

## COSTLY CONSEQUENCES

### How DePaul President Robert Manuel's strategy and leadership left UIndy in the red

By PATRICK SLOAN-TURNER  
Online Managing Editor

#### Editor's note:

*A number of sources in this story were granted anonymity, fearing that revealing identities could affect their current and future employment. The DePaulia's advisor and managing editorial staff have independently vetted each one of the sources involved in this story's reporting.*

More than a decade ago, Robert Manuel used a metaphor at his presidential inauguration ceremony at the University of Indianapolis (UIndy) to convey a vision for the future of the institution, then under his helm.

To a crowd of colleagues, politicians, faculty and others at Nicoson Hall on UIndy's campus in Indianapolis, he quoted another who held the president's seat before him.

"There's a reason why our rearview mirrors are so much

smaller than our windshields," Manuel said.

When Manuel spoke to another group of new constituents nearly 10 years later, after it was announced that he would take over as DePaul's president, the same metaphor would likely have resonated with a welcoming crowd inside DePaul's Courtelyou Commons.

Much of DePaul faculty, staff and students only wanted to look forward. Few were shy of sharing their disaffection with Manuel's predecessor, A. Gabriel Esteban. It was no secret that DePaul was struggling with revenue and enrollment. Desperate for a leader who would put the university in drive, the community embraced Manuel.

In May 2022, with so much excitement in DePaul's own windshield, little focus was on the new president's rearview, whose objects might have been more troubling than it first appeared.

See **MANUEL**, page 3





# FIRST LOOK

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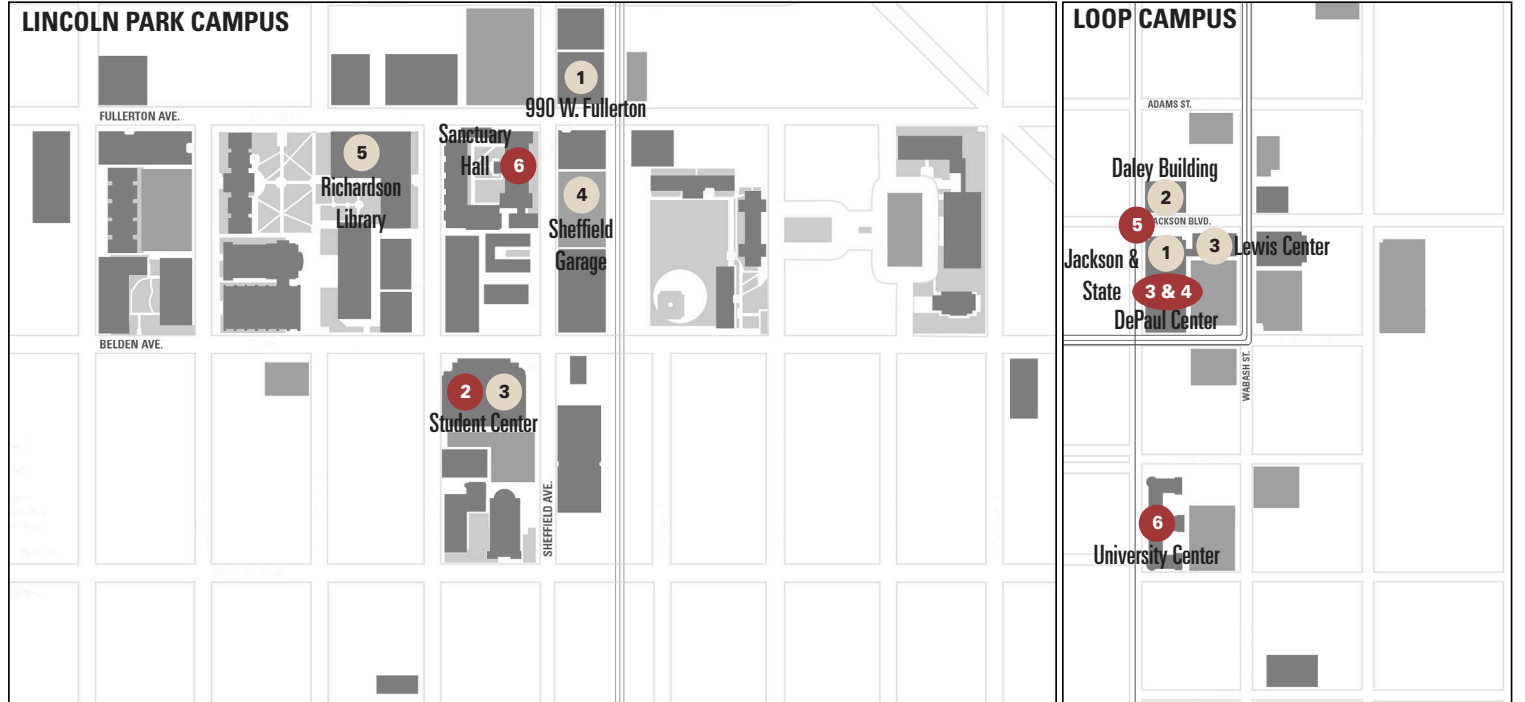
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## CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

May 10, 2023 to May 16, 2023



### LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

● Assault & Theft ● Drug & Alcohol ● Other

#### Lincoln Park Campus Crimes:

- May 10**
- 1) A Graffiti report was filed for markings on 990 W. Fullerton.
- May 14**
- 2) A Harassment report was file regarding an incident in the Student Center.
- May 15**
- 3) A Disorderly Conduct report was filed regarding an incident in the Student Center.
- 4) A Graffiti report was filed for markings on a transformer box at the Sheffield

- Garage.
- May 16**
- 5) A Criminal Trespass Warning was given to a person in the Richardson Library for being in the library after hours.
- 6) A Bike Theft report was filed for a bike taken from Sanctuary bike rack.

#### Loop Campus Crimes:

- May 10**
- 1) A Criminal Trespass Warning was given to a person in the DePaul Center.
- May 12**

### LOOP CAMPUS

SOURCE | DEPAUL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

- 2) A Graffiti report was filed for markings on the Daley building.
- May 15**
- 3) A Battery was reported in the DePaul Center Barnes & Noble.
- 4) A Theft was reported in the DePaul Center.
- May 16**
- 5) A Harassment report was filed regarding a person being harassed near Jackson & State.
- 6) A Simple Assault report was filed for a person who was threatened outside of University Center.



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#### PAGE ONE CAPTION

Background photo: PATRICK SLOAN-TURNER | THE DEPAULIA  
Foreground photo: AMBER STOUTENBOROUGH | THE DEPAULIA  
Photo Illustration: JAKE COX | THE DEPAULIA

Robert Manuel at a 'Design DePaul' event held on January 26, 2023, at the Holtschneider Performance Center, superimposed over the logo of University of Indianapolis on the side of the 'Greyhound Village' which opened in 2016 during Manuel's tenure.

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# NEWS

## MANUEL, Continued from front

Now, DePaul and its newest president are tasked with navigating itself through an historic budgetary crisis. But a closer look into the past of the man tasked with leading DePaul through this crisis reveals a decade of poor financial decisions, leadership described as “despotic” and a school in Indiana left in a crisis of its own.

## CAPITAL CONSEQUENCES IN INDIANA

Before coming to DePaul last spring, Manuel spent 10 years as the president of UIndy.

Manuel’s efforts and vision at UIndy appeared to center on physical growth and expansion. A drive through the school’s 50-acre campus today looks significantly different than it did when Manuel took over in 2013.

One of his earliest efforts, a \$28-million, 160,000-square-foot health pavilion, broke ground in 2014. The construction progressed quickly, taking just 18 months to complete before opening the following year. The Keystone Group, a company that was awarded the contract and whose president and CEO, Ersal Ozdemir, sits on UIndy’s Board of Trustees, completed the project quickly.

A former UIndy administrator from Manuel’s tenure – who was granted anonymity for this story – said that the preliminary talks regarding the health pavilion were much less smooth than the building’s construction.

“His rationale was that he could make money by renting out the bottom floor to a local hospital and they would come in and rent the space,” they said. “He wanted to do this at a time when hospitals were cutting back and they were all axing their satellite facilities.”

Because of this, the source said that they, and other colleagues, advised Manuel against the project. Still, the president pushed it forward.

“He went ahead anyway and did it. There was no real collaboration with any cabinet members...”

*Anonymous*  
Former UIndy Administrator

Whether it was the original plan or not, today, a fraction of the building is dedicated to clinical space. Most of the four-story building is comprised of university instructional rooms, departmental offices, meeting spaces, a cafeteria and an auditorium. One annex of the building’s first floor is currently dedicated to a non-instructional space with Indianapolis-based Community Health Network occupying an on-site health clinic.

A year after the health facility’s completion, another major project was well underway.

Greyhound Village, a new housing complex named after the school’s mascot, was built in 2016. The project cost \$25 million and created space for 480 UIndy student residents. It is now one of 10 different student housing options at UIndy.

According to another former UIndy

administrator also granted anonymity for this story, the project went forward despite advice from the president’s council that enrollment was diminishing and that they and others worried the new halls would not be filled.

“He made decisions to open these residence halls even though enrollment was shrinking... even though he was advised otherwise,” said the source. “He went ahead anyway and did it. There was no real collaboration with any cabinet members.”

In 2020, construction/renovation was underway for a new engineering building at UIndy. Exact costs of the project are unclear but the school called the endeavor a “culmination of the university’s \$25 million investment in its engineering programs.”

While Manuel pursued this campaign of aggressive growth and expansion at UIndy, the country’s pool of eligible college students did the opposite.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the population of college students in the U.S. has been steadily shrinking since 2012, with nationwide enrollment decreasing by nearly 2 million in 11 years.

While UIndy reached peak enrollment in 2018, touting nearly 6,000 students, by 2019, the country’s decreasing enrollment phenomenon hit, as the school’s enrollment dropped to 5,935. NCES figures show that in the following year, UIndy’s enrollment fell to 5,801.

It is unclear whether UIndy did so to directly combat enrollment issues, but the university did increase its admission rates. In 2017, UIndy’s acceptance rate went from 82% to 86% the following year, and then to a reported 93% in 2019, according to NCES data. Even then, enrollment continued to fall, dropping by an additional 330 students from 2018 to 2021, despite the admissions rate adjustment.

The most recent NCES’ figures available show that the school’s enrollment sat at 5,325 in 2021, more than 600 fewer students than in 2018, a year after Greyhound Village opened. This enrollment total is the lowest of any year over the past decade and more than 100 less than UIndy’s total in 2013 – Manuel’s first year as the school’s president.

## DESPERATE AT DEPAUL

While Manuel served the second half of his presidency in Indianapolis, 165 miles north in Chicago, A. Gabriel Esteban sat in DePaul’s president’s office from 2017-2022.

Much of Esteban’s tenure in Chicago proved to be an era focused on fiscal growth and increasing profitability. During the Esteban administration, DePaul’s endowment grew immensely, from a reported \$492 million in 2017 to almost \$1 billion by 2021.

Though it was a period of financial growth, by the time Esteban’s tenure neared its end, a contentious relationship had grown between the former president and contingents of DePaul faculty.

“I certainly think the consensus was that we were emerging from a period of real struggle,” said Winifred Curran, DePaul Faculty Council member and professor in Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS). “We ...had a president [in Esteban] who was very unresponsive, who most people had not met.”

Due to this lack of shared governance, Curran said there was optimism that whoever was to be the next president would likely be an improvement.

“[There was] a feeling that it had to be better,” Curran said. “It was a very hopeful energy, I think.”

Since his announcement as DePaul’s 13th president on May 10, 2022, Manuel has appeared as a stark contrast early on to his predecessor in terms of making himself available to faculty, staff and students.

Curran said she and others felt optimistic after Manuel’s arrival upon learning he was aware of the current climate left between faculty and administration after Esteban’s exit.

“We felt he was responsive,” Curran said. “He was very aware of [2021’s] Council of the Whole and what had gone on, and recognized its importance. So, I think there was real hope that this was someone who sort of understood the

problem.”

In September 2021, various stakeholders called a Council of the Whole with the intent of restoring shared governance to the budgeting process and encouraging necessary investment in the academic program. According to faculty sources, of the two budgets that had been negotiated by and agreed upon by Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC), Esteban submitted only the more austere of the two to DePaul’s Board of Trustees, resulting in steeper cuts<sup>2</sup>.

Faculty sources told The DePaulia that the period was one in which much of faculty had lost confidence in the president’s office as a committed partner

*Continued on next page*

## Capital developments under Manuel



**\$28 MILLION**



**\$25 MILLION**



**\$25 MILLION\***

PHOTO: PATRICK SLOAN-TURNER | THE DEPAULIA  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JAKE COX, AMBER STOUTENBOROUGH | THE DEPAULIA

From top: UIndy Health Pavilion, Greyhound Village, R.B. Annis School of Engineering— as seen on UIndy’s campus. All three were developed during Manuel’s tenure as president of UIndy.

\*The \$25 million attributed to UIndy’s engineering building is not a direct cost, but instead what the school called “culmination of the university’s \$25 million investment in its engineering programs.”



in the shared governance processes established by the DePaul Faculty Handbook and university policies.

A year later, Manuel visited the first Faculty Council meeting of the 2022-23 academic year in September 2022 to discuss his vision and partake in conversations with faculty leadership.

During the meeting<sup>3</sup>, multiple members of faculty expressed to the new president they felt “heartened” by his efforts to make faculty a part of the conversation. Before leaving, Manuel expressed an interest in attending other council meetings in the future. The president proved to keep his word, attending at least two of the next seven monthly meetings.

“I would say that [the September meeting] was probably the high point,” Curran said. “After that meeting, I didn’t hear anything negative from anyone. Everyone felt that he had done a great job. That he got it... And that he was willing to work with us.”

Fast forward to Spring 2023 and much of those feelings of good-faith collaboration have vanished.

Since DePaul’s \$56.5 million budget gap became widely known on April 10<sup>4</sup>, several members of faculty shared the opinion that Manuel, SRAC and the provost’s office withheld information regarding the gravity of DePaul’s financial situation. In doing so, some felt they were required to make pivotal decisions regarding personnel cuts with little time and only fractional information.

In March and April, college deans

“ I certainly think the consensus was that we were emerging from a period of real struggle.”

*Winifred Curran*

Professor, College of LAS

On the transition between Esteban and Manuel

and faculty leaders at DePaul were forced to make decisions resulting in the nonrenewal of term faculty contracts, departmental cuts and more.

“We can’t make decisions like these on a dime,” Marcy Dinius, Faculty Council member and professor of English in LAS, told The DePaulia in April. “We’re supposed to try to make these kinds of decisions on a much longer timetable, and with much, much greater deliberation, and certainly with much more information than any of us had been given.”

In the same interview, Dinius said faculty originally “trusted we had a better partner in Manuel,” and added “All that trust has been replaced by very justified disappointment, frustration and resistance.”

## A HONEYMOON ENDS

Throughout his tenure at UIndy, Manuel came across as well-liked to much of the public eye. He appeared at school sporting events and campus activities. Sources told The DePaulia that students generally saw him as engaging and fun.

Though their relationship would eventually tarnish, one former colleague of Manuel said that he was easy to be fond of early on.

“[There is a] honeymoon period with Rob,” said the former administrator. “He comes across as collaborative, jovial... then, about a year in, you find he’s not that way.”

A presentation slide detailing UIndy’s endowment from a December 2022 UIndy Faculty Senate meeting:

### UINDY ENDOWMENT AND POLICIES

- **October 2022 market value: \$124M**
  - Includes \$17M in loans to UIndy for capital improvements for student housing, academic classroom space and athletics
- **Function: To support the University’s operations and scholarship to students. Consists of unrestricted and restricted funds. Unrestricted funds have no specific purpose assigned to the funds and can be used for any University needs. Restricted funds must be spent on specific items, mostly scholarship for students, or capital items specific to a program or building.**
  - \$2M roughly Unrestricted
  - \$121M roughly Restricted
- **Draws from the endowment are annual and are made to support operations and scholarship to students**
  - Historical draws for both operations and scholarship (combined) ranged from 4.5% to 5.5% of the endowment value based on the average of the last 8 quarters
  - Larger percent draws for operations, or a loss of market value, make it more difficult to maintain consistent operating draws from the endowment, decreasing future draws for operations

Eventually, the former colleague left UIndy, and said they were far from the only one to depart, calling the staffing of administrative positions like vice presidents and deans a “revolving door” throughout the 2010s.

According to past snapshots of the UIndy.edu presidential cabinet page<sup>5</sup>, through the first five years of Manuel’s presidency in Indianapolis, at least 22 different members filled the 13 different roles on the president’s cabinet.

The former colleague called the president’s leadership “despotic” and told The DePaulia their reason for leaving was due to an inability to support Manuel’s decisions. They said they often felt intense pressure from the president to show overt support for his vision and initiatives, even though the former staffer did not believe in them themselves.

The staffer said that Manuel ignored the advice of colleagues that it was the wrong time to expand the college’s physical footprint and create new degree programs. The same source also said Manuel’s support for these initiatives often ended after their creation, when new residence halls struggled to fill and added programs withered.

“He is very fond of spending a lot of money and making big announcements but not supporting them afterwards,” the former administrator said. “Marketing and admissions would advise that there wasn’t [a] market for programs, but he would insist things be launched... Then would blame others for those departments not getting enrollment.”

Another former UIndy administrator echoed this, stating that they too believed Manuel ignored the advice of counsel who expressed a belief that it was not the right time to expand with construction and new program development.

“He would get in his mind what he wanted to do, and it would be a unilateral decision,” the source said. “There was never really a discussion.”

Several UIndy sources The DePaulia spoke to for this story believe Manuel was adept at controlling what trustees knew concerning the school’s financials.

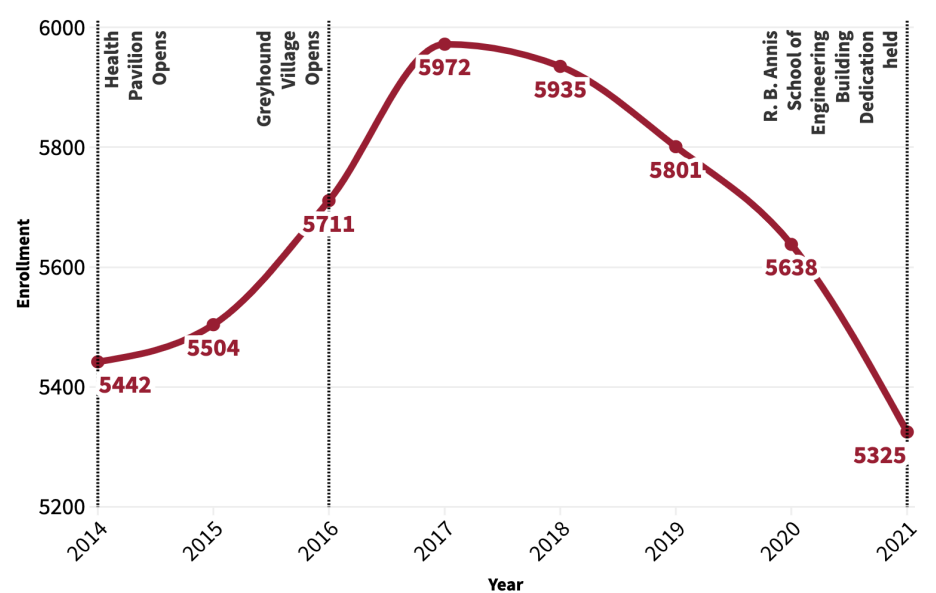
A current UIndy faculty member said that the president “had the wool pulled over the board’s eyes,” regarding expenses, the use of endowment funds and the reclassification of restricted donations. They also said when Manuel departed for DePaul, trustees “were left with a gaping wound that had to be fixed.”

According to correspondence acquired by The DePaulia under Indiana’s Access to Public Record Act (APRA)<sup>6</sup>, UIndy officials petitioned the state’s Attorney General’s office at least once since 2017 in hopes of reclassifying portions of the

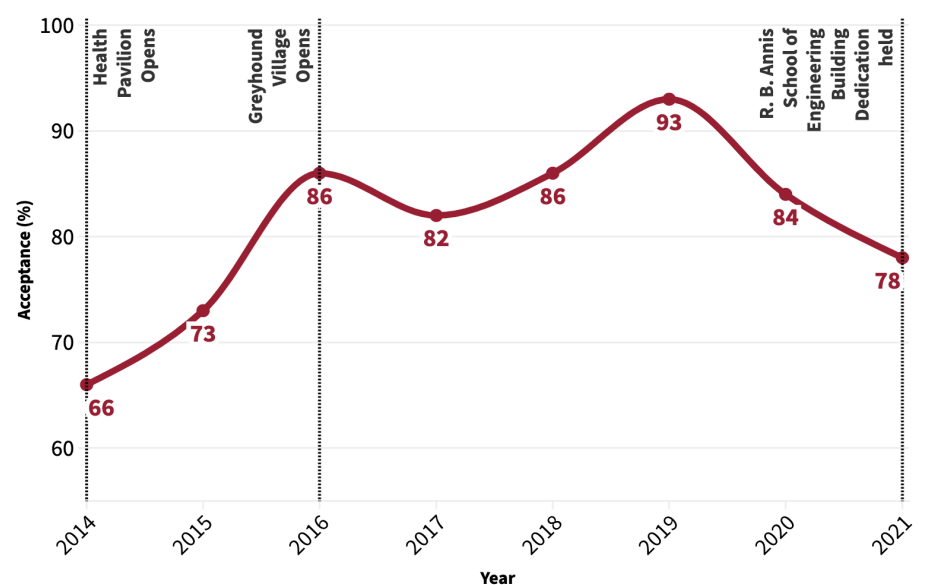
UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

SOURCE: UINDY FACULTY

### University of Indianapolis enrollment, 2014 – 2021



### University of Indianapolis acceptance rate, 2014 – 2021



AMBER STOUTENBOROUGH, JAKE COX | THE DEPAULIA, SOURCE: NCES

school’s restricted endowment funds.

An email obtained by The DePaulia<sup>7</sup>, sent to UIndy faculty on Feb. 22, 2023 from the president of the university’s faculty senate, Stephen Zimmerly, exhibits the degree of concern currently felt by UIndy’s Board of Trustees regarding the school’s financial outlook.

The communication details Zimmerly’s notes from an April trustees meeting, in which the university’s interim president and trustee, Phil Terry, presents a report to the body regarding UIndy’s financial outlook.

“President Terry described the Trustees as ‘having their hair on fire.’... All areas of the university are under scrutiny,” Zimmerly wrote to other members of faculty. “...The Trustees are taking steps to ensure they are not put in a position like this again... It’s all hands on deck, from the top to the bottom.”

Several attempts by The DePaulia to

speak with UIndy trustees for this story went unanswered.

Like much of faculty’s recent concerns at DePaul, educators at UIndy criticized a lack of true, shared governance during Manuel’s presidency.

Multiple sources said that over the years, transparency from Manuel and his cabinet waned, until finally the president did not engage in collaboration with educators at UIndy, with one saying they felt he had a “contempt for the faculty.”

## INDY IN DEBT

Like DePaul, UIndy is a tuition-driven institution, with this revenue accounting for more than 65% of operating costs at the university. With a loss in enrollment, payment for these projects needed to be found elsewhere.

“[Manuel] borrowed from the



endowment,” said the former administrator, first quoted in this story. “You never want to go borrowing from your endowment unless you have to. That’s a big deal. And he convinced the trustees that they’d get their money back in multiples.”

At least four times in Manuel’s tenure, UIndy borrowed from its endowment to help fund various development projects, according to figures published in annual independent audit reports and the school’s tax filings:

- In 2015, UIndy’s endowment was borrowed from twice. \$4 million was loaned in June for housing investments, and a month later, \$5.25 million was borrowed under three separate agreements to help fund “various capital projects.”

- In 2016, an additional \$3.5 million was borrowed from the endowment for renovations. Four years later, more than \$4.4 million was borrowed to pay for construction/renovation of UIndy’s new engineering building in July 2020.

Together, these borrowings add up to more than \$17 million owed to UIndy’s endowment, which totaled \$124 million in 2022. The most recent audit available from November 2022, conducted by Crowe LLP, an independent accounting firm, states that interest and principal payments for these loans are due in September 2023.

Materials leaked to The DePaulia<sup>8</sup> shed further light on the state of UIndy’s endowment. Of the \$124 million in funds, \$121 million is deemed unrestricted, according to minutes from a portion of the Faculty Senate meeting held in December 2022. Unrestricted funds have few rules on what these endowment funds may be used for, while restricted funds are regulated by those who donated the funds themselves.

During the meeting, UIndy’s Chief Financial Officer (CFO) told attendees that all repayments to the \$17 million owed to the endowment have been paused due to the school’s current financial state, according to the meeting’s minutes.

Robert Kelchen is a professor and head of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Kelchen, whose area of expertise is higher education finance, said a pause like this is most likely an indication that UIndy’s finances are in a poor position.

“It’s not a great sign of financial health,” Kelchen said. “But also, I don’t know how common it actually is to be able to borrow that much out of an endowment.”

While it may not have worked for Manuel and UIndy, Kelchen said that, in some situations, investment can be a viable strategy for combating enrollment woes. It is unclear if this was the motivator behind Manuel’s initiatives to build, but Kelchen believes this type of approach can often be a gamble.

“As an investment strategy...I think there’s an added risk with these enrollment declines,” Kelchen said, adding that Midwest schools felt these population reductions more than some other regions in the U.S.

While UIndy has fought enrollment issues, one major development-related purchase – disclosed in a 2020 audit report<sup>12</sup> – accounts for a major surge in UIndy’s debt and reads as follows:

“In August of 2019, the University executed an agreement for the purchase of the Health Pavilion for approximately \$34.5 million through a mortgage loan and lease transaction with a third party that has a security interest in the facility.”

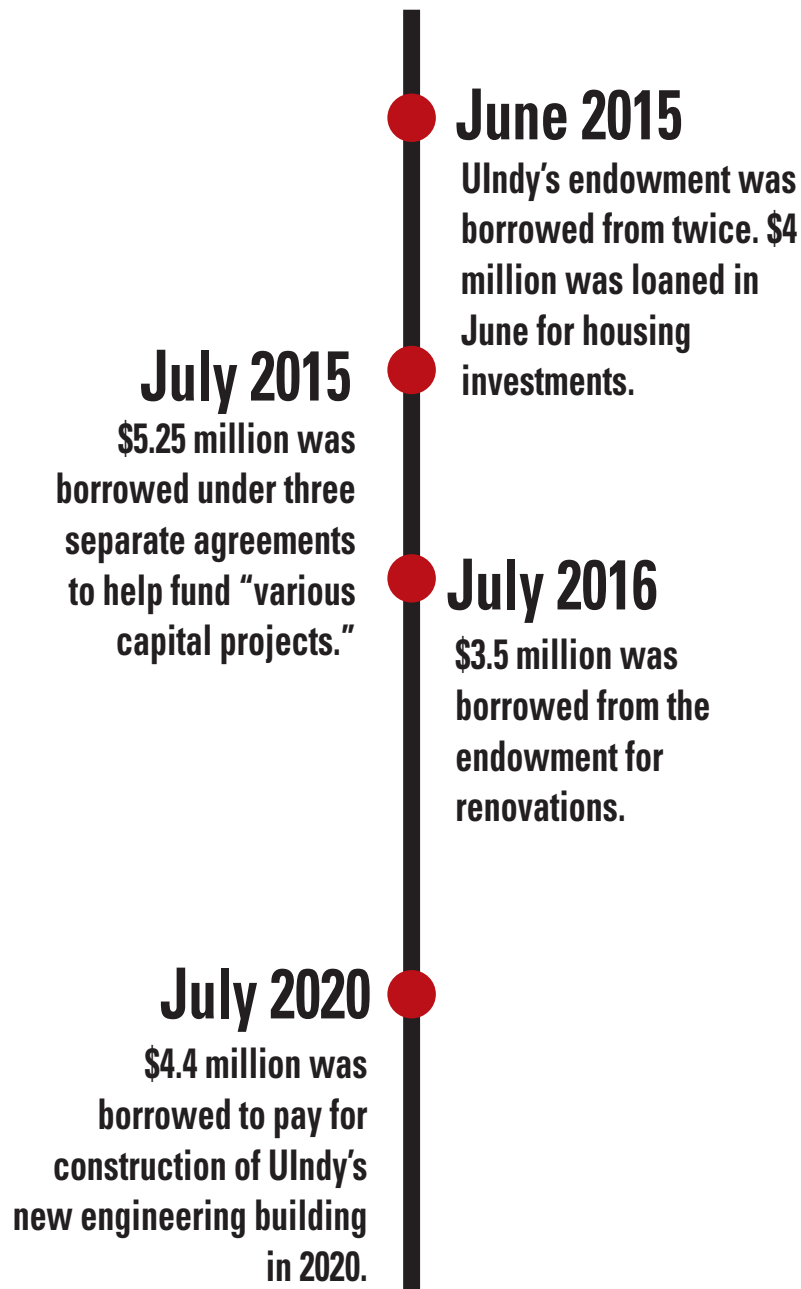
The purchase of the health pavilion,



NOAH CRENSHAW | THE REFLECTOR

Robert Manuel, while president of the University of Indianapolis speaks at a campus event on April 14, 2018.

## Endowment funds borrowed



**TOTAL: \$17 Million**

**Audit states that interest and principal payments for these loans were originally due in September 2023.**

**Repayment has been suspended due to UIndy’s poor financial health.**

originally built in 2014, increased UIndy’s debt by 63% in a single year, jumping the school’s total from around \$60 million in 2019 to \$98 million by June 2020, according to an audit report from 2021<sup>9</sup>. Since the school’s debt jumped in 2019, enrollment continued to fall, as UIndy lost more than 300 students from 2019 to 2022, per NCES.

“We feel very betrayed... We feel hung out to dry... he ransacked our school and left.”

*Anonymous*  
UIndy faculty member

The added liability and enrollment decline could be part of the reason why UIndy’s credit rating dropped to BBB in 2022 from BBB+ the year before according to a recent report by S&P, with the added note that the school’s “...weak available resource ratios expect to translate to weaker operations over time.”

Oftentimes, a drop in credit rating results in higher interest rates to debt.

In the December UIndy Faculty Senate meeting – the school’s governing body equivalent to DePaul’s Faculty Council – the school’s CFO said that the school is exploring lowering tuition costs to drive up enrollment, according to the minutes obtained by The DePaulia<sup>10</sup>. Also in the meeting, the CFO said UIndy’s debt currently sits around \$95 million, equaling a reduction of \$1 million each year since 2020.

Several days before this story’s publishing, The DePaulia contacted Manuel in hopes of receiving comments in response to some of the claims made by his former colleagues and faculty at UIndy for this story and received the following response<sup>11</sup>:

“Thank you for the opportunity to reply. I’m unable to respond as I’m recovering from recent surgery and currently attending my daughter’s graduation. I will be able to respond when

I’m back in the office on Tuesday, May 23,” Manuel wrote.

Social media posts showed Manuel<sup>12</sup>

**Continued on next page**





KIERSTEN RIEDFORD | THE DEPAULIA

Robert Manuel speaks to student media upon his announcement as DePaul's 13th president on May 10, 2022.

at the commencement ceremony in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, May 20.

On the same day Manuel was in Baltimore, The DePaulia received an unprompted email from Chris Molloy, the former Vice President of Advancement at UIndy from 2013 through 2021. It is unclear how Molloy became aware of this story's reporting, but the lengthy email came to Manuel's defense.

"My experience working with President Manuel was very positive," Molloy wrote. "He was very inclusive and transparent, and is a visionary, charismatic leader."

Molloy wrote that Manuel changed new meeting structures to increase shared governance and raised considerable philanthropic funds for scholarships and other initiatives to support students and faculty at UIndy.

In contradiction to UIndy's trending enrollment figures from the final four years of the Manuel era, Molloy believes the former president was successful in getting students on campus.

"At the same time [Manuel] was leading fundraising success, he was also leading admissions success," wrote the former member of Manuel's cabinet.

Every UIndy source spoken to for this story other than Molloy called the school's current financial standing a "crisis." While external factors like the Covid-19 pandemic and long-developing enrollment declines are major factors in the budget issues at UIndy, multiple sources told The DePaulia that the school's current woes were exacerbated by Manuel's strategies and decisions.

"Our budget crisis is a major crisis," a current faculty member told The DePaulia. "It's not like he came in and fixed things, he came in and made it a problem."

## LEADING A 'SITUATION LIKE THE ONE HE CREATED'

Nearly a decade removed from his remarks and metaphors spoken to a welcoming crowd at his UIndy inauguration, Manuel once again donned academic regalia, this time, sporting royal blue and scarlet. On Nov. 11, 2022, to a mostly unfamiliar crowd at DePaul's Holtschneider Performance Center, Manuel gave another inaugural address.

Though it is an excerpt from his speech that day in which he light-heartedly addressed the attendees he was indeed familiar with that – in hindsight – the DePaul community might find interesting.

"I have friends here from kindergarten, NYU, Georgetown, Allegheny and UIndy and it's powerful to have you all here in one place... However, you're not allowed to tell any pre-DePaul stories to anyone here at DePaul," Manuel joked.

For many who worked with him at UIndy, Manuel's "pre-DePaul" actions in Indianapolis are less than humorous.

"We feel very betrayed," said a faculty member. "We feel hung out to dry... he ransacked our school and left."

Upon learning of DePaul's financial hardship, facing a budget gap of \$56.5 million and ensuing cuts to faculty, staff and operations, one previously quoted former UIndy administrator found the

“ I think we just felt happy for us but then sorry for DePaul.”

*Anonymous*  
UIndy faculty member

circumstances to be ironic.

"It sounds like he landed in [a] situation just like the one he created," they said. "And I don't know that he's equipped to handle it."

The faculty source said they and many of their colleagues breathed an initial sigh of relief when they heard Manuel would be leaving UIndy for DePaul. But that relief soon turned to pity for his new constituency in Chicago.

"I think we just felt happy for us but then sorry for DePaul," a current UIndy professor told The DePaulia.

During the reporting for this story, The DePaulia contacted Judy Greffin<sup>13</sup>, a DePaul Trustee and the chair of the presidential search committee that resulted in Manuel's selection. The DePaulia hoped to speak with Greffin about the search committee's interviews and vetting process of then candidate Manuel.

Greffin never responded to The DePaulia's query, but on May 20, Citadel hedge fund executive and DePaul Board of Trustees chair Gerald A. Beeson sent a statement through DePaul's media relations<sup>14</sup>.

"After an extensive nationwide search, the Board of Trustees selected Robert Manuel to be our university's 13th president because of his proven record of

academic innovation and collaboration," Beeson wrote.

Beeson also served on the search group, but the rest of the message does not address the committee's process leading to Manuel's selection. Instead, Beeson noted words of support for Manuel's brief tenure thus far at DePaul.

"[Manuel] has worked diligently to build relationships across the university's constituencies and strengthened shared governance at DePaul in the process," Beeson wrote.

Now, UIndy begins a period of rebirth of its own, as the school announced in March that Tanuja Singh will take over as the school's president on July 1. Since Manuel's departure, UIndy Board of Trustees member Phil Terry has served as interim president.

Sources told The DePaulia that one silver lining resulting from the wake of the Manuel era in UIndy is an unprecedented period of transparency between all levels of university stakeholders, a stark contrast to the opaque nature of which they characterize his tenure. Multiple sources say that communication between the interim president, Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees has been fluid and in good faith.

One UIndy source said that because of what had gone on behind closed doors under Manuel, even the board "reacted with full transparency," knowing it was the only way to fix the "gaping wound" they were left with.

In Chicago, the future of DePaul faculty, trustees, administrators, students and staff now hangs upon the leadership of President Robert Manuel. Since April, DePaul has undergone cuts to full-time faculty and expects to see significant cuts to staff in June.

The budget gap has threatened academics too. The devastating cuts proposed to the library last month would have slashed nearly 50% of DePaul's library resources if Manuel had not walked back the proposal after an uproar from faculty.

While Manuel did not create the situation at DePaul, it is his job to lead the school out of it.

One current UIndy faculty member shared with The DePaulia a message of advice for the DePaul community, in hopes that it does not soon find itself like UIndy, mending a "gaping" wound of its own.

"Watch your back, watch your purse strings..." they said. "This is not someone that you can trust. It might seem like it, but it's not true."

## Terms & Index

**Endowment:** A nonprofit or college's investable assets, most often acquired by donation, which are used for operations or programs that are consistent with the wishes of the donor(s).

**Restricted endowment:** Endowment funds with stipulations as to what they may be spent on. This category of funds almost always makes up the majority of a university's total endowment.

**Unrestricted endowment:** Funds with relatively little spending stipulations.

**990:** IRS Form 990 is an informational tax form that most tax-exempt organizations must file annually. These forms are publicly available for viewing and provide information regarding an organization's financial operations and makeup.

**Independent Audit Report:** An official opinion issued by an external or internal auditor as to the quality and accuracy of the financial statements prepared by a company. These reports are also often available to the public.

**Shared governance:** The structures and processes through which faculty, professional staff, administration, governing boards and, sometimes, students and staff participate in the development of policies and in decision-making that affect the institution.

**President's cabinet:** The team of senior administrators who serve as the university's officers

**Boards of Trustees:** A university governing body often entrusted with policy decisions, goal-setting, investments and other oversight at a given institution. At private university like DePaul and UIndy, trustees are usually appointed to their positions, not elected.

**National Center for Education Statistics (NCES):** The primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.

The DePaulia organized a index of all the terms, sources and information obtained for this article for reader's clarity.

1: The most recent NCES numbers are from 2021-2022 academic school year at [nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov).

2: More details at "Record number of faculty pass five motions in Council of the Whole meeting," published on Sept. 26, 2021 at [depaulionline.com](https://depaulionline.com).

3: More details at "President Manuel shares thoughts on DePaul's future with Faculty Council," published on Sept. 18, 2022 at [depaulionline.com](https://depaulionline.com).

4: More details at "DePaul's budget gap: What is known and what remains unclear," published on April 16, 2023 at [depaulionline.com](https://depaulionline.com).

5: The UIndy presidential cabinet currently has eight members. During 2013-2018, at least 22 different members filled the 13 different roles on the president's cabinet

6: The Access to Public Records Act (APRA), "Indiana Code 5-14-3, provides that a person has the right to access information regarding the government and the official acts of public officials and employees," according to [indy.gov](https://indy.gov).

7: The DePaulia obtained the email correspondence through a source.

8: Materials were leaked to The DePaulia from a source.

9: The 2020 and 2021 audit report can be found at ProPublica or [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations).

10: The DePaulia obtained the Faculty Senate minutes through a source.

11: The DePaulia reached out to President Robert Manuel and DePaul media relations the morning of Friday, May 19 via email and phone. Manuel responded via media relations Friday evening with the statement.

12: Manuel posted on his BeReal and Instagram account at 12:19 p.m. CST on Saturday, May 20 of him in Baltimore, Maryland at his daughter's graduation at Loyola Maryland.

13 & 14: The DePaulia reached out to Judy Greffin on Monday, May 15 to conduct an interview about the presidential search committee's decision on Manuel and received no answer. On May 20, Citadel hedge fund executive and DePaul Board of Trustees chair Gerald A. Beeson sent a statement to The DePaulia on her behalf.





# 'A step in the right direction'

Brandon Johnson places his hand on a Bible to be sworn in as mayor at his inauguration with his wife and children. Johnson now serves as the 57th mayor of Chicago as of May 15. AMBER STOUTENBOROUGH | THE DEPAULIA

## Johnson's executive orders set relationship with community, address migrant crisis

By **JACQUELINE CARDENAS**  
La DePaulia Editor-in-Chief

Within a few hours of his mayoral inauguration, Brandon Johnson signed four executive orders, setting the tone for a collaborative co-governance, community leaders say.

The executive orders established a Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Labor Relations, and a preliminary plan to boost youth employment.

Garién Gatewood, director of the Illinois Justice Project, will be the city's first ever Deputy Mayor of Community Safety and will focus on a 'healing-centered approach' to community safety. The youth employment order will fund youth enrichment programs, meanwhile the Labor Relations Deputy position has not been filled yet.

The fourth executive order creates a Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights, a leadership role designed to strategize ways to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis caused by the arrival of more than 9,000 migrants to the city from Texas after Republican Gov. Greg Abbott began sending them to "sanctuary" cities last August.

The main task of the appointed role will be to coordinate communication between city officials to "support arrived community members, immigrants, refugees, migrants, undocumented community members, DACA recipients and people applying for citizenship," according to the order released by the mayor's office.

The position has not been filled, but some community leaders say it establishes a cooperative relationship between the city and organizers who have long been doing the work "on the ground."

Eric Ramos, an organizer who has led

the support for migrants staying at the 17th police district and attended Johnson's inauguration, said members of Johnson's transition team met with community leaders last week to discuss how they can work together to aid asylum-seekers.

"It's kind of already started what I want to see, that kind of co-governance that we've all been talking about," Ramos said.

Ramos suggested that the administration should learn from community organizations and "even have them take the lead."

During his inaugural speech, Johnson talked about the city-wide challenges he hopes to address, such as reopening mental health clinics and prioritizing the safety of residents, while highlighting Chicago's deep connection to migration.

"It is the soul of Chicago that brought immigrants from all over the world to work, to organize," Johnson said.

José Marco-Paredes, a leader of the Illinois Latino Agenda, a coalition that advocates for the prosperity of the Latine community, said the coalition sent letters to Johnson's transition team and suggested policies to help create equitable government representation.

He said the creation of the deputy mayor position reflects the administration's commitment to work with organizers. It also shows that the migrant crisis is a priority for the administration and that they understand that there's a need for coordinated effort to address it, Marco-Paredes said.

The city experienced another surge of asylum-seekers earlier this month, leaving mostly Venezuelan migrants with no other choice than to sleep on police district floors until they are relocated to shelters or respite centers. In the Central Police District, migrants ate expired food and went without beds and showers, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.



Karen Clark Sheard sings a gospel song before Johnson is sworn in at his inauguration. AMBER STOUTENBOROUGH | THE DEPAULIA

Since last August when the first large groups of migrants began to arrive, the city repurposed hotels and other vacant buildings including a shuttered school in a predominantly Black neighborhood into shelters, which has sparked conflict among residents.

Some Black residents say the lack of resources and disinvestment in their neighborhoods have been constantly ignored and others say migrants could be housed in predominantly Latine wards to have access to resources in Spanish and understand the culture.

Those who have criticized the process to repurpose buildings into shelters also cite a lack of communication from city officials as to where migrants are being housed, leaving little opportunity for them to give their input.

Last week, South Shore residents, also a predominantly Black community, sued to stop the city from opening a migrant shelter at an old high school, according to Block Club Chicago.

"What we need is [to] be open [to] that dialogue, opening spaces where communities can come together, express what

are their fears, what are their needs," Marco-Paredes said.

According to Marco-Paredes, the tension in neighborhoods point to lack of housing and diverse political representation in the city.

"The African American community has historically suffered from disinvestment from the city, and we see inequities in employment and housing," he added. So the deputy position is "a step in the right direction" to address the humanitarian crisis but more needs to be done.

The city received \$4.3 million in new federal funding earlier this month to help with the swelling humanitarian crisis. This funding is far from the amount the city asked FEMA for, which they said was ideally between \$38.9 million and \$66.7 million.

"Obviously it's not enough," Marco-Paredes said.

Though optimistic, Marco-Paredes believes that Johnson's administration needs to establish permanent affordable housing and work with organizers to alleviate not only the migrant crisis, but also the long-time inequities in the city.



# University of Chicago hosts teach-in for reproductive rights

By OLIVIA ZIMMERMAN

Staff Writer

While many higher education institutions in Illinois like Loyola University Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Chicago (UChicago) and Northwestern University provide on-campus health clinics for students, DePaul outsources student health care to Sage Medical Clinic.

Unlike other Chicagoland area universities, DePaul does not provide reproductive services to students, according to DePaul's policy on the distribution of health and medical supplies.

On Monday, May 15, UChicago students and Chicago for Abortion Rights (CFAR) spread awareness about the reproductive services available to students on-campus during a teach-in on the Hutchinson Quad.

UChicago students wanted to inform the community of the reproductive services available on campus through the University of Chicago Medical Ryan Center, which provides accessible abortions, miscarriage care and contraceptives to students.

A student involved in UChicago's student-run reproductive rights organization, Project Reproductive Freedom (PRF), Zoe Torrey, said it is important that all students have access to reproductive care at higher education institutions.

"Just because the particular community that you are in is not hospitable to [that] kind of care doesn't mean that you don't deserve that kind of care or that you don't have access to that in the broader world," Torrey said. "I would say social media and the internet are great resources. There is so much going on in Chicago in terms of organizing."

Other members in PRF spoke about the need for abortion access on campus, awareness regarding the issues people with uteruses face and the removal of crisis pregnancy centers (CPC). CPCs are centers that seem like neutral pregnancy and abortion services, but in reality are set up to discourage abortion, according to University of Georgia public health professor Andrea Swartzendruber.

There are 97 CPCs in Illinois, according to data from CPC.

"These crisis pregnancy centers present themselves as these medical authorities," said PRF member Ruby Velez. "[CPCs offer] help with abortion, but it's a really misleading front, and vulnerable people who are dealing with pregnancies will go there and be misled in a lot of



PHOTO | UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO'S TWITTER

University of Chicago's student-run reproductive rights organization held a teach-in on Hutchinson Courtyard on Monday, May 15.

harmful ways."

Student activists also expressed the need for affordable healthcare for all, saying that the cost could be a hindrance to reproductive care, particularly for marginalized communities that may not have coverage for abortions or health insurance.

"Insurance status is a huge determinant in access to care, whether you have private insurance versus Medicaid," Torrey said. "Even if your policy covers reproductive care [such as] contraception or abortion, many people don't know that. For example, many people still don't know that Illinois Medicaid covers abortion, so they may not realize that they have access through their insurance. For people who are uninsured, people who are between insurance plans, people who don't know they qualify for certain insurance plans, just not having the money to pay for [reproductive care] out of pocket."

Accessibility to all groups for reproductive care is a focus, said Alithia Zamantakis, Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) member. Zamantakis said migrants are a large community that lack access to reproductive services.

"I think one of the biggest things currently is that thousands of immigrants are being shipped from Texas to Chicago as sort of a political ploy between Democrats and Republicans," Zamantakis said. "While abortion is covered by private and public insurance in Illinois and Chicago, undocumented immigrants aren't granted access to Medicaid or other insurance. So

for thousands of people who are shipped here, they will need access to abortion."

An estimated 425,000 people in Illinois are undocumented, according to Migration Policy Institute, and while Illinois has access to reproductive care, some states do not. The abortion ban in Texas in particular left many undocumented pregnant people without feasible options.

For PRF, crisis pregnancy centers are one of the biggest concerns facing Illinoisans and Chicagoans. However, the Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act, Senate Bill 1909 (SB 1909) was passed in both chambers of the Illinois state legislature on May 11, which increases protections for pregnant people by holding CPCs accountable if they provide false information to patients.

According to Linda Loew, CFAR organizer, the fight is far from over and college students are evolving into an important group of activists.

"Many people still don't know that Illinois Medicaid covers abortion, so they may not realize that they have access through their insurance."

Zoe Torrey

A student involved in Project Reproductive Freedom (PRF)

"I fought for abortion rights before we had Roe v. Wade, and the place that I did that was on college campuses," Loew said. "We organized buses to go to Washington D.C. to protest for abortion rights nationally. This is a nationwide fight. We shouldn't have to go state by state to win back something that for 50 years we've actually had."

CFAR organizer Ali Cassity said college students are pivotal to the abortion rights movement and urges young people to protest on and off campus.

"I think that it's really important to be out here [on campus]," Cassity said. "Students are always a huge part of any movement. Students are always the ones pushing hard and pushing fearlessly, and they are really militant with what they want. Coalition building and making connections and building a network is a huge part of what [CFAR does]. Making those connections [at UChicago], making strong networks of community care and fighting for abortion rights is a huge part of why we're here today."



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# 'This violence is modeled in every level of society'

## Growing concern in Little Village over gender-based violence

BY OLIVIA ZIMMERMAN

Staff Writer

After the deaths and disappearances of women in Little Village, activists are calling on the Cook County judicial system to create a femicide charge to prosecute those responsible and distinguish these crimes as gender-based.

Community members in the Little Village Community Council and their associated organization Las Valientes — which translates to The Brave Ones — are the main activists standing in favor of creating a femicide charge.

"We have noticed that these things have been going on [for years]," said Baltazar Enriquez, the Little Village Community Council president.

He said the community has recently started pushing for more government attention to the cases and the creation of femicide charges.

"In the past, we've had girls sexually assaulted and some raped, and we have never had a community alert," Enriquez said.

These events and the lack of community alerts prompted Little Village to form the Las Valientes group in April 2020.

Little Village is also frustrated by the perceived lack of attention from political figures. Rosa Chacon, a 21-year-old Little Village resident, was killed near Ald. Michael Rodriguez's office, according to Enriquez. He said there has not been an issued apology yet.

Despite multiple requests for comment from The DePaulia, Ald. Rodriguez was not available for comment.

Femicide is a legal charge used in many areas of the world like Mexico and other Latin American countries, but the U.S. does not have a law recognizing it, according to CNN.

North and South America have the second-highest rate of femicide, according to United Nations (UN) data.

Anaa Mulk, a senior in the women and gender studies program at DePaul, said adding a femicide charge shows that misogyny plays a part in violence.

"I think if you were to make a femicide charge it would be taken more seriously because it would [demonstrate] the gravity [that] it is gender-based," Mulk said.

Femme Defensa — a group formed in 2019 in an effort to protect women in Pilsen and Little Village against attempted abductions and van stalking — member said violence towards Black and brown women is historical.

"Since the first colonizer set foot in the Americas, the abduction, rape, trade, mutilation [and] disappearance of our brown femme bodies has been commonplace," a member of Femme Defensa said. The member did not

wish to be named.

Enriquez said that Las Valientes and the Little Village Community Council are also trying to break down misogyny.

According to women's rights attorney Tamara Holder, violence against women flows down from other decisions and issues regarding women in the U.S.

"The United States is supposed to be this beacon of the gold standard for women's rights. Unfortunately, that's not what it is," said Holder. "When you see the SCOTUS stripping away [abortion] that has been established as a women's right, what flows down are laws that are created to protect women."

Holder said that if Johnson passed femicide legislation in Chicago, it could have a substantial impact for the city and nationwide.

"If [Brandon Johnson] really cared about the women of this city who have been subjected to sexual assault and violence at the hands of men, [passing femicide legalization means] he could also be a leader in women's rights in the city which would send a message across the country. He could really stand for women."

"We are trying to [protect] our women from the machismo that has been endured and taught to us men for generations," Enriquez said.

Homicide cases are much less likely to be solved if a victim is Black or Latine, according to reporting by CBS News. The Femme Defensa member said that the police are also a part of the broader problem of gender-based violence.

"The 'authorities' are part of the problem and further bathe our communities in violence," the Femme Defensa member said. "They are not allies in the pursuit of freedom or safety for women, femmes, youth [or] society."

A Chicago I-Team report found that 90% of all domestic violence allegations against police by their partners or children go undisciplined. The I-Team report also found almost one complaint of domestic violence has been filed per day since 2000.

A Femme Defensa spokesperson said dismantling rape culture and preventing the violence against women seen in the Southwest Side must come from other humanitarian ventures as well.

"Our entire rape and domination culture needs to be dismantled," the spokesperson said. "[It's] systemic and not something [Little Village] can tackle in isolation. This violence is modeled in every level of society, [even with] our president [and how he treats] people at the border and beyond [and] our courts in the way they dispense of people."

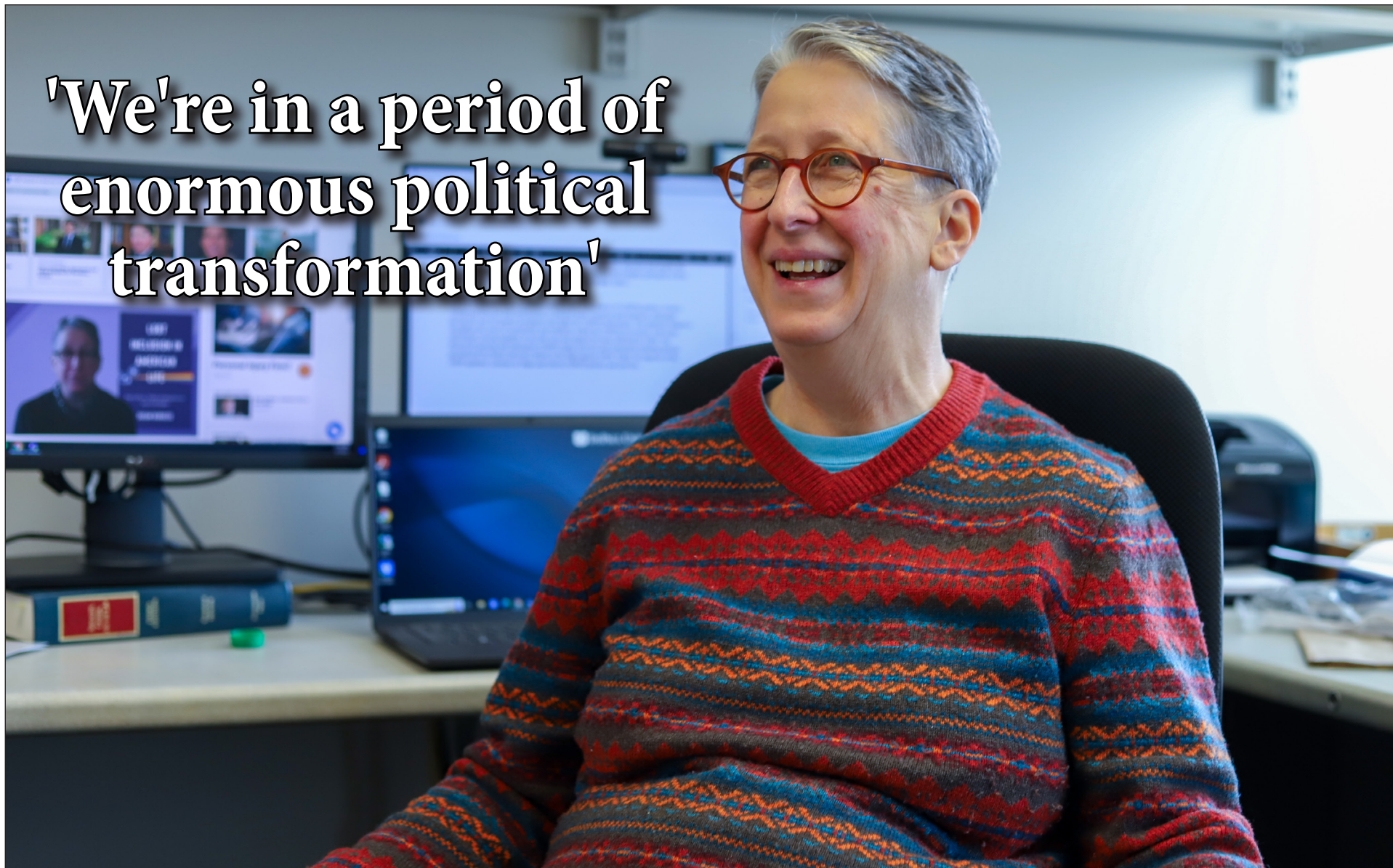
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**MISSING  
PERSON**







QUENTIN BLAIS | THE DEPAULIA

Susan Burgess, DePaul Senior Professional Lecturer and Internship Program Coordinator in the department of political science, published her most recent book "LGBT Inclusion in American Life."

## DePaul professor, author writes book on queer visibility in modern culture

BY LAUREN COATES

Staff Writer

Despite the fact that queer visibility in pop culture is at an all-time high, according to the Human Rights Campaign, states across the country continue to introduce legislation threatening the well-being and civil rights of LGBTQ+ Americans.

DePaul senior professional lecturer Susan Burgess examines this complex relationship between pop culture and politics in her new book, "LGBT Inclusion in American Life: Pop Culture, Political Imagination, and Civil Rights," which was recently published through New York University Press.

Burgess elaborated on the process of developing the book, finding a research method, and the prevailing importance of examining LGBTQ+ political history, especially with new legislation threatening everything from abortion rights to LGBTQ+ youth education. According to Burgess, the methodology of using pop culture in contrast with political history to examine cultural trends developed not as a book, but as a single article.

"I started by writing articles, and one was about how sex and gender norms, even in the James Bond series, which is notoriously in many ways misogynistic, changed over time," Burgess said. "I wrote that article, and a friend of mine at Temple University, he happened to use it in a class that he was teaching."

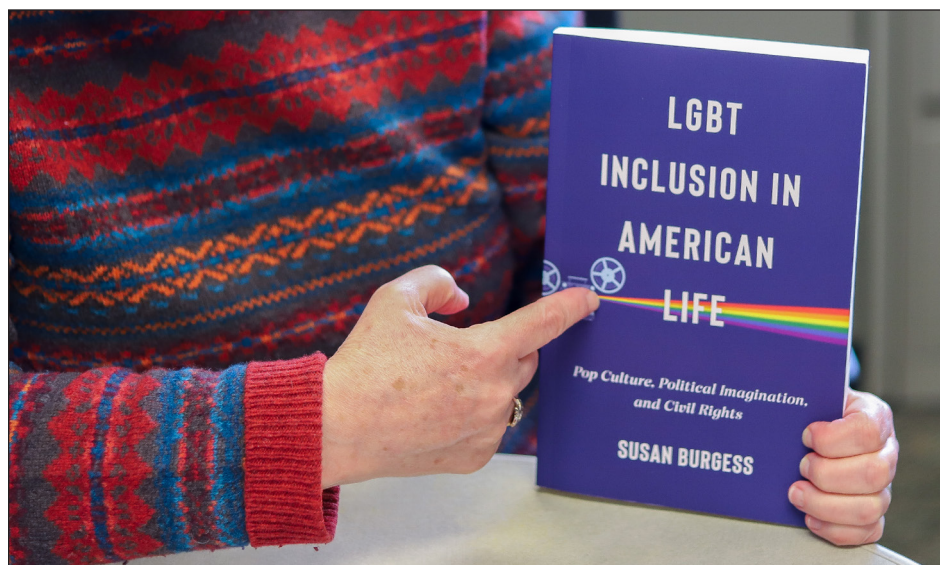
According to Burgess, it was the encouragement from her colleague at Temple that prompted her to explore the concept as a book:

"He said, you know, the students really like this, I think that you should build this out and write a book, and I was like, 'OK,'" Burgess said.

For Burgess, the idea of using pop culture in contrast with political history was not due to a particular familiarity with media criticism.

"I think of it, not as media analysis so much, but more as cultural analysis," Burgess said. "Most political scientists don't really look at that. What I was interested in was why people's attitudes about LGBTQ+ rights changed in this relatively quick period post-World War II."

Burgess said examining queerness in



QUENTIN BLAIS | THE DEPAULIA

**The book focuses on LGBT history and the struggles that individuals in the community face in the U.S.**

popular media because it can give viewers a broader understanding of sex and gender norms.

"I was interested in how that played out in TV, in movies and plays and stuff like that because I thought that that would give us good insight into how the door opened for different pillars of LGBT civil rights," Burgess said.

However, while the patterns in film and TV often tracked an eventual development towards progressive ideologies, Burgess said it is not always possible to define whether politics impacted pop culture or pop culture impacted politics.

"It's kind of both," Burgess said. "The word we use in political science for that sometimes is 'constituent,' meaning one influences the other. So policy influences culture and culture influences policy, they constitute each other and that just keeps happening over time. When political scientists look only at public opinion or look only at policy, they're missing something important because the cultural aspect is a central force in this transformation."

But both Burgess and other DePaul professors acknowledge that while there's correlation, there's never cut-and-dry causality between pop culture and politics.

"I would definitely argue that there is not a linear or simple cause and effect relationship between pop cultural visibility and leg-

islation, but a complex network of negotiated meanings and responses," said DePaul professor and LGBTQ+ advisory board member Dustin Goltz.

When determining which films she would include in the book, Burgess said she oriented her choices around general knowledge.

"There were some surprises about what would fit, but I tried to look at pieces of pop culture that were pretty popular: Casablanca, it's often discussed as the greatest mainstream movie of all time, you know," Burgess said. "I tried to look at things I thought were influential."

Selecting television, though, was a more difficult task.

"Now, there's a little bit of a problem with that as you come into the contemporary era in television because not everybody watches the same show anymore," Burgess said.

The variance in Americans' viewership habits is also indicative of the multitude of prominent attitudes and disagreements about LGBTQ+ rights in policy and legislation, despite the fact that queer visibility has been a staple of mainstream American pop culture for nearly a decade.

"When a group of people attain equal rights or something approaching equal rights, there's often a period of backlash, from people who don't accept that," Burgess said. "Now, the vast majority of people in the Unit-

ed States now accept basic rights for LGBT people. But there is still a significant minority, though they're no longer the dominant discourse in mainstream politics. Now they have a pretty loud voice, so it's not that they don't matter, but it's very significant that they're no longer the majority."

DePaul professor and LGBTQ+ studies advisory board member, Lourdes Torres, said the sudden influx of anti-trans legislation reflects the fact that conservative lawmakers are now in the minority.

"Unfortunately, currently, the right wing has found that organizing around anti-trans issues is effective for mobilizing their forces," Torres said.

However, just because anti-LGBT+ agendas no longer have a majority on Capitol Hill does not mean there are not powerful voices advocating against queer rights in the Capitol.

"The Supreme Court often lags behind the politics of contemporary society," Burgess said. "That has been a historical feature of the Supreme Court since the country's founding. ... Those folks are appointed for life, that's one factor. The Supreme Court is appointed by presidents, and as the justices choose to retire, that's entirely up to them."

A crucial point of timing allowed former President Trump to appoint three justices, all conservative, all of whom are relatively young and will presumably hold office for at least a few decades before retiring.

"Both President Trump and President Carter were both in for one term, but Carter got no appointments, and Trump got three," Burgess said. "So that changed the politics of the court because Trump promised to appoint people who were for overturning Roe, and he fulfilled that promise."

With a concerning prevalence of anti-LGBTQ+ legislators and policy in D.C., Burgess feels it is more crucial than ever to examine and understand the pop culture and political history of LGBTQ+ rights

"They [queer-friendly media] also present alternatives to all kinds of older structures, so this process continues and will continue," Burgess said. "It'll be interesting to see what your generation [Gen Z] comes up with, both in terms of mainstream politics, but also in terms of radical politics. We're in a period of enormous political transformation."



# Increased voter turnout shows promising future for SGA

BY CLAIRE TWEEDIE  
SGA Beat Writer

The voter turnout rates for the recent Student Government Association (SGA) spring election tripled from previous years, showing a change in trend after historic student engagement lows over the past six years.

Sophomore Jessica Bergman took on the role of Student Government Association (SGA) Elections Operations Board (EOB) chair with the goal of increasing voter turnout to 1,000 students. This goal became a reality when 1,123 students voted during May 1-4, according to SGA election results, ushering in a new era of SGA student leaders.

“This election cycle showed me how important it is that the student body elects representatives and how pivotal the candidates are in the voter turnout rates,” Bergman said. “A lot of individual races in this election were contentious, and I think that drove the candidates to advertise the election more than they would have.”

According to data from Bergman, only 351 students voted in the 2022 SGA election. This was less than 2% of the student body and nearly a 40% decrease from the previous year’s election where 595 students voted. This year’s turnout saw 6% of the student body participating in the SGA election.

Bergman attributed the recent years’ decrease in turnout to the impact of Covid-19 on campus life. She said the pandemic meant election advertising was less effective as students were not on campus and less active on the university and SGA social media pages.

“We are learning, as we come out of the pandemic,” Bergman said. “The elections have not been advertised as much as is needed. It is difficult to tell just how much you need to reach out to students.”

Freshman Emma Lee Macosko voted in the SGA election after seeing yard signs advertising the election around the Lincoln Park campus and receiving one of the mass emails from SGA with the voting link attached. She said her votes were based on the candidates’ biographies within the voting form.

“All I had were those [candidate] blurbs, so I based my votes on who seemed like they put in the most work into telling me what they wanted to do in their position,” Macosko said. “I would’ve liked to know a little bit more about the candidates before I went into the voting, but I wasn’t really

“We are learning, as we come out of the pandemic, the elections have not been advertised as much as is needed. It is difficult to tell just how much you need to reach out to students.”

*Jessica Bergman*  
Student Government Association  
Elections Operations Board chair

sure where to find any more information. I went off of what was given to me.”

Parveen Mundi, sophomore and SGA president, and her running mate Avery Schoenhals, sophomore and SGA vice president, won the election with 52.18% of the votes, or 586 students. She said they used their digital campaign, like social media, to increase awareness about their candidacy and encourage students to vote.

“[Schoenhals] and I really wanted to earn the student vote, so we used the platform as a tool for interacting with students,” Mundi said. “This worked out well because it was convenient to direct potential voters to the page as a resource hub. Making sure voters are informed and feel they have the opportunity to really make a decision is so important.”

Mundi said the overall voter engagement is not something that can change within one year or one election but that any increase is a promising sign for the future.

“The work of [Bergman] was a major contribution,” Mundi said. “She implemented both passive and active marketing strategies that, in addition to competitive elections, drove turnout.”

Bergman’s marketing tactics as EOB chair included yard signs, sidewalk chalk and flyers across both campuses advertising the SGA election. She said the yard signs and sidewalk chalk were likely more effective because they were in high traffic areas.

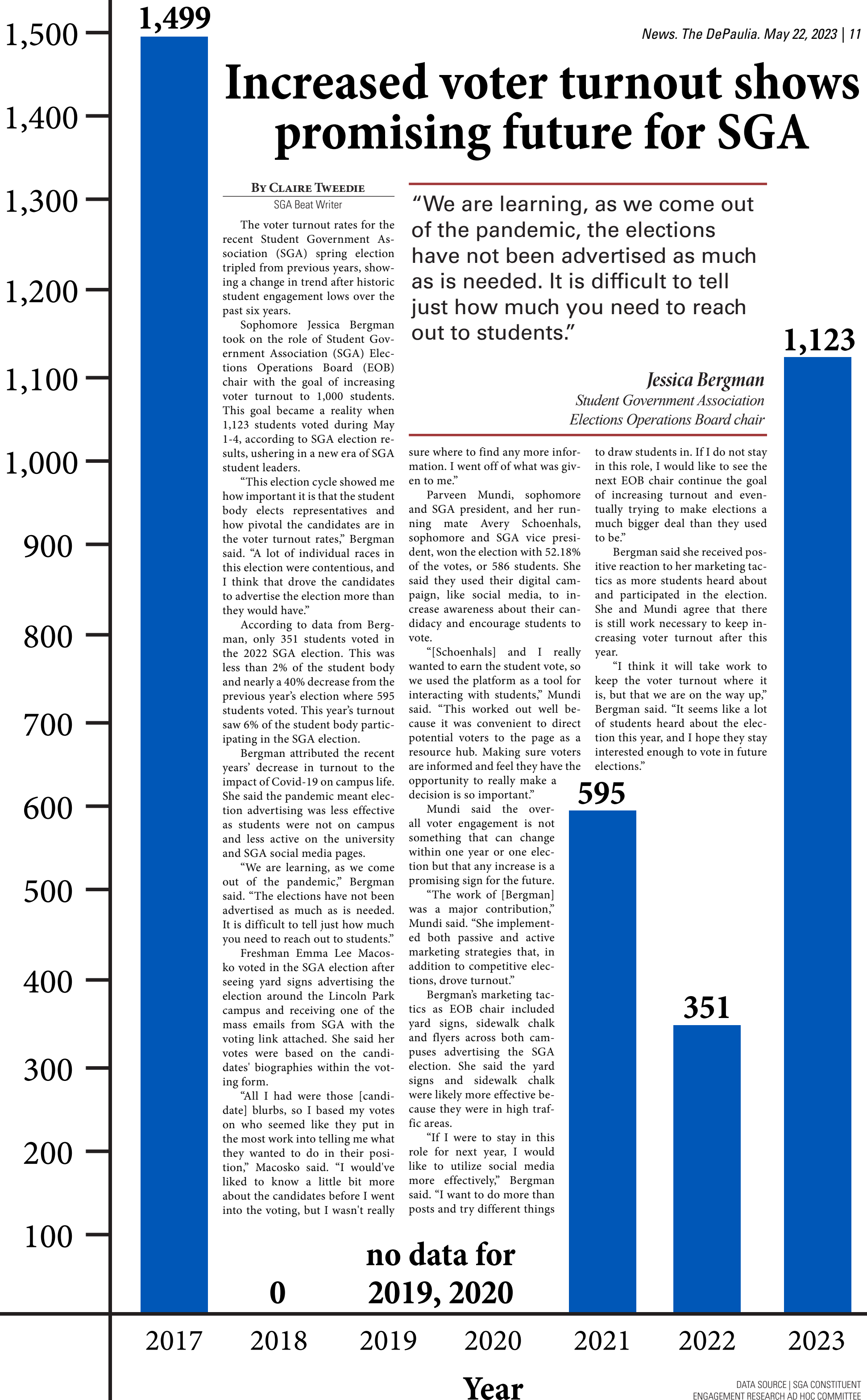
“If I were to stay in this role for next year, I would like to utilize social media more effectively,” Bergman said. “I want to do more than posts and try different things

to draw students in. If I do not stay in this role, I would like to see the next EOB chair continue the goal of increasing turnout and eventually trying to make elections a much bigger deal than they used to be.”

Bergman said she received positive reaction to her marketing tactics as more students heard about and participated in the election. She and Mundi agree that there is still work necessary to keep increasing voter turnout after this year.

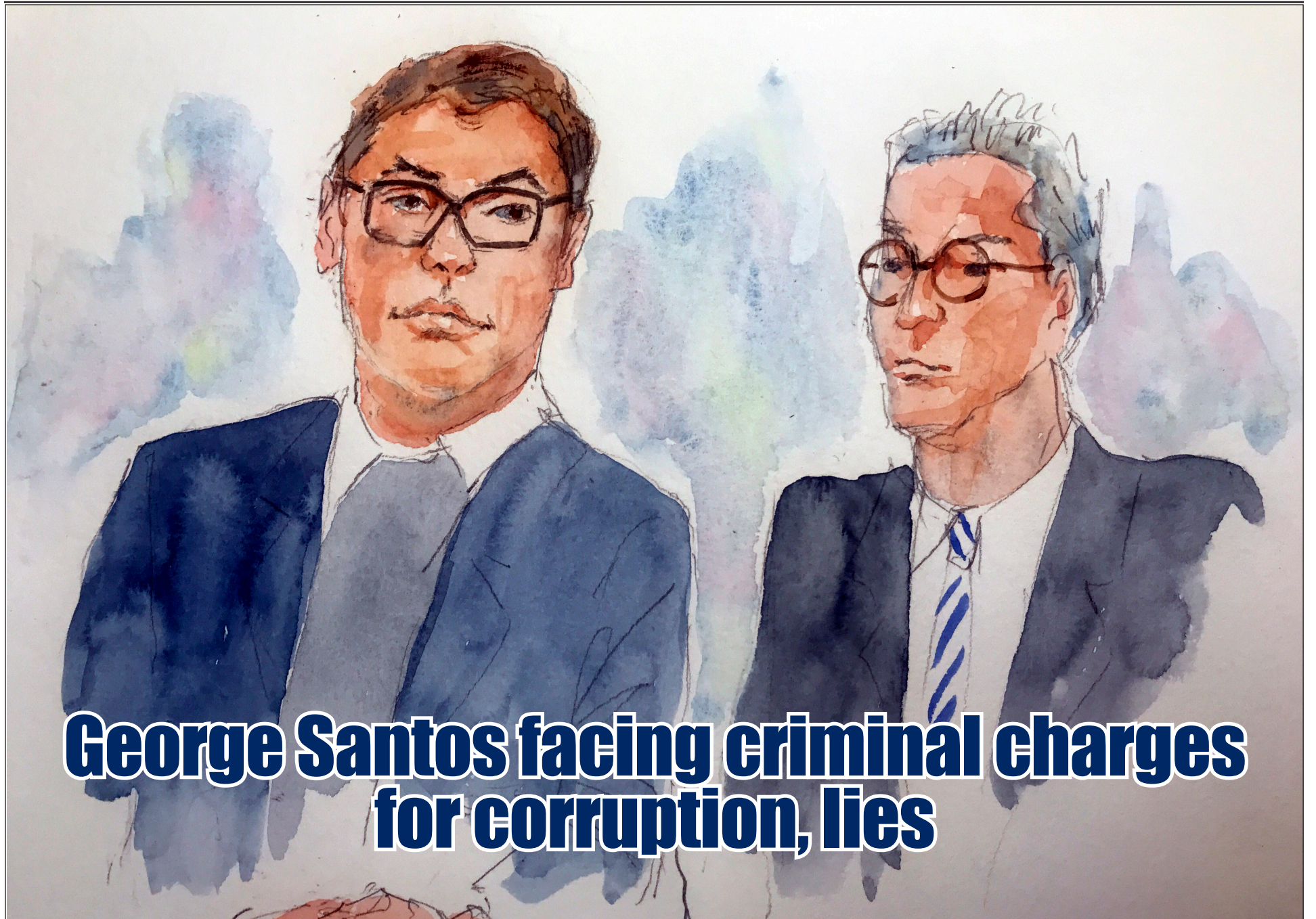
“I think it will take work to keep the voter turnout where it is, but that we are on the way up,” Bergman said. “It seems like a lot of students heard about the election this year, and I hope they stay interested enough to vote in future elections.”

Number of voters in SGA election





# NATION & WORLD



## George Santos facing criminal charges for corruption, lies

AGGIE WHELAN KENNY | ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this courtroom sketch, U.S. Rep. George Santos, left, R-N.Y., sits with his attorney Joseph Murray in federal court, Wednesday, May 10, 2023, in Central Islip, N.Y.

BY LUCIA PREZIOSI  
Contributing Writer

White lies and obscure claims have finally caught Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.) at his heels as he is facing a plethora of criminal charges of corruption and making false statements to Congress, shown in a 20-page indictment released on May 10.

These charges were brought to light only a day after former president Donald Trump was found liable for sexual abuse and defamation by a Manhattan federal jury on May 9.

E. Jean Carroll became the first woman to successfully bring charges against Trump with more than a dozen other women additionally accusing Trump of sexual misconduct throughout his time in the political and social spotlight.

George Santos finds himself entangled in corruption issues as claims arise that the congressman received \$50,000 of donations from a fake super PAC.

He then pocketed the money and used it not only to heal personal economic troubles but to indulge in luxury goods.

The recent exposure of politicians and their legal troubles is not a new trend in American politics.

Steven Greenberger, a professor of law at DePaul, does not believe that high-profile politicians facing legal issues is a new circumstance.

"It's kinda deja-vu as far as I can see," Greenberger said.

But, what asserts itself as unprecedented is the lack of accountability taken by politicians for their various illegal actions.

"I think what is new is chiefly attributed to Trump," Greenberger said.

"He thinks the law doesn't apply to him, I think that's new."

As former President Trump's administration remains almost four years in the past, the lasting impacts of his unique approach to politics, including his attitude towards his criminality, remain significant in the American political climate.

Ben Epstein, DePaul professor of political science, views Trump's actions in the legal sphere may be a sign of changing norms in the political system.

"I think the one thing that Donald Trump has always done that has been breaking from norms is that he has no shame," Epstein said. "He has never been someone who has taken credit or responsibility for things that have gone bad." Epstein believes Santos has adopted a similar stance against his legal issues.

"[Santos] hasn't apologized," Epstein said. "He said he's going to prove his innocence, and says he plans to run for reelection."

Despite his legal issues, Santos remains a powerful political pawn for the Republicans to hold on to their slim majority of nine seats in the House.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy chose not to call upon Santos to resign, unlike other bipartisan members of Congress.

"They have a right to vote, but they have to go to trial," McCarthy said when speaking with reporters on Santos' current position in the House.

Keith Simonds, a lecturer of political science at DePaul, explains the little impact ethical and legal issues seem to have on political support.

"Similarly to Santos, the Republican party is not abandoning [Trump] at all," Simonds said.

Not only has Trump adopted a shameless attitude towards the plethora

of legal issues he faces, but can turn this stance into a powerful political strategy, connecting him to supporters, according to Epstein.

Despite illegality being a significant pillar in the American political system, and being a haunting aspect for politicians throughout history, Epstein said that many things have changed.

"Contextually, this isn't new," Epstein said. "But what is really interesting to me is what once was a disqualifying event or action for someone who was running for office or serving in office, that norm is changing."

Simonds said that the success of using criminality as a political advantage is shifting the attitudes and actions of politicians towards a less ethical standard, regardless of their partisan loyalties.

"Both sides right now just have this really strong incentive to say 'that's what works,'" Simonds said. "We're all learning bad lessons from each other."

Both Simonds and Epstein agree that unethical behavior and illegal action are not strategies binary to a particular party, as they emphasize the example of former President Bill Clinton's stagnant high approval ratings following his impeachment in 1998.

Pew Research Center finds that after the House moved to impeach Clinton, his approval ratings hit 71%.

As of May 16, House Democrats, led by Rep. Garcia (D-CA) moved to force a vote to remove Santos from his position.

But, because of Republicans' reliance on Santos for majority power, the task has been deployed onto the House Ethics Committee to continue to reassess Santos' standing in the House.

What remains a significant issue to Epstein as illegality and unethical behav-

ior become an increasingly normal political tactic, is the accountability that is held towards elected officials.

"The lack of holding politicians accountable for egregious, illegal activity from the voters, from certain portions of the media that covers them, and frankly from colleagues, publicly, is a problem in my view," Epstein said.

As Santos faces wire fraud and money laundering charges, his status as a politician remains unknown.

Santos still holds legislative power, plans to run for reelection and is a protected, sacred actor for the Republicans as they attempt to maintain their slim control over the House.

Trump has begun touting his 2024 reelection campaign for president amidst countless legal concerns.

What worries Simonds is the image these actors bring to the forefront of American politics, and what impact it will have on future voters.

"I think in some ways the part that worries me the most is when everyone's expectation is that politics is corrupt, or is really ugly, then that both becomes more true, and turns people away," Simonds said.

Epstein believes there needs to be a higher standard held towards elected officials, and that attitudes need to change.

"I would also hope our elected officials are amongst the best of us, they're our leaders, they are elected to represent us and guide us towards the future," Epstein said. "I hope they will be both ethical and act according to the laws they write."



# New York City uses school gyms to house new migrants

BY JAKE OFFENHARTZ

Associated Press

New York (AP) — New York City has begun to convert public school gymnasiums into housing for international migrants, its latest effort to accommodate a growing population of asylum-seekers who have overwhelmed the city's homeless shelter system.

The move to use the gyms as shelters with six weeks still to go in the school year touched off an immediate backlash, with parents organizing protests at several schools and threatening to keep their kids home once migrants arrive.

Mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat, acknowledged Tuesday that the use of the schools was "drastic" but insisted the city is out of options. Around 4,200 migrants sought space in city shelters last week alone, he said.

Twenty school gyms are currently being considered for temporary housing.

At least one of them, in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn, was housing migrants on Tuesday. Several others have been supplied in recent days with green cots and emergency rations.

The mayor said the school gyms were intended to be used only for short periods, with the goal being to move people out quickly.

"This is one of the last places we want to look at," Adams said.

Following the expiration of a pandemic-era immigration policy last week, the number of migrants entering the U.S. has slowed significantly.

But several cities say they have seen a swell of new arrivals -- many of whom crossed the southern border prior to the change in policy.

In Chicago, where officials have reported nearly 9,000 people arriving since August, hundreds of migrants who have come since mid-April have slept on the floors of city police stations.

This month the city turned several park fieldhouses into "temporary respite centers," canceling or relocating summer programs, prompting complaints from some parents.

In Denver, Colorado, new arrivals are being turned away from overcrowded shelters.

In New York City, where a court-ordered mandate guarantees all people a right to shelter, local officials have explored various unconventional ideas for housing its newest residents.

Over the weekend, the city announced it had struck a deal to convert a shuttered historic hotel into a shelter with as many as 1,000 rooms.

They have placed migrants in an NYPD academy and petitioned the federal government to reopen a former military airfield.

The city has also placed migrants on buses bound for northern suburbs, prompting anger and lawsuits from upstate officials.

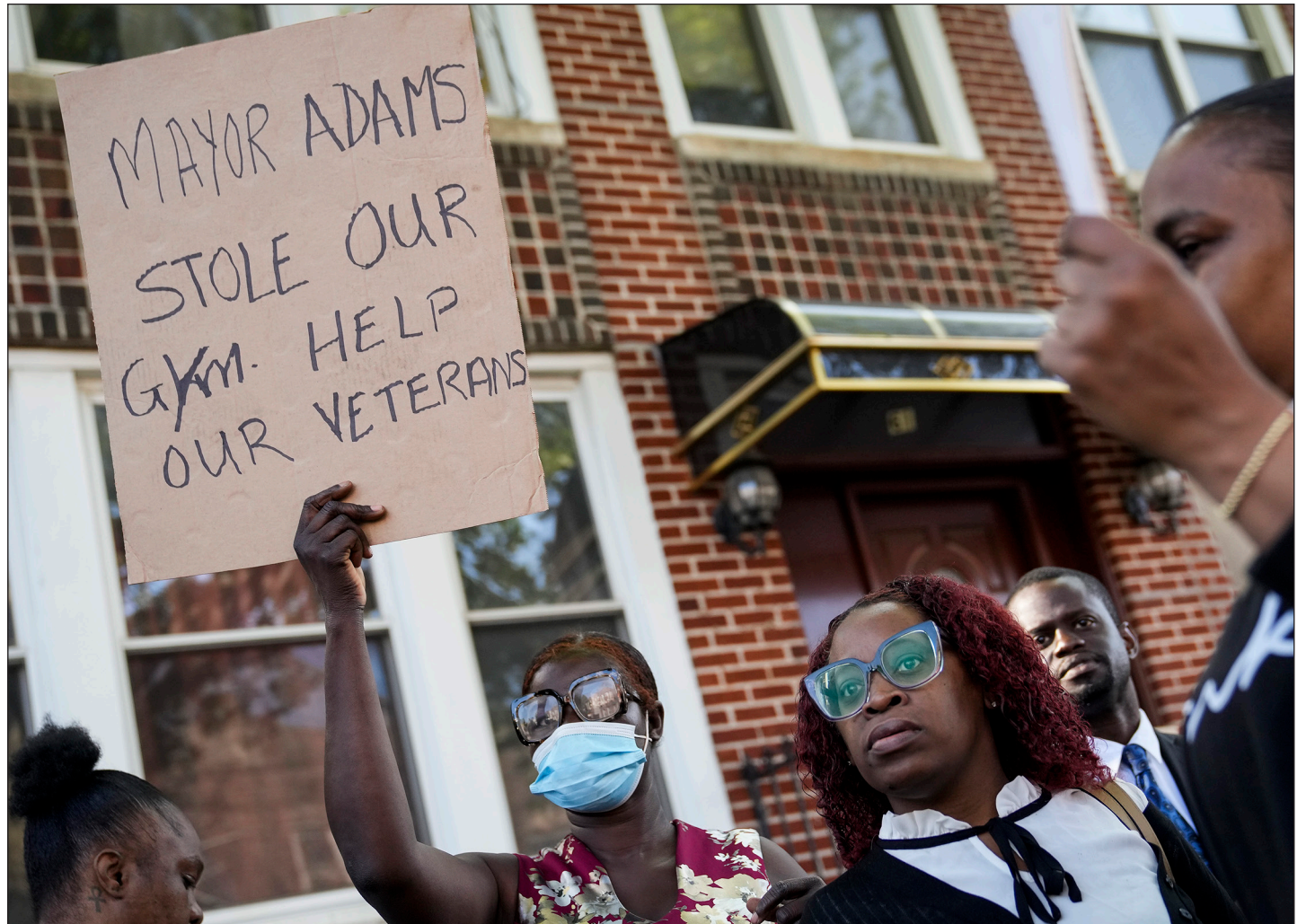
The decision to use school gyms, though, struck a nerve.

Parents protested Tuesday morning outside a public school in Brooklyn's Williamsburg section, where a squat brick gym was being prepared for the arrival of migrants.

In the afternoon, after classes dismissed for the day, the playground was unusually quiet.

Parents said their kids were told they couldn't play outside and that all after school programs were being held indoors.

"There's usually hundreds of kids running around right now, playing sports,



JOHN MINCHILLO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parents and community members march through the residential neighborhood around P.S. 189 to protest New York City Mayor Eric Adams' plan to temporarily house immigrants in the school's gymnasium, Tuesday, May 16, 2023.



JOHN MINCHILLO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lone protester sits outside P.S. 172 as students exit after classes end for the day, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in New York.

getting their energy out," said Maureen Steinel, a mother of 8th grade twins, gesturing to an empty stretch of asphalt now lined with orange cones and a stack of police barricades.

A self-identified progressive, Steinel said she wanted to help migrants, but couldn't understand the decision to take away space from school kids.

She ticked off a list of preferable options: city-owned community centers and college campuses, an armory, empty luxury condos.

City officials said there were advantages to school buildings, which are municipally owned, and come with built-in staff and security.

Many of the gymnasiums were previously used for vaccine distribution during the pandemic.

Adams also said all the gyms under consideration were stand-alone facilities, not directly connected to school buildings.

It wasn't immediately clear whether they would be used by single men or families, or how long the migrants would be allowed to stay.

Josh Goldfein, an attorney with the Legal Aid Society, which helps monitor the city's treatment of homeless individuals, said there were problems with the city's decision to go outside their standard shelter options, such as hotel rooms.

He pointed to a lack of shower access and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities at some school gymnasiums.

"If they move people into spaces that have not been typically used before like office buildings, tents, gyms, we have a much greater level of concern," Goldfein said.

Adams has repeatedly said New York, a city long known for its openness to immigrants, has reached its limit on new arrivals.

He has called on the federal government for help, both in providing funding to the city and in slowing entrances at the border.



# OPINIONS

## Vax update: A step back from DePaul admin

BY SIONA CHIBBER  
Staff Writer

DePaul University announced on May 8 that it would be rolling back its mandate requiring students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated for Covid-19. This mandate was originally put in place at the start of the 2020 global outbreak. This information was shared by the DePaul Health Community Team in direct response to the current guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as well as federal and state government actions.

As of now, the Health Promotion & Wellness office has issued the following advice for DePaul community members to protect themselves: “DePaul will continue to remain a mask-friendly campus out of concern for fellow students and colleagues, and in the spirit of Take Care DePaul.”

Communities have created spaces for those who are concerned about this virus and its erratic path, but individual action is not enough to combat the safety risks moving forward. Covid-19 can and will continuously spread if minimal action is taken against it.

Enforcing policies and guidelines and taking precautions would help monitor a thriving community’s wellbeing. Students would feel more ease in going to events on campus, visiting family on the weekends and visiting professors during office hours, all without high chances of being exposed to Covid-19.

“Community members can also download a mask-friendly zone poster to hang in



LIZZIE MILLER | THE DEPAULIA

their dorm, office, or cubicle to share their preferences with others,” said Director of Health Promotion & Wellness, Tyler Wurst. “For those who are immunocompromised and have concerns about exposure, they are welcome to contact our office to seek out support, resources, and accommodations.”

Getting rid of precautionary steps to avoid the spread of viruses such as Covid-19 or the flu creates a bigger problem for everyone on campus. When safety measures are removed and students and faculty share classrooms and other spaces, they are risking their health everyday.

“What DePaul needs to remember is that requiring the vaccine and operating under the assumption that every person in

their crowded classrooms has been vaccinated is what allowed them to list the mask mandate in the first place,” said Taliesia Fortis, an immunocompromised animation student at DePaul.

Getting rid of updated vaccine requirements for Covid-19 seems very backwards. When many schools, including Depaul, already require vaccinations for illnesses such as measles, chicken pox, HPV and polio, why would the case be different for this virus? If anything, Covid-19 is still present nationally and globally and dangerous for people who contract the virus, short- and long-term.

More variants of those viruses are mutating, emerging, and spreading behind the

scenes, and cases are ever-present in the city of Chicago, as well as the entire country. According to the Chicago Covid-19 database, since the end of April up until mid-May, there have been 750,071 cases and 45,838 hospitalizations.

In fact, the multiple variants are being tracked closely by organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), who updates on their website with current data everyday. These public data points have been curated by the Virus Evolution Working Group, which was created by WHO in June 2020.

Allowing those who may have remained unvaccinated since the beginning not only puts themselves at more risk from these institutional changes, but puts the others around them in danger as well. Based on the public data, we know that in many of the peaks of Covid-19, those who were unvaccinated were more at risk every time.

“What we could do is enact these policies on our own volition,” Fortis said. “DePaul not requiring vaccines or masks doesn’t mean we can implement that on our own for our safety and everyone else’s.”

Allowing mask optional settings, Zoom hybrid classrooms for immunocompromised students or those who have fallen sick, and continuing vaccination requirements could be a better happy medium for all DePaulians. Making sure every student and faculty member is accounted for in terms of their health and well-being can ensure more participation and active involvement in the classrooms and in extracurriculars.

## Column: CTA needs to do more to prevent sexual harassment



BY OLIVIA ZIMMERMAN  
Staff Writer

A stranger kissed my foot on the Red Line last week. No, he didn’t trip and fall. No, it wasn’t some sort of accident. And no, I was not doing any sort of hallucinogenic mushrooms that would cause me to imagine this, although, God, I wish I was.

He leaned down, stared at my sandal-clad feet for a moment, said, “Your feet are beautiful,” and before I could fully comprehend what was happening, he leaned down and planted his lips on my feet, leaving a trace of his saliva.

In a mere 15-minute ride from the Granville to Fullerton station, sandal season was over only hours after it had begun for me. I didn’t know what to do. Do I report this incident to the police? What would I even say to them if I called? Is this even a crime?

Seriously, I’m asking, leave a comment with any guidance. This was, without a doubt, the strangest encounter I have had on the CTA (and that bar is HIGH). While it now gives me

a decent party anecdote, it also shook me to the verge of tears because I felt so violated and disgusted.

Simply, a man I did not know put his mouth on my body, late at night, when my friend and I were the only two women in a train car. My mistake? Wearing sandals on the Red Line, apparently.

I am far from the only person to face harassment on the CTA. A 2009 study from the Rogers Park Young Women’s Action Team (YWAT) found that 52% of survey respondents had been sexually harassed on the CTA.

While Brandon Johnson’s administration seeks to increase mental health care and treatment for substance abuse, more needs to be done for women’s safety on the CTA. His website only says that he pledges to “bring safety features under local control.” The CTA and the City of Chicago need to introduce women-only cars on at least trains, if not buses as well.

Women-only cars aren’t a new phenomenon. They are quite com-

mon in metropolitan areas throughout the world. Mexico City, for example, has women-only cars on their metro system, as well as women-only coaches on the Metrobus system. Is the Mexico City women-only car system perfect? No. Does Mexico City continue to have incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and harassment? Yes. However, in my dozens of experiences on Mexico City Metrobus, have I ever gotten my feet or other extremities kissed? No.

Mental health care, care for those struggling with substances and affordable healthcare are a huge step in the right direction, however, what do we do in the meantime?

This is not an op-ed in support of more policing. In fact, I firmly believe that would only exacerbate the problem and create even larger issues for marginalized communities in the city. However, there is a focus on small-scale solutions (emergency buttons in the cars) for large-scale issues such as women facing sexual harassment on CTA.

I shouldn’t have to pay extra to take

an Uber at night to make sure I get home. I shouldn’t have to call a night out quits at 8 p.m. I shouldn’t have to change my footwear because I might get my foot kissed. Women shouldn’t have to live in a world, or at the very least a city, where we change our lifestyles because of the behavior of men.

I have hope for Johnson’s new CTA policies. However, the effects of these policies will only be seen long term. We needed action yesterday, and we surely need it now.

Women-only cars will have caveats and issues that will need to be worked out, of course.

I have friends who don’t take the trains in the evening, they don’t feel safe riding alone. I personally have been followed off buses, harassed, had sexually violating comments hurled at me and been touched by strangers. I shouldn’t have to put up with this, and I should be able to wear sandals on the Red Line without getting my foot kissed.

*The opinions in this section do not necessarily reflect those of The DePaulia staff.*

LIZZIE MILLER | THE DEPAULIA



# It's time to stand with striking writers, not blame them

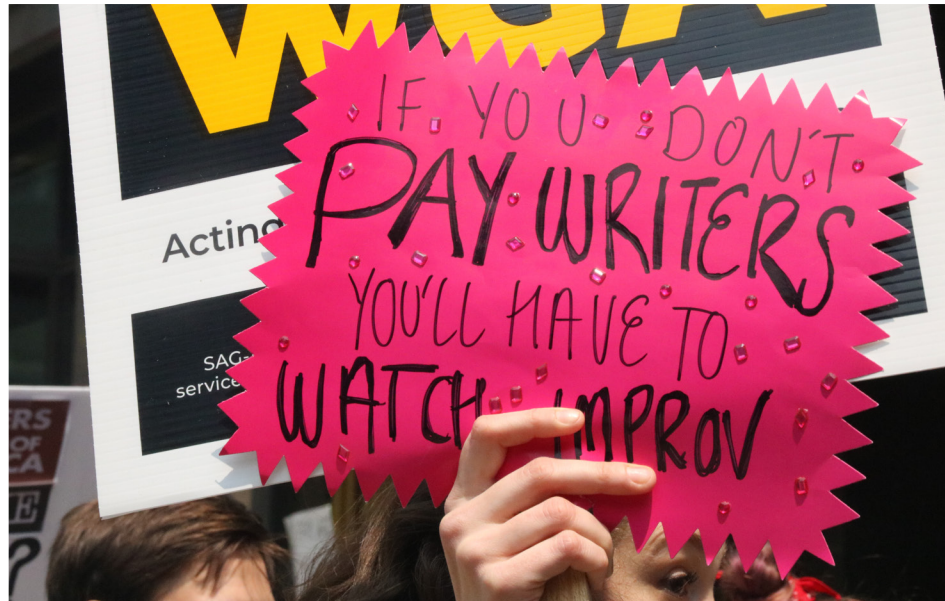
By **KASSEM OSSMAN**  
Contributing Writer

Call me Nicole Kidman because when it comes to movies, I need those dazzling images on a huge silver screen, sound I can almost feel. However, I couldn't give you the screenwriters of my favorite movies (which might be problematic, but I WILL get back to you on those writers I promise), but I know their importance to the film industry that I love. So, when I heard that the Writers Guild of America (WGA) went on strike with a list of demands, I was on their side.

Writers everywhere put down their pencils, picked up their signs and started picketing major studios like Warner Bros., Lionsgate, Disney and many others on May 2, 2023. The issue writers focused on is the residuals — earnings that writers get based on sales performance from streaming services — and the lack of compensation they have been earning. Along with this, writers have started to protect their spot in the writing room by emphasizing the use of artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT and other writing programs as a tool and not a means to replace them.

As the strike continues and shows start getting affected, like "Stranger Things," late night shows and more, viewers aren't going to be placing the blame on the studios. Rather, they will be blaming the writers for not complying with the injustices. What people need to remember is that these strikes last a while. The last writers' strike in 2007 lasted for more than three months. It caused many shows to drop in quality, forcing networks and studios to order new unscripted programming to plug up the holes during prime time.

"Since the rise of streaming, the model of how



EVA EPLEY | THE DEPAULIA

A protester holds up a sign at the writers strike protest on Wednesday, May 17, at NBC plaza.

writer's room works has changed drastically," adjunct screenwriting professor Ted Barnes said. "[Television writing] used to be basically a nine-month job, so writers would have a reasonable amount of time. What studios have done is shorten the amount of time they'll give the writers to write a season."

Barnes went on to talk about the process for writers as of now.

"[The problem is the studios] are giving the writers — instead of nine months to do a season, and to be fair those seasons were like 24 episodes, and now they're more like eight to 10 episodes — but they're only giving them a month or so to do everything, and then it all falls on to the showrunner," Barnes said.

What piqued my interest about this topic

itself was the support that writers had with them. That's why when I saw there was a protest happening in Chicago by the NBC tower, I chose to

bring my friend along and join in the protest and see what people had to say.

"Writers deserve fair contracts, and I don't think anyone wants robots writing television," Kristiana Colón, executive

story editor on "The Chi" said.

This fear of AI taking over the writers' room is what has many writers concerned. When protesting, many of the signs that were out there had quippy remarks of how AI won't light a candle to a human in the writer's room or the lack of soul AI has. Colón is concerned with AI as we enter this unknown realm of possibilities.

"AI technology is absolutely something that could threaten writers' jobs and diminish the quality of content," Colón said. "I think that studios are banking on the future being shows that are mass-produced in a way that the average consumer cannot discern and sort of banking on consumers being satisfied with mediocrity, and I think it's underestimating our viewership and what is important to people and that is human stories. It's what keeps humans connected to each

other and something we shouldn't bend on ever."

Some of my favorite shows talk about issues that only humans could experience to even have a sliver of understanding.

Take for in-

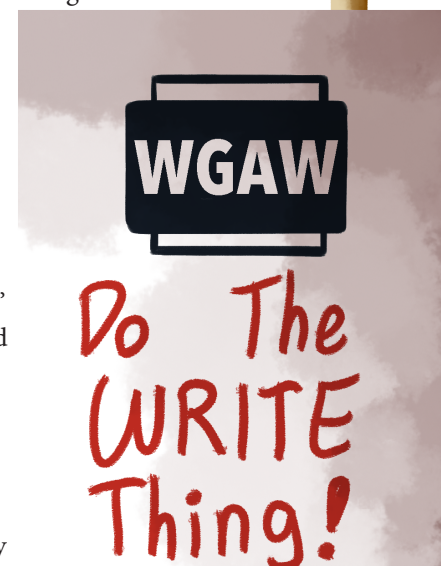
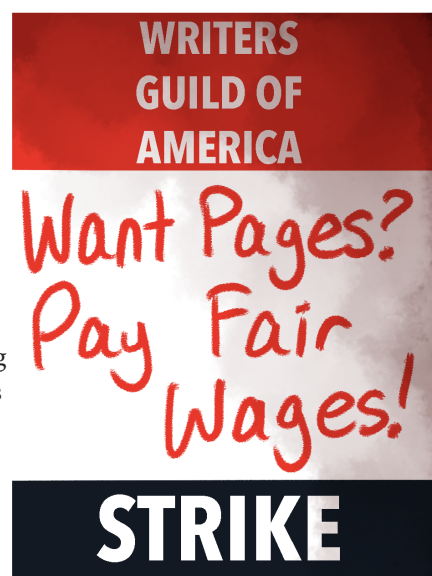
stance "The White Lotus" season two, the push and pull of Harper (Aubrey Plaza) and Ethan (Will Sharpe) as they compare their relationship to another couple. This comparison and jealousy but also this resentment and disgust that the characters share is so utterly

human, and having to train a robot to understand how that conflict makes sense seems like a feat harder than getting a man on the moon.

While some people are worried about the future, some aren't too concerned with the technology just yet.

"I think it's like every form of technology in that it can't be ignored," screenwriter Shannon Barnes-Colleary said. "It has to be incorporated in a way where it's a tool and a prompt. Look, I haven't used any AI so I'm not familiar with it, but I think it would be difficult to write a serialized television show without humans. You're just not gonna get 'Breaking Bad' out of it. You might get a lot of great prompts or suggestions or outlines or you might even be able to print out a full script, but you're going to need a human to make it human. I'm less worried about television writers, but feature writers are where my concern lies."

While the WGA continues to strike, I think it's an important time to appreciate some of the writers of your favorite shows and movies. If it weren't for Hampton Fancher, David Peoples, Victor Miller, Quentin Tarantino, Wes Anderson and Roman Coppola, I wouldn't have my favorite movies to nerd out to (I told you I would get back to you with those writers).





# FOCUS

By UNA CLEARY

Focus Editor

As the sun set on May 14, the DePaul quad was filled with over 700 attendees enjoying hot Thai food, plant sales, and an array of cultural tabling, all a part of The DePaul's APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) Cultural Center's Night Market. Aside from their physical space in room 340 on the third floor of O'Connell Hall, the APIDA cultural center hosted events in the month of May to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, such as an art gallery and guest speakers.

At many events hosted, APIDA members oftentimes have little visibility. Member Marcela Erickson believes the main problem with the center is that many people do not know it exists.

"As great as these programs we are able to put on are, I think we do kind of lack visibility," Erickson said.

Through increased signage, marketing and inclusion in campus tours Erickson believes this would increase participation.

"When prospective students are shown around DePaul, they're told that we exist by just kind of point[ing] to the third floor," Erickson said.

While she has found her Global Asian studies classes to be comprehensive, she feels they are often just focused on East Asian studies. Like Erickson, the Global Asian studies discipline is pushing for South Asian representation.

Different from AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander), APIDA includes Desi Americans representing South Asian identifying people.

DePaul professor and Global Asian studies faculty Kathryn Ilbata-Arens would also like to see growth in the field.

"By 2050, Asia is going to be the center of the global economy in terms of economic opportunity, and a lot of that growth is in Southeast Asia," Ilbata-Arens said. "We would like to eventually build our program available for those countries as well."

Before 2010 the Global Asian studies program began as Asian American studies, but under Ilbata-Arens' directorship, the department relaunched it be the Global Asian studies program, including Asian American, Asian and

Global Asian diaspora transnational.

"There has been a disciplinary shift in the field where Asian area studies and Asian American studies are now very transnational which reflects shifts in the field," DePaul professor Laura Kina said.

Now under professor Li Jin's directorship, expansion is necessary to reflect their growing South Asian population.

The South Asian American population has grown significantly with over 242,000 South Asian Americans in Illinois according to the 2010 United States Census. Since 2000, South Asian Americans in Illinois have grown by over 55%. Ilbata-Arens describes part of the growing population as due to climate change-based refugees.

"One of the biggest things on the horizon for us even in the American Midwest is the incoming climate change-based migrations," Ilbata-Arens said.

Leading a study abroad group to Hawaii, she aims to bring issues like food insecurity and the results of rising sea levels due to climate change in person to DePaul students.

"I think it's a challenge in the American Midwest to have an up close and personal sense of what it's like being in a Pacific island," Ilbata-Arens said.

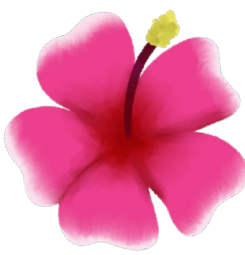
Smrity Ramavarapu, professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, believes cultural education must push for more community representation.

"What we need is native children telling native stories," Ramavarapu said. "The sense of ivory tower academics is bad because not everyone feels included."

Ramavarapu came to DePaul to host Spices of the Silk Road: Hidden History of the South Asian Spice Trade where participants smelled spices and discussed the source trade history.

"We don't need months of remembrance if it's not sustainable throughout the year and if it's not there for everyone to partake," Ramavarapu said.

As an interdisciplinary field, the program aims to integrate APIDA studies into other LAS requirements to increase this visibility. Through art, literature, philosophy, history, and political science requirements, students receive their required core classes with an APIDA focus. Kina believes that there is still room to



## EXTENDING GLOBAL ASIAN STUDIES

**"Asian American studies teaches us that this isn't just a one-off event, it's a very long history of anti-immigrant sentiments."**

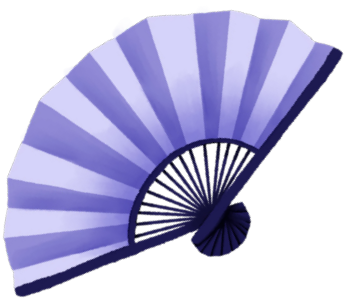
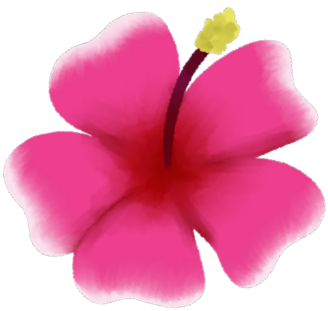
*Laura Kina  
DePaul professor*

grow as students only have to self-elect these courses, as APIDA studies apply to all different types of teachings.

"It's far beyond just celebrating and recognizing diversity," Kina said. "Asian American studies teaches us that this isn't just a one-off event, it's a very long history of anti-immigrant sentiments. These histories extend far longer than the moment in which we are seeing the current patterns."



APIDA Heritage Month runs throughout May. The DePaul



LINNEA CHANG | THE DEPAULIA

Global Asian Studies Program Director Li Jin (left) and Adjunct Professor Curt Hansman discuss at the Spices of the Silk Road event on Wednesday, May 17.



Paula's Thai Kitchen table





# G 'THE MOMENT'

MARCELA ERICKSON | APIDA CULTURAL CENTER  
Students gather on the Quad for for the APIDA Night Market.

## S PROGRAM SEEKS GREATER RECOGNITION



MARCELA ERICKSON | APIDA CULTURAL CENTER

APIDA Cultural Center hosted an art gallery, guest speakers and a Night Market throughout the month.



MARCELA ERICKSON | APIDA CULTURAL CENTER

at the APIDA Cultural Center's Night Market on May 14. Tables included food options, vintage clothes and art.

### APIDA Facts

What does APIDA stand for?

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American. Since 2010 it has been used to be more inclusive to South Asians with the Desi term representing South Asian identifying people.

What are the different APIDA cultural groups at DePaul?

There are over 16 APIDA cultural groups ranging from Fraternities and Sororities, to Cultural Exchanges, and K-Pop Dance Clubs. Scan the QR code below for more information.

Where is the APIDA cultural center located?

You can find the APIDA cultural center in room 340 on the third floor of O'Connell Hall.

What is the DePaul Global Asian Studies program?

Offers courses and programs that connect the theories and practices in Asian Studies, the diaspora of Asian peoples around the world and the unique experience of Asian Americans.

Scan more to learn about the APIDA Cultural Center





# LA DEPAULIA

## Orden ejecutiva de nuevo alcalde aborda crisis migratoria

*Establece relación para trabajar con los activistas comunitarios*

Brandon Johnson firmó cuatro órdenes ejecutivas el lunes pasado, pocas horas después de que tomó la posesión como alcalde de la ciudad de Chicago.

**POR JACQUELINE CARDENAS**

Jefa de Redacción, La DePaulia

A solo horas de que Brandon Johnson tomará posesión como alcalde, firmó cuatro órdenes ejecutivas que establecen un tono para un liderazgo colaborativo, según líderes comunitarios.

Las órdenes ejecutivas incluyen la creación un Vicealcalde de Seguridad Comunitaria y Relaciones Laborales y un plan preliminar para impulsar el empleo juvenil.

Garien Gatewood, director del Proyecto de Justicia de Illinois, será el primer Vicealcalde de Seguridad Comunitaria de la ciudad y dice que se enfocará en abordar temas de seguridad por medio de la 'sanación'.

Por otra parte, la orden ejecutiva de empleo juvenil financiará programas de empleo para los jóvenes, mientras que el puesto de Vicealcalde de Relaciones Laborales aún no ha sido ocupado.

La cuarta orden ejecutiva crea un Vicealcalde de Derechos de Inmigrantes, Migrantes y Refugiados, un cargo de liderazgo diseñado para planificar formas para aliviar la crisis humanitaria causada por la llegada de más de 9 mil migrantes a la ciudad desde Texas, después de que el gobernador republicano Greg Abbott comenzara a enviarlos a las "ciudades santuario" en agosto del año pasado.

La tarea principal del cargo de Vicealcalde de Derechos de Inmigrantes será coordinar la comunicación entre los funcionarios de la ciudad para "apoyar a los miembros de la comunidad que han llegado, a inmigrantes, refugiados, migrantes, miembros de la comunidad indocumentados, beneficiarios de DACA y personas que solicitan la ciudadanía", según

la orden emitida por la oficina del alcalde.

El cargo aún no ha sido ocupado, pero algunos líderes comunitarios dicen que establece una relación de cooperación entre la ciudad y los organizadores comunitarios que durante mucho tiempo han estado trabajando directamente con los migrantes recién llegados.

Eric Ramos, un organizador que ha liderado el apoyo a los migrantes alojados en el Distrito Policial 17 y que asistió a la inauguración de Johnson, dijo que los miembros del equipo de transición de Johnson se reunieron con líderes comunitarios la semana pasada para discutir cómo pueden trabajar juntos para ayudar a los solicitantes de asilo.

"Ya ha comenzado lo que quiero ver, ese tipo de co-gobernanza de la que todos hemos estado hablando", dijo Ramos.

Ramos sugirió que la administración debería aprender de las organizaciones comunitarias e incluso permitirles liderar.

Durante su discurso inaugural, Johnson habló sobre los desafíos a nivel de ciudad que espera abordar, como la reapertura de clínicas de salud mental y la priorización de la seguridad de los residentes, al tiempo que destacó la profunda conexión de Chicago con la migración.

"Es el alma de Chicago lo que ha traído a inmigrantes de todo el mundo para trabajar y organizarse", dijo Johnson.

José Marco-Paredes, líder de la Illinois Latino Agenda, una coalición que aboga por la prosperidad de la comunidad latina, dijo que la coalición envió cartas al equipo de transición de Johnson y sugirió políticas para ayudar a crear una representación gubernamental equitativa.

Dijo que la creación del puesto del Vicealcalde de Derechos de Inmigrantes

refleja el compromiso de la administración de trabajar con activistas comunitarios. También demuestra que la crisis migratoria es una prioridad para la administración y que comprenden que se necesita un esfuerzo coordinado para abordarla, dijo Marco-Paredes.

La ciudad experimentó otro aumento de solicitantes de asilo a principios de este mes, dejando a la mayoría de los migrantes venezolanos sin otra opción más que dormir en los pisos de las comisarías de policía hasta que sean trasladados a refugios o centros de descanso. En el Distrito Central de Policía, los migrantes comieron alimentos caducados y no contaban con acceso a camas y duchas, según el Chicago Sun-Times.

Desde agosto pasado, cuando comenzaron a llegar los primeros grupos de migrantes, la ciudad ha transformado hoteles y otros edificios vacantes para servir de albergues. Entre estos edificios está incluida una escuela cerrada en un vecindario predominantemente afroamericano, lo que ha generado controversia entre los residentes.

Algunos residentes afroamericanos dicen que la falta de recursos e inversión en sus vecindarios no han sido tomadas en serio, mientras que otros dicen que los migrantes podrían ser alojados en distritos predominantemente latinos para tener acceso a recursos en español y una mejor cercanía cultural.

Aquellos que han criticado el proceso de reutilizar edificios como refugios también citan la falta de comunicación por parte de los funcionarios de la ciudad sobre dónde alojar a los migrantes, lo que deja pocas oportunidades para que ellos den su opinión.

La semana pasada, los residentes de South Shore, una comunidad predominantemente afroamericana, establecieron una demanda para evitar que la ciudad abriera un refugio para migrantes en una antigua escuela secundaria, según Block Club Chicago.

"Lo que necesitamos es estar abiertos a ese diálogo, abrir espacios donde las comunidades puedan reunirse, expresar cuáles son sus temores, cuáles son sus necesidades", dijo Marco-Paredes.

Según Marco-Paredes, las tensiones en los vecindarios apuntan a la falta de vivienda y a una representación política diversa en la ciudad.

"La comunidad afroamericana ha sufrido históricamente la desfinanciación de la ciudad y vemos desigualdades en el empleo y la vivienda", agregó. Por lo tanto, el puesto de Vicealcalde de Derechos de Inmigrantes es "un paso en la dirección correcta" para abordar la crisis humanitaria, pero se necesita hacer más.

La ciudad recibió \$4.3 millones en nuevos fondos federales a principios de este mes para ayudar con la creciente crisis humanitaria. Estos fondos están lejos de la cantidad que la ciudad solicitó a FEMA, que era entre \$38.9 millones y \$66.7 millones.

"Obviamente no es suficiente", dijo Marco-Paredes.

Aunque se siente optimista, Marco-Paredes cree que la administración de Johnson debe establecer viviendas asequibles permanentes para las comunidades de bajos recursos y trabajar con los activistas comunitarios para aliviar no solo la crisis migratoria, sino también las desigualdades en la ciudad.

AMBER STOUTENBOROUGH | LA DEPAULIA



# ‘Sorry Papi’ brinda un espacio seguro ‘para mujeres, por mujeres’

POR ERICK QUEZADA

Escritor Contribuyente, La DePaulia

El evento ‘Sorry Papi’ en colaboración con el festival Sueños, brindara un espacio seguro “para mujeres, por mujeres” donde podrán disfrutar de la música latina a finales de este mes.

El evento, que será el 27 y 28 de mayo, contará con diferentes actividades como estaciones para trenzas, maquillaje, decoración de joyas y más.

También contará con bar, pantalla led con transmisión en vivo del escenario y, lo que más ha creado expectativa, contará con la presentación de una de las fundadoras del evento: DJ Miriam.

La idea de ‘Sorry Papi’ fue planteada por DJ Miriam para que las mujeres tuvieran un espacio donde puedan disfrutar de una noche de chicas, dijo Jacqueline Terrazas, gerente de la gira y proyecto.

Después de proponer la idea, se llevó a cabo el primer evento el año pasado en Moe’s Cantina, en menos de una semana, fueron vendidas todas las entradas para el evento.

Basado en el resultado de esa noche, el equipo de ‘Sorry Papi’ decidió ir de gira por el país. Empezaron en Texas y luego se extendieron por todo Estados Unidos.

Nina Lopez, directora de operaciones, dijo que el evento se convirtió en un espacio donde las mujeres no tienen que preocuparse por su seguridad ya que muchas han sufrido experiencias desagradables con hombres en bares o antros cuando salen a divertirse.

“[Es] un espacio para que las mujeres se diviertan porque a veces salir con las chicas puede ser difícil porque están siendo acosadas o molestadas”, ella dijo.

Pero el espacio no fue fácil de crear dado que la industria del entretenimiento está dominada principalmente por hombres, por lo que fue difícil para estas mujeres establecer el evento.

“Somos todas jóvenes en este partido y cada vez que vamos a estos lugares y clubes donde tenemos estas fiestas siempre se nota que los hombres no nos están tomando en serio y nos dan un tiempo difícil para la más pequeña tarea”, dijo Terrazas.



SORRY PAPI TOUR

DJ toca su música frente a la audiencia durante el evento de Sorry Papi el año pasado, un espacio para mujeres propuesto por DJ Miriam.

Lourdes Tito, una entusiasta del evento, dijo que parece que a la mayoría de personas les ha gustado la colaboración con Sueños y espera que otros organizadores implementen la misma idea de crear un espacio libre de preocupación para las mujeres.

“Este tipo de colaboraciones deben ser más comunes ya que ayudan a crear un espacio de seguridad, sobre todo ayudan a crear nuevas amistades”, Tito enfatizó.

Pueden comprar entradas para su gira en su sitio web y seguirlos en Instagram para obtener más actualizaciones. El equipo menciona que esto es sólo el comienzo y que esperan hacer un festival sólo para mujeres en el futuro.

También, pueden tener una experiencia más cercana con artistas mujeres en el After Party en The Salt Shed el sábado 27 de mayo con una presentación especial de Ivy Queen, Young Miko y más. Puedes comprar entradas ahora en Ticketmaster.



SORRY PAPI TOUR

El evento de Sorry Papi fue creado con la intención de brindar un espacio cómodo para mujeres.

## Una librería en Pilsen muestra el aprecio de la comunidad por la literatura en español

POR CARY ROBBINS

Editora de Noticias, La DePaulia

No fue hasta que se dispararon los impuestos de propiedad para su librería en Pilsen que Juan Manuel Girón se dio cuenta de que el conocimiento compartido de autores latinoamericanos estaba en peligro.

Esto causó que algunos residentes del vecindario también se sintieron indignados al ver que el aumento de impuestos a la propiedad podría llevar al cierre de la librería de Girón, privándolos de un referente que ha estado en su comunidad durante casi 40 años.

Girón Books, ubicada en 2141 W. 21st St., es una de las pocas librerías en Chicago que vende libros en español que abarcan libros de autoayuda hasta novelas y libros de inglés como segundo idioma (ESL).

“Es un golpe en la cara”, dijo Girón. “Es una forma de decirme: ‘Lárgate, ya no eres bienvenido aquí’”.

Girón dijo que fue uno de los propietarios de negocios cuyos impuestos a la propiedad se dispararon en agosto del 2021 y a quienes se les informó que aumentarían porque vivían en un “área deseable”.

Afortunadamente, Girón pudo contratar abogados y reclasificar el edificio para reducir sus impuestos.

“Sobrevivimos la tormenta por el momento”, dijo Girón. “Encontré el apoyo de la comunidad y el respaldo de familias que tal vez nunca habían expresado su idea de perder Girón Books”.

A pesar de la incertidumbre, Girón dijo que no es la primera vez que se enfrenta a las presiones de una sociedad que quiere que su gente aprenda inglés “para tener éxito”. Por eso, desde 1985 su misión ha sido “conservar el patrimonio de los lectores latinos”.

Lourdes Torres, profesora de Estudios Latinoamericanos y Latinos en DePaul, quien ha investigado sobre sociolingüística, dice que ha notado una diferencia en la habilidad con el idioma español entre los latines de primera, segunda y tercera generación.

A través de su investigación, Torres señaló que muchas personas en Estados Unidos erróneamente piensan que el idioma español ha tomado el control. Sin embargo, también, ha descubierto que a menudo los jóvenes de tercera generación no pueden comunicarse con sus abuelos porque solo hablan en inglés.

“Incluso con la cantidad de inmigrantes que tenemos de América Latina, el español está, en su mayor parte, considerando la tradición de los idiomas que mueren en los Estados Unidos”, dijo Torres.

Isaías Ponpa, un estudiante de DePaul,

dijo que los libros en español son importantes para conectar con la comunidad, ya que la historia y la cultura que transmiten perduran durante generaciones.

Aunque Ponpa no ha visto un aumento significativo en la representación latina en la industria editorial, él cree que eso debería cambiar.

“Viniendo de una familia mexicana de primera generación, crecí presenciando cómo mis padres no podían acceder ni utilizar libros, documentos y cualquier pieza literaria debido a la barrera del idioma”, escribió Ponpa.

Ponpa dijo que a menudo piensa en cómo la falta de libros en español significa que muchas personas no pueden leer.

Girón dijo que en Estados Unidos se les enseña a las personas a asimilarse, se les dice que eso será lo mejor para ellos. Sin embargo, a menudo, las personas comienzan a sentir curiosidad por su cultura y herencia. Él piensa que su



ERICK QUEZADA | LA DEPAULIA

Girón Books, una tienda de libros en Pilsen que vende literatura en español.

librería es tan importante como tener el Museo Nacional de Arte Mexicano y escuelas públicas con nombres de héroes aztecas.

En una ciudad como Chicago, que tiene una gran población de habla hispana, tener librerías en español es vital para la comunidad, dijo.



# ARTS & LIFE

## Not the Van Gogh you know

JONAH WEBER | THE DEPAULIA

The "Van Gogh and the Avant-Garde: The Modern Landscape," an exhibition centered on the works of Vincent van Gogh, premiered Sunday, May 14.

### How Vincent van Gogh, artists of the next generation redefined art in the Paris suburbs

BY LILLY KELLER  
Arts & Life Editor

Few names are known better than Vincent van Gogh. In the century and a half since the Dutch painter took his life in 1890, his work has migrated across the globe, settling in over 30 museums across five continents. However, with multiple Van Gogh exhibitions inviting the public to view the late painter's work, the question of whether or not another gallery can genuinely present something new and distinct arises.

For the Art Institute of Chicago, the answer remains an unequivocal yes.

While the Dutch painter may be the star of the gallery's latest exhibit, "Van Gogh and the Avant-Garde: The Modern Landscape," his work is displayed alongside his avant-garde colleagues Georges Seurat, Paul Signac, Emile Bernard and Charles Angrand.

In fact, it was the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam's acquisition of Signac's "Ponton de la Félicité," the Art Institute's collaborator in organizing the exhibit that prompted the two museums to initiate the exhibition.

"You may think it's rather unusual that Signac painting would prompt a Van Gogh and co-exhibition, but we know Van Gogh saw the painting by Signac in 1887, and in just a matter of days, perhaps weeks later Van Gogh goes out to the northwestern suburbs and begins to paint," said Jacquelyn N. Coutré, associate curator of painting and sculpture of Europe at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Rooted in the picturesque suburbs of Asnières, France and the Seine River, "The Modern Landscape" unites the five artists who separately memorialized the countryside's lush greenery and quiet life. Despite only spanning from 1882-1890, the gallery holds over 75 paintings and catalogs the birth of movements such as neo-impressionism — the technique of applying dots and brushstrokes of complementary colors to the canvas — and pointillism — a method in which patterns of small, definite dots of color form larger images.

"The Avant-Garde is a group of artists who are looking to push the boundaries and challenge them," Coutré said. "These artists were looking to position themselves as distinct from Impressionists. ... They decided to stay very close to the city in the suburbs which had a very different topography culturally and physically than what the impressionists were doing."

While renowned impressionists like Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir preferred Argenteuil and other remote corners of France, Van Gogh and his fellow post-impressionists, who prioritized the expression of emotion and symbolism, directed



JONAH WEBER | THE DEPAULIA

"Quai de Saint-Ouén," painted by Paul Signac in 1883, depicts a boat on the Seine River.



JONAH WEBER | THE DEPAULIA

Museumgoers view "The Seine Bridge at Asnières" by Van Gogh in the gallery.

their efforts toward depicting the swiftly industrializing landscape of Asnières. Their artistic endeavors centered around highlighting the transformation of Asnières rather than the naturalistic representation of light's influence on objects as favored by impressionists.

The exhibit is the first to showcase the northwestern suburb's role in redefining the post-impressionism genre, and it challenges viewers to rethink what they know about Van Gogh and his artistic development.

"This period in Van Gogh's development is one of rapid assimilation of influences, and it's maybe not the Van Gogh that people would necessarily think of when they think of 'Starry Night,'" Coutré said. "I hope viewers will understand a bit more about the artistic process and growth specifically as applied to Van Gogh."

Out of Van Gogh's 24 paintings, his three triptychs — artworks made up of three parts — garnered much excitement from museumgoers.

"The colors and scenery in the 'Clichy Triptych' were marvelous," said attendee Maeve Davis. "He was always pushing the boundaries with his work, but these three paintings really show that."

Embodying serenity and the ornate plant life that defined Asnières from the restless metropolitan of Paris, Van Gogh's "Clichy Triptych" characterized the collection's intense creativity and energy. His other triptychs, "The Grande Jatte Triptych" and "Asnières Triptych," capture the vivid vitality of nature and day-trip destinations like "The Restaurant de la Sirène, Asnières."

However, the inclusion of Angrand's work adds a needed layer of complexity to the exhibit. An outlier amongst his post-impressionist colleagues, Angrand spent much of his life in Normandy as a math teacher, creating just over 100 paintings throughout his career.

However, it was the lesser-known painter whose work defined the exhibit for attendees like Clare Schwartz.

"His [Angrand's] piece 'The Seine at Dawn' gave me chills," Schwartz said. "It was so beautiful. I'd never heard of him before, so I was surprised at how moved I was by his painting."

Beyond its bright natural colors and experimental brushstrokes, "The Modern Landscape" seeks to showcase how a single setting can reshape the trajectory of art.

"I hope that viewers will learn a bit more about these northwestern suburbs and what they meant not only for these artists, but also for Paris as a whole," Coutré said. "It's all about this place and this desire to push the boundaries of painting."



# Strike expansion puts pressure on Chicago film industry

BY ASIA THOMAS & CASEY SNOW  
Contributing Writers

As the writers' strike expands across the country, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) hosted a strike in Chicago May 17 from noon to 3 p.m.

Over 800 writers, actors, students and community members walked the picket line outside of the NBC Tower to demand fair pay and equity for television and film writers.

This is Chicago's second picket line so far. The first was Monday, May 15 at Cinespace Studios. Wednesday's, however, was much larger.

"Get up, get down, Chicago is a union town" was a central slogan to the protest, representing the general consensus.

WGA members and aspiring writers were joined by other unions such as The Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE).

Kristi Emmons, an actor who attended the strike, is not yet a SAG-AFTRA member, but she has worked on "Chicago PD," "Chicago Fire," "Empire" and other Chicago productions.

"With technology and forms of media that are quickly advancing, we really need to protect ourselves because to make a living, especially as an actor, it's getting really hard, especially as residuals go," Emmons said.

"The people that are behind everything, they need to be compensated properly."

The current WGA writer's strike is the first in 15 years.

The last strike was in 2007-2008 and lasted 100 days.

The 2023 strike began after failed contract negotiations between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP).

The AMPTP is the trade association between labor unions such as the WGA and motion picture companies such as Disney, NBCUniversal, Paramount and Sony.

The AMPTP is responsible for the contracts between writers and companies, which determines writers' wages and the sustainability of a television and film writing career.

As artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities grow, writers also face a loss of job security.

Now, the film industry is shifting from cable television to streaming services, and writers fear that AI is becoming a replacement and that mini rooms will employ fewer writers at much shorter timeframes.

In the past, for television writers, networks would order an average of 20 episodes, giving writers a job for 10 months.

Now, episode orders have shortened due to streaming, and shows are worked on for shorter periods of time.

According to the WGA, the median weekly writer-producer pay has decreased by 23% when adjusted for inflation.

The WGA's negotiations with the AMPTP lasted until the contract deadline May 1.

The WGA officially called the strike May 2 at 12:01 a.m. PDT, after the previous contracts had expired.

As for Chicago, today was the first official strike event, and the support was high.

During the strike, the recently inaugurated mayor Brandon Johnson tweeted his support for WGA East and WGA



EVA EPLEY | THE DEPAULIA

Protesters gather outside the NBC tower in the Loop Wednesday, May 17, to demand fair pay and equity for film and television writers.

West. Monday's strike also canceled the filming of "The Chi."

Zayd Dohrn is the WGA strike captain for Chicago and attended the strike because he works as a writer and playwright.

Dohrn said all the Writers Guild's demands would only add up to 2% of the money shows generated within three years.

He said writers should be able to share the profits they generate for studios.

"We have shows like the 'Chicago Fire,' 'Chicago PD,' 'The Chi' and 'The Bear' that shoot here," Dohrn said.

"One of the things we're trying to show to everybody is that we want productions here in Chicago. We want people shooting here, making TV here, but it can't happen until the studios come back to the table with a fair deal for the writers."

At the moment, production on NBC's "Chicago Fire," "Chicago Med" and "Chicago PD" has yet to be halted by the strike.

Attending the strike were several students with hopes for a future in the film and television industry, including DePaul junior and screenwriting major James Easton, who expressed fears over the rise of AI within his future workplace.

"I don't know how we're gonna keep that [AI] out of the industry," Easton said. "I'm not worried about the strike. I think it will resolve itself. What I'm worried about, this is an element of [the strike], but I think AI and ChatGPT is the biggest beast to deal with when it comes to what screenwriters are facing. That's what I'm worried about."

Easton is not the only DePaul student who faces the same fear.

"As a student I would say, especially on the AI front, it's kind of scary to see how technology is evolving, and obviously you can't really fight that, but I think it's important to keep in mind that humans are ultimately behind the writing," said DePaul sophomore and screenwriting major Lilly Patrick.

Throughout the strike, writers, actors and community members alike convened to make television and film writing a viable and sustainable career.

The march was peaceful, and the chants carried a strong cadence through the streets.

Attendees at the strike said it is past time for contracts to be rewritten and for writers to be paid and treated fairly in the film industry.

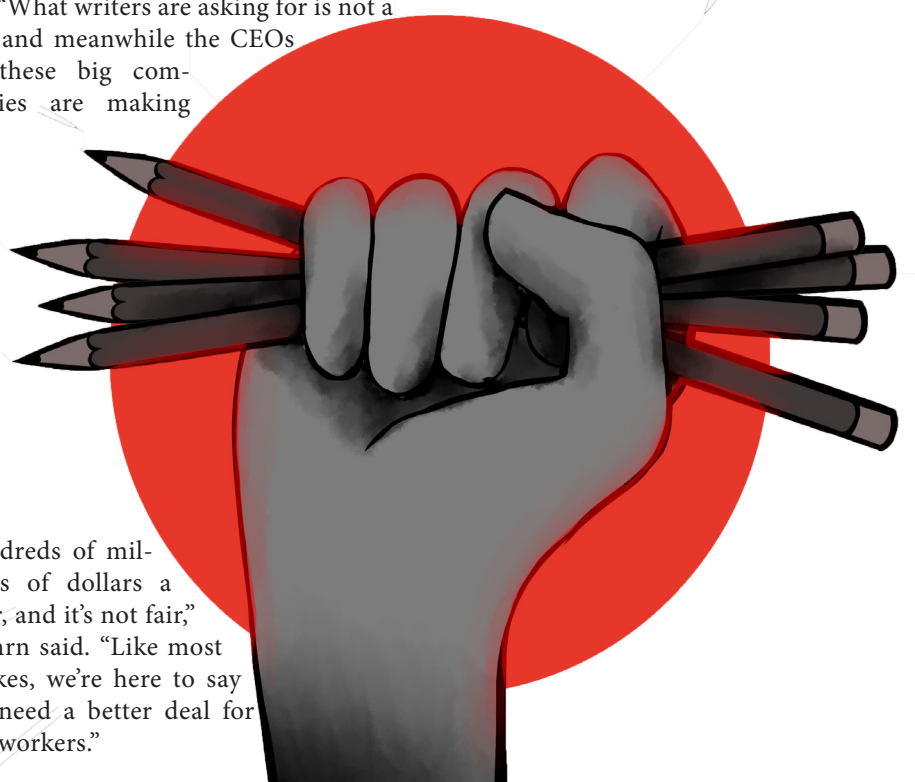


EVA EPLEY | THE DEPAULIA

Wednesday marked the first official strike event for writers in Chicago.

"What writers are asking for is not a lot, and meanwhile the CEOs of these big companies are making

hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and it's not fair," Dohrn said. "Like most strikes, we're here to say we need a better deal for the workers."



MAYA OCLASSEN | THE DEPAULIA



# Chalupa: The brand building community through clothing

By **FRANKIE PEREZ**

La DePaulia Multimedia Assistant Editor

For entrepreneur Gerardo Arroyo Carrillo, Chalupa is more than just a skater clothing brand. It is a representation of the united community that has been built over the years at a local park in Little Village. Arroyo Carrillo said the brand's name originated from a nickname that a skateboarding friend gave him.

"I heard it and found it funny, but a few days later, I started calling everyone by that name, Chalupa," Arroyo Carrillo said. "It was like a way of greeting, saying goodbye to someone or just a nickname."

The name is rooted in friendship, but it was not until he saw the potential of a clothing brand that could bring everyone together at Little Village Park that Chalupa became "something bigger," according to Ninel Jerónimo, events assistant for the brand.

"This brand is authentic because he has managed to bring other creators together to be apart of his events, and has pushed others to also start something that will represent them," Jerónimo said.

Although Arroyo Carrillo was born in Reno, Nevada, he said that the community he found in Chicago has sustained his passion for skateboarding over the past 11 years.

"The main goal was to bring people together, whether they were skateboarders or just artists in general," Arroyo Carrillo said. "Everyone is welcome to support this brand and be part of it too."

Arroyo Carrillo's cultural identity as a Mexican American skater is also important to Chalupa's aesthetic and graphic designs.

Local skateboarder Brandon Muñoz,

his designs are "awesome."

Arroyo Carrillo creates all his designs on his iPhone, where he says he has the ability to carefully perfect his ideas and add the "flavor of my Hispanic culture." When time allows, Arroyo Carrillo also enjoys organizing events in front of his house where he sells his clothing while people enjoy pozole, tacos and tinga prepared by his mom.

"I started organizing these events to bring people together," Arroyo Carrillo said. "By building a community, we support each other. I welcome other vendors and create a space where they can showcase their talents."

However, navigating the streetwear and skate industry as a Latino artist and entrepreneur has not always been easy due to a lack of resources.

"If I had all the resources and support to express my true vision, I know I would definitely amaze many human beings in this world and in Chicago," Arroyo Carrillo said. "But, of course, that's why we're here, doing whatever it takes to get one step closer to finding more opportunities for ourselves and constantly benefiting from them."

With the support of his family and friends, the young entrepreneur has been able to stay focused on his goal of creating a community through the brand and takes inspiration from his skate idols like DGK and Paul Rodriguez to continue nurturing his creativity.

"I'm really proud of everyone here in the city of Chicago and around the world who are pushing their artwork and talent," Arroyo Carrillo said. "That's what Chalupa is about: taking risks, having fun and bringing people together."



FRANKIE PEREZ | LA DEPAULIA

Gerardo Arroyo Carrillo, the owner of Chalupa, shows off his homemade t-shirts.



FRANKIE PEREZ | LA DEPAULIA

Arroyo Carrillo uses a heat press to add designs to his garments.



FRANKIE PEREZ | LA DEPAULIA

A t-shirt designed by Arroyo Carrillo inspired by one of his favorite skaters.



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# Booking at Bookclub

By **CORMICK COSTELLO**  
Staff Writer

Chicago is known to be a city rich with culture, especially within the music scene. Acting as the birthplace for many bands and musical artists along the lines of Wilco and Common, Chicago has established itself as a hub in the modern musical canon. The city is also no stranger to live music, as streets are lined with venues ranging from the blues of Lincoln Park's Kingston Mines to the noisier rock of the Ukrainian Village's Empty Bottle.

Although Chicago has proven impressive in musical activity, live shows are not always easily accessible for all.

This is especially true with younger people who often cannot attend shows because of age restrictions or cost issues. However, Chicago's musical influence can make it difficult for bands in their inception to find live shows to play.

As a result, musical acts that are just starting out tend to turn toward DIY locations, whose sole purpose is to provide performances for beginning bands.

A current Chicago hot spot is a Lakeview venue known as Bookclub, whose address remains hidden to legal issues (Instagram tag is @bookclubchi).

Bookclub's space is a quaint second-floor dive.

It can house approximately 100 showgoers, and its stage is so low to the floor one can almost look the musicians in the eyes.

"I love the Bookclub," said DePaul junior Kira Isbell. "Its size is fantastic. There is a real sense of intimacy here."

Like most of the bands it hosts, Bookclub is also on its infant legs, with the venue's first show happening June 25, 2021. Despite the fact that Bookclub has made it their mission to support smaller acts, they did not initially start the venue with this in mind.

"I was planning a show through my booking project Reset," said Cam Stacey,



COURTESY OF TONY KETCHAM

**Local artist TYGKO performs rap and hip hop at the Bookclub in Lakeview.**

one of the two renters of Bookclub. "The space we originally planned it at was served a cease and desist from their neighbors saying that they were going to be sued over noise if the show happened. I was worried we weren't going to find a space, and then I remembered this little black box theater that was no longer operating."

Stacey, along with Chicago-based musical collaborator TYGKO, signed the space's lease for a monthlong contract. The pair, with the burden of rent hovering over their head, realized that they needed to host other shows.

"We had no other choice because we needed to pay rent, and we did the math and we needed about 10 shows a month in order to pay it," TYGKO said. "Cam tried to fill the calendar with people he knew from Reset,

but it was not enough, so we opened it up to other bands. The Bookclub as we know it, where shows are happening every night, probably began in October 2021."

Bookclub's current success is most likely due to Stacey and TYGKO's philosophy on music. They have a deep appreciation for the performer, which can be seen in the way they operate. Bands receive half the ticket revenue, which is uncommon in comparison to many other venues that open their doors to bookings. This has resulted in bands often coming back with new lineups.

"We provide musicians an opportunity to put on a show at a place with quality soundscape and stage for low stakes," Stacey said. "You're guaranteed to walk away with something and to that end, if you've done a show with us before and it went well, we'll let

you throw a show again without any money down. We like to keep good artists in the family."

The performers are also granted complete freedom with what occurs on the stage. They never want them to feel like they don't have a place for creativity and experimentation.

"The spirit of what we do, and honestly what our bread and butter is, is that we allow bands to do whatever they want," Stacey said. "We want the artist to be the sole director of the stage and show. It's cathartic for bands to put on live shows, and it's cathartic for the audience members as well. We need to have this catharsis."

Bookclub acts as a safe haven of expression and musical connection. They want bands to feel comfortable as if it is an open mic, providing a home both for the groups that have never played a show before and for the weird side projects.

This promise of opportunity and freedom has made Bookclub a frequent venue for bands from DePaul. Acts like Minivan, Laundry, Soaps and Digital Arts and Crafts regularly have shows together, and even when they do not, members will often be in the audience to support them.

Stacey and TYGKO love that communities like this are being formed in Bookclub. They believe that there needs to be more places like their establishment, that are completely open to anything. They have a sense of hope for the future of music that they believe can only be achieved with interactions like this.

"In the Chicago spirit, we are a trading post of sorts," Stacey said. "Bands are constantly coming here and leaving with connections. I think that energy lends itself to budding artists and debuts, because there is a *carte blanche* that they've never seen before."

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## 'Baby J' review: Confessions of a controversial comedian

By CLAIRE TWEEDIE  
Staff Writer

Suffering from a distressing lack of attention? Comedian John Mulaney shares his tips and tricks on how to fix that pesky problem in his newest Netflix special, "Baby J."

He starts off strong by suggesting you kill one of your "unimportant" grandparents for attention during the school year. While his suggestions may be questionable at best, Mulaney once again crafts expert storytelling and humorous cynicism all in one hilarious comedy special sure to ruin his reputation further while still delighting fans.

Mulaney's name graced headlines for all the wrong reasons over the past two years. The comedian took the stage in his special, released April 25, to explain himself after his drug relapse and public divorce. For the 1 hour and 20-minute runtime, Mulaney puts the spotlight on his recent history with comedic excellence and no discernible vulnerability.

While he slowly chips away at his traditional public persona of bubbly sarcasm, Mulaney reveals a new style that is slower yet somehow more aggressive. He is no longer doing bits about horses loose in hospitals or Bill Clinton's presidency, and instead airing out his dirty laundry and unzipping his inside coat pockets. Here, his wide-ranging conversation covers everything from star-studded interventions to how to correctly sell a



MARCUS RUSSEL PRICE/NETFLIX

### John Mulaney returns to the stage after four years in his Netflix special "Baby J."

\$12,000 Rolex watch. The jokes in "Baby J" delve into more personal stories, making it clear that change suits Mulaney and that he is healthier for it.

Based on the small remarks made throughout the comedy special, Mulaney is acutely aware of how close he is to being "canceled" despite being one of the internet's favorite comedians.

The past two years means he can also acknowledge Bo Burnham might be taking the lead as the "less problematic" choice.

"Baby J" gives Mulaney a chance to aggressively explain to his audience:

"What? Are you going to cancel John Mulaney? I'll kill him." The new special is aggressive in its remarks without being accusatory toward anyone but himself.

Besides, it is hard to cancel Mulaney when he openly shares his fall from grace.

His newest special relies heavily on self-deprecation. It becomes difficult to imagine that any internet threat toward him is as bad as what he has already put himself through.

Mulaney's ability to brazenly critique himself in the face of this is what sets this special apart from his others. Rather than fully hiding behind his jokes, he uses

them to confess his hardships. Yes, he is still the butt of his many jokes, but he is also selling out tours nationwide and getting deals with Netflix. The audience may be the ones cracking up, but he gets the last laugh.

One thing about Mulaney is that he always knows how to set the tone. For such heavy content, he performs it in an intimate way.

During the entire set, he lowers his voice for only the audience to hear, leans off the stage to tell them more privately, and explicitly says not to repeat this next part.

Despite being filmed in front of thousands of audience members at the Symphony Hall in Boston, Massachusetts, he maintains a strong facade of disclosure. Perhaps his subject material might be more scrutinized if his delivery were not so deliberately performed and if the laughter did not follow right on cue.

"Baby J" is a stark contrast to previous Mulaney comedy specials while still maintaining the comedic styles he is known and loved for.

Although slower in tone, the jokes still land and the subject matter is still biting enough to be relevant years after the news of his rehab journey broke. His new special is another win for Mulaney and another guaranteed laugh for viewers wrapped up in one hilarious confessional.

An advertisement for DePaul University. The top left corner features the DePaul University logo and the text "DEPAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES". The main image shows a group of students sitting at tables on a rooftop patio, some using laptops. Overlaid on the image is the text "MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT." in large, bold, white letters.

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# St. Vincent's DEJAMZ

“SPINNING FRESH BEATS SINCE 1581”

BY NADIA CAROLINA HERNANDEZ & JAKE COX  
Editor-In-Chief & Opinions Editor

While DeJamz is used as a great vehicle to share a multitude of music tastes, I would argue all of them would be outshined by a “Glee” cover. There is an indescribable quality that is gained through the majesty that is Fox’s “Glee”, the product of the infamous Ryan Murphy. It is the height of camp, unbelievable moments and above all else many covers that I would argue outside the original versions of the song. You’re all in for a treat. And how Sue sees it. On to DeJamz.

“Mine” by Taylor Swift (“Glee” Cast Version)- Jake

As Nadia and I are the resident Swifies of The DePaulia, it would be a huge oversight to not include this hit. Gut-wrenchingly sad, this is the breakup song of Brittany and Santana in season four. It’s a shame that Taylor Swift didn’t get a dedicated episode,

but this song makes up for it. I can feel the tears welling up as I listen to this song again to write. This DeJamz may just be “the best thing that’s ever been mine”.

“Don’t Rain On My Parade” by Barbra Streisand (“Glee” Cast Version) - Jake

This may just be the ultimate “Glee” song. Its infamy got a new life in Lea Michele’s appearance as Fanny Brice in the Broadway revival of “Funny Girl”. The day that was announced was quite possibly the best day of Twitter memes. I hate to say it, but Michele’s version is better than the original — it’s an earworm. It’s pure “Glee” insanity and fancifulness — I’m obsessed.

“It’s All Coming Back to Me Now” (“Glee” Cast Version) - Nadia

Every summer, I rewatch “Glee”, and every summer, Rachel Berry makes me scream. I will go to my grave saying that she had a terrible character arc and did not deserve all her solos. Maybe it’s also the fact that Lea Michelle underwent multiple controversies, including an allegation if

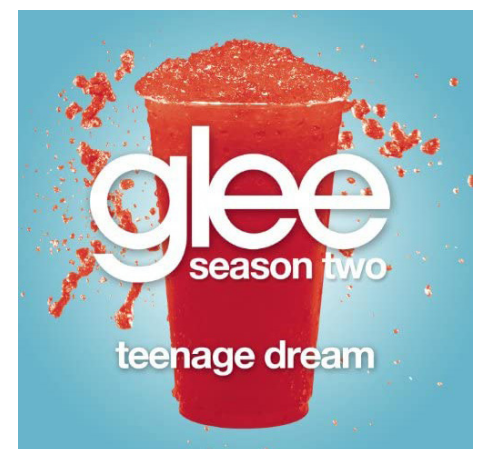
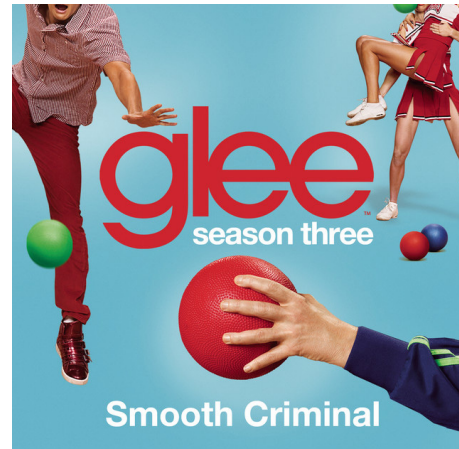
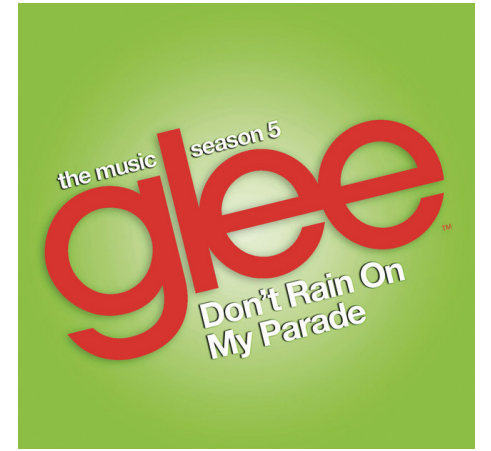
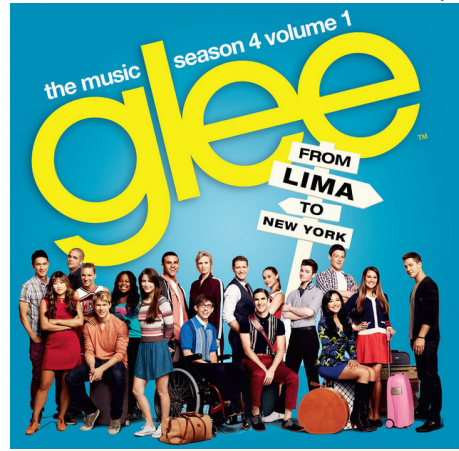
she could read. Anyways, one of the most heart-swelling moments of the series, no I am not including seasons 4-6, is Berry’s solo of the classic Celine Dion song at Nationals. How am I not supposed to cry?

“Teenage Dream” (“Glee” Cast Version) - Nadia

Blaine Anderson is hands down one of the most talented characters to emerge in the entire show. Darren Criss most likely beat out every original artist when he performed a cover in Glee. This includes “Cough Syrup,” “Animal,” and “Baby, It’s Cold Outside.” Criss is an amazing performer which was proved when he played Harry Potter in a “A Very Potter Musical.” Of course, this song was a perfect introduction into the Warblers and Criss’s entrance into the show.

“Touch-a Touch-a Touch-a Touch Me” (“Glee” Cast Version) - Jake

Okay hear me out. The “Rocky Horror Glee Show” may be the show’s best musical feature. I’m biased — it reminds me of my own school’s struggles producing shows that



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKI



the rural Illinoisans found less than savory. This song in particular scratches an itch in my brain, Ms. Pillsbury, played by Jayma Mays, doesn’t sing often but in this episode she shines. The scene of Mr. Schue, played by Matthew Morrison, shirtless is as horrifying as Rocky Horror. Shield your eyes!

# CROSSWORD

**BANNED BOOKS** By John M. Samson

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
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51	52								53			
54					55		56	57	58		59	60 61
62					63					64		
65					66					67		
68					69					70		

**ACROSS**

- 1) Lindsay of "Machete"
- 6) "You're a Grand Old Flag" composer
- 11) Gig gear
- 14) Coffeeshop allure
- 15) Antipasto bit
- 16) Birth-named
- 17) Reason to award a Navy Cross
- 18) Muscular power
- 19) Lyricist Gershwin
- 20) Banned Sinclair Lewis book
- 22) Karaoke need
- 23) Milky Way unit
- 24) Give laughing gas to
- 26) Cash-back deals
- 30) Onion in cocktails
- 31) "\_ y Plata" (Montana motto)
- 32) Sniggler
- 34) Travels like Huck Finn
- 37) Do some logrolling
- 39) Like a wink and a nod
- 41) Au naturel
- 42) Ply with drink
- 44) Inquisitor \_ de Torquemada
- 46) Leg it
- 4 7) Lock of hair
- 49) Take a nosedive
- 51) Software instruction file
- 53) Assayer's sample
- 54) Pipe bend
- 55) Banned Grace Metalious book
- 62) Bro, say
- 63) Comhusker State city
- 64) Mete out
- 65) As well
- 66) Fired up again
- 67) Bulgaria's capital
- 68) Sloppy digs
- 69) Blissful spots
- 70) Grown-up cygnets

**DOWN**

- 1) Wash up
- 2) Graduate exam, maybe
- 3) Holly who dethroned Ronda Rousey
- 4) Microscope slide creature
- 5) Do a voice-over
- 6) \_Nostra
- 7) Lena of "Alias"
- 8) Subtle suggestion
- 9) Not at all eager
- 10) Time for resolutions
- 11) Banned George Orwell book
- 12) Cause for a raise
- 13) Hippie sign-off
- 21) Do a host's job
- 25) Totally blah
- 26) LBJ son-in-law Charles
- 27) Clinton's canal
- 28) Banned Brendan Behan book
- 29) Shutter parts
- 30) Gussy up
- 33) Prefix with "sphere"
- 35) Tried partner
- 36) Mailed off
- 38) Lady's man
- 40) Condor's gripper
- 43) President pro\_
- 45) Do one better than
- 48) Appeared to be
- 50) Laid-back
- 51) Takes five
- 52) "The Waste Land" author
- 56) Where the Clintons met
- 57) Like a dime, in a saying
- 58) Nosebag morsels
- 59) Sporty Italian car, briefly
- 60) Slot insert
- 61) Depot postings, briefly



# SPORTS

## Rachel Pitman promoted to associate head coach for women's soccer

By **NOAH TOMOKO-JONES**  
Contributing Writer

Even though she's just been promoted, Rachel Pitman isn't too worried.

In fact, her new position as the associate head coach of the DePaul women's soccer team seems like the perfect way for her to continue the momentum that has carried her throughout her career in soccer.

Born and raised in Bristol, England, Pitman connected with soccer early on.

"When I'm like three years old, I've got football kits on," Pitman said. "Just, constantly, I just had football kits on growing up."

This was an experience not uncommon on the Isles.

"Our country is mad about football, and I've grown up just being surrounded by the game," she said. "I was surrounded by everything that encompasses football in England."

Her father, who first introduced her to the sport, was also a huge motivator for her to begin playing, and that drive from him helped her secure a spot on one of the few girls' teams in her area. However, that motivation did not come without some pressure.

"I don't think my dad ever turned to me and said, 'oh, you had a great game,'" she admitted. "You know, he was my biggest critic, but to other people, he was my biggest fan."

In the car rides home from her matches, her father would be pointing out the ways she could improve. While this may not be some people's chosen method of inspiration, Pitman took it and turned it into fuel for the fire.

"My dad is a large part of the success I had," she said. "I think if it wasn't for him always kind of being on me a little bit, I would've maybe just settled for okay, and I think he really pushed me to be great."

Their relentless push for her greatness got her all the way to Bristol Center for Excellence after they selected her from trials. From there, she was scouted by the England youth team and helped lead them to the U-17 World Cup Semifinals.



**Rachel Pitman, associate head coach, was part of the DePaul women's soccer team that went to back-to-back NCAA Tournaments in 2013 and 2014.**

PHOTO | DEPAUL ATHLETICS

After this extensive teeth-cutting in England and a two-year stint with Arsenal, Pitman decided to play at a Division I level and enrolled at DePaul. However, the move required some starting from scratch.

"My freshman year, I think we won three games total," she said. "It was really tough, and it wasn't through a lack of effort. ... We were right there, but just not enough."

For some, that would be enough to kill the lifelong momentum that had been pushing her this whole time. Pitman realized this too.

"It would've been easy for me, as a freshman, to say, 'We've won like three games here. I'm going to go somewhere else,' but that's not what I wanted," Pitman

said. "That's not what I believed in. I stuck with DePaul because I knew the progress we could make."

The perseverance and loyalty paid off. In her senior year, they had a 20-match winning streak and won the Big East tournament title.

Since then, through her time as assistant coach and now associate head coach, she has taken that goal of perseverance with her, and it has only been furthered by her close working relationship with head coach Michele O'Brien.

"I think we have a really good balance," O'Brien said. "We're similar enough that we work well together and then we're different enough that we work well together."

O'Brien was DePaul's assistant coach

when Pitman started on the team and saw her natural drive long before she ever saw her play. Pitman had been out with an injury when O'Brien visited her during scouting.

"So I kind of took a gamble on her, to be honest, 'cause I hadn't seen her play, you know," O'Brien said. "I just liked her personality. You could tell her demeanor was, she was serious about soccer."

Her instinct paid off, and she found a devoted and hard-working player, a connection that blossomed into the close coaching dynamic they have today.

"Knowing that I have the loyalty of an associate head coach is something that you really, I mean, you can't take for granted," O'Brien said. "The team respects her as much as they would respect me and listen to the same information, and it's no different."

When Pitman coaches the team, "she says it in a way that comes across as, you know, critical information, but never like belittling or demeaning," O'Brien said.

Both Pitman and O'Brien shared the belief that the DePaul team is defined by their "gritty, blue collar mentality," as O'Brien describes it.

But as Pitman points out, that does not come without effort.

"I think that's a learned skill and a learned behavior," Pitman said. "So I think we'll always try to implement that to our team because that's the foundation. If you don't have that, it's gonna be really hard to kind of do what we wanna do."

DePaul junior forward Beth Smyth described Pitman as "a very personal coach," something Smyth learned early after Pitman traveled to her family's home in Manchester in order to scout Smyth for DePaul.

Since then, Smyth said Pitman "has helped me grow as a player both on and off pitch."

Smyth has not felt too bothered by Pitman's move up to associate head coach, saying that "change is natural."

Her focus, and the rest of the team's, has remained the same.

"The goal is always to win the Big East championship," Smyth said.

## Morrow criticizes DePaul basketball program in recent comments

By **PRESTON ZBROSZCZYK**  
Asst. Sports Editor

### COMMENTARY

When the news was announced on April 5 that sophomore All-American Aneesah Morrow would enter the transfer portal, it wasn't shocking news having covered the team all season. With their lack of consistent winning, that possibly became more realistic.

This past season Morrow added to her already impressive freshman campaign. She averaged 25 points per game and another double-double. Morrow was making her way as possibly the best women's player in the program's history.

The Chicago native from Simeon High School chose DePaul because she wanted to be the next great to stay in the area and make a name for herself.

DePaul finished with a 16-17, and a sense of visible frustration was noticed not only with players on the team but also with Morrow. Body language after losses, postgame press conferences and its repetitive answers were caused by the lack of winning.

It was evident Morrow felt she deserved better and truly wanted the spotlight on her.

Morrow took to social media to announce her commitment to LSU on May 5. After already winning a national championship and gaining former Louisville guard Hailey Van Lith, the Tigers will clearly be favorites to start the season.

Morrow teamed up with Cactus AI to announce her commitment. Cactus AI, which is similar to ChatGPT, is an AI powered language model that effectively writes prompts.

In her commitment Morrow asked the AI several questions that criticized DePaul. When asked what resources are needed to improve as a player, the AI responded with elite coaches, players that will push you and better facilities.

On May 18, NBC sat down with Morrow about her transfer to LSU. In the interview, Morrow said that she wanted to win.

"I don't want empty seasons, and all those stats mean nothing if you don't win," Morrow said.

Morrow was also amazed how recognized she was by fans who wanted photos



JACK DOMBRO | THE DEPAULIA

**Morrow announced her commitment to LSU on May 5 through her social media platforms.**

and autographs, something that was not the case at DePaul.

It is clear that there is not a support system of fans at DePaul, and if there is, it is small. DePaul women's basketball games had little to no fans at Wintrust Area besides family and opposing team fans.

How does a team only achieve a First Four appearance in the NCAA Tournament, along with only one Big East Tournament game in two seasons with arguably the best player to walk through

the program?

Does Morrow's shade to DePaul basketball and its athletics hold true? The lack of facilities and resources available has been brought up from time to time compared to even the rest of the Big East, let alone the rest of the country.

Not to mention that compared to the name, image, and Likeness (NIL) that Morrow will receive at LSU, DePaul does not even come close.



## SPORTS

## Redemption



LUCAS PARADES | THE DEPAULIA

After going 8-29 in the middle parts of the season, DePaul took 2 of the 3 against UConn and swept Georgetown making a late push at the end of the season and clinching a Big East Tournament spot.

## Demons endure season of adversity, find success in Big East Tourney

BY TOM GORSKI

Sports Editor

After being considered the Big East front runner in the preseason coaches poll, DePaul encountered a season of adversity. With the high expectations, the team faced a series of setbacks, including an eight-game losing streak, followed by challenges posed by an inexperienced pitching staff and offense that struggled to recapture its previous success.

In spite of its lackluster regular season, DePaul showcased its true potential in the Big East Tournament. The Blue Demons won two games and came close to advancing to the tournament championship, falling short in the semi-finals with a 4-1 defeat against Villanova.

"There's no denying that our season didn't go the way we wanted it to go," said head coach Tracie Adix-Zins. "I think at the end of the day, the last three weeks is the team that I was expecting the entire year. So to have that be how our end was, I mean you can't ask for much more of a way to end our season."

DePaul began its campaign with a promising start, winning its first four games and showing early potential. However, the team's fortunes took a turn as they struggled throughout the remainder of the regular season, ending with a disappointing 13-30 record that plummeted them to the bottom of the Big East standings.

"I think the way we finished at the end kind of fixed a lot of those ups and downs," said sophomore infielder Baylee Cosgrove. "We just had a new mindset and tried to re-group and I think that the way we did come back and bounce back after that showed a lot. We're really proud of ourselves for that."

The Blue Demons welcomed a wave of fresh faces to the roster, hoping to bring renewed energy and potential. While some bumps in the road were anticipated due to this transition, what caught the team off guard was the inconsistency at the plate. DePaul finished the season with a .263 batting average, much lower than last season's average of .285.

This inconsistency at the plate was not



ERIN HENZE | THE DEPAULIA

The Blue Demons pitching staff had a combined earned run average (ERA) of 5.40 this season.

offset by the inexperienced pitching staff that struggled throughout the season. The entire pitching staff was replaced with fresh new faces, which include freshman Bella Nigey, Abbey Pochie, senior transfer Brenna Smith and sophomore Katey Pierce.

"We were all new on the mound and didn't return a single pitcher," Adix-Zins said. "I think that creates a lot of uncertainty and that's normal. I don't think they really grasped how hard of a learning curve it was going to be until midway through the season."

DePaul's pitching staff this past season struggled with a 5.60 ERA compared to last season's 4.20 ERA. Nigey was arguably the Blue Demons' ace with a 4.54 ERA, but that is a huge difference compared to Sarah Lehman's dominant 2.82 ERA last season that won 14 games on the mound.

The team's inability to live up to expectations resonated with senior first baseman Brooke Johnson. She was a part of last season's team that showed promise heading at

the end of the last school year. As a leader in the clubhouse, Johnson played a key role in the team's turnaround.

"I think everyone wishes we would have started off how we ended [in 2022]," Johnson said. "I think that UConn weekend, we knew we had to come out and be the best that we could and I think that just pushed us through the rest of the season."

DePaul ended the season winning five of its last six games, which resulted in a Big East Tournament appearance. The team was battle tested and faced tremendous pressure as they had to sweep the last series of the season to lock in a playoff spot. They controlled their own destiny.

The Blue Demons swept Georgetown to secure a playoff spot, winning with ease by outscoring the Hoyas, 25-10. As the team recorded the final out, a sense of relief hit the players immediately knowing all of their hard work had paid off and they would be on their way to Storrs, Connecticut.

"It was very relieving ... like that whole weekend," Johnson said. "Every single game felt like the postseason, and it was a lot of pressure. It definitely prepared us for the tournament."

As soon as DePaul got in, they lost to three seeded Seton Hall 5-4, but since the tournament was double elimination, they were able to pick up two straight wins and took down four-seeded Butler 4-2 and five seeded St. John's 8-4.

"I'm just proud of everyone, and I think we just knew we could do it and for some reason it didn't click at the beginning of the year," Johnson said. "We lost to the two teams that were in the championship, so it was good. I'm not mad about it [the team's performance] at all."

After DePaul's win over the Red Storm, they found themselves in a close game with two seeded Villanove but lost 4-1, ending its season. Both were tied 1-1 heading into the sixth inning until the Wildcats scored the go-ahead run and added two more insurance runs in the seventh inning to pull out the victory.

"I think we ended on a high note," Adix-Zins said of the team's tournament performance. "The hardest part about the tournament was we did have a lot of returning players who had played in it, but we were just missing the experience on the mound. I'm proud of what they brought to the table and I think it really is just a building block point for next year."

DePaul's late-season resurgence and strong tournament performance demonstrated its resilience, while highlighting the areas that need improvement. With high expectations set for next season, the team is focused on building off its recent tournament success, hoping it translates to a more balanced and consistent team on the field next season.

"The expectation is going to be more disciplined," Adix-Zins said of next season's expectations. "We are going to be a team that operates itself at the highest level, but we're going to be disciplined about what we're putting on the field. I think our last three weeks are exactly what DePaul softball is."