25 at 3 p.m. and Northwestern University April 16 at 4 p.m.

Loyola takes on the reigning A10 champions — the University of Dayton Flyers — at home April 12, beginning at 12 p.m. The Flyers handed the Ramblers their first loss in last year's A10 tournament, sending the Ramblers to the losers' bracket, where they were defeated SLU in a narrow 7-6 loss.



MEGAN DUNN / THE PHOENIX
The Ramblers are slated to play in five tournaments before conference play.

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Ramblers take on separate invites

By **NATE VARDA,**
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The Loyola track and field program attended two events Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, with half the team staying in Chicago for the Windy City Rumble, while the other half traveled to South Bend, Ind. for a second straight week at the Meyo Invitational.

Meyo Invitational

Following a record-setting performance at the Notre Dame Invitational last week, graduate James Lawrence shattered another program record in the men's 3000m final at the Meyo Invitational.

Lawrence's time of 7:52.32 broke Jim Westphal's 3K record from 1989 — which stood at 7:55.70 — and earned him fourth place in the final standings. Lawrence's performance merited the fastest time in the Atlantic 10 Conference and the 24th-fastest 3K time in the nation this season.

The only other Rambler to compete in the 3K final was fourth-year Francois Guilhot, who clocked in at 8:09.51 for a 14th place finish.

The Ramblers sent four more competitors to the men's 3K open, where they were led by second-year

Nate Boutin, who placed sixth with a new personal best of 8:07.62. Two seconds behind him was third-year Jake Phillips in ninth at 8:09.92, another personal best.

Fourth-year Miles Clisham was next for Loyola, timing in at 8:26.18 in 19th, before second-year Cael Mulholland wrapped up the men's event in 22nd at 8:31.18.

The Ramblers fielded two competitors in the women's 3K, as third-year Roisin Treacy set a personal best with a time of 9:24.85 in a 13th place finish. Graduate Emma Watcke came in 22nd at 9:38.65.

Loyola sent fourth-year Samuel Field to the men's mile final, where he placed fifth, timing in at 4:02.74. In the open mile, fourth-year Gabe Smit set a new personal record at 4:04.70, earning him fifth in the contest. First-year Izak Bibile wrapped up the Ramblers' mile run, clocking in at 4:10.26 in 15th.

Fourth-year Alessandra Rodriguez was Loyola's sole runner in the women's 800m, competing in the open for a tenth place finish at 2:12.63.

The Ramblers sent competitors to both the men's and women's 5K, but their only male competitor, third-year Woody Jerome, didn't finish the race. In the women's event, second-year Eileen Seebon led the

Ramblers in 21st place with a time of 17:18.33. Behind her was fourth-year Aiden Grasse, who set a personal best in 29th place at 17:40.56.

Loyola's final competitor was fourth-year Grace Jostock, but she didn't finish the race.

Windy City Rumble

While the rest of the Ramblers were off in South Bend, Loyola competed in the men's and women's mile at the Henry Crown Field House in the Windy City Rumble, hosted by the University of Chicago.

The men's side was led by second-year Trent Anderson, who finished 11th at 4:27.00, followed by second-year Aidan Collins in 15th with a time of 4:29.56. Third-year Kyle Knutson came in 23rd, clocking in at 4:32.72, while fellow third-year Gabe Ryan rounded out the top 25 at 4:33.47. Last for Loyola was fourth-year Jack Slaughter, who placed 49th at 4:43.94.

In the women's mile, fourth-year Alex Morris placed on the podium in second at 5:15.31. Behind her was second-year Priscilla Ravera in ninth at 5:24.54, second-year Jo Collins in 12th at 5:31.67 and first-year Madison Perez in 24th at 5:43.21. Rounding out the top 30 for Loyola was first-year Charlotte Wilson at 5:46.42.

Loyola also sent three competitors for the women's 5000m first-year Claire Botnik, third-year Ali Gillooly and fourth-year Grace Kuhn — but none finished the event.

The Ramblers will be back in action this Friday, Feb. 7 as they head to the Lewis University Invitational in Romeoville, Ill. before heading back to Chicago for the Blue Demon Alumni Classic Saturday, Feb. 8.

Nate Varda is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.

2025 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

UNI DOME TOURNAMENT Cedar Falls, Iowa

Fri, Feb. 7 University of North Dakota
Sat, Feb. 8 University of Nebraska Omaha
Sun, Feb. 9 University of Nebraska Omaha
University of Northern Iowa
Drake University

FONSECA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT Tampa, Fla.

Fri, Feb. 14 St. John's University
Sat, Feb. 15 University of South Florida
Sun, Feb. 16 Penn State University
Semifinals
Finals

PIRATE INVITATIONAL Greenville, N.C.

Fri, Feb. 21 Boston College
Sat, Feb. 22 East Carolina University
Sun, Feb. 23 Canisius College
Boston College
Canisius College

OREGON CLASSIC Eugene, Ore.

Fri, Feb. 28 University of San Diego
Sat, March 1 Portland State University
Sun, March 2 Portland State University
University of Oregon
University of Oregon


MARSHALL MARCH MADNESS Huntington, W.Va.

Fri, March 7 Valparaiso University
Sat, March 8 Marshall University
Sun, March 9 Valparaiso University
University of Buffalo
Marshall University

Sat, March 15 Fordham University (DH) Bronx, N.Y.
Sun, March 16 Fordham University Bronx, N.Y.
Sat, March 22 Saint Joseph's University (DH) Loyola Softball Park
Sun, March 23 Saint Joseph's University Loyola Softball Park
Tue, March 25 DePaul University Chicago, Ill
Sat, March 29 University of Rhode Island (DH) Loyola Softball Park
Sun, March 30 University of Rhode Island Loyola Softball Park
Sat, April 5 St. Bonaventure University (DH) St. Bonaventure, N.Y.
Sun, April 6 St. Bonaventure University St. Bonaventure, N.Y.
Wed, April 9 Saint Louis University (DH) Saint Louis, Mo.
Sat, April 12 University of Dayton (DH) Loyola Softball Park
Sun, April 13 University of Dayton Loyola Softball Park
Wed, April 16 Northwestern University Evanston, Ill.
Fri, April 18 University of Massachusetts (DH) Amherst, Mass.
Sat, April 19 University of Massachusetts Amherst, Mass.
Sat, April 26 George Mason University (DH) Fairfax, Va
Sun, April 27 George Mason University Loyola Softball Park
Sat, May 3 George Washington University (DH) Loyola Softball Park
Sun, May 4 George Washington University

May 7 - 10 Atlantic 10 Championships Washington, D.C.

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SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Loyola falters in late effort against Dayton

By ALEXANDER SCIARRA, asciarra@luc.edu

A late comeback effort by the Loyola women’s basketball team against the University of Dayton Jan. 29 fell short by just two points in a 67-64 loss in Gentile Arena.

Head coach Allison Guth said the team’s late push was commendable despite the outcome.

“Really disappointed we can’t get to the end of this one with a different outcome with a win,” Guth said. “But absolutely proud of our team’s fight and effort against a very good Dayton team.”

The result was a far cry from the teams’ matchup earlier this season, where Dayton trounced the Ramblers in an 83-45 affair.

Graduate forward Sitori Tanin grabbed the game’s opening tipoff, but several miscues ended the Rambler’s first offensive possession. Flyer’s fourth-year forward Arianna Smith, who ended the day with 19 points, got off to a hot start, muscling in two consecutive layups.

On the other end, first-year guard Alexa Kinas hit two free throws before Dayton added two more layups by Smith and second-year guard Dennika Smith to make it a six-point Dayton lead. First-year guard Kendall Hendrix’s layup got two back for the Ramblers before a timeout was called on the floor.

Out of the timeout, Dayton’s fourth-year guard Ivy Wolf converted on a layup — the first two points of a game-leading 20-point performance.

Graduate forward Thoranna Kika

Hodge-Carr and third-year guard Kira Chivers added three points at the line following a layup by Flyers’ third-year guard Nayo Lear.

Smith and Kinas exchanged layups as Wolf nailed a jumper. Three quick passes by the Ramblers made their way to second-year guard Audrey Deptula for a 3-pointer. Tanin converted a layup after a Flyer turnover to cut into the 16-14 Dayton lead.

Dayton’s first-year guard Olivia Leung drove into the paint and was blocked, but she grabbed her own rebound and converted a second-chance attempt for a four-point advantage.

Quick 3-pointers from Wolf and the other from graduate guard Naelle Bernard opened the second quarter. In a two-and-a-half minute span leading to a timeout, Dayton jumped out to a 28-19 lead with a Smith layup and a long 3-pointer and two free throws from Wolf, while Tanin finished a layup.

Third-year guard Shantavia Dawkins added two free throws for the Flyers, and fourth-year forward Shannon Wheeler converted a wide-open layup to extend Dayton’s lead to 32-19.

In a two-minute stretch, the Ramblers went on a 9-3 run. Third-year guard Emma Theodorsson finished a layup and a 3-pointer alongside Hendrix’s two layups, while Smith made a layup and a lone free throw.

Neither side was able to convert on respective opportunities in the final minute, and the haltime buzzer sounded with Dayton leading 35-28.

Loyola started the third quarter with a six-point run, as a lone jumper from Wolf was met by three layups by

Bernard, Kinas and Chivers, forcing a Dayton timeout.

Wolf followed the timeout with another jumper, but was met with four straight points by Theodorsson to bring the Ramblers within one.

Leung stretched the court with a 3-pointer, and Wheeler followed with a two-point jumper in the corner. Vaughn converted on both of her free throws, and a quick series of baseline passes made their way to Hodge-Carr for a layup and a 44-42 scoreline before a Loyola timeout.

With 20 seconds remaining in the third, Dayton’s graduate guard Rikki Harris added a layup through a foul and converted on the and-one for a five-point advantage.

Smith started the fourth quarter converting on a layup. On the other end, fourth-year forward Jess Finney — who finished the night as the Rambler’s highest scorer with 11 points — converted a quick catch-and-shoot 3-pointer before finishing a layup on the next game possession.

Leung drove in for a layup, and Bernard hit a jumper in response. As Dayton began their next offensive possession, Hendrix stole the ball and passed it to Vaughn, who finished a layup to tie the game at 51.

Wheeler made a free throw after being fouled, while a Deptula jumper gave the Ramblers their first lead of the game.

The lead dissipated after a six-point run by Dayton, with two free throws by Harris and a two layups from Smith, before Finney stopped the bleeding with a three.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX

The Ramblers currently sit at 11-11 overall and 3-8 in conference play.

Wheeler hit a layup while a hot-handed Finney drained a corner 3-pointer. A floating layup by Wolf gave Dayton a 62-59 lead and forced a Loyola timeout.

Hodge-Carr drove under the basket for a reverse layup making it a one-point game. After recovering a Dayton turnover, with just over a minute and a half remaining in the game, a crucial pass from Kinas to Bernard was miscued and fell out of bounds.

Graduate Dayton guard Nicole Stephens slipped in an uncontested layup. A tactical Loyola foul resulted in Wolf hitting both free throws for the 20-point stat line and a 66-61 Dayton lead.

Despite a 3-pointer from Deptula

with four seconds remaining, a lone free throw by Harris iced the game and cemented Dayton’s second win of the season against Loyola.

In lieu of the noticeable paint dominance by Dayton — 38 points in the paint and 32 rebounds to Loyola’s 30 and 25 — Guth said limiting the overall Dayton offense was a positive.

“We have a ton of respect for them,” Guth said. “I think our adjustments in trying to switch up and switch clean, knowing that size-wise for us we’re not giving up much in some of our lineups, trying to throw different bodies at them — I think that was successful.”

Alexander Sciarra is the Deputy Sports Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Ramblers overcome nail-biter against Hawks

By ANDI REVESZ, arevesz@luc.edu

In the last seconds of Loyola’s second matchup against Saint Joseph’s University Feb. 1, third-year guard Jayden Dawson drained three free throws to put the Ramblers back in the win column, improving to 13-8 overall and 4-4 in conference play.

After the Hawks previously knocked the Ramblers around in a 93-57 beat down Jan. 11, Dawson said the win was significant and held true to the program’s committed culture.

“Obviously the first game definitely didn’t go our way,” Dawson said. “I mean, the last five games outside of that, it’s been a lot of good and close games. So to come on top of this one and finally get over that bunker was big for us.”

Graduate guard Sheldon Edwards Jr. led the Ramblers with 12 points, while Saint Joseph’s fourth-year guard Erik Reynolds II grabbed a game-high 17 points.

The Ramblers won the tipoff and Dawson drew a foul, resulting in the first points of the game coming at the line. Edwards Jr. stole the ball on the next possession to extend the 4-0 lead.

Reynolds II got the Hawks on the board with a jumper before Edwards Jr. found second-year center Miles Rubin for a signature dunk. Rubin repeated the move — this time assisted by third-year guard Kymany Houinsou — for a quick 8-2 lead.

Second-year Saint Joseph’s guard Xzayvier Brown added two at the line before Edwards Jr. hit a jumper. A three by Reynolds II cut Loyola’s lead to 10-7, but a jumper by fourth-year guard Des Watson and a driving layup by Houinsou kept the Rambler ahead. Just before a media timeout, third-year Hawks forward Rasheer Fleming drained a 3-pointer to make it 14-10.

Over five minutes of misses plagued the court before Edwards Jr. made a 3-pointer to end the drought.

Brown made a layup for the Hawks and fourth-year forward Francis Nwokorie drained a three before a media timeout, with the Ramblers leading 20-12.

Fourth-year forward Jalen DeLoach was left open under the net and

slammed a dunk. A Rubin jumper was called off after a travel call, but Watson made up for it two minutes later with a driving layup.

Houinsou completed a driving layup after missing a shot on the previous possession. Fleming added one at the line for the Hawks during an and-one opportunity, but a three from Watson maintained Loyola’s 29-15 lead.

Third-year guard Jalen Quinn completed an and-one following a Saint Joseph’s timeout, before Brown added two at the line shooting one-and-one. A layup from Quinn closed out the first half with the Ramblers ahead 34-17.

Brown opened scoring in the second half by making two at the line. Reynolds II added two more soon after, and third-



KATRINA DE GUZMAN / THE PHOENIX

The Ramblers got revenge on the Hawks after falling 93-57 earlier in the season.

year Hawks guard Derek Simpson went coast-to-coast for a layup after a steal, closing the gap to 34-23.

Two more at the line by Brown forced a Loyola timeout as the Ramblers remained scoreless in the second half.

Watson made a three before Simpson added a jumper from the paint. Edwards Jr. recorded a steal and took it down the court for a dunk, keeping the Ramblers ahead 39-27.

After a free throw from graduate Hawk center Justice Ajogbor, Reynolds II stole the ball and secured a dunk before hitting a jumper on the next possession. Brown followed suit with another steal and layup to bring the Hawks within five.

Rubin got the Ramblers back into motion with a layup before Reynolds II made another jumper and layup off a steal.

Quinn and Dawson each made layups before second-year Saint Joseph’s forward Anthony Finkley made a three. Brown added two free throws before a Loyola shot clock violation prompted a media timeout.

A DeLoach free throw preceded a Brown layup, which inched the Hawks closer. Nwaokorie kept the advantage in the hands of Loyola with a reverse layup, but Brown added two more at the line for a one-point difference.

A Dawson jumper and an Edwards Jr. 3-pointer nabbed back the 53-47 lead. Fleming received a pass from Brown for a tip-in before Simpson added two at the line to make it a one-pos-

session game again at 53-51.

With two minutes remaining, Reynolds II tied the game with a layup, and Fleming took the lead with a successful trip to the free-throw line. Dawson tied it back up with a jumper before a Hawks shot clock violation gave Loyola possession with 43 seconds remaining.

Brown fouled Dawson as he took a 3-point attempt with two seconds left in the game. At the line, Dawson made all three free throws to secure the 58-55 win for the Ramblers.

Dawson said there was a lot of pressure with the game coming down to those final shots.

“We just came together as a team in huddles, the timeouts,” Dawson said. “We really came together in the last 10 minutes. It was big for us coming together and then my teammates are stretching to me and believing in me.”

The Rambler defense held the Hawks to shoot just under 30% from the field — a feat head coach Drew Valentine said was key in their game.

“I’ve been hesitant to do what we did today,” Valentine said. “[Saint Joseph’s] run so much guard to guard action, that’s why I felt comfortable with them doing it. I thought our different ball screen coverage had them a little flustered on what we were doing between our switching, our deep drop and then our trapping.”

Andi Revesz is the Sports Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

Graduate guard Sheldon Edwards Jr. finds his footing as a Rambler

Rubin stuns as men’s basketball defeats St. Bonaventure University

Preview the 2025 Loyola softball season, including full schedule release

Indoor track and field continues to set records during 2025 season