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Sen. Cory Booker Sets Congressional Record

Katie Germinder
Opinions Editor

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
Assistant Section Editor

Democratic Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey gave a record-breaking 25-hour-long speech to the U.S. starting on March 31, 2025, and ending on April 1, 2025. Senator Booker was criticizing the Trump administration's many disastrous failures since it took office on Jan. 20, as well as the brash and destructive actions of Elon Musk's federal layoffs and program cuts.

In order to prepare for the non-stop speech, Booker fasted during the preceding days so that his body could be acclimated to the lack of sustenance while speaking. During the speech, Booker did not eat, sleep, sit down or leave to use the bathroom, only occasionally taking sips of water. Booker's body took such a hit from the physical exertion that his exercise app pinged him to ask if he was working out over the course of his speech—his heart rate rose to as high as 100 beats per minute over a continuous period.

This preparation helped him achieve what the Associated Press heralded as a "feat of determination." Starting his address at 7 p.m. on the 31st and ending at 8:05 p.m. the following day, Booker addressed the Senate continuously for 25 hours and five minutes straight, only assisted by his other Democratic colleagues from various states posing him questions on the Senate floor in order to give him momentary breaks from speaking.

Booker touched on many topics throughout the speech, including economic policy, recent nationwide immigration fears and diversity in the workforce. He also went into detail about schools and academic research, and the dangers posed to them by Trump's executive orders. He decried the recent national security incident involving Middle Eastern airstrikes being discussed in an unsecured channel: "The Secretary of Defense looked the American public in the eye and said: 2 plus 2 equals 9... the American public was



Image Courtesy of Gage Skidmore on Flickr.

Senator Cory Booker speaking at a convention in 2019.

like: Wait a second. We read them...I know those were war plans. I know that that was classified information."

Also included in Booker's marathon were numerous impassioned, detailed letters from constituents and non-New Jersey residents alike. Many of them echoed similar sentiments of extreme anger and fear due to actions by the Trump administration. A number of letters that Booker especially highlighted first and foremost were from parents around the nation, as well as those in-state who were concerned about the GOP's potential dismantling of Social Security. Families vented their frustrations in their letters to Booker about the looming specter of possible inability to afford basic necessities. One Pennsylvanian senior writes, "I do not feel safe due to cuts in so many [institutions] that have kept us safe."

Booker's speech was in protest of Trump and Musk's actions in the government at large, as well as what he termed their "reckless trashing" of government institutions while answering a question from Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy—including but not limited to USAID. He condemned the "vilification" of one of America's most vital aid networks, and sharply criticized Trump's failure to live up to the grand commitments he made to the country as a whole on the campaign trail.

"[Trump] promised to lower your grocery prices; they are higher. He promised to be a better steward of the economy; it is worse than what he inherited it. Over and over, he is breaking promises and doing outrageous things," Booker noted

and Murphy held in 2016 to discuss gun violence. However, as the day went by, "[Booker's] colleagues began to openly discuss" the possibility of Thurmond's longtime record being broken. Once Thurmond's time had been passed, Senator Chuck Schumer (a New York Democrat) informed Booker on the Senate floor that he had indeed shattered the record amidst a loud ovation from other lawmakers: "Do you know how proud this caucus is of you? Do you know how proud America is of you?"

"I'm not here, though, because of his speech; I'm here despite his speech," commented Booker after the marathon, highlighting a desire to "break the record of the man who tried to stop the rights upon which I stand."

Booker's stand has further highlighted an already glaring fact: the integrity of the nation's government has been severely undermined in the public eye ever since Donald Trump has taken office. No one is quite sure what the next move of the administration will be. After hearing Booker's speech and suffering due to the government cuts, many, like the senior from Pennsylvania, have asked: "Are we still the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Katie Germinder is a sophomore majoring in environmental studies and sustainability.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a sophomore majoring in sociology and minoring in journalism.



An outside view of the U.S. Congress.

Image Courtesy of Skylar Anderson

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It's definitely so nice to be able to make a sweet treat that is also healthy on my own in Commons. warm weather.
—Sierra Walker ('25)

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A New Smoothie Station Arrives to Commons

Sam DeFalco
Staff Writer

The Teaching Kitchen and LIFE Station have been among some of the few changes Gourmet Dining has made this year, but the best addition of all has been the new smoothie station that has been introduced to the Commons.

It has served as a chance for the student body to incorporate more healthy options into their daily food intake. This addition has been the most favored by students, as the station is normally in constant use throughout the day.

Students have even taken this opportunity to experiment with the various add-ins at the station. Besides normal smoothies, they have been using the ice cream station to make milkshakes with the blenders.

In terms of the smoothie station, Kayla Kiernan ('28) said, "I am happy with the variety of



A smoothie in a mason jar.

Image courtesy of Pexels.com.

fruit they have. Also, as a lactose-intolerant person, I really like that they have dairy-free milk options."

This station has become a saving grace for students with limited options of what to eat on campus due to various food allergies. Though there is the addition of the LIFE Station, which is meant to provide food that excludes major food allergies, the smoothie station has served

as a more enjoyable way to intake fruit and vegetables.

Another student, Sierra Walker ('25) said, "I love the smoothie station so much. I've always loved making smoothies because I feel like they're healthy, but can be whatever you make them to be. It's definitely so nice to be able to make a sweet treat that is also healthy on my own in Commons. It's also just so refreshing to have

a smoothie during warm weather."

With the weather starting to heat up, the smoothie station has been heavily used by students more so than normal.

A frequent user of the smoothie station, Victoria Hiscott ('27), said, "[Smoothies are] great for an addition to any meal of the day. I'm very glad they added it to the commons. It's fun to make them with friends as well!"

With an array of different combinations of fruit to try, the smoothie station has become a one-stop shop for all health benefits, as well as aiding in the creation of a healthier and happier student body.



Sam DeFalco is a senior majoring in English and Italian and minoring in writing and com-

Historic Floods Hit The Midwest and South

Allison Cannon
Assistant News Editor

A series of multi-day storms has affected the Midwest and Southern states of America, causing over 100 tornadoes and life-threatening flash floods.

Over nine million people were under tornado and storm watches in Kentucky, Ohio, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Mississippi on the days of April 2 through April 7.

As of April 7, at least 24 people have died due to the severe flooding. Two people died in Arkansas, four in

Kentucky, two in Georgia, two in Indiana, three in Missouri, 10 in Tennessee and one in Mississippi, according to NBC News.

River levels are rising and flood warnings have been broadcast in the southern states, and on top of that, freeze warnings have been issued in the areas that have been affected by the multi-day storms.

Hurricane season officially starts on June 1 in the Atlantic, however, this series of storms could be a preview of what is to come.

Researchers have reported that the upcoming hurricane season will feature stronger and more frequent

storms compared to the average.

There will be approximately 17 storms: nine will become hurricanes, and four will reach Category 3 status or stronger.

A Category 3 hurricane features sustained winds that reach 111 to 129 miles per hour, enough to cause devastating damage.

Reports are saying that hurricane activity will be up by 125% compared to the season average, however, this will be slightly less intense than the hurricane season last year, which was up by 130%.

This distinction is necessary according to the re-

search done at Colorado State University's Tropical Cyclones, Radar, Atmospheric Modeling and Software team, because the conditions that fuel hurricanes are lower than they were last year. However, they are still prominent because they are much higher than the average.

It is important for people who live on the coasts and in high-impact areas to expect storms of a similar caliber this season.



Big Sioux River Flooding at Interstate 90 in South Da-

IMAGE COURTESY OF NARA & DVIDS PUBLIC DOMAIN ARCHIVE

Allison Cannon is a first year who is exploring their major.

Government Refuses to Return Wrongfully Deported Man

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
Assistant SLA Editor

On March 12, Kilmar Abrego García, a nearly 15-year resident of Maryland's Prince George's County with legal protected status, was detained and arrested by Immigration & Customs Enforcement after completing a construction shift at his place of employment. According to a CNN analysis of court documents, García was "pulled over with his young son in the car," and his U.S.-citizen wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, was only notified of her husband's arrest "after being warned by a Department of Homeland Security official to retrieve their child or face Child Protective Services."

On March 12, Kilmar Abrego García's "immigration status had changed" and placed him into ICE custody. Vasquez Sura recounts their son, who is on the autism spectrum, being "inconsolable" as she recovered him and placed him in the car, "clutching his father's work shirts and sobbing."

García has been in the U.S. legally since 2019, having fled his native El Salvador after local gangs began targeting and extorting him and his family, threatening them with violence and death. A court ruling explicitly prohibiting any removal of García whatsoever has been in place since that year. The 2019 order came after he was arrested in a different ICE investigation amidst a false allegation that he was purportedly part of a branch of the gang MS-13 that operates in New York—where

he has never lived—and an immigration judge granted him protection from being deported due to the danger he would face if returned to El Salvador.

Abrego García has never been charged with a single crime during his "six years of routine check-ins with immigration officials," but he was denied any sort of due process whatsoever—he was never put in front of any court or given any sort of trial at all. He was then placed on a flight to El Salvador with other detainees and deported to the notorious Terrorism Confinement Center (also known as CECOT) despite the explicit 2019 court order, as well as known concerns that García would be "tortured or killed" there.

ICE has openly and explicitly admitted that García's deportation was a mistake, calling it an "administrative error" and an "oversight" and stating directly to multiple judges that he should not have been removed from the United States. Federal Judge Paula Xinis, from the District Court of Maryland, ordered the Trump administration on April 4 to "return [him] to the US by 11:59 p.m. on April 7," which the administration appealed to the Fourth Circuit. Before the Fourth Circuit ruled, however, the Department of Justice filed an "emergency application" to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, in the case *Noem v. Abrego García, et. al.*, has ruled unanimously (9-0) that the U.S. Government indeed "remains bound" by the 2019 order "expressly prohibiting Abrego García's removal... because he faced a 'clear probability of future perse-

cution.'" Justice Sonia Sotomayor (joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson) notes in her statement within the ruling that "the Government has not challenged the validity of that order...[and] instead of hastening to correct its egregious error, the Government dismissed it as an 'oversight.'" Sotomayor further adds that García, a "husband and father without a criminal record," is being left by the administration to languish in an El Salvador detention center for "no reason recognized by the law," and that "the only argument the Government offers...that United States courts cannot grant relief once a deportee crosses the border, is plainly wrong."

The Supreme Court issued its final ruling on April 10. Despite its clear order to uphold Judge Xinis' directive that Abrego García must be immediately brought back, the administration has still made no effort to return García to the U.S. as of April 17, and Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele told reporters that returning him would be "preposterous" according to NPR. "How can I smuggle a terrorist into the United States?" he asked during an Oval Office visit, despite being fully aware of García's lack of any criminal record as well as the clear evidence that he has legal protected status in the States.

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) travelled to El Salvador this past week to try to visit García, who as a Maryland resident is his constituent, but the Democrat reported that the Salvadoran government "declined his request," and that he was "stopped by soldiers while on his way to CECOT... [who] simply said they had been given orders not to allow [Van Hollen] to visit him."

He added that El Salvador's vice president, Félix Ulloa, told him that despite the country having no evidence of García's involvement in any gang, they were keeping him in custody because "El Salvador was being paid by the Trump administration...and that this was essentially their contractual obligation." Ulloa also refused to arrange a phone or video conference with García. Also worth noting is that many Republican representatives have in fact visited CECOT multiple times in the past few months to take what appeared to be PR tours of the facility while speaking "highly" of Trump's deportation initiatives in social media posts, which casts serious doubt on any possible non-politically motivated reasons to deny Van Hollen a visit with his wrongfully jailed constituent.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia.

An aerial view of Terrorism Confinement Center.

Sen. Van Hollen announced to NBC4 Washington hours later that despite being stonewalled, he had indeed made a third attempt to meet with Abrego García, this time successfully getting the opportunity to speak with his wrongfully deported constituent. He shared a photo of himself and García together, adding that he had "called his wife, Jennifer, to pass along his message of love." Van Hollen added that he "won't give up until Kilmar has his due process rights respected," and that there would be "many more" lawmakers visiting El Salvador. Van Hollen has not yet returned from the country as of April 17, but said that he "[looks] forward to providing a full update upon [his] return."

On April 11, Judge Xinis held another brief hearing, with CNN describing her as appearing "incredulous" as the DOJ's attorney repeatedly refused to answer questions concerning the case. Attorneys for García "lambasted" the DOJ's behaviour, accusing it of "playing a game" with lawyers as well as with the case as a whole.

"The record as it stands...is [that the federal government has still] done nothing to facilitate the return of Mr. Abrego García," she said, strongly rebuking the administration's claim that the SCOTUS order purportedly requires her to wait for a DOJ response before ordering daily updates on the administration's actions to follow her directives, "We're not going to slow walk this...so you will have a full and fair opportunity to be heard, but we're not relitigating what the Supreme Court has already put to bed."

Judge Xinis directed that the updates must be composed of "a series of questions the judge has already posed to the government," said CNN, especially "the current physical location [of García]...and what additional steps [the government] will take, and when, to facilitate his return." As of April 17, García's case is still pending in front of Judge Xinis, and it remains unclear what his fate will be. In the meantime, Vasquez Sura says, "our three children [have] lost their father and I [have] lost the love of my life."

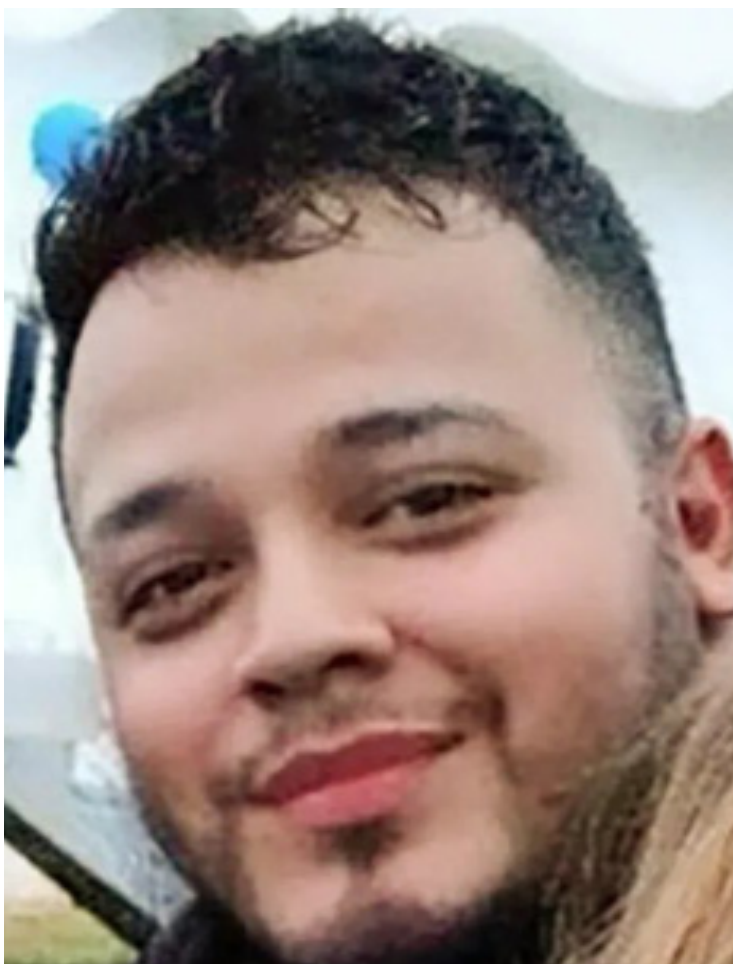
Author's Note:

This sets an incredibly dangerous precedent for the United States. It shows that the government is ready and willing to "disappear" people with fully legal, protected status—and potentially even U.S. citizens—with zero due process and zero regard for basic law or court orders. There's no excuse not to be aware of just how slippery of a slope this is.

This repeated pattern of the government blatantly flouting the law displayed in cases like Abrego García's in Maryland, Rumeysa Öztürk's in Massachusetts and Badar Khan Suri's in Virginia puts all Americans—immigrants and born citizens alike—in grave danger.



Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a sophomore majoring in sociology and minoring in journalism and journalism advocacy.



Maryland resident, Kilmar Abrego

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SEATTLE TIMES

Swipe Up for Sale: American Companies Bid For TikTok

Vedant Maheshwari
Contributing Writer

TikTok is one of the most popular social media platforms in the United States, which is owned by the Chinese company, ByteDance. The app is currently being used by over 170 million users and has launched the careers of multiple social media influencers.

The legal status of this app has been quite the roll-

ercoaster and is still hanging by a thread. On Jan. 19, 2025, the app was banned in the United States for alleged spyware within the app. On his first day back in office, President Donald Trump decided to revive the app but with a twist. Trump issued a deadline for TikTok to be sold to an American company by April 5, 2025, which he then extended to mid-June. But which firms are in the running to acquire the app?

Recently, Amazon, one of the biggest e-commerce platforms in the world, has expressed its interest in buying the app. Given its strong fan base in the United States, TikTok also has a well-established e-commerce platform known as TikTok Shop. Being one of the most significant platforms of influencer-driven shopping, it already has multiple users buying products from Amazon, which is already creating decent revenue for

the company. If Amazon and TikTok were to seal the deal, Amazon would have a more direct control over the app and could leverage existing users turning to Amazon, which can boost engagement and sales.

While the future of the app remains uncertain with the potential acquisition of TikTok by a company like Amazon, the combination of Amazon's strong e-commerce base, fueled by influencer marketing, and

TikTok's existing fan base and popularity could be very powerful.



Vedant Maheshwari is a sophomore who is undecided.

Trade War Causes Massive Fluctuation in the US Stock

Dee Cohen
Staff Writer, Photographer

On April 2, a day he called "Liberation Day," President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing a minimum 10% tariff on all U.S. imports. During his "Liberation Day Speech," he called this action a "declaration of economic independence."

According to NBC News, Trump announced a 20% tariff on products from the European Union, a 34% tariff on Chinese imports on top of others already imposed and a 46% tariff on products from Vietnam.

Trump has also used tariffs as a negotiating tool to force concessions from countries, for example, threatening Colombia with a tariff if it didn't accept deportation flights of its citizens.

Following these threats, many countries, such as Canada and China, are imposing their own tariffs in retaliation. China alone retaliated with 84% tariffs on American products as of April 9.

In response to China's retaliatory tariffs, Trump threatened to impose 50% more tariffs on Chinese goods. He has since expressed no plan to rescind

his tariffs or back out of this trade war.

Similarly, the European Union is preparing to deploy its own tariffs on American products.

In a post on X, Ursula von der Leyen, president of the E.U.'s executive branch, said that the union would be willing to employ a "zero-for-zero" approach. This would mean all tariffs from both sides would be repealed.

However, both she and the E.U. trade commissioner, Maros Sefcovic, made it clear that European officials were preparing to deploy

tariffs on the United States if the two sides could not reach a deal.

Meanwhile, discontent in the country continues to grow as the S&P 500, the benchmark U.S. index, has fluctuated since these tariffs were imposed.

"The S&P 500, which is 17.6 percent below its February peak, was close to tumbling into a bear market," said The New York Times.

Bear markets occur when prices in a market decline by more than 20%. This decline is often accompanied by negative investor

sentiment and a weakening economy.

Jerome H. Powell, chair of the Federal Reserve, expressed his concerns about the market declining into a bear market.

"While uncertainty remains elevated, it is now becoming clear that the tariff increases will be significantly larger than expected. The same is likely to be true of the economic effects, which will include higher inflation and slower growth," Powell said in an interview with The New York Times.

On the morning of April 9, Trump said he would halt

the implementation of his tariffs for the next 90 days in order to make way for new talks with foreign nations. However, he expressed that this break did not include China.

Instead, he raised tariffs on its imports to 125% on top of the previous 20% after Beijing announced an 84% tariff on U.S. imports. Two days later, China raised its tariffs to 125%.

Shortly after Trump announced he would pause most of his "reciprocal" tariffs for 90 days, the S&P 500 rose more than 9%. Additionally, multiple countries and the European Union have responded by delaying their retaliatory tariffs for the 90-day pause.

Ultimately, with no resolution in sight and global markets bracing for further turbulence, it is unknown how this global trade war will continue to play out.



President Trump signing an executive order.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN.



Dee Cohen is a junior who is majoring in English literature and is minoring in French.

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*By "doing it" we mean practicing journalistic integrity while wearing some sweet merch

Students Develop Marketing Plans for the Pub and WMNJ Radio Stations

Kevin Feinstein
Contributing Writer

Students in Marketing 205, Principles of Marketing, taught by Maggie Wells, are developing marketing plans for a wide range of businesses. Two of these groups are learning how to market with on campus businesses. Omar Ahmed ('26), Andrew Duhaime ('26), Maureen Figueredo ('25), Carmine Meola-Dreissig ('27) and Natalia Rakviashvili ('26) are working to make the Pub a profitable enterprise. Ty Gelijns ('27), Jeff Ayeh-Datey ('27), Evan Richardson ('27) and Avery Cohen ('27) have been hard at work marketing for WMNJ, Drew's radio station.

The group working with the Pub told the Acorn, "We're creating a marketing plan to make the pub profitable. If you're over 21, you're going to bars, if you're under, you're going to parties. We want to get more people to go to the Pub."

A focus for them was expanding the Pub's hours to later at night and to Saturdays. Their plan also includes bringing sports



broadcasts to the pub, creating a better system for queuing music, a new employment strategy, payment methods for workers, expanding the pub's drink selection and more. "Certain parts are more doable, like sports packages, while others are more ambitious," they said.

Their suggestions extend to the Pub's branding, like updating its slogan, which is currently "where fabled creatures come to drink," for which they had a handful of alternatives. Of course, it's still up to the Pub to approve the students' plan, and to implement the changes they prefer. They said, "we have so many ideas that we are going to present to the Pub and the school. We think it is important to make the Pub profitable."

Having put out surveys, they also said, "not everyone fills out surveys or gives correct information," which makes it harder for them to adapt their plan to the tastes of students. Even more, they said "it is hard to find exactly which problems to target."

Nevertheless, the students say, "we are working to make Drew better, one Guinness at a time."

The group working to refine WMNJ Radio said of their objective, "We were given a short term goal of recruiting more DJs and podcasters. Our long term goal is to build awareness and audience." Essentially, they're running a marketing campaign for the radio.

"People aren't going to listen to an empty radio station," said one group member. So, their main focus is



IMAGE COURTESY OF PEXELS

Radio station image.

on recruiting more DJs to fill the empty spaces in the radio's hours.

Another said, in response to surveys they sent out, "I was surprised by how few people knew about Drew's radio already."

To fulfill its full potential, the students want to succeed in marketing the station and getting the word out both to prospective DJs and pod-

casters, as well as potential listeners.



Kevin Feinstein is a first year student majoring in English.

Pre-Health Society & Feminist Intersection Club Hold Minority Health

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
Contributing Writer

On Monday, April 7, Drew's Pre-Health Society partnered with the campus Feminist Intersection club to hold a Minority Health Awareness event in the Ehinger Center from 6 to 7 p.m. The event was held in EC109, the conference room next to the Commuter Lounge.

The event kicked off around 6:10 p.m., with Breana Stephen ('27) giving a presentation at the front of the room on minority health awareness, as well as on how the world can advance its commitments to eliminate the many global health disparities that remain ever-present within many communities—especially those of colour or who may be under-resourced or underrepresented.

Especially highlighted in Stephen's presentation were the disproportionate effects of the recent COVID-19 pandemic on those minority communities. Defining healthcare disparities as



IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI

Breana Stephen leading a Kahoot game for event partici-

"differences in health and healthcare between groups that stem from broader social and economic inequities," Stephen pointed out that many minority communities continue to feel the impacts of the COVID pandemic today, nearly two full years after much of the world returned to a quasi-normal state of affairs—especially members of the Hispanic, Asian and Black communities in the U.S.

Stephen's presentation also included a number of data points and statistics on how the Hispanic community, Asian community and other communities of color are vastly and disproportionately likely to be unable to afford health insurance and have "low or no access" to proper healthcare as a consequence. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, an independent health policy research organization,

approximately 18.7% of Indigenous Americans and 17.9% of the U.S. Hispanic community lack healthcare insurance as of 2023. Those with Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry closely follow at 12.8%, and 9.7% of the Black community is also currently unable to access insurance. Stephen highlighted the difference in who is affected by healthcare crises, and referred to a number of initiatives that could possibly help alleviate some of the disparities in her presentation.

After Stephen's presentation, those in attendance participated in a game of Kahoot with questions about the statistics and issues that she had mentioned, and the two organizations distributed food from Chipotle to participants. The event ended around 7:15 p.m.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a sophomore majoring in sociology and minoring in journalism.

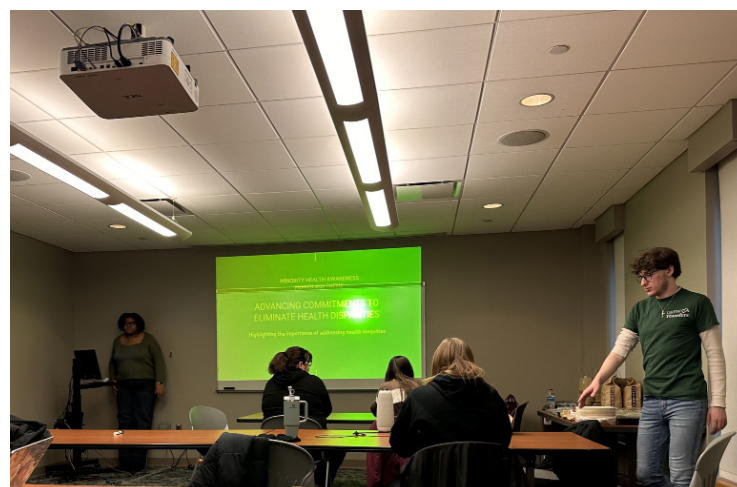


IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI

Breana Stephen giving a presentation about minority health aware-

How a GoFundMe Campaign Saved VWB's Spring Break Trip

Mika Bidiak

Contributing Writer

Disclaimer: Mika Bidiak serves as the co-Vice President of Volunteer Without Borders. All views expressed herein are her

After club budgets were cut, the fate of Volunteer Without Borders' annual spring break trip seemed out of our hands. The leftover budget was not enough to pay for the housing at Coal River Mountain Watch, rental vans, food, gas and other necessary purchases for such a trip to succeed. Anxieties arose that the trip would not go on, but various fundraising efforts ended up saving the day!

Volunteer Without Borders is an entirely student-run organization that aims to provide alternative service trips during the winter, spring and summer breaks. The trips are meant to be non-destructive to the communities that the volunteers visit, as well as financially accessible for college students, keeping a low cost and offering scholarship opportunities. These trips focus on a variety of timely topics, including environmental justice, public health and disaster relief. They also count as 45 Action Scholars hours, as well as immersive experiences and hours for certain Community-Based Learning classes.

The annual trip to Naoma, West Virginia, specifically focuses on the ecological, social and economic impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining. Volunteer Without Borders Co-President Jen Arias ('25) said, "VWB strongly feels that our work represents a commitment to social and environmental



justice and encourages our volunteers to continuously and actively engage with the world around them." Therefore, the possibility that such an important and impactful trip could potentially not go on was devastating.

Yet, without skipping a beat, we as the board began to brainstorm ways to raise money to make the trip possible. First, we celebrated VWBeers and Ballads, a fundraiser night at the pub open to everyone 21 and up. Then, we held a proceeds night at Romanelli's Pizza & Italian Eatery in Madison, where a percentage of each purchase went towards the organization!

However, just a week before spring break, the trip had still not been confirmed. Co-President Elliot Franklyn ('25) said, "By that point, we had already held applications, accepted our volunteers, had two group meetings, completed paperwork and health appointments, and yet we were still waiting on crucial documents that would have stopped the trip completely if we had not received them in time."

With both high hopes and worries since spring break was coming up so soon, we created a GoFundMe campaign entitled "Help Keep VWB Available and Accessible!" We distributed QR codes around the school

leading to the GoFundMe, and shared the flyer on Instagram and YikYak, hoping to widen our reach as much as possible. When we first created the GoFundMe, we never expected the incredible extent of generosity and graciousness shown to Volunteer Without Borders and the strength of the community of volunteers here at Drew. It received donations from friends, family, Drew alumni, faculty and former volunteers. Co-Vice President Cass Perez ('27) said, "It was so inspiring to see the Drew community rally behind VWB—truly a testament to the impact VWB has on Drew and the amazing legacy it continues to leave!"

Within just two weeks, the GoFundMe raised \$4,000! This was enough to pay the total price for the week to Coal River Mountain Watch, our community partner in West Virginia. "After everything had finally worked out, I felt insane relief that we were actually going to be able to go, and it absolutely would not have happened without the incredible support of our 55 donors," said Franklyn, who led the West Virginia trip this year for the second time.

With such a quick turnaround, we had two pre-trip information sessions the two Sundays leading up to the trip. Volunteers learned about the origins of Coal

River Mountain Watch and participated in our "Cookie Mining" tradition, where volunteers use toothpicks to attempt to remove chocolate chips from chocolate chip cookies to reveal the destructive nature of mountaintop removal coal mining.

We then packed our bags and got on the road. After an eight-and-a-half-hour drive, we were welcomed by Junior Walk into our housing accommodations at The Judy Bonds Center for Appalachian Preservation. Walk is Coal River Mountain Watch's site monitor, outreach coordinator and CEP coordinator, and he has been working with Volunteer Without Borders for the past several years. His openness with the volunteers year after year is truly admirable and appreciated. The following day, Walk took us to the top of a mountain to view the effects of mountaintop removal first-hand. We then visited two memorials for the Upper Big Branch Mine Disaster from 2010, one made by friends and families of the 29 miners who were killed and the other made by the mining corporation and decorated with coal.

We ended the day with board games and a thoughtful reflection, discussing the differences between the two memorials, voicing our expectations for the week and expressing our gratitude that the trip actually came to fruition.

Throughout the rest of the week, we continued learning from those at Coal River Mountain Watch, immersing ourselves into the new environment. We participated in the Tadpole Cleanup Project, collecting trash alongside a river, and hiked New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, the newest national park. Volunteers reflected

on the undeniable beauty of New River Gorge, and the potential for this beauty in the rest of West Virginia if mountaintop removal coal mining is stopped.

On the West Virginia trip specifically, students are able to learn directly from those impacted by the coal mining industry in a digestible and hands-on way, always coming out of the trip with new views regarding themselves and the communities they visit. Volunteer Without Borders allows the opportunity for students to go out of their comfort zone in a safe space, and to connect with others who share similar interests. Arias said it best: "Connection is really the core of Volunteer Without Borders in many ways."

Students who go on the service trips always say, "Volunteer Without Borders changes lives," and the organization's board is incredibly grateful for all donors, people at Coal River Mountain Watch, chaperones and volunteers for making these trips possible and so impactful. While the future financial situation of Volunteer Without Borders is unknown, "VWB will always be looking out for our communities inside and outside of Drew, and how we can best play the role of a global citizen in times of uncertainty," said Franklyn. These trips foster community, connections and appreciation for diverse environments, and Volunteer Without Borders hopes to continue making a positive impact on its volunteers and the world at large for years to come.

Mika Bidiak is a sophomore majoring in English: Literature and Environmental Studies & Sustainability and minoring in Environmental Justice.

Heritage Mixer for Asian Student Union Celebrates APIDA Students

Vedant Maheshwari

Contributing Writer

On April 4, Asian Student Union hosted an APIDA Heritage Month mixer in collaboration with BIPOC Peer Mentoring Club and South Asian Student Association.

APIDA Heritage Month, which stands for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American, is a heritage month in May that is dedicated to honoring the significant contributions that Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi Americans have made to American culture.

The event was held in Mead Hall. The doors were opened at 5 p.m. and the program started at 5:30 p.m. The event started with students and professors get-

ting food and socializing with each other, followed by a presentation that talked about what APIDA Heritage Month is and its cultural significance. Following that, there were discussions between the attendees regarding the heritage month and the importance of learning about different cultures on Drew's campus.

"It's a good opportunity to connect and get more knowledge about Asian culture," said ASU Secretary James He ('28) when asked about the event. The board members seemed ecstatic about sharing their culture with other students and professors.

The community members attending the event expressed their enthusiasm toward opportunities provided

by the heritage month. "I'm really excited to learn about Asian culture," said student Adam Fanane ('27). The professors were also very eager to know more about the event. "It's something really special about creating connections between students and faculty," said Analytical Chemistry professor Dr. Andrea Lee.

Overall, the event had amazing food and great discussions, and gave a lot of insight about Asian culture, complementing Drew's cultural diversity. Chief Financial Officer Ria Keelan ('27) further described another event that happened on April 7 in Mead Hall 102, which was a roundtable discussion with Benny Chan: Navigating the career path in academia as an APIDA.

Vedant Maheshwari is a sophomore who is exploring academically.



IMAGE COURTESY OF VEDANT MAHESHWARI

Students at the event.

Recap: BOB Budget Interviews Conclude for 2025–26

Benjamin Castro
Assistant Opinions Section Editor

The Budgets and Organizations Board (BOB) of Student Government recently concluded its annual budget interviews process.

Held in person on March 21 in EC 145 and March 24 and April 4 in EC 109, the interviews gave more than 40 clubs and organizations the opportunity to present their plans and funding requests for the 2025–26 academic year.

Each 10-minute session allowed club representatives to share their past programming, upcoming events, and reasoning behind their budget proposals. Despite campus-wide budget cuts, students arrived prepared with detailed presentations, often including PowerPoint slides, itemized cost breakdowns and proposed event dates.

“The budget cuts were a tough obstacle to navigate, but they were necessary for the school as a whole,” said Jack Mocik (‘27), president of BOB. “We were very happy to see that club leaders did not give up and showed plans to continue the progress previous clubs and club leaders made.”

To receive funding, clubs were required to propose at



IMAGE COURTESY OF BENJAMIN CASTRO

BOB members pose for a group photo.

least two programs per each upcoming semester. These could include community service, recruitment or fundraising initiatives to involve general members and get them more involved.

In addition to reviewing budgets, the board also considered each club’s activity level throughout the academic year, previous spending, constitution, advisor information and the accuracy of each club’s Path page.

“I hope clubs understand that they are working together to create a vibrant campus life for the next academic year,” Mocik said. “It is not one club versus another to get the most funding for their own events, but a col-

laboration between all the campus leaders to ensure that students are enjoying and progressing during their time at Drew.”

Mocik also noted the overall professionalism and preparedness of club leaders this year.

“Clubs continue to be fully prepared and have great presentations during the budget interviews,” he said. “BOB could not do this without Terrance, who has been an outstanding resource for both myself and all club leaders—consistently going above and beyond to ensure everyone understands expectations and providing support whenever needed.”

“The students did a wonderful job planning for the



Stephanie Huang and Aira Marie Poticano of Asian Student Union (both

next year and thoroughly discussed their finances with much thought and preparation,” said Terrance Somesla-McCornell (G’25), Coordinator of Student Engagement and Club Life.

Final budget decisions will be shared with clubs before the end of the semester. As student leaders prepare for the 2025–26 academic year, their collaboration and commitment during this year’s budget process reflect the passion and creativity that continue to shape Drew’s student life.

“For their next step, I would suggest finishing up the semester strong by teaching their younger members how to lead for the next year, along with helping them

plan the first two weeks of school next year to ensure an easy transition into the Activities Fair,” said Somesla-McCornell. “I am very grateful to work with such dedicated student leaders.”

For questions about club budgets, requesting additional programming funds or starting a new organization on campus, students are encouraged to email bob@drew.edu or contact Terrance Somesla-McCornell, Coordinator of Student Engagement and Club Life.

Benjamin Castro is a senior majoring in Marketing & Business.

The Fund Takes First at the 2025 GAME Forum!

Benjamin Castro
Assistant Opinions Section Editor

Drew University’s student-managed investment group, The Fund, has claimed first place in the Small Fund category at the 14th Annual Global Asset Management Education Forum hosted by Quinnipiac University in New York City.

This marks a historic moment, as it was The Fund’s first time entering the Global Portfolio Competition, and they brought home top honors.

Held April 3-4, the 2025 GAME Forum brought together over 1,600 students from more than 150 universities around the world for two days of investment insight, industry trends and networking.

Representing Drew were Joseph Rojek (‘25), Erik Rothman (‘27) and Eberardo Perez (‘27), who competed against peer institutions managing portfolios under \$100,000.

Throughout the forum, students engaged with leading voices in finance, attending panels on macro-economic policy, exploring emerging strategies in crypto mining and hearing firsthand from figures like Tom

Keene, current co-host of “Bloomberg Surveillance.”

Drew’s student-managed portfolio, known as The Fund, currently oversees \$56,000 in U.S. equities.

In 2024, the group achieved an impressive 27% return, outperforming the S&P 500’s 25% gain over the same period. This 2% edge underscores the strength of their investment strategy and market analysis.

“The Quinnipiac GAME Forum gave me the opportunity to hear insights from a number of industry professionals in the asset management and fixed income space including panels from economists where they provided their outlook on the market,” said Rothman. “Although these topics are discussed in my classes, this even gave a new breadth of knowledge that wouldn’t have been available in a typical classroom setting.”

In the Global Portfolio Competition, participants were evaluated based on their 2024 Sharpe Ratios and a poster presentation explaining their strategy and performance. The Sharpe Ratio measures how much excess return an investment generates for the amount

of risk taken; higher ratios indicate better risk-adjusted performance.

Despite only being able to send three students due to budget constraints, The Fund rose to the top of their category. It was a testament to their collaboration, research and strategic thinking.

The win was more than a personal accomplishment—it was a moment of pride for the broader Drew community.

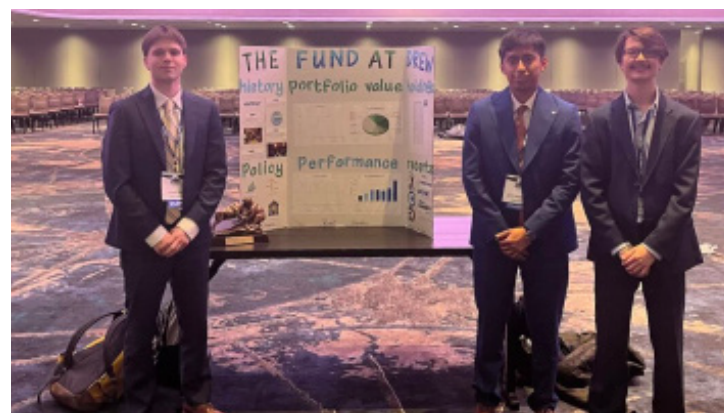
“This shows that even as a small university, we, too, are as smart as others,” said Perez. “It doesn’t matter about the school you attend but the effort and amount of education you’re willing to receive.”

For the students behind The Fund, the win also served as a reminder that opportunity is within reach for anyone willing to take initiative.

“For any student looking to get into the finance and investing world, our doors at The Fund are always open,” said Rojek. “Our only prerequisite is that you have the desire to learn, and that you know the effort you put in is what you will get out. In any case, it is important to always stay curious and never hesitate to take the first step.”

With their first competition now behind them, The Fund is proud to have represented Drew University and looks forward to growing its impact in the world of student-managed investing.

Benjamin Castro is a senior majoring in Marketing & Business.



IMAGES COURTESY OF BENJAMIN CASTRO

Rojek, Perez and Rothman pose for group photo. Trophy won by Drew at

OPINIONS

SPEAK UP!

OPINIONS EDITOR: MARS GERMINDER | kgerminder@drew.edu
 ASSISTANT EDITOR: BENJAMIN CASTRO

Submit a letter to the editor or contribute an opinion piece (500 WORDS APPROX). Email theacorn+opinions@drew.edu

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Lead Ed: In the Midst of Chaos, We Must Find Good in the World

LEAD EDITORIAL

As many of you are aware, most news outlets have been reporting on very scary recent events happening across the globe. Everything seems to be crumbling around us, especially in the United States, with our current president. Wars around the world are still raging, and everything feels uncertain and uneasy. However, we on the editorial board have all found our own ways to cope with the seemingly never-ending stream of bad news.

We wanted to write this article in order to show our readers that there is still good in the world, even when everything seems bleak and depressing.

According to Psychology Today, “From a biological standpoint, we are hardwired to focus on the negative. The human brain has evolved to naturally pay more attention to negative events and experiences than positive ones; this is known in psychology as the negativity bias.”

This negativity bias can make finding happiness and meaning in everyday life and causes us to focus on the negative aspects of living. However, scientists note how purposefully focusing on different values can break through the negativity bias.

In an article published in Nature Human Behavior, the authors said, “Three types of values lay the groundwork for a meaningful existence. First, creative values help the individual do or create something of personal value, often in the service of others. Second, attitudinal values help the individual



IMAGE COURTESY OF FREE MALAYSIA TODAY

Trump speaking animatedly.

take a more positive stance towards a negative situation, helping them, for example, ‘find meaning in suffering’. Finally, experiential values allow one to detect and appreciate the beauty in life itself.”

We think that experiential values may be some of the most important, yet often ignored. It is impressive how noting the good parts of everyday life can change our entire mindsets and attitudes.

So despite the overwhelming sense of dread that comes from opening a news app or scrolling through social media, it is important to remember that moments of kindness, resilience and progress will continue to exist.

Some of these sources of existential dread are primarily from the recent actions of the Trump administration. Since President Donald Trump started his

term in January 2025, things have gone downhill in many aspects. One of the most upsetting things he has decided to do is aim to drill for more oil in the United States and even outside of the country. His administration has lifted several mining and drilling restrictions across many states in America, making it easy for gas, oil and other industries to take advantage of the Earth without any true consequence.

There has also been a significant increase in global conflicts over the past few years. Whether it be conflicts over land or over hostages, it seems like there has been more and more fighting between countries, and in turn, people from many different nations. All of these conflicts, killing and displacing people, can make everything feel bleak and hopeless.

Nonetheless, there is still some good in the world, and we wanted to share that



IMAGE COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

Soldiers in Ukraine assessing damage.

goodness with you all so you don’t feel so overwhelmed with all the bad things happening.

Not everything in this world is as terrible as it seems. There are still people out there who want to brighten up someone else’s day. Maybe it’s the stranger who held the door when your hands were full, or the professor who checked in when you looked tired. These acts, though small, are significant.

And perhaps that’s just the key: taking note of the small things. Despite all of the negative circumstances currently permeating our lives, there’s something to be said about the little things that make our day just that much happier. Take the robins that are now beginning to populate our campus—it’s a sure sign that spring is on its way and sure to bring with it colorful blooms and temperate weather. It’s these observations that can aid in the

amelioration of everything that’s bleak in our world.

On the editorial board, we find happiness and community when we get to see our pets. So, what better way to share some positivity than showing off some of the editors’ pets!



The Lead Editorial is a reflection of the collective opinion of the editorial board.



IMAGES COURTESY OF SIERRA WALKER

Sierra Walker’s (’25) three dogs: Sebastian (left image, left), Summit (left image, right) and Hoss (upper image).



IMAGE COURTESY OF KATIE GERMINDER

Katie Germinder's ('27) dog, Hershey!



IMAGES COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI'

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui's ('27) bird, Mr. P, and cat, Roja!



IMAGES COURTESY OF ALLISON CANNON

Allison Cannon's ('28) cats, Francis (upper image) and Dude (left image)!

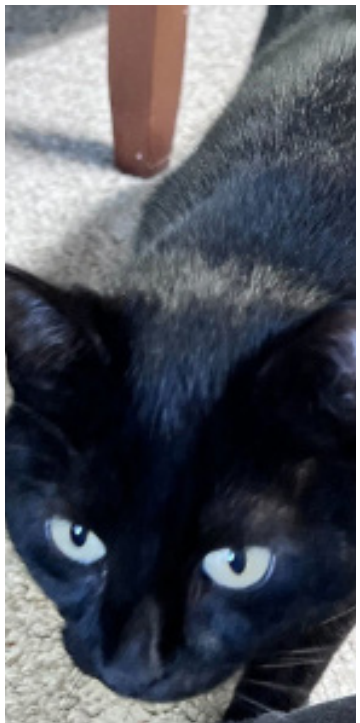


IMAGE COURTESY OF GILLIAN SAMPSON.

Gillian Sampson's (C'24, G'26) friend Eden's dog, Elly!



IMAGES COURTESY OF ROBIN GINDHART

Robin Gindhart's ('25) cat, Sneakers, and dog, Tempo!



IMAGE COURTESY OF OLLIE ARNOLD

Ollie Arnold's ('25) cats! The black cat is Winnie, and the white cat is Wally!



IMAGES COURTESY OF SKYLAR ANDERSON

Dee Cohen's ('26) dogs, Holly and Bailey! Also, Dee's birds, Emi and Levi.

Harry Potter and The Cursed Child, The Play, not the Book

Allison Cannon
News Assistant Editor

You don't have to be a huge fan of Harry Potter to understand "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," even if you haven't watched any of the movies or read any of the books.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is a book that has been adapted into a play, but it is more than a play—it is an experience.

Be warned that this article will contain spoilers from both the play and the books.

Even though the previous Harry Potter books hold Harry as the main character, this play focuses on his youngest son, Albus Severus Potter. This is established at the beginning of the play in a scene similar to the end credits scene of the final movie.

The play starts off with a series of moments in the school life of Albus.

His first years of school are full of worries about living in the shadow of his famous father, or being the first Potter to be sorted into the Slytherin house, but also

about making friends. And he just so happens to be best friends with the son of his father's school enemy.

Both Albus and his only friend, Scorpius, have difficult relationships with their respective fathers, both of whom hated each other when they were in school.

Jealousy and fatherly love are very big themes in this play, which are portrayed through actors' emotions, creative on-stage movement and the use of sound and music.

However, this story isn't about sons rebelling against their fathers or daughters seeking their own fathers via time travel, even though it is very prevalent—it is about the concept of time.

Time travel is not unknown in the world of Harry Potter, but by the time that this play occurs, it is outlawed.

To showcase the act of time travel, the play uses a mix of dance and lighting to portray what could be a very boring transition into the past and future.

The actors group together and pulse their hands over the time turner as the

sound of a clock ticks in the background. The stage looks like it is pulsing as the ticking resumes, and when it stops, the scene has magically changed behind the actors.

The stage crew for this show must actually be magic users themselves to make this happen.

The constant scene changes, the objects that appear to float down from the ceiling, the actual magic that is performed by the actors and the realism of the whole show are what sell this experience as real magic.

The entire time from the beginning of act one to the end of the show, the audience is dazzled by the tricks and stage movement that are constantly being performed.

The amazing stage management and set choreography are what turn this play into its own entity, separate from Harry Potter and the world that the movies created.

The work that all of the staff and members of the crew put into this play is very noticeable.

The building itself is catered to the Harry Potter experience. The ceiling is

Painted with stars that move if you hold your phone up to them, the staff wear themed clothing and there are also amazing themed snacks.

Unfortunately, security had to help me and my party be relocated during the show; however, despite the situation, it was still an amazing experience.

The head of security as well as the manager were both wonderful and very helpful, and it shows that good management and lead-

ership have a direct effect on customer enjoyment.

What could have been a bad experience at a play turned into a wonderful story and an amazing time.



Allison Cannon is a first year exploring her major, minoring in Spanish and law, justice, and society.



Image of the inside of the theater.

IMAGE COURTESY OF ALLISON CANNON

A Minecraft Movie Review: Flint and Stealing a Three-Star Review

Katie Germinder
Opinions Section Editor

Most of us are aware of the "A Minecraft Movie"'s existence from several internet memes, thanks to Jack Black in the trailers and teasers. These memes include Jack Black saying phrases such as "The Nether" and "Chicken Jockey," all of which have circulated well on social media platforms.

So, going into the movie knowing all of these memes, I had a pretty decent expectation of how the movie was going to be. I also went in knowing that I, a college student, was not the key demographic for this film. It was made to be enjoyed by younger kids in approximately the 5-12 year

age range. This made me have lower expectations, cinematography-wise, going into the theater.

The main plot of "A Minecraft Movie" is that four highly creative people from the "Real World," Garrett Garrison (played by Jason Momoa), Natalie (played by Emma Myers), Henry (played by Sebastian Eugene Hansen) and Dawn (played by Danielle Brooks), are transported into the world of Minecraft by a mysterious cube. While in this new world, they meet Steve (played by Jack Black), who explains that the cube is their only way back home. However, an evil Piglin named Malgasha (voiced by Rachel House) is out to steal the

cube so she can rule over the Overworld. The five friends must work together to find a missing Earth crystal to complete the now broken cube so they can return home.

Overall, I was genuinely entertained by the movie when I saw it in theaters with my friends and a lot of different audience members. Some were fellow college students and young adults who grew up playing Minecraft, while others were kids and the new generation of players. The whole theater cheered when the iconic meme lines were said and it was a blast. The cameos from Minecraft YouTubers such as LDSHADOWLADY, DANCITDM and Aphmau were a

pleasant surprise to me and many viewers. It felt like a full circle moment of my childhood.

Story and plot-wise, on the other hand, I felt like the movie fell short in these aspects. I wish the villain were something cooler, like the Ender Dragon or the Wither. I wanted to see more aspects of actual Minecraft integrated into the movie, like how different mobs actually act in-game. I also felt like a lot of the female characters were undeveloped and should have had a bigger plot impact, like Natalie being able to be a kid again instead of having to parent Henry by herself as his big sister. However, I did love the side plot of Vice Principal Marlene (played by

Jennifer Coolidge) having a romance with a villager. It felt random, but also so perfect for this movie and Coolidge's character.

In conclusion, I would give this movie a solid three out of five stars rating. I enjoyed it, but would not call it a peak film of its time.



Katie Germinder is a sophomore majoring in environmental studies and sustainability.

The World's Crazy Ex: Donald Trump

Vedant Maheshwari
Contributing Writer

America, one of the world's most powerful nations, is also known for its status as a global melting pot where everyone comes to find a better life. It seems as if no other media is as free as popular American media. It's still one of the most glorified nations that people everywhere look up to, right?

It has not even been four months since President Donald Trump has taken power and the United States is in a very questionable state. Infamous for making a name for himself in the business

world, people thought "Hey, this guy knows a thing or two about businesses, why don't we put him in charge of the country?"

Lately Trump's tariff fest, which involves literally every part of the globe getting tariffed, has gotten to the point that even uninhabited Antarctic lands are being affected by tariffs, leaving the penguins there wondering "What did we do?" "What was his main goal," you may ask? It was just to "protect" American businesses from failing, not realizing that many American businesses actually require imported goods to function which now are

insanely expensive thanks to tariffs.

The tariffs have also resulted in countries around the world boycotting American goods, and foreign companies not wanting to expand their outlets into the US, which could have created more jobs. It's gotten to the point where Canada has even renamed the popular drink "Americano" to "Canadiano." To further worsen the situation, Trump also decided to impose heavy restrictions on immigration and obsess over the words "detain" and "deport" in the dictionary to the point that Germany had to issue a travel advisory.

Lately, America has been losing her former glory courtesy of poor healthcare, mass shootings, backwards policies and ideas and hyperinflation. To make matters worse, people are now terrified of the American flag and raise their eyebrows at people who display it in front of their homes and on their vehicles.

But hey, on a more positive note, at least gas prices are decreasing for now, which we can thank Trump for—especially given the fact he hasn't ruled out the possibility of a recession. Maybe when a new president takes power after Trump, that president can try to

mend the bridges Trump burned with other countries. Even so, will the world be willing to change its views again after Trump?



Vedant Maheshwari is a sophomore exploring their major.

Getting to Know Our Rangers On and Off the Field: Dual-Sport Athlete Emily Monaco

Benjamin Castro
Assistant Opinions Editor

Drew's student-athletes showcase remarkable dedication and time management, especially those balancing multiple sports and transitioning between them during the academic year.

This adaptability, along with their commitment to both athletics and academics, highlights their exceptional discipline and work ethic.

This edition of our Ranger Spotlight highlights the achievements of Emily Monaco ('26), a dual-sport athlete competing in both field hockey and women's lacrosse.

A philosophy major with minors in political science and law, justice & society, Monaco is also on the law school dual-degree track, demonstrating her ambition on the field and in the classroom.

As a midfielder for both teams, Monaco has proven to be a force to be reckoned with. On the field hockey team, she has amassed 14 points and earned Landmark Conference Honor Roll recognition for the last two fall seasons.

In lacrosse, she serves as a left midfielder and team



IMAGE COURTESY OF BASIM HORSHAW: @freebhp ON INSTAGRAM

Monaco gains possession and launches an upfield attack for the Drew WLAX

captain. She currently sits at 74 career ground balls, ranks fifteenth in the Landmark Conference for ground balls in the 2024 season and has also been named to the Landmark Conference Honor Roll for the past two spring semesters.

One of her most memorable moments came during the 2024 lacrosse season when the team secured the fourth seed in the playoffs, earning a home playoff game. "The game was electric, and it was an amazing experience to have the chance not only to play in the playoffs but also to play on our home turf," said Monaco.

Beyond her accomplishments in competitions, Monaco is an active

and engaged leader in the Drew community. She is one of the representatives for both her teams in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and has taken a role in creating and leading a Women's Athlete Bible Study for the Campus Catholic Ministry Club.

Monaco has also worked closely with Drew's strength and conditioning coach through a work-study position during the entirety of the 2023-24 academic year.

Beyond campus, she has spent the past two summers interning at Meagher & Meagher Attorneys at Law in New York. Her legal aspirations are further reflected in her rigor-

ous academic track and involvement in related studies.

When reflecting on her academic experiences, she found it difficult to pick a favorite class due to the many positive experiences she had. However, she credits much of her academic growth to Drew's philosophy department, particularly her experiences with Professors Darrell Cole and Seung-Kee Lee.

"Both professors have been the most understanding. They work proactively

with each student, athlete or not, to make sure they are getting the most out of the class," said Monaco. "Not only have their classes been extremely insightful, but they lecture with such authority that not only are you learning the material to its greatest extent, but you're also learning how to have the confidence to think outside the box and argue any idea that you find extendable."

Being a student-athlete has shaped Monaco in countless ways, instilling discipline, time management and an unwavering drive to succeed.

"Being an athlete has helped me cultivate a drive to become the best version of myself on and off the field," said Monaco.

"I need the motivation to reach my goals not only in my athletics but in my future professional career."

As she continues her journey at Drew, Monaco remains a standout example of what it means to be a Ranger—dedicated, hard-working and striving for excellence in every aspect of her collegiate experience.

If you would like to nominate another student-athlete to be featured in future issues, please send their name to theacorn+sports@drew.edu.



Benjamin Castro is a senior majoring in marketing and

Rangers Honor Standout Seniors with Dominating Win over Lycoming

Gillian Sampson
Assistant Sports Editor

The Drew University men's lacrosse team delivered a commanding 20-8 victory over Lycoming College in Landmark Conference play last Saturday, marking a major step toward postseason contention.

Eight Rangers found the back of the net in the offensive showcase, highlighted by a standout performance from Luke Bruther ('25), who tallied a career-high five goals. The Rangers came out strong, scoring three times within the opening eight minutes and never relinquishing the lead throughout the duration of the four quarters.

Following the game, the team held a heartfelt ceremony honoring three graduating seniors whose im-

pact on the program extends far beyond the stat sheet.

Ben Johnson ('25), a key defensive player, has consistently helped anchor the Rangers' back line, contributing to critical stops. Off the field, Johnson is completing his degree in economics and has served as the Senior Analyst of Financials and Materials for The Fund, Drew's student-run investment portfolio. His leadership and dedication have set a high standard both academically and athletically.

Mike Demayo ('25), a standout attacker, has tallied an impressive 140 career goals and 92 assists, cementing his legacy. His playmaking abilities will surely be missed next season.

Bruther, a dynamic midfielder, has contributed over 40 goals and recovered more than 30 ground balls throughout his four-

year career. Known for clutch performances and consistent energy, Bruther's efforts have been instrumental in numerous key moments for the team.

The Rangers, currently ranked sixth in the Landmark Conference, will conclude their regular season on the road with matchups against Goucher and Juniata. With postseason aspirations still in reach, the team aims to extend its season, and the careers of its key senior leaders, a little longer.



Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the Masters of Education Program.

HIGHLIGHT REEL

APRIL 4 TO APRIL 18

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

All-MET Second Team • MBB • Josh Kline ('25)

D3baseball.com Team of the Week Member • Anthony Vallaro ('28)

Landmark Conference Athlete of the Week • WTEN • Riley Roesel ('27)

Landmark Conference Athlete of the Week • MGOLF • Elliot Parker ('26)

Have an athlete you want to highlight? Submit their name, class year and accomplishment by emailing sports.theacorn@drew.edu or visiting thedrewacorn.com/submit-a-tip



IMAGE COURTESY OF BASIM HORSHAW: @freebhp ON INSTAGRAM

COMING UP

Get live stats @GoDrewRangers

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
MTEN vs. TCNJ
Madison, NJ
2:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
BASE vs. Juniata College
Huntingdon, PA
3:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
WLAX vs. Juniata College
Madison, NJ
1:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
WTEN vs. Scranton
Scranton, PA
4:00 PM

SPORTS

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INSIDE: Men's Lacrosse Earns Win Over Lycoming on Senior Day **12**

Getting to Know Our Rangers On and Off the Field: Women's Softball Catcher Delaney O'Donoghue

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This edition of our Ranger Spotlight highlights the achievements of Delaney O'Donoghue ('25), a standout student-athlete who balances the demands of rigorous academics and high-level collegiate athletics.

A double major in marketing and business, O'Donoghue has made a lasting impact on the field and in the classroom. She exemplifies what it means to be a well-rounded scholar-athlete—excelling in both areas with focus, determination and leadership.

Since arriving at Drew in the 2021–22 academic year, O'Donoghue has developed into a vocal leader and critical player for the softball team. As a captain and starting catcher, she commands the field with precision and poise.

After spending her first season alternating between third base and catcher, she stepped fully into the catching role as a sophomore, solidifying her presence behind the plate and elevating the team's defensive strategy.

In 2022, she appeared in 33 games, made 31 starts, and posted five multi-hit performances, while throw-



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O'Donoghue will be graduating with majors in both marketing and business. She has earned Dean's List recognition on multiple occasions and is a two-time Landmark Conference Academic Honor Roll honoree—a distinction reserved for student-athletes who have reached sophomore athletic standing and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher.

Standout performances include a 3-for-5 game with three RBIs against Alverno and a dominant 3-for-4 effort with three runs and three RBIs in a win over Centenary. Whether at bat or behind the plate, O'Donoghue consistently demonstrates grit and game-changing ability.

Among her favorite moments as a Ranger, one memory stands out above the rest: going to Hawaii over spring break.

"It was a dream come true to play softball in such a beautiful place with people I love so much," said O'Donoghue.

In the classroom, O'Donoghue has demon-

strated consistent academic excellence. She has earned Dean's List recognition on multiple occasions and is a two-time Landmark Conference Academic Honor Roll honoree—a distinction reserved for student-athletes who have reached sophomore athletic standing and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher.

The upper-level Sports Marketing course, taught by Professor Rob Roche, has been her favorite class at Drew.

"We got to do really unique projects with a lot of creative freedom and Professor Roche made everyone engaged with the content by being funny and talking about real world scenarios," said O'Donoghue.

Reflecting on her journey as a student-athlete,

O'Donoghue shared the impact it's had on both her academic and personal life.

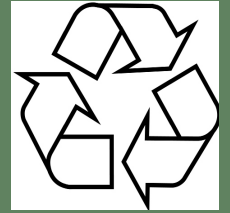
"Being a college-athlete has instilled a lot of discipline and structure for me. Academically, I have been more productive and learned time management skills and personally I learned that it's important to have fun with everything," said O'Donoghue. "Life is too short. Go for it and go all out because you won't regret it."

Now in her senior season, O'Donoghue continues to lead with heart and hustle. Her journey is a testament to the spirit of what it means to be a Ranger—focused, driven and committed to making every moment count.

If you would like to nominate another student-athlete to be featured in future issues, please send their name to theacorn+sports@drew.edu.

Benjamin Castro is a senior majoring in Marketing and Business

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O'Donoghue frames a pitch for a strike at a home game for the Rangers.

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