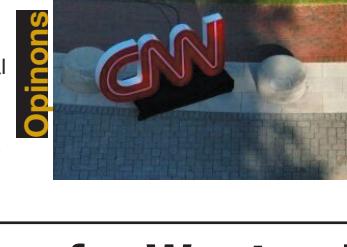




Pg. 2

Jerome Adams Q&A

Jerome Adams, the former United States Surgeon General, discussed health issues at Purdue from mental health and its importance for students to the syringe exchange program he helped start as the Indiana State Health Commissioner.



Opinions

What's Inside

Pg. 5

Journalist arrested

The arrest of independent journalist Don Lemon has stirred up many opinions in the journalism community, but raises bigger questions on the ethics of objective journalism.

Photos



Pg. 9

2016

A lot has changed, or stayed the same, on campus, in West Lafayette, and in the world since 2016. Ten years ago, members of The Exponent photos desk captured things as they were. Now, the 2026 Exponent photos desk displays a select few of these photos.

Purdue Jazz Band opens show for Wynton Marsalis' Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

BY MALAK ELZAALOK

Staff Reporter

The Purdue Jazz Band held its own space Saturday night while sharing a stage with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by Wynton Marsalis, in a performance that emphasized Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, grit, and musical history.

This event was an especially significant one for Bethany Robinson, the Purdue Jazz Band Director, as Jazz at Lincoln Center was the place where she had learned proper jazz pedagogy. She worked alongside Marsalis for years, learning not only how to teach jazz but also how to lead a jazz band.

"This meant everything," Robinson said. "This is the institution where I really learned how to be a jazz band director. When I didn't know, this is where I came. I owe so much of my life to this place and to Wynton, because of how much it transformed me."

Robinson's transformation had taken her worldwide to spread her wisdom of jazz. She went to Scotland, Germany, and Australia, went across the country, and ended up at Purdue.

Despite the Purdue Jazz Band being composed of engineers, physicists, and data scientists, Robinson held her band to the same standard she had for any other student.

"Even though they're not music majors, they are fantastic musicians," Robinson said. "They hold themselves to a high standard, and they put in the work every day. We're incredibly proud of them."

Beyond personal weight, the performance also carried a lot of historical weight for the musicians and their audience.

Alexa Tarantino, saxophonist, composer, and first female member of JLCO, shared that the Togo Brava Suite the orchestra had played was the same suite played by Duke Ellington at Purdue University in 1974, just weeks prior to his passing.

"That was really incredible to find out when I was looking online, thanks to the Purdue Exponent," Tarantino said. "It was a real honor for us, because we worked really hard to get

these pieces transcribed from the original recordings. To come here and play it in the same space and community that Duke Ellington originally performed it for was very moving."

For the Purdue students in the audience, this connection was just as moving.

Austin Guerrero, a sophomore in electrical engineering, jazz enthusiast, and longtime independent saxophonist, came to the show to support his peers performing in the band and was pleased with the show.

"I have a really deep personal connection to jazz music," Guerrero said. "I've never actually seen a professional big band in concert before, so getting to hear that for the first time was really special. I was on the fence about coming because school's been busy, but I got tickets last minute and it was definitely worth it. No regrets."

Jazz enjoyer, part time player, and junior in finance Matthew Beard, described his decision to see the show with his friends as a "a really fun thing to do after a stressful week of classes."

Upon reflecting after the show, Beard shared the moment that stayed with him most, a classic Ellington ballad written by Billy Stayhorn, titled "Lotus Blossom."

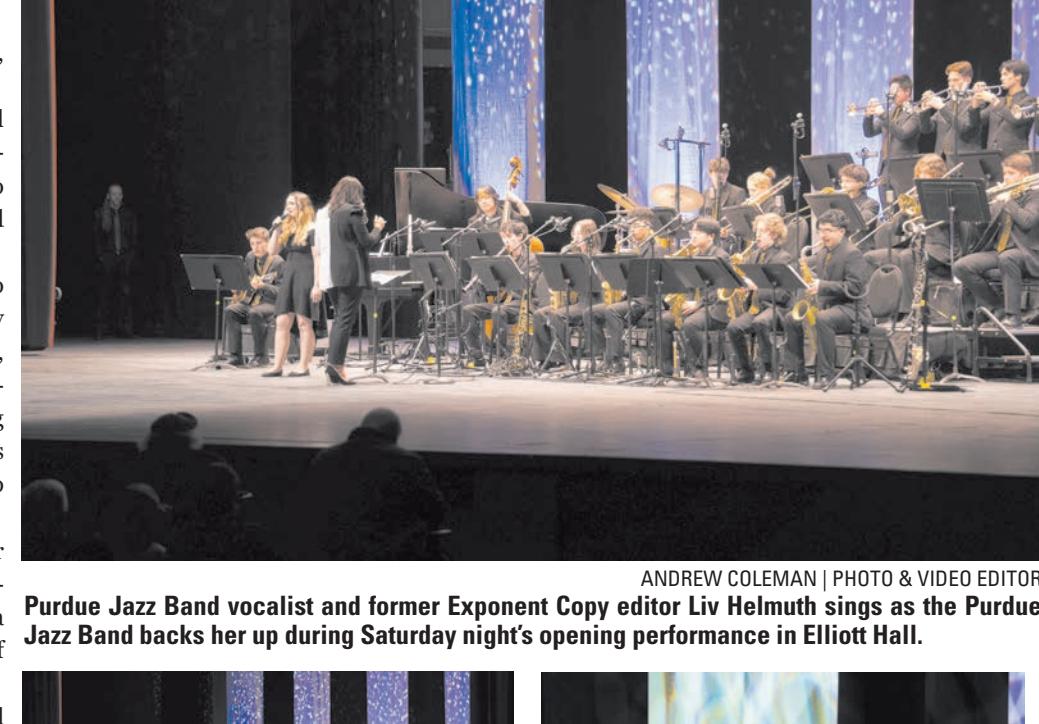
"My favorite song they played was this really slow song. They started off with the pianist playing this slow melody," Beard said. "It felt kind of haunting and nostalgic, and you could hear people crying in the crowd."

The show closed with another Ellington song, "Cotton Tail," a much faster-paced song than the prior. It showcased each section of the orchestra with the focus it demanded.

Both the JLCO and the Purdue Jazz Band embodied the night's theme, from Dr. King's legacy to the grit and talent of jazz.

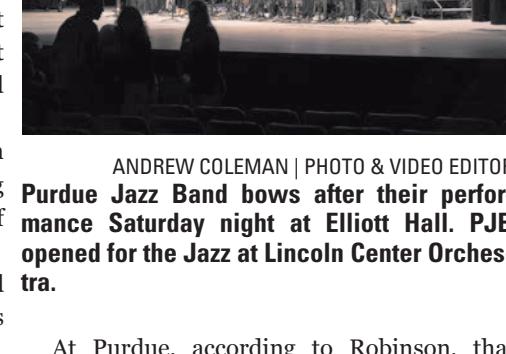
Tarantino advises the young musicians, both in and out of the band, to uphold their love of jazz.

"Really take the time to be disciplined about practicing and listening to recordings and learning about jazz history," Tarantino said. "Ask questions and be around people who are actually playing the music."



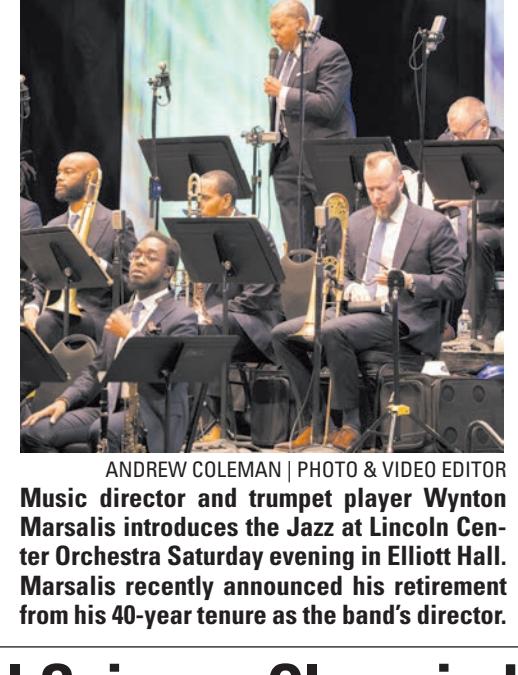
ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR

Purdue Jazz Band vocalist and former Exponent Copy editor Liv Helmuth sings as the Purdue Jazz Band backs her up during Saturday night's opening performance in Elliott Hall.



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR

Purdue Jazz Band bows after their performance Saturday night at Elliott Hall. PJB opened for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR

Music director and trumpet player Wynton Marsalis introduces the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Saturday evening in Elliott Hall. Marsalis recently announced his retirement from his 40-year tenure as the band's director.

STEM students gather on campus to participate in annual Science Olympiad

BY AMELIA ANGELONE

Asst. Campus Editor

Purdue hosted students from around the country this Saturday to facilitate the Purdue Invitational Science Olympiad. As a major science, technology, engineering, and math school, Purdue students volunteered alongside multiple colleges under Purdue's umbrella to host the competition, encouraging grade-school students to pursue STEM interests.

Students participated in a variety of STEM competitions, including circuitry, forensics, meteorology, geology, astronomy, and robotics. Build events allowed participating teams to build bungee drops, Rube Goldberg machines, and functioning helicopters.

Samantha Escudero, a science teacher at Warren Central High School in Indianapolis, said the competition gave students a way to grow, make mistakes in a safe environment, and encourage them to pursue passions in STEM fields.

"I love seeing how passionate the kids are about learning at the different events and how they're open to trying out new things that they might not have tried otherwise," said Escudero, who coaches alongside one other teacher for Warren Central's Science Olympiad team.

Erika Glombicki, the Science Olympiad coach at Wilbur Wright Middle School in Munster, Indiana, said that watching her students grow over the course of the season was the most important part of the competition for her. Her daughter, Emilia Glombicki, has participated in the Olympiad for the past four years alongside her brother.

"(The competition) gets the kids to be resilient and learn that failure is okay. It's what you learn from mistakes to make it better at the next tournament or the next event that matters," Erika said.

Spencer Deery, West Lafayette's GOP state senator, voted against President Trump's push to redistrict Indiana's congressional districts. Now, the president wants someone else representing the district.

Trump endorsed Deery's opponent in the 23rd Senate District's GOP primary, Paula Copenhaver, on the social media platform Truth Social Tuesday evening.

The Trump endorsement was one of several he has made in recent days against the Republican state senators who doomed the effort to redistrict Indiana's congressional districts.

Trump called Copenhaver a "MAGA Warrior" and called her "A WINNER WHO WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!"

In the same post, Trump tore into Deery, calling him an "America Last politician" and a "RINO", an acronym standing for 'Republican in name only', commonly used against Republicans deemed insufficiently loyal to the president.

Paula is running against an incompetent and ineffective RINO incumbent named Spencer Deery who, for whatever reason, betrayed his voters by voting against Redistricting in Indiana.

Emilia said competing in such a broad scientific competition gives her the ability to feel out what she's interested in STEM in a supportive environment. With so many fields available to compete in, students are not limited in what they get to explore in the world of science.

"I've tried so many events — some of them I've absolutely loved and some of them I've absolutely hated. It's just good to know," Emilia said.

Middle school students Ray Callahan and Charlize Barber of Kahler Middle School said the competition also gave them the opportunity to meet new people with similar interests.

Barber said the forensics competition Crime Busters gave her the ability to connect with other STEM-minded students during the competition and exam portion. Multiple students said they were able to bond with others during exam portions when going over a shared difficult question.

Anandi Durgam, a first-year engineering student who has been participating in Science Olympiad since her sophomore year, said she has made lasting bonds through her time in Olympiad and that she has learned real-world problem-solving through the STEM events.

"I think invitationals are very good for... (making students realize) 'Wait, maybe I can get better at this. Maybe I am capable of doing it,'" Durgam said, speaking about how her time in the Science Olympiad with her brother helped encourage her into pursuing a degree in engineering at Purdue.

She said the style of the competition helped her develop the real-life skills she would need to face challenges in the engineering field in college and after.

"You're shown there are alternative ways to do things and it really makes you think critically, like an engineer," Durgam said. "You don't just solve problems that have answers in the real world — you've got to make that answer for yourself."

Trump endorses primary opponent to West Lafayette's state senator Spencer Deery

BY RONAK MOHANTY

Staff Reporter

Spencer Deery, West Lafayette's GOP state senator, voted against President Trump's push to redistrict Indiana's congressional districts. Now, the president wants someone else representing the district.

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ana," Trump said in the Truth Social post.

Copenhaver jumped into the race last November and explicitly mentioned the Indiana Senate stalling redistricting as part of her reason for running.

Copenhaver serves in the executive office of Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith as the Governmental Affairs Director – North, and previously ran for the Republican nomination in 2022 in a four-way race.

Copenhaver finished third in 2022, winning 22.9% of the vote to Deery's 30.8%. Deery won the general election by about 27 points in 2022.

Deery, on the other hand, has earned the endorsement of Mitch Daniels, former Purdue President and Indiana Governor.

Daniels gave the endorsement in a pre-recorded video played before Deery's campaign kickoff in mid-January.

In the video, he called Deery someone who has "served with dignity, seriousness and purpose. Absolutely faithful to the conservative principles, principles that I try to live by, and certainly has compiled a record that fully justifies his continuing on."

Deery also has the support of his other two opponents from

his 2022 primary: Bill Webster, who earned 27% that year, finishing second, and Christian Beaver, who earned 19.3%, finishing fourth in 2022.

Deery had downplayed the chances of Trump wading into the primary during his campaign kickoff, but was confident he'd win regardless of whether Trump endorsed a candidate or not.

"It hasn't happened yet," Deery said at the time, referring to a potential Trump endorsement of his opponent, "and I don't know we'll have that happen, but I think it's safe to say there will be D.C. influences. But like I said, Hoosiers are going to decide this election, not D.C. influences, and Hoosiers want Hoosier voices. So we'll be all right."

Mirroring Deery's confidence is Trump, who posted an image of internal polling showing Copenhaver turning a 22-point deficit into a 31-point lead after a potential Trump endorsement.

The polling was conducted by the firm Fabrizio, Lee & Associates, which also served as the chief pollsters for all three Trump campaigns.

The seat Deery and Copenhaver are jockeying for is solidly red, leaving the primary victor in a strong position to eventually represent the seat in Indianapolis.

Q&A: Jerome Adams, former United States Surgeon General, discusses health issues in Purdue, Tippecanoe

BY OLIVIA MAPES
Editor-In-Chief

Jerome Adams, who was Indiana State Health Commissioner from 2014 to 2017 and the 20th United States Surgeon General from 2017 to 2021, sat down with The Purdue Exponent to talk about health issues. Adams talked about issues specific to Purdue and the local community, especially as he currently works as executive director of the Center for Community Health Enhancement and Learning at Purdue.

Q: I know you were the 20th Surgeon General, and now you're at Purdue. Can you just explain a bit about your role and the roles you have had?

A: I grew up in a rural community in Southern Maryland, where our nearest hospital was 45 minutes away. It was a critical access hospital, which means that it's underfunded, (and) oftentimes, didn't have specialty care. And believe it or not, my first time going to Washington, D.C. was being medevacked in a helicopter when I was eight years old because I had an asthma attack that was so severe they couldn't treat it at the local hospital, and so they had to medevac me out. And so, I give you that as context, because my personal history and medical history really helped me see in a very tangible way, the challenges people have accessing health care and staying healthy.

Even though I grew up in Maryland, there were a lot of similarities between where I grew up and a lot of the challenges people have here in Indiana, rural communities, often-times not close to hospitals or even to major academic centers. It was a big deal in my community for people to go to college... What's interesting is my kids are now in Fishers, Indiana. They have doctors living all around them, so they absolutely believe it's possible to be a doctor, but for me, I

didn't even know what that entailed.

Whenever students reach out to me here at Purdue and ask to speak with me, I'm passionate about trying to make time for them, because I didn't have that when I was growing up.

When I went to medical school, I actually got involved in the American Medical Association Student Section. They're an advocacy group for student doctors, the American Medical Association Student Section, and by going to their meetings, that introduced me to the power of advocacy, that even as a student, I could talk to legislators.

Q: What do you think are the main health challenges, specifically in Tippecanoe County, that students should be aware of?

A: Mental health is a big deal. Every county we talk to, every community we talk to, says that mental health is one of their top concerns. That's depression, that's anxiety, and that's substance misuse. We tend to look at mental health from a deficit perspective, diagnosis and treatment – you have a problem, let's try to address it. I'm really trying to help people think more about it from a capacity-building and wellness perspective.

When you look at a college student, we don't want to wait until you're depressed, until you're anxious, until you're suicidal, to intervene. We want to help you understand what it means to live healthy, to live in a healthy manner and that's everything from eating right to taking care of yourself during cold and flu season, so you're not stressed out when you're taking a test.

We've got many out-of-state and out-of-country students, all those things, and being aware of the dangers of engaging in substance issues, alcohol misuse, and stimulants. Interestingly enough, at a place like Purdue, we don't have the same chal-

lenges with opioids that you might see at other campuses that are more likely to party, but you do hear a lot about stimulant issues because the pressures to study are so intense and to stay at the top of your class.

Another issue that we're focused on is nutrition and obesity. So again, on a college campus in particular, this is when you're establishing your lifestyle habits. You know, you're an adult, first time you're out of the house, and so it's important to understand what good nutrition and proper eating looks like. It's important to understand and establish habits for physical activity.

I talk at Boiler Gold Rush every year to the incoming students and really focus on the things you need to do to stay healthy. We talk about loneliness, we talk about mental health, we talk about physical health, we talk about sexual health, and really understanding things like consent and being safe. So those are the things we're talking about on campus, but we also see those things happen in the broader community. And so those are things we're addressing in the broader world.

Q: I know you said the opioid crisis isn't as bad on Purdue's campus, but I know there's a lot (of opioid usage) in Lafayette.

A: It's all about connection and syringe services programs. They help lower the risk of hepatitis, HIV, communicable diseases, because you're giving people clean syringes instead of forcing them to reuse dirty syringes.

The challenge is there's a lot of stigma against that, because some people feel that if you're giving someone a clean syringe, then you're enabling and implicitly telling them that you're okay with their drug use. Now, I say that's the concern folks have, but the data actually shows that when you have a syringe services program, not only



OLIVIA MAPES | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Executive Director of the Center for Community Health Enhancement and Learning at Purdue Jerome Adams sits in his office.

do you lower rates of infectious disease, which lowers medical expenses for the individual and for the state, but you also connect people with care. You increase their likelihood of getting into recovery programs. So they come in and they're seeing someone who cares about them, and they're offered treatment. And you know, they may not accept the offer of treatment the first time, the 10th time, the 50th time, but maybe the 75th time they come in, they're ready for treatment. It's been shown to increase the chances of people getting into recovery, in addition to helping them stay physically healthy.

There's actually a bill in the legislature right now looking to extend the Indiana permission for syringe services programs, and it passed out of the Senate Health Committee, I believe, unanimously, either unanimously or 13 to 1, but overwhelmingly passed out of the committee. When I was the Indiana State Health Commissioner, that was when we actually legalized syringe services programs in Indiana. So it's something that I've been following closely, because it's something that I helped make possible in Indiana.

Q: How could people get involved in helping their community with health initiatives?

A: What we need to do is realize that everyone's contribution is going to be different. What I tell people is to lean into what you're passionate about. For me, I have asthma, for instance, and so I'm passionate about raising awareness about asthma. My wife is a melanoma survivor, so she really likes to talk about sun safety. So whenever I go out on campus in the spring or in the fall, and I see people talking about sunscreen and sun safety, I always stop by and take a picture with them and support them. For some people, they like biking and being outside, so it's encouraging physical activity. Some people like cooking. Find out what you're passionate about, and there's going to be a group out there and/or a way to lean into health.

Unfortunately, a lot of people have been touched by the opioid epidemic. I have a brother who suffers from substance use disorder, so again, for me, I'm very passionate about Naloxone and increasing availability of Naloxone, but it's really about finding your interest, your passion, and then seeking out ways that you can contribute.

You can contribute as a Surgeon General, but you can also contribute as a student.

This Q&A with Jerome Adams has been cut down to fit in print. Read the full Q&A online at purdueexponent.org.

Bible Study 9:15am

Worship 10:30am and 5pm

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Saturday Night Lafayette promotes mental health awareness

BY JULIA MORRISS
Asst. City Editor

Saturday Night Live — Lafayette edition — is coming to Tippecanoe County. On Feb. 7, the West Central Indiana National Alliance on Mental Illness chapter is hosting Saturday Night Lafayette, an SNL-themed comedy gala. The night is intended to raise funds for Tippecanoe County mental health resources.

Breanna Burbridge, the Director of Development and Communications for NAMI West Central Indiana and the coordinator of Saturday Night Lafayette, said that although NAMI WCI has hosted galas in the past, this is the first comedy-centered event.

"We thought, 'What better way to raise money for mental health than to laugh together?'" Burbridge said.



EXONENT FILE PHOTO

Performers for "The Crazy Monkeys" act out a skit about who has the best spoon and if the size of the spoon matters.

The gala will feature Purdue's premier comedy troupe, The Crazy Monkeys, whose sketches will include several local celebrities. This list of celebrities includes local influencer Elyse Daniel, One Size Fits All comedian Kyle Brown, and Popular Science writer Andrew Paul.



EXONENT FILE PHOTO

Liam Hostetler, a former member of "The Crazy Monkeys", gives insane advice by acting as Sergeant "Jack Mehoff" during a skit.

In addition to these star-studded sketches, the gala will also include a musical performance from local drag queen Veronica Fox.

The sketches and performances are meant to capture the light-hearted personality of Lafayette, according to Burbridge.

The gala will also feature an awards presentation. NAMI WCI will be presenting its annual mental health awards: Peer Advocate of the Year, a Light in the Darkness, Professional Advocate of the Year, and CIT Officer of the Year.

Burbridge said the goal of the gala is to bring the serious topic of mental illness into a more light-hearted environment.

"I'm most excited about the awareness and general exposure that has the potential to arise from this event," Burbridge said. "And (furthermore) individuals with mental illness getting the support they need."

All proceeds from the event will go directly to the mental health programs and services NAMI WCI provides to individuals in Tippecanoe County. The alliance provides 24/7 crisis de-escalation, classes for people with mental illness, and community presentations.

The gala is set to take place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 7 at the Stables Event Center. Tickets are \$70 each and include a meal provided by The Stables Event Center Catering Company. Those interested can purchase their tickets on NAMI WCI's website.

POLICE BEAT PURDUE

Tuesday

A man in dark clothes with a "creepy vibe" was reported outside Hillenbrand Residence Hall at 8:45 p.m., according to police logs. He was reported to have left the area by 8:50 p.m.

Wednesday

A mouse was reported running around the atrium of Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering at 4:09 p.m.

WEST LAFAYETTE

Tuesday

An individual reported fraudulent bank charges on their account about 11:45 a.m. in the 1700 block of Northwestern Avenue.

A theft was reported about 2:30 p.m. in the 100 block of Pierce Street.

A phone was reported stolen from an Amazon package about 4 p.m. in the 400 block of Grant Street.

Wednesday

An individual was banned from RISE on Chauncey about 9:40 a.m.

A fraud was reported about 8:20 p.m. in the 200 block of East State Street.

An individual was banned from the Circle K located on Sagamore Parkway about 9:15 p.m.

Thursday

Kenneth McMullen, 50, was arrested for allegedly operating a vehicle while intoxicated about 4:30 a.m. near the intersection of Sagamore Parkway North and Duncan Road.

An individual reported being scammed out of \$1,000 about 1 p.m. in the 600 block of Elijah Street.

All person(s) charged or preliminarily charged are presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

— Compiled by Amelia Angelone, asst. campus editor, and Aditi Kapadia, managing & campus editor

STOLEN BIKE COUNTER

In this edition: 0

Total: 5



West Lafayette youth mobilize against ICE

BY JULIA MORRISS AND ALFREDO DI PALMA
Asst. City Editors

Not even the cold of a midwestern winter could deter West Lafayette high schoolers as they gathered to protest against ICE. Marching from their high school parking lot to the Wabash and back, their dedication to standing against ICE was evident.

The march, which included dozens of young participants, was organized by West Lafayette High School students as part of the nationwide shutdown. The national shutdown was organized following the ICE shootings in Minneapolis, and called citizens of the United States to action by asking them not to attend classes, go to

you have to be," Davis said. "You have to pick. I hate to say that, but neutrality is a choice too."

The students had gathered before school to make posters and organize themselves, Davis said. Their school was aware of the walkout and had excused related absences, despite clarification that they were unable to take a stance as a public school.

The main focus of the protest was the ICE-related violence in Minneapolis. Many of the marchers carried signs denouncing the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, while some students questioned the very concept of deportation itself.

"I don't like deportation as a concept at all, let alone how it's being handled right now," said West Lafayette High senior Six Yother. "I just feel like they're definitely not doing anything good with it."

For many of the protestors, the actions of ICE agents hit close to home. With the recent detainment of five-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos in Minnesota, senior Kaylyn Good said she feels as if youth are more at-risk than ever.

"Kids are now being taken by ICE. Agents are now going to not only high schools, not only intermediate schools, but also elementary schools," Good said. "Not only is this a danger to us personally, but also a danger to many, many (other) young people."

Good said for her, it's important to show the West Lafayette community that ICE's actions are not just impacting adults but also kids like herself, who refuse to be bystanders to the violence.

"(ICE) is serious, we are aware of it, and we are also being affected by this," she said.

The protest served as an opportunity for many students to actively participate in advocacy — some of them for the first time. Davis, who admitted this was her first protest, said that as a high schooler, it can be difficult to become engaged in activism. She said protests like this are a



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR
West Lafayette High School students Kaylyn Good and Hazel Davis pose for a photo during Friday's ICE protest. The students protested as part of the National ICE Shutdown Day.

ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR
crowd erupted into cheers with every gesture of appreciation.

"It just feels amazing to be able to be a part of this," Good said. "I feel like everybody's really coming together."

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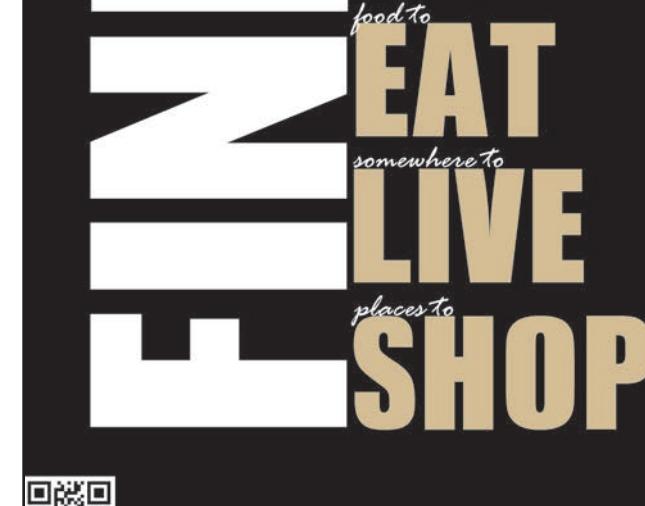
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MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
ONGOING

Live music at the PMU

Join Shaaban at the Hail Purdue Stage located at 101 Grant St. from 6-8 p.m. for a night of live music.

An evening with Mae Jemison

Join the Black Cultural Center at Loeb Playhouse for its Black History Month keynote featuring Dr. Mae Jemison, a physician, engineer, educator, and the first African American woman in space. Join as she speaks about representation, interdisciplinary thinking, and much more. The event is located at 128 Memorial Mall Dr., from 6-7 p.m.

ON GOING

OWL Liaison Hours at AAARCC

Purdue's On-Campus Writing Lab offers help every Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. at the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center, located at 915 Fifth St. It helps students with their writing skills, provides feedback on drafts, and improves writing organization. This Tuesday's feature is Professional Writing Specialist Jacqueline Borchert.

Dance All Out weekly class

Join the Dance All Out club every Friday night at 6 p.m. at the Corec MP2 located at 355 N. Martin Jischke Dr. K-pop, jazz, open, and Chinese traditional dance will be taught, and dancers of every level are welcome.

TUESDAY

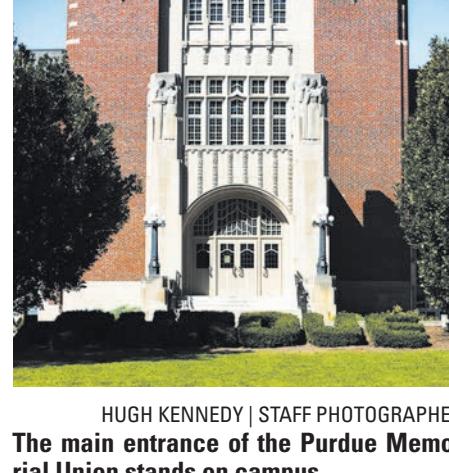
Spanish and Portuguese movie nights

— Zoot Suit

The Spanish and Portuguese Department is hosting a movie night featuring the film "Zoot Suit", which tells the story of a Mexican American boy in Los Angeles in the 1940s. The movie will be shown in room 239 of Stanley Coulter Hall, located at 640 Oval Dr., from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

PMU karaoke night

Enjoy music and entertainment at the Hail Purdue Stage at PMU from 6:30-8 p.m. Sing solo, with a team, or simply enjoy other performances.



HUGH KENNEDY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The main entrance of the Purdue Memorial Union stands on campus.

WEDNESDAY

Pizza and Politics

Join Dr. Ken Halpin of Purdue Athletics and Dr. Josh Boyd from the Brian Lamb School of Communication, in room 104 of the Wetherill Lab of Chemistry, located at 560 Oval Dr., as they discuss emerging NIL issues and the changing roles of alumni and donors from 6-7 p.m.

Ballroom dance lessons

Join the Varsity Dance Team and Latin & Ballroom Dance Team for weekly dance lessons focused on improving techniques, and dancers of all skill levels are welcome. The event will take place at PMU South Tower from 6-9 p.m.

UPCOMING

Jazz jams at the Union

Join the Purdue Bands and Orchestra at the PMU Hail Purdue stage for a showcase of campus talent and tunes. The event takes place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7-9 p.m.

Language and conversation practice

Join the AAARCC to practice Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian, and Vietnamese on Wednesdays and Korean and Tagalog on Fridays. The event is open to students of all levels and takes place from 3-4 p.m. Attendees will be able to practice conversation and language skills through various activities.

— Compiled by Neha Sajja, staff reporter

PAIGE MCMILLIN | GRAPHICS ARTIST
Indecisive Ink Industries



Squirrel of the week: A smart cookie

IN THIS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRIAN COOPER, A SQUIRREL MUNCHES ON A COOKIE IN THE TREETOPS. FOR A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR OWN PHOTO FEATURED, SEND YOUR SUBMISSION TO DIGITAL@PURDUEEXPONENT.ORG



SAWYER REBENNACK | GRAPHICS EDITOR GROUNDHOG DAY COMIC



OPINIONS

'Print Jockey'

EXPONENT FILE PHOTO



Where does journalistic objectivity end?

BY CONRAD HOSER

Opinions Editor

Journalist Don Lemon was recently arrested for allegedly violating people's First Amendment right to worship. If you want to read more about it, every other newspaper under the sun has coverage on it.

Lemon's arrest has stirred up a lot of emotions in the journalism space, which is understandable. Before you jump to one side or another on this, please just imagine that someone from your profession was arrested for what they claim was just doing their job. It would concern and probably enrage you.

That is what journalists felt when they heard of Lemon's arrest. Your first instinct is to immediately jump to your peer's defense, but that is where we encounter our conflict.

People often say that journalism must be objective. In fact, "objective journalism" was often taught as the standard since Walter Lippmann called for the media to take a scientific approach to the news. At the time trust in the media had dipped due to "yellow journalism" which used eye-catching and sensationalized headlines to sell copies.

Lippmann did most of his work in the 1920s. At the time the line between facts and values was often blurred. It was also the '20s that began to see journalism as a trained profession.

Throughout the 20th century the idea of objective well-trained journalists began to

take shape. Journalists were taught to stay detached from the subject matter and to seek out opposing viewpoints on all topics.

When Lemon was arrested it was expected that journalists put aside their personal feelings and report just the facts.

Many did. Some did not.

Some reacted emotionally, proclaiming that this was an attack on all journalists. But our job is to look for the facts as The Washington Post did recently. They reviewed Lemon's footage and found that he did not take part in the protest and acted as an observer — in line with modern journalism standards.

I also watched the footage. Lemon self-identifies as a journalist several times, and does not take part in the protest chants. He also interviews several of the churchgoers to get their side of things.

I do not believe he was stopping anyone's First Amendment right to worship. At one point the pastor asks him to leave and he does admittedly take several minutes to leave the premises.

Later in his coverage he is interviewed by Polish journalists who are covering the protests and he gives his opinions on the protests, ICE, and the government.

It's at that point that his objectivity ends.

Which is not a crime.

Of course, there are flaws to objective journalism. Portraying a human driven story with the cold calculation of science can lead to "false balances." Communications researcher and historian David

Mindich criticized The New York Times' coverage of lynchings in the 1890s, noting that while attempting to gain the views of both sides the Times would list the alleged crimes of the deceased that supposedly justified their execution at the hands of the mobs.

Not all arguments have equal sides. When the weather people say "it's raining outside," it is not necessary to have someone on to say that it's not.

The more modern interpretation of ethical journalism is to pursue facts. Fact-based journalism seeks to provide the public with clear, verifiable facts, and a clear separation between opinions and facts.

There is still room to bring on opposing viewpoints. It's useful to hear someone say that it will rain all night, but for another to say that it might turn to hail. It's even better if they can back up their view with data. After all, you want to know if you need to cover your windshield.

Objectivity sounds good on paper, but it loses nuance, and people, politics, and even the law, can be very nuanced.

Bias is inherent to all people, and being open about our biases can help create more open and productive dialogues.

Lemon's arrest has revealed bias on all sides. Some groups on both sides reported on it before all the facts could be gathered, and that's not helpful for anyone.

Good ethical journalism demands that we seek and report the truth, even if that truth is hard to swallow.

ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTOS & VIDEO EDITOR



'Civil discourse':

Does hockey belong on TV?

BY CJ ACEVEDO AND DUNCAN WAYS

Columnists

CJ — Anti-hockey

The TV Show "Heated Rivalry", based on the book of the same name by Rachel Reid, became an overnight sensation when it dropped on HBO Max on November 29, 2025. Clips of the show were everywhere! Memes and trends based around the show have already gotten massively popular. The stars, Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams, just recently presented an award at the Golden Globes!

But I have a major issue with this show: Its representation of a certain group of people is so vile and graphic, I'm shocked it was allowed to be aired at all! It normalizes a lifestyle that I believe to be completely wrong!

The show contains multiple explicit scenes with these people. This should not be on a streaming platform such as HBO Max! Children could watch this show, start asking questions, and start to believe it's appropriate to act a certain way!

I thought we as a society were finally moving past shoving this sort of narrative down audiences' throats. Sure, these "people" popped up here and there throughout the media over the years, and some people would make a fuss, but it hasn't been as intense as this in the mainstream for quite some time!

Seriously, Hollywood has such a strange obsession with these "people", and in the past, a weird fixation on shoving their narrative into children's movies. It's just so frustrating. As someone who is not a parent, this is a huge issue for me.

I must apologize, though. It appears that in my frustration, I've neglected to directly address the issue at hand. This rage-induced tangent is, of course, fueled by "Heated Rivalry's" gross representation of hockey culture! Children should not be exposed to that or think that it's normal!

It started off with that rat bastard Emilio Estevez and "The Mighty Ducks" trilogy of movies. These films, intended for children, normalized the playing of hockey for the youth, which is completely unacceptable.

For starters, children will naturally ask questions like "What's that stick in their hands?" "Why are they always touching each other?" and "How does this game even work?" How is a parent supposed to answer these hard-hitting questions about a sport they likely don't care about? It puts everyone in a difficult position.

Secondly, hockey is such a violent, odd, vile sport. From the little I do know (thanks to other hockey films such as "Goon" and "MVP: Most Valuable Primate"), the sport

glorifies violence and physicality! Why should this involve children?

Hockey is not even an American sport! Why is Hollywood so obsessed with erasing American culture? When I was a child, this was unacceptable, and it should still be unacceptable now!

In 2021, they made a sequel series to "The Mighty Ducks" titled "The Mighty Ducks: Game Changers", again, intended for children. This show, like the abhorrent movies before it, portrays the sport as "acceptable". It encourages children to seek it out and normalize it.

"Heated Rivalry" is the newest example of open hockey representation in the media. There are many scenes of characters playing hockey, talking about hockey, and watching hockey. It's absurd, and it makes me sick. It's about time we stop allowing the media to show this stuff! Ban hockey games from schools! Ban hockey in general!

You might be wondering why I'm upset about this, considering I do not have children of my own, know next to nothing about hockey, haven't watched the show, and understand the show isn't even meant for younger audiences. So why am I upset?

Because I am a concerned citizen! So concerned that I will be taking this to my local town hall meeting in hopes of change and destroying the liberal propaganda machine and their hockey agenda!

Duncan — Hockey ally

"We're here. We play hockey. Deal with it."

I LOVE "Heated Rivalry". This show is the most open-minded piece of media I've seen in the last 20 years. Not shying away from what many foolishly consider a controversial subject is so commendable. The show's creator Jacob Tierney (all hail Jacob Tierney, a Canadian among men) did such a great job of visualizing, in graphic 4k beauty, an important part of so many people's identity. Even though I have only experimented with skating, I find it so brave for this show to center around hockey.

Now I feel like I should say I haven't personally seen the show, I just got those little videos that pop up on my Facebook of the fellas playing hockey on the show. I was just in shock when I looked the show up and saw how much hokey hockey hate there is online. As a hockey ally, I knew I had to just jump in and share my opinion on the show.

The first thing I love about the show, having never seen it, is seeing people express their love for hockey. What a noble choice to choose to play hockey in this political climate and show such pure, raw man-on-man action. Being a hockey ally, I just love

it when I see people doing what (or who, haha) they love with pride. The show really demonstrates how America is so backward in its treatment of hockey culture.

Many Americans reject the top-shelf sport because it's different from conventional sports like football or baseball, but in progressive Canada, it's the norm. It's even Canada's national sport. That's why I think Canada should be the 51st state, so we can begin to learn as a country to accept the completely normal, natural sport of hockey. The Canadians understand hockey isn't a way of life, it's not something you simply choose — hockey chooses you.

"Heated Rivalry's" message is clearly lost on my fellow debater, a self-proclaimed slapshot silencer. He would rather see people suffer, pretending to be someone they're not, so they might conform to his idea of an "American" sport.

This biscuit bigot claims that kids could watch the show and start asking hard-hitting questions about the sauce sport, but isn't that the point? The show has broadened people's minds and led to wholesale awakenings in sports. Former pro hockey player Wayne Gretzky famously said, "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take". Being afraid of taking that shot, while human, needs to be overcome — you never know if you'll like hockey better than basketball unless you try out, and "Heated Rivalry" gives you that try from the safety of your couch at home.

To all the kids or young adults who say they only ever figure skated but have yearned to feel the rubber of the puck against your stick, you have no need to fear. Come out of your penalty box when you are ready — it's hard, but it's worth it to feel fully yourself.

On a side note, I have heard whispers on the interwebs that there may or may not be in the future the possibility of the show's creator, Jacob Tierney (all hail Jacob Tierney, a Canadian among men), making a new show about a lesbian volleyball team. "Heated Rivalry" creator (all hail Jacob Tierney, a Canadian among men), I urge you to reconsider. With "Heated Rivalry" putting hockey in full display of the public eye, what America and more so the world needs is another series which shows an incredible amount of hockey on-screen (like SO SO much like an incredible amount of icing right into golden goals but not in a judgy way). What the world needs is a lesbian field hockey show.

For those who want to try hockey in the future, may all your rivalries, whether they be in hockey or baseball, be heated.

You can ice my golden goal anytime.

Hidden sugars at the dining courts



DANA ABBRING | COLUMNIST

Columnist Dana Abbring helps cook her first meal, Jiffy cornbread.

BY DANA ABBRING

Columnist

I am not the first to tell you that added sugar has negative effects on your brain, gut, and body. That the cycle of glucose spikes and resulting insulin spikes leads to Type 2 diabetes. That increased consumption is linked to increased risk of chronic diseases like cancer, fatty liver, and heart failure. That it hijacks hormones and creates brain fog, energy swings, and a drug-like addiction.

Despite these well-known health risks, processed sugar continues to appear in products across supermarket shelves and bulk food providers, making it easy to find in both your pantry at home and, even worse, Purdue Dining.

I'm not saying Purdue should demolish Sugar Hill, Cookie Cache, Devonshire Way, or other dining hall dessert offerings. We have too much of a sweet tooth for that level of revolution.

I am suggesting, however, that Purdue Dining can make easy changes to three of its staples (foods present every day, for every meal) to have less sneaky sugar. Simply being more aware as a consumer (or when choosing a vendor) could save students hundreds of calories in unneeded added sugar.

Sugary yogurt

Read any article about processed foods, and this will be mentioned as a food with a "health halo" that is actually sugary and unhealthy. Every dining court currently offers two flavors of sweetened yogurt; switching to plain (like Ford offers) eliminates the built-in processed sugar.

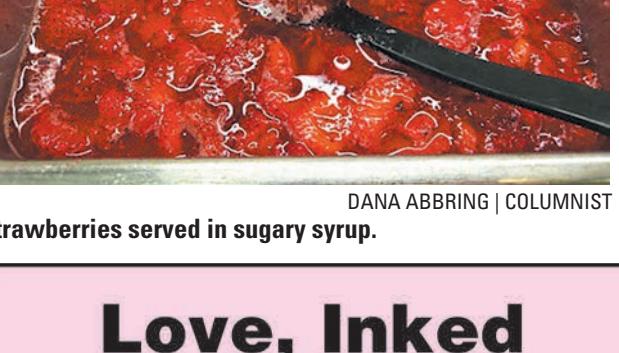
Fruit in syrup

Most fruit in the dining hall falls into one of three categories: handheld (apples, bananas, oranges), frozen, or canned in syrup. The canned-in-syrup variety is the easiest to swap for canned-in-juice. The fruit will still taste sweet, but because of natural (instead of processed) sugars. (I must also note the atrocity that is Purdue's applesauce — high fructose corn syrup? Really?)

Sweetened peanut butter

Sounds strange, right? I typically think of peanut butter as a savory complement to sweeter chocolate or fruity jam. But some conventional peanut butters (including the product Purdue offers) actually contain around 8% added sugar (1/2 teaspoon per 1/8 cup serving). However, there are many brands and options for peanut butter that offer the same texture without sugar (typically labelled with "no added sugar" or "100% peanuts").

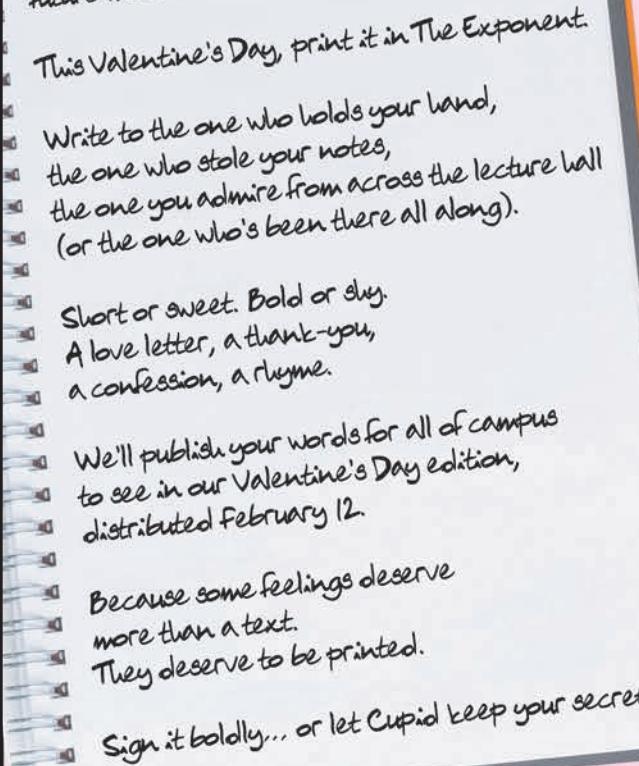
Purdue can help win the war on added sugar. With simple swaps, the campus dining experience can make real food consumption easier for students and thus promote health and well-being.



DANA ABBRING | COLUMNIST

Strawberries served in sugary syrup.

Love, Inked in Print



Dear Purdue crushes, soulmates, future meet-cutes and near misses, This Valentine's Day, print it in The Exponent.

Write to the one who holds your hand, the one who stole your notes, the one you admire from across the lecture hall (or the one who's been there all along).

Short or sweet. Bold or shy. A love letter, a thank-you, a confession, a rhyme.

We'll publish your words for all of campus to see in our Valentine's Day edition, distributed February 12.

Because some feelings deserve more than a text. They deserve to be printed.

Sign it boldly... or let Cupid keep your secret.

Submit your love letter to:

adirector@purdueexponent.org

\$7 up to 125 words

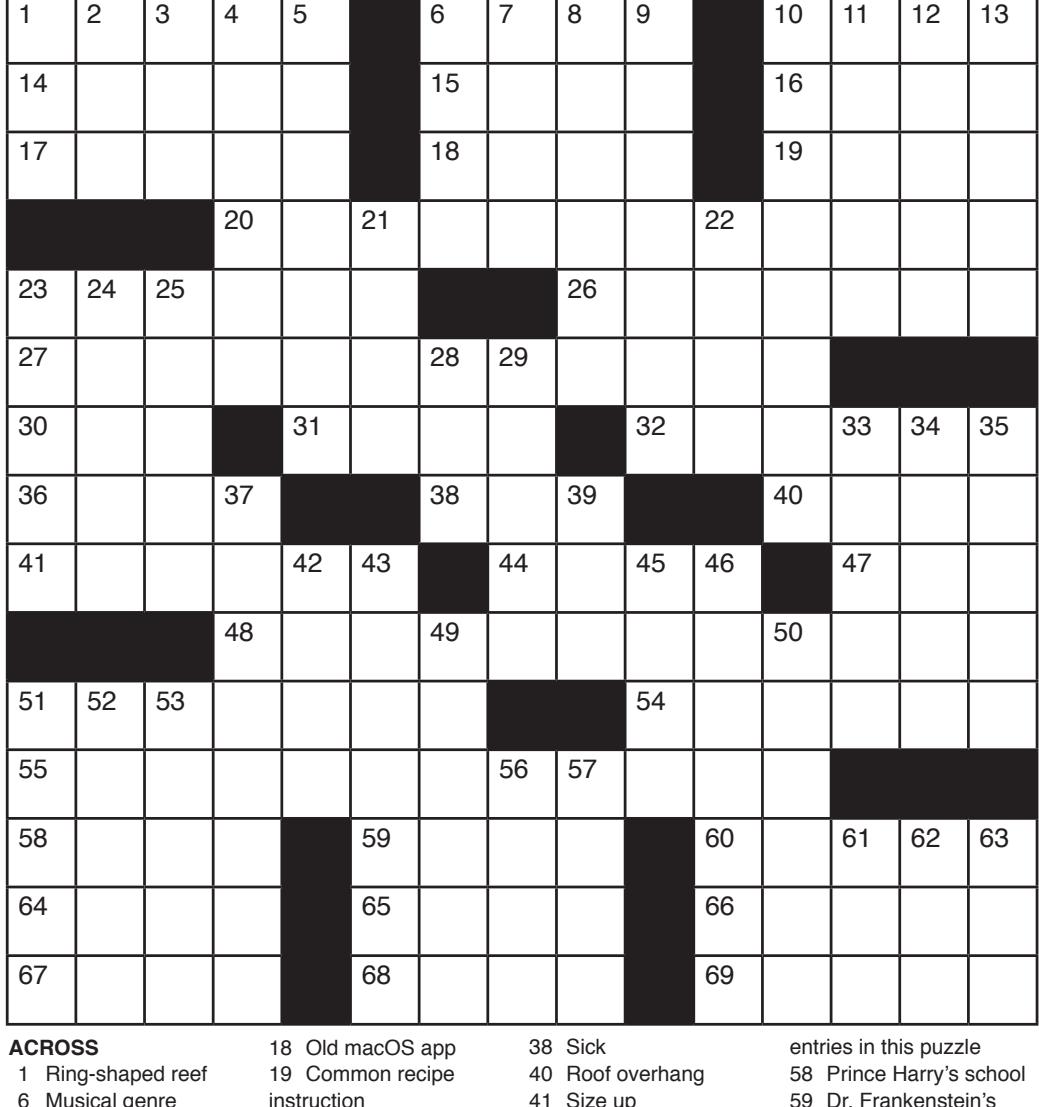
\$15 up to 250 words

PUZZLES

If you have any feedback as we develop our student-created puzzles, you can contact us at puzzles@purdueexponent.org.

CROSSWORD

By Harry Zheng



ACROSS

1 Ring-shaped reef
6 Musical genre
10 Card alternative?
14 Tower of ___ (math puzzle that requires an exponential number of moves)
15 Transfer money
16 Not pizzicato
17 2020 film starring a cartoon dog

18 Old macOS app
19 Common recipe instruction
20 Community
23 Validate
26 Top of the agenda
27 Way to see some colorful lights
30 Rapper ___ Spice
31 Palindromic band
32 Typical
36 Bring up

38 Sick
40 Roof overhang
41 Size up
44 Without accompaniment
47 Little kid
48 Bang, e.g.
51 Breathe
54 Summer destination
55 Last part of a well-known spelling "rule" which is broken in three

DOWN

1 Sounds of relief
2 Tic ___
3 Artist Yoko
4 Canadian coin
5 Country flag with 11 stripes and a blue square with a star
6 Bit of kindling
7 Wealthy
8 Like some numerals
9 Stationary bike brand
10 Soft sweater material
11 "Star Wars" droid, informally
12 Descendant
13 Massive crowd
21 Website with a one-to ten-star rating system
22 Debtor's fear, for short
23 "Rashomon" director
Kurosawa
24 Confronts
25 Pet peeves?
28 Kimono sash
29 Party dip
33 San ___, California
34 To have, in Paris
35 Sic on
37 Got back in business
39 Auction unit
42 Short cut?
43 ___ Hat
45 Traditional knowledge
46 Do some surgery
49 Paltry
50 Golden statuettes
51 Orchestra section
52 Shower with praise
53 Tea go-with
56 Golfer's cry
57 Helen's city
61 Daily grind
62 World Cup cheer
63 Bill of science

CRYPTO CODE

By Annalise DeMange

Each letter stands in for another. If A = B, every given A is truly a B. Solve through trial and error, recognizing short words and guessing the phrase.

N Z ' D Z I K P W I F C , F C , F C , P S ' L K F D

A K A Z W S ! B K F V W K N S K I Z S R Z D

N Z ' D Z I O K N P W I !

Lyrics by DFAP VGWI. Helpful clues: I = G, W = N, K = O

BUILDING BLOCKS

By Sawyer Rebennack

Find seven answers and match each to a clue. Words are made from connecting any blocks in any order. Blocks can only be used once. The number in the parentheses indicates word length.

1. A metal pin that holds two plates of metal together (5)
2. Centers of activity (4)
3. A new, irrelevant conversation or train of thought (7)
4. It's 2 when squaring, and 3 when cubing (8)
5. Stumps or confuses (7)
6. A game mode in Minecraft where players can fly (8)
7. People, e.g. (8)

VET	BS	PO	LES
EX	ENT	CRE	HU
AZ	PU	AT	INE
TA	NE	RI	NT
IVE	ZZ	NG	MAG

MATHDOKU

By Eddie Culbertson

Fill in the blanks with the numbers 1 through 6 so that every row and column has every number only once. Numbers within bolded areas must combine together using the mathematical operation to make the number in the top-left corner. Solve by noting all possible numbers in each box. Some bolded areas have only a few combinations that satisfy the math. Eliminate possibilities through trial and error if needed.

-1	x6		x4		+11
	÷3	x72			
÷2			x45		
	+14			+6	
-2		-3		÷2	
	x20			+8	

NEWS QUIZ

By Sawyer Rebennack

Answers can be found within the edition previous to this one.

What committee title replaced Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion?

a. Representation
b. Ethical Relations
c. Community Connection
d. Diverse Student Retention

MIX 'EM UP

By Sawyer Rebennack

Rearrange the letters in each line to form a phrase matching the theme.

1. REPANSI _____ 6. AMENI ONCO _____
2. EASISME _____ 7. TOILBAB _____
3. ERIHIRWA _____ 8. ATBYB _____
4. MBRANI _____ 9. ORGLADL _____
5. EONVD XRE _____ 10. EINSIBAR _____

Theme: CAT BREEDS

BIG OL' WORD SEARCH

By Sawyer Rebennack

FEBRUARY FEATURES

AMETHYST
ANTHROPOLOGY
AQUARIUS
BALLET
BLACK HISTORY
CAR INSURANCE
CHOCOLATE
ELMO'S BIRTHDAY
GIRL SCOUT COOKIES
KINDNESS
PARROT
PISCES
PORK RIND
PRESIDENTS
PRIMROSE
SECOND
SUPER BOWL
UMBRELLA
VALENTINES
VIOLET

P	K	S	Y	G	O	L	O	P	O	R	H	T	N	A	E	S
I	L	G	R	I	A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T	I	S	K	U
S	B	I	H	H	G	Z	Q	G	L	S	M	O	N	C	P	
C	A	R	Z	P	S	C	M	E	E	B	F	R	S	W	B	E
E	L	L	K	N	G	N	W	N	S	J	M	T	S	C	L	R
S	L	S	C	J	U	T	D	D	T	I	N	J	D	H	A	B
Q	E	C	A	L	F	N	X	L	R	E	F	K	S	O	C	O
S	T	O	R	I	I	H	D	P	D	O	U	U	C	K	W	
E	Q	U	I	K	E	P	N	I	F	N	I	E	M	O	H	L
U	S	T	N	W	P	W	S	F	I	R	V	Z	S	L	I	K
M	E	C	S	U	A	E	J	R	A	O	I	X	W	A	S	B
B	C	O	U	X	R	P	K	U	G	U	O	Z	T	T	B	
R	O	O	R	P	R	R	Q	E	Y	L	U	H	E	O	N	
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L	D	I	N	P	T	T	W	X	K	S	T	T	W	Q	Y	Q
L	V	E	C	V	A	L	E	T	I	N	E	S	P	O	X	
A	P	S	E	Y	A	D	H	T	R	I	B	S	O	M	L	E

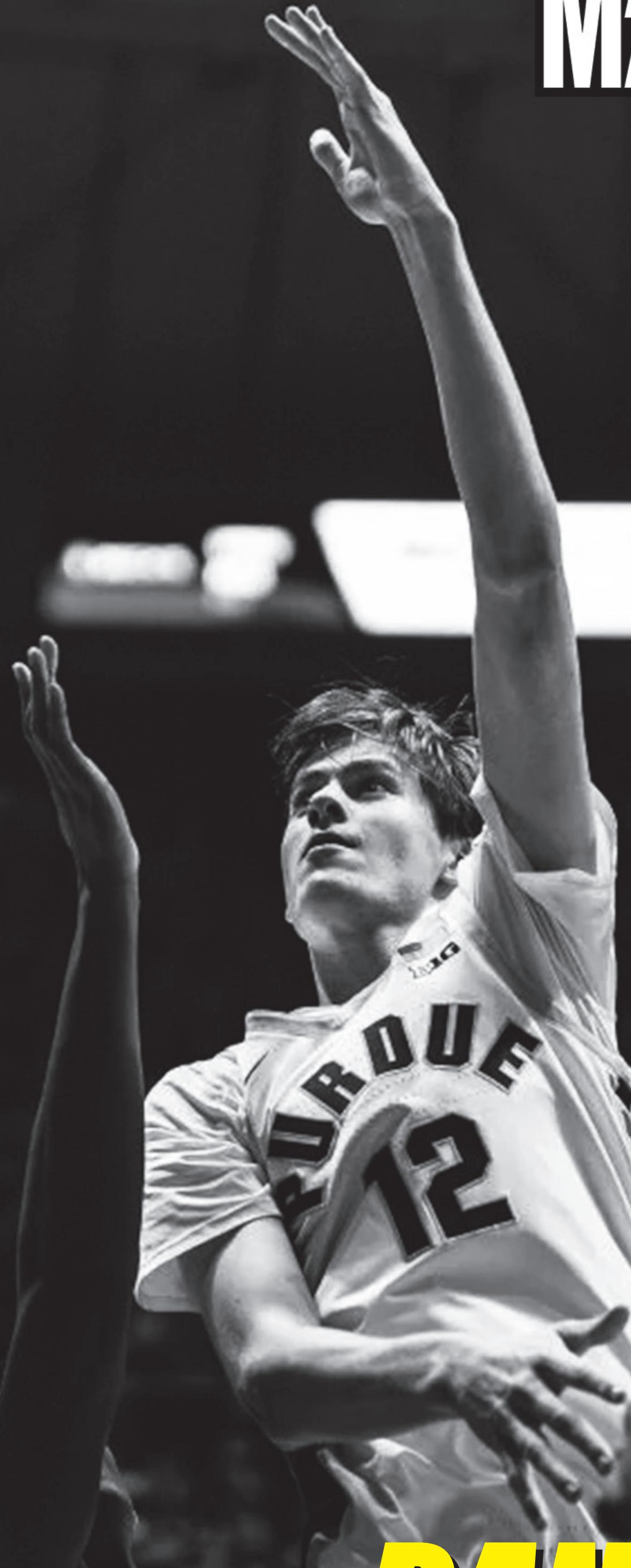
ANSWERS UPSIDE DOWN

9. Ragdoll 10. Siamese	3. Maine Coon 7. Bobtail 8. Tabby	6. Wirehair 4. Birman 5. Devon Rex	1. Devon Rex	2. Siamese	4. Ragdoll 5. Devon Rex	6. Wirehair 7. Maine Coon 8. Tabby	1. Devon Rex	2. Siamese	4. Ragdoll 5. Devon Rex	6. Wirehair 7. Maine Coon 8. Tabby	1. Devon Rex	2. Siamese	4. Ragdoll 5. Devon Rex	6. Wirehair 7. Maine Coon 8. Tabby	1. Devon Rex	2. Siamese	4. Ragdoll 5. Devon Rex	6. Wirehair 7. Maine Coon 8. Tabby
3. Tangier 4. Exponent 5. Puzzles	6. Creative 7. Hubs	7. up, up, it's our moment! You know together we're golden! (Runni Kang)	8. Mix Up: 1. Perrier 2. Siamese	9. Crypto Code: We're going up, up, up, it's our moment! You know together we're golden! (Runni Kang)	10. Slipher	11. Eddie Culbertson	12. Ira	13. Eddie Culbertson	14. Eddie Culbertson	15. Eddie Culbertson	16. Eddie Culbertson	17. Eddie Culbertson	18. Eddie Culbertson	19. Eddie Culbertson	20. Eddie Culbertson	21. Eddie Culbertson	22. Eddie Culbertson	23. Eddie Culbertson
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43. Eddie Culbertson	44. Eddie Culbertson	45. Eddie Culbertson	46. Eddie Culbertson	47. Eddie Culbertson	48. Eddie Culbertson	49. Eddie Culbertson	50. Eddie Culbertson	51. Eddie Culbertson	52. Eddie Culbertson	53. Eddie Culbertson	54. Eddie Culbertson	55. Eddie Culbertson	56. Eddie Culbertson	57. Eddie Culbertson	58. Eddie Culbertson	59. Eddie Culbertson	60. Eddie Culbertson	61. Eddie Culbertson
62. Eddie Culbertson	63. Eddie Culbertson	64. Eddie Culbertson	65. Eddie Culbertson	66. Eddie Culbertson	67. Eddie Culbertson	68. Eddie Culbertson	69. Eddie Culbertson	70. Eddie Culbertson	71. Eddie Culbertson	72. Eddie Culbertson	73. Eddie Culbertson	74. Eddie Culbertson	75. Eddie Culbertson	76. Eddie Culbertson	77. Eddie Culbertson	78. Eddie Culbertson	79. Eddie Culbertson	80. Eddie Culbertson

BOILERMAKERS



MACKEY
MAGIC *



#12 **DANIEL**
CENTER **JACOBSEN**



Gameday Eats & Drinks

302 Vine St. | Suite 150
West Lafayette
1 Block East of the Union
(Next to Hot box and Everbowl)

eatAJs.com



Order online, dine in, carry out, or have your meal delivered.



Enjoy quality food and a local beer selection that's close to home (& Mackey)



Feel good about feeding your family (and yourself) fresh ingredients.

WALK ON'S
SPORTS BISTREAU

LOCATED IN



PURDUE
MEMORIAL
UNION

**GRANT STREET GARAGE PARKING VALIDATED
WITH THE PURCHASE OF A MEAL!**



#12 DANIEL JACOBSEN
Center

Weight: 250 lbs | Height: 7-4
Year: Sophomore | Hometown: Chicago, IL

Season	Games Played	Games Started	Points		Rebounds		Assists	Blocks	Steals
			AVG	TOTAL	TOTAL	AVG			
2024-25	2	2	6.5	13	7	3.5	0	3	0
2025-26	21	0	7.2	152	84	4	11	37	3
Totals:	23	2	7.2	165	91	4	11	40	3

Photo gallery: 2016 flashback

COMPILED BY ANDREW COLEMAN
Photo & Video Editor

A lot has changed, or stayed the same, on campus, in West Lafayette, and in the world since 2016. Ten years ago, members of The Exponent photos desk captured things as they were. Now, the 2026 Exponent photos desk displays a select few of these photos.



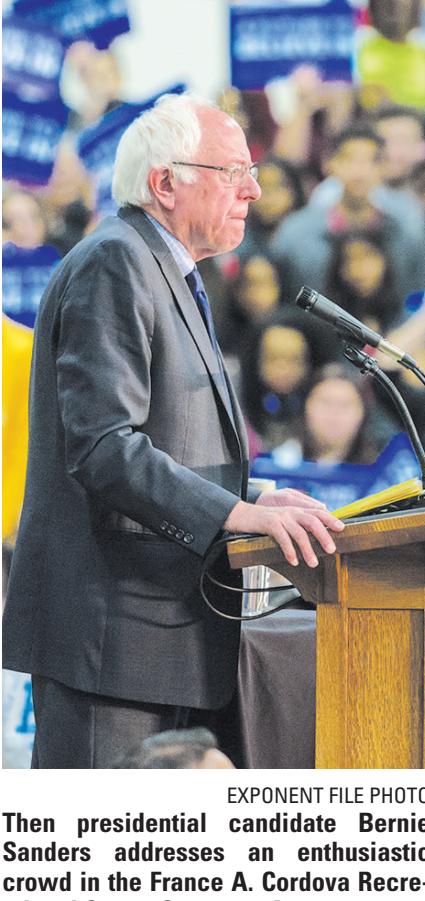
EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

The Wilmette Active Learning Center, as of Dec. 13 2016, is still under construction.



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Several students from Tarkington Hall climb a tree on top of Slayter Hill to get a better view of the stage on Apr. 15 2016.



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Then presidential candidate Bernie Sanders addresses an enthusiastic crowd in the France A. Cordova Recreational Sports Center on Apr. 27 2016.



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Students participate in Meijer



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Drivers prepare to begin at the annual Grand Prix Race on Apr. 23 2016.

Purdue is trapped in sports hell

Column

BY JOEY ARROYO
Staff Reporter

If you're anything like myself, then these past two weeks at Purdue have been nothing short of a proverbial hell.

As the remnants of "silly" week slowly slip by and the work begins to pile on, Purdue sport fans such as myself were subjected to arguably the most gut-wrenching two weeks of losses to ever grace our lifetimes.

The troubles began back on Martin Luther King Jr. Day when a certain school to the south took down the Miami Hurricanes in the College Football Playoff final.

The win completed arguably the most impressive two year turnaround in the history of the sport under head coach Curt Cignetti who revitalized the dying Hoosier football program with his transfer portal savvy and cold personality on the field.

For Purdue fans however, the historic win simply drove the dagger deeper into the hearts of a fan base who found themselves in Bizarro World with our program on life-support. During IU's dominant two-year stretch Purdue would only manage to go 3-21 with a litany of baffling and heartbreaking losses, including two blowouts against IU where they only managed to muster up 3 points across both games to IU's 122.

Seeing their rival dominate on their way to an undefeated national title season was certainly not ideal, but for many it stung even more considering Purdue football had never managed to claim a title for themselves despite having a historically better program.

However, the inevitable taunting from the Hoosier fanbase was okay for many, because at the very least Purdue had a basketball program ranked No. 4 in the country and hadn't lost since early December on their way to a 17-1 record going undefeated in Big Ten play and looked to carry the momentum heading into their West Coast trip against USC and UCLA.

Though surviving a close win versus the Trojans, it was the Tuesday night after the CFP Championship when Purdue took on unranked UCLA on a late slate, and lost.

Was it a close game? Sure. Did fans take it any better? Nope. The loss was understandable in the context that everyone is due for a loss at some point – unless you're the Indiana Hoosiers apparently – but the game still left a bad taste in the mouth of many, especially considering that Purdue needed to right the course immediately as it took on No. 11 ranked Illinois on Saturday.

Keaton Wagner had other plans.

The Illini's star first-year guard started off the game on fire and simply wouldn't let up as he dropped 46 points on the heads of the Boilermakers. While a close loss, alarm bells were immediately going off many heads of the Boiler faithful.

"How the hell do we not adjust to that kid?" "Where's the dadgum defense?" "What is TKR even doing out there?" These were a small sample of many of the questions that Purdue fans had swimming through their minds after the whirlwind of a week as it almost felt like a biblical firestorm had descended upon the city as everything seemed to be going wrong for Purdue sports.

West Lafayette slowly began to turn mad, as the small semblance of sanity left in the minds of many was hinging solely on a Purdue win

against who else, but the Indiana Hoosiers men's basketball team.

Coming only a week after their win against Miami in the playoffs and the start of Purdue's awful streak, the Hoosiers were at an all time high and the one thing to push them over the top was a win against Purdue at home to truly seal their dominion over the Boilermakers.

With a large group of fans anxiously watching at Mackey Arena and countless others watching in their homes across the state on a bitterly cold Tuesday night, the Boilermakers walked into Assembly Hall and were stampeded by the Hoosiers. The group took all of the momentum the city was carrying and absolutely ran with it and even though Purdue made it close in the end, the loss simply was just inexcusable in the minds of many.

What began as a firestorm now became pure fire and brimstone as West Lafayette had finished its descent into hell with a three game losing streak for their darling basketball program and a sense that almost nothing could go right.

Yet, on that Wednesday morning the sun would rise at 8:02 a.m. in West Lafayette and students would go to class in negative temperatures, just the same as always.

Sure, everyone was in a sorry state (including myself), but like it always does, life moves on and we must look forward to whatever (or whoever) is on the schedule next.

In plain terms, Purdue sports fans have had a rough go of it. The losses however have been unifying, as an urge inside every Boilermaker fan to bash their squad to their best friends has been fulfilled countless times over this two week run and after some decent time away from the IU losses, fans are finally starting to get an inkling of hope in their minds once more.

That hope should be key in all this, because why shouldn't we be hopeful for our Purdue teams? Purdue football recruiting under Barry Odom looks quite good, the basketball team is still ranked (though much lower), and the Indiana Football Hoosiers of all teams have won a National Championship.

In a year that has already been as tumultuous as ever, we have already been through so much but it feels like we're forgetting one thing, it's only January! So much time is left to right the ship that honestly outside of jinxing and cursing the program even further I almost feel inclined to say that Purdue sports will have a fantastic 2026.

Through it all let's pull ourselves back in, so take a deep breath, brave that harsh cold for your 7:30, still hold on to a little anxiety because truly anything could happen at this point, and cheer on our Boilermakers.



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Fans stormed the court after UCLA beat No. 4 Purdue, 69-67, in Los Angeles on Jan. 20.

WONDER
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Purdue swim and dive battles at Big Ten Triple Duals

BY AVANEESH SANKAR
Asst. Sports Editor

Purdue men's and women's swim and dive teams split up for a two-day Big Ten Triple Dual meet with the Minnesota Golden Gophers and Northwestern Wildcats over the weekend. The Boiler dive teams stayed home in West Lafayette, while the swim teams traveled north to Evanston to take on the other two teams.

The men's team took out Minnesota 208.5-144.5 but fell short to Northwestern 181-172, along with the men's Golden Gophers team falling to the Wildcats, 214-139. The women's team lost to Minnesota 242.5-110.5, and to Northwestern 213-140. The Minnesota women's swim and dive team upset Northwestern with a 186-166 takedown.

Here are notable performances from the event.

Men's swim and dive

Purdue sophomore Blake Rowe won the 200-yard backstroke and the individual medley (IM), placing him as the leader in men's individual victories for the Boilermakers. His time of 1:46.77 in IM places him 15th all-time in Purdue's history. Freshman Jánis Dzirkalis and senior Alex Hotta finished 1-2 in the 50 free with times of 19.53 and 19.57, respectively. Dzirkalis' victory in the 50 free makes him the pool record holder, with Hotta also beating the previous 19.59 record time. Sophomore diver Tyler Wills excelled on the springboard, winning both the

3-meter and Platform Diving events.

Golden Gopher sophomore Luke Brennan had a great night, topping the 1000-yard freestyle standings with a time of 9:00.82, alongside sophomore Jacob Johnson, who set a pool record of 1:41.68 in the men's 200 fly. Minnesota swept the 500 free events, led by sophomore Daniel Eichel's time of 4:21.65.

Northwestern junior Stuart Seymour and sophomore Joshua Staples both had excellent days, being part of first-place finishes in both the 200-yard medley relay and 800-yard freestyle relay. Additionally, Seymour took home first place in the 100-yard backstroke, and Staples won the 100-yard breaststroke, propelling them ahead of both Purdue and Minnesota.

Women's swim and dive

Purdue senior Abby Marcukaitis, with a team season-best time of 1:54.70 in 200 back, earned the first NCAA Championship qualifying time for Purdue's season so far. Marcukaitis has taken home 10 event wins, good for second on the team behind senior Daryn Wright's 11. Senior Reagan Mattice posted a lifetime best in 1000 free with a time of 9:47.16, and sophomore Campbell Scofield won the 200 butterfly with a team season-

best time of 1:57.13, .02 shy of the NCAA qualifying standard. Her win in the 200-meter butterfly marks her sixth win of the season in the event.

Minnesota senior Vivi Del Angel led on the spring boards, tallying 331.30 points, well ahead of the rest of the competitors. Junior Katie McCarthy set a pool record with a time of 9:40.49 to win women's 1000 free, and sophomore Kamdyn Periat won 100 back with a time of 52.75. To finish out the women's competition, Minnesota won the 400 free relay with a time of 3:16.53.

Conversely, Northwestern opened up the competition with a win in the 200-yard medley relay, recording a time of 1:37.20. Graduate student Ekaterina Nikonova contributed to both the 200-yard medley relay and a first-place finish in the 800-yard freestyle relay with a time of 7:09.03. Junior Sydney Smith took home two wins, both as a part of the 800-yard freestyle relay and with a victory in the 200-yard freestyle. However, the Wildcats' strong performances were not able to stop the upset from the Golden Gophers.

After strong performances, Purdue will have some time off before the swim teams return. The Boilermakers' men's swim and dive teams will head to Columbus, Ohio, for the Ohio State Winter Invite that takes place from Feb. 13-15. The women's swim and dive teams will head to Minneapolis for the Big Ten Championships from Feb. 18-21.



SARAH WIEDERKEHR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore diver Holden Higbie prepares for his first dive. Higbie placed seventh with a score of 356.50 during the three-meter dive event on Jan. 31.

Purdue unable to catch up to Wisconsin on home court

BY ISABELLA AVILES

Staff Reporter

Coming off a big home win against Michigan State, No. 18 Purdue (9-3, 2-2 Big Ten) faced Wisconsin (11-3, 3-3 Big Ten) in West Lafayette for a conference wrestling matchup, but the Badgers would end up victorious.

The Badgers got off to a quick start with the first two matches of the day being back-to-back

wins.

The first match was in the 125 weight class with Badger No. 16 junior Nicolai Rivera facing Purdue redshirt freshman Isaiah Quintero. Wisconsin came out hard with a technical fall at 3:53 to go up 5-0.

The 133-pound senior Blake Boarman from Purdue fell to No. 11 sophomore Zan Fugitt by a close 2-0 decision. Zargo was able to pull ahead in a tough matchup, securing another Badger win.

The first win of the day for Purdue came from No. 32 junior Greysen Clark over freshman Peter Tomazevic in the 141 weight class, where the match ended in a 14-2 major decision win for Tomazevic. The win gave Purdue 4 overall team points and kept the Boilermakers in distance of the Badgers by a scoreline of 8-4.

No. 31 Purdue junior Gavin Brown had a close match against No. 15 senior Joseph Zargo, yet fell in a 10-8 decision to the Badgers. In the 157 class, Wisconsin's No. 26 senior Luke Mechler upset No. 24 senior Stoney Buell in a 10-3 decision. Heading into the 165 weight class, Purdue was trailing 14-4.

No. 4 Boilermaker junior Joey Blaze came in hot with a technical fall of 18-3 over No. 24 junior Cody Goebel at 6:36. Blaze is undefeated so far this season and has been a beast on the mat, where his performance allowed Purdue to



HUGH KENNEDY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior wrestler Joey Blaze attempts to pin Wisconsin junior Cody Goebel. Blaze won the match while the Boilermakers lost 30-12.

catch up to Wisconsin, the score being 14-9.

174-pound freshman Aidan Costello had the 5-3 lead late into the third period, when Wisconsin's sophomore Luke Condon pinned him, marking Costello's first fall of the season and widened Wisconsin's lead.

Purdue caught back up in the 184 weight class when junior James Rowley defeated Badger redshirt freshman Matthew Jens in a 5-1 decision, but would ultimately not be able to capture victory against Wisconsin after the Badgers earned two technical falls in the last

two matches to end the day.

Specifically, Purdue 197-pound No. 24 senior Ben Vanadia fell to No. 28 redshirt freshman Wyatt Ingham at 5:04, while senior Hayden Filipovich endured his technical fall to No. 9 junior Braxton Amos at 5:47 in the heavyweight class.

Wisconsin would win the match with a score of 30-12. After a tough loss, the Boilermakers will continue to compete with home court advantage as they take on Illinois at 1 p.m. on Sunday.



HUGH KENNEDY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior wrestler Blake Boarman gets pinned by sophomore wrestler Zan Fugitt during Sunday's Mackey Mania. Boarman lost his match

Boilermakers bounce back with commanding win over struggling Maryland

BY GABE FRYLING

Staff Reporter

The Boilermakers traveled out east this weekend with a great shot to pick up their first win in two weeks against one of the conference's least efficient teams.

On Sunday afternoon, No. 12 Purdue (18-4, 8-3 Big Ten) defeated Maryland (8-13, 1-9) 93-63 to get back in the win column and end its three-game losing streak.

The Boilermakers had a renewed look on Sunday, entering with a different mojo than earlier this week and controlling the game from start to finish.

The Boilermakers shot an efficient 53% on the day, getting good looks from all areas of the floor and picking up a big win on the road.

Here are the three takeaways from Purdue's 93-63 win over Maryland:

Loyer quiets the outside noise

Senior guard Fletcher Loyer had arguably the roughest January stretch of any Boilermaker, failing to score in the double-digits in his final four games of the month and shooting a low 30% from behind the arc.

The senior man needed a big game to build some momentum and start the month fresh, and against the Terrapins, he did just that. He hit his first three shots of the game and never looked back, killing the Terps from outside.

Loyer finished with 29 points on the day, one point short of tying his season high. He hit seven 3-pointers in just 27 minutes, his third time reaching the mark and second time this season.

His jumper was much improved, but he also looked more

confident whenever he had the ball, attacking the rim on multiple occasions and getting to the line three times.

The senior needed a big game, and he got it, creating some offensive momentum from the outside that he'll need to carry into the Boilermakers' gauntlet February schedule.

Boilermakers return with renewed intensity

In the past two weeks, the Boilermakers' defensive intensity has been lackluster, struggling to defend from outside and on the boards. The Boilermakers had allowed opponents to score anywhere on the floor in their past three games, but this streak ended against the Terps.

Maryland's league-lowest scoring offense struggled against Purdue's defense, shooting a rough 39% from the floor. It hit only six 3-pointers on the day and struggled to find any rhythm on offense.

The Terrapins struggled early with turnovers, and the Boilermakers took advantage quickly, totaling 19 points off Maryland's 11 turnovers.

The Boilermakers shot their way into the win, hitting more shots from outside than behind the arc. They hit 15 3-pointers on the day, shooting 50% from behind the arc.

The Terrapins' 3-point shooting was good but not nearly enough to ever compete with Purdue's red-hot shooting, as the Boilermakers buried the Terps with 3-pointer after 3-pointer.

The Black and Gold paired their great offense with great defense, holding Maryland to just five assists. The Boilermakers defended any set the Terrapins threw at them well and forced the Terps to score in isolation, which they struggled to do.

Boilermakers dominate the boards

Rebounding was the killer for Purdue last weekend against Illinois, as it was outrebounded by 14. On Sunday, the story was

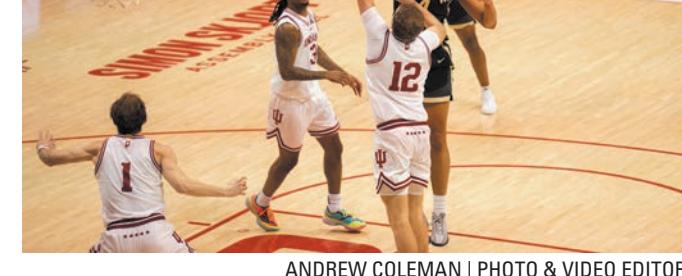
flipped, as the Boilermakers outrebounded Maryland 37-26.

The Boilermakers were much improved in their box-outs and seals against Maryland's shortened lineup. Purdue's big men didn't make much difference on the scoring end, but they played a big part on the boards.

Senior Trey Kaufman-Renn led Purdue with 10 rebounds, ending a cold streak for him after he picked up only 17 rebounds in his past five games.

The Boilermakers racked up 11 offensive rebounds, which they turned into 19 second-chance points.

Purdue picked up its largest margin of victory since last December and got back on track with a dominant win on both ends. The Boilermakers will have five days off before returning home to host Oregon next Saturday at 1 p.m.



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR

Senior forward Trey Kaufman-Renn puts up a shot against Indiana during Jan. 27 game. Kaufman-Renn led the Boilermakers with 23 points.