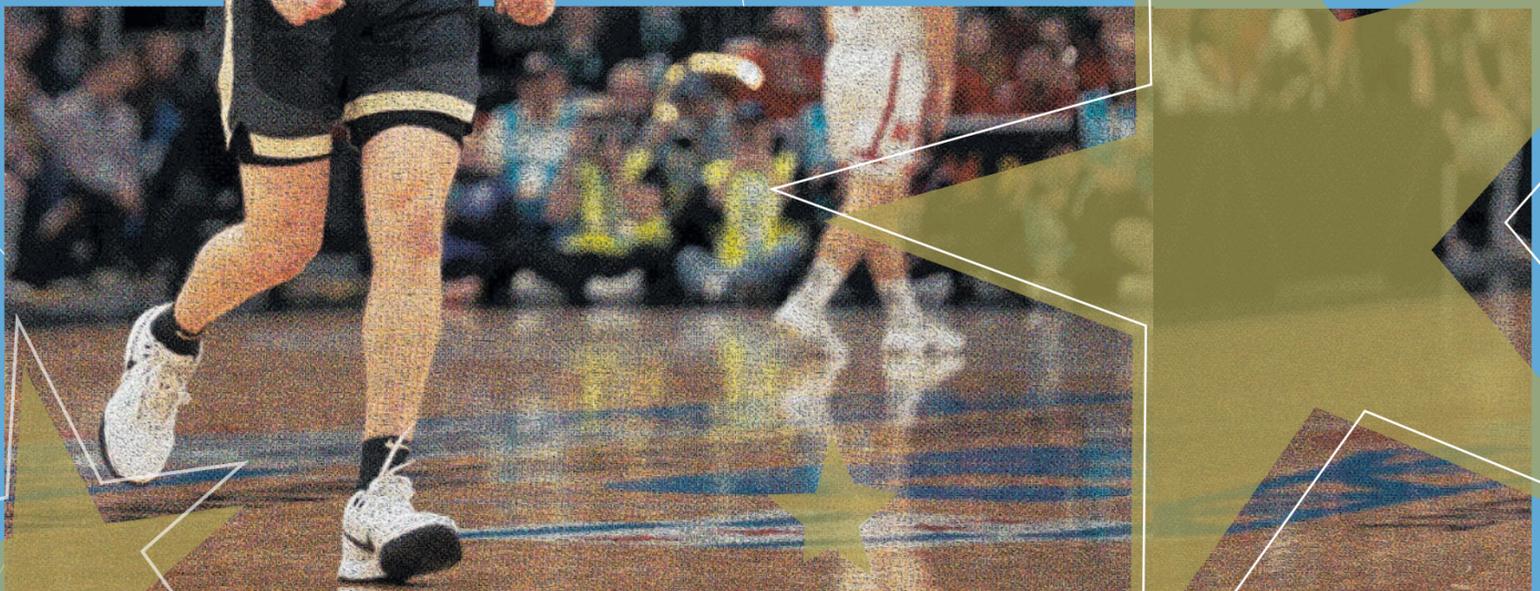


3 SENIORS



1 LEGACY

Thousands unite for Greater Lafayette No Kings protest

BY AMELIA ANGELONE
Asst. Campus Editor

Millions of Americans around the nation organized No Kings protests on Saturday, aiming to show peaceful dissent with the actions of the Trump administration. In the Lafayette community, over 4,500 people were present.



EVAN SVERAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three protesters hold a banner reading “No Kings” as they lead the No Kings protest Saturday.

The protest, starting at Tapawingo Park in West Lafayette, made its way across the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge into Lafayette, before circling the Tippecanoe County Courthouse, and returning to West Lafayette.

After the march itself, Tapawingo Park hosted community tabling, encouraging civic engagement and performing songs of protest for the crowd.

Concerns voiced by protesters included the American involvement with Iran – including chants like, “Taxes are for education, not for bombs and occupation,” – as well as the way immigrants have been treated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and concerns about potential voter suppression as a result of the SAVE Act.

People of all ages, from toddlers to seniors, were present at the protest. Some protesters even brought their pets, with some being wheeled in strollers with signs reading, “Poms (Pomeranians) for peace.”

Pam Antalis, a member of the local community, spoke on how she was deeply concerned with the actions being taken by the federal government and demanded change from elected representatives.

“My father fought in World War II,” Antalis

said. “He didn’t fight for this. I feel like we’re seeing just what they saw in Germany.”

Antalis is a grandmother to 13 grandchildren, and said she wanted to fight for a better environment for her family to grow up in. She worries about food and healthcare in America, wanting her grandchildren to know that she fought for them to have these rights.

“This is not the America I grew up in and I want for my grandchildren,” Antalis said. “I cannot tell my grandchildren I did nothing.”

Among the protesters were American military veterans, holding signs and wearing shirts with slogans critical of the Trump administration.

One such veteran, Tom Gibson, who served in Operation Desert Storm, said he hopes that his presence and protesting will help change the minds of those who support the troops but are not as concerned about the current administration as he is.

“I fought for this country. I’m going to go out, and I’m going to speak my mind, and hopefully more people start realizing that what (Trump) does is wrong,” Gibson said. “The things he’s doing are not helping our country one bit.”

Austin Myers, a Navy submariner veteran, was also present at the post-march tabling event with Jewish Voices for Peace. Meyers said he was at the protest to demand that Indiana divest from Israel, as well as to criticize the way tax dollars are spent within the state.



NILS LAHM | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A protester, wielding an American flag, spoke about their motives for attending the No Kings protest, as well as their thoughts on actions needed within the country for improvement.

“Indiana has \$140 million invested in Israel,” Meyer said. “\$140 million would be used a lot better by building roads and funding schools instead of buying bombs.”

Adding to Meyer’s sentiments was a speech from Lea Rush, an organizer with Purdue’s chapter of Students for a Democratic Society.



NILS LAHM | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Protestors hold sings as they march across the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge during the No Kings protest in Lafayette.

Rush cited the number of deaths in Iran and Lebanon as a result of the American conflict.

“The Iranian people will never be saved by our bombs and our missiles,” Rush said. “Our taxes are paying for this. Our industries are supporting this.”

Alongside elders of the community and military veterans, churches and religious organizations participated in both the march and the tabling event.

Talitha Huber, a member of the First United Methodist Church, spoke on the importance of participation in the democratic process, including protesting when in dissent with the decisions of representatives.

“We are out here today to show our children that we don’t stand for fascism, that part of the democratic process is protesting against injustice,” Huber said. “I work at the polls. I’m running for office. I’m going to vote every time. I’m going to protest whether or not they’re going to listen to me, because in the end, this country was founded on the idea that our will is what

decides the path of the country.”

Purdue students Hope Young and Clem Kollman echoed Huber’s sentiment, adding that the building of community and seeing others who are in agreement with one’s concerns can help build momentum in the democratic process.

“It feels there’s so little power for the people these days, with how much is, like fuck up with everything Trump is doing with ICE and with war,” Kollman said. “And even though (protesting) isn’t stopping it, this is showing not just our voices to the people above, but it’s showing each other. This is who’s in your community. This is how much support you have in your own town. One of the most powerful things about this is the community.”

Organizations present at the protest, like the League of Women Voters, and even individual protesters like Antalis, encourage Purdue students to be involved in the democratic process to ensure their voices are heard.

“I would like to encourage people to call the senators and congressmen every single day,” Antalis said. “(Students may say) ‘Well, I don’t know what to say’... when I saw Todd Young change his vote to vote for (the SAVE Act), I called, left a message, and it said, ‘Grow some balls.’ It doesn’t have to be fancy. You have to let them know how you feel.”

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 AT 6PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 AT 6PM

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 4 AT 6PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5 AT 10:30AM



UNIVERSITY
LUTHERAN



460 NORTHWESTERN AVE.
3RD FLOOR SANCTUARY
ULUPURDUE.ORG

REV. JARED DEBLIECK, SR PASTOR
REV. DANIEL HARRISON, ASSOC. PASTOR

A HEART FOR STUDENTS IN THE
HEART OF CAMPUS

Undergraduate research 'draws' attention in chalk

BY AMELIA ANGELONE
Asst. Campus Editor

Among the hustle and bustle of a chilly campus Friday, undergraduate researchers from as far as the Purdue Indianapolis campus knelt along the sidewalk with chalk on their hands.

In a contest hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Undergraduate Research Society of Purdue, these students were given the challenge to communicate their research topics, using only sidewalk chalk.

Inspired by the "Sidewalk Symposium" hosted at the University of Colorado Boulder in October 2025, president of UGRSP, Khanh Nguyen, and associate director of OUR, JJ Sadler, thought the premise of researchers being able to exercise their creative centers while also learning about the importance of communication in research would fit well in Purdue's campus culture.

Usually, around this time of the semester, they would be hosting their Research Pitch Competition, where students would give a formal talk on the contents of their research. However, Nguyen and Sadler thought the Scholarship in Chalk would allow students to explore other sides of research communication.

"It is such an interesting way to capture what the essence of your research is, and really think deeply about it, basically what is your research in one picture," Nguyen said. "I think that requires a lot of skills, both analytical and creative, and ultimately, having students do that would develop their skills as a better researcher."

A judge of the competition, Clinical Associate Professor Lisa Hilliard in the School of Health Sciences, studies how color and art can aid in learning in situations with a barrier, such as neurodegenerative disease. With her research background, Hilliard found the afternoon's event to be an excellent way for students to work on adapting their science communication to be more accessible to a wider audience.

"It's a beautiful thing when people can translate really complex topics or challenging things into something that's visual," Hilliard said. "People of diverse backgrounds and different types of education and different experiences can walk up and... allow us to understand and connect with what is actually going on, what the meaning of something is, and why it has value."

Though students were encouraged to exercise their creative minds through the contest, they were also implicitly learning about how to internalize accessibility into the way they present their work to wide audiences.

"One thing that (communications courses) tell you from the

beginning is you must tweak your presentation to your audience," Hilliard said. "I think as scientists, we sometimes fail to do that very well. We think everybody understands what we're saying, like our acronyms and our abbreviations, but they don't, and you lose (an audience) within moments. This (event) really allows you to step back, reframe, rethink, and understand, 'How do I communicate the gist of things in a more accessible manner?'"

Jennifer Bay, a professor of English and religious studies, added that the placement of the drawings makes it so that students going about their days will be able to more easily access the research happening at Purdue.

"When it's a public place here with people walking by and anyone can see it, it's a little more accessible than, say, a poster session or journal, or any kind of form that we probably think of in the university," Bay said. "It's really important for us to make research freely accessible to lots of different people, to show the impact on everyday people... It's part of the mission as a land grant university."

Among the interdisciplinary research projects presented were ones looking into grade-school student entrepreneurship, community learning, and the impact of volatile organic compounds from cleaning materials.

One student, Aurelia Chelfannisa, a sophomore in biomedical engineering at Purdue University in Indianapolis, conducted her research on how water content in the bones of patients with chronic kidney disease can be used to detect the risk of fractures early on.

She said she enjoyed the new experience the chalk competition provided in comparison to events like poster presentations or speeches.

Chelfannisa won the first-place prize in the contest, a \$100 scholarship provided for her to continue her research at Purdue.

"This is the next step of presenting research to a general audience, because you don't only have to think about showing what you've worked on, and the results and methods," Chelfannisa said. "You also have to do it in a way that the general population would be able to understand. And I think if you're able to do that, translate something complex into something easy that anyone can understand, that's truly what research is about."



AMELIA ANGELONE ASST. CAMPUS EDITOR

Chalk drawings cover the sidewalk outside of Wilmeth Active Learning Center, showing Purdue undergraduates' research.

POLICE BEAT PURDUE

Tuesday

Purdue student Abhinav Singh, 19, was arrested about 7:45 a.m. in the 200 block of Waldron Street for alleged domestic battery, according to Purdue University Police Department Capt. Song Kang.

WEST LAFAYETTE

Wednesday

A person was banned from Launch Apartments about 1:40 p.m. after a reported argument.

A theft was reported about 3:50 p.m. from the Walmart on Northwestern Avenue.

Thursday

Matthew Hunter, 40, was arrested about 12:40 a.m. in the 400 block of North River Road for alleged possession of drugs, according to West Lafayette Police Department logs.

Christopher Farmer, 37, was arrested about 2:50 p.m. near the intersection of North 4th Street and Ferry Street for an outstanding warrant for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

A person was banned from the Walmart on Northwestern Avenue at about 9:35 p.m. after allegedly stealing from the Walmart on Monday and Wednesday.

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

— Compiled by Addison Walter, asst. campus editor



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

STOLEN BIKE COUNTER

In this edition: 0
Total: 10



Mobile bike repair on campus!
Pickup & drop-off service also available!
Text us at: 765-409-6038
DadsBikeShop.com

The ultimate life hack

HackFromScratch empowers new creators and builds skills

BY ADDISON WALTER
Asst. Campus Editor

A new student-led initiative combines creativity, collaboration, and coding at Purdue. Its goal is to make a real impact beyond the Purdue campus.

HackFromScratch, organized by Alexander Kutulas, a junior in computer science, is the first event of its kind. It unites several student groups for a week-long effort to support youth STEM education through the Scratch Foundation.

According to Kutulas, HFS includes editing, design, marketing, streaming, and tech teams. The collaboration itself is a first. "We've never attempted this before," Kutulas said. "It's a bunch of clubs that have come together to run an event."

HFS gained unexpected momentum after early outreach efforts connected organizers directly with leaders at the Scratch Foundation.

"I initially reached out to someone lower in the Scratch Foundation. The next day, they set up a call on my calendar, and four

department heads joined this call," Kutulas said.

The events will include a showcasing of 27 student games at 8 p.m. on Monday at the Wabash Landing 9 Theater, located at 300 E. State St. A film festival called The Steamys will premier with numerous student films and awards at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the same place.

Later in the week on Friday Purdue Hackers will be hosting a Hack Night at 8 p.m. in the Bechtel Innovation Design Center, located at 1090 3rd St.

The event will be streamed live, with organizers encouraging broad participation during and after the broadcast. Kutulas said that anyone from the Lafayette community can participate.

"We encourage everyone to watch on the stream. After we're done streaming, we'll post the videos on YouTube as well, so people will be able to watch those."

HFS has a website featuring the live stream, donation counter, and event schedule.

Beyond entertainment, HFS has a deeper mission — expanding access to creative STEM opportunities for children.

"If someone donates \$50, how does that impact a child? The Scratch Foundation's mission is to provide a safe, creative space for children to share," Kutulas said. "I think our event has a dual purpose. We're helping the Scratch Foundation with our own mission, but we're also inspiring makers and other students with the cool things that we're doing, encouraging them to create amazing things of their own."

Kutulas said that building confidence is just as important as building technical skills.

"There's always that barrier where it's like, what if I screw up? I want to help break that down, because it's fine to fail," Kutulas said.

For students hesitant to get started, Kutulas offered simple advice.

"To quote Nike, 'just do it'. There is so much power in realizing that you're going to screw up, and that's okay."

After HackFromScratch launched Saturday morning, organizers hope it continues to raise funds and inspire a new wave of creators, both on campus and beyond.

SPRING SPONSORS

REINDEER SHUTTLE
CONVENIENT
AFFORDABLE
RELIABLE
REINDEERSHUTTLE.COM

DT KIRBY'S STREET FOOD
DTKIRBYS.COM

W LONG RENTALS
Now Leasing Apartments
WHLONG.COM

CityBus GREATER LAFAYETTE
PURDUE STUDENTS
Download our app!
https://www.in.gov/citybuslafayette/

YOUTUBE X SPOTIFY FACEBOOK INSTAGRAM
EXPONENTHUB.ORG

THE EXPONENT
The Exponent
460 Northwestern Ave., Second Floor
PO Box 2506
West Lafayette, IN 47996-2506
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Phone (765) 743-1111
Website: www.purdueexponent.org

RECYCLE

OLIVIA MAPES.....Editor-In-Chief
ADITI KAPADIA.....Managing & Campus Editor
ADDISON WALTER.....Assistant Campus Editor
AMELIA ANGELONE.....Assistant Campus Editor
ELLA BRAUN.....City Editor
ALFREDO DI PALMA.....Assistant City Editor
JULIA MORRIS.....Assistant City Editor
VIPUL KONNUR.....Rivet Managing Editor
LILLY DULL.....Rivet Design Editor
SAMI CONLEY.....Design Editor
DALE BLACKWOOD.....Digital Editor
VAIBHAV AGARWAL.....Co-Copy Chief
AMANDA RICKERT.....Co-Copy Chief
CONRAD HOOSER.....Opinions Editor
ANDREW COLEMAN.....Photo & Video Editor
SAWYER REBENACK.....Graphics & Puzzles Editor
KYLEE KLEVEN.....Sports Editor
AVANEESH SANKAR.....Assistant Sports Editor

KYLE CHARTERS
CEO/Publisher

DEANNA HUTTS
Bookkeeper/Accountant

INGRAHAM VANCEL
Production Director

RYLEE STOUT
Business Development Manager

Copyright 2026, Purdue Student Publishing Foundation

The Exponent is the independent student media organization serving the Purdue University community. We can be found in print editions on Mondays and Thursdays in residence halls, classroom buildings and selected near campus businesses. We can also be found online (www.purdueexponent.org) and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Newsbreak News app. Electronic subscriptions \$50 per year are available. First class subscription rates are available by request (help@purdueexponent.org).
Single copies at bulk distribution sites are free. For additional copies, contact our business office.
The Exponent is published by the Purdue Student Publishing Foundation, a non-profit educational organization. PSPF board chair is Alayna Skidmore.

WILL YOU BE THERE?

ExponentHub.org

FIND
what you're
SEARCHING
FOR

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline is one week before publication.
Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.
Prepayment is required. Call or email 765-743-1111 ext. 205,
or email AdDirector@PurdueExponent.org

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE SOLD IN BLOCKS OF WORDS.

1-10 words \$5.50 Discounts available for repeat ads.
11-20 words \$11.00 For ads with more words & full
21-30 words \$16.50 pricing list visit purdueexponent.org
31-40 words \$22.00 and click on advertising.

Add a 1"x1" logo or picture for \$15
Classified ads are non-refundable.

Free Student Classifieds

Purdue students may place free classified ads up to 15 words.
Additional words after that are \$.30 per word first day,
\$.25 per word repeat. Excludes employment.
Students may not place an ad for other students or businesses.

ROOMMATES

NEED A ROOMMATE? Purdue students looking for a roommate can place a 15 word or less classified here for **FREE**. Call 765-743-1111 ext 100 or email adproduction@purdueexponent.org

GO DIGITAL!

List your classified ad on The Exponent Hub! Email: AdDirector@PurdueExponent.org
Join the others on: ExponentHub.org/Bulletin

HUBBA HUBBA

Looking for a sizzling event to take your honey? Or maybe a cozy nest to shack up with your main squeeze? Whether you're hunting down the hottest date-night spot, scouting local events to spice up your social life, or moving out of the dorms, **ExponentHub.org** has you covered.

List your classified ad on The ExponentHub.org/bulletin
Email us to get listed: AdDirector@PurdueExponent.org

PETS

FREE 2 AKC Registered Male & Female Teacup Yorkies Puppies Ready for Adoption Raised in a loving home. Small size, affectionate, and ready for their forever home. Adoption is free, but a small rehoming fee is required to ensure they are going to a committed and responsible home. If interested, contact: vangbotou488@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
765-743-1111

SERVICES OFFERED

DO YOU MOW LAWNs, rake or clean house well? Whatever skill you have, earn some extra cash by placing a classified ad here. Purdue students can place an ad of 15 words or less for **FREE** with their student ID. Call 765-743-1111 ext 100 or email adproduction@purdueexponent.org

CALLOUTS

Get the word out about your organization with a callout classified ad. This is an inexpensive way to reach a large audience. Call 765-743-1111 ext 100 or email adproduction@purdueexponent.org

THINGS TO DO

MONDAY

Live music with Rick DeSutter

Join for a night of live music with Rick DeSutter from 6-8 p.m. at the Purdue Memorial Union Hail Purdue Stage, located at 101 N. Grant St.

Purdue OWL conversation group

Join Purdue Owl to practice your English if it isn't your first language, expand your vocabulary, and improve fluency. The event will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Krach Leadership Center, Room 230, located at 1198 Third St.

TUESDAY

Lunch & Learn: Rooted in Art

Join Mudhound as they go acoustic for an intimate music performance. The music is a mix of the past and innovation, the same tunes and rhymes, but they are unplugged. The event is free for all and is from 7-8 p.m. at the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, located at 102 S. 10th St., Lafayette.

Live music with 3rd Street Collective

Join for a night of live music with 3rd Street Collective from 6-8 p.m. at the Hail Purdue Stage.

WEDNESDAY

March's small business

Join the Small Business of the Month Program as they display the small businesses in Greater Lafayette. The doors open at 5 p.m. for networking, drinks, and light appetizers, and the program is from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Ripple & Company, located at 1007 Main St.

CAPS at AAARCC

Join Tongyu Zhou and Mohamad Almakky as they offer liaison hours at the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center to support students, from asking questions about resources to getting help. They will be available from 4-5 p.m. at the AAARCC located at 915 Fifth St.

ONGOING

Language and Conversation Practice

Join the AAARCC for a language and conversation practice. The languages offered are Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian, and Vietnamese from Wednesday to Friday, and Korean and Tagalog only on Friday. Join the practice, language, and fun activities to improve fluency and vocabulary. The event is from 3-4 p.m. at the AAARCC.

Purdue OWL Writers' Room

Join Purdue Owl for a dedicated time for graduate writers to work on their writing projects. It will be a two-hour block during which writers can work with limited consultations if questions arise. The event is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday at University Hall, Room 235, located at 672 Oval Dr.



ALLISON MILLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Director and curator of the HAAN Museum of Indiana Art describes during the Sustainability on Tap event on March 4 hosted at the museum how paintings can be dated and contextualized based off of the pigments present in the paint.

UPCOMING

MGMT 331 with Cory Christian Voight

Join Cory Christian Voight, Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General, Indiana Attorney General's Office, as he speaks about MGMT 331 and discusses civil rights violations in housing and employment. The event is on from 3:30-4:20 p.m. on Wednesday in room 2058 of Rawls Hall, located at 100 S. Grant St.

Trivia Tuesday

Join Mad Mushroom for a trivia night with general knowledge and themed questions. Teams will play for gift cards and other prizes. The event is from 7-8:30 p.m. at Mad Mushroom, located at 320 W. State St.

- Compiled by Neha Sajja, staff reporter

Squirrel of the week: Breakfast time



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JASON LI CHENG
In this photo submitted by Jason Li Cheng, a squirrel enjoys a hearty breakfast. For a chance to have your own photo featured, send them to digital@purdueexponent.org.



KENNEDI THOMAS | GRAPHICS ARTIST

HOROSCOPES

BY KENNEDI THOMAS
Graphics Artist

ARIES: March 21-April 20



The weight of carrying your own concerns as well as those of others may become too much to bear. Seek support during this time.

TAURUS: April 21-May 21



Disorganization in your personal life can be solved with planning. Being steps ahead will prevent you from falling behind.

GEMINI: May 22-June 21



Expand your connections and those you can rely on. Have vulnerable conversations with those you want to be closer to.

CANCER: June 22-July 22



Take on a productive mindset during this week. Setting your intentions and drive can make tackling difficult tasks easier.

LEO: July 23-Aug. 23



You have a clearer mindset when it comes to addressing conflict and important professional projects. Take on a leading role.

VIRGO: Aug. 24-Sept. 22



Maintain the balance of helping others while still allowing them independence. You cannot be there to solve all their problems.

LIBRA: Sept. 23-Oct. 23



Decompress through personal hobbies and creative outlets. If you do not have any, set aside time to explore some.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24-Nov. 22



Having a positive mindset and optimistic intentions can make a big difference when entering difficult events.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23-Dec. 21



Looking for the larger purpose behind your projects will give you more motivation to complete them.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22-Jan. 20



Strive to form habits that work in the long term. Starting small and making meaningful choices will ensure their effectiveness.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21-Feb. 18



Do not settle for incomplete answers or others not respecting your time. Stand up for your hard work.

PISCES: Feb. 19-March 20



Uncertainty can feel all-consuming and never-ending. What is most important is to control what you can.

OPINIONS

‘Print Jockey’: Signs of protest

Opinion



NILS LAHM | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sign made and held by a protestor reading, “We the people, no kings, no ice,” during the No Kings protest.

BY CONRAD HOOSER
Opinions Editor

Indiana doesn’t have professional protestors and it shows.

A little while back I was driving in Lafayette and there was a guy on the corner of a street with a sign that said “Repent or Kansas City will be destroyed.” Then there were two more signs with paragraphs of text on them.

My first thought was how it was too bad Kansas City had to go, but what can you do?

My second thought was how there was no way anyone could read those other signs.

Even if you were stopped at a light, the size was so small only the most eagle-eyed people would be able to read it. But most people would be driving by and have a second to see the signs.

The good news was that was a year ago or so, I guess people repented. It made me start to think about protests; not what the protests were for, but the physical signs themselves.

The infamous Purdue fake moon landings guy has a poster with “MOON LANDINGS” and “FAKE” in big text.

A sign like this is provocative and draws you

into a closer distance where you can read more.

Even if you don’t stop it makes you consider his prime message, at least more than you normally would which is probably not at all.

The most recent No Kings protest was a mixed bag of signs.

“HATE DOES NOT MAKE AMERICA GREAT” was written in black impact font on a yellow background. It gave cautionary vibes like a dangerous area sign.

“Trump’s worse than bubonic plague spread by rats!” Invokes an evocative image. Although there were weird things going on with capitalization. It was written as “TRuMP” which could be a font choice but I’m realizing now it bothered me.

There were also a bunch of signs with more than 20 words in 6-point font. I don’t know what they said. No one does.

In a past protest, there was a counter-protestor with a sign that said “STILL DON’T SEE ANY KINGS” in font big enough for old people to see, which is pretty inclusive.

Speaking of fonts, please don’t get fancy with it. A big fancy font might look good in theory, but in practice I have to decipher it like a heavy metal album cover and that’s suddenly work you’re asking me to do.

Listen. If you have a sign, you’re asking me to take time to consider your proposal. I’m in the drive thru for KFC and you want me to divert chicken time to instead be thinking time about the plight of chickens.

If you want to catch my attention you have seconds, so we’re talking 10 words or less, impact font, and high contrast colors.

If you care enough to make a sign, then you should commit enough to make it good.



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR
Protesters line Northwestern Avenue with signs reading various messages, including one reading “ICE melts with resistance.”

‘Ask Aditi’: Cooking and cutting costs

Column



BY ADITI KAPADIA
Managing Editor & Columnist

Hello! I’m Aditi, and I have absolutely no qualifications whatsoever to give advice. I’ve been at *The Exponent* for the last two years, and felt it was time to add some spice to our pages. If you want to be featured, send in your dilemmas, confessions, or just about anything using our submission form — it’s all anonymous.

“Hi Aditi! I love hanging with my friends, but everyone always wants to go out for dinner, and I don’t have the money to be doing that multiple times a week! What alternatives would you recommend?”

This is so real!! If one of you has an apartment, have a cooking night at home. You guys could find something to all make together, or even delegate to the best chefs in the group. Have a trashy TV show going, bring out some games, and just have a chill night in. Alternatively, if you’re in the dorms, rent out the kitchenette! It’s relatively simple to borrow a key from the front desk. We also have a columnist who makes recipes with ingredients from meal swipes! Check out “Dana’s Dishes and Dines”. If your friends really want to go out for dinner more than you can afford, swipe carryout from a dining hall, have them get their food from wherever they want, and then meet somewhere to eat together. Again, this could be at home or in a more communal space, such as a park or an open building. Definitely express to them that you can’t go out for food as much, so they’re aware and try to accommodate you as well.

“How does one get onto the roof of Forney Hall?”

I’ve never really considered this. My recommendation would be to get on the roof of a parking garage instead. It’s generally safer and actually allowed. The one on McCutcheon Drive is great. I once went up there with friends to listen to music and watch the sunset, and then we took cute photos with a digital camera afterward. Make it fun! Now that the weather’s improving, have a picnic there, or explore other parking garages on campus as hangout spots.

“Dining halls:
1) Hours of operation don’t fit student schedules — I have a test at night, and I need to eat an early dinner, but I can’t. I have a 7:30 a.m. class, and I can’t get breakfast before class. One location should be open from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
2) Food quality and options are terrible. Indiana ranks toward the bottom

in health and obesity. Yet we have an ag school and a hospitality school, but don’t provide high-quality food for students. Why isn’t there a salad bar? Why are there so many fried foods? Why aren’t there organic foods? The athletes’ dining hall has great food choices. Why isn’t the same quality afforded to the whole student population?

3) Why aren’t dining halls open on Sundays after a holiday? Everyone is back on campus on Sunday after a break with no dining hall access. That’s crazy.

4) The dining halls are filthy. Sit at a table at 7 a.m. The place is not clean at the beginning of the day.

In the interest of cost-cutting, the food students eat took a hit. The hours of operation took a hit. Sanitation took a hit.”

I totally get your frustrations. I, too, have wondered why all the dining halls close at 9 p.m. Honestly, the best thing to combat this is to store something small in your dorm or apartment that you can take with you on the go in the mornings. I keep a pack of granola bars in my room along with protein shakes, and they’re both easy to grab when I’m out the door. I’m also a coffee addict, so the canned ones in my fridge can also be super convenient (when I don’t have the time to go to an actual coffee shop). I wish the dining halls were open later, but Harrison Grill and the Cary Knight Spot Grill are both great late-night options on campus that also take dining dollars. I think that most dining halls generally have salad bars, but there are a lot of fried foods. There’s always a gluten-free or allergen station, and those tend to have better and healthier options. To be honest, I don’t think the school has the budget to provide all students with athlete-quality food. I have no idea why dining halls aren’t open the Sunday after a holiday. It may be part of their staffing policy, or even a budget issue again. Additionally, a lot of dining hall staff members are students, so their schedules may vary as well in terms of when they return to campus. Back to my first point, having snacks on hand is always so helpful, especially for situations like these. Some places that take dining dollars are open on the Sunday after a holiday. The dining halls are also not always the cleanest. I’m not sure how many staff members are part of Purdue Dining, but the halls get busy, and the cleaning crew may not always be able to keep up with the messes. Worst comes to worst, swipe for a carryout box and find a cleaner place to enjoy your meal.

‘The New Renaissance’: Two steps towards reclaiming the human experience



BY JOHN MILES
Columnist

Videography is a form of art. People devote their time and energy to becoming great at it, and that is inherently part of what makes it great.

Sora’s AI-generated videos were just downright horrendous. You could usually tell that they were generated. Using artificial intelligence to generate videos takes away from the true artistic craftsmanship that humans have to have.

On top of that, AI generated videos use a ridiculous amount of power and energy. Of the different kinds of AI generation (text, image, video), it has by far the worst impact on the environment. I don’t have the space here to be able to go over all of the horrible practical effects this has on our planet.

And perhaps the most ironic part to it, is that it is extremely costly. Each day, the cost of generating videos for the millions of people using the app was estimated at 15 million dollars. 15! Million! Dollars! Every day!

And alas, this is why the app shut down. Not because it’s killing the environment, not because the content it produced was straight slop, not because it’s an offense to art and the human experience, but because it ended up not being profitable. That should tell you everything you need to know.

But even though I find it despicable that this is what it took to shut the app down, I am still happy because for now, it’s gone.

You might expect me to blame the companies who are behind these sorts of apps, but I won’t do that. It’s not really their fault; it’s

ours. And by ours, I mean the everyday person who is willing to put up with the slop produced by AI on the internet.

For better or worse, we live in a capitalist society. If there wasn’t a demand for these apps, then they would not exist. But clearly there was a demand. Sora had millions of daily users. And how many millions more were engaging with this slop on social media platforms? We’re all to blame, because we’ve all put up with it. We’ve all accepted it as part of our lives.

But we don’t have to accept it. We don’t have to put up with it anymore. We all have the opportunity to reject the slop created by AI, and we should, because it’s literally killing us. It’s likely hurting our children’s education, according to Pew Research Center.

Which brings me to the second victory for humanity that has recently happened. On Tuesday, a jury in New Mexico found that Meta’s social media platforms are harmful to children, and the jury imposed a 375 million dollar penalty. Well, it’s about damn time.

There are great things on the internet, but I’m convinced that short-form content; reels, Tiktok, shorts, whatever they call it, is perhaps the most detrimental invention in human history, with the possible exception of the atomic bomb.

These apps are addictive, and they’re designed to be this way. Maybe you get some small amount of enjoyment out of them. Perhaps you’ve laughed at a reel or two. But let’s be honest, it’s unlikely that you remember even just one percent of what you’ve seen on these apps, and even that is a generous estimate.

The apps are free to use, not because these companies are generous and want to give you



ANAI GARCIA | GRAPHICS ARTIST

a free product, but because you’re the product. They don’t need to sell you something to generate revenue, they just need you to keep scrolling, to keep viewing, and as long as that is happening, their revenue is being generated.

And what are you getting out of this arrangement? Very little, if anything at all. It’s hurting you by destroying your ability to focus and get things done, according to the studies by the NIH. These corporations are shamelessly taking advantage of you.

Remember back to when we were kids, and life just seemed so full and so vibrant? Nowadays, we look back and think that we have nostalgia for the past. How foolish are we? The truth is that life was so full and so vibrant because we weren’t consumed by short-form content. We had tv shows, movies, and video-games, but we didn’t have Tiktok or reels or shorts. Sure, we were bored sometimes, but

maybe that boredom is what made life special.

With how bad short-form content is by itself, the only thing I can imagine being worse is AI generated short-form content! The best thing you can do is reject these, and embrace being bored again. Take back your attention span, and re-embrace a life that is vibrant, full, and real.

And imagine what it’s like to be a kid now, and to grow up having access to all of this slop. Maybe these kids will never feel what we call nostalgia, because they never knew a world that was as real as the one we knew. How privileged we were to have had that experience, the human experience.

If we know what’s good for us, if we know what’s good for the future, we will continue to reject AI generated art and short-form content. And by doing that, we’ll start to reclaim the Human Experience.



Need Advice?
Ask Aditi
Submit situations you're in, confessions, or just about anything. All submissions are anonymous!

Holi celebration brings colorful South Asian tradition to Memorial Mall



During Sunday's event people throw colored powder at each other.



Students include John Purdue in the Hovli celebration.



People throw color on each other during Sunday's event.

BY LEANNA MONTEIRO
Staff Reporter

Memorial Mall looked less like a campus lawn and more like a painter's canvas Sunday afternoon. Amidst the crowd of students gathered in white, quickly stained by various colors of powders, was the vibrant energy of Holi.

Holi, also known as the Festival of Colors, is a festival celebrated in South Asian communities. Traditionally a Hindu festival, it marks the end of winter and the start of spring.

"It's a festival of colors that is not only in India, but like South Asia usually," said Srushti Bhojar, a senior in robotics and mechatronics engineering and technology. "It's a Hindu Indian festival. It's welcoming spring into spring in, April showers and ending winter. It's a celebration through colors and water, usually as well. We just don't have water because it's cold."

Bhojar, who serves as the president of the American India Foundation at Purdue and a lead organizer of the event, said that the celebration has grown significantly by bringing together various parts of the campus community.

To ensure the largest possible turnout, AIF collaborated with two other major student organizations: the Indian Student Association and the

Cricket Association and Social Outreach.

"Our campus has a lot of South Asians and Indians on campus, and Purdue doesn't necessarily have an event like this. It's up to the club organizations that, you know, want to promote South Asian culture to kind of come together and create this event for our university," Bhojar said.

Bhojar said that when planning the event with three organizations and roughly 60 board members involved, safety and cultural authenticity were the top priorities.

Because the celebration took place on an American university campus rather than in India, the organizers had to be resourceful to recreate the traditional atmosphere.

"We don't have resources that are as available as they are in India to celebrate the same festival," Bhojar said. "The main things that go into this event are obviously the colors, making sure there are enough variations so people get that tie-dye look, and introducing South Asian snacks."

To complete the experience, the organizers hired a South Asian DJ to provide a soundtrack that catered to the diverse audience. The goal was to create a space that felt like home for South Asian students while remaining accessible to those discovering Holi for the first time.

"It's a way for people to feel like home, feel like they have a community where they can share these fond memories that they have from childhood or back wherever their home is, and kind of come together and celebrate together," Bhojar said. "It's a good way to reflect back on nostalgic memories as well, and kind of share those with your friends or even new people on top of that."

Shreem Miglani, a freshman in psychological, sciences, and economics, said that the Holi celebration felt symbolic, bridging the gap between her upbringing and her new life at Purdue.

"I've celebrated it all my life, so I think it brings me back to the days I spent at home with my family," Miglani said. "I think it also has its own new touch to it, because I'm celebrating it for the first time with my new family here."

Ashika Pradeep, a senior in industrial engineering, said the celebration affirmed her identity as someone of Indian descent, providing an opportunity to see her heritage reflected on a large scale.

"It honestly means to me that there is a real Indian community here that is based on bringing cultures to campus," Pradeep said. "I love being a part of it, and it really shows that Purdue is bigger than just America, it's truly global."



Sunday's Holi event featured colored powder in many colors for participants to throw at each other.

Purdue baseball wins latter 2 games in East Lansing

BY GABE FRYLING
Staff Reporter

The Boilermakers were back in action this weekend as they hit the road to play another Big Ten opponent.

This weekend, Purdue Baseball (19-8, 7-5 Big Ten) won two of their three games against Michigan State (9-17, 4-8) to keep its strong early-season play going.

The Boilermakers started the weekend of play on the road Friday night, falling to the Spartans 4-3. The scoring started quick in the second after Purdue took an early 2-0 on back-to-back at-bats. Though the Spartans responded at the end of the frame, tallying two runs themselves to tie the game.

The defensive showdown started after the second inning, and the Spartans got advantage of this scoring in the fourth inning to lead 3-2.



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR

Senior catcher Jackson Besette makes contact with the baseball during a game on March 6.

Purdue did respond two innings later after fight-year infielder CJ Richmond's RBI double brought in a runner. But once again Michigan State responded in the bottom of the frame, retaking the lead that lasted until the end of the game.

Purdue's batters struggled to find any rhythm on Friday, as they totaled only four hits. Senior outfielder Brandon Rogers was the only Boiler to tally two hits in the contest, adding an RBI to his yearly total.

Both programs were back in action on Saturday as the Boilermakers tied the weekend series in dramatic fashion, scoring 15 unanswered runs to win 16-13.

The contest started well for Purdue as it scored on the second at-bat of the day after junior infielder Dylan Drake homered over the right field wall. Michigan State went on to barrage Purdue in the bottom of the second inning, scoring 8-straight runs, started off by a grand slam by the Spartans' freshman infielder CJ Deckinga.

The Spartans went on to reload the bases and score four more runs in three-straight at-bats to double their total on the day and lead 8-1 heading into the third inning.

Purdue's multi-inning scoring run started there as it scored 15-straight runs over the next five innings. Senior infielder Sam Flores got things rolling with an RBI double

that scored one, followed by a RBI single by redshirt senior Aaron Manias that brought Purdue deficit to 5.

Purdue added another run in the fourth inning before Flores totaled another RBI on a single down left center field. The Boilermakers went on to take the lead just minutes later as senior outfielder Avery Moore launched a ball down left center for a grand slam, pushing Purdue up 9-8. The Boilers scored one more run in the sixth before Richmond hit another grand slam in the eighth inning to bring Purdue's lead up to 15-8.

The Spartans went on to respond in the ninth with five-straight runs, but it was not enough as the Boilers won by a three-run margin.

Moore, Flores and Richmond each totaled three or more RBIs in the contest. While on the defensive side, sophomore pitcher Jacob Boland provided over five innings of relief for Purdue holding Sparty scoreless during the Boilers push back into the lead.

On Sunday, Purdue capped the weekend series with an 11-4 win. This outing contained the Boilermakers third grand slam of the weekend and eighth game of the month where they posted double-digit runs.

The Boilermakers have now walked away from 3-straight weekend series with a winning record, and have won four of their last five games.

Wills, Wright silver sweep platform diving as swimming and diving wraps season at NCAAs

BY AVANEESH SANKAR
Asst. Sports Editor

The Purdue men's and women's swim and dive teams wrapped up the season swimming in style at the NCAA Championships in Atlanta, at the McAuley Aquatic Center on Georgia Tech's campus. Purdue produced 14 total NCAAs qualifiers, the most that the program has had since 2022.

For the women, sophomore Avery Worobel, the Big Ten title holder on 3-meter, finished ninth out of 51 on 1-meter to earn an honorable mention All-American for the second year. Her score of 282.20 fell just short of eighth place, but improved on her 12th-place finish last year.

While Worobel placed 32nd on 3-meter, senior Daryn Wright excelled in the event, placing ninth out of 48, earning an honorable mention All-American nod for her placement.

Wright went on to earn her silver medal in platform diving and earn her sixth career All-American nod, being the first medalist for Purdue on the tower at NCAAs since 2021, closing out her career on a high note.

Senior Reagan Mattice closed the chapter on her decorated time as a Boilermaker, finishing 29th in 1650m freestyle with a time of 16:22.67. Mattice wraps up her career as third in the record books for Purdue for the event with her previously set lifetime best of 16:14.70.

Out of the 14 total competitors, the Purdue men had a program-record 11 student athletes at the NCAAs, composed of five swimmers and six divers.

Sophomore Zach Welsh earned his first All-American honor after placing 10th out of 47 in 1-meter diving, being just 2.5 points short of the final spot in the final. The Boilermaker underclassmen continued to dominate, with sophomore Evan Mackesy shattering the record times for the program again, finishing



SARAH WIEDERKEHR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Zach Welsh prepares for his dive. Welsh placed second with a score of 394.05 during the 3-meter dive event on Jan. 31, 2026.

with a time of 4:17.58 in 500-free, beating a record that had stood since 2018.

Junior Max Miller continued to add to his trophy case with a finish of 14th out of 51 in the 3-meter to earn his fourth career honorable All-American nod, marking the third consecutive year scoring on the springboard.

While Purdue's 200m freestyle relay team finished 22nd, freshman Jānis Dzirkalis continued to dominate the program's record books with a leadoff leg split of 19.13 being faster than the team record in 50-free for the season. He was able to go sub-18.6 on a relay once again, closing the race with a 50-free split of 18.59.

Sophomore Tyler Wills dominated the spring boards yet again after a silver-medal finish at the Big Ten Championships, earning silver again on the tower. This marks his first All-American nod, with freshman Nathaniel Grannis and sophomore Holden Higbie joining him as honorable mention All-Americans in platform diving.

Out of the men and women, 11 Boilermakers are set to return for 2026-27, continuing to add to their resumes. As the season comes to a close, Purdue's trophy case continues to be filled up, and next season promises to keep adding to it.

SPORTS

www.purdueexponent.org

West Lafayette says goodbye to another legendary era of Purdue basketball

BY AVANEESH SANKAR
Asst. Sports Editor

Purdue's questionable close to the regular season had the Old Gold and Black faithful unsure about their favorite team.

AP's preseason number one team certainly did not have as smooth of a season expected of them, with home losses to every single ranked team that came into Mackey Arena, capped off by a Wisconsin Badger team spoiling senior night for the decorated trio of seniors, guards Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer, as well as forward Trey Kaufman-Renn.

Each one of them brought stability to the program in an era where loyalty is at a premium. As the uncertainty loomed and the dread settled in that the time of the seniors in West Lafayette was dwindling, fans looked to coach Matt Painter and company to rally to make one last run at a national championship for the upperclassmen.

And boy, did they ever give it their all.

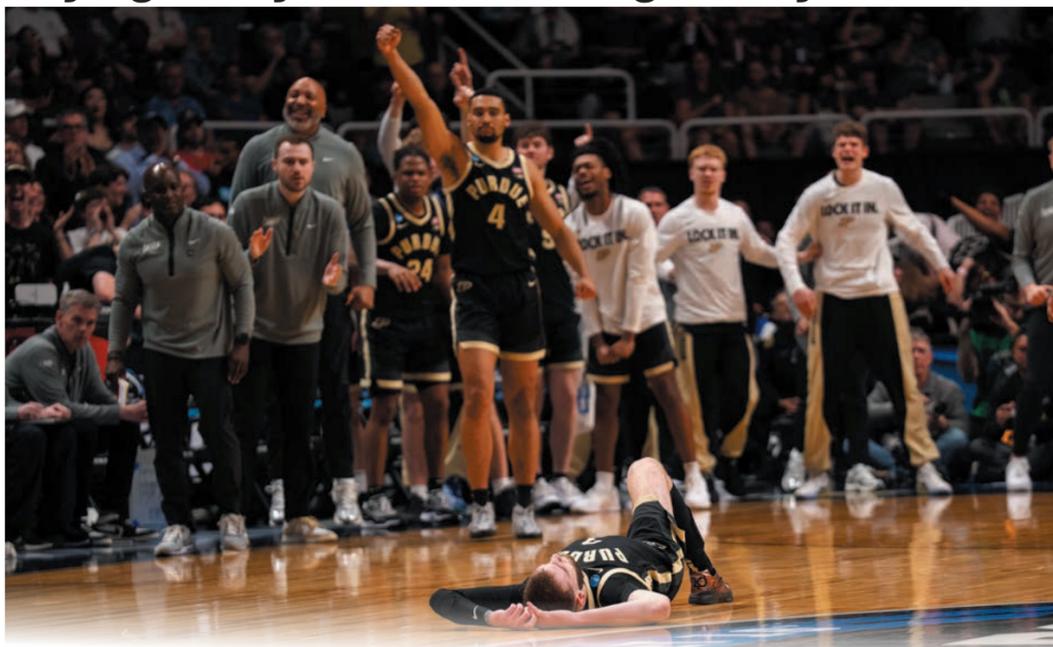
While the home losses were a glaring flaw, an overlooked part of the team prior to the Big Ten Tournament was that Purdue was 3-0 on a neutral court. The teams had wins over a feisty squad like Memphis and ranked teams like Auburn and Texas Tech.

After a late season collapse going 6-7 in their last 13 games, Purdue needed something to grasp onto. Being placed as a 7-seed in the Big Ten Tournament, they were dealt with a challenge no one had yet achieved — winning four games in a row to crown themselves conference champions.

After shutting down senior forward Nick Martinelli and the Northwestern Wildcats in the first game, Purdue surprisingly clamped down on Nebraska, UCLA, and enacted revenge on a Michigan Wolverines squad led by Big Ten Player of the Year senior forward Yaxel Lendeborg for the Big Ten title.

The feeling was euphoric to fans of the program.

While Smith did not shoot particularly well, his 46 assists over the tournament (a Big Ten record) was the engine that kept Purdue chug-



Senior guard Braden Smith lies on the floor after drawing an offensive foul against Arizona during Saturday's Elite Eight game at the SAP Center in San Jose, California. Purdue lost 79-64, marking Smith's final collegiate basketball game.

ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR

ging throughout their run and earned him the honors of Most Outstanding Player of the tournament.

Kaufman-Renn dazzled, with his crafty post finishing and rebounding helping to put the Wolverines to rest. Loyer lit it up in the tournament, shooting a blazing 45% from three on 40 shots.

An underrated component of that run was senior center Oscar Cluff. The addition of increased minutes for Cluff allowed for Kaufman-Renn to slide to the four where he excelled, and the tandem of those two dominated the glass.

"I'm just enjoying it more," Cluff said. "If you lose, there's no game tomorrow, so you give it everything you can, even more so."

Purdue gave everything it could over the conference tournament, collecting an outstanding 122 rebounds, which gave the Boilers needed second chances when their shooting from outside went cold. The bench also contributed solid minutes, providing much needed scoring and defense, with freshman guard Omer Mayer and sophomore guard Gicarrri Harris in particular playing well.

As the confetti poured down in the United Center, questions still loomed in the heads of fans. Can Purdue make a deep run with this squad? Will the defense collapse yet again? Their placement as a 2-seed in the West region certainly helped their odds at making the run.

Purdue's defense held strong against the Queens Royals, with a 104-71 win propelled by a combined 51 points from Smith and Kaufman Renn. The game also featured a record broken that had been held for 33 years — Bobby Hurley's assist record.

Smith started his career with an assist to Kaufman-Renn. Four years later, with a symbolic dime to the same recipient, Smith earned the crown of the NCAA's Assist King.

In this era of players earning five, even six years of eligibility, none of them have come close to the assist total of the true senior point guard that came out of Westfield, Indiana. Wrapping up his career with 1103 assists, it's hard to imagine that in this era of college basketball that Smith's record will be touched anytime soon.

"He's a special talent and there's

no point guard I'd rather play with," Loyer said. "For him to have a record that probably will never get broken, it's really special."

Purdue continued to power through, escaping Miami in the second round 79-69 after Kaufman-Renn outduelled Miami's frontcourt and Loyer scored 24 points on an efficient 6-for-7 shooting from the field.

Kaufman-Renn continued to have the magic touch on the post, after his last second tip-in allowed the Boilermakers to end the Texas Longhorn's Cinderella run as a 11-seed, with a score of 79-77. Purdue kept dancing out of the Sweet 16, and into the Elite Eight with a shot to return home to Indianapolis.

Arizona's squad had very few weaknesses in their front and backcourt. With Big 12 Player of the Year senior guard Jaden Bradley, junior center Motiejus Krivas and freshman forward Koa Peat dominating alongside others, the Wildcats proved to be too much for the Boilers.

While Painter switched the lineup up with lanky 7'4" sophomore center Daniel Jacobsen in the mix to try to

protect the paint, the Boilermakers got into foul trouble early. They held a 7-point lead going into half, but it ultimately proved unsustainable.

With one last three from Loyer assisted by Smith, Purdue fans had witnessed the last game of the "Big Three", with a scoreline of 79-64.

While a somber end, when looking back at their careers as Boilermakers, it's not just their play that both Painter and the three value.

"We get treated pretty well. We have a team, coach, and university that believes in us. A couple million dollars more sounds nice, but happiness is a lot better," Loyer said. "Doing the right thing is a lot better. Doing something for something bigger than you is a lot better."

It's the education, culture, and family that they have cultivated throughout their tenures that is more important to them over the dollar signs that have a strangle hold over college sports.

"It's a lot of moments that aren't even on the basketball floor, it's off the court, just hanging out with your friends. A lot of schools, a lot of players don't get that," Kaufman-Renn said. "It's a privilege to be from Sellersburg, Indiana and to play at a big name school with these great guys. It's something incredible."

Despite the three graduating, Painter is known for keeping guys around that have meant a lot to the program, with assistants P.J. Thompson, Brandon Brantley, and Sasha Stefanovic all being former players of the coach.

"You've got us for life," Painter said on Purdue rallying behind the three post-graduation. "That's what Coach Keady built and that's what we kept going. Anybody can have a good team, but when you have those qualities that those seniors have, now you've got a good program."

While this season has come to a close, and eyes are already on the new faces that will lead the program for the 2026-27 year, Purdue has finally closed another monumental era of basketball.

Now, while the time of the "Big Three" has ended, the trio will now and forever be Boilermakers legends, no matter where their journey takes them.

Purdue senior trio takes last collegiate steps in Elite Eight

BY KYLEE KLEVEN
Sports Editor

SAN JOSE, Calif — After one last 3-point shot from senior guard Fletcher Loyer, Boilermaker fans realized that the day they'd always dreaded had finally arrived. The day that Purdue's senior trio would walk off the court together one last time.

"You got to find those guys that believe in themselves. And you know, he (senior guard Braden Smith) believes in himself. Fletch (Fletcher Loyer) believes in himself, and TK (senior forward Trey Kaufman-Renn)," Head coach Matt Painter said, when asked about the senior's contributions to the season. "Those are the guys that it's like even when they struggle, somebody's gonna stick with them."

No. 2-seed Purdue (30-9, 13-7 Big Ten) extended its stay in San Jose, California, after claiming victory over the No. 11-seed Texas Longhorns. The Boilermakers celebrated their win Thursday night, but the No. 1-seed Arizona Wildcats (36-2, 16-2 Big 12) were awaiting them and presented an even bigger threat than the one they just faced.

This loss marks Purdue's 10th straight loss to a No. 1-seed in March Madness, where the last time the Boilermakers saw victory over a No. 1-seed was in 1997.

Here are the three takeaways from Purdue's

79-64 loss to Arizona:

Senior trio draws the curtain

Four years together at the same university speaks volumes in a time where NIL controls the college sports world. For these three players, Purdue spoke to them and ultimately led them to remain confident with the decisions they made all that time ago.

"There are just so many things, basketball, it's a great education. It's (a) good culture," Kaufman-Renn said when asked why he chose to play at Purdue. "Purdue kind of checked out those boxes real quick."

Despite this being the hardest challenge the Boilermakers have seen all season, the senior trio stood up to the occasion and remained vigilant the entire game.

Smith led the trio in scoring with 13 points. He also led the team with seven assists and claimed a new title for most minutes by a four-year player in NCAA history.

Following came Kaufman-Renn, who added 10 points to the score. Outside of two defensive rebounds, he also contributed a block.

Last but certainly not least is Loyer with 8 points, making two shots from the three. He also made three defensive rebounds.

Outside of Smith, both Kaufman-Renn and Loyer had their fair share of foul troubles as they both finished with four personal fouls.

Despite the statistics not being quite up to

each player's standard, the three are some of the most outstanding players in Purdue basketball history and made a difference for the program.

"They're great people on the court and off the court," sophomore guard C.J. Cox said. "I feel like that's something really important because not a lot of people are good people off the court, and they are."

A deceiving first half

As soon as tipoff began, the Wildcats proved to be faster and stronger than the Boilermakers. Despite this, there was a moment of hope where the Boilermakers got their rhythm back.

After holding onto a 6-point lead after just eight minutes into the game, the Boilermakers looked at every outlet to put themselves back in the game. Just as in the "tortoise and the hare", slow and steady won the first half of the race.

Efforts from sophomore guard Gicarrri Harris and Cox in the paint and outside, combined with Cox's ability, helped build a lead, alongside productive defensive minutes from sophomore center Daniel Jacobsen.

The Boilermakers finished the half leading 38-31. It wasn't until the second half that Arizona went back to the drawing board and came back as an entirely different team, while Purdue began to lose stamina on the court.

"I think they really hurt us a little bit on that (strength in the second half), and it kind of stunned us, how physically they were playing.

They came out at halftime and rocked us a little bit," senior center Oscar Cluff said. "But, you know, we saw, we fought. We fought to the end."

New competition calls for new plans

When looking to help solve Purdue's point slumps, Painter's only answer was to put both Cluff and Jacobsen on the court. After the game, Painter admitted that the two had never played on the court at the same time before and that the play was never originally planned.

The team's goal was to protect the paint from Arizona's frontcourt, where Cluff and Jacobsen worked to guard the paint together while working to occasionally close gaps in the post.

To the coach staff's surprise, their effort was a decent success and was the main reason why Purdue led at halftime.

Although the new lineup was beneficial in the first half of the game, it lacked the same effect in the second as the Wildcats were able to make it past both centers and hover around a double-digit lead the rest of the way, with the Boilermakers' efforts unable to cut it down.

Focus will now shift toward the 2026-27 season as the Boilermakers start anew without the senior class and continue to put in work during practice.

"The next group comes through, and you got to keep it rolling," Painter said. "You have to go."

Purdue fans react to Elite Eight loss against Arizona



SARAH WIEDERKEHR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A group of Purdue students watches as the No. 1 Arizona Wildcats hold a great lead over the No. 2 Purdue Boilermakers at the end of the second half of Saturday's game. Students at the Elite Eight Student Watch Party shared a moment of realization that this would be the end of the Boilermakers' journey in the March Madness tournament.

BY RONAK MOHANTY AND ALEXA STALTER
Staff Reporters

Despite the Boilermakers playing more than 2,000 miles away from home Saturday night in San Jose, California, Mackey Arena still had Black and Gold Fans rooting for Purdue against Arizona in the Elite Eight matchup.

Fans filled Mackey Saturday to watch Purdue

fight for a chance to reach the Final Four — and, ultimately, the final game for seniors Braden Smith, Fletcher Loyer, and Trey Kaufman Renn's storied careers at Purdue.

Despite a lopsided second half where the Boilers blew a 7-point lead, fans stayed in Mackey until the end, even when the game was clearly out of reach. The Arizona backcourt of senior guard Jaden Bradley and freshman guard Brayden Burries, combined with Arizona's big men in junior center Motiejus Krivas, junior forward Tobe Awaka, and freshman forward Koa Peat, proved to be too much for a Boilermaker team playing with multiple fouls.

The initial lead at the end of the second half got a lot of fans' hopes up, and in the end, it caused more pain after Purdue lost. Many students did not want to talk about the loss after the game officially ended, though others gave their disappointed reactions after Purdue's 7-game win streak dating back to the Big Ten Tournament came to a swift end.

Clinton Sudjono, a sophomore in marketing, said the game was a letdown after the first half that saw Purdue held Arizona to only 31 points.

"I thought it was going to be different. Then it went downhill after Braden Smith rolled his ankle," Sudjono said.

Sudjono also said he thought the defense was an issue all season, despite Purdue being ranked first in the preseason. The sentiment was shared among many that the season didn't live up to the expectations of a preseason number one.

With Purdue losing key pieces on its current roster with the "Big Three" graduating and senior center Oscar Cluff's future being up in the air, Sudjono was still upbeat about the future of the program.

"Hopefully our incoming freshmen can (close) the gap," Sudjono said.

Other students agreed that despite the three seniors leaving being sad, that doesn't mean the end for Purdue basketball's good streak. The rising freshman class could mean new things for the team.

"That's the saddest part," said Xavier Wesley, a graduate student in business analytics, in reference to the seniors leaving. "But I'm excited to see how the youngins' play."

Though many have a hopeful outlook on Purdue's team after this year, others still think that the seniors leaving means the end of Purdue's good run, and don't expect the team to sustain the success they've had for the past four years. Not everyone is hopeful that Purdue will ever win March Madness after their graduation, and believes that this was Purdue's best chance at getting anywhere close.

"I think this is just the rest of our lives. We'll continue to make it to the Sweet 16 and just never make it past," said Jack Pyle, a senior in health science pre-physician assistant studies.

"At halftime, we were up a little bit, and it gave me a little bit of hope. But, I mean, as classic Purdue, we just sell everything past the Sweet Sixteen.

It just got my hopes up, but then it demolished it one more time," said Seth Hargis, a senior in construction management.

Juniors Jack Heit and Jack Fan were at Mackey until the end. Fan said the game was good in the first half.

"Folks were high, then it was demoralized in the second half. The last ten minutes, guys wanted to leave," Heit said.

The so-called "Big Three's" departure, consisting of Smith, Loyer, and Renn, was "sad to see," according to Heit and Fan. The duo witnessed Purdue's run to the national title game in 2024 and likened the loss Saturday to the loss against UConn two years ago.

"We just ran into a juggernaut," Heit said.

"Just like this year," Fan said.

Despite the tough second half, the pair were happy with Purdue's performance this season, additionally saying they would've been mad about losing to Texas, but thought Arizona was the best team in the country.

Other students agreed that despite the disappointing end to Purdue's March Madness run, they played well overall and provided a plethora of memories for all their fans.

"We had a good run. It was a pleasure to be able to enjoy this much entertainment for this one. So, you know what happens, happens, and I'm still gonna keep watching," Wesley said.