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### HAVE A TIP?

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# Charlie Kirk Assassinated at Utah Valley University

Kayla Kiernan  
Staff Writer

**D**o you know how many mass shooters there have been in America over the last 10 years?" an attendee asked.

"Counting or not counting gang violence?" answered Charlie Kirk.

These were Kirk's last documented words, according to The Independent, as on Sept. 10, the 31-year-old conservative influencer was shot while speaking at Utah Valley University's campus. Different videos captured the moment a shot rang out. Videos also capture the chaos that sprang out afterwards, showing many students running away from the source of the shot.

Kirk, a well-known conservative who was the founder of the right-wing political group Turning Point USA and who helped campaign for President Trump amongst younger audiences, was at Utah Valley University for his first of 15 stops through American college campuses. His tour was entitled "American Comeback," according to The New York Times.

Police initially arrested two people of interest for the shooting, but later released them with no evidence. The FBI later released photos of a suspect in a long black shirt, sunglasses and a black cap. Videos from students also began to surface, some depicting the alleged shooter running off the roof of the Losee Center.

From these photos, the father of the later-arrested suspect, Tyler Robinson, was able to identify his son. His father urged Robinson to turn himself in. With the help of a local priest who was a family friend, they tried to calm Robinson down as he had told authorities later that he would rather kill himself than turn himself in, according to CBS News. The priest called the authorities, who ultimately arrested 22-year-old Robinson.

Various pieces of evidence were collected before and after Robinson's detainment that connected him to the case. Authorities found a .30.06-caliber Mauser gun believed to be involved in the shooting in a wooded area where the shooter fled.



IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

An image of Charlie Kirk in Tampa in July.

After testing items left at the scene, authorities found DNA linking Robinson to the crime scene.

Investigators are also trying to analyze some bullet casings left at the scene. Different engravings were found on the casings.

According to an article from the New York Times, one fired bullet casing had the inscription, "Notices bulge OWO what's this?" Another unfired casing read, "hey fascist, CATCH!" with an arrow pointing up, right, and three pointing down. Two other unfired casings read, "O Bella ciao, Bella ciao, Bella ciao, Ciao, ciao!" and "If you read this, you are Gay LMAO."

There has been no interpretation from law enforcement as to what these engravings mean or entail.

Law enforcement was also able to obtain footage depicting Robinson driving to campus and entering the Losee Center. Video footage showed Robinson climbing up to the roof of the center, as well.

In the charge document, there were many messages from Robinson to his romantic partner that were sent after the shooting, which further implicated him. The texts were detailed in the New York Times article Texts From Suspect in Charlie Kirk Shooting Offer Insight Into a Motive, reading, "You weren't the one who did it, right?????" (referring to the shooting). "I am, I'm sorry."

Robinson allegedly confessed to the crime to some friends on Discord as well,

killed Kirk—because of his anti-trans stance, according to NPR.

Currently, no evidence of Robinson's political status has been published, as he is not registered with a political party and has not voted in any elections. Although he grew up in a conservative family, Robinson's mother had stated to investigators that Robinson in recent years had become "more pro-gay and trans-rights orientated," according to The New York Times.

It was also revealed that Robinson went to the University for one semester in 2021, but at the time of the shooting, he was no longer a student.

Robinson has been charged with aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily harm and obstruction of justice. He is being held without bail in special watch due to the risk of him harming himself or others.

As of now, his motive is still unclear. Robinson has not told police why he did it and there is no definitive proof as to why he committed the crime. Due to pieces of conflicting evidence, there is no way to point to a clearly defined motive as of yet.



Kayla Kiernan is a sophomore who is undecided.

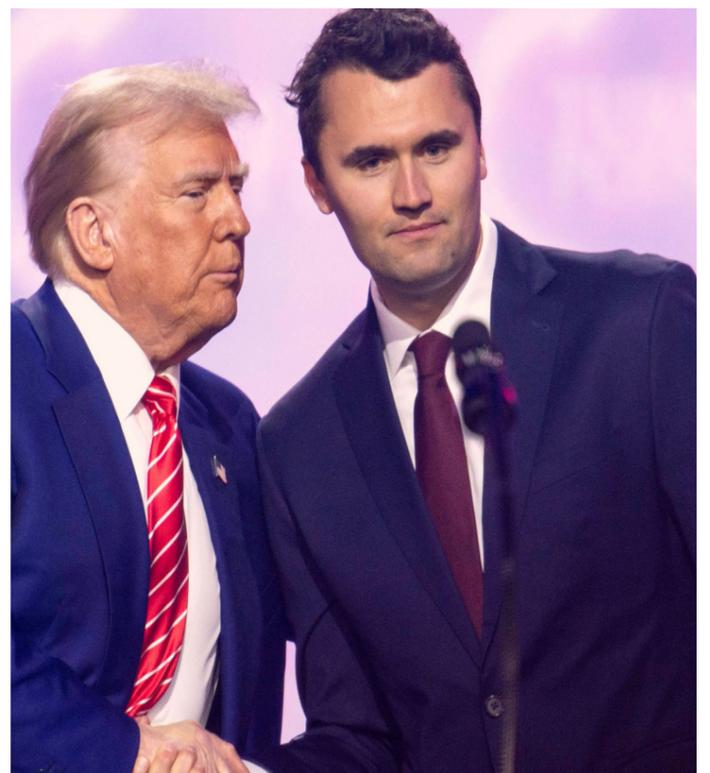


IMAGE COURTESY OF HEUTE.AI

President Donald Trump shakes hands with Charlie Kirk.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

College is short, and embracing individuality, making mistakes and taking chances is what makes it memorable.  
—Dalila Benmakhlof ('26)

SEE LIFE , PG 8

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theacorn@drew.com

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114 McLendon Hall  
36 Madison Ave.  
Madison, N.J. 07940

## Covering Concerns in Context with StuGov

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui  
SLA Setcion Editor

**M**uch has happened and changed within Drew University's Student Government since the start of this semester in August. Here are some of the most important and major updates.

### Some Members Transferred Out

A number of Senators and staff members, including former Vice President Maks Coven and former Senator Zahrah Azeem, transferred out of Drew this summer. Elections were held on Sept. 8, and new members were appointed to fill their vacant positions.

On Aug. 27, the Senate convened to pass its yearly budget and swear in a new clerk, Jorgelisa Rodriguez-Zapata ('29), who was also selected to head the Dining Committee.

Sen. Daniel Ohr ('26) was selected to replace former Sen. Coven as President Zaire Wright's Vice President. Kayla Kiernan ('28) was also selected as Wright's new Chief of Staff.

### New Senators Elected

Due to a higher number of Senators transferring out of Drew than usual, several newcomers have been elected across the board. StuGov tabling for voting awareness ran almost right up to the end of polling on Sept. 8, and results were announced that night in Ehinger Center Room 109 at roughly 8:45 p.m.

Under the leadership of Elections Chair Jordyn Casanova-Ghosh ('28), new Senators at-Large and Freshman Senators were selected and a new seat—Transfer Senator—was established, with Sen. Dejanayha Hill



Image courtesy Sabr Keres-Siddiqui

All the new senators and StuGov members of staff pose for a photo. (27) being the first elected to the new position.

The other new elects include freshman Senators Coco Otto ('29) and George Grullón Martínez ('29), International Senator Olufeyikemi Akinyemi-Lawale ('27) and at-large Senators Breena Stephen ('27), Angela Loeser ('27), Edgar Guzman ('28) and Camille Schiralli ('28).

The Senate convened to swear in Kiernan and the new Senators on Sept. 10, as well as to discuss other student concerns.

### Dining Concerns

At the Aug. 27 meeting, concerns were raised by a first-year student at the meeting who said that she struggles with dining options at Drew—especially in Commons—due to the lack of choice or accommodation of her religious dietary restrictions, adding that she has not been able to eat well so far on campus due to the frequent unavailability of food that she would be able to have.

Concerns were also raised about the new hours for the Commons, with the main dining hall now opening at 8:30 a.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. on weekends—closing at 10 p.m. every day—

instead of opening earlier and closing at midnight as it did last year. Sen. James Dempsey ('27) brought this up at the Sept. 10 meeting and was echoed by Loeser and Hill.

Loeser and Senior Sen. Sandra Faragalla ('26) raised the issue of reports by constituents where students who were lactose intolerant and had ordered specifically dairy-free products were mistakenly given dairy anyway, and pushed for more transparency with regards to how dining staff are trained and staffing decisions so that measures could be taken to avoid similar dietary-restriction errors, lessen the impact of understaffing and allow dining staff to work without becoming overwhelmed.

Dempsey also raised the issue of many student activities, like most team sports and several of the New York semesters, as well as many regularly scheduled student classes, requiring a significant number of students to be otherwise engaged far before opening time, especially due to several morning classes beginning as early as 7 to 8 a.m. Seconding this, Hill brought up that the new

closing time was not ideal either, due to several groups of students ending activities as late as 9 or 9:30 p.m.

Loeser also pointed out that even some hours before the actual time of closing, the Commons staff will perform a “soft close,” where many of the basic food items and stations are prematurely put away for the night, resulting in far fewer options for students who have the misfortune of having late classes to eat dinner.

She added as well that while “soft closing” last year had relatively little impact due to the lack of crowds nearing midnight, continuing to do so with the new timings (where the soft-close reportedly starts near 6 or 7 p.m.) is unsustainable given the much later times that students are actually released from classes and activities. “Even if it’s just two students [in the dining halls during early or late hours], those two students do still deserve to eat,” she remarked.

Faragalla and Sen. Arya Patel ('27) also suggested possibilities for more student engagement with dining, including some new methods for the dining company to improve its social media reach to students on campus.

After information about Senate committee assignments was given to the new elects, Vice President Ohr gave updates about upcoming events and the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m. that night. This year, Student Government plans to hold regular meetings every other Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Ehinger Center room 145.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in sociology

## First Drew Night at the Shakespeare Theatre

Nathan Moldover  
Contributing Writer

Nestled into Drew's campus, between Seminary and Wendel Halls, is the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre, home to the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, which is the longest-running classical theatre company on the East Coast.

With a vibrant theatre scene itself, Drew has a symbiotic relationship with the Shakespeare Company. Drew students can see the amazing productions they put on, while the Company is introduced to a brand new audience every year. It's a school-loving theatre for a

theatre-loving school that comes together for different events.

Through their Drew Nights and regular student discounts, the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey provides students here at Drew with a chance to see professional theatre at a significantly reduced cost. For the Drew Nights, theatre students can get free tickets, while non-theatre students get \$15 tickets. There are also reduced costs for faculty available.

Most recently, on Sept. 12, they hosted a Drew Night for their current show, “Ro-

meo and Juliet.” Many students, theatre and non-theatre alike, took advantage of the opportunity to see the classic being put on.

Before the show at 7:30 p.m., they held a small reception with light refreshments where Drew students could socialize with fellow lovers of theatre. Students gathered and discussed various shows and shared their excitement.

The show runs roughly three hours, including a 15-minute intermission, with Isaac Hickox-Young starring as Romeo and Billie Wyatt as Juliet. Quentin McCuiston, as Mercutio, was

a crowd favorite with the comedic relief he brought

If you missed the Drew Night, you can still get tickets for \$20 with a student discount. This production of “Romeo and Juliet” will continue running until Oct. 5. Their next production, “Mary Shelley's Frankenstein,” opens Oct. 22, running until Nov. 16, with Oct. 24 as its Drew Night.

Nathan Moldover is a first year who is majoring in political science and philosophy

# Nepalese Youth Revolution Against Their Government

Elliot Yap

Contributing Writer

Over the course of the past two weeks, Nepal has become the third South Asian government in recent years to fall to a youth-driven revolt. Sept. 8 saw thousands of Gen-Z Nepalese citizens engaged in peaceful protests against unchecked government overreach, years of economic exploitation and attempts at silencing their right to free speech.

These protests quickly turned violent; several protesters died, and hundreds were injured. By Sept. 9, Nepalese protesters had overtaken and burned down the Parliament building, and Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli had resigned.

Nepal's economic condition has been a matter of tension for years. Almost one-third of the Nepalese Gross Domestic Product relies on money sent home from abroad by Nepalese citizens, according to a study conducted by the World Bank in 2024, and youth unemployment is officially reported to be at more than 20 percent.

Dissent was furthered by a viral online movement against "Nepo Kids"—the children of politicians who



Nepalese police create a barrier against people.

were showing off their rich lifestyles. In response to these social and economic inequalities, among less immediate qualms, a social anti-corruption movement against the government began circulating on social media.

In a move generally regarded as a suppression of further government criticism, the Nepalese government suspended 26 social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, Japan's LINE, China's WeChat and Discord, among others, on Sept. 4.

This was seen as a "last straw" by the Nepalese youth, and conversations around organization redoubled. Mass peaceful protests were arranged on Sept.

8 across Kathmandu and other Nepalese cities, with thousands of Gen-Z youths gathered at the Maitighar Mandala monument near the Federal Parliament Building.

The protests turned violent when police used water cannons, tear gas and live ammunition against protesters, according to NYT reports. At least 19 people were killed and hundreds were injured in the clashes.

Outraged, the protesters continued pressing forward with direct action and targeted the Parliament Building and the homes of the now ex-Prime Minister Oli and former Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal, setting fire to them.

Many news sources incorrectly claim that Khanal's

wife died in the fire. According to the Kathmandu Post, a regional news outlet, "Kirtipur Hospital Director Kiran Nakarmi confirmed that [Ravi Laxmi] Chitrakar [Khanal's wife] is in critical condition in the ICU." She was escorted to the hospital by protesters after being found in the building.

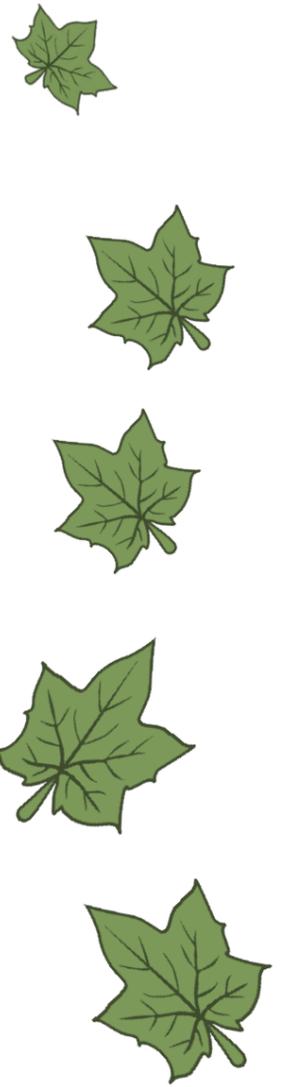
Sept. 9 saw the resignation of Prime Minister Oli among several other governmental officials. Following his resignation, the Nepalese army instituted a nationwide curfew, culling further protests, and entered negotiations with protesters.

Organized by protesters, a vote was held on a public Discord server where over 145,000 Nepalese citizens voted for an interim prime minister. On Sept. 10, Sushila Karki, Nepal's first female chief justice, was officially chosen.

After consultations with the army, the decision was relayed to the president's office, and Karki was sworn in on Sept. 12 as Nepal's first female prime minister following the dissolution of the second federal parliament of Nepal.

Sept. 15 saw the reveal of Prime Minister Karki's cabinet members. It was decided that the new cabinet will remain in office under interim Prime Minister Karki until

a successor government is appointed upon general election.



Elliot Yap is a sophomore who is majoring in art and minoring in photography

## What Has Happened in 2025 With The Epstein Files?

Allison Cannon

News Section Editor

The world has come to know that the Epstein Files, or the Epstein List, is a thousand-page document that consists of sex crime-related investigations of Jeffrey Epstein.

After the death of Epstein in 2019, there has been debate on whether the files should be released to the public or not.

As of the second term of the Trump presidency, the call for release of the files has been a hot topic, with both conservative and democratic parties advocating for the release.

In February 2025, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi invited a group of far-right influencers to read "The Epstein Files: Phase 1," a folder of 200 declassified documents that contained a number of retracted names and images.

However, it became clear that the folders contained little to no new information, even though the Justice Department had promised that they were "making the documents public to show [their] commitment to transparency."

Calls for the release of the documents continued into July 2025 after news

broke that Bondi had supposedly warned President Donald Trump that his name does indeed appear in the files, something he continues to deny.

The Justice Department issued a memo on the issue of the matter, claiming that there was no client list at all and that, due to the nature of Epstein's death, there would be no more information released.

The memo was unsigned and gave no information on who disclosed this or why it was released. The purpose of this memo appeared to be to calm the media and to stop discussion on the topic.

The administration had filed for a release of the grand jury documents to calm the storm of political unrest. But even if those records became public, it is uncertain as to whether they would be sufficient evidence to back up the administration's promise of full transparency about the evidence of the case.

At the same time, Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, and Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat, teamed up on bipartisan legislation calling for the release of the Epstein files, excluding elements

that would identify or harm victims.

This call was not voted on in August, and the House of Representatives was sent home early.

Later in August, House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer, a Kentucky Republican, formally issued 11 subpoenas calling for the Trump Justice Department to turn over documents and testimony from 20 years of Epstein investigations by August 19.

According to CNN, "Subpoena deadlines are often starting points for negotiation on Capitol Hill and are sometimes pushed back, narrowed or challenged as political and legal disputes evolve around congressional inquiries."

The deadlines for the inquiries have been set from August to mid-October 2025. Most recently, the birthday book controversy has sparked back up in September 2025.

The book was released in July 2025 as part of the Wall Street Journal reporting, which included Trump and other well-known individuals who contributed in 2003 to a 50th birthday album for Epstein.

The book included signatures from people like

former president Bill Clinton, designer Vera Wang and famed attorney Alan Dershowitz.

This book has sparked new controversy due to a card that was found in the book, which has been reported to have been made by Trump.

The card depicts a lewd drawing of a woman and the words, "A pal is a wonderful thing. Happy birthday - and may every day be another wonderful secret," as well as the signature of Trump.

After the release of the drawing, the White House

issued a statement saying the president "did not draw this picture, and he did not sign it." Trump has continued to deny that he drew the image or signed the card.



Allison Cannon is a sophomore who is majoring in psychology and minoring in Spanish and



A protestor holding a sign reading, Epstein didn't act alone.

Image courtesy of Flickr.

# Rising Political Violence: Universities Confront New Era

Rachel Evazians  
Contributing Writer

With the recent assassination of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10, 2025, concerns regarding the dramatic uprising in politically motivated violence have been increasing. Kirk was a right-wing speaker who would frequently express his far-right views at events he would hold at universities across the nation. During the event at Utah Valley University, he was tragically shot and killed approximately 20 minutes into his presentation. The bullet casings found at the scene had taunting slogans carved on them referencing various political stances that Kirk had discussed.

However, this is not the only case of political violence that has occurred in the last year. Notably, President Donald Trump, during his campaign for the presidency in Pennsylvania, was shot at and struck in the ear on July 13, 2024. The shooter had previously posted about his pro-Biden immigration policy stance on social media and had donated a sum of money to a voter turnout group that was frequently used by Democrats and progressives.

In another example, Democratic Representative of Minnesota, Melissa Hortman, and her husband were fatally shot and killed in what Governor Tim Walz called a “politically motivated assassination.” The same perpetrator additionally shot and wounded Sen.



Image courtesy of Penn Today

A group of protestors at a George Floyd memorial.

John Hoffman and his wife in another home invasion. Officials found a list of individuals involved in Minnesota’s government who had democratic values in the shooter’s car, confirming the political motivations of the attacks.

It is important to note that assassinations are not the only form of political violence that has risen in this country. For instance, on May 22, 2025, Yaron Lishinsky and Sarah Milgram, two employees of the Israeli Embassy, were shot and murdered in Washington, D.C. Sources believe this to be a politically motivated attack not only on the Jewish community but on the United States’ current stance on conflicts regarding Israel.

Presently, political violence is at its worst since

the late 1960s. Since Jan. 9, there have been at least 300 instances of political violence, making it the largest surge since 1960. However, the question is: why?

One possible reason is the increased radicalization of political parties and individual ideologies within said parties. “Intense partisanship has turned into partisan violence,” says Josh Marcus, a writer for the San Francisco Independent. Following Kirk’s death, parties have been pointing fingers at one another over the protection of the Second Amendment and alleged leftist radicalism.

Lilliana Mason, Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University, shed light on other possibilities. “If people who lead us are using violence or dehumanizing rhetoric, then it’s a

signal to their supporters that violent rhetoric is acceptable, and that violent action might be acceptable,” says Mason.

The current political climate has caused great concern for universities. Typically, university students are more susceptible to political radicalism as a result of the period of personal development and formation of personal beliefs found in college-aged individuals. Secondly, the university environment promotes critical thinking and passion, which in some cases can turn into radicalization. Lastly, college-aged students are active on social media and are a large percentage of the voter group, thus making them targets and consumers of politically backed material. (However, it must be noted that not all university stu-

dents are political radicals; they are simply more susceptible to radicalism.) Historically, universities have been the target of political violence and political radicalism, such as the Vietnam protests and killings at Kent State University and Jackson State University in 1970.

There is fear in the modern day of such events occurring again and history repeating itself on campuses across the nation, landmarked by the recent assassination of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley. It is encouraged that students remain safe in these times of uncertainty, remain non-violent and be aware of the current political landscape of today.



Rachel Evazians is a first year who is undecided on their major.

## French Prime Minister is Forced to Resign Once Again

Dee Cohen  
Staff Writer and Photographer

The former Prime Minister of France, François Bayrou, has resigned after a devastating loss in the confidence vote on Sept. 8. 364 out of 573 lawmakers voted against his government, forcing him to step down.

It is now up to President Emmanuel Macron to appoint a new Prime Minister, the fourth in 12 months.

The root of this collapse lies in President Macron’s decision to dissolve the National Assembly in June 2024.

“This produced a splintered legislature with no dominant political bloc in power for the first time in France’s modern republic,” CBCNews says.

Without cooperation and a working majority, these minority governments survive on the whim of opposing political sides that

do not have enough seats to govern themselves. Still, they can, if they choose to team up, topple Macron’s choices.

This led to the confidence vote called by Bayrou in a last-ditch effort to regain control of the failing government. This backfired as left-wing and far-right legislators seized the opportunity to bring him down, seeking to increase pressure on Macron.

This, however, is not the sole cause for the country’s collapse, as its debt is in the trillions. According to CBCNews, by the end of the first quarter of 2025, France’s public debt stood at 3.346 trillion euros (about 3.9 trillion U.S. dollars).

When Bayrou resigned, he expressed that his leaving would not affect the state of the country.

“You have the power to bring down the government, but you do not have

the power to erase reality,” he told lawmakers.

Where does France go from here?

Macron appointed Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu as Bayrou’s replacement on Sept. 9. However, the pressure on Macron is rising after five failed Prime Ministers.

Thus, Macron is left in a pickle between the far left, who call for his resignation, and the far right, who demand an earlier snap election. Both the mainstream left and right remain unable to reach any sort of agreement as a result.

Many French residents now assume that the far right will eventually take power, though few believe this would solve the country’s overarching issues.

According to CNNWorld, “The far left has called nationwide protests for Wednesday against austerity, under the banner ‘Blo-

quons tout’ (Let’s block everything), and vow to paralyze the country with roadblocks and civil disobedience.”

This follows a wave of protests across the country as many trade unions are planning another on Sept. 18, with strikes expected in hospitals and across rail services.

For now, it is unknown how the French government and Macron will proceed.



Dee Cohen is a senior who is majoring in



Francois Bayrou at a podium.

Image courtesy of WikiMedia Commons.

# 5 STUDENT LIFE & ARTS

S. LIFE & ARTS EDITOR: SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI | skeresiddiqui@drew.edu  
Contact by emailing theacorn+SLA@drew.edu



## Salsa and Celebrate: Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off

Jadelyn Villa

Contributing Writer

Hispanic Heritage Month on Drew's campus was kicked off early this September with dancing, raffles and prizes. The Ranger Programming Board hosted an event on Friday, Sept. 12, encouraging students to shake out early-semester stress while learning Salsa, a form of Latin American dance. This celebration was held in Crawford Hall from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and invited attendees of all cultural backgrounds.

Plenty of food and light refreshments were available, but the highlights of the platter were the beef and chicken empanadas cooked in a South American style. Soda and water were also provided, equipping the future Salsa dancers with ample hydration.

The first few rounds of practice were accompanied by a multitude of Latin mu-



IMAGE COURTESY OF JADELYN VILLA

Students at the event pose for a photo. Image courtesy of Jadelyn Villa. The event was a social, spanning across many generations. The students began displaying their Salsa skills by shadowing dance instructor Joselyn Saloman in one large group. Notable songs included Marc Anthony's rendition of "Aguanile," a track known for its Afro-Caribbean roots, and Bad Bunny's famous "NUEVAYoL" from his most recent studio album "DeBí TiRAR Más FOToS."

After some rehearsal, Saloman split the students into

two groups. With leadership from the instructor, each unit performed choreographed Salsa moves to "BAILE INoLVIDABLE," another track from Bad Bunny's previously mentioned album, as well as the first-ever Salsa song to hit No. 1 on the U.S. Apple Music Billboard Hot 100 in history. All eyes were on them, and Saloman's were no exception—but with her guidance, each group received rousing applause after their showcase.

The students partnered up for the final test, with "Palla Voy" by Marc Anthony and "Quimbara" by Celia Cruz soundtracking the event's closing. Following an evening of Latin pride and laughter, raffle prizes were given out to three lucky winners. The selection consisted of a canvas paint-by-number kit with a composition notebook featuring patterned Spanish dancers, a complete coffee-making set including a brand new Keurig and highly coveted AirPods Pros.

Saloman expressed immense gratitude at the dance session's end, thanking everyone for their time and hard work. Given her identity as an immigrant from Venezuela, Salsa is a key component of her culture and helps maintain a strong connection with Saloman's home country. She is forever grateful for the opportunity to share her heritage through artistic expression and continues to spread this

joy under Tamara Delane Entertainment.



Jadelyn Villa is a junior majoring in English and minoring in

## Students Hold "Performative Male Contest"

Jaden Finn

Contributing Writer

On Sept. 6 at 4 p.m., Molly Clinton ('29) hosted a "performative male contest" in the Welch-Holloway courtyard. Eight students competed to win a \$13.27 Chipotle gift card. Contestants were judged by the crowd on their fashion, music and film taste. They were also tested on their knowledge of feminists in pop culture, such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Taylor Swift and Greta Gerwig.

Finalists Grady Cummings ('27) and Kevin Bach ('27) were rated highly by the crowd on their outfits and tours of what was in their tote bags.

They also answered questions such as: "Is Taylor Swift hate justified?", "What is your Letterboxd top five?" and "What are your thoughts on the economic state of the world right now?" It was a tough decision for the crowd between the two finalists, but Cummings unanimously won the competition.

The 'performative male' has become a recent trending joke online, sparking competitions for who can be the most performatively feminist.

A performative male is often seen holding a matcha latte or a book (often by a female author), dressing or listening to music with an indie or alternative style and speaking out about women's issues and feminism. What makes the latter performative is that men in these online videos tend to speak on feminist issues in order

to seem more attractive to women.

Clinton stated, "I've been disappointed on the weekends...people generally are not open to making community or meeting new people. So, I wanted to control what I could and contribute to making Drew fun." She advertised the event completely on the social media platform YikYak, getting a large amount of attention from students through word of mouth.

Due to the turnout and success of her event, more

students began promoting similar events via YikYak, including a performative 'masc' contest the following weekend on Sept. 14. In response, Clinton said, "I was so happy to see other people organizing competitions. I'd love to see more things like that."

Jaden Finn is a sophomore majoring in Environmental Science.



Contestants participate in the competi-



IMAGES COURTESY OF JADEN FINN

# Drew's Theme Houses Host Their First-Ever Patio Party

Skylar Anderson  
Copyeditor

Last Friday, the Theme Houses hosted a "Patio Party," an event new to Drew's campus life. This event brought the members of Drew's various Theme Houses outside to the stone patio surrounding the Townhouses, where they hosted a variety of events and games for Drew's students.

The Patio Party attracted a large crowd of students with

promises of activities and themed mocktails unique to each house. The members of the Theme Houses were very creative in their choices, offering things that were representative of their house's individual culture and purpose.

La Casa Latina had a glitter tattoo table and a piñata at the end of the night, Women's Concerns House offered DIY fabric patches and CDs with songs chosen by the house's members, the Green

House had a basil planting table and the African, Black and Caribbean House offered bracelet and waist bead making. There were even more houses with more activities, and every table was crowded with students from the beginning to the end of the evening.

Since the Townhouses are nestled into a slightly secluded portion of campus, the Patio Party was a great way for students to learn about the Theme Houses,

especially for first-years. Some students were curious about how to apply and what it is like to live in a theme house, so the event gave them a great opportunity to ask questions and meet current members.

With music blasting, colorful chalk drawings covering the sidewalk, beautiful weather and food and drinks for everyone, the energy was infectious. The Patio Party was a great event for the Drew community and

a perfect chance for the Theme Houses to connect with students.



Skylar Anderson is a Junior majoring in Art and minoring in

# Café Con Leche: A Night of Fun with ARIEL

Casey Bush  
Copyeditor

ARIEL, Drew University's Latinx cultural society, hosted its annual Café Con Leche event on Sept. 16 to welcome students back to school and to start off Hispanic Heritage Month on a positive note.

As students and professors filled Crawford Hall, they were welcomed by ARIEL's members, who ensured the night was filled with joy and community. The group also provided coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and pan dulce to make sure no person left hungry.

The event consisted of bingo, where participants could win prizes like ARIEL merch, coffee supplies, a tiger blanket and more. In between bingo rounds, the board members presented a slideshow informing the audience about topics such as Latinx music styles and popular artists, the history and origin of café and ARIEL as a group.

"We come as a group to talk about what we want to represent... we make sure that we are all collaborating with one another," said Kiara Abreu ('26), the President of ARIEL. "We also have open meetings for outsiders to give their input on what they want in their community, so we can be a family here."

ARIEL strives to create inclusive and welcoming environments for all Drew students, and this event was no exception. "This event was an amazing opportunity to showcase and empower Hispanic cultures," said Ariana Moreno ('29).

Students can be on the lookout for more exciting, community-based events from ARIEL to further celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to keep the group's traditions alive.



Casey Bush is a sophomore majoring in Psychology.



ARIEL Board members pose for a photo at the front of the

IMAGE COURTESY OF CASEY BUSH

# Drew Commuters Association Hosts Slime-Making Event

Arianna Marmol  
Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, the Drew Commuters Association hosted a slime-making party. The event was hosted in the Ehinger Center, with numerous tables set up inside Crawford Hall for the slime-making.

Students, commuters and residents alike gathered at each table to experiment with the many bottles of iridescent glitter, fruity essential oils and food coloring provided. While people mixed activators with the gallons of glue in their bowls, others who wanted to mingle were able to at the

snack table, where popcorn, chips and mock tropical mojitos waited patiently near the back of the room.

All who participated were joined by the sounds of Taylor Swift, Chappell Roan and One Direction softly playing on the speakers, which created a lighthearted ambiance accompanying the event as shaving cream was kneaded into globs of slime and packed into the provided Tupperware to bring home and save for later.

The event was set to be held between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., and around 4:15, there were still many throngs of people walking in and out of the hall, bringing along friends and making

some new ones at the tables.

Though some made their creations in silence, a majority of students were socializing, laughter often booming louder than the music at times.

Head of the Drew Commuters Association Sandra Faragalla ('26) and her team were excited for the activity, hoping students would see it as a way to relieve stress together.

"It's a great way to unwind and let go of stress, all while embracing a bit of mess and imperfection," Faragalla said.

The Drew Commuters Association plans to continue hosting weekly events like these so that a space is

created to "celebrate the diversity of the student body" and highlight "the unique challenges" commuters may face, while still making it known that every kind of student is welcome.



Arianna Marmol is a sophomore majoring in English and minoring in Theater.

# OPINIONS

**SPEAK UP!**

OPINIONS EDITOR: KATIE GERMINDER | kgerminder@drew.edu

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

**7**

## Lead Ed - Take Advantage of Drew's Offerings, Both New and Old

### LEAD EDITORIAL

As Drew University welcomes a new academic year, it also opens its doors to 640 first-year and transfer students. With a massive influx of new students who may not be familiar with all that Drew has to offer, we wanted to let everyone on campus know about the resources available to them.

Most of the returning students know that it is imperative to attend events and partake in clubs if they want to find something to fill their time with on campus. Of course, as a small liberal arts college, it might feel slightly daunting to figure out new spaces to join.

However, Drew's Student Engagement team is attempting to reinvent their programming approach with what they are calling the Ranger Programming Board. This new organization (formerly Drew Night Life) aims to host nighttime events just like before, but now, they are also adding daytime events.

This change was announced in August, just



IMAGE COURTESY OF STUACT INSTAGRAM

Screenshot of Ranger Programming Board information post.

before the start of the new school year, via the Drew U Student Activities Instagram page. With its new model, RPB will offer programs that take place weekly during the day. Previously, Drew Night Life events were only held at 8 p.m. on Friday nights, a time when commuter students would already be home for the weekend. The board still plans to hold late-night events, but will now do so monthly. Furthermore, traditional events such as Family Weekend, Winter Ball, Drewfest and more will still be held through the Office of Student Engagement.

"The Ranger Programming Board is a new programming model that was designed to increase on-campus engagement within student activities,"

said Megan Fonseca, coordinator of student engagement. "We hope that students are excited for new events and opportunities that come from this change."

From a student perspective, this restructuring will hopefully bring with it more improvements to the activities, food and prizes offered at events. Day-time events should also show improvement in commuter attendance, since nighttime programs were previously difficult for them to attend. Additional expectations include seeing more variation in event types beyond the typical carnival and dance programs that are usually held.

Students should also take note of the various academic resources available

with their tuition at Drew. The Center for Academic Excellence and the University Writing Center, for instance, are two resources that everyone should utilize. Both provide students with access to student tutors who have taken the same classes, know the material well and are even recommended by professors to work there. These student employees have experienced courses firsthand and are equipped to help those currently enrolled in the course with any questions they may have, whether it be understanding course material or preparing for a test.

Aside from tutors, the CAE also has students, known as academic coaches, who can help anyone plan out their schedules to balance time for class, homework, extracurriculars and social commitments. Additionally, the UWC provides students with assistance in outlining, proofreading and any type of essay or other writing needs one may have. Those who find themselves struggling to understand a

concept in class or need help writing an essay should take advantage of this Drew-specific resource.

Though we highlighted just a couple of the improvements that Drew has planned, as well as initiatives that the University already has in place, there are so many other means to making the most of one's time here on campus. Upcoming RPB events include "Showgirl Era: Countdown to The Life of a Showgirl" on Oct. 2 and Pumpkin Painting on Oct. 14.

To stay up to date with other future events and announcements, be sure to follow @drewstuact on Instagram.

The Lead Editorial is the collective opinion of the editorial board

## Why I Love Horror Movies: A "Weapons" Review

Dalia Benmakhlof  
Staff Writer

At 2:17 a.m., 17 children vanish and from that moment on, "Weapons" establishes itself as a horror film defined by dread and precision.

Unlike my "Nosferatu" review, the director Zach Cregger has given me a better perspective on films. As someone with a deep love for literature and film, especially the scary ones, this film was an unforgettable experience.

There are three important elements in a film that I personally love to look at: pacing, plot, sequence and sound. Especially in a movie theater, it's not just the visuals of the film that matter; it's how the sound of a film can make a person feel.

For me, the most memorable experience I could have in a movie theater was the film "Nope" (2022) by my favorite director, Jordan Peele.

I'll never forget the scene where the people were abducted and sucked into an alien spaceship, hearing their screams and the impact

of their bodies being pulled inside the craft. It wasn't only scary, it was the type of discomfort that makes the film brilliant.

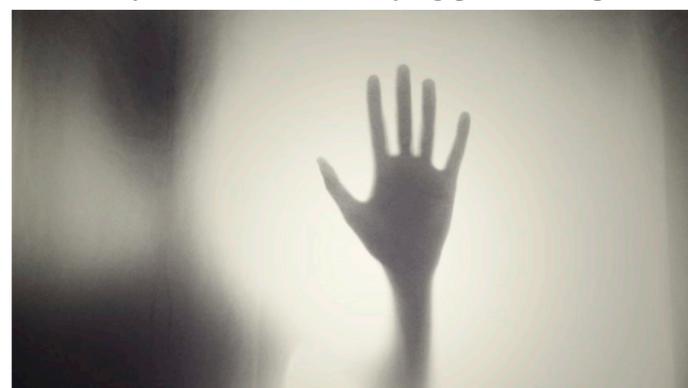
My friend and I left the theater with the feeling of being abducted by aliens ourselves. That's the type of experience that only happens in a cinema, not on a phone or average streaming. The point of this? There's a difference: some films leave an imprint on viewers like "Nope" (2022). Others, like "Nosferatu" (2024), leave viewers wondering if they just sat through two hours of vampire fetish cosplay. "Weapons" creates its own unique impact, even dropping Easter eggs to the director's debut film, "Barbarian" (2022).

The film opens up with the song, "Beware of Darkness," by George Harrison, a bizarre but perfect choice for a song that could have been used in a horror movie.

The scene also opens with a narrator of a young girl. She already sets the tone by explaining that the story happens to be top secret since the government

has gotten involved, making it an unexplained mystery. Then it cuts to show all the children running away in the middle of the night. All of these children had something in common: they had their arms extended outwards, an image both surreal and ominous to see on screen.

From there, the plot moves forward with five perspectives: the teacher, a principal, a cop, a bystander and the parent. Using more perspectives than he did in his film, "Barbarian," Cregger used the perspective of the teacher to show that she taught all of the children who went missing, except for one boy.



Creepy shadow figure.

Image Courtesy of The Cardinal's Nest

Cregger's choice to replay events throughout the film helped to better understand every

part of the mystery, especially the reveal of one of the characters who moves into town, Gladys.

The performances of the actors were strong, with each of their characters having their own form of trauma that makes them who they are. The trauma held by Gladys' character, most of all, was especially terrifying; it developed from the beginning to the end, as the mystery unfolded.

The ending of the film was especially impactful, a suddenly chaotic and satisfying part of the plot that

was so thrilling, it made me start laughing at how crazy this was for a mystery horror film. It's safe to say that this was one of the few movie experiences I'm actually grateful for, unlike some other films this year.

Dalia Benmakhlof is a senior majoring in English Literature and minoring in Creative Writing



# Life is Still a Movie: Enjoy As Much As You Can

Dalia Benmakhoulouf  
Staff Writer

It is officially the two-year anniversary since I first joined *The Acorn* and wrote my first article ever, “Proof That Life is A Movie.” After being a transfer student for over two and a half years here at Drew, I have so much evidence to emphasize how life can still be a movie.

There is a persistent rumor about how no one reads *The Acorn*. This is a big lie! There are many people who read *The Acorn*, both on and off campus.

When I wrote my first article, “Proof That Life Is A Movie,” I made lots of new friends at Drew, some even asking about my previous series, “Confessions of A Quiet Girl,” and more advice and tips on how to romanticize life.

This was an enlightening experience, given that even though I came to this school as a 21-year-old transfer, it felt like I was still a scared 18-year-old first-year emotionally.



Person looking out at sunset

IMAGE COURTESY OF PSHERE

I’ll personally never forget how hard my first week was at Drew, being as homesick as I was.

It’s still a frightening choice to make to be in college, away from parents for the first time, especially for those who are tremendously close to them. That’s when I learned that age doesn’t matter sometimes when it comes to putting yourself out there into the world. I was a girl who had looked at life like a square box socially, always staying away from too much screentime, never going out at night, essentially doing whatever to fit in.

It will never really matter to fit in or stay inside a square; it’s a closed-minded experience that’s only going to make

someone miss out on taking chances more.

That article taught me one thing: whatever it takes, do not stay comfortable. Trying new things can make someone get out of their comfort zone.

And essentially, that became my experience; doing even some of the craziest things, such as joining theater where I ran into a door to be comedic, watching a friend’s improv show just to throw a toy on stage for them to change their entire scene, danced on a table in the Commons, played with swords just to waste time, enjoyed “night life” with the pub on campus—the list goes on.

It’s possible that someone out there on campus will be like me; going

through life like a coming-of-age film, then transitioning to a thriller movie, and finally returning to a coming-of-age film once again. The reality is, I am and always will be the “final girl” who makes mistakes but is willing to bounce back and adapt. That’s the point of being human.

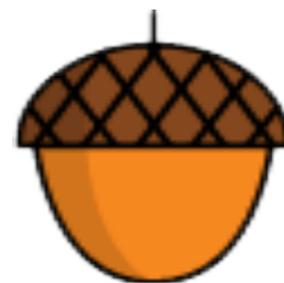
Getting out of your comfort zone is important in college, but it is also important to take care of yourself and follow your instincts.

I learned that learning about oneself also means staying true to having proper well-being.

Life is still a movie because college is the place where students need to find themselves, while also never pushing themselves to burn out. It’s not necessary to commit to every single club on campus just for a resume because at the end of the day, it’s more important to experience the rest of the world—especially when, before anyone knows it, that full-time job

is going to come, and then the real freedom of college will be gone.

Life is still a movie, the good and the bad. Enjoy little pleasures; a milkshake, wearing mismatched shoes on purpose or walking backwards across campus for no reason at all. Take small risks, like sitting with someone new from class or complimenting a stranger. Sometimes it’s okay to be a little unpredictable, like being as absurd as possible. College is short, and embracing individuality, making mistakes and taking chances is what makes it memorable.



Dalia Benmakhoulouf is a senior majoring in English Literature and minoring in Creative Writing

## Commons Dining Hall: Love It or Hate It

Nadia Yusko  
Contributing Writer

In this article, I will be exploring one of the most debated and controversial topics at Drew University: the Commons Dining Hall. With so many differing views among students, loving or hating, it’s hard for outsiders to get a true, unbiased perspective of this main cafeteria.

As a freshman, looking into colleges was not that long ago for me. I remember just this time last year, when I was looking into Drew, one of the most confusing worries I had was whether or not the dining hall food at this school was any good. In my research, I stumbled upon a few websites that had reviews about the school, but still didn’t come up with a clear answer to my many questions.

I really didn’t know what to expect before coming here, which was daunting. This article is meant to clear up any confusion that prospective students might struggle with, through the results of the “Commons Dining Hall Survey” I conducted. We asked the students, and they spoke.

This survey was made and conducted using a Google form, and altogether received 72 anonymous student responses. The

participants were asked to select their personal favorite station and meal offered by the Commons. 47.1 percent of respondents agreed that the favorite food station is the Allergy station, and 45.8 percent said that the best dining hall meal is hibachi.

The next portion of the survey asked about the food quality and enjoyment ratings. When asked to rate the food quality, including taste, appearance and texture in the Commons out of five, 43.1 percent rated it a three,

while 27.8 percent rated it a four on the scale.

More similar results were found when asking the students to rate their enjoyment of the dining hall food out of five; it was close, with 34.7 percent rating their enjoyment as a three, and 31.9 percent rating their enjoyment as a four.

Last but definitely not least, the students were asked to rate the Commons Dining Hall overall on a scale of one to five stars. The results came back with an

average rating of 3.10 stars out of five.

You heard it here first. From the data I collected, I can confidently conclude that the dining hall is not horrible nor is it absolutely fantastic; it’s simply average. While not required, students were also asked, as part of participating in the survey, to write down a short response detailing any improvements they’d like to see in the dining hall. The most common response had to do with “adding more variety to the menus.”

My opinion pretty much aligns with the average rating of the dining hall. It’s pretty average. But something that people need to take into consideration while forming opinions about this dining hall is that the cooks and the board who design each meal need to accommodate everyone.

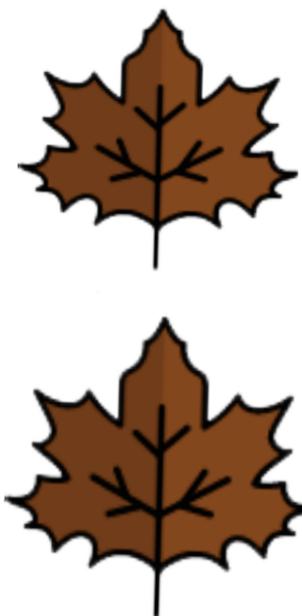
That means, to me at least, not to expect the food to always have a flavor based solely on personal preference, because one person might like their food salty, and the person sitting next to them might absolutely hate salty foods. This same logic can be applied to sweet and spicy preferences, and even texture and the degree of how cooked something is.

All of this is to say that, in my opinion, people need to give the Commons some

grace. I feel as though the cooks and board members do what they can to accommodate everyone they can, which is shown through having designed a “Global Eats” station.

When I eat in the dining hall, even when the food doesn’t match my own personal preferences, I am thankful knowing that the people making the food are keeping me fed with a, in a sense, home-cooked meal.

Nadia Yusko is a first year majoring in Psychology



Vegetables, fries, and chicken served on a plate.

Image Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

# No Opinionation Without Representation!

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui  
SLA Editor

**I**t If you've ever been to Washington, D.C., you've likely noticed the all-caps slogan emblazoned in a stark, striking blue on each of the city's license plates: "END TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION." I've seen my fair share; tracing much of my own roots to neighbouring Montgomery County, Md.

It's an age-old tagline, intended to protest the District's longstanding lack of representation in government—the city gets no elected officials in the Senate nor in the House of Representatives, meaning residents have effectively little to no voice in federal bills and laws, among other things. A number of referendums have been held, with overwhelming majorities voting in favor of statehood, but with no official change as of yet.

About that "WITHOUT REPRESENTATION" part. As a queer and a trans person, that sticks with me, and I think it should apply to many more things. I think many movements, especially the trans and LGBTQ+ rights movement, could massively benefit from taking a leaf out of Washingtonians' book.

You've probably been endlessly doomscrolling for the past few months through post upon post upon post of politicians and personalities shamelessly trying their very best to dictate to us, to control every facet of our lives—how we can and cannot love our partners (if applicable), how we can and cannot present ourselves to others, whether we're even allowed to have lives.

They claim to advocate for all kids, to be the be-all, end-all authority on gender and biology.

But think about it. When was the last time that any of the far-right members of Congress could actually demonstrate any real, non-superficial knowledge about real, living, breathing trans people? For many (if not all) of them, the answer is never. They don't actually know anything whatsoever about the community

they are trying so fervently to oppress in our schools and in our streets—they've never even met a single one of us.

I propose a new slogan, riffing on that of D.C.: "No Opinionation Without Representation."

Why should I, also a trans person, be expected to sit here and just watch while others declare "open hunting season" on my entire community, by the average politician who has never even met one of us? It is now clear that a more decisive action needs to be taken. The reliance on reason and stability and discouragement of "rocking the boat" by many more passive allies to the queer and trans community is, while well-intentioned, rapidly losing efficacy as the Right shows its willingness to blatantly ignore and destroy our checks and balances, and the farcical mask of "old world values" slips further and further down.

Those on the political right have refused to acknowledge our basic humanity for far too long. It is high time that we refuse to live in fear of bigotry. If there is any time to make a stand, it is now—to tell our elected representatives (who work for us, the people, by the way; in case you'd forgotten that) that we cannot and will not live in fear any longer.

If they want to make policies governing the way we live our lives, we must be meaningfully represented in the decision-making process—they must come out (pun intended) and



Pride flags lining a sidewalk

IMAGE COURTESY OF LOUISIANA ILLUMINATOR

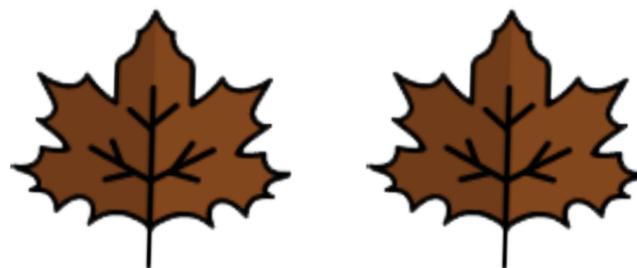
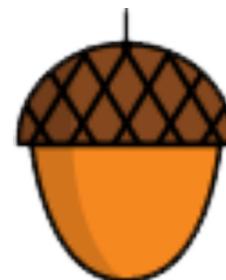
actually listen to us. They cannot remain in their sheltered echo chambers—if they want to have an opinion about trans lives, they need to actually meet a trans person, to get acquainted with our community, to actually know what a trans life even is.

We must be loud. We have a moral duty and responsibility to ensure that, at the very least. We owe it to Nex Benedict, to Sam Nordquist, to Pauly Likens, to River Goddard and to the thousands upon thousands of other queer and trans youth and adults in whose murders our nation remains shamefully complicit. Those in power can no longer be allowed to pull wool over our eyes, nor close their own.

This is, I'm convinced, the only way that a change can actually be made—by forcing those in power to actually come face-to-face with the people whose lives their decisions affect (and in an inexcusable amount of cases, end). Without this, we will keep getting attacked in the streets. We will continue to be harassed. We will continue to be victimized for

our own identities in our homes and in our neighborhoods, unless the American people finally grow a damn spine.

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology



Vehicle with D.C. license plate showing the slogan "END TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION."

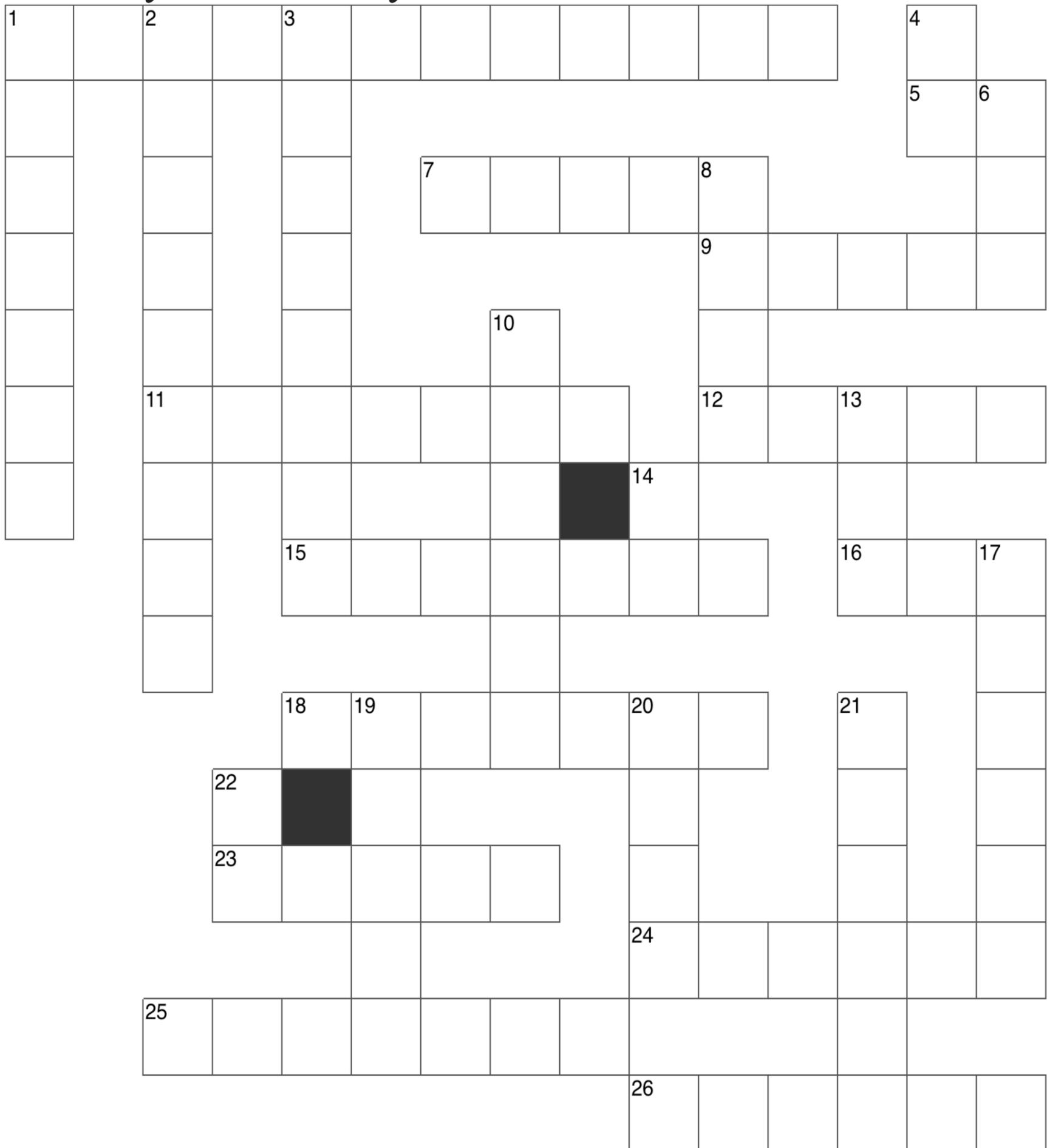
IMAGE COURTESY OF SABR KERES-SIDDIQUI (:27)

# 10 DIVERSIONS

## HAVE IDEAS?

Submit your art, photography and more by emailing [theacorn@drew.edu](mailto:theacorn@drew.edu) or visit join the Acorn by visiting [thedrewacorn.com/join](http://thedrewacorn.com/join)

### Try This Fantasy Football-Themed Crossword!



#### Across

- 1 Defensive turnover, often worth points
- 5 Abbreviation for a primary ball-carrier
- 7 Fantasy football numbers, for short
- 9 Swapping players with another fantasy manager
- 11 League format keeping most players year-to-year
- 12 Annual event to select NFL players for fantasy teams
- 15 Undervalued player with breakout potential
- 16 Scoring system rewarding points per reception
- 18 League organizer, for short
- 23 Players not in the starting lineup
- 24 Player scoring field goals and extra points
- 25 System determining fantasy points for player performance
- 26 League allowing retention of some players each season

#### Down

- 1 Player status often leading to a bench spot
- 2 Six-point play in fantasy football
- 3 Lists of players by projected performance
- 4 Abbreviation for a pass-catching position
- 6 Week an NFL team is inactive, affecting fantasy lineups
- 8 Top-rated fantasy starter
- 10 Weekly strategy for defenses or tight ends
- 13 Average Draft Position, for short
- 14 Abbreviation for a pass-catching blocker
- 17 Your team's lineup of players, including starters and bench
- 19 Manager of a fantasy football team
- 20 Defensive play earning points
- 21 Adding a player to your roster
- 22 Abbreviation for a team's signal-caller

# Try This Back to College Crossword: Welcome Back!

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

ART  
 ASSEMBLY  
 BINDER  
 CHAIR  
 CRAYONS  
 DESK  
 ERASER  
 FOLDERS  
 GLUE  
 HISTORY  
 HOMEWORK  
 LIBRARY  
 LUNCHBOX  
 MARKERS

MATH  
 MUSIC  
 NOTEBOOK  
 PENCILS  
 READING  
 RECESS  
 RULER  
 SCHEDULE  
 SCIENCE  
 STUDENT  
 TEACHER  
 UNIFORM  
 WRITING

Want to Play Online?



COMING UP

Get live stats @GoDrewRangers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27  
WTEN and MTEN vs PRATT  
Madison, NJ  
12:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29  
MGOLF/WGOLF Tournament  
Stevenson Invitational  
2:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4  
WVB vs. Lycoming College  
Madison, NJ  
12:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8  
FH @ Moravian University  
Bethlehem, PA  
7:00 PM

# SPORTS

SPORTS CO-EDITOR: DEVAN SUTARIA | dsutaria@drew.edu  
SPORTS CO-EDITOR: GILLIAN SAMPSON | gsampson@drew.edu

INSIDE:

Play The Acorn Crossword!



## New Face in the Forest and the Weightroom: Jack McCormick

Delaney Smith  
Contributing Writer

The Drew athletic community has welcomed a new member to the forest. Jack McCormick joined the Rangers this past summer as the new strength and conditioning coordinator. Previously, he worked at Stevenson University for two years and at Susquehanna University for a year and a half. He discovered Drew through his other work in the Landmark Conference and was intrigued by the competitive athletics, an opportunity to build the program and the chance to work with new student athletes. McCormick is filling the position left by former strength and

conditioning coordinator Blaine Johnson who now works as the Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Performance at Rider University.

Becoming an athletic coordinator was not always a long term goal for McCormick. In fact he revealed that he only became aware of the position as a career option during college while studying physical therapy. During his undergraduate journey, he realized his passion for working in athletics and his desire to use the information that he had already been studying in the field to help athletes. McCormick is currently

continuing his studies and working on receiving his doctorate from Concordia University.

Just weeks into his tenure at Drew, McCormick has already enacted a few innovative ideas regarding improvements to the department. Most notably, student-athletes have already seen some changes with the app TeamBuilder being implemented into the weight room. The app allows both the athletes and McCormick to keep track of each individual's personal lifting improvements while also acting as a check list of exercises during scheduled lifts.

The Drew athletes have immediately taken a

liking to McCormick, enjoying his sense of humor and ability to maintain a fun, yet disciplined atmosphere in the weight room during team lifts. One of these students is Izzy Fortunato ('28), a member of the cross country and women's lacrosse teams.

"Coach Jack brings such a positive energy to the weight room and his lifts are very detail-oriented," said Fortunato. "I am pushed to get better every day."

According to McCormick, the most rewarding part of his job has always been the tangible impact he is able to have on student athletes. He emphasized this by referring to a

handmade card that he has framed in his office from one of his former athletes, thanking him for his coaching expertise that extends beyond the weightroom.

"I have enjoyed getting to meet all my new teams and coaches, said McCormick, "and just starting to see the impact I have on the athletes, whether that is getting stronger, getting healthier or just seeing success on the field."

Delaney Smith is a freshman majoring in English with minors in History and Law, Justice &



IMAGE COURTESY OF DREW RANGERS.COM

Jack McCormick brings a new energy to the Simon Forum.



IMAGE COURTESY OF DELANEY SMITH ('29)

McCormick helps an athlete with their form.

## Spotlight on Promise: Fall Debut

Gillian Sampson  
Sports Co-Editor

As the crisp air of fall settles in, a new wave of Drew Ranger talent is already making its mark. From thrilling overtime victories to breakout performances from new Rangers, the opening games of the fall season have offered a glimpse into the potential of this year's teams and a strong line up of individual standouts.

Athletes across all sports are stepping into the spotlight, setting the tone for what promises to be an exciting season ahead. With leadership from returners and strong efforts from newcomers, each game and practice is charged with new focus, determination and drive.

One of the brightest early-season stars has been Bella Fini ('29), who is quickly becoming a name to watch in the field hockey program. Fini delivered her second hat trick in just three games, capping the performance with a dramatic game-winning goal in overtime to lift the Rangers to a 3-2 victory over Eastern University in a non-conference match. With eight goals so far, she leads both her team and the Landmark Conference in scoring, an impressive feat for any player, let alone a first-year.

Fini's ('29) standout start embodies not only her individual skill, but also the potential impact of this year's freshman class across Drew's athletic programs. This impact reaches beyond field hockey

and into women's soccer as Olivia Klein ('29) is also putting up impressive statistics.

In the Rangers' most recent outing, Klein netted two goals, bringing her season total to five, leading the team in scoring as they moved to a 3-2-1 record. Men's soccer was able to defeat a cross town rival in its season opener largely as a result of David DiNola's ('29) equalizing goal. Ignacio Martinez ('27) has tallied five goals in just four games proving to yet again be a force to be reckoned with.

With strong starts across the board, Drew's fall teams are building early momentum and setting the stage for a competitive and exciting season. Players are stepping up, chemistry is building, and the energy surrounding Ranger athletics continues to grow.

If the opening weeks are any indication, the future of Drew athletics isn't just promising—it's already here.

Gillian Sampson is a graduate student in the Masters of Education program

## HIGHLIGHT REEL

AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 25

### LANDMARK CONFERENCE AWARDS

NFCA Division III Player of the Week • FH • Bella Fini ('29)

Athlete of the Week (x3) • FH • Beth Kelly ('27)

Athlete of the Week (x3) • FH • Bella Fini ('29)

Athlete of the Week • FH • Emily Caporrino ('28)

### 2025 DREW UNIVERSITY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Chad Bridges (C'00) • MSOC/ Danielle Barber (C'12) • WBB

Kim Artim (C'99) • SOFT Curtis Fornarotto (C'11) • MSOC/

Brooke Gagliano (C'14) • FH/WLAX/ MLAX

SOFT Peter Arthur (C'95) • BASE

Danielle Barber (C'12) • WBB

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