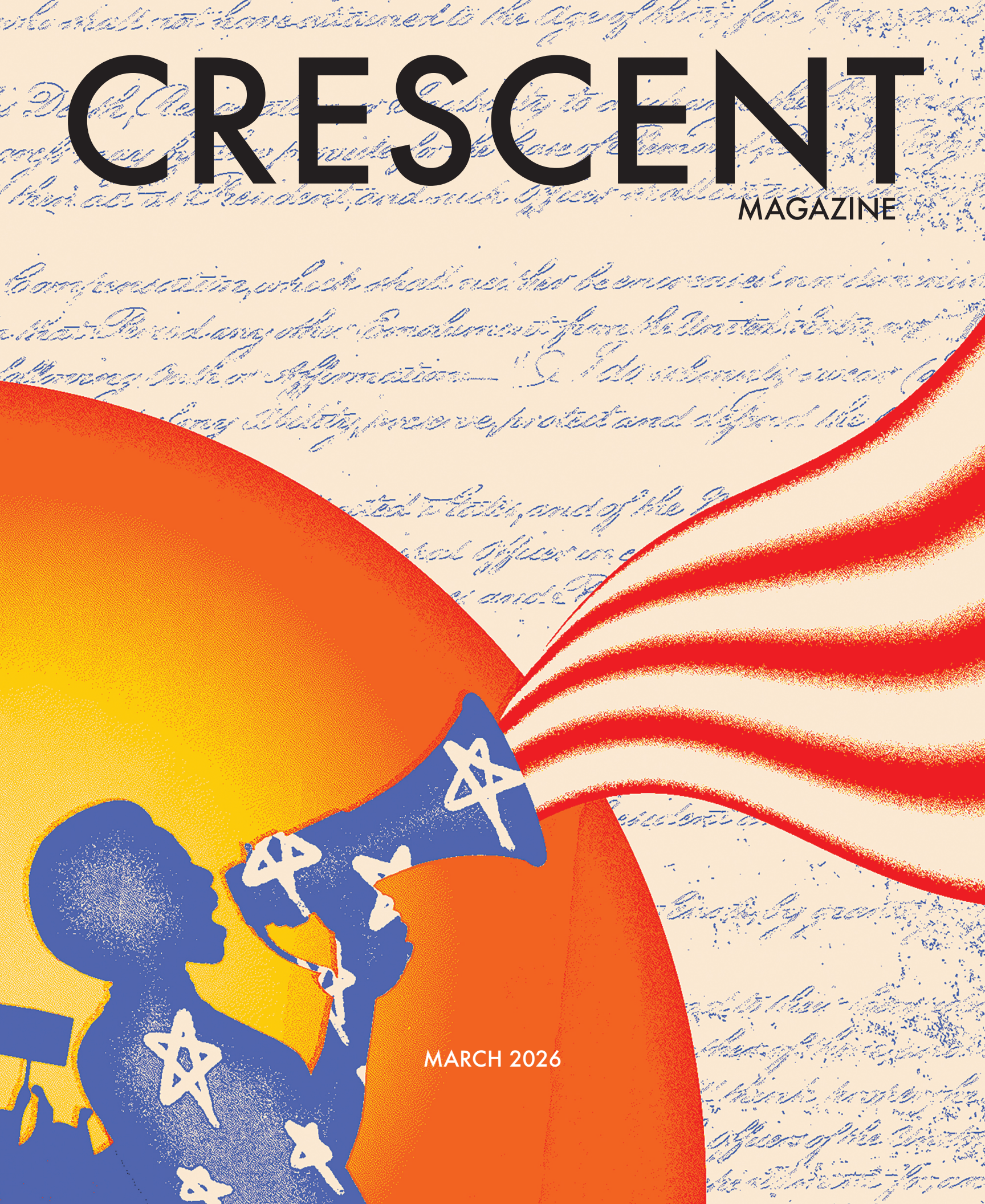
CRESCENT

MAGAZINE



MARCH 2026

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CRESCENT MAGAZINE

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Crescent Magazine welcomes letters from UE students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni, but material the CMEB regards as libelous, malicious and/or obscene will not be published. Letters should not exceed 250 words. For verification, letters must include the author's name, class standing or title and email address. Crescent Magazine does not print anonymous letters or those that cannot be verified. Letters will be edited as needed.

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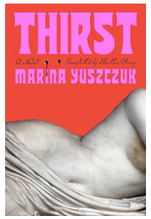
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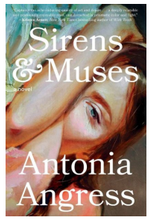
A genre-blurring gothic novel that shifts between 19th-century and present-day Buenos Aires, following a centuries-old vampire fleeing Europe and a modern woman struggling with her mother's terminal illness. When the two women meet in a cemetery, a powerful, unsettling connection ignites between them that defies time, mortality, and the boundaries between the living and the undead. At the heart of the story is a haunting exploration of female desire, agency, and longing, with the intense, sensual bond between the vampire and the living woman foregrounding a queer, sapphic undercurrent that drives both its horror and its emotional pulse.

Carmilla
Sheridan Le Fanu



Follows Laura, a young woman living in isolation, whose life changes when the mysterious Carmilla comes to stay at her family's castle. Their bond quickly becomes intense and intimate, with Carmilla expressing passionate affection that carries clear romantic undertones. As Laura grows weak and local girls die from a strange illness, Carmilla is revealed to be a vampire who preys on young women she seduces. The novella is especially notable for its overtly sapphic tension, making female desire central to both its horror and its lasting literary impact.

Sirens & Muses
Antonia Angress



A literary novel set around an elite art school and the New York art world during the 2011 recession, following scholarship student Louisa Arceneaux as she navigates creative ambition, class divides, and personal identity. At its core is Louisa's intense, sensual relationship with her charismatic roommate, Karina, a bond that intertwines artistic inspiration with desire and becomes one of the novel's emotional centers. Their sapphic connection, charged with intimacy and artistic tension, drives their growth even as external pressures—from classmates, lovers, and the competitive, cutthroat art scene—force them to redefine themselves and what they truly want from love, life, and art.

Big Swiss
Jen Beagin



A darkly funny contemporary novel about Greta, a woman in her forties who transcribes therapy sessions for a sex therapist and becomes infatuated with one client she calls "Big Swiss," a tall, reserved married woman whose life and voice captivate her. After a chance meeting, their connection quickly deepens into an intimate affair that upends both their lives, blending humor, vulnerability, and emotional messiness. At its heart, the book foregrounds a sapphic romance between two complicated women navigating desire, guilt, trauma, and connection, making their queer attraction central to the story's emotional and narrative drive.

Sunburn
Chloe Michelle Howarth



A coming-of-age novel set in a small Irish town, where Lucy finds herself drawn into an intense and secretive relationship with her friend Susannah during one transformative summer. As Lucy navigates family expectations, religious pressure, and the suffocating closeness of rural life, her growing desire for Susannah becomes both exhilarating and frightening. The novel centers its sapphic romance with tenderness and realism, exploring the vulnerability, longing, and quiet rebellion of queer first love in a community where such feelings are meant to remain unspoken.

America First: An Old Story in a New Outfit

Tommy Housman

The phrase “America First” is often presented as a modern political slogan, but historically it is not new. Variations of the phrase appeared in U.S. political rhetoric as early as the nineteenth century, particularly in nativist movements that opposed immigration and foreign influence. The slogan became nationally prominent in 1940 with the creation of the America First Committee, a political organization formed to oppose U.S. involvement in World War II.

At its peak, the America First Committee had roughly 800,000 members and hundreds of chapters across the United States. Its central message was isolationism, the belief that the United States should remain outside European conflicts. Yet the rhetoric surrounding the movement often went beyond simple non-interventionism. Some of its most prominent voices framed the debate in terms of protecting American civilization from foreign influence.

One of the movement’s most visible advocates was Charles Lindbergh. In a widely criticized speech delivered in Des Moines in 1941, Lindbergh warned that “the British, the Jewish, and the Roosevelt administration” were pushing the United States toward war. He also argued that Americans should preserve what he described as their “inheritance of European blood.” Historians have widely documented the speech as containing antisemitic rhetoric and racialized appeals to national identity.

Although the United States ultimately entered World War II and the America First Committee dissolved soon afterward, the political logic behind the slogan did not disappear. In the early Cold War period, a similar politics of suspicion resurfaced during the era known as McCarthyism. Named after Senator Joseph McCarthy, this period was marked by congressional investigations into alleged communist influence in government, universities, labor unions, and the entertainment industry.

Historians describe McCarthyism as part of the broader Second Red Scare, during which suspicion extended beyond espionage concerns to include intellectuals, immigrants, activists, and artists whose views were considered politically suspect. Thousands of Americans lost their jobs or reputations after being accused of disloyalty. At the same time, federal investigations targeted LGBTQ government employees in what scholars now call the Lavender Scare. The underlying political pattern was familiar: national identity and national security were used as frameworks for defining who belonged and who did not.

Debates about national belonging have continued into the present. In recent years, the slogan “America First” re-entered mainstream political discourse during the presidency of Donald Trump. While the historical context differs from the 1940s, scholars and political analysts have noted echoes of earlier nationalist rhetoric emphasizing protection of national identity, immigration restriction, and skepticism toward international alliances.

Immigration policy has been one of the most visible arenas where these tensions have played out. In January 2026, national protests erupted following the fatal shooting of Renee Good, a 37-year-old mother of three who was killed by a federal immigration officer during an operation in Minneapolis. Video footage of the incident circulated widely, and the case quickly became the focus of nationwide demonstrations and political controversy. Good had dropped her child off at school shortly before the encounter with federal agents. She was later pronounced dead after being shot during the operation, which occurred amid an expanded immigration enforcement effort in the city.

Her death intensified an already volatile national debate over immigration enforcement and the role of federal agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Members of Congress from both parties called for investigations, while protests spread across multiple cities demanding accountability and changes to enforcement practices.

The Minneapolis case was not the only incident fueling public concern. Reporting in early 2026 documented multiple deaths connected to encounters with immigration enforcement or detention operations, adding to a broader debate over the scale and tactics of federal immigration policy.

These events have unfolded alongside wider concerns about domestic extremism and political polarization. U.S. national security agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security, have repeatedly identified racially motivated violent extremism, particularly white supremacist violence, as the most persistent domestic terrorism threat facing the United States.

At the same time, demographic realities complicate nationalist arguments that frame immigration primarily as a threat. The United States currently faces a fertility rate significantly below replacement level, meaning the country is not producing enough births to sustain long-term population stability without immigration. Research conducted by the National



Academies of Sciences and projections by the Congressional Budget Office indicate that immigration contributes substantially to population growth, workforce expansion, and long-term economic stability.

These demographic and economic findings highlight a persistent contradiction in nationalist rhetoric. While slogans such as “America First” often frame immigrants as outsiders threatening the nation’s stability, economic analysis consistently shows that immigration plays a central role in sustaining the country’s labor force and long-term growth.

Throughout American history, debates about national identity have returned again and again to the same central question: who counts as part of the American story? From early immigration restrictions and segregation laws to civil rights movements that expanded citizenship and voting rights, the boundaries of belonging have continually shifted.

The historical record shows that the United States has never been defined by a single fixed identity. Instead, its political development has been shaped by ongoing debates about inclusion, equality, and democratic participation.

Seen in this broader context, the slogan “America First” reflects one side of a much longer national argument: a vision of the country rooted in protection, exclusion, and cultural preservation. The alternative vision that has repeatedly emerged in American history emphasizes expansion rather than restriction: expanding citizenship, expanding rights, and expanding the definition of who belongs.

That question appears in popular culture as well. In the 2024 film Civil War, a militia member portrayed by Jesse Plemons confronts a group of journalists and asks a chilling question: “What kind of American are you?” The moment captures the central danger behind slogans built around exclusionary definitions of national identity. Once belonging becomes conditional, the question of who counts as “American” can be turned against anyone.

For more than a century, a different vision of the country has been engraved on the Statue of Liberty in Emma Lazarus’s 1883 poem below.

The New Colussus
“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

En español:
“Dadme a vuestros cansados, a vuestros pobres,
A vuestras masas hacinadas que anhelan respirar en libertad,
A los desechados de vuestras costas superpobladas.
Enviadme a los desamparados, sacudidos por la tormenta;
¡Yo elevo mi lámpara junto a la puerta dorada!”

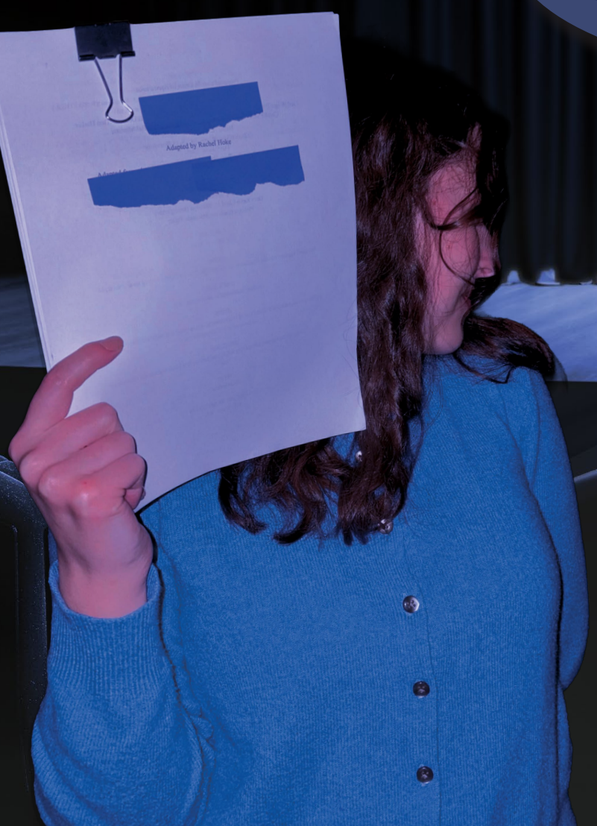
Those lines reflect a competing definition of the American idea, one rooted not in exclusion, but in the belief that the nation grows stronger when it remains open to those seeking freedom, dignity, and a place to belong.



For the Love of Theater: A Passion Project

Rachel Hoke

Keep up with my play on Instagram @passion4actingtheatrecompany!



Have you ever wondered what kind of work goes into a theater production? It is obvious that the actors put in a lot of time to memorize lines and find the right way to deliver them, but there are so many things often missed that go on behind the scenes. From stage management and props to costumes and directing, there is a lot of work that has to be done before opening night. Community theater is absolutely a passion project. Today, I want to share with you some of the things I have been doing in pre-production to prepare for my upcoming play,
Kindred Spirits.

I am currently in the process of helping to round out the cast. Many of the members from the trial read-through are returning in their roles, but there are a few roles that need to be recast. I have been working with other members of the team to get an audition announcement sent out, and I was responsible for providing the character descriptions and age ranges of the characters. I have also been working closely with a designer to create a poster for the show. It is my hope that the audition announcement and poster will help to drum up interest in the show!

The era of the play is set roughly around 1910, so I have been hard at work on costuming. There are a lot of characters in the show, with many of the cast playing more than one role, so I had to take into consideration that many people would have costume changes. I wanted the characters to have distinct colors associated with each of them, so it is easier for the audience to remember the different characters. I often have characters played by the same actors in a shared base costume with the intention of using layering and hair to distinguish which character they are playing. This will make costume changes less of a time risk and will help save backstage space as well. Now, the task is seeing what costumes we already have, and which ones need to be made or bought.

The other major thing I have been working on is the stage design. I had a clear picture in my mind while writing the script of what I wanted the stage to look like. Now, I have to work on translating that into a drawing with dimensions. Because I am not the best at creating these sorts of designs, this part has been a bit of a struggle. The stage the play will be performed on is relatively small, so I need to be creative with how I utilize the space. In conjunction with the stage design, I have started a list of props needed for each scene. This also informs me of what props need to be made or acquired, and if any of them take up stage space, how that influences my stage design.

This is just the beginning of the work needed to put on my play, but I am glad to be getting a head start on it. The more I can plan out now, the easier it will be for me to go into rehearsal right after the end of this semester. While I know that more team members will be added who will start to take over some of the production work, I like that I am working to organize everything now. I think this will help make the rest of pre-production run smoothly.

Now that you see a glimpse of the work that goes on behind the scenes, I hope that you have a new appreciation for the effort that goes into theater productions!

If you feel so inclined, you can keep up with my play on Instagram @passion4actingtheatrecompany and I look forward to seeing you in the crowd!

The Friendship Battle – *Fighting for Deep*

Grace Gleisner

"Depriving human life of friendship is like taking the sun out of the world."

(Cicero, On Friendship, 44 BC).

Finding true friends can be a challenge, even while surrounded by so many people at college. In recent years, the American Psychiatric Association has warned that America is entering an epidemic of loneliness, even though in some ways people have more opportunities for connection than ever before. For those seeking friendships, it can feel easier and safer to stay within their comfort zones than reach out to and try to connect with those around them. Perhaps more dangerously, it is often difficult to realize the importance and joy of authentic friendships without first experiencing them. Finally, it can be intimidating to move beyond superficial relationships and foster deep, meaningful connections with the people already in our lives. These circumstances can combine to leave people feeling stuck, isolated, and alone in a crowd.

Even though they take work, however, strong communities of friends help people come fully alive. Let's take a look at some traits to practice and questions to ask yourself and your friends to help cultivate amazing friendships.

Availability

"Without friends the world is but a wilderness"

(Francis Bacon, "Of Friendship," AD 1601).

One of the greatest gifts you can give to those around you is your time and your presence, whether that's by getting to know someone sitting next to you in class, sending a quick text to check in on someone, listening when someone needs to talk, or coordinating a fun evening with a group. Availability shows others how valued they are, especially when they hit a rough spot. Having friends who make themselves available is crucial for being able to rely on and draw strength from others during difficult times.

Ask Your Friends:

- How are you actually doing?
- Do you want me to try to fix the problem, or just listen?
- Is there anything you, I, or someone else can do to make this better?

Selflessness

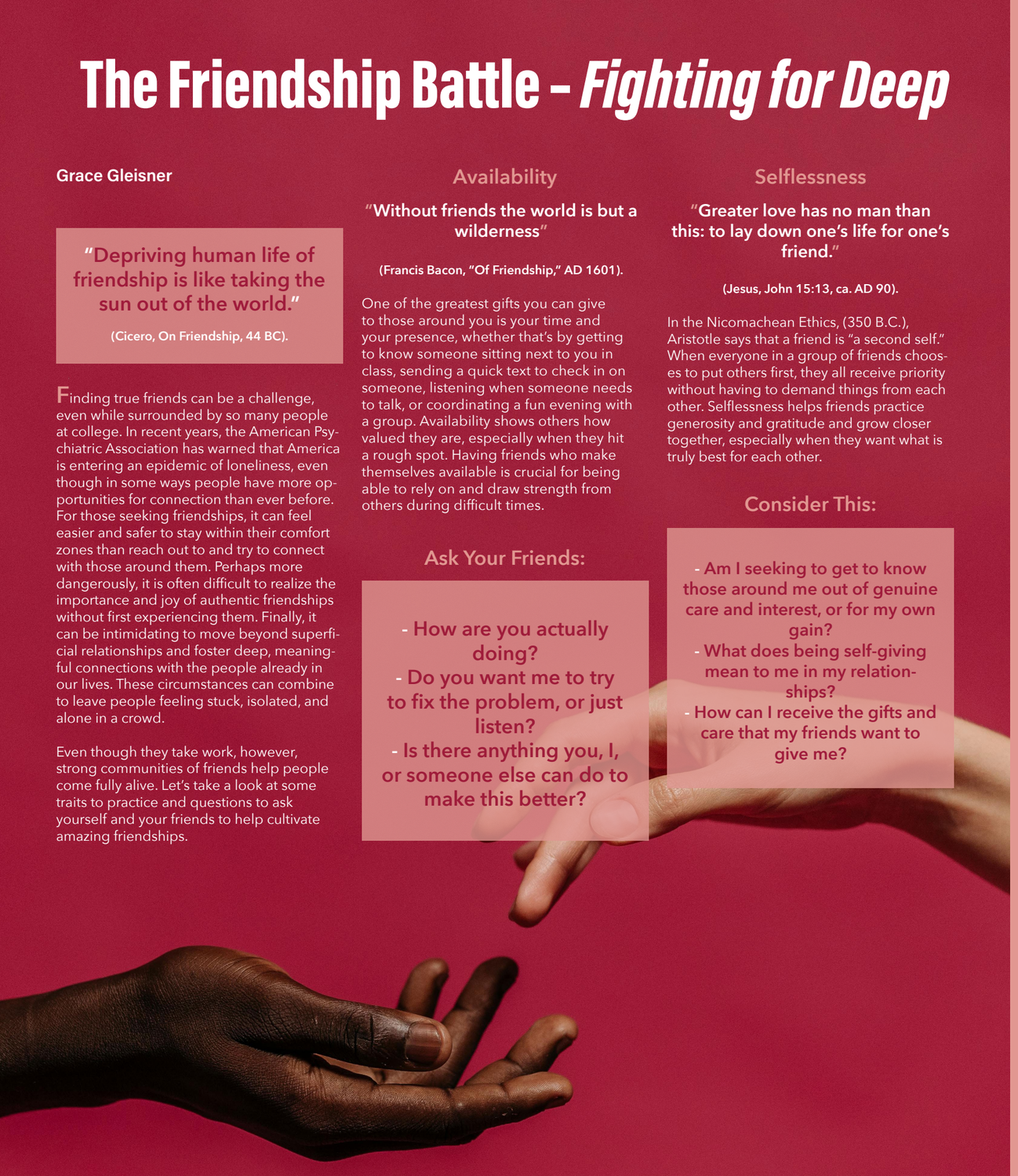
"Greater love has no man than this: to lay down one's life for one's friend."

(Jesus, John 15:13, ca. AD 90).

In the Nicomachean Ethics, (350 B.C.), Aristotle says that a friend is "a second self." When everyone in a group of friends chooses to put others first, they all receive priority without having to demand things from each other. Selflessness helps friends practice generosity and gratitude and grow closer together, especially when they want what is truly best for each other.

Consider This:

- Am I seeking to get to know those around me out of genuine care and interest, or for my own gain?
- What does being self-giving mean to me in my relationships?
- How can I receive the gifts and care that my friends want to give me?



Friendships and Authentic Community

Common Goals

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another"

(Proverbs 27:17, ca. 950 BC).

True friendships exist between those who share common aims and values. We all become more like the people with whom we spend the most time, so it is crucial to surround ourselves with people whom we admire and who share our values. This is why Aristotle says that true friendship is not based on utility or pleasure but common virtue. Having friends with similar values, character goals, and aspirations helps everyone grow into the person they want to be through meaningful conversations and mutual accountability.

Consider This:

- What do you have in common with your friends? Classes? Hobbies? Worldviews? Life goals?

- What can you do to keep your friends accountable to the people they want to be? How can they help hold you accountable?

Loyalty

"If you live to be a hundred, I hope I live to be a hundred minus one day, so that I never have to live a day without you"

(A. A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh, AD 1926).

Loyalty takes traits such as availability and selflessness and applies them to the long term. Friendships take time to develop, so it is important to make a consistent decision to show up for others, choose to see the best in them, and avoid competition and jealousy.

Consider This:

-How do you talk about your friends when they're not around?
-How can you celebrate your friends' successes and stand by them during their failures?

Humility

"A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud… I may deal with him with the simplicity and wholeness with which one chemical atom meets another"

(Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Friendship," AD 1841).

Relationships of all kinds are messy, but mistakes and misunderstandings don't have to ruin them. It takes guts, but strong relationships often require kindly reconciling with others when they've hurt you and apologizing when you are in the wrong. It's better to embrace potentially awkward conversations than let grudges fester under the surface. Humility also helps friends use their differences and disagreements as an opportunity for growth and learning rather than drama.

Consider This:

- Can you tell your friends when they've hurt you?
- Can you apologize when you've hurt them?

Ask Your Friends:

- How can I be a better friend to you?

Honesty & Vulnerability

"The typical expression of opening Friendship would be something like, 'What? You too? I thought I was the only one!'"

(C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves, 1960).

The ability to be yourself is crucial for friendships. Whether this is saying what you really think, letting your sense of humor shine, or sharing embarrassing stories, honesty and vulnerability help friends trust and understand each other. It's important to be cautious about who deserves trust, but it's equally important to take the plunge and move beyond surface-level conversations. Being authentic with those around us helps relationships move beyond acceptance to understanding.

Ask Your Friends:

- What helps you be the best, most authentic version of yourself?
- What makes you feel seen and valued?

Finding good friends and creating a joyful, authentic community can feel like a battle, but it is a challenge worth taking up. Having amazing friends brings joy and support, but more importantly being a good friend teaches us to love others and helps us grow into better versions of ourselves! These sorts of changes to personal habits and community culture take time, but when everyone makes small adjustments and prioritizes deep connections with those around them, strong bonds and a culture of respect and understanding grow as a result. Remember, the first step is availability, so try to pay a little more attention to those around you. You might be surprised by how many interesting, kind, and incredible people you find.

Make a Difference on the River

Taylor Howe

At the University of Evansville, it's easy to get caught up in classes, practices, and campus life. Still, just beyond our small, tight-knit community, the Evansville community is working every single day to fight local pollution and protect the places that we all share and value. This article is your bridge from campus to community, highlighting the volunteer clean-up crews working along the Ohio River and throughout local neighborhoods. If you've been looking for a way to step outside the UE bubble, meet new people, and make a real difference, these efforts can be a simple place to start.

The first volunteer organization and opportunity to highlight is the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). Every year, ORSANCO organizes the Ohio River Sweep, which is a big volunteer cleanup that brings local communities like Evansville together to protect the Ohio River. This event that started as a one-day event has since grown into a complete-season effort, giving volunteers the chance to clean riverbanks, parks, and streams anytime from the spring through fall. The mission they carry is simple: remove trash before it pollutes drinking water, harms wildlife, or damages local ecosystems. Volunteering is easy. ORSANCO provides the supplies, and you don't need special training for it. You just need some gloves, comfortable shoes, and a willingness to help out! You can join an existing cleanup or even organize one with friends, classmates, or a campus group if you are feeling more ambitious! By spending just a few hours picking up litter, you're protecting wildlife, improving all the community's local spaces, and making a visible impact on your community on your own or with friends. If you're looking for a hands-on way to fight water pollution and be part of something bigger than yourself, the Ohio River Sweep is your chance to do so!

Keep Evansville Beautiful is another great place to start in your journey to get immersed in the community. Keep Evansville Beautiful organizes regular volunteer cleanups, beautification projects, and community events that help reduce litter and prevent trash from entering local waterways. From park cleanups to neighborhood litter pickups, their events give volunteers of all ages a chance to make an immediate difference in the places we live, work, and play. Volunteering is open to the public, and you don't need any special skills or training. All you need is a willingness to help and a pair of gloves just like the ORSANCO cleanup events! The organization often provides tools, supplies, and guidance, so you can make an impact right away. Every piece of trash picked up keeps plastic, wrappers, and other waste from being carried into storm drains, creeks, and eventually the Ohio River. This helps protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and the health of our community in many ways. Whether you're a student looking for service opportunities, a group hoping to volunteer together, or someone who simply cares about the environment, Keep Evansville Beautiful offers meaningful ways to give back and be involved.

The next organization being highlighted is for students who want to go beyond litter cleanup and dive into real environmental science. Hoosier Riverwatch offers a more in-depth, exciting and meaningful opportunity for you. Hoosier Riverwatch trains volunteers to monitor water quality in streams and rivers across Indiana, including waterways near Evansville. Through hands-on workshops, you'll learn how to collect water samples, identify aquatic life, and measure key indicators that show how healthy local waters really are. Volunteering is open to the general public and doesn't require prior experience; once again, they just want curiosity and enthusiasm from their volunteers. After a basic training session, you can start monitoring sites on your own or with a group, collecting data that helps scientists, policymakers, and communities understand and protect local water resources. This is a chance to contribute real environmental data, build scientific skills, and see firsthand how pollution and land use affect water quality. It's perfect for students interested in ecology, biology, environmental studies, or just for anyone who has an interest and wants to make a measurable impact on local waters!

> "Real change starts with small, consistent actions."
>
> **- Taylor Howe**

Now, if you want a more fun, active way to protect green spaces and keep trash out of local waterways, the organization Park Squad offers a great opportunity to get involved here in Evansville. Organized through the Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation, Park Squad brings together volunteers from the community to clean parks, trails, riverfront greenways, and natural areas. They focus on all forms of pollution cleanup, removing litter and debris from parks and river edges to help stop pollution before it reaches creeks, storm drains, and the Ohio River. Volunteering with Park Squad is once again open to the general public, you don't need special skills or experience. Most events include trash pickup, leaf and brush removal, and light outdoor projects alongside other community members. Tools and guidance are usually provided, so you can jump right in. Being part of Park Squad is also a great way to meet new people, enjoy the outdoors, and take pride in improving the places where you live and study. Whether it's a weekend event with friends or a one-time cleanup with a student group, you'll make a visible and quick impact on the landscape and help protect local water quality.

If you are looking for a local volunteer opportunity that's flexible, community-driven, and open to everyone, then Community Clean Up EVV is for you! Community Clean Up EVV is made up of an enthusiastic group of residents working together to make Evansville cleaner and healthier, including areas that affect local water quality. These volunteer efforts bring people together to pick up trash in parks, neighborhoods, along streets, trails, and near waterways. This organization is also not limited to only water cleanup, they remove litter from the landscape to help prevent pollution from washing into storm drains, rivers, and streams, including creeks that feed into the Ohio River, similar to Keep Evansville Beautiful. Anyone can join, as there's no age requirement or special training needed. Events are publicly shared, often through community calendars and social platforms. Volunteers can simply show up, grab gloves, and help clean and "beautify" their part of town. Groups of friends, families, and student volunteers are all welcome! Being part of Community Clean Up EVV isn't just about picking up trash, it's about building pride in the city, connecting with neighbors, and taking collective action to protect both community spaces and local waterways.

The last organization that will be highlighted in this article is the Indian Trails Park stream cleanups. This organization is all about a hands-on way to protect streams and creeks near Evansville, the Indian Trails Park stream cleanups and they're open to both students and community members! These volunteer events bring people together to clean up the waterways and surrounding natural areas at Indian Trails Park. Volunteers gather along creek banks and trails to pick up litter, remove debris, and help clear areas where trash and pollution can build up. By keeping these green spaces clean, you can help stop pollution before it reaches larger rivers, improving water quality and habitat for wildlife. These cleanups are typically organized through community groups and local volunteers, and anyone can join! This experience gives its volunteers the opportunity to work outdoors surrounded by nature and do something that helps protect their local environment, which makes this a rewarding and social way to spend a few hours of your time!

Getting involved doesn't require a major commitment at all, just a willingness to show up. The volunteer clean-up crews featured here prove that real change starts with small, consistent actions. As a student at University of Evansville, you have the opportunity to extend your impact beyond campus and into the heart of Evansville. By stepping into the community, you're not just picking up litter; you're building connections, strengthening the city you call home, and helping create a cleaner future for everyone. Next time you find yourself with some free time and unsure what to do, consider volunteering in the local community to give back and leave a place cleaner than it was when you arrived!

The End Is Near...

What's Next For *You*?

What suprised you about yourself this semester?

What challenged you the most?

How will you keep momentum during the summer?

What are you leaving behind?

Who do you want to reconnect with?



FROM LET'S PLAYS AND VIRAL CHALLENGES TO EVEN BIGGER STORIES

Kaitlyn Heath

FROM YOUTUBE TO THE BIG SCREEN

WHAT COMES NEXT FOR YOUTUBE CREATORS

Notice: Discussions of Iron Lung are all spoiler free, however there are some spoilers for the plot of Generation Loss.

THE SUCCESS OF IRON LUNG

YouTube is a platform that has been around for 21 years and became the starting point for many famous faces we all know and enjoy today. Some of these famous faces have gone on to create outside of what would be seen as the typical things that one might usually see on the platform. Many YouTubers have gone on to tell stories on a much bigger scale for their viewers to enjoy. One of these stories became a turning point for Indie animation.

One YouTuber, Markiplier, released his movie to the public back in late January of this year. That movie was Iron Lung, based off of the horror game made in 2022 by David Symanzki. Mark initially only intended for 50-150 theaters to have the movie showing, but according to the movie's website (IronLung.com), That number is now up to 4,152 theatres across the globe as of February 2026 because of how many people sent requests to their theaters. The movie has also successfully made it to number one in America twice, to the point where it ended up suddenly being removed from the box office charts. It has also broken a record for most fake blood used in a horror movie, with about 80,000 gallons used total, which beats Evil Dead's record, according to Tim Bradley on Farout Magazine. The amount of fake blood actually sent Mark to the hospital after he accidentally got it in his eyes.

This success from the movie actually brought Mark to tears twice. Shortly after the release of the trailer, he made a video titled "I didn't think this was possible" and cried mid-video after discovering that the movie sold out in his hometown. He went on to explain in said video that he had initially thought that this sort of success would not be possible, but the fans proved him wrong. The film has also made 50 million dollars at the box office according to Christopher Livingston on pcgamer.com (as of February 27th, 2026). I ended up leaving this movie with my jaw to the floor. I walked in, fueled by excitement and left in pure shock in all of the best ways possible. It was a watch that stuck with me even weeks after finishing it. I don't want to spoil much in terms of the plot, but It is absolutely worth the watch if you ever get the chance to see it for yourself.



> " I ENDED UP LEAVING THIS MOVIE WITH MY JAW TO THE FLOOR. "
>
> - KAITLYN HEATH

THE LEGACY OF UNUS ANNUS

Mark made numerous other projects prior to this that I could've probably turned into a whole second article, but I would like to mention another that many remember even after it's been said, done, and deleted. That project in question would be Unus Annus, a one year project between him and Ethan Nestor, One of Mark's good friends whose channel was originally known as CrankGamePlays. Together, they got help from Mark's now current wife, Amy. The overall theme that they wanted to touch on was limited time before death. They made videos that released daily throughout the course of the channel's "life" and once they reached the end of the year, they had a big livestream that lasted several hours before they joined together and deleted the channel, signifying the channel's "death". A good portion of the one year together was at the height of when COVID-19 came to the United States, forcing them to have to do a lot of their videos on call together. Either way, they created a community that still remembers the joy, laughter, and chaos that this channel brought people in a time of isolation.



GENERATION LOSS AND ARG STORYTELLING



Many other Youtubers have managed to go on and make things on a much bigger scale. Another example is an Augmented Reality Game (ARG) created by YouTuber and streamer, Ranboo, titled Generation Loss (abbreviated as Genloss). Genloss was a horror comedy created by Ranboo and starred numerous other Youtubers that people would recognize such as: Ethan Nestor, Slimecicle, Jerma985, Niki Niachu, and several others. Many of them played as themselves, while some others played as certain characters in the show. For example, Jerma985 played the Puzzler, the main villain in episode two, and Criken, another streamer, played Hetch, who was the villain in episode three.

It was streamed on Twitch back in late May of 2023. The streams were only the start, however, as the Generation Loss YouTube channel still continues to add videos and community posts that tease generations zero and two to the public. Despite the stream being nearly three years old, the fanbase seems to continue to remain strong today on social media. Fanart, edits, memes, and animations all sparked after the start of the stream and kept being revealed even after the final episode was completed.

The stream gives off of the mix of a horror movie and a video game and I enjoyed it a lot. Much like thesituation with Iron Lung, the ending of Generation Loss also left me at a lost for words. I was watching it late at night when I was already laying in bed and all I could do was lay there with my mouth open in pure shock. It was a project that I can't help but circle back to, and I'm excited to see what's next to come.

On top of these successes that are already out in the world, some are on their way and in production as we speak. For example, Youtuber Jacksepticeye, also recently announced that he is producing a movie called Godmother, starring drag queen Dee Wallace. According to Zoe Miskelly on Screenrant, the movie follows a couple on a trip that takes a turn for the worst. Many joked about the timing of the announcement, with Godmother being announced shortly after Iron Lung's release date was revealed to the public. This is not the only project that he has been a part of though, as he has also had a history in voice acting. The most recent project that he has voice acted in was Dispatch, as Punch-Up, however his history with it stretches far. He even voice acted in things like Poppy Playtime and Bendy and *The Ink Machine*.

There are plenty of other projects that were created by or featured Youtubers that many know and love. With how many projects that exist, however, I could probably turn it into an entire book! These creators are the people that became a part of so many childhoods and became the inspiration for so many fans today.



" I DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS POSSIBLE. "

- MARKIPLIER

"My Evansville"

A Personalized Version of the Original "My California"

Here, old men never quit talking,
and the young ones try to make something of themselves,

testing their limits with time. Some community college "freaks" with
no debt and no cars exhaust their mouths with stories of their earlier lives.

Here, in my Evansville, the lights are a warm yellow shade
that sweeps over every car top and head of hair in the evening and dawn

as some sleep and some eat. Here, in my Evansville,
we have backyard bonfires on summer nights

in the middle of June. In this town, the people
run over the same potholes and pray they will be fixed,

but we all know this is stupid. In this town,
weather will be mistaken for one and become another.

In Evansville, we wish for the instrument of togetherness and receive nothing
but distaste.
In my Evansville, you can smile and wave

like in your Evansville, but not on its fighting leg to survival like yours,
against evil itself, striving to be something better, because

this town knows that it can.

Here, in my Evansville, the weekend is nice,

filled with vendors and booths of fresh fruit on the streets, and
music dances through halls and crowded bricks,

the people all sing, the birds all sing.
Here, in my Evansville, everyone is okay,

they are all kind, they are all lively,
they are all caring. No hate.

No shootings on the Southside.
More connectedness for the weak.

In my Evansville, good people and good food.
Good nights, good days.
Good moments for each person, of every doubting kind.

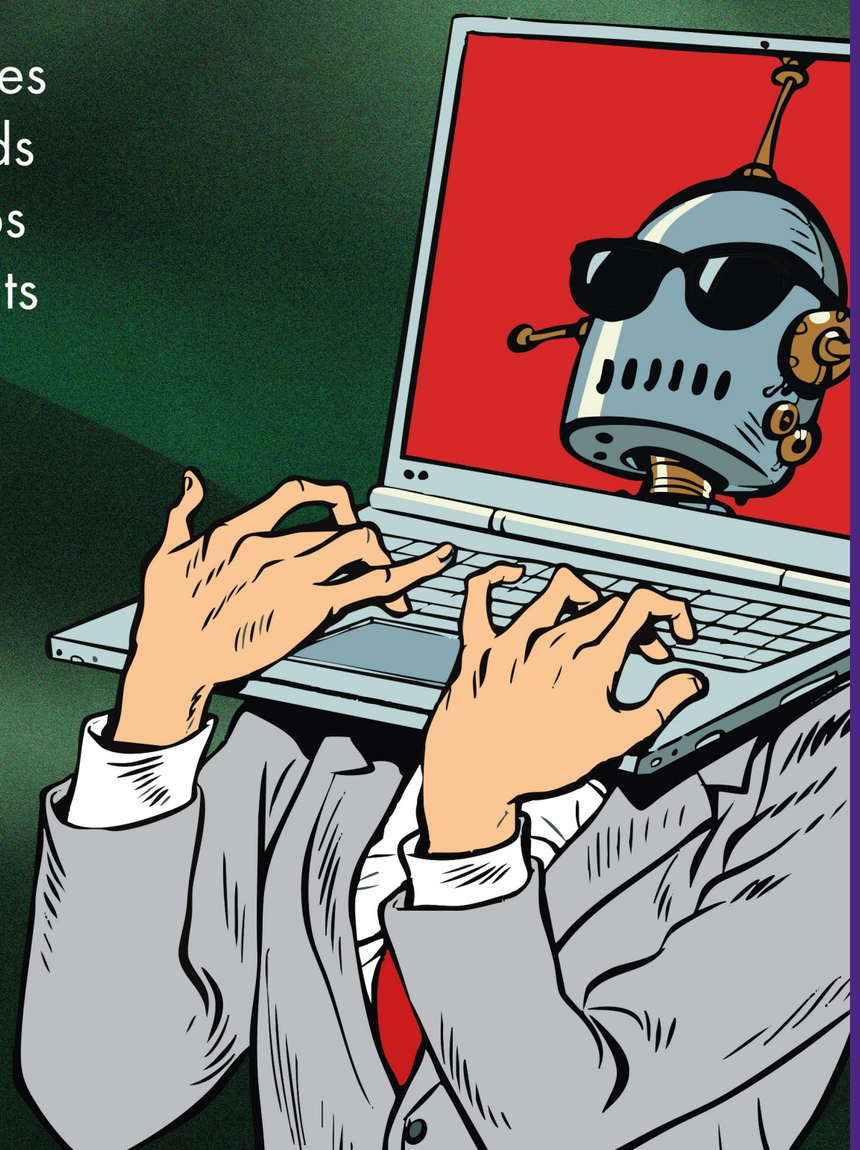
Emma Anne McCombs

Hire a real person.

(it's worth it.)

- Logos
- Brand Identities
- Business Cards
- Vehicle Wraps
- Advertisements
- Publications

and more...



MORTON
DESIGN COLLECTIVE

ITS ALL COMING UP Aces

AN UPDATE ON ALL THINGS SPORTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE

Callie Meinel

It's that time of year again – time for hotdogs, nachos, and pretzels in the stands of a baseball game! Amid all the action on the field and courts, there are many exciting updates underway across the University of Evansville Purple Aces athletic programs.

SOFTBALL

The UE softball team recently completed its new clubhouse, complete with new coaches' offices, a beauty bar, and an air hockey/pool/ping pong table made possible by the generosity of many local donors. The softball team opened its conference play against Illinois State at home on March 6, led by their new coaching staff: Bailey Dillender, Alyssa Richards, Mia Aldridge, and Jeanay Riley. The Aces concluded their preseason games with a record of 6-10.

BASEBALL

Construction on the UE baseball team's Freeland Clubhouse, a new multimillion-dollar project, is under full swing. The clubhouse will be completed in the coming months and will feature a new player locker room, coaches' offices, team lounge, and outdoor viewing pavilion. The baseball team currently holds a preseason record of 3-7, with conference play beginning on March 27.

WOMENS BASKETBALL

The UE women's basketball team completed its final two MVC games, playing Bradley on March 5 and Southern Illinois on March 8. The team ended the season with a record of 7-24. Camryn Runner (freshman) earned MVC Player of the Week on March 3 after a historic, record-setting week. She became the second fastest and 22nd player overall in program history to record 1,000 career points on February 26, 2026. Two days later, she scored the most points (36) in regulation in program history and became the 8th player in the country and first MVC player since 2002 to have 36 points, 9 assists, and 8 rebounds in a single game.

MENS BASKETBALL

The UE men's basketball team concluded conference play on March 1st against Southern Illinois, finishing with an overall record of 7-24. Arguably the most memorable moment for the Aces this year was on November 7th, 2025 when the Ford Center erupted in "6-7" chants, earning the UE basketball team 10.6 million views in 24 hours and coverage on @overtime page.

CROSS COUNTRY

The UE cross country and track and field teams just wrapped up their seasons at the MVC Indoor Championships on March 1. Track and field and soccer dual-sport athlete Taylor Johnson (junior) reset her own program record in the 400 meters with a time of 56.69, and the UE Distance Medley Relay team of Connor Shin (junior), Tommaso Losma (junior), Jake Antibus (freshman), and Tanner Spence (junior), broke the program record of 10:16:39.

SWIM & DIVE

The UE swim and dive team completed its 2026 MVC championships on February 28th at the local Deaconess Aquatic Center. Diver Levi McKinney (senior) earned All-MVC Honorable Mention after advancing to the finals in both the 1M and 3M dives and finishing 7th in each event on March 1. Earlier in the season, following their meet at Bellarmine on February 10, four swimmers received MVC honors: Logan Tenison (sophomore) for Men's Swimmer of the Week, Alex Willis for Men's Freshman of the Week, Jadyn Dauphinais (freshman) for Women's Swimmer of the Week, and Jillian Giese for Women's Freshman of the Week.

To be updated on all exciting developments related to UE Athletics including game times, awards, and updates, follow the @ueathletics handle on Instagram, Facebook, or X and visit https://gopurpleaces.com/index.aspx, the official website of University of Evansville Athletics.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS RISE UP IN EVANSVILLE, SCHOOLS VIOLATE STUDENT'S RIGHTS!

Devon Mathews

Content Warning

Please be advised that this article contains a brief mention of sexual violence.



On Thursday the 12th of February, a special opportunity came to Evansville that enlightened grade school and high school students. Hezekiah Watkins, a civil rights activist, travelled from his home in Mississippi to speak to students in Evansville because of the University of Evansville's Journey to Justice program led by Dr. Valerie Stein. This program gives high school students the ability to travel to places such as Birmingham, Selma, Jackson, and other important locations from the civil rights movement. A year ago, students from Bosse Highschool met Hezekiah Watkins in Jackson, where he promised that we would return to Evansville a year later to meet them.

He kept his word and arrived in Evansville on the 12th to greet the students and speak to the broader Evansville community. The public was allowed to enter Bosse to have an opportunity to hear his story, a chance that is dwindling as time goes on. That evening, he spoke about the terrors of Jim Crow and specifically how he was arrested when he was thirteen. He was arrested because he said he was born in Wisconsin. Since he was not from the Jackson area, he was suspected of being a Freedom Rider, along with Rosa Parks and other activists at the time. He was immediately arrested under suspicion, which led to him being tortured and mistreated in the facility. Mr. Watkins stated that "those thirteen days in there felt like thirteen years." After finally being released, he felt the need to stop anyone else from having the possibility to endure what he had felt. Shortly after release, against his mother's wishes, he joined the Freedom Riders and participated in walkouts at his school. Such



walkouts led to all of the students who participated being arrested and sent to a fairground in garbage trucks, both filled and empty. Mr. Watkins stated that the officers abused and raped the girls at the fairground until white girls from other schools stepped in. After telling his stories to the crowd that night, Mr. Watkins connected those events to what is going on with ICE in our society today. ICE arrests people with the same "reasonable suspicion" tactics that led to Mr. Watkins being arrested as a thirteen-year-old boy in Jackson, Mississippi.

Acknowledging his arrival as a call-to-action, the local high schools in Evansville planned an afternoon walkout after Mr. Watkins left Bosse's post-lunch assembly on Friday. Masses of students marched up and down Main Street, even passing by the hotel Mr. Watkins was staying at. After seeing the event occur, he told Dr. Stein that he wishes to return to Evansville again.

The schools, prior to the event, made extensive announcements condemning the event in an attempt to discourage students from going. This did little to stop the students from leaving some institutions. However, other schools took more drastic measures. According to Dr. Stein, North Highschool along Highway 41 had armed police at the entrances of the school to prevent students from leaving the building. This action seems in violation of the First Amendment, as they are blocking the famous right to demonstrate that is granted by our founding fathers.

An Indiana state law states that school walkouts are not considered a First Amendment right because they interfere with school attendance, which is mandated by law. The Supreme Court case Tinker v. Des Moines Supreme Court case ruled that schools can only limit protests if they cause a substantial disruption and/or impede the rights of others. In my opinion, based on this ruling, the school is actively preventing the students from expressing their First Amendment rights from a federal standpoint, which overrides state law.

Other students from Central Highschool claimed that the school had locked its doors to prevent students from leaving, which is a blatant violation of ethical school safety laws. The doors are never meant to be locked from the inside because that would in effect trap students with a potential gun or fire hazard. These students were able to make it to Helpful Hippie's weekly antifa pro-democracy protest at the Federal Building because they escaped the school before officials were able to lock side-doors used for maintenance. Assuming that what these students told me was true, the schools need to be called out and held accountable for violating the children's safety and right to free speech.

After protesting with the students at the Federal Building, I decided to speak to locals about the event. They had a mixed view about the students, with some stating that they "bring me hope" and others saying, "they don't even know what they are protesting for." Despite receiving some criticism from the public and crackdowns from the school administrations, the students stood firmly for what they believe. These youth are quite active and do not approve of the Trump Administration's limits of our inalienable rights, and the schools' obvious pushback against their student bodies only emphasizes the limiting of those rights. To conclude with how the youth involved in the event felt, here is what a member of the student panel from the Bosse Assembly said to Dr. Stein: "Thanks for letting me do something like this. I'm proud of all my friends as well. This is one of the best things I have done all 4 years of high school. I'm beyond grateful for this, and meeting Mr. Watkins was one of the best things ever."

Turning Point USA on Campus:

Funding Networks, Ideology, and Institutional Responsibility

Article Contains Student Interviews

with editorial input from Tommy J Housman

LOLA SILLS

Turning Point USA is a nonprofit organization that believes in "educating, training, and organizing students to promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government" (TPUSA). Recently, a TPUSA chapter was formed here at the University of Evansville, sponsored by students and faculty alike. The chapter can be understood as bringing together students on campus who share similar views. However, the views described by TPUSA are broadly framed and may resonate with a range of individuals on and off campus. So, what makes TPUSA a noteworthy topic? This article examines Turning Point's funding networks, ideological affiliations, and policy positions, along with perspectives from student leaders on campus.

Because Turning Point USA operates as a national organization with defined funding structures, policy positions, and leadership messaging, the presence of a campus chapter raises questions not only about student organization activity, but about how those broader elements translate into a university setting.

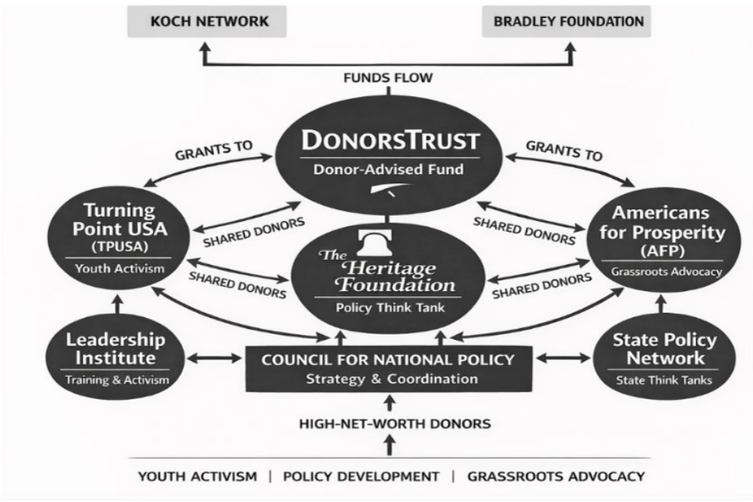
TPUSA has always had the goal of creating college chapters around the country, but more recently it has evolved to include high school chapters. Today there is an entire division of TPUSA called "Turning Point Education," which supplies classroom products such as worksheets and coloring pages aimed at students grades three through six. According to their mission statement, they are "dedicated to RECLAIMING the education of our children, REVIVING virtuous education focused on truth, goodness, and beauty, and RESTORING God as the foundation of education" (Turning Point Education). For high-school level education, varied materials are available to aid in the classroom, all adorned with a TPUSA logo. The presence of branded materials and structured teaching at earlier stages of education reflects a larger effort to introduce students to specific ideas before they reach college-age. This introduces questions about the role of advocacy organizations in educational spaces, where expectations around neutrality can vary. This expansion into earlier stages of education provides context for how the organization approaches student engagement more broadly, including at the university level, where campus chapters represent a continuation of that outreach.

The words "Turning Point USA" make many people think of Charlie Kirk's debates, whether from watching Kirk speak at a college campus or seeing videos of him on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, etc. Kirk was the founder and CEO of Turning Point, which started in 2012 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Before we get into TPUSA's policies, let's look at what defines a non-profit and what the IRS says about 501(c)(3) organizations and similar non-profits.

A 501(c)(3) organization is a tax-exempt non-profit. The IRS says that "Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office" (IRS). There are a couple exceptions to this rule. For example, if an organization is simply trying to educate voters in a non-partisan way, such as helping people register to vote, that is allowed (Continued in Appendix). Understanding this structure is relevant when evaluating campus chapters, as student organizations affiliated with national nonprofits operate within the broader framework established by those entities, even when their day-to-day activities are locally directed.

What is "dark money," and how does it apply to these organizations? Dark money refers to "funds from groups that do not disclose their donors" (Brennan Center). Dark money is money given to groups, typically politicians, by groups that do not disclose where their money originates. This money comes from not only mega-donors, but also regular donations, no matter how small. A portion of their donations do go into their own nonprofit to keep it running, but much of the money is then directed into other expenditures

(Continued in Appendix).



While these funding mechanisms exist at the national level, they can become part of the broader context universities consider when recognizing or hosting affiliated student organizations.

In addition to organizational structure and funding, policy alignment and public positions contribute to how affiliated groups are perceived when they are introduced into campus environments. Now, let's examine TPUSA's policy positions. TPUSA is a conservative organization. Their views have been described as aligning with positions associated with Donald Trump. They are also on the advisory board, along with over 100 other conservative groups, of Project 2025, the blueprint created by The Heritage Foundation. While Trump has actively tried to distance himself from directly supporting their 920-page policy blueprint, some analysts have noted overlaps between his implemented policies and elements of the proposal. This includes changes to immigration policy, proposals involving the role and structure of the Department of Education, and positions related to gender definitions

(Continued in Appendix).

Let's talk a little more about Charlie Kirk himself; what he stood for, things he said, and how his legacy lives on after his assassination in September 2025. Charlie Kirk was a Christian conservative who founded TPUSA at 18 years old, hosted a news commentary podcast called "The Charlie Kirk Show," and was known for publicly advocating his views. In his 31 years, he amassed a large following among conservative youth. He regularly debated on college campuses, popular YouTube channels, and podcasts, all while running TPUSA and being a husband to Erika Kirk and a father to a 4-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son. Charlie Kirk frequently expressed strong opinions and spoke about a multitude of different topics, and the following quotes are included to present his statements directly.

Charlie interviewed Riley Gaines, the woman who competed against Lia Thomas in 2022. Lia Thomas is an openly transgender athlete, and after the 2022 NCAA Championship, Gaines began speaking out against transgender athletes. In the interview, Kirk states that "we need to have a Nuremberg style trial for every gender affirming clinic doctor," that the "NCAA is a perverted organization," and that someone should have "just took care of it, the way we used to take care of things in the 1950's and 60's" (The Charlie Kirk Show). Those opinions stem from the overarching idea that transgender women are not women and that the NCAA messed up by allowing Lia Thomas to participate in the championship and use the same locker room as other competitors.

Then in 2024, Charlie got a question from a fan about replacement strategy, to which he responded, "the great replacement strategy, which is well underway every single day in our southern border, is a strategy to replace white rural America with something different." He claimed that democrats and immigrants are "just like the Soviets one hundred years ago," and that they "hate those of you that own land and have guns and won't stop until you and your children and your children's children are eliminated." He went on to speak directly to certain areas in America and said that "the same way Joseph Stalin went after [their opposition], they want to go after you.



Donald Trump and Charlie Kirk at Mar-a-Lago, Feb. 2021
via New York Times

Those of you that live in […] Evansville, Indiana, you're the problem, didn't you know it?" (Media Matters).

Charlie Kirk was incredibly open with his opinions. Some of his statements drew criticism, while supporters argued that he was expressing views they felt were underrepresented. This raises questions about how such statements are evaluated by different audiences. From the perspective of people who support him, supporters say he brought a sense of representation to conservative youth, which was his overall goal. supporters describe his messaging as influential. He was able to provoke discussions on controversial topics, which were often described as direct and confrontational. Many of Kirk's achievements are impressive: starting his own foundation at 18, maintaining relationships with political figures, including the president, publicly expressing his views despite opposition, and regularly hosting events and speaking engagements speaking in front of thousands of people at such a young age. His accomplishments have been cited by supporters as significant.

Although some argue that he didn't use his platform in the 'correct' way, many people believe that he did. His legacy continues to live on through his wife, Erika Kirk, events hosted by TPUSA, and, most importantly to the organization, through TPUSA chapters on college campuses. Statements made by national leadership can shape how affiliated campus chapters are understood by students and faculty, regardless of whether local members directly express those same views.

These national characteristics, organizational structure, funding networks, and public messaging, form the backdrop against which individual campus chapters are introduced, including the recently recognized chapter at the University of Evansville. Recently here at the University of Evansville, Turning Point became an officially recognized student organization. I had the opportunity to sit down with their president, Gavin Wheeler, and speak about the reasonings behind the founding of the chapter, their plans, and what TPUSA means to him.

I started by asking Gavin why he believes UE needs a TPUSA chapter. He said that

"we haven't had a place for conservative students to go"

and hopes this organization will change that and bring people of both similar and different values together. He also mentioned how Students for Life, which he is also on the board of, holds similar values, but doesn't encompass everything that TPUSA does. He plans to do tabling events where the organization will have conversations with students that both agree and disagree and try to find common ground, and, most importantly, stay respectful and understanding through everything they do. When asked about DEI, TPUSA policy positions and opinions, Gavin acknowledged that rather than having Turning Point UE be in complete agreement with TPUSA, they are essentially adapting it into their own organization that follows a blueprint rather than rules. I asked him how he believes students and the community will respond to the controversy surrounding TPUSA and he said,

"I would say they need to meet us first, listen to our position."

After this conversation the interviews suggested that while the organization is following in the footsteps of TPUSA, their aim is to welcome healthy debate and bring awareness to ballot questions.

This perspective reflects how campus chapters may interpret the organization's mission at a local level, which can differ in emphasis from how the national organization is viewed externally.

I also interviewed Christi Peach, the operations administrator of the psychology department, who is the Turning Point UE advisor. I began by asking her what the organization plans to do on campus, and she started her response by talking about TPUSA. She began following TPUSA years ago, before it became

"kind of a trigger point"

and found it interesting how Charlie Kirk was bringing people, specifically students, together and getting them to talk about their views. She was initially hesitant to sponsor the organization considering the controversy surrounding it, but after she got to know some of the students involved and realized it was an "education based civic group" (which was the reason she originally began following Turning Point), she decided it was something she would like to support. She clarified that the timing of Charlie Kirk's assassination is in no way related to the founding of Turning Point UE because the campus group had already been an idea before that. I asked her towards the end of our interview how this group differs from other campus organizations such as Students for Life and the Student Christian Fellowship, because Gavin had mentioned the overlap, and Christi responded by saying

"they can kind of work together and build each other."

By the end of our conversation, I learned that advisors don't play a huge role in the organization itself but rather serve as someone who will question decisions that may go against the group's bylaws and ideologies. She explained to me that she is not directly involved in the events of the organization, but rather the overall choices made and the outcomes to ensure that the organization stays on track to accomplish what they set out to do.



Turning Point UE, Jan. 2026
via Instagram

At the institutional level, faculty advisors and university policies play a role in shaping how affiliated organizations function on campus, even as the broader affiliation remains part of their identity.

In their constitution, TPUE explains exactly what they hope to do, and what their intentions are with this organization. Their preamble reads: "We, students of the University of Evansville, assemble together to promote and conserve American identity, beliefs, ethics, and culture, as defined by our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We seek to love and to promote the value and dignity of human life and liberty and conserve traditional families in society, as defined and taken from Christian values, ethics, and principles. Through this, we place our faith, family, community, and America first" (TPUSA at UE Constitution).

The interviews with Gavin and Christi led me to believe that the students and faculty involved in Turning Point UE do not describe their intent as creating controversy, so concerns raised by some individuals are connected to the organization's broader national reputation. I sat down with Jonathan Trombetta, director of UE Pride Camp, and was given insight into how TPUE makes some minority students feel.

Jonathan was very open about his involvement in queer-centered organizations and explained that it feels like having a Turning Point chapter on campus will be

"working against everything [he] is fighting for."

He described their presence as exclusionary and expressed real concern about what it means for students who already feel marginalized. For him, the organization makes him feel

"wholly unsafe and unsupported."

He does not believe that the broader meaning of the organization can be separated from the campus chapter, and that even if TPUE doesn't intend to do harm, simply by bringing this organization to campus they are bringing negative, harmful connotations with them.

I also spoke with Folarin Oyeleye, who is a part of multiple groups for students of color. He offered a similar perspective to Jonathan, except from the standpoint of race and campus climate. Folarin said,

"yes, [they] have the freedom to make such an organization on campus," but that they also need to be "cognizant of the stigma that [their] organization brings, especially with us going to a predominantly white institution, for a lot of students of color such as [himself]."

He said that the existence of the group brings a threat to the emotional safety of minorities on campus and personally makes him feel

"afraid, vigilant, and baffled,"

even if the group's intentions might not be to do so. He does not believe that these concerns are hypothetical; they are experienced. I read the TPUSA preamble to him, and in response he said that the "founding documents" mentioned were not written with students and people like him in mind, and that it feels like a lot of generalizations.

While TPUE is hoping the campus will give them a chance before making assumptions about what their plans are, some students described feeling that negative effects are already present.

These reactions illustrate how perceptions of a national organization can influence how its campus chapter is experienced by students, independent of the chapter's stated intentions or planned activities.

When evaluating the role of a campus organization affiliated with a national group, the distinction between local function and national identity becomes a central consideration.

Throughout this article, two recurring questions emerge: why this specific organization has been brought to campus, and how it relates to other existing student organizations. The new independent group defined solely by local priorities.

This distinction becomes particularly relevant given that affiliation with a national organization carries with it established messaging, materials, and identity. According to TPUE's constitution, the chapter intends to distribute materials associated with Turning Point USA, indicating an ongoing connection to the organization's broader communication framework. As a result, the decision to affiliate is not limited to forming a new student group, but also involves introducing an external organization's messaging into the campus environment.



TPUE Call Out Meeting, Mar. 20
via Instagram

TPUE held their call-out meeting on March 18th, which I attended with Joshua Fisher, who has been helping with the research for this article. The club spoke about its goals, beliefs, and intentions, all of which aligned with the goal of sparking healthy debate on campus ***that I heard about during interviews.*** Gavin Wheeler also mentioned that the organization is

"not religious, but many of the ideas are taken from traditional Christian values."

Overall, the meeting did not include statements indicating an intent to make students feel unsafe, unsupported, or afraid.

University of Evansville has a range of groups that engage students around faith, values, and civic issues, including organizations such as Students for Life and Student Christian Fellowship. While these groups are not identical in purpose or structure to Turning Point USA, they contribute to a broader campus environment in which discussion, advocacy, and community-building already take place.
In interviews, TPUE leadership described a desire to create space for conversation, engagement, and civic participation among students with similar viewpoints. At the same time, this raises a structural question: whether those goals required affiliation with a national organization, or whether they could have been pursued through existing organizations, adaptations of those organizations, or the creation of a

No interviewees from TPUE identified a specific gap that could only be addressed through this particular affiliation, which raises the possibility that the distinguishing factor is not solely the function of the organization, but its connection to a national entity. This leads to a central question: could the stated goals of dialogue, engagement, and civic participation have been achieved without that affiliation? If so, the decision to recognize the chapter extends beyond student organization policy and reflects a broader institutional choice about what external partnerships and identities are incorporated into campus life.

Appendix

501(c)3's: Other organizations that fall under this classification are DonorsTrust, The Heritage Foundation, and the Ed Uihlein Family Foundation. A quick search will define all these as conservative political organizations. So, how do these non-profits get away with this? They've found a loophole: if the organization itself hasn't taken a specific side, they're safe. Individuals working for the organization, and separate divisions of the organization, can have whatever views they want. The next question is why are these organizations choosing to be 501(c)(3)'s, when there are plenty of other 501(c) classifications? While it could be that other classifications don't align with their non-profit closely enough, there's one thing that sticks out: in a 501(c)(3), donations are tax deductible.

Dark Money: Undisclosed donations are more common than people believe, and it stems from how PACs (political action committees) can spend their money. In a PAC, there's a limit to how much can be donated to politicians and parties. When using dark money techniques, there's no limit, and billions of dollars have been poured into candidates and parties through this. So, why is this important? Let's look at DonorsTrust. In 2021, DonorsTrust received one billion dollars in donations, over 700 million more than they have received in an average year. That one billion dollars was split between multiple anonymous donations, each around $425 million. DonorsTrust is a non-profit group run by Lawson Bader that has connections with TPUSA, Heritage, etc. DonorsTrust is not the only organization with donations like this, and, in fact, most politically aligned non-profits across the political spectrum use this technique to be able to provide more money to candidates they wish to endorse. According to Brennan Center, "since 2010, more than one billion dollars has been poured into federal elections by powerful groups". This is not accidental. Donations from everyday citizens, like you, are being funneled from non-profits into political campaigns, politicians, and parties.

Project 2025: Project 2025 started in 2023 and "promised to 'dismantle the administrative state' by putting forward the personnel and the policies that could serve as a roadmap for the next conservative president" (AP News). However, the project is almost entirely centered around the Trump administration and what supporters wanted to see from him in office. As of now, he's following through with many of the policies, despite his claims of being unaware of Project 2025 and what is written in it. TPUSA approved of, helped create, and promoted this policy book while claiming that their biggest goals are to educate the American youth.


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