


Campus




Pg. 2
Bird Club
As summer approaches, more bird species are returning to Greater Lafayette from the south. Purdue's Bird Club is excited about the return of species that cannot be seen during the winter months.

Opinions



Pg. 5
Rape as a weapon
Wars are not only fought with guns and bombs, but with attacks of every nature: physical, mental, and sexual. Sexual violence is prevalent in wars across the globe and educating ourselves is the first step to stopping it.

Feature



Pg. 9
3SC
From late night rehearsals on Third Street, to the stage in Elliott Hall, 3rd Street Collective is turning campus buzz into real momentum. Blending R&B, hip-hop, and jazz, the student band is proving it has a sound worth listening to.

Race for Senate District 23:

Candidates launch attack ads in final stretch of GOP battle



A screenshot of an attack ad against Spencer Deery alleges that he voted to let China own farmland in the United States. Deery said he later voted to not allow foreign ownership anywhere.

A screenshot of an attack ad against Paula Copenhaver, launched by Spencer Deery, alleges that she stole over \$100,000.

BY RONAK MOHANTY
Staff Reporter

The race for the GOP nomination for state Senate District 23 has turned into a nationalized Republican slugfest between the incumbent Spencer Deery and Paula Copenhaver, who has been endorsed by President Donald Trump.

These groups face less campaign finance regulation and have been able to invest millions of dollars in state senate races.

The ads have called Deery an "anti-Trump liberal," and have consistently attacked him for votes taken regarding Chinese ownership of farmland, property taxes, and – though not as often – his vote against redistricting.

Attack ads from both candidates have dominated the airwaves in West Lafayette during the course of the campaign, whose total cost is millions of dollars.

The attacks on Deery's vote on Chinese ownership are the most misleading. The ads cite his vote supporting House Enrolled Act 1183, which prohibited citizens of certain foreign adversaries, such as China, from owning land within 10 miles of a military site. HEA 1183 passed the state senate unanimously in 2024.

The ads against Deery are part of a broader retribution campaign against the eight GOP state senators who tanked the Trump-backed effort to redraw Indiana's congressional districts to flip the two seats held by Democrats.

Deery said his vote for HEA 1183 is being misconstrued by the ads. The bill banned Chinese ownership of Indiana land within 10 miles of a military site. Now, the ads are pointing to Deery's vote and accusing him of supporting foreign ownership outside of a 10-mile radius.

Many of the attack ads targeting Deery have come from outside groups and PACs that have spent millions, such as Hoosier Leadership for America and American Leadership PACs, which are linked to U.S. Sen. Jim Banks, R-Indiana. Groups such as the Club for Growth and Turning Point Action have also taken up Copenhaver's mantle, according to reporting by Politico.

"Because of that first bill, they're saying, 'Oh well, he voted to let them allow (foreign ownership), well, that's just an outright lie,'" Deery said.

Other ads prominently featured Copenhaver's Oval Office visit to meet with Trump in

early March, after Trump had endorsed her

Impact of attack ads

Deery cast the current effort to unseat him as not just a threat to his career but as a threat to America's constitutional system.

"It is all about control. You know it is. They're doing it because they got mad because we refused to mid-cycle gerrymander our maps," Deery said, referring to "groups affiliated with Washington, D.C., that are able to receive unlimited corporate or other dollars."

Deery continued that although redistricting is a dead issue, the fight is about showing who is in control.

"Now ... it is about sending the message to Indiana and to every other state in the union that they can manipulate your elections, that if your state legislature does not get in line, they can create consequences for you," Deery said.

Deery said that the retribution campaign was putting the U.S. on the road to authoritarianism.

"It undermines our system of government that was set up with states in a position to be coequal partners with the federal government, and adding a stronger central national government is what authoritarian governments do."

Despite his sharp criticisms, Deery avoided directly criticizing the president, instead at-

tacking Washington, D.C. as a whole.

"Right now, (Trump is) who happens to be in the White House ... it's not just him, though it's all Congress. There's no daylight there. It's all just one entity. That's why I use the phrase Washington D.C., rather than a particular individual. But that's what it is right now," Deery said. "But I think there's, you know, no reason to assume that it wouldn't be somebody else next time. And once you prove the concept and make that the norm, that's a concern."

Deery started off the campaign avoiding attack ads. Instead, he highlighted his record in the Indiana Senate, such as passing a "tougher law to turn over illegal immigrants who've committed violent crimes," helping kill the LEAP pipeline, and how "we kept boys out of girls' sports," which are all issues that have traditionally played well with the GOP base.

However, as the campaign approached its closing days, Deery pivoted to attack ads sharply criticizing Copenhaver, using ads similar to the ones employed against him.

One of those alleges she "stole over \$100,000 from the small business she worked for." The ad refers to a business dispute involving Copenhaver and her husband, Michael, that erupted into the civil case, Copenhaver v. Lister.

See CANDIDATES ATTACKS | Page 3

'He's a character because he believes in character'

Cover etches impact into philosophy department



ANDREW COLEMAN | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR
Professor of Philosophy Jan Cover poses Tuesday in his office located in Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education.

BY ANDREW COLEMAN
Photo & Video Editor

After 37 years, Professor of Philosophy Jan Cover is ready to leave his office on the seventh floor of Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education one last time – and with it, his long-time colleagues and friends.

still had basketball tickets and (he) took me to a basketball game. He was super friendly."

More than this, though, Cover has always been committed to Purdue and his work. For students, this is seen as office hours almost being working hours. But for Yeomans, this is seen as a competition he only won for one semester.

"One of my proudest achievements as a department member here is from my first semester," Yeomans said. "I actually beat Jan into the office because I was trying to get a book done, and I would be in the office at 5 a.m."

After spending so many years in BRNG 7142, Cover has grown attached to the space, citing his office as one of the three things he will miss in retirement.

"I live here. Every morning for 37 years, the alarm clock goes off at 5 a.m., and I'm out of the house by 6 a.m.," Cover said. "I come here and do my job. I don't say how well; I try. And at 6 p.m. I walk home. And so this is where I live, and I'm not going to have my office anymore."

Outside of the department, Cover is known for his unorthodox teaching style by today's standards, with some students even being confused or surprised by Cover's presence.

"He's an extremely unusual professor," said Professor of Philosophy Michael Bergmann. "He wants to push you and challenge you in ways that you haven't been pushed and challenged ... Part of his method is to kind of get you to pay attention by behaving so unusually that you're going to be paying attention."

For students who look past Cover's unusual style or get to know him better, they often realize what lies beneath the show. Cover himself demonstrates this by taking the time every class to take attendance, even though it interrupts learning.

"When I take roll, it cuts into my teaching time, which I hate. Hate it or not, the sacrifice is still worth it," Cover said.

See PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR | Page 3

COLUMN: 'Print Jockey': Beyond fear, cheese awaits

BY CONRAD HOOSER
Opinions Editor

To some degree, we all fear change. Because of that, our greatest lessons often come from surprising places when we are not prepared to resist. It turns out that my mind was keeping a prisoner trapped in a cage of fear. That prisoner was my stomach.

But to paraphrase Frank Herbert, all good stories must begin in their place and time.

Messages from the deep

My story begins sometime last year. A rumor had begun to circulate that someone had overcome lactose intolerance by drinking milk until their body adapted. "I fixed my lactose intolerance – by chugging ALL the lactose," by a channel called HGModernism. Not only was it a first-hand account, but she based her initial theory on scientific research.

I told my friends that maybe I would try it. Anyone who has known me for any decent amount of time knows that my gastrointestinal fortitude is about as low as it gets.

I've been tested for many stomach-related disorders, both common and uncommon, but the only thing that was ever certain was my lactose intolerance.

It rarely stopped me, though. I have found that to be common among lactose-intolerant people. They will look at a bowl of ice cream and accept that this could be their last meal, before gleefully digging in.

Then, a short time later, bloating that feels like sharp stabbing pain, flatulence, and considerable time in the bathroom make me confront my own actions.

So, it is no wonder that a way out of that cycle would draw my attention, even if it required a few weeks of agony.

But I was not prepared to swim in strange waters. To know that jagged rocks lie beneath the



SAWYER REBENACK | GRAPHICS EDITOR

surface is enough to make anyone afraid. The pains that we know can surely be no greater than the pains that we fear.

So, I asked an expert first, and when I searched up lactose-intolerance research, a Purdue researcher came up. Dennis Savaiano, a professor and dean emeritus in the College of Health and Human Sciences.

The name was not new to me. It was the same one that was referenced as the basis of HGModernism's video.

That was my fate.

The learning of the wise

Savaiano began his research in 1983 when he had a student from Morocco who wanted to study lactose because Morocco has lots of dairy foods, but also high amounts of intolerance among their population.

READ THE REST ONLINE | purdueexponent.org

NOTES TO NAILED IT



Warm weather brings migrating birds back to Greater Lafayette



AMELIA ANGELONE | ASST. CAMPUS EDITOR

BY ALEXA STALTER
Staff Reporter

Warm weather isn't the only sign that spring has come. As Purdue students step outside, they may also hear birdsong throughout campus.

April and May are during the prime bird migration season, according to the president of Purdue's Bird Club and senior in chemical engineering, Emma Oxtoby.

Oxtoby said one of the main things West Lafayette will see in this season is the appearance of warblers. More specifically, pine, yellow-rumped, palm, yellow, and cerulean warblers.

"These are small yellow

birds, mostly," Oxtoby said. "But Cerulean is particularly exciting because (its) not yellow."

Oxtoby said she is most excited about the warbler migration because the warblers are "cute and colorful."

One of Bird Club's members, Andrew Devlin, a senior in chemical engineering, said warblers love to sit in the tops of trees, which makes them hard to see.

"It's called warbler neck," said Helena DeMars, the vice president of Bird Club and a senior in general management. "This is what birders get from staring up at the top of trees. It can hurt the back of your neck."

Warblers will stop in the area and stay for a bit before eventually continuing further north. Their end destination will be Canada for their breeding season in June.

Oxtoby said the Celery Bog Nature Area is likely the best place to see these birds, as they aren't usually found on campus. She also said they can sometimes be found at the Purdue Horticulture Park.

A flock of pelicans even landed in Celery Bog a few weeks ago. Oxtoby said the pelicans were there for a few days to rest while on their journey to the Great Lakes. Waterbird migration ended around the end of March and early April.



SUMUKHI GUPTA | GRAPHICS



SUMUKHI GUPTA | GRAPHICS



SUMUKHI GUPTA | GRAPHICS
ARTIST

DeMars said that West Lafayette is also seeing a return in its vultures.

Other raptors, such as ospreys, are also coming back to the area. Ospreys can be found around bodies of water, such as ponds, the Wabash River, and Celery Bog.

"We have a lot of birds migrating that are coming in, but it's still always great to look out for our year-round residents," Oxtoby said. "Those would be like cardinals, blue jays, Carolina chickadees, tufted titmouse, nuthatches, mourning doves, and American goldfinch."

Oxtoby said that although the American goldfinch is a year-round resident, they are especially exciting right now because they are approaching breeding season. This causes their plumage to get brighter, as their feathers are a lot more

dull during wintertime.

Toward the end of April, West Lafayette will also see the return of its only hummingbird species, the ruby-throated hummingbird. They can be found around flowers in Horticulture Park and Celery Bog.

Oxtoby said most birds are only stopping in West Lafayette as they pass through, but swallows are another species that will be staying here over the summer. Some of those species include tree swallows and barn swallows.

"Tree swallows will put a singular feather in a tree-nesting cavity, then they'll busy themselves trying to find a mate. Then they'll come back to that cavity later and use more of the feathers to help build up a nest," Oxtoby said.

Red-winged blackbirds are also already here, with the

males having arrived before the females.

"Male red-winged blackbirds are in harems, so it's one male and usually a lot of females," Oxtoby said. "Then the more territory you have, the more (mates) you get. That's why they get here a little bit earlier than the female red-winged blackbirds."

Oxtoby is the president and founder of the Bird Club. She originally started it with her friends, but it saw a significant increase in attendance in the fall of 2025.

The Bird Club meets 7-9 p.m. every Thursday in the Brown Laboratory of Chemistry, room 3102, with bird walks on Saturday mornings, weather permitting.

"If you're not interested in birds, you should be," Oxtoby said. "They're very cool, and they're very diverse."



SUMUKHI GUPTA | GRAPHICS
ARTIST



AMELIA ANGELONE | ASST. CAMPUS EDITOR
Migratory American white pelicans rest on a small island within Celery Bog.



SUMUKHI GUPTA | GRAPHICS
ARTIST



AMELIA ANGELONE | ASST. CAMPUS EDITOR
A native white-throated sparrow sits among the plants in Celery Bog.

For years WTTW, a Chicago television station used the slogan your "Window To The World." For the past fifteen years this has been my window to the world, and what a wonderful world it is. During that time, I have had the honor, the pleasure, and the privilege of not only observing, but serving thousands of students at Purdue University. Once again, it is time for me to say goodbye to yet another class of Boilermakers, not just students but friends.

Fifteen years ago, when I walked into the offices of City Bus and filled out an application for a job, I had no idea of what was ahead of me. During that time, I have had the pleasure of meeting people from countries and cultures, from all around the world and I have enjoyed every moment of it. While waiting for a traffic light on Northwestern Avenue last year a group of students from India passed in front of the bus and waved shouting my name, I waved back. One of the students riding the bus made the comment "Mike you know your known all around the world." Given the number of international students I have met I believe him, something not every bus driver can say. My one regret is that I have not been able to attend a Holi Festival, well maybe next year.



To all of you, go forth and do good things, you are the shapers of the future. Be safe.



Salisbury Mike
One of your city bus chauffeurs

Mitch Daniels School of Business launches new major

BY JENNY LI
Staff Reporter

The Mitch Daniels School of Business is expanding, adding organizational behavior and human resource management to its vast list of majors currently offered.

Joël Muñoz, a lecturer for the organizational behavior/human resources major, said, "We saw there was a need. When we looked at other Big Ten schools, (we were) wanting to remain competitive, and we wanted to ensure that we also filled a need within the area and within the School of Business."

Natalie Schneider, clinical assistant professor in OBHR, agreed with Muñoz, saying the new major will help support organizational behavior in human resources professions internally.

Muñoz participated in the development of the major and described the different levels of approval required to integrate it into the university.

"Once we had the initial approval to move forward, we looked at the actual needs, we looked at our program," Muñoz

said. "(The board) wanted to make sure we had a competitive program and that we were able to offer a curriculum that was forward-thinking. In which we are preparing students for the HR roles of the future."

A committee then worked to develop the actual curriculum for the major, Muñoz said. Students currently enrolled at Purdue can declare OBHR as their major.

"It is official (that) students can begin declaring this as their major," Schneider said. "It will not be on the CommonApp until fall 2027, for students who are applying to Purdue, but we are actively enrolling students now so they can declare it as their major once they are here."

According to Schneider, since OBHR is a major within the business school, a lot of the core requirements that students need to take align with many of the other business majors, but major-related courses will hone in on the organizational behavior aspect, along with HR.

"(Major-related courses) include courses like talent management, talent recruitment. It



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Students walk past Jerry S. Rawls Hall.

also includes HR analytics, leadership teams in the workplace," Schneider said. "We want these courses to be unique in that those students are getting both the quantitative piece of HR while matching with the qualitative piece of being a human in the workplace."

The addition of OBHR also opens numerous doors for students career-wise. Schneider said students can pursue roles such as human resource special-

ists, talent acquisition professionals, and HR analysts. Long-term opportunities in leadership include roles like HR business partners or human capital consultants.

"I want students to know that this is an all-inclusive experience, and it's not just taking classes with us," Schneider said. "You're going to engage with our faculty and you're going to engage with your classmates. We have many opportunities."

Canidates Attacks

Continued from Page 1

Steve Lister, the plaintiff, accused Michael Copenhaver of stealing money from Lister Well Drilling, and then the fight escalated in January 2002 when the Copenhavers reportedly refused to return some equipment to Lister and reimburse the business \$28,000, according to court documents.

The trial court found for Lister and awarded him a judgment of \$120,107.25. The Court of Appeals of Indiana affirmed the judgment in 2006.

According to a report by Based in Lafayette, Indiana, Paula Copenhaver called the ads "character assassination" during a rally earlier this month.

She added that "they're making it into something that they want to make it into. I always tell my kids, whatever you're looking for, you're going to find. If you want to see the bad in something, you're going to find it. If you want to see the good in something, you're going to find it." Based in Lafayette, Indiana reported.

Deery defended the ads, despite saying that he doesn't enjoy having attack ads be a part of his campaigns, on the grounds that voters deserved to know

about any information that could endanger the GOP in the general election.

"I believe in trying to elevate discourse as much as possible, but that doesn't mean that I'm going to just sit back and be a punching bag and allow groups to beat on me and not fight back as well too," Deery said. "I think it's important for people to remember too that we didn't throw the first punch, and we took a lot of punches before we punched back."

Missing from Deery's ads, though, has been his most prominent supporter - former Indiana Gov. and Purdue President Mitch Daniels.

Deery explained that "(Daniels) filmed the kickoff video and attended a fundraiser for me, but we only get a limited amount of ads, and we have had other strategic priorities to emphasize."

Daniels, though, has personally donated \$5,000, according to Deery's most recent campaign finance filings. According to those same filings, Deery had slightly over half a million dollars in the bank, which he said were "unprecedented levels" for him.

Copenhaver's filings show

her with \$15,620.45 on hand. Copenhaver did not respond to an interview request or answer questions emailed to her.

Those filings showed that Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith's campaign - Micah For LT. Governor - donated \$7,000 to Copenhaver's campaign on April 20. Copenhaver is a governmental affairs director on Beckwith's staff. The campaign finance documents also revealed that Copenhaver loaned \$5,000 to her campaign.

Campus engagement

Despite millions of advertising dollars that have been poured into the race by outside groups, it's unclear how engaged the Purdue student body is with the campaign.

Emre Gulec, the current president of the Purdue Political Discourse Club, thought that students have definitely been seeing the ads, especially on YouTube.

"People are aware, even I'm constantly getting ads here on TV. I can only imagine others are as well. I'm seeing a lot of signs around," Gulec said. "I definitely think it's pretty prominent, on a lot of students' minds, even if they're not normally engaged with politics, it's become a big deal."

Gulec acknowledged he is likely part of a more politically engaged circle than most other

students.

Kyle Wang, an electrical and computer engineering major from New Jersey, said he had been getting the ads attacking Deery. Despite the ads being the first time he'd heard of Deery, he hadn't really swayed his opinion on the candidates.

"(They've) kind of just (been) in the back of my mind a little bit," Wang said.

As Purdue Political Science Professor Jesse Crosson put it, "at some point you're like, 'Okay, I get it, but leave me alone.'"

Even if the ads may come with diminishing returns, Crosson said the campaigns were still spending out of fear of what could happen if they don't.

"It's a little bit like the Soviets in the (20th century) and us. Why do we have enough nuclear bombs to blow up the world 26 times over, or whatever it is? Mutually assured destruction. You're afraid," Crosson said.

One silver lining Crosson saw in the vast sums of money spent? Turnout is likely to jump in this primary.

"I'll bet you turnout for this primary election will be a record high for the state of Indiana, particularly in districts like ours, because people might not know the local candidates, but they know the national figures - and that's going to bring them to the polls," Crosson said.

Philosophy Professor

Continued from Page 1

Every day, while taking attendance, Cover asks his students how they are doing. During one such instance, a student answered Cover's daily question unconvincingly. After asking the student to elaborate, the student mentioned having "another episode." Cover responded by telling the student to take care of themselves first.

"We do have to make sure we're okay. And I said, 'If there's anything I can do, get your ass to my office and let me at least try,'" Cover said when reflecting on the instance.

Cover's impact is more

than asking students how they are doing. According to Professor of Philosophy Jeffrey Brower, Cover's impact lasts a lifetime in the hearts of many students.

"Of all of my colleagues, he's the one that I think continuously gets letters from past students, you know, saying how much they appreciated the time he took and the difference he made in their lives," Brower said.

As retirement comes and Cover's time to directly impact students closes, Cover reflected on how he feels about this chapter ending.

"I will certainly miss teaching students, being able to at least try to contribute to the building of lives that might flourish a bit better than they would otherwise," Cover said.

Cover's care toward his students shouldn't overshadow why he was in the department to begin with: his philosophical ability. For Brower, this was a major highlight of being hired at Purdue.

"One of things I was excited to come here for was, whoa, I get to be in the same department with Jan Cover," Brower said. "I mean, he was a big name."

Kain said that Cover's knowledge goes far beyond philosophy. He is a collector of art and etch-

ings, earned degrees in biochemistry and physics, and has a background in mountaineering and firefighting.

"He's really wicked smart," Kain said. "Some people might not know how much he knows about a lot of things."

This knowledge is often hidden behind Cover's readiness to jump in and help. According to Bergmann, Cover is the first one to support others regardless of his health.

"He's in pain all the time," Bergmann said as he continued to discuss how Cover's back is constantly sore, most likely due to his mountaineering days. "If you're in a room, and chairs are needed in the room ...

he's the guy who's in pain, who's going out there pulling some other chairs into the room so that there'll be seats."

But most of all, Cover wants people to simply remember the golden rule.

"With greater readiness act in ways that you would be eager to invite your grandpa to evaluate and apprise in respect to how well we've treated other people," Cover said when asked what phrase he would post around campus if he could. "Maybe that's just a long-winded way of saying: Maybe try to live a little more readily with the golden rule in mind."

POLICE BEAT

PURDUE

Friday

A theft of audio equipment, valued about \$5,000, was reported about 4:15 p.m. from the Stewart Center, according to Purdue University Police Department Capt. Song Kang.

Sunday

A theft of a computer part, valued about \$450, was reported about 3:40 p.m. from the Stewart Center.

WEST LAFAYETTE

Friday

Purdue student Alec Peters, 21, was arrested about 3:25 a.m. near the intersection of Brown Street and Tapawingo Drive for allegedly driving while intoxicated after sobriety tests were reportedly performed, according to West Lafayette Police Department logs.

A theft was reported about 9 p.m. from the Walmart on Sagamore Parkway.

Saturday

Nickolas Sutton, 22, was arrested about 3:20 a.m. near the intersection of Northwestern Avenue and Elm Drive for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

Dominick Hedges, 20, was arrested about 11:30 a.m. in the 300 block of Dehart Street for allegedly leaving the scene of a crash.

Purdue student Joseph Campagna, 20, was arrested about 9:15 p.m. near the intersection of Fowler Avenue and Vine Street for alleged possession of a controlled substance.

There was a theft reported about 10 p.m. from the Walmart on Northwestern Avenue.

Jaxon Bisher, 19, and Clayton Bisher, 24, were arrested about 10:10 p.m. near the intersection of Western Drive and Sheridan Road for alleged possession of a controlled substance.

Sunday

Angler Ramirez Martinez, 25, was arrested about 12:15 a.m. in the 300 block of State Street for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

Yoisel Gomez, 35, was arrested about 2:50 a.m. near the intersection of South and 2nd streets for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

Francisco Cid, 27, was arrested about 3 a.m. near the intersection of 3rd and South streets for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

Quinlan Lauderback, 24, was arrested about 3:30 a.m. near the intersection of 6th and Main streets for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

Purdue student Rishabh Bhardwaj, 20, was arrested about 3:30 a.m. in the 400 block of Maple Street for alleged battery.

Monday

Emily Robinson, 32, was arrested about 12:05 a.m. near the Circle K on Sagamore Parkway for alleged theft and possession of marijuana.

Stuart Schweigert, 44, was arrested about 2 a.m. near the intersection of Sagamore Parkway and Duncan Road for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

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

A West Lafayette Police Department car sits in a parking lot.

STOLEN BIKE COUNTER

In this edition: 2
Total: 16



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

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



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

DEANNA HUTTS
Bookkeeper/Accountant

KYLE CHARTERS
CEO/Publisher

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 subscriptions 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.



YOUTUBE X
SPOTIFY
FACEBOOK
INSTAGRAM
EXPONENTHUB.ORG

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/

BROKE?
SAVE \$

ExponentHub.org

AMAZON IS OVERRATED

SHOP LOCAL

ExponentHub.org

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

WORK

The Exponent

Do your homework first, always remember if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Research all companies before giving out any sensitive personal/banking information!

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.

FOR RENT

Advertise your vacant apartment units or houses here with a low cost classified advertisement. Call 765-743-1111 ext 100 or email adproduction@purdueexponent.org

PERSONALS

Say I'm sorry, profess your love or communicate to a friend with an Exponent classified ad. Free with Purdue student ID. Call 765-743-1111 ext 100 or email adproduction@purdueexponent.org

WEIRD FLEX, BUT OKAY

Post your strange skill, odd collection, or niche talent. "Guy who sounds like a trombone looking for ska band." Make people laugh. Make them question reality. Make your mark. Exponent classifieds: where weird wins.

IT'S CLASSIFIED

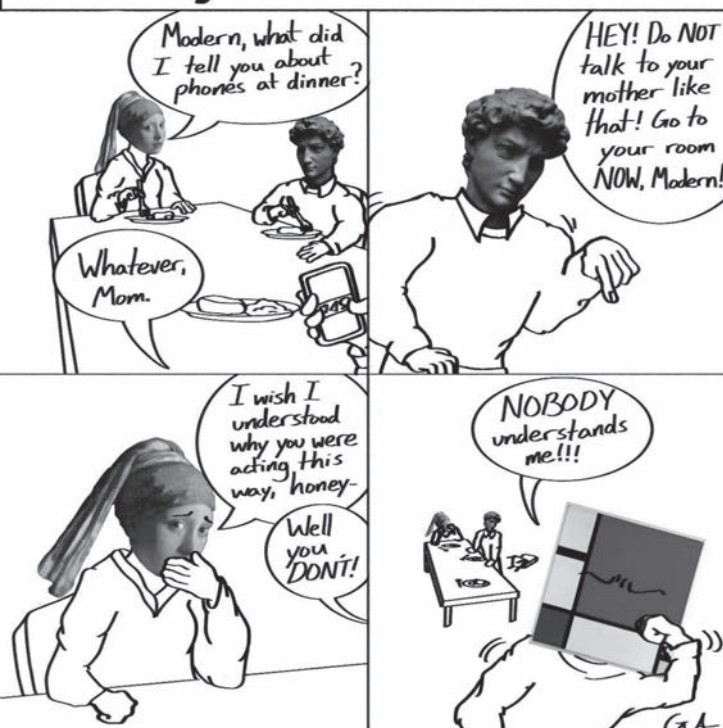


CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
765-743-1111

ANDREW NILSSON | GRAPHICS ARTIST

On this day, April 30, in 2014, Purdue held its first-ever Day of Giving. It was an online event centered around the theme "Opportunity Granted," featuring live-streamed web events and social media initiatives to engage and excite potential donors. The original goal, set by then-Purdue President Mitch Daniels, was \$2.5 million, but the event ended up raising over \$7.5 million from over 6,500 donors.

Mutually Assured Distraction



GRAYDEN ARTUSI | GRAPHICS ARTIST

HOROSCOPES

BY KENNEDI THOMAS
Graphics Artist

ARIES: March 21-April 20
Focus on staying true to your promises. Others are counting on you to follow through with expectations.

TAURUS: April 21-May 21
Don't be afraid to make bold decisions. In order to move forward, choices that make a difference need to be made.

GEMINI: May 22-June 21
Find middle ground with others through shared passions. Surprising connections may be found.

CANCER: June 22-July 22
Internal reflection can reveal new emotions. A better understanding of a past situation can aid you in the future.

LEO: July 23-Aug. 23
Take time to distinguish between your own expectations and the expectations of others. Doing so will help you achieve your goals.

VIRGO: Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Make sure objects in your life are fulfilling. Holding on to things that no longer serve you will only hold you back.

LIBRA: Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Being true to your character will strengthen genuine connections. Only surround yourself with people who accept the real you.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Complete tasks with a purpose. Doing things mindlessly will cause you to lose motivation and momentum towards your goals.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Breaking routine will seem more appealing during this time. Taking risks within reason will be beneficial in the long run.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Uncomfortable change may be required to make positive differences in your life. Take chances even when it seems intimidating.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Prioritize spending time with close connections. Time with them can feel refreshing and may motivate you.

PISCES: Feb. 19-March 20
Recognize when a fresh start is appropriate or when continuing with a new outlook will be more helpful.

THINGS TO DO

THURSDAY

Presidential lecture series: Bruce Leak

Join Bruce Leak, the co-founder of Silicon Valley venture capital firm Playground Global, for a lecture titled 'Engineering the Future' as Purdue President Mung Chiang joins him. The event starts at 6 p.m. in the Stewart Center, Fowler Hall, located at 128 Memorial Mall Dr.

AAARCC Spring De-stress Week

The Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center is hosting a destress event featuring the popular Nepali game, Bagh-Chal, from 10 a.m. to noon. The AAARCC is located at 915 Fifth St.

SUNDAY

Jazz on the Hill

Purdue Bands & Orchestras is presenting the Jazz on the Hill event, which starts at 2:30 p.m. in the Slayter Center for the Performing Arts, located at 1209 W. Stadium Ave.

Tippecanoe County flea market

Enjoy an outdoor flea market from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater, located at 4449 N. River Rd.

FRIDAY

Tea and poetics

Join artists Sishi Wang and Jessica Mohl for their latest exhibits, featuring teapots. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres are provided. The event is from 6-7 p.m. in the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, located at 102 S. 10th St., Lafayette.

Purdue Varsity Glee Club presents "End of Season"

Join Purdue Varsity Glee Club for their concert, "End of Season," from 7-9 p.m. in the Stewart Center, Loeb Playhouse. Tickets start at \$10.

ONGOING

University and symphony orchestras

Join Purdue Bands & Orchestras for a free, open-to-all concert. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Long Center for Performing Arts, located at 111 N. 6th St, Lafayette.

Quantitative methods seminar

The Department of Quantitative Methods is bringing in David Shmoys, professor of business management and leadership studies at Cornell University, to discuss optimization, machine learning, and statistics. The event is from 1:30-3 p.m. in Rawls Hall, room 2058, located at 100 S. Grant St.

SATURDAY

Indiana Makers Market pop-up

Indiana's Makers Market is hosting pop-up shops, filled with high-energy markets, local art, live music, and creative energy. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., located at 1816 Main St, Lafayette.

Dance works concert

The Purdue Department of Theatre and Dance is hosting a concert featuring a semester-long collaboration among students, faculty, and alumni choreographers in the dance program. The concert is from 2:30-4 p.m. in Pao Hall, Nancy T. Hansen Theatre, located at 552 W. Wood St. Tickets are \$18.

UPCOMING

Absolute Light Holistic Fair

Enjoy the fourth year of the Absolute Light Holistic Fair, filled with vendors doing intuitive readings, gemstones, handcrafted jewelry, and much more. The event is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, located at 1406 Teal Rd., Lafayette. Tickets cost \$10.

Dancing through the decades

Join for a night of live bands, artists, and dance, to help raise awareness for Greater Lafayette Allergen Network. The event is from 6-11 p.m. at Know Eatery, located at 800 Main St., Lafayette.

— Compiled by Neha Sajja, staff reporter



Purdue Varsity Glee Club rehearses the beginning of a choral arrangement of the Gettysburg Address.

LILLY DULL | RIVET DESIGN EDITOR

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK FROM MOM&POP PRODUCTIONS

CINCO DE MAYO! SUNDAY MAY 10TH

CLAVE COBBE MAY 5TH

THE SLACKERS AT DUNCAN HALL LAFAYETTE, IN W/THE OPERATORS

ALL AGES DOORS 6PM MUSIC 7PM

DOORS 5PM/MUSIC 6PM SKA/ROCKSTEADY

OPINIONS

www.purdueexponent.org

‘Why Care?’: Rape as a weapon



Column

BY MAKAYLA DULL
Columnist

What first comes to mind when you think of militarized weapons? Is it guns? Drones? Missiles?

I'd be willing to bet that you wouldn't consider sexual violence. Yet in the past decade, the United Nations has verified over 51,000 cases of sexual violence in conflicts, with significantly more going unreported.

Rape and other types of sexual violence have a history of increasing during conflicts. It has become so common that it would be more shocking to hear about a conflict without high rates of sexual violence. It is often excused as a byproduct of war and not given the attention it deserves.



LILJA KIISKI | GRAPHICS ARTIST

High rates of sexual violence during conflict is not merely a byproduct, it is a purposeful tactic utilized by militaries. Understanding it as a strategy holds governments and militaries accountable and makes it easier to implement preventative measures.

Civilians deserve protection from inhumane practices during conflict, and it starts by educating yourself on what actually happens at war.

Most people are not familiar with all aspects of devastation caused by civil wars, insurgencies, interstate wars, and other political violence. Conflicts are not just fought between mutually armed combatants, governments, or militaries. They involve and target innocent people.

Research done by Dara Kay Cohen, a professor of public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, examines why wartime rape happens. She found that of 86 civil wars between 1980 and 2009, 53 had instances of widespread rape.

What differentiated the wars that utilized rape and those that did not was the method of recruitment. When soldiers were forcefully recruited, they were more likely to utilize widespread rape to prove loyalty.

Her findings concluded that gang rape, the most reported type, is often used as a way to create group cohesion among abducted recruits.

The use of rape in conflicts can also be used as a psychological tactic to spread terror through civilian populations, weaken opposition, and establish authority.

The African continent experiences some of the highest rates of both conflicts and reported sexual violence. Countries like Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are among the most affected nations.

Abisola Esther Babatope, assistant lecturer at the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, contributed to research on the patterns of sexual violence during conflicts across 54 African countries. This study noted how rape was the most prevalent form of sexual violence reported, and the majority of perpetrators were militants.

The study looked at the wide scope of sexual violence and where it happens. In places of conflict, nowhere is safe; it happens everywhere, from refugee camps to victims' own homes. It's not just rape that increases, but also forced marriages, genital injury, sex traf-

ficking, and more.

Sexual violence comes in many forms and scenarios, all causing intense trauma to individuals and communities. It can force whole villages to flee and take a lifetime to recover from.

Those who face sexual violence are likely to experience prolonged issues like PTSD, depression, anxiety, social isolation, unwanted pregnancy, and reproductive issues.

What is also important to recognize from this study and countless others is that women and children make up the vast majority of victims. Men do account for a small rising percentage (about 4% in 2023), but there are clear disproportional effects.

A 2011 poll from the DRC found that over 39% of women reported sexual violence, with about 79% of that violence taking place during conflict. Another poll found that around 32% of cases in the DRC and Ethiopia were children.

In an ideal world, this number would be zero.

Conflicts do not excuse sexual violence. Despite the chaos and inherent violent nature of war, laws still exist.

Sudan is a current example of how widespread sexual violence goes under the radar during conflict. There have been over a hundred thousand people killed as the SAF and RSF wage their brutal war, something alone worth caring about, but the violence goes beyond that.

The International Rescue Committee reported that over 12 million Sudanese people are displaced. This is an incomprehensible amount of people trying to seek safety. And rather than find safety, they find more violence.

Reports over the last few years paint a dire picture of sexual violence. There are significant accounts of the RSF utilizing gang rape, abducting women and girls to be sexual slaves, and forcing themselves into homes to sexually abuse.

Victims are threatened and beaten if they do not comply, often in front of their own family or neighbors.

In December 2025, the U.N. issued a report detailing that there were at least 104 victims of sexual violence in the Zamzam displacement camp during a single three-day RSF offensive.

Imagine what the total number of victims must be since the conflict started in 2023.

We cannot allow such cruel practices to become a normalized aspect of war. Those in Su-

dan and every other part of the world deserve the right to feel safe in their homes and bodies.

Sexual violence needs to be recognized for what it is: a crime against humanity and prohibited under international law.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 7, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Article 27, U.N. Resolution 1820, and the Convention Against Torture are just a few examples of international law prohibiting the use of sexual violence.

So why is rape still such an issue during conflicts?

International laws are not perfect. A lack of international sovereignty makes it difficult to enforce international law, even if universally agreed upon. There is little that can be done when those who have the power to take action choose to minimize and ignore the problem.

This does not mean it's acceptable, though. It is still possible through combined individual, governmental, and non-governmental action to prevent sexual violence.

Governments have the most power to hold perpetrators accountable. They can pass stronger policies for increasing punishment and civilian protection. It is up to them to comply with international law and enforce its military to do the same.

In addition, governments can interfere when other nations allow inhumane treatment of its citizens. This is even more effective when done through intergovernmental organizations.

Non-governmental organizations play an important role too. They are the ones compiling reports that call out atrocities and providing humanitarian assistance during and after conflicts.

This can be improved by strengthening reporting systems for more accuracy and better witness protection, building safer refugee sites, and prioritizing reintegration after conflicts.

As individuals, the most important way to take action is by continuing to educate ourselves on the violence that happens in conflicts, including believing victims and countering misinformation.

With this education, we can support government policies that make it harder for sexual violence to persist, donate to humanitarian efforts, and protest atrocities.

Together, we can break the norm of rape as a weapon of war.

Religious Directory

Assembly of God

River City Church @ Lafayette
108 Beck Ln, Lafayette, IN 47909
765-474-1432
www.rivercityinfo.facebook.com/
WeareRCC
Lead Pastor: Robby & Tracey Bradford
Sunday: 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Wednesday: 6:15 pm - Dinner
7:00 pm - Worship Starts

Baptist

Faith Church
One Church - Three Locations
www.faithlafayette.org
On Facebook @FaithChurchLafayette
West Campus: 1920 Northwestern Avenue, WL
Sunday Worship: 9:30 and 11:00am
North Campus: 2000 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette
Sunday Worship: 9:30 and 11:00am
East Campus: 5526 ST RD 26 E, Lafayette
Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30, & 11:00am
Purdue Bible Fellowship & International Student Ministry
www.faithlafayette.org/pbf
On Facebook @PurdueBibleFellowship

Kossuth Street Baptist Church
2901 Kossuth Street, Lafayette, IN
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday Connections Hour: 9:15 am
www.kbsbc.net

Tippecanoe Bible Church

3990 St. Rd 38 East, Lafayette, IN 47905
Church times: Sunday 10:30am and Thursday 6pm
www.tippecanoebible.org

Bible

Battle Ground Bible Church
2430 W. 600 N., West Lafayette, IN
Worship Service: 9:00am
Fellowship Groups: 10:30 am
Pastor: Kenny Loehe
www.bgbc.org
sec@bgbc.org

Catholic

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center
535 W. Mitch Daniels Boulevard*
765-743-4652 Daily Mass
Monday-Saturday: 11:30am
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 5:30pm*
Wednesday: 9pm*
Weekend Mass
Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday: 9am, 11:30am, 7pm* & 9pm*
*when Purdue is in session
http://www.boilercatholics.org

Disciples of Christ

First Christian Church
Sunday worship 10:15 am
Live streaming on FB and YouTube
Book Study 9 am in the Chapel "Separation of Church and Hate" beginning March 1. Join anytime.
Children's Church during 10:15 am service.
We are an open and affirming congregation.
www.fcclaf.org | 329 N. 6th St. Lafayette, IN 47901

Episcopal

**Episcopal Campus Ministry
Chapel of the Good Shepherd**
The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke, Chaplain
610 Meridian Street (near Mackey Arena)
Online Morning Prayer - Sundays at 9:00 am
Holy Communion - Sundays at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
765-743-1347 * www.goodshep.org

Evangelical Covenant Church

The Grove Covenant Church
3600 S. 9th Street, Lafayette
(765) 474-4842 • www.thegrovecov.church
Worship Service: Sundays 10:30 am
Streaming Online: www.thegrovecov.church/worship

Evangelical Charismatic

Calvary Chapel
2111 State St, Lafayette IN 47905
(765) 477-7744 www.cchapel.org
Sunday Meets: 10:30 am
Understanding the RAPTURE! Join us as we study the RAPTURE. WHEN will it happen? WHO will it involve? WHY will it occur? IS it in the Bible? (HINT: 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

Evangelical Presbyterian

Covenant Church
211 Knox Dr., West Lafayette, IN
Sundays:
9:00 am - Worship Service
10:30 am - Worship Service
CovenantEPC.org or call 765-463-7303

Faith Presbyterian Church
Traditional worship with reverence, awe, and joy
Sunday 9:30 am
faithpresbyterian.org/livestream
IG @faithpresw
FB @faithpresbyterianchurchwl
(765) 743-3683
office@faithpresbyterian.org

Interdenominational

Federated Church of West Lafayette
www.federatedchurch.net
2400 Sycamore Lane 463-5564
Nursery available
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
PreK - 1st grade 10:45 am
Disciples of Christ & American Baptist
"Traditional with a Twist"

Islam

Islamic Educational Center of Lafayette
1744 Everett Street, Lafayette, IN 47905
951-316-4484 | iecol.org
*Spiritual gatherings for the love of God and Ahlul-beyt
*Fresh ideas and thoughtful remembrances.
*Friday congregational prayers.

Lutheran

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Rev. Elizabeth Lee, Pastor
1005 N 21st Street, Lafayette
Sunday Services @ 10:00 AM
Christian Education @ 9:00 AM
Wheelchair Accessible
765-447-4205
www.holytrinitylafayette.com
All are welcome!

Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Corner of Fowler & Vine, West Lafayette
(One Block East of Knoy Hall)
Congregational Pastor: Randy Schroeder
Sunday 9 AM Worship & 5 PM Dinner Church
The 9 AM is also streamed on Zoom & Facebook Live
https://www.facebook.com/osluth/
Request the Zoom link at randy@osluth.org
www.plm.org | plm@plm.org
www.osluth.org | info@osluth.org

Methodist

**Wesley Campus Ministry
(all students welcome)**
Wesley Foundation Student Center @ 200 N Russell St.
(Sharing Space with the Baptist Student Foundation)
Open M - F 8 am to 10 pm, Sat-Sun 1 pm to 10 pm
Worship: Sunday 4:30pm (Dinner afterwards) Spiritual Support Group 3pm Sundays
Interactive Devotion & Bible Study: Tues 7:30pm
Global Connections Meal: Friday 6:30pm (intercultural & interfaith discussion with home-cooked meal)
Recreation, Service, and Travel Opportunities!
Love Always Wins (GIQ): LGBTQ + Allies group.
www.WesleyFoundation.org

Non-Denominational

The Gathering with Dr. Will Miller
(formerly University Church)
"We do church differently"
522 Columbia Str. Lafayette, IN 47901
Held in the TCHS History Center
at the corner of 6th & Columbia
Live contemporary service Sundays at 11:00 am
youtube.com/thegathering6674/streams
765-532-0804 | drwillm@mac.com

Upper Room Christian Fellowship

2234 Indian Trail Dr. West Lafayette
Sunday Service: 10:30 am
Call: 765-463-7380
www.urcfellowship.org
www.facebook.com/urcfellowship

Victory Christian Center

Sharing The Love, Acceptance, And Forgiveness of Jesus. Pastors Bill & Pam Mickler
Sunday Service-10:00am
Wednesday Service- 6:30pm
325 Burnetts Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-447-7777 | www.victorylafayette.org

West Lafayette Christian Church

1980 Lindberg Road West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-463-7995 | www.wlchristian.com
Sunday Worship Service: 10:10 a.m.

If you would like your organization to be listed in the Religious Directory, Call 765-743-1111 Ext.205
addirector@purdueexponent.org

Please check websites and social media or call your preferred organization to confirm service dates & times.

Orthodox

St. Alexis Orthodox Church
2115 Indiana 225 East, Battie Ground, IN 47920
Sunday: 8:15am - Matins | 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
Tuesday: 7:00am - 1st Hour
Wednesday: 7:00am - 1st Hour
Thursday: 7:00am - 1st Hour
Friday: 7:00am - 1st Hour
Saturday: 5:30pm - Vespers
Priest: Father Gregory Allard
www.saintalexis.org

Presbyterian USA

Central Presbyterian Church
Open! Affirming! Come Worship With Us!
Worship at 10:00 am
7th & Columbia, Lafayette, Indiana 47901
www.centralpreschurch.org
Find Us On Facebook!

Unitarian Universalist

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County
Currently worshipping in-person and Online
(http://uucitc.org/sunday) Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Everyone Welcome! 333 Meridian St., West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-743-8812, Website: uucitc.org

Please join us on Sunday, May 3rd at 10:30 a.m. for "Pete Seeger's Birthday!" [Rev. Jennie preaching] Pete Seeger was a singer, songwriter, musician, and left-wing activist. He also was a Unitarian Universalist. He would have much to say about meeting the times we are living in with camaraderie and joy. Please join us in celebration of what would have been his 107th birthday.

United Church of Christ

Immanuel United Church of Christ
9:00 am Christian Ed for all ages
9:45 am Coffee & Conversation
10:00 am Worship
In-Person and Online (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter)
Facebook.com/uucimmanuel
Pastor: Dr. TJ Jenney
1526 S 18th St. Lafayette, IN 47906
www.uuc-immanuel.org
Everyone Welcome!

Find more listings at:
ExponentHub.org

PUZZLES

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

SLEUTH SQUARES

By Sawyer Rebennack

NAME				
TASSEL COLOR				
NUMBER OF CORDS				
YEAR				
FUTURE PLANS				

A Gaggle of Graduates

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the word bank below and the clues on the right, deduce how to fill out the grid completely. Each column corresponds to a different name, and each row corresponds to a different category. Each word will be used once, and there is only one solution.

WORD BANK

Names: Dylan, Fatima, Hiko, Mauricio
 Tassel Colors: Navy, olive, orange, sage
 Numbers of Cords: None, one, two, three
 Years: Graduate student, junior, senior, super senior
 Future Plans: Full-time job, graduate school, internship, traveling

HELPFUL NOTE

If a clue says "left," "right," or "ends," it is referring to placements on the grid.

CLUES

- The super senior is exactly to Dylan's right.
- The student with a sage tassel is in the second position.
- The senior plans to start a full-time-job.
- Fatima is somewhere to the left of the student with two cords.
- Hiko is at one of the ends.
- Mauricio plans to travel.
- The student with an orange tassel has three cords.
- Dylan plans to start an internship.
- Fatima has a navy tassel.
- The student who plans to travel is in the last position.
- The student with one cord is somewhere to the junior's right.
- The graduate student has an olive cord.
- Hiko has three cords.

SUDOKU

Top: Easy

By Skyler Mofle

Bottom: Hard

	5							
		7				9	6	
		3	8		6			5
	4			9			7	
	3		2					
		9	5	4	8	2		
	6		9			3		
9			3					
		8			7			2
	3				7			9
4				6				
	7						1	
						1	7	
9				2	6		4	8
		4						2
6			3	1				7
	4	1		9	2			3
	2							8

Fill in the blanks with the numbers 1 through 9 so that every row, column and bold 3x3 box holds every number only once. The diagonals do not count.

CRYPTO CODE

By Sawyer Rebennack

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.

XQ RSJ'DM VDLFM MASJZG US CLR
 ZSSPVRM, IXQM NXII DMNLDP RSJ
 NXUG L AMN GMIIS.

Quote by KLJIS WSMIGS. Helpful clues: V = B, I = L, S = O

NEWS QUIZ

By Sawyer Rebennack

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

Which kart was the Grand Prix 69 winner, Carson Bowers, driving?

- a. Kart 4 b. Kart 29
 c. Kart 42 d. Kart 51

MIX 'EM UP

By Sawyer Rebennack

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

- AOHAL _____
- MLASOH _____
- IDAUE _____
- AONENGY _____
- ECAPE TUO _____
- TSAMANE _____
- UA ERVIRO _____
- NRAYOASA _____
- RLFEEAWL _____
- SOADI _____

Theme: WAYS TO SAY GOODBYE

BALANCED BORDERS

By Anna Crowe

Divide the grid into the same number of sections as there are labeled squares, using the labels as a guide for either the shape of the section or the number of squares in the section. For example, if a square is labeled with a 3, there will be three squares in its section. If a square is labeled with a horizontal rectangle, its section will be in the shape of a horizontal rectangle.

Each square must be filled. There may be more than one solution.

5				
				4

BIG OL' WORD SEARCH

By Skyler Mofle

SUMMERTIME

- BEACH BALL
- BREAK
- COAST
- CROCS
- FLIP FLOPS
- FOURTH OF JULY
- HEAT
- ICE CREAM
- KITE
- OCEAN
- POPSICLES
- SMOOTHIE
- SUNGLASSES
- SUN HAT
- SUNNY
- SWIMMING
- VACATION
- VISOR
- WARM
- YACHT

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

MINI CROSSWORD

By Sawyer Rebennack

ACROSS

DOWN

- With 1-Down, Puerto Rican musical artist known for "D+MF"
- Corruption or maltreatment
- "Mamma Mia" mama
- ___ kebab
- About 5.88 trillion miles (abbr.)
- See 1-Across
- Ed who voiced Carl in "Up"
- Letter opener?
- More (abbr.)
- A good thing to have on your foot, or a bad thing to have on your tire

		1	2	3
4	5			
6				
7				
8				

ANSWERS FOR APRIL 27, 2026

9	5	2	4	6	7	1	3	8
6	7	3	2	1	8	9	4	5
8	1	4	5	9	3	2	6	7
5	9	6	3	4	1	7	8	2
2	3	7	8	5	9	4	1	6
4	8	1	6	7	2	3	5	9
1	6	5	9	2	4	8	7	3
7	2	8	1	3	6	5	9	4
3	4	9	7	8	5	6	2	1

2	3	1	6	8	7	4	9	5
9	7	8	4	5	3	6	2	1
6	5	4	2	1	9	3	7	8
1	9	3	8	2	4	5	6	7
8	6	2	7	9	5	1	4	3
7	4	5	3	6	1	2	8	9
5	1	6	9	4	8	7	3	2
3	2	9	1	7	6	8	5	4
4	8	7	5	3	2	9	1	6

4	5	1	6	3	2
2	6	5	1	4	3
6	1	3	4	2	5
1	3	4	2	5	6
3	2	6	5	1	4
5	4	2	3	6	1

S U T S E A H P E H
 N O D I E S O P U H A
 S A S I E H E C A T E
 O P Y A R H E
 N N O G A E T
 O P L A N E H T A L I
 I Y L S I D
 D H H O E O O
 N E R S R
 E M R A P
 M E E D
 E E E H A D E S A
 S M S I M E T R A
 N I E
 S U E Z A S T
 P E A I T S E H
 R

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

Crypto Code: Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows. (George Orwell)

News Quiz: B
Mix 'Em Up: 1. Lambert 2. Windsor 3. Schleman 4. Krannert 5. Elliott 6. Grissom 7. Ross-Ade 8. Earhart 9. Mackey 10. Beering

Building Blocks: 1. Mounds 2. Nerds 3. Milky Way 4. Snickers 5. Babe Ruth 6. Airhead 7. Gummy

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?

Puzzles & Housing questions, Answered. Brought to you by:



WHLong.com



PurdueExponent.org/puzzles

DIFFICULTY

IS

THE

POINT.

BGR leaders reflect on connection, experience heading into fall

BY ROBERT LANGEN
Staff Reporter

Students preparing to lead Purdue's Boiler Gold Rush said that the program's biggest draw is not just welcoming new students to campus, but recreating the sense of belonging they felt when they first arrived.

At BGR training this spring, returning student leaders described the orientation program as a chance to build community, mentor incoming students, and carry forward the same support they once received themselves. Some are stepping into team-leader roles for the first time, while others are returning to expanded leadership positions.

"I really enjoyed my BGR experience," said Sarah Rabe, a sophomore in industrial engineering. "It was a really fun way to get to know campus and start to build a community at Purdue before even starting classes."

Rabe said she served as a team leader last year and decided to return as a supervisor — more commonly known as a "super" — because she wanted to become even more involved in the program. Supervisors are returning leaders who help train team leaders before BGR begins.

"I had fantastic supervisors and a really great TL group," Rabe said. "I figured I would like to keep learning more about the program and get even more involved."

Rabe said some of the biggest differences between being a team leader and being a supervisor are the amount of preparation and the shift toward mentoring others. She also said it's the smaller number and amount of time spent together that makes them closer.

She said the staggered structure of BGR preparation, with some training during the semester and more concentrated sessions closer to move-in, likely reflects the realities of student schedules during the academic year.

For Rabe, some of the most memorable moments from last year were not large, formal activities, but the smaller interactions that allowed her group to bond.

"Honestly, just getting to know them — the downtime — I loved moving," Rabe said, referring to helping first-year students move into their residence halls. "My group really kind of made it a game of who could carry more things. And then we would practice the Common Bond Dance. Just taking that time to get to know them better was probably the best part."

That sense of enthusiasm and service also came through from students preparing to become team leaders.

Grace Stoops, a senior in aeronautical management, said her interest in BGR leadership felt like a natural extension of her summer job as a camp counselor.

"I'm a camp counselor over the summer, so I already have kind of an equivalent team leader background," Stoops said. "I figured I just wanted to keep it going."

Stoops said one of her favorite parts of training so far has been the atmosphere created by the program's themed sessions, as well as the broader lessons leaders are taught.

"I think it's really fun with all the themes," Stoops said. "And I think all the stuff they're teaching to each TL is also really great, and we use it for more than just an orientation."

She said the program emphasizes compassion and group connection in ways that extend beyond one week of welcome events.

"All of the compassion that they're trying to instill in people, and getting you a good idea of what it's going to look like, and how to ensure that the groups that you're going to have will bond," Stoops said.

Stoops also said the commitment grows substantially as BGR approaches. While spring training has included only a handful of sessions so far, she said the schedule becomes much more intensive in late summer, with additional training leading up to BGR week itself.

She is also already thinking about one of the lighter traditions that comes with leading a group: creating a beacon, the visual symbol that helps identify each group during orientation.

"I'm trying to figure out if I want to make it really cool or really silly," Stoops said. Because of her interest in aviation, she said she has considered creating a model plane, though she is still weighing other ideas.

Diana Steuck, a first-year engineering student planning to pursue materials engineering, said her positive experience as a new student motivated her to sign up to be a future team leader.

"I love BGR. I had so much fun," Steuck said. "I love the fountain run. My BGR TL was so good that I wanted to be that kind of person for someone else."

Like the other student leaders, Steuck said the early training process has already introduced her to others who share that same motivation.

"Meeting all the new other people who have a similar dream as mine," Steuck said, describing the experience of connecting with others who loved BGR enough to dedicate time to helping future students.

She said what she looks forward to most is giving incoming

students the same sense of excitement and comfort she felt when she arrived at Purdue.

"I guess giving someone else the feeling of happiness and belonging and hopefulness that I had when I did BGR," Steuck said.



EXONENT FILE PHOTO
A team leader for Purdue's annual Boiler Gold Rush holds up a sign for their group to follow, inspired by Charli XCX's "Brat" album cover.



EXONENT FILE PHOTO
Students gathered on Memorial Mall to learn the dance from their team leader, which is taught every year to incoming freshmen during Purdue's Boiler Gold Rush.

CoRec expansion brings new pickleball courts to campus

BY JULIA MORRISS
Asst. City Editor

The CoRec is expanding, unveiling six new pickleball courts this fall semester, as a part of its Outdoor Master Plan.

To Quincy Johnson, a sophomore in mechanical engineering and president of Purdue's club pickleball team, this expansion is needed.

"We're gonna really enhance (our members') experiences next year, which makes me so optimistic about next semester and all the new opportunities we're going to have," Johnson said.

The expansion will not only provide more space for pickleballers, but it will also bring new opportunities to the scene at Purdue.

Johnson said the current pickleball court situation forces the club to outsource their tournaments to courts in Lafayette, which is costly and inconvenient.

"We host a collegiate tournament in Lafayette, but now we're going to be able to bring it to campus with our new courts," Johnson said. "Instead of having to rent and pay, we're going to be able to bring in money that we're going to put back into our program."

He said this increased revenue will help the club support the people who travel to their tournaments as well as the members

of the club itself.

But, not all club sports are excited about the pickleball expansion. While the expansion includes the creation of six new pickleball courts, it will also include the conversion of two tennis courts, resulting in their loss.

Vijay Dasari, a sophomore in biology and vice president of



ANNA CIRACI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Construction begins at Purdue's CoRec. The new complex is expected to be open in Fall 2026, including 18 pickleball courts and two tennis courts.

Purdue's club tennis team, said that although the team mostly uses the Schwartz Tennis Center, the loss of courts at the CoRec is frustrating.

"While we are able to run organized practices, the current setup does not adequately serve the broader membership," Dasari said. "Historically, the CoRec courts helped bridge that gap, but (the courts) have been steadily reduced over time."

He said this loss of tennis courts represents a substantial loss of accessible playing spaces for students and limits casual participation options.

The goal of the project, Melanie Red Elk, the associate director of engagement for the CoRec, said, is to provide new spaces for students, intramural sports, and club sports to stay healthy and active. The expansion will result in the CoRec having 18 pickleball and two tennis courts available for use.

"The project is funded without the use of student dollars and will support ... expanding opportunities for students," Red Elk said.

Red Elk said the CoRec intends to keep outdoor tennis courts available to students through its partnership with Schwartz Tennis Center.

Although the CoRec courts will be unavailable during construction, alternative options will remain accessible. Indoor pickleball courts at the CoRec and outdoor courts at Schwartz are available for use until the new complex opens.

Lafayette woman sentenced to 6 years for bribery connected to judge shooting

BY JULIA MORRISS
Asst. City Editor

A Lafayette woman was sentenced to six years in the Department of Corrections Monday afternoon following her conviction for bribery.

In January, Amanda Milsap was arrested following her involvement in a bribery connected to the shooting of Judge Steven Meyer and his wife, Kim Meyer.

During her jury trial in early April, three witnesses gave eight hours of testimony regarding her case. One of the witnesses, Britney Bullis-Carter, said Milsap had offered her \$10,000 not to testify against Thomas Moss in a domestic battery case.

Moss, who is divorced from Milsap and also had a previous relationship with Bullis-Carter, was central to a conspiracy involving five other gang members to kill Meyer to avoid his trial, which was set to take place on

Jan. 20.

Milsap was found guilty of bribery, attempted obstruction of justice, and invasion of privacy on April 8.

Her sentencing hearing began with the vacation of Milsap's charge of obstruction of justice. Cass County Superior Court II Judge Lisa Swaim explained to the court that the conviction was to be vacated because the first and second charges relied on the same evidence, so she was concerned about double jeopardy.

Several individuals came to support and testify on behalf of Milsap. As she entered the courtroom, she began counting the number of supporters who were present. In addition to those physically present, 21 individuals wrote letters to the court on behalf of Milsap and her character.

One witness, Melissa Brown, said she believed sentencing Milsap to an extensive amount of time could harm

her 10-year-old son. Brown is the godmother of Milsap's son and took over as his legal guardian following Milsap's arrest. Milsap shares her son with his father, Moss.

"He's a 10-year-old little boy, and in one day, both of his parents were taken away," Brown said. "(He) needs his mother."

Brown went on to say she believes Milsap has built a beautiful life for her children and should continue to be able to do so. She said Milsap served as a role model for her own daughter, who followed in Milsap's footsteps.

"Amanda is a wonderful person, and I'm proud to know her, and it's an honor to be able to help her at this time as she's helped so many people," Brown said at the end of her testimony.

Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Cassidy Laux asked Brown how she felt about Milsap's taste in men, referring specifically to Moss.

Brown said she didn't believe Moss was an appropriate individual for Milsap's son to be around; however, she also said she believes that's why Milsap was engaged in a battle for full custody of her son.

Two of Milsap's daughters, Delia Jones and Eden Jones, also testified on their mother's behalf. Delia Jones said she worries about her little brother and the impact being away from his mother is having on him and on the family as a whole.

"My mother has always been a kind soul to everyone," Delia Jones said. "I really don't understand how people can say the things they have been saying about my mother."

Eden Jones shared this sentiment, adding that her mother serves as a support system for many members of her community. She said Milsap never hesitated to allow victims of domestic violence or people struggling with money into her home and always made sure these individuals were helped and cared for.

One of the individuals Milsap took in, Lanae Carter, also testified. Cart-

er said Milsap took her in while she was struggling with domestic violence, and since then, they've been close friends. Carter said she even considers Milsap's daughters to be her sisters.

"(Milsap) was one of the only people who understood what I went through and helped me through it," Carter said. "Amanda is needed on the outside. She's one of my only support systems, one of the only people I speak to about my issues and problems."

The prosecution also called a witness to testify. Bullis-Carter, the woman Milsap was convicted of bribing, took the stand to read her victim impact statement.

The love between the mother and daughters was no question, but Bullis-Carter said she felt they left out certain pieces of information. She pointed out that Milsap and her daughters have gone through periods of no contact, and one daughter threatened to file for custody of Milsap's son.

"While there are things that were presented as far as characteristics Amanda has, there's something else that could dispel each of those positive things," Bullis-Carter said.

Bullis-Carter said she trusted Milsap, a fact that she says was taken advantage of with the attempted bribery. She said she respected Milsap as a woman and a mother and viewed her as a friend, one who helped her through a traumatic experience.

"Her actions did not just feel like a crime; they felt like a personal betrayal," Bullis-Carter said.

Bullis-Carter said it wasn't until she pointed out how her son, Milsap's son, and herself were victims of Moss that Milsap encouraged her to testify against him. Before that, Bullis-Carter said Milsap willingly acted on behalf of Moss and his wishes.

"She had every opportunity to say no to Thomas's request or to go to the police and report the crime," Bullis-Carter said.

Instead, Bullis-Carter said Milsap

used her professional experience as a psychologist to take advantage of her vulnerability and trust to cause harm. She said she felt as if Milsap failed to take responsibility for her actions and instead attempted to minimize them during her trial.

Milsap herself was the last to take the witness stand Monday afternoon. While on the stand, she read her own impact statement. In her statement, Milsap continued to proclaim her innocence and said she felt as if she had been treated unfairly throughout the process of her arrest and conviction.

"I'm guilty of very poor choices in my husbands. I'm guilty of some embarrassing life choices. I am not guilty of bribery," Milsap said.

In his closing arguments, Milsap's defense attorney, Earl McCoy, said he urged Swaim to take into account Milsap's son's well-being, her lack of criminal history, and her income and education level. He said, given those mitigating circumstances, he believed a two-year sentence was fair for his client.

Laux said he believed Milsap manipulated everyone around her and made Bullis-Carter out to be the bad guy, rather than herself. He said Milsap's lack of remorse was demonstrative of her need for a six-year sentence.

Swaim sentenced Milsap to six years in the Department of Corrections for her bribery conviction of Bullis-Carter. Three years will be served in the department, two will be served in community corrections, and one will be served on probation.

Milsap was also sentenced to one year for invasion of privacy. It is to be served concurrently with the sentence for the bribery conviction, Swaim said.

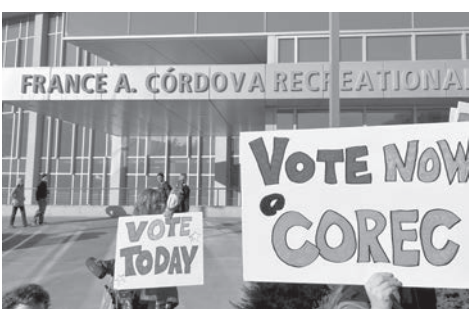
Additionally, Milsap was ordered to undergo moral recognition therapy and participate in the Plus program while in corrections.

Swaim advised Milsap and McCoy that they must file for appeal within 30 days.



JULIA MORRISS | ASST. CITY EDITOR
Amanda Milsap and her lawyer, Earl McCoy, look over documents before her sentencing Monday. Milsap was sentenced to six years in the Department of Corrections.

With college IDs no longer accepted at voting sites, students may face voting struggles



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

Several members of the community marched to the CoRec to encourage students to vote. In 2024, the group marched from the Purdue Memorial Union to the CoRec.

BY RONAK MOHANTY
Staff Reporter

Despite Indiana's Tuesday primaries featuring a slew of contested races, many Purdue students may struggle to vote. Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 10, passed last April, stated that student IDs issued by Indiana public universities are no longer an acceptable form of voter identification in the Hoosier State.

The law had been blocked by a district court judge, who allowed students at Indiana's public colleges to vote using their student IDs. The Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals then reversed that decision on April 20, just one day before Purdue held early voting in the CoRec.

Republicans, such as current Attorney General Todd Rokita, celebrated the latest court ruling.

"This common-sense protection is needed to close loopholes, prevent potential fraud by out-of-state or ineligible voters, ensure every ballot belongs to a verified Hoosier, and preserve public confidence in fair, honest, and transparent elections," Rokita said in an X post.

While Rokita justified the necessity of the ban by citing voter fraud concerns, such concerns are not valid, according to James A. McCann, the interim head of political science at Purdue.

"It's absolutely clear that voter fraud is all but nonexistent. So there is no problem to correct with voting fraud, and that's based on years and years of assessment," McCann said. "So if the stated rationale was to somehow correct problems with voter fraud, we can be confident in saying there are no such problems to begin with."

McCann, a professor of political science and Latin American studies, said he did expect the law to depress turnout and that generally, more voter ID requirements come with the potential to reduce turnout.

"In principle, the point of having an ID is just to demonstrate who you are," McCann said. "It's not to validate your standing as a resident in the area, or your citizenship status, or anything like that. That's all done at the time of registration."

In 2024, Purdue faced controversy when the university and Tippecanoe County Election Board got into a dispute that put the on-campus voting location in jeopardy. After an outcry from students, faculty, and community members, the voting site at the CoRec.

Tippecanoe County opened an early voting site on Purdue's campus on April 21 and another voting site adjacent to the university at the First United Methodist Church on Mitch Daniels Boulevard two days later.

Mike Smith, conservation agriculture specialist for Tippecanoe County and a member of the election board, said 130 people cast a ballot at

the CoRec, of which 37 were under 25-years-old, and another 117 voted at the Methodist church, of which 21 were under 25-years-old. The election board believes that voters under 25 are more likely to be students.

During those two days, only one person attempted to vote with a student ID. Election officials said the student was counseled on how to get a free state ID at the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

One of the law's supporters, State Sen. Spencer Deery, R-Indiana, whose district includes West Lafayette, will be on the ballot and is facing a stiff primary challenge from Paula Copenhaver.

Deery, who voted for SEA 10, defended his support of the law.

"Having seen first-hand in my career the university resources required to produce voter-eligible IDs, I have always thought that universities should focus on education and research and let the government handle IDs. All students should and can get free voter identifications from the BMV."

While students can get identification from the BMV, Kye Benford, a Purdue Student Government senator representing the honors college, said he still believes that this causes more hardship for student voters.

Benford, a sophomore in political science and communication, said there aren't any BMV locations near campus. The nearest branch is located in Lafayette on Elmwood Avenue, just nine minutes from campus by car. By bus, which costs money, the route takes over half an hour, or students can simply walk for an hour to the BMV.

"You have to show your paperwork that proves not only you're a citizen, but also that you're a resident of Indiana," Benford said. "It's just a lot of these extra steps that were completely unnecessary when everything was working before."

Emre Gulec, president of the Purdue Political Discourse Club, also expressed concerns.

"(If) you put more barriers to entry, fewer people are going to vote, and that will shape outcomes."

Gulec, a junior in economics and political science, said that while both parties do things to shape the vote, in this case, "it's about creating friction to boost Republican outcomes is what I think."

Democrat candidate for the state Senate District 23, David Sanders, an associate professor of biology at Purdue and the current at-large city councilor of West Lafayette, said he had heard disappointment about the Seventh Circuit decision from both student and non-student constituents. Sanders also contrasted the choice with Purdue's civic literacy requirement.

"We now have a civic literacy requirement here as a graduation requirement at Purdue," Sanders said. "What's the point of encouraging civic literacy, if when students are trying to exercise their civic rights, their civic responsibilities, they're discouraged from doing so. (That) seems contradictory to me."

Despite the added burdens on Purdue students voting, Benford was optimistic that the ban could motivate students to make their voices heard at the ballot box.

"I think it goes both ways, in which one way it kind of defeats some motivation for students to vote here in Indiana ... on the flip side of that, it can also really be a motivating factor for students to get more involved, more engaged civically, with what's going around here," Benford said.

What to know about voting, policies in midterm elections

BY PRATHAMI PANABAKAM
Staff Reporter

Indiana's midterm elections are approaching Tuesday, allowing citizens to voice their opinions through their votes on current lawmakers and policies.

"Midterm elections are really important when it comes to legislative bodies, both at the federal and state level. Thinking about who represents you in Washington is always important, but for students, who represents you at the State House is also incredibly important. They create a lot of policy that has direct impact on student voters," said West Lafayette Mayor Erin Easter.

Purdue's chapter of College Democrats also voiced its perspective on voting in midterm elections.

"Midterms are especially important because it's halfway through different representatives' (terms). It gives people the chance to say, 'I don't like what this representative is doing. I'm not going to wait for another two years.' (You) might want to vote for someone new. Let's change it right now before making decisions," said Engagement Director of Purdue College Democrats Gaven Acosta.

It is important for West Lafayette citizens and Purdue students to vote in these midterm elections to secure their rights.

Acosta also said citizens have a civic duty to influence who is going to be in office, which affects how citizens live their lives.

Purdue College Republicans offer a perspective on how your vote can directly impact the election.

"If you really want your vote to count, the midterm election is a way to do it, because there's fewer people voting," said Media Engagement Officer James Lathrop of Purdue's College Republicans.

The Exponent has spoken to State Rep. Sheila Klinker, D-Indiana; State Rep. Chris Campbell, D-Indiana; and State Sen. Spencer Deery, R-Indiana on a variety of policies affected by the midterm elections.

Education

Funding cuts have affected liberal arts majors at Purdue which Klinker said made her "very upset."

Klinker reflected back on her time as a teacher and how important it is to keep Purdue's curriculum. She also said the source of these major cuts is the federal government seeking to only fund majors that will result in higher pay, making liberal arts majors at the bottom of the list.

"I think that we can turn that around with some elections. People will react to these funding cuts, and that will change in the future, because it is affecting people's everyday life, and that is extremely important for not only our young people but our elderly (as well)," Klinker said.

Campbell shared her concerns regarding budget cuts and how legislation regarding education has been redirected to the State Department of Education, whose main focus is workforce development.

"I'm concerned about the future of the critical thinking when you need these multi-disciplinary experiences to have innovative workers," Campbell said.

Deery also shared his thoughts on the budget cuts, especially as it pertained to the budget forecast, which details the state and federal budget available.

Deery said cuts have been made to Lafayette's budget in the past couple of years.

"Having strong support of our higher education institution, being from a college town is a very important issue to me," Deery said.

Cost of Living

Klinker said in terms of the increasing cost of living, the United States needs to be concerned for its people and their well-being.

Campbell addressed the need for balance and

the issue of bills not reflecting the cost of housing.

"We keep passing bills to allow builders to build with cheaper materials, but we have not seen that reflected in the cost of housing. We have luxury apartments going up with luxury apartment prices, but from what I'm hearing, students are complaining about sagging floors. They are complaining about paper-thin walls. They are complaining about poor plumbing and heating. I'm not seeing that cost of using these cheaper materials being passed on to the consumers," Campbell said.

Healthcare

Campbell spoke about how women's healthcare is the community's top issue and the dangers of having less access to healthcare.

"Older women may need medical services for care that a doctor may be afraid to perform, even though that woman is beyond the ability to become pregnant," Campbell said. "I am hearing of young women dying in pregnancy. Indiana already has one of the absolute highest infant and maternal mortality rates. Without access to reproductive care, that's only increasing. It is more dangerous now to be pregnant than it ever was before."

Campbell said this issue impairs a doctor's ability to treat women for certain issues within their clinics.

"With doctors in fear of prosecution, we are losing that care in (Indiana). Obstetricians are fleeing the state, and we have less and less access, and that means that is more dangerous for women," Campbell said.

Klinker addressed women's healthcare as a "worry."

"I'm a Catholic, so the abortion issue is a very difficult one for many of us as females caring about health care," Klinker said. "It's a very difficult issue for a lot of people, because people don't want to okay abortions. Some difficult decisions have to be made."

Deery also mentioned the importance of accessibility to healthcare.

"Accessibility to health care is a really important issue, particularly in rural communities. There are health care deserts around the country, around the state. I believe that we should allow professionals like APRNs and physician's assistants to have a little bit more autonomy to operate in areas," Deery said.

Deery spoke about new technological advancements and how they can assist in the medical field.

"I believe there's some potential for AI to help improve the oversight of some of these professionals that are currently overseen by doctors and not always in the most rigorous manner. It also comes back to affordability as well too. We have to make sure that we're making it as affordable as possible, and that allows more people to have that access to care," Deery said.

Immigration

Klinker offered a perspective on the current immigration situation and how she believes the state is handling it.

"I'm hoping we're not being too difficult that we're turning away people that are working very diligently on farms. We have a factory here called Indiana Packers, and it's very difficult work. And there are many Hispanics who work in order to stay and live in Indiana and bring their kids up here," Klinker said.

Deery also shared his concerns with how the federal government is managing the situation.

"I wish that our federal government would get its act together and fix our broken immigration system. We are limited in the state in terms of what we can do, because we're not a border state. We don't handle immigration," Deery said. "We just make sure the laws are enforced here, and that's what we can do."

From Third Street to center stage: the rise of 3SC

BY BRAETON LAMBRIGHT
Staff Reporter

On any given week at Purdue, live music isn't hard to find, but a few student bands are gaining momentum.

One of which, a band named 3rd Street Collective, has been performing for a few years, and recently, had its biggest event.

Its name is a play on a jazz venue in Chicago, called the Fulton Street Collective, while also incorporating the Purdue theme of Third Street, as that is where the band practices.

Also known as 3SC, its music is a mix of R&B, hip-hop, and jazz, with many of its inspirations coming from other musicians like Steely Dan, Stevie Wonder, and Earth, Wind & Fire, to name a few.

The band consists of seven members, all Purdue students: Jack White, the pianist and keys player; Grace O'Neil, the lead vocalist; Jascha Lewit, Aamir Rahman, and TJ Ptkak on guitar; Jonathan Nelson on drums; and Seth DeWhitt on saxophone.

The band was formed back in 2023, when, during its first show, a drummer was needed to fill in due to complications.

Since that first show, 3SC has been performing at places like

The Nest and other music venues around the Purdue campus.

Purdue Convocations recently hosted Magdalena Bay, which performed at Elliott Hall of Music. 3SC was chosen to perform as the opener for Magdalena Bay.

"The Student Concert Committee would send qualifiers to Magdalena Bay, and (the duo) liked our music, so they chose us," Rahman said.

The members shared the same sentiment about being chosen; they were all excited as well as nervous.

"I'm not sure why they chose us, but I'm extremely glad and thankful they did," Rahman said.

When it comes to the future of the band, there are some uncertainties as O'Neil and Lewit are set to graduate at the end of the semester.

"Our future plans are we're going to try and keep going on no matter what," O'Neil said. "We're also going to try and record stuff too, because we've been waiting to do that."

Even though the two are graduating, the others plan to keep working on their musical talents and see what the future might bring for them.



HUGH KENNEDY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 3rd Street Collective poses under the Third Street sign after practice on April 19. The band formed in 2023.



HUGH KENNEDY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 3rd Street Collective poses in front of Third Street after practice on April 19. The band primarily practices in Hagle Hall.



JOAQUIN GUERRERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

3rd Street Collective performs its final song as openers for Magdalena Bay on April 23 in Elliott Hall.



EVAN SVERAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seth DeWhitt, 3rd Street Collective's saxophonist, plays while opening for Magdalena Bay on April 23 in Elliott Hall of Music.



Seth DeWhitt, 3rd Street Collective's saxophonist, closes his eyes as he plays while opening for Magdalena Bay on April 23 in Elliott Hall of Music.

EPICS team serves community with bike repair station at WLPL

BY ALEXA STALTER
Staff Reporter

While many students use bikes to get around campus, most don't have their own tools on hand to repair them if something goes wrong. One of Purdue's Engineering Projects in Community Service teams has a solution to this problem.

EPICS is one of the many learning community options offered at Purdue. Through EPICS, engineering students can develop projects to serve their community, while also gaining applicable experience within their field.

Each team has a specific project they are assigned to work on. The projects are requested by different organizations and companies in Purdue's community.

"Our project is a bicycle repair station for the West Lafayette Public Library. It will be installed in the parking garage next to the library, and it will have free maintenance tools to use, as well as a playlist to guide any users," said William Wang, a first-year engineering student and design lead for the project.

The team has been working on this project for several semesters now, though it has switched hands as different students have gone in and out of EPICS. Artem Smagin, a sophomore in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, is the current project manager for the team. He has been on the team the longest.

Smagin is the only one of the six team members who has been with the team since the beginning and has seen most of the team members change from semester to semester.

For EPICS, members are able to choose what they find most interesting from a list of different available projects, according to Smagin. Members then join the team whose project they like best.

After joining the team, the first few semesters were spent talking with the project partner to understand what the intended item to be delivered was.

"From there, we sort of moved on to early design stages, essentially going in the loop of

creating designs and then sharing them with the partner and getting feedback until we settled onto a final design," Smagin said. "From there, we began sort of fleshing out that final design."

Smagin said after that, the team began gathering together the parts they needed for the manufacturing part of the process.

Juhitha Kanduluru, a first-year engineering student, is the communications officer for the team and also works with the research aspect.

She did not join EPICS until this semester. Kanduluru said the role she has played this semester has been figuring out how to ground the station into the concrete of the parking garage it will be going into.

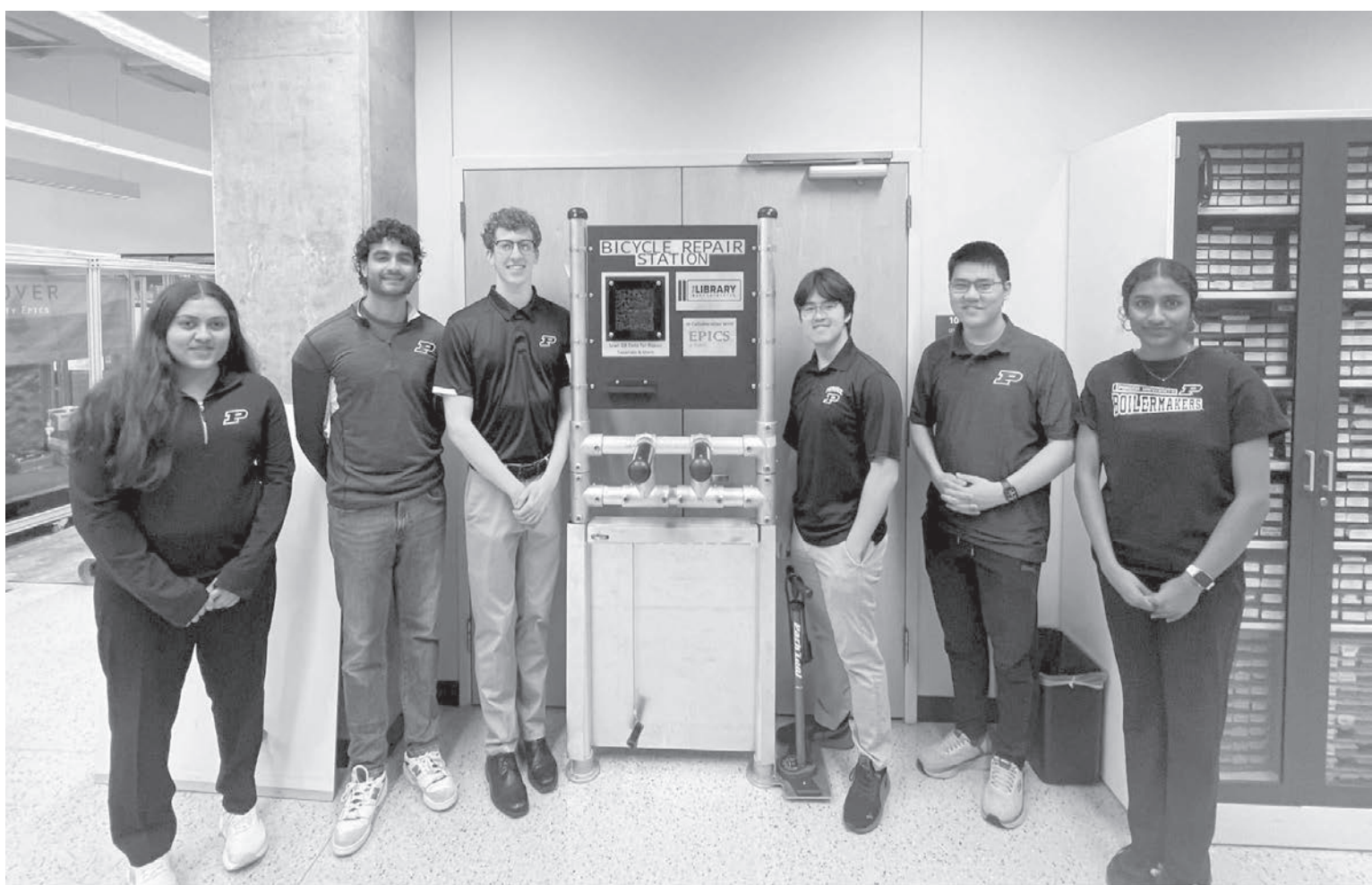
"That's what I was focusing on when I first got here," Kanduluru said. "The grounding research behind it, and then powder-coating it all, so it's not exposed to the elements or anything."

Wang said the process for each project in-

cludes project identification, specification development, conceptual design, detail design, delivery, and service maintenance.

The team is looking forward to the finished project, which they hope will be done by the end of the semester.

"It'll be pretty satisfying because I started and finished the project," Smagin said. "Seeing the physical manifestation of all that work, and hopefully people using it."



A group of EPICS engineering students pose for a picture with the bike station they built and designed.

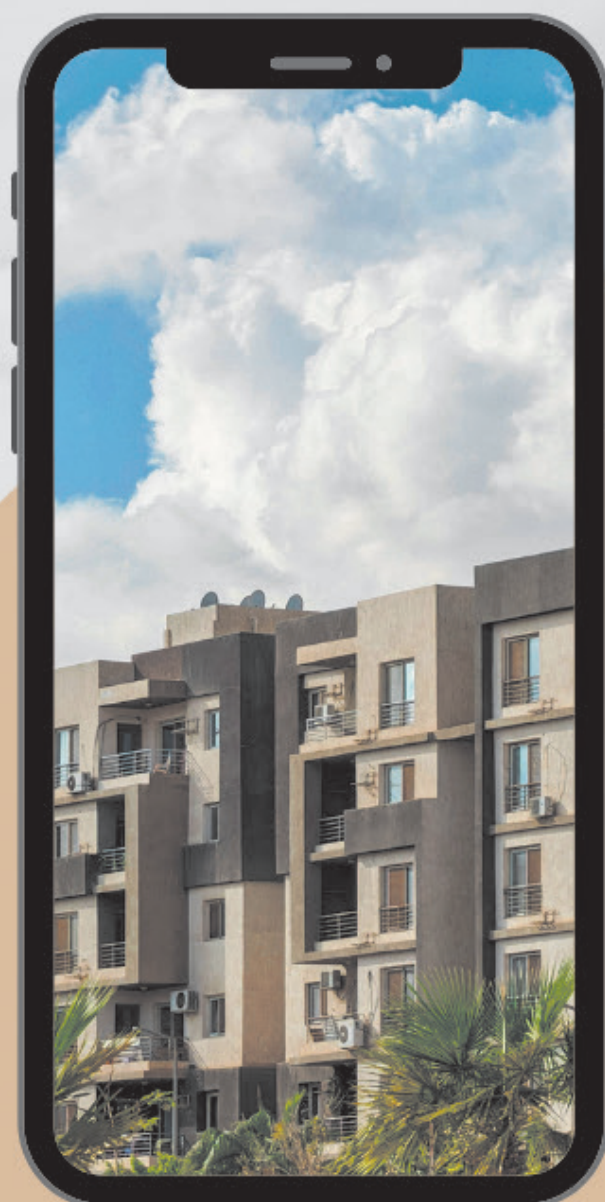
PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUHITHA KANDULURU

LOOKING TO SUBLEASE YOUR SPACE?

CREATE A LISTING ON THE HUB!

It's...

- **Easy to access**
- **Free to list your space**
- **Viewed by hundreds of
Purdue students every week!**



Create your sublease listing today at
www.exponenthub.org

SPORTS

www.purdueexponent.org

Purdue baseball bounces back with 5-1 win over Southern Indiana



SARAH WIEDERKEHR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Graduate student right-handed pitcher Graham Kollen delivers a pitch during a game against Southern Indiana on Wednesday evening. Kollen allowed one run on three hits across four innings with two strikeouts and no walks.

BY JONATHAN SURESH
Staff Reporter

Returning home empty handed from Los Angeles following a 3-0 sweep at the hands of the Trojans, Purdue's slump snapped in late in the game in their return to Alexander Field against Southern Indiana.

While both offenses were stuck at a 1-1 stalemate by the sixth, the Boilers quickly turned things around, putting together 3 runs on 3 hits in a high-energy inning that had the crowd fired up, provided needed momentum. Senior catcher Jackson Bessette lit the fuse with a double down the left field line.

"It made me feel pretty good [and] showed that the stuff that I've been working on throughout the week is really working," said Bessette. "I started swinging more. I try to swing about a hundred times a day just to get the feel back for it ... really, at the end of the day, it was just loosening up, and the only thing

I changed is my bat angle and my focus."

After moving to third, junior infielder Zach Zychowski delivered with an RBI single to really get things rolling. It only went up from there as Zychowski swiped second, and senior outfielder Eli Anderson worked a full-count walk. This left red-shirt senior utility Aaron Manias, who was hit by a pitch to load the bases. With the inning almost over, senior infielder Sam Flores pulled through for the Boilermakers, ripping a two-RBI single to finish off this packed inning. What started as a spark quickly became a statement inning, as Purdue turned patience and timely hitting into a decisive swing toward success.

A lone Purdue run in the seventh would be the last score of the game, where the Screaming Eagles were shut out past the fifth.

"Keeping a positive attitude is really what got us through today," Flores said. "Aaron had a good at-bat—he got hit by a

pitch. He was just trying to put something in play and make something happen, and luckily it got through."

Looking at overall defense, the Boilers came on top despite a few slip-ups. With three defensive changes, Purdue really made use of their roster depth. Redshirted junior left-handed pitcher Treveor Kestor-Johnson was one of these tools who managed to deliver a strikeout in the seventh inning. Purdue was the cleaner unit overall, posting a .968 fielding percentage with just 1 error, compared to their opponent's .946 and 2 errors.

For the Boilers (29-15, 15-9 Big Ten), the win keeps them steady in the conference standings at fifth, and keeps them on track for an NCAA tournament bid.

The Boilermakers turn next to their upcoming weekend series against Murray State, kicking off at 6 p.m. Friday at home for Star Wars night, looking to continue building on their recent improvements.

Boilers reach podium in Big Ten Championships



SARAH WIEDERKEHR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Iowa, Ole Miss, and host Purdue participated in the two-day Women's Boilermaker Classic tournament on Sept. 1 at the Kampen-Cosler Course.

BY DECLAN LITTLE
Staff Reporter

Purdue women's golf began postseason play this past weekend in Glendale, California, where it competed in the Big Ten Championships.

It was a historic performance for the Boilermakers, who secured a podium finish for the first time since 2019, placing third among the 18 Big Ten teams.

Purdue's score of 863 over 54 holes was the second-best for the program ever at the Big Ten Championships, securing a +23 as one of just three teams to finish better than +30 for the tournament.

Freshman Luana Valero made a bid for the individual crown, carrying a -4 into the third round, only one stroke behind the top spot. However, a +4 over the final 18 holes left her at even par for the tournament, finishing fourth individually.

Valero was one of just four golfers in the tournament to score even or under par.

Right behind the freshman on the leaderboard was sophomore Lauren Timpf, who was part of a four-way tie for fifth with a +3. Her -3 round two was the second-best score among all golfers over the middle 18 holes.

Sophomore Samantha Brown was consistent throughout the tournament with a +1 opening round, followed by a +2 in each of the following two to score a +5 that placed her 13th.

Junior Ashley Kim found her way into the top half of the field with a tie for 50th individually, finishing with a +15.

Freshman Ida Lindqvist only competed in the first and third rounds, while sophomore Michaela Headlee took on the second.

Lindqvist delivered a +11 over the first 18 holes and +9 in the final 18 to score a +20 for herself, while Headlee shot a +12 in her lone round as the two combined for a +32 to round out the tournament for the Boilers.

Purdue will be hoping for a bid in the NCAA Regionals beginning on May 11 during the NCAA Selection Show, airing at 4 p.m. Wednesday on the Golf Channel.

Keeping up with the Boilers

MENS GOLF	EVENT DATE 5/1/2026, ALL DAY 5/2/2026, ALL DAY 5/3/2026, ALL DAY
MENS GOLF	DESCRIPTION Following a third-place finish out of 15 teams at the Hoosier Collegiate Invitational, Purdue competes against conference foes to earn the crown of Big Ten champions in North Plains, Ore.
LOCATION North Plains, Ore. / Pumpkin Ridge GC	

BASEBALL	EVENT DATE 5/1/2026, 6:00 PM 5/2/2026, 2:00 PM 5/3/2026, 1:00 PM
BASEBALL VS. MURRY STATE	DESCRIPTION The Boilermakers (28-15, 15-9 Big Ten) enter a "duel of the fates" against the Racers (27-18, 12-6 MVC) for Star Wars night at Alexander Field.
LOCATION Alexander Field	

TRACK & FIELD	EVENT DATE 5/1/2026 5/2/2026
TRACK & FIELD	DESCRIPTION After smashing Purdue's outdoor record in the 400 in Gainesville, junior sprinter Samuel Vessat and company head to Lexington, Ky, to try to etch their names into Purdue's record books once again.
LOCATION University of Kentucky	

SOFTBALL	EVENT DATE 5/1/2026, 7:00 PM 5/2/2026, 2:00 PM 5/3/2026, 2:00 PM
SOFTBALL VS. IOWA	DESCRIPTION Junior outfield Moriah Polar's spectacular season continues as the Big Ten's leader in batting average (0.554). The Boilers (32-18, 9-12) take on another conference foe in the Hawkeyes (25-25, 6-15).
LOCATION Rutgers University	

— Compiled by Avaneesh Sankar, asst. sports editor

◆ Google Gemini

NOTES TO NAILED IT

Create a practice quiz covering the fall of the Roman Empire based on my class notes



HIST250.pdf
PDF



Try Me!

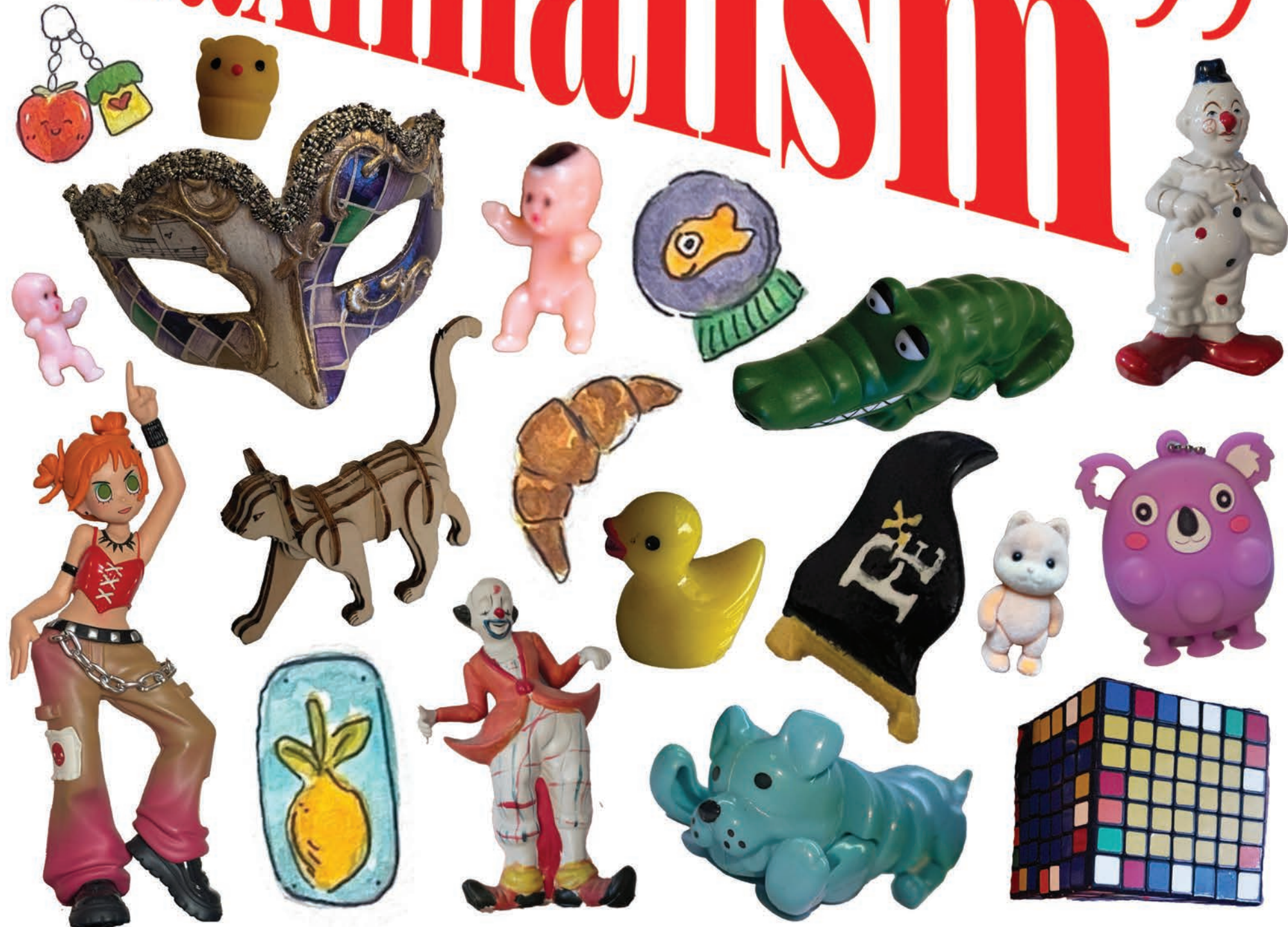


THE RIVET

ARTS AND CULTURE



“Maximalism”



Bespoke backpacks

The stories behind the items we carry

Photos by Lilly Dull
Rivet Design Editor

BY LILLY DULL
Rivet Design Editor

Whether it be the free keychain you receive from a merch table during the first week of college or the curated enamel pin from your favorite TV show, people collect a variety of accessories. While the keychains and pins we choose to carry with us can be acquired unintentionally, the choice to display them is intentional.

If you are a student who must lug your laptop, textbooks, and other daily essentials every day, you more than likely have a bag to carry your items. Many buy backpacks with utility in mind, leading to a flood of practical black and grey backpacks. In a sea of grey, people are bound to embrace color by accessorizing.

These accessories we use to adorn our bags have stories behind them. When asking people on campus about the stories behind the items in their bags, oftentimes I was met with enthusiasm and plenty of personal anecdotes.

While accessories can be useful, they primarily serve an aesthetic role. Aesthetics aside, however, these trinkets often hold a deeper meaning for the person who displays them.

Becca McGaha, a senior in visual communication design, brings reminders of her siblings wherever she goes. Attached to her bag is a key ring with photos of McGaha's siblings. It is tradition for her family to have their photos taken every year by their grandmother, and she has been collecting these photos for years.

Where McGaha carries literal pictures of those who are close to her, Sharleen Wang, a first-year engineering student, carries more symbolic representations of her friends.

One of her keychains is a wiener dog that represents an inside joke between her friends. In addition to describing her current keychains, Wang also shared stories about ones that were absent from her bag.

"There was this one keychain I had that was like a boba cup. I had a couple of friends that, every single Tuesday, we would skip school to go to a new cafe," Wang said. "We all had a little boba key chain, but mine fell off."

While Wang thankfully found this particular trinket, she has not always been so lucky. She lamented the loss of a gifted cat keychain she left in an airport. Wang's experience is unfortunately a common one that people who

decorate their bags must contend with. Personalization comes at a price. With the choice to display trinkets on our bags, there is an ever-looming threat that our items will be lost or damaged. Rachel Iskandar, a junior in computer science and Japanese, experienced this unfortunate circumstance when her elephant keychain, a gift from a friend, lost its legs and trunk. Iskandar also recounted the story of another keychain, a Cinnamoroll plush, being bitten by a deer. This time, however, Cinnamoroll remained relatively unharmed.

I, too, have experienced the loss or destruction of my trinkets. My Monchhici keychain is missing its hand, and one of my pins disappeared within the first week I first affixed it to my bag. This is just the price that one must pay when they decide to decorate their bag.

Dirty keychains are a common result of the everyday wear and tear our backpacks endure. Jake Fisher, a junior in civil engineering, pointed out his dirtied Snoopy head as he described each of his backpack accessories. Many of his pins were collected during his time as a member of the Wiley Radio Club. A few were from one of his favorite artists, Clairo. His pins are a collection of his interests and hobbies.

Lucia Trujillo, a freshman in English and comparative literature, also collects pins and keychains from various media she enjoys. BTS, Studio Ghibli, and Lord of the Rings all feature on her bag.

"I think it's fun because it's so useless. I'm like, you can't even see these things up close most of the time but I know they're there and it makes me go about my day with a little sense of self expression."

Trujillo is right. These items have no utility, but that doesn't matter. Trinkets are not only an indicator of what sort of person you are, but more importantly, they satisfy our need for individuality. The mementos we carry are reminders of our friendships, our memories, and the media we laugh and cry to. The sense of self-expression that comes from allowing others a glimpse into what makes us who we are is gratifying, and as long as threats to conformity persist, customization will persist.



More than a phase

Purdue's 4th annual Emo Prom

BY ALANA THOMAS AND ELLA MCNEELY
Rivet Writers

On Friday, Purdue students donned their darkest apparel and applied their blackest eyeliner in preparation for Emo Prom.

2026 marked the fourth year of the Prom's existence at Purdue.

Hosted by Wiley Radio, Emo Prom is a celebration of alternative culture at a not-so-artsy university in the Midwest. It focuses on the music, pulling a selection of local bands to play throughout the night. This year's picks were Supersensory, Edward Abbey, Lyra, and Settling the Score.

We spoke to Lyra, a metal-gaze band composed of Purdue students and members Jascha Lewit (drums, vocals), Jack Foster (main vocals), Aiden Jones (guitar), Lucas Penney (guitar), and Grace O'Neil (bass).

Lyra started off as Lewit's high school project, evolving into a full band about a year ago. They take inspiration from a range of artists, including Loathe, Knocked Loose, Deftones, Slowdive, and Deafheaven.

Music lovers may notice that none of the aforementioned bands Lyra takes inspiration from are "emo." In fact, none of the local bands playing at Emo Prom fit this label.

Emo is a genre of rock music that evolved from hardcore punk, taking the musical characteristics of hardcore and adding more emotional, angsty lyrics. It branched into other subgenres and even became its own subculture. Key associations include skinny jeans, eyeliner, band tees, the color black, and side parts. Despite "emo" being its own specific style of music and culture, the name is often affectionately adopted by other alternative communities. Emo Prom essentially functions as an easy label to bring all kinds of alternative subgenres together under one roof while paying homage to emo culture itself.

"Emo definitely sent me down the rabbit hole that took me here," Foster said. "That's very true for a lot of people. And something we've randomly talked about before (is) if you weren't in this band, what kind of music would you play? And for me, it's always emo, because I just ... feel like that fits my style and my heart ..."

Emo Prom was held in the Stewart Center this year. Black and red streamers, balloons, and a banner proclaiming "It was never just a phase" adorned the space.

Looking around, we saw the range of self-expression from the students in attendance. The looks ranged from mohawks and ripped jeans to long dresses and heels. There was a strong sense of community and camaraderie among everyone there.

"I think [the community] is the most important part, because what this music brings out of us is both the individualism of having that love for yourself and being able to express yourself, but also to be able to connect with others doing the exact same thing at the same time," Lewit said.

Emo classics and other alternative hits were played for the crowd. As the prom went on, the dancing and jostling got more extreme as people let themselves get carried away by the music.

Emo music creates a space where people can be themselves and express themselves, Foster said. "Emo Prom specifically feels like a celebration of what once was, but also what we're doing now, and how we're pushing this genre forward and keeping it alive in different ways."

Besides the music and self-expression, Emo Prom gives students a chance to connect with other like-minded people.

"I think it's also just being able to put your energy out in a certain outlet that's safe, and others will output the energy into that same outlet," Penney said.

This year, Emo Prom took place around the same time as one of the major music venues around campus, the Nest, was shut down by the city of West Lafayette.

"It definitely is a big hit when people can't have that outlet and can't have that space," Foster said. "I think it's really important to have things like (Emo Prom) that are on school grounds, promoted by Wiley Radio people putting these together in a more official manner. Having the stamp of approval to have this kind of space, to have this kind of energy, really gives me a lot of encouragement for where we can take the scene moving forward."

Despite authority interference, the alternative community at Purdue will persist. As of Saturday, the Nest officially became a non-profit organization under 501 (c)(3), and is still holding shows every week to fundraise for an official venue moving forward.

"That's kind of the entire spirit of being an alternative community, is that authorities tend not to cooperate, and that's okay," Lewit said. "There is a status quo, but at the end of the day, we are a very tight-knit group, and we look after each other." Nothing is certain when it comes to the backlash against alternative communities, except their persistence. Emo Prom 2026 proved to be a success, showing that alternative students at Purdue will always have a place to engage with their community against all odds.



BY JOAQUIN GUERRERO | RIVET PHOTOGRAPHER
Aarav Srivastav sings for Supersensory during Emo Prom on Friday.

BY JOAQUIN GUERRERO | RIVET PHOTOGRAPHER
West Lafayette band Lyra performs during Emo Prom on Friday, playing a mix of covers and originals. Lyra is a self-described "metal-gaze" band, playing a mix of metal and shoegaze during their performance.



BY JOAQUIN GUERRERO | RIVET PHOTOGRAPHER
Grace Cassidy joins Settling the Score for a few songs during Emo Prom on Friday, playing the violin for a couple of songs. They played for three songs, including a cover of Green Day's "21 Guns", a cover of "Build God, Then We'll Talk" by Panic! At The Disco, and "Helena" by My Chemical Romance.

The Amazing

PEOPLE

Of Your

CAMPUS

presented by **The Rivet & Zhi Wang**



ABBY BRUDVIK
I CAN SMELL THE RAIN



ADITTA TYAGI
I BROKE MY ARM LAST WEEK



AIDEN SHOEBINGER
I SUBSTITUTE TEACH ON THE SIDE



AUTUMN MOHRING
I HAVE A TWIN BROTHER



AUTUMN SCOTT
I MET KEANU REEVES



AVANEESH SANKARANARAYANAN
MY FAVORITE POKEMON IS DEOXYX



BELLA ADAMS
I'M LEFT HANDED



BEN PETERSON
I LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



AMESHI SINGH
I LOVE USING THE POT-TENS WHEEL



BRANDON TERRELL
I LOVE TO POLE-VAULT



BRI LECHTNER
I AM IN THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



ANN MARIE UHLMANSIEK
MY FAVORITE FLOWER IS MARGOLDSI



ARJUN SRINIVASAN
I'M AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN!



ARSHID KAUR
I HAVE A WIENER DOG!



ARYAN KIRAN
I HAVE A ROTTWEILER



ASLAN KERIMULOV
MY FAVORITE FOOD IS HORSE MEAT (BESHBARMAK)



AUSTIN GUERRERO
I KNOW HOW TO PLAY 4 INSTRUMENTS



CADEN ANDREWS
I'M SCARED OF MOOSE



CAITLIN O'KEEFE
I'M PUERTO RICAN



CATE GAGNE
I'VE BEEN SKIDIVING



CHARLIE GRIESE
I AM A BLACK BELT



CHASE HOFFER
I KNOW GREGG SHORT-HAND



CHASE VINCENT
I TRAVEL A LOT!



CHLOE WINTERBOTTOM
I'VE LIVED IN 3 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



CHRISTINE HU
I DON'T GO HERE :P



ALEXA NEWMAN
I LOVE SPONGEBOB



Allison GIESER
I HAVE GOTTEN TRAPPED WHILE CAVE CRAWLING



ALYSSA ASSANTE
I <3 GORILLAZ



ANDREW ZHAO
I NEARLY DROWNED AS A SMALL CHILD



ANDY HARSAER
I PLAY 3 INSTRUMENTS



ANITA DINAKAR
I NEVER GET HUNGRY!



ANN KIM
I CAN WRITE IN CURSIVE!



ALANA THOMAS
I KNOW ANCIENT GREEK!



CHULO ONWUJA
I LOVE LEARNING DIFFERENT CULTURES



CHYIMI VAN METER
I'M A DESCENDENT OF A BANK ROBBER



CLAIRE BERGDOLL
I'M A CERTIFIED YOGA INSTRUCTOR!



CLARA GRENNES
I LOVE TO GARDEN <3



EVAN SAMPLE
I LOST MY FIRST TOOTH IN A BAR



DAN CARPA
I CAN PICTURE EVERY TREE ON MY HOMETOWN GOLF COURSE



DAPH BOULAC
I STRUGGLE WITH MY SENSE OF SELF-WORTH <3



DARBY WAUIND
I'M CO-CAPTAIN OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DRUM CREW!!



DAREN CRUSEBERRY
I LIKE OAT MILK WITH MY CEREAL



DAVID POTGETER
I LOVE THE MOVIE WHIP-LASH



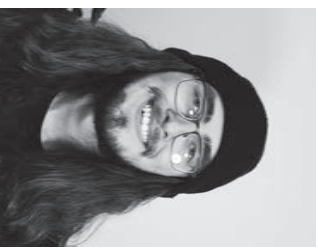
DAVID SNELL
I AM A HUGE FAN OF HARVEY WILEY



DEAN KHZAAL
I CAN'T WHISTLE



DELIAH MARBAN
DAIRY GIVES ME DIARRHEA



DOMINIC HARRINGTON
I LOVE TO READ MANGA



DREW HOLMES
I CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN



ELIJAH GORAK
I LIVED IN ARGENTINA FOR 4 YEARS



ELIZABETH THRALLS
I KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE SPOONS



EMILY BURNS
I READ 50 BOOKS IN 2025



EMILY YAO
I HAVE 2 FAKE PERMANENT TEETH



EMMA PROCHNO
MY SUBWAY SIGNERS CHARACTER IS THE BURGER KING GUY



EMMELINE BERGNER
I AM SCUBA CERTIFIED



ETHAN BOLAND
I'M ABOUT TO HIT 11K TROPHIES IN CLASH ROYALE :)



ETHAN STOFLETH
I THINK WINDSOR IS THE BEST DINING COURT

ARCHIVING LIFE WITH SCISSORS AND SCRAPS

BY ALLIE BEENE
Rivet Writer

Collage is a visual art medium that assembles existing, often unrelated materials (such as magazine clippings or photographs) into new, unified artworks. The medium has been gaining popularity with the “junk journal” trend, which emphasizes repurposing everyday trash into collaged documents of one’s life experiences.

But for Purdue students and collage artists Natalia Pardo and Claud Stage, collage has become more than a mere trend or uninspired documentation. Both artists share their own wildly unique styles and compelling artistic experiences.

Natalia Pardo’s harmonic landscapes

“I thought that I wasn’t an artist because I wasn’t professionally trained,” said Pardo, a senior in political science.

Contrary to this former doubt, Pardo’s collage artwork brilliantly layers photo and text sourced from everyday products, glossy magazines, and worn books, carefully pasted in harmonious explorations of color and theme. Despite blending “wildly different things that you wouldn’t expect to use together,” her works are cohesive and soothing to the viewer’s eye. Pardo may not be trained, but she is a true artist whose palette and brush are the pages, pictures, and packages around her.

In 2025, Pardo strove to post more about journaling, collaging, and art on TikTok. When a video received unexpected traction, one comment stood out among the rest. “She was like, ‘I love seeing artists post their artwork,’” Pardo said. Having not taken an art class since elementary school, she was both surprised and reassured by the words. “That was the first time I actually recognized in my head that I am an artist, and that other people will acknowledge that I am an artist, and that I’m not just doing this as a silly hobby.”

But before posting art and receiving encouraging comments, Pardo began her collage journey in high school, after struggling to maintain a writing journal. Collage emerged as an alternative method to document her life. “I just started keeping stuff,” she said, “because I’m such a hoarder when it comes to stuff like that.”

Objects that particularly piqued her interest incorporated cool design elements that begged to be savored. With this growing stash of hoarded items, she created her first collages. These colorful spreads were visual diaries, tangible archives of what she did, ate, or wrote in a given week. She said now, “That’s how it started.”

Pardo dove headfirst into the collage world after “figuring out (that her) local library had a scrap paper stand” with free materials. She describes filing through stacks of unwanted paper — yellowing pages in battered books and children’s art crumpled in recycling bins — on the hunt for images to tear out and glue in her journal. “Using local resources was really fun,” she says, implicitly underscoring the accessibility of the medium.

As time passed and her journal began bursting with color, she realized that nature was (and continues to be) a recurring focus in her work. Loved ones began gifting Pardo old copies of National Geographic Magazine, which were uniquely ripe with inspiration for her. “As a poli sci major, I really like the social commentary that photos have. So, using (those pages) to fit with color themes and nature-inspired things, it just all worked out really well.”

Pardo’s fascination with design offers abundant inspiration, too. Her involvement with Purdue Convocations has allowed her to appreciate the use of color and theme in their marketing materials, while everyday purchases captivate her with intricate designs. Often, she files away product packaging if the design pleases her creative spirit. “I keep it and wait to see if I accumulate enough things that have the same vibe,” she said. “So I have a lot of scraps, and then I eventually just think, ‘Okay, here’s how I can connect some of them.’”

Yet Pardo’s everyday materials are more than mere muse. It can be easy for some people to forget the efforts involved in designing a restaurant logo or a food package — but not Pardo. “I think what motivates me is that people put hard work into designing those things,” she said. “If a to-go box has a really nice design, I want to honor that design and put it into a collage rather than let it go to the trash.” In this way, collage serves as a generative form of recycling, a careful reuse that instills beauty and purpose in artistic rebirth. “It’s everywhere,” she muses about where she sources her materials.

Though collage has clearly stolen Pardo’s heart, she’s also experimented with painting, oil pastels, and wood carving. She said, “I felt like with all that stuff, you have to have a certain technique and hone it forever.” Though this is a rewarding process, it can certainly be intimidating and exhausting. Collage’s low barrier to entry prompted Pardo to set aside the stress of concept sketches and grid lines in favor of something freer. The medium, she believes, is “probably the simplest way of making art,” as it repurposes existing objects as both inspiration and material. (I just) let the pictures and let the scraps speak to me and then figure out how I can manipulate that.”

Collage, she’s discovered, is a beautiful avenue for creative reinterpretation.

This simplicity makes collage incredibly accessible for all, whether

amateur or professional. In fact, Pardo believes that collage is incredibly reminiscent of a simpler time in our lives, when we were children, thumbing stickers onto walls and gluing pom-poms onto construction paper.

One final time, Pardo reiterates that this medium is one we can all enjoy: “You really just need scissors and glue.”

Claud Stage’s chaotic ‘scrapyard’

“I feel like I was so limited growing up,” Purdue sophomore and entomology student Stage (who uses he/she/they pronouns) reflects on their artistic journey. “And now I’m like, ‘It’s everywhere. Inspirations everywhere, all the time.’”

Stage puzzles together these wide-ranging inspirations into chaotic hodgepodes he calls junk or scrap collages. Most of all, his work strives to “make people unsure.” A quick flip through his journal reveals scattered sketches and torn parchment unified in a cacophony of strange mystery. Commonly, these collages are driven by hoarded items, saved memories, and insects (expected, given his studies). A receipt here or a doodle there undoubtedly has an underlying story, making each collage an autobiographical conglomeration of junk. “It’s like a whole web of inspiration from everything I’ve done in my life,” he said.

Though art has always illuminated Stage’s life, this relationship evolved drastically in high school when she joined an honors art program. With bittersweet remembrance, they said, “I got a lot of skills, but I was never really happy with the way things were going.” She describes the limiting expectations of the grading scale, the frustrating emphasis on realism, and the exhausting focus on artistic fundamentals. “I spent three years just begrudgingly making art,” he said. “Like, okay, I made this piece, and I got an A+. But what does it mean to me?”

With the refreshing support of a new high school art teacher, things changed for Stage. With fondness, they attempt to capture the impact of this instructor: “She really encouraged me to do whatever I wanted, however I wanted it.” Under her guidance, Stage experimented with a variety of media, including clay, paper-mâché, and plaster. Spurring on this new wave of creative freedom was an underlying philosophy of creating for oneself, rather than a rubric.

More artistic barricades were lifted when he realized he could incorporate existing print materials into his personal bullet journal. Inspired by an online junk journal creator, Stage began pasting hoarded postcards and magazine clippings alongside written plans and sketches. His journal became a mixed media moodboard for other artistic creations that would eventually incorporate “found objects and recycled items.” But despite being an apt gateway to collage, junk journaling alone “wasn’t satisfying the creative urge.”

Stage’s craving for total maximalism seems to have propelled her evolution to true scrap collage, to the well-defined aesthetic her oeuvre embodies today. “Maximalism is really my thing. I love doing everything all the time,” she said. Many of her collages pack endless detail onto single pages, revealing more and more intention with each deeper inspection. Stating the obvious, she said, “I like every square inch to be covered.”

In addition to fueling their maximalist tendencies, collage is “a great way to repurpose the stuff that (he’s) hoarded.”

For them, collage is an environmentalist art form, as “it’s a way to appreciate what (they already) have.” Some collage artists purchase “stacks of pristine magazines and collage cutout books,” but Stage’s hands itch for old receipts, stickers from friends, and forgotten flyers. They survey this ever-growing collection of items, asking, “How can I repurpose this into a real art piece?” Through sustainable reimagining, Stage’s trash is made valuable. This combination of resourcefulness and radical creativity results in a captivating form of autobiographical archival practice. They said, “I just like to document my life in the most creative way possible.”

Stage also finds collage to be a uniquely suitable remedy to art block, given its “low-stakes” nature, lack of rules, and easy availability. “It’s a more friendly medium when you’re overwhelmed and you don’t know what to do,” he assures burnt-out artists scrounging for new concepts. Scrap materials — and their images, shapes, colors — can spark fresh ideas for the uninspired mind.

Another liberating moment in Stage’s creative journey was when she discovered an Instagram artist who posted original art “under the hashtag #makebadart.” The sentiment emboldened her to create art regardless of quality, post art on social media, and meet new artists. Despite the understandable fears, these small moments of courage eventually culminated in huge successes.

After expanding their online presence, Stage embraced opportunities to create flyers for local music venues and to design a logo for a band. “The past couple years have just been me trying as many new things and trying to work with as many people as possible,” they said, now with a wealth of creative endeavors under her belt.

He continues to accept such commissions and more via Instagram (@scr4py4rd4).

“There’s countless pages and works of art that I’m never going to show anyone, because they do suck,” they laugh, reminiscing on their years of creating art free of expectation. “But there’s also (works) that I was unsure of that (I still) put out into the world, and it ended up great.” Their recent commissions and digital portfolio are comforting evidence of these achievements.

“Make art for yourself,” Stage urges those wary of beginning or even continuing their artistic journey. “It doesn’t have to be good. It just has to be an expression of yourself.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIA PARDO
Untitled collage (2025) by Natalia Pardo. She associates this piece with “Five Years” by David Bowie.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIA PARDO
Untitled collage (2025) by Natalia Pardo. She links this work with “Wonderless” by Pierce The Veil.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLAUD STAGE
Untitled collage (2026) by Claud Stage. They suggest “Soliloquy of the Hourglass” by Shin Guard alongside this work.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLAUD STAGE
Collage titled “scavenger” (2025) by Claud Stage. They recommend pairing the piece with “This Floating World” by I Hate Sex.