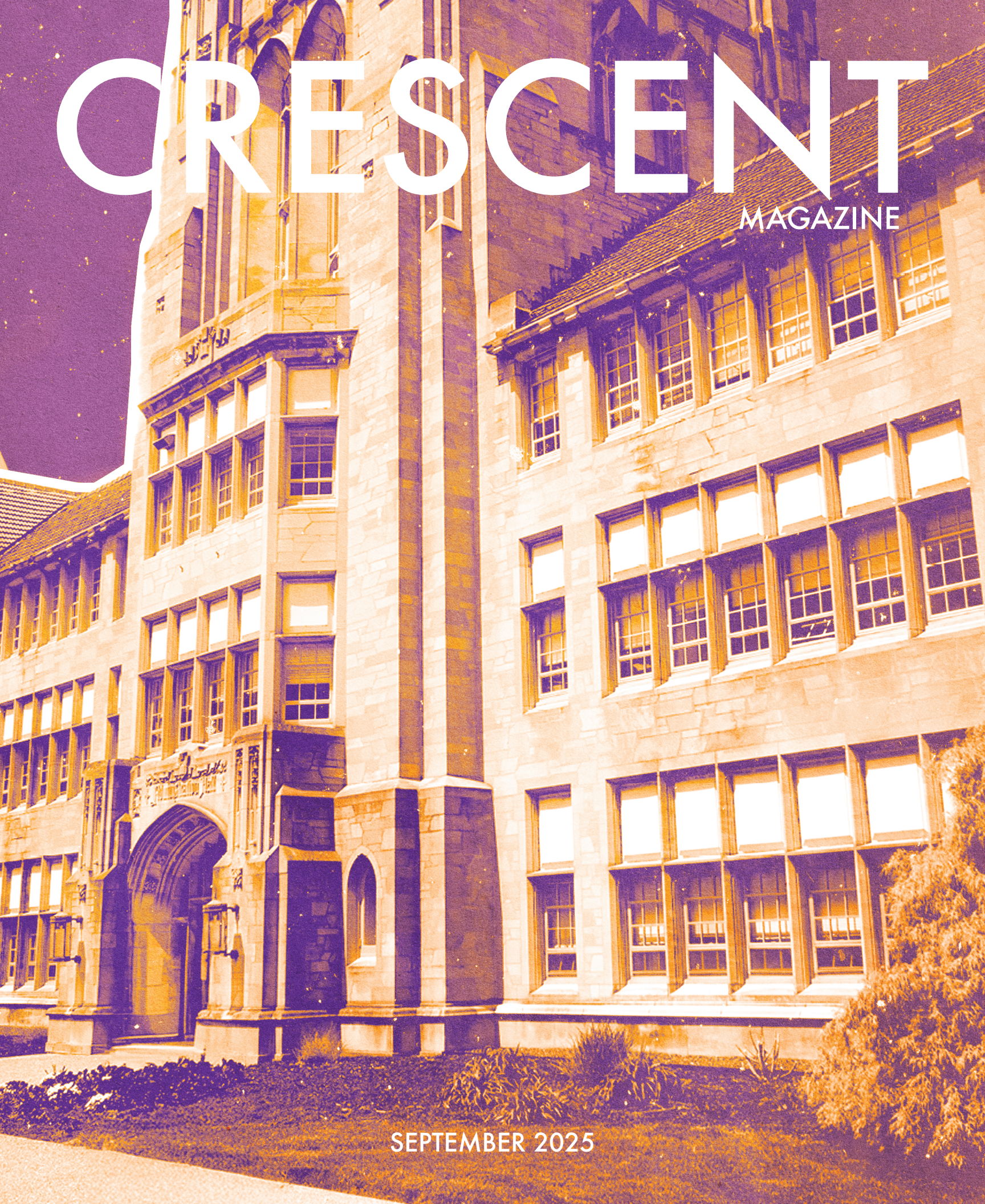
CRESCENT

MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2025

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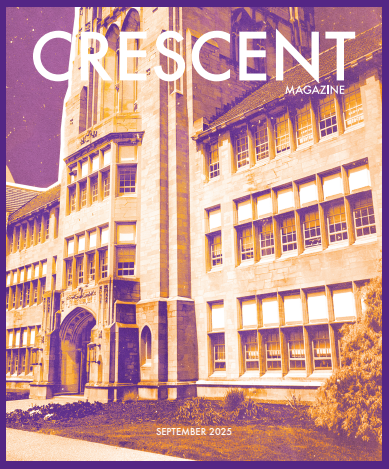
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is the University of Evansville's student magazine. It is written, edited and designed by and for UE students and published six times during the academic year. Circulation is 1,500 distributed to 18 campus locations and housed online at www.cresceent.evansville.edu The Crescent is funded through advertising sales and a subscription fee paid on behalf of students by the Student Government Association.

LETTER SUBMISSIONS:
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faculty, staff, administrators and alumni, but material the CMEB regards as libelous, malicious and/or obscene will not be published.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.

EDITORIAL POLICY:
Commentary expressed in unsigned editorials represents a consensus opinion of the magazine's Editorial Board. Other columns, reviews, articles and advertising are not necessarily the opinion of the CMEB or other members of staff.



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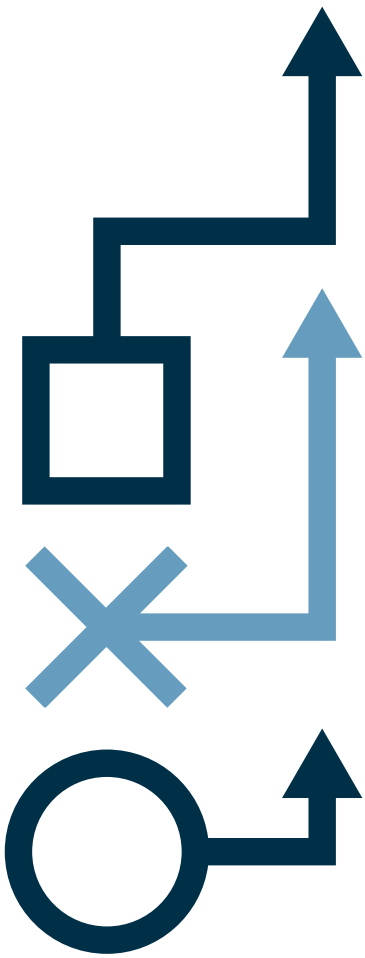
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ACES SPORTS: THE WRITE UP

Welcome back, Aces!

Campus has been buzzing, and all sporting events are officially in full swing. Did you miss some of the action? No worries! This is where you can catch up on all things Aces sports.

Taylor Howe



First, let's start with Aces Volleyball. This fall marks Zach Wienberg's first season as the head coach for the Purple Aces, where he will lead 11 returners and seven newcomers on the squad. They opened their season at Butler University in the Big Dawg Kickoff on August 29-30 and showed promise for an exciting year. They suffered two hard-fought losses to Butler and Middle Tennessee but finished their weekend strong with a five-set win against Purdue Fort Wayne, giving Weinberg and his squad their first win of the 2025 season. Players to watch include returning junior middle hitter Chloe Cline, who was the 2024 squad's leading hitter and is a threat at the front of the net. Another returning standout is junior Libero Ainoah Cruz, who represented the Aces in the U21 World Championships over the Summer alongside Purple Ace's teammate Josdarilee Caraballo. The Aces also return senior setter Kora Ruff for her final season, where she has remained a constant on the court for the Purple Aces throughout her four years at UE. "It was a good opening weekend with lots of growth and learning moments that will help us the rest of the season," Ruff stated.

The Purple Aces Cross Country team opened its season on August 29 at the Stegemoller Twilight, hosted by the University of Southern Indiana (USI). There was a women's 4K and a men's 6K, and the Purple Aces were able to place second as a team. Chase Hayes led the way for the women's team and placed fourth overall with a time of 14:12.5. Freshman Kyleigh Wolf placed fifth with a time of 14:17.2 in her first collegiate race, while Avery Stephens also placed in the top ten with a time of 14:36.3. On the men's side, Samuel Lee placed second overall with a time of 18:14.0. Freshman James Cruse was able to put together a solid performance with a time of 18:27.9 and finished eighth. The Purple Aces Cross Country team will be in Owensboro, Kentucky, Friday, September 5, at the Panther Prowl.

The Purple Aces Women's Soccer team has come out hot and continues to show promise for a good year. Before the Purple Aces opened their 2025 season, junior Taylor Johnson was named on the Preseason All-MVC First Team. The Purple Aces opened their season with a four-goal win over SEMO, and Johnson was named MVC



Player of the Week for her efforts. The team then hit the road again and for Lindenwood, where they fell short late in the game, taking their only loss on the season thus far. The Purple Aces welcomed the Purdue Boilermakers for the home opener on August 27 at Arad McCutchan Stadium, where they earned their first win against a power-4 opponent since 2008. The Purple Aces' scorers were sophomore forward Taylor Wehrer and junior midfielder Ella Hamner. The team carried the big midweek win momentum into their matchup on August 31 against SIUE at Arad McCutchan Stadium, collecting another big win. An explosive first half resulted in three Purple Aces goals and gave them all the room to take the 3-0 win. The scorers were sophomore forward Taylor Wehrer, senior defender Kathryn Tyler, and freshman midfielder/defender Lily Kytasaari. After a week of wins, the Purple Aces had two players named to the MVC Weekly Honors: sophomore forward Taylor Wehrer earned MVC Player of the Week, and freshman goalkeeper Allie Lammers earned MVC Goalkeeper of the Week. The Purple Aces will be in action next against the Austin Peay Governors in a mid-week matchup in Clarksville where they look to extend their win streak to three. Senior defender Kathryn Tyler gave insight into the team camaraderie that has been helping fuel their early-season success: "We've all been so excited about this season. Our team chemistry has been the best it's ever been, and we have a really good group of leaders to help carry us far this year."

> ***"We've all been so excited about this season. Our team chemistry has been the best it's ever been, and we have a really good group of leaders to help carry us far this year."***

Lastly, the Purple Aces Men's Soccer team has kicked off its season and is in full swing as well. The Men's Soccer team also had a player named to the Preseason All-MVC team in sophomore goalkeeper Michal Mroz. The Aces opened their season at home against the Bellarmine Knights and ended the match in a 1-1 draw. The Purple Aces' lone scorer of the game was senior forward Tancredi Fadda on a penalty shot. The team hit the road for their next matchup against Mercer, which also ended in a 1-1 draw. The Purple Aces' lone scorer in that matchup was freshman midfielder Devin Shepherd. After a couple of draw games, the Purple Aces headed to face a power-4 opponent and the 15th-ranked University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Aces put up a fight, with shots on goal by multiple players. Sophomore defender Martin Wurschmidt, senior defender Nacho Garcia, and junior forward Armon Haghighat, all gave it their best efforts with shots on goal but came up short with a 2-0 loss. The Purple Aces came back home for Alumni Weekend and hosted the Memphis Tigers, finishing with another hard-fought 1-1 draw. The Aces outshot the Tigers 24-7 but couldn't get another one through for the lead. Sophomore defender Martin Wurschmidt was the Purple Aces' lone scorer, but several other Aces contributed shots on goal. The Aces now look to find the win column in their upcoming match against Lindenwood at Arad McCutchan Stadium.

Is it DeBOVER?

Ian Prinz

Following Saturday's loss to Florida State many are speculating that Coach Kalen DeBoer is in the hot seat. The post-Saban era in Tuscaloosa is upon us and so far, it has been a wild ride for the Crimson Tide. When Nick Saban retired in 2024, Alabama decided to reach out to the head coach of the National Champion runners up, Washington's Kalen DeBoer. Coming off an incredible one loss season, many fans predicted this would be the next great Alabama head coach. The Alabama faithful always have one expectation, the playoffs or bust. Having just been there, Deboer believed he could take this team and win the 2025 National Championship. There was just one problem, putting beliefs into action.

The first season was filled with ups and downs, but way more downs than ups. In week 2 at home against University of South Florida, Alabama struggled to pull away in a game that should have been a blowout from the first whistle. The ending score could lead you to believe it was, in fact, a blowout, but the tape shows a different story. Until the final 4 minutes, the game was too close for comfort. After that game Alabama seemed to show that it had just been a bad day for them when they demolished Wisconsin and won against their top rival, Georgia, earning them the number 1 seed. Then, it all took a turn going into week six on the road against Vanderbilt. In an upset win, Vanderbilt beat the Crimson Tide 40-35. At the time, Vanderbilt had never beat a number one team and hadn't beat Alabama in 30 years. The next week, the team got a slim bounce back win against a red-hot South Carolina team to boost them up for the next week.

The next game was a big one for Bama, the third Saturday in October, a rivalry game between Alabama and the Tennessee Volunteers, a must win game for Kalen Deboer. This was a team that Nick Saban only lost to once in his tenure in Tuscaloosa. This game would set the tone for the next few years of the Deboer era. Alabama fought as hard as they could and lost by a touchdown to the Volunteers in Knoxville. Even after a tough defeat to the Vols, Alabama still looked well on their way to the college football playoffs with a shut-out win against Missouri, a win against LSU, and, in SEC fashion, a win against an FCS team in the month of November. With two games left in the regular season, the only teams that stood in their way of the playoffs were a struggling Oklahoma and an Auburn team that was coming off a huge win. In the game against Oklahoma, Alabama showed no life and it was all Sooners from the opening kick. Alabama was defeated 24-3 at Oklahoma. The week after, they played their instate rival, Auburn,in the Iron Bowl to end the regular season. Despite a huge Overtime upset win against Texas A&M, Alabama was just too tough for them to beat, with Auburn losing by 2 scores.

With the regular season over, the three-loss Alabama team was still hoping for a playoff bid with the College football playoffs expanding from 4 teams to 12 teams in the 2024 season. When their name wasn't called it caused an uproar in the state of Alabama with fans believing their team should be in the playoffs. Nonetheless, Alabama would still play





Michigan in the 2024 ReliaQuest Bowl in Tampa Bay, Florida. The game was on December 31, 2024 exactly 364 days earlier on January 1, 2024, Michigan beat Alabama to punch their ticket to the National Championship. Michigan was a struggling team during the season, started off ranked but ended up losing 5 games and in the end was unranked; despite the rough season they were still able to extend their win streak on the would-be National Champions, The Ohio State Buckeyes. The hope was that Alabama would beat Michigan and end their calendar year the opposite way it started. Sadly, despite all the expert picks believing that this Alabama team should be in the playoffs and they would win against Michigan; they got upset 19-13 and the Kalen Deboer inaugural season was over. Their record was 9-4 with losses to Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Michigan, but despite that, they had quality wins against South Carolina, Georgia, LSU, and Mizzou.

With his first season behind him, Deboer started looking towards the future and his second year. With returning all-freshman receiver Ryan Williams as their next big superstar, Deboer had hopes for a better second season. With 25 players entering the transfer portal, including starting running back Justice Haynes and Starting db DeVonta Smith, things looked grim for the upcoming season. It hurt Alabama's prospects when star quarterback Jalen Milroe and two other Alabama stars, Tyler Booker and Jihaad Campbell, entered the NFL draft. In total Alabama lost 32 players between the draft, portal, and players out of eligibility. Kalen Deboer hit the transfer portal pretty moderately only bringing in 10 offensive and defensive players, including Miami receiver Isaiah Horton, to hopefully make a difference for the next season. The position that was untouched was quarterback, putting his trust in 3rd year quarterback Ty Simpson. There were many doubts that he could be the next great quarterback at Alabama but Deboer still put his trust in him.

As the next official season started, the first game up was Florida State, a team who only won 2 games the previous year. To add fuel to the first, FSU transfer quarterback Thomas Castellanos trashed talked Alabama months before the game. Experts thought this game would be an easy win in the Crimson Tide's favor but nobody knew the revamp Florida State had had over the offseason to make sure they did not underperform for the second consecutive year. Castellanos backed up his talk in their first game and led the Seminoles to a 31-17 victory over the Crimson Tide. That leads to now where, for the first time in 23 years, Alabama has lost a season opener leading people to call for the firing of Kalen Deboer.

In 16 years, Nick Saban had 4 losses to an unranked team with Alabama. With only 14 games at Alabama, Deboer already has 4. 4 unranked losses in 14 games doesn't sound like rules for firing for any other school, but this is Alabama. The tradition is to win and anything less than a National Championship is a sub-par year for their fanbase. In the SEC, if you do not have a double digit wins season, you are looked at as a middle of the pack team. For Alabama, however, to have only a 9 win year after being the frontrunners of the SEC means that they are becoming a laughingstock in college football. Kalen Deboer needs to step up from this loss, grow, and move on, but does he have a grip on his team to make that change? Videos have been swirling the internet of Alabama players recording TikTok's and not practicing as a team during pre-games, which has raised questions about DeBoer's coaching style and the team's discipline. Both his record and coaching style are being held against the new coach, while the fanbase and the Tide tradition demand excellence.

All coaches have their struggles when they move to new teams and new conferences, but when you are the coach at Alabama, struggles will be held against you until you win. Is it fair to put Deboer in the hot seat this earlyon?
Does he have what it takes?
Is it DeBover?

The Price of the Game:
Money in Professional Sports

Callie Knabb

When you look at professional sports today, it's hard not to notice how much money drives everything. Whether it's record-breaking contracts, billion-dollar TV deals, or the price of a single game ticket, the financial side of sports has become just as big a story as the games themselves.

Baseball is a perfect example. This past offseason, Juan Soto signed a fifteen-year deal with the Mets are worth $765 million, the biggest deal in MLB history. That's insane when you think

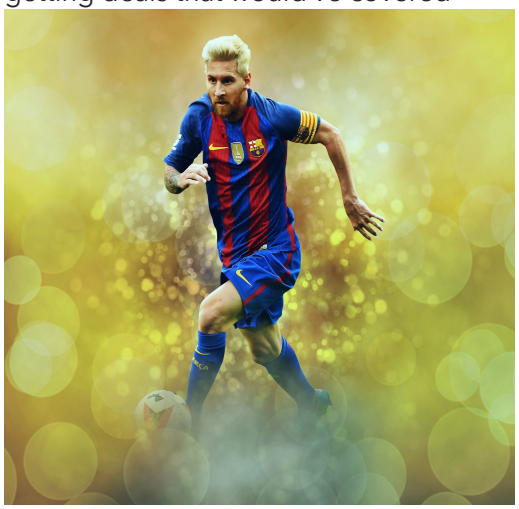


Juan Soto's First Game as a Met • Photo by Alamy

about it.

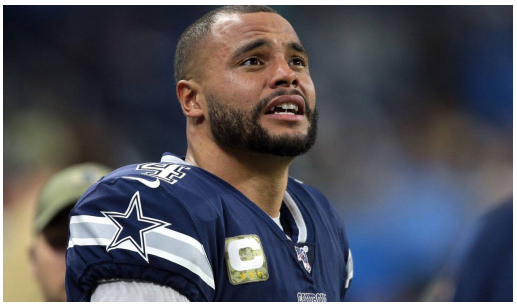
One player makes more in a year than some entire college athletic departments have in their budget. And it's not just baseball. NBA players are signing contracts worth $50-65 million a season.

Soccer stars like Messi and Ronaldo make more in endorsements than most athletes could ever dream of. Even in the NFL, quarterbacks are getting deals that would've covered



Lionel Messi • Photo by YaNiS2017

entire rosters just a couple decades ago.



Dak Prescott • Photo by Alamy

Some people say athletes don't deserve that much money, especially compared to jobs like teachers, doctors, or firefighters. I get that argume ant. But at the same time, sports bring in billions. Fans buy jerseys, pay for streaming, and fill stadiums every night. If teams and leagues are making that kind of money, it makes



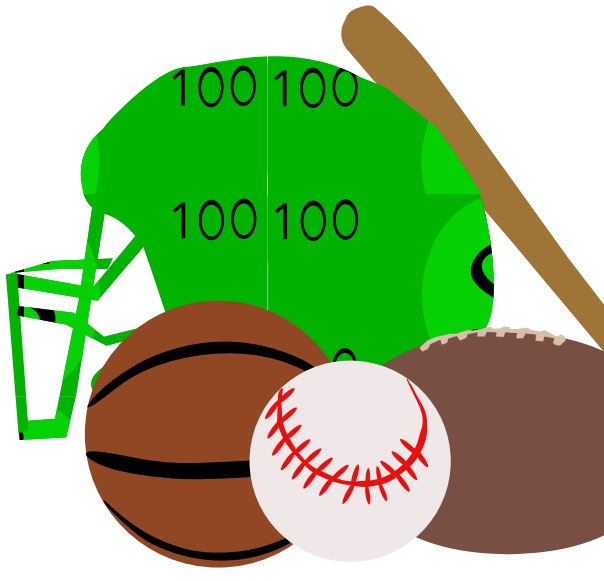
Bills Fan • Photo by Connor McManus

sense that the athletes, the ones putting in the work and entertaining the fans, get a big piece of it.

The thing is, it's not the same for everyone. The superstars grab the headlines with their monster contracts, but a lot of pros aren't making life-changing money. Minor leaguers, role players, and guys trying to hang on to a roster spot don't see the same paychecks. The gap between the top and the bottom is huge. For fans, all this money can be a double-edged sword. Big signings are exciting and give teams a shot at championships, but higher salaries often mean higher ticket prices and streaming costs. Watching sports isn't as cheap or easy as it used to be. At the end of the day, money is always going to be part of pro sports.

It fuels the business and creates opportunities, but it also raises questions about fairness and accessibility. The numbers will keep climbing, that's just the reality. The challenge is figuring out how to keep the balance so, sports stay about more than just the paycheck

"Some people say athletes don't deserve that much money, especially compared to jobs like teachers, doctors, or firefighters."



The Closing of Planned Parenthood



Lola Sills

Evansville's Planned Parenthood, located minutes away from campus, announced during the summer that it will be closing on September 4, 2025. According to their official announcement, the cause of its closing is

"escalating attacks on sexual and reproductive health"

(Planned Parenthood). Unable to continue providing this location with adequate resources, they decided to close the clinic altogether.Evansville's Planned Parenthood was frequently used by people throughout the city, as well as many students here at the University of Evansville. Being away from home and not having quick access to reproductive health can be daunting, yet Planned Parenthood was conveniently right there to help.

So, what does this closure mean for students? It means a newfound lack of access to contraceptives, guidance, and gender-affirmative care. It means traveling farther--the next closest location being in Carbondale, IL, almost one hundred miles away. It means struggling to find healthcare in a state that is so quickly trying to take it away.

There's a common misconception that Planned Parenthood exclusively provides or promotes abortions. While that is typically a service offered in other states, it is not in Indiana. Even still, the stigma around the topic and the focus on it diminishes the other services provided by the organization. "The closing of the Evansville location should not be seen as a win for those who are Pro-Life" but rather a loss for the many students, non-students, and others who have relied on this place for so long to receive the care they need.
Rachel Brown, the area services director, told 14 News, "We don't plan to go anywhere as an organization, we wanna be here for Hoosiers" (14 News). Although they will continue to offer telehealth services, the removal of in-person care will prove difficult for many and emphasize how challenging it is to navigate issues like these during rapidly changing times.

> "The closing of the Evansville location should not be seen as a win for those who are Pro-Life."



GOODBYE POOL DAYS, *HELLO DUE DATES.*

Summer might be in the rearview, but new ideas, conversations, and movements are just heating up.

Here's what's in the loop this month.



- Evansville Civic Theatre makes return to their home theatre on Sep 19!
- We are getting a Dutch Bros. in town and we cannot wait!
- FIFA WORLD CUP First Limited Ticket Sales Underway!
- Cracker Barrel suspends plan to remodel restaurants after logo blowup...
- Hollow Knight: Silksong Is still such a big deal that has Broken Steam, Nintendo, and PlayStation!
- Charlie Kirk shooting suspect Tyler Robinson taken into custody.

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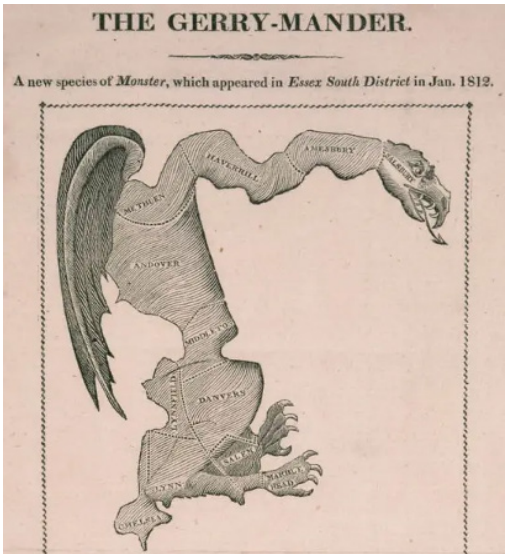
A Discussion About Redistricting

Devon Mathews

The political landscape of the United States has always been shaky since the start of the American Experiment. Important issues and rights are still being discussed today, due to our democratic system being imperfect and flawed. These issues range from LGBTQ rights, women's rights, disability rights, and so many more! However, voter rights have become an increasingly larger concern over the last decade.

In the past few political cycles, the idea of free and fair elections has come into question because of increased knowledge of the redistricting process. Originally, the redistricting process was meant to shift district boundaries to preserve an even dispersion of the population. The reason for this practice is to ensure that representatives serve roughly the same amount of people in each district. This procedure, which typically occurs once every decade, allows the courts to ensure fairness in both state and federal elections.

The process of redistricting remained effective and ethical until 1812, when sitting Governor Eldrige Gerry of Massachusetts changed history. Upon hearing that he was going to lose an upcoming election, he signed a bill that would redraw his state's election lines. By redividing the Illinois election districts, he was able to allow his party to retain control over the redrawn district for many election cycles to come. The act of redrawing state borders for election-altering purposes was later dubbed "gerrymandering." The term comes from the fact that Governor Gerry's map looked like a distorted salamander and stuck around due to being a subject of scrutiny by political cartoonists at The Boston Gazette.



Governor Eldrige Gerry of Massachuessetts salamander boaders

Two hundred and fifty years later, despite the fact that the "Gerrymander of 1812" no longer exists, gerrymandering remains a problem today. The reason for this is the failure to shut down this undemocratic action, which has allowed members of both national and state congressional bodies to utilize gerrymandering as a tool to keep power. There are two ways that gerrymandering can be carried out: packing aligning voters together into one district to strengthen the presence of a party in that area and splitting a previously strong opposition apart into other districts to weaken its impact in elections. These packing and splitting tactics undermine the idea of democracy and are used to manipulate both urban and rural environments to change the result of elections. Therefore, gerrymandering has long-term consequences for the state in question and the federal government.

Of the two parties in our current political system, neither is innocent of partisan gerrymandering. Illinois is known nationwide for being one of the worst gerrymandered states in the nation, and its thirteenth district serves as a modern example of gerrymandering by the Democratic Party. The district is drawn as a line that connects the urban areas of Champaign/Urbana, Springfield, and East St. Louis into one district, forging a democratic stronghold in the bottom half of the state. Having drawn this line, Illinois has now made voting meaningless for the conservatives in those districts. The formation of the democratic supermajority aids in swaying Illinois blue during election season.

Across the aisle, a prime example of gerrymandering committed by the Republican Party is the splitting of Salt Lake City, Utah. The city, which serves as the state's capital and has a large population of democratic voters, was split evenly into the state's four districts. This action eliminated all



Utah gerrymanding

representation of the city by removing its blue seat and dividing it among Utah's districts. With the democratic seat successfully removed, democratic voters in Utah will no longer receive representation in their state.

Although many gerrymandered borders like Illinois' 13th district have a tendency to appear strange in appearance, looks may be deceiving. Near Chicago, Illinois' fourth district consists of two communities in two different parts of the city which are only connected by a single highway. Drawing the district in such a strange way combined two Latino populations into a single district. Thus, the largely



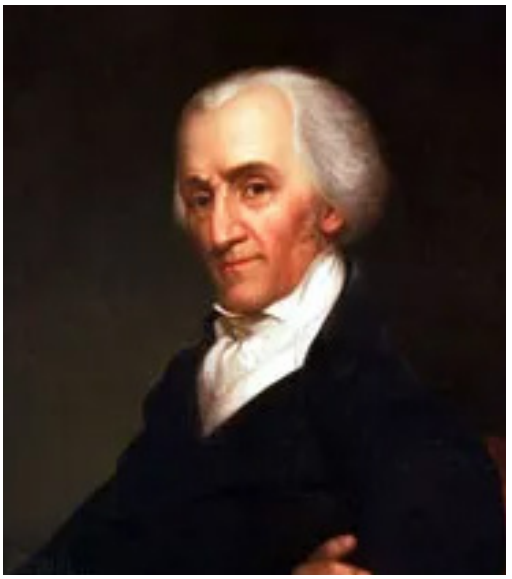
Illinois gerrymanding

black surrounding communities can choose their representative and the Latino community can elect its representative to serve its own community as well. This action was not an act of gerrymandering because both areas would vote blue regardless.

Over time, the process of gerrymandering has become a deep concern for both democrats and republicans alike. The consequence is that different states, such as Illinois and Utah, have quietly redrawn their districts with only the locals noticing the immediate effects of the redistricting efforts. The silence was broken when Donald Trump instructed Governor Greg Abbott of Texas to redraw Texan borders before the midterm elections. Abbott proceeded with instructing members of the Texas state congress to attend a "special session" to redraw the map due to "constitutional concerns raised by D.O.J." regarding the district maps used since 2021. In protest of the bill, Texas Democrats fled to Illinois to delay the "special session" for three weeks until they would face greater punishment if they didn't return. They returned stating that they could wage a battle for fairer redistricting measures in the courts. On August 29th, the bill to reshape Texas was passed, ensuring that five seats will go red in future elections.

On the west coast, Governor Gavin Newsom of California has declared that the Democratic Party must "fight fire with fire" and said the following in a letter sent to the president on August 10th: "If you will not stand down, I will be forced to lead an effort to redraw the maps in California to offset the rigging of maps in red states." This letter was accompanied with a twenty-four hour deadline that stated retaliatory efforts would commence if Trump and Abbott refused to stand down. Consequentially, an announcement was made the next day due to the President's inaction and California passed a bill on August 21 that allows the voters in California to decide whether or not to accept a gerrymandered map of the state. Governor Newsom ensures that his redistricting plan is not unconstitutional because it will be commenced by the will of the voters.

The United States now stands in a tumultuous time where the foundation of the democratic process is being shaken by the threat of gerrymandering. The very concept of intentionally redrawing maps to change the election turnout is a woeful, violation of the founding principles of having a democracy where everyone has a voice, because gerrymandering always silences a population of voters. At the same time, it has become a necessary countermeasure to combat executive pressure to interfere in federal elections in ways that only benefits the incumbent. While partisans across the country may hold differing opinions on whom to support in the redistricting fight, most American voters in ideal circumstances would condemn gerrymandering and urge the government to work toward illegalizing the practice in favor of a fairer system that protects voter rights.



Governor Eldrige Gerry of Massachuessetts

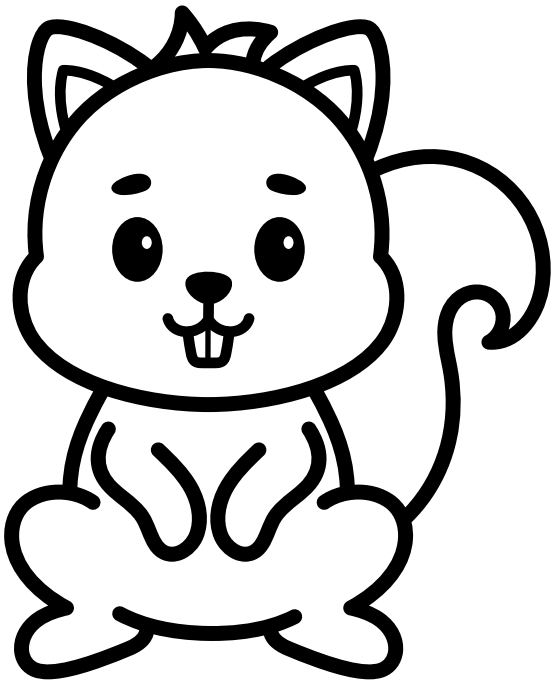


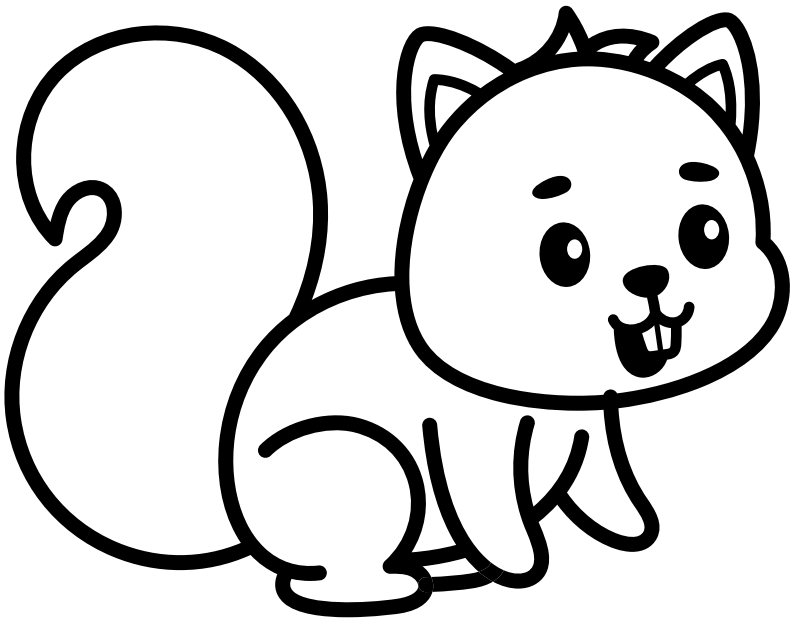
Maryland gerrymanding

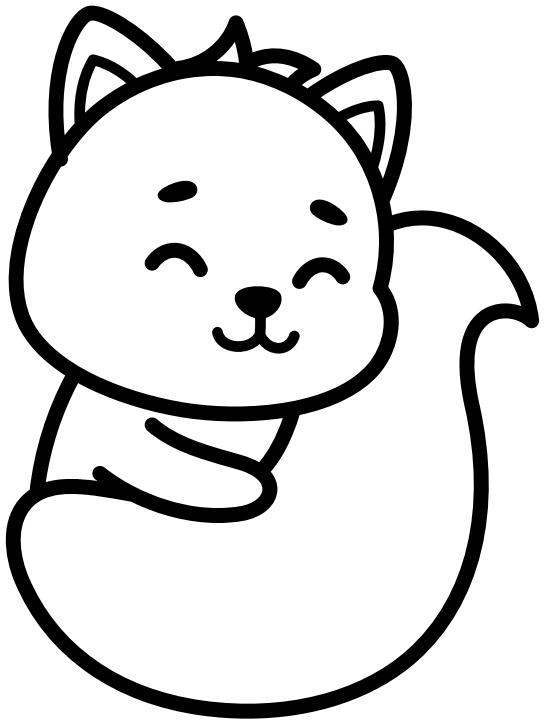


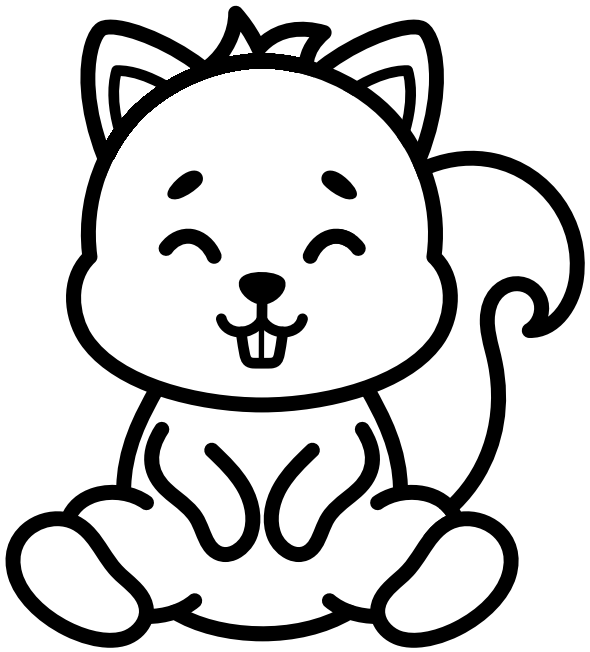
A demonstrator holds a sign during a rally to protest a Republican redistricting proposal outside the Texas Capitol on Thursday. (Eric Gay / Associated Press)

School is hard enough,
take a coloring break! #IYKYK









FOR THE *LOVE OF OWLS*

By Rachel Hoke



FIJI and Chi Omega are partnering together for the third annual Owl Prowl benefiting the Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve on October 26th. Chi O started the event in 2023 and partnered with FIJI in 2024. Both Greek Life organizations have owls as their symbols so it is only appropriate that this event helps to raise money for Wesselman Woods' animal ambassadors: Hattie the great horned owl, Artemis the eastern screech owl, and Chip the barred owl. These birds are non-releasable as they each have an injury that makes them dependent on humans. Returning students may remember Artemis as he has been on campus to promote owl prowl in the past! Artemis and Hattie are ambassadors because they received wing damage from car strikes. Chip is an ambassador because he has a deformed foot that makes it hard for him to survive on his own. Both Chi O and FIJI will be competing to see who raises the most money.

JOIN US!

Owl Prowl on Sunday Oct. 26
Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
From 10AM TO 2PM

Admission to Wesselman Woods is free on the day of the event, but you can donate to become a walk-a-thon participant where there will be themed prizes for participants as well as pumpkin painting for free.

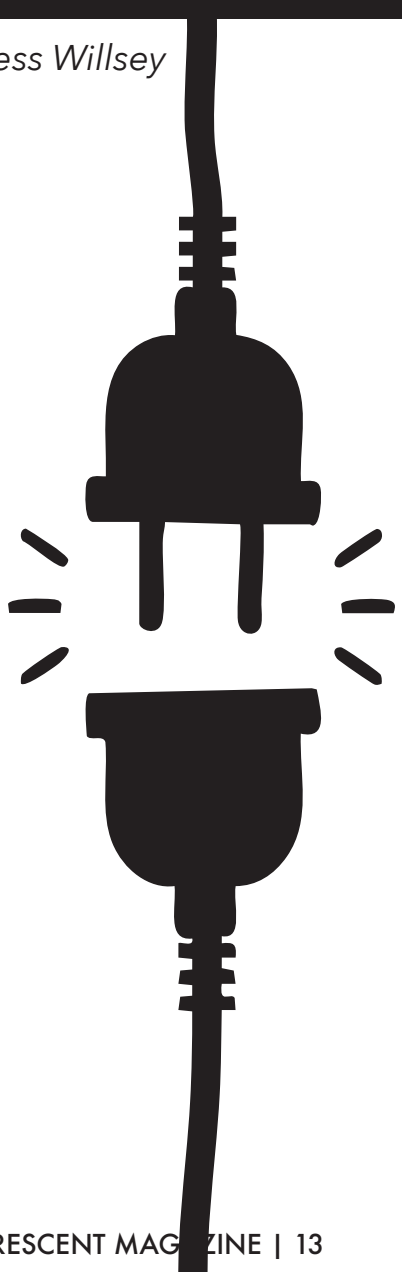






DIGITAL DETOX: WHY COLLEGE STUDENTS NEED TO UNPLUG

Jess Willsey



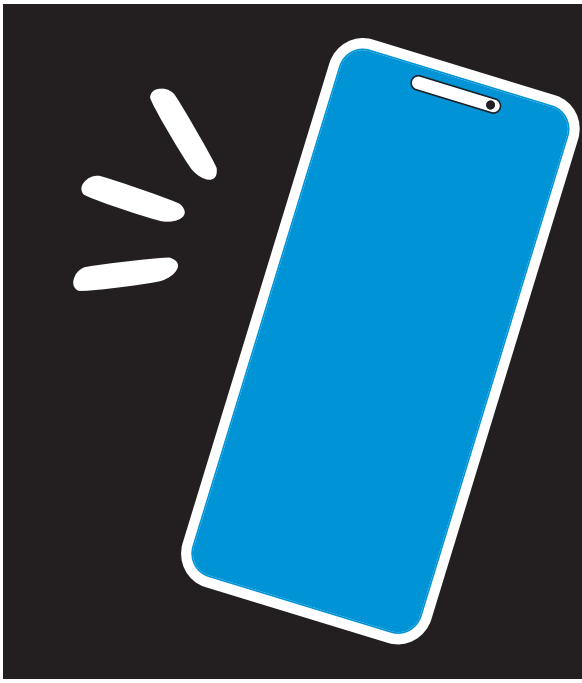
Let's be honest: most of us are glued to our phones. Whether we're taking notes in class, scrolling through TikTok, replying to messages, or watching Netflix to unwind, screens are a constant part of college life. And while technology definitely has its perks, it helps us stay connected and get things done, it also takes a real toll on our mental health, focus, and even our sleep. That's why more students should start thinking about doing a digital detox, intentionally stepping away from screens and social media to reset and recharge.

One of the biggest benefits of unplugging is better mental health. Constantly being online, especially on social media, can seriously mess with how we feel about ourselves and the world around us. It's easy to fall into the trap of comparing your life to someone else's highlight reel or getting caught up in negative news. Over time, that can lead to anxiety, stress, and burnout. When we take breaks from the digital noise, we give ourselves space to breathe, reflect, and just be. Even a short break from screens can help clear our heads and reduce that feeling of being overwhelmed.

Unplugging can also help us focus better and get more done. Let's face it, studying while getting constant notifications or switching between tabs isn't exactly productive. It's hard to stay locked in when your phone is lighting up every two seconds. Studies have shown that it takes time to refocus after a distraction, so even quick check-ins on Instagram or texts can really add up. Taking time away from screens can improve our concentration, help us stay on top of schoolwork, and even make us more creative. On top of that, cutting back on screen time, especially before bed, can lead to better sleep. Blue light from phones messes with our sleep cycles, and most of us could use more quality rest.

The good news is, doing a digital detox doesn't mean giving up your phone forever. It's more about setting boundaries and being intentional with your screen time. Try starting small: put your phone away during meals, take a break from social media in the morning, or stop scrolling an hour before bed. You can even use apps that track or limit your usage to help keep you accountable. If you're up for a challenge, try going one full day, or even a weekend, without screens every now and then. It's surprising how refreshing it can be.

At the end of the day, we're not saying technology is bad. It's a huge part of our lives, and it's not going anywhere. But that's exactly why it's important to step back sometimes. A digital detox gives us the chance to reconnect with ourselves, get our minds right, and take better care of our overall well-being. In a world that never really powers down, choosing to unplug, if only for a little while, might be one of the smartest things we can do.



Hazel

A lantern lives in the hush of autumn,
not gold,not green, not brown
but a seam between seasons,
The hush where leaves hesitate to fall.

It is the color of rain where it lingers,
Of woodsmoke dreaming in a meadow,
Of fire softened into moss.
No map dares hold it,
for it shifts with the hour,
a tide pulled by hidden constellations.



In such light, silence grows radiant,
Shadows forget their weight,
And a gaze becomes a spell
rewriting the wanderer into belonging,
turning the questions into answers
Without a single word spoken.

Worlds tremble to gather there,
for in that mercurial glow
Light itself confess its secret:
It was never meant to be pure,
but woven
wild, tender, infinite
Into the shade of one unrepeatable flame.

Was Weapons a Missed Opportunity—*or Just Art?*

Chance McDowell

The trailer for Weapons had me waiting on the edge of my seat from the moment I saw it. Even my boyfriend, who hates scary movies, was as eager to see it as I was. I knew it centered on a group of children mysteriously disappearing in a town, but what I did not know was why it was titled Weapons. When I finally sat down to watch the film I was excited to find out. Instead, I left the theater confused. Honestly, I was a little disappointed.

The story centers around a class of young children who disappear, leaving only one student and their teacher behind. Based on this, and the surreal image of a massive floating assault rifle, I was convinced that Weapons would be an allegory on gun violence—possibly a commentary on school shootings. I thought the symbolism was reason enough. However, after a few intense scenes filled with guns and fear, the movie shifted. The floating rifle was not referenced again. There was no deeper commentary on school violence. The film never directly addressed guns, school shootings, or the trauma caused by them.



Immediately after seeing the movie, I decided to research what director Zach Cregger's vision for the movie really was. Through this I found that the film was not meant to be a commentary on gun violence at all. For Cregger, the movie was meant to be a personal, autobiographical story that he wrote while navigating the grief of losing one of his closest friends.

If you are like me, this would throw you off. This film is full of violent and disturbing scenes which are made even more so because it involves young students. School shootings are a subject we can't afford to ignore. In fact, since the start of the school year there have been 33 school shootings in the U.S. 19 have been on college campuses and 14 on K–12 school grounds.

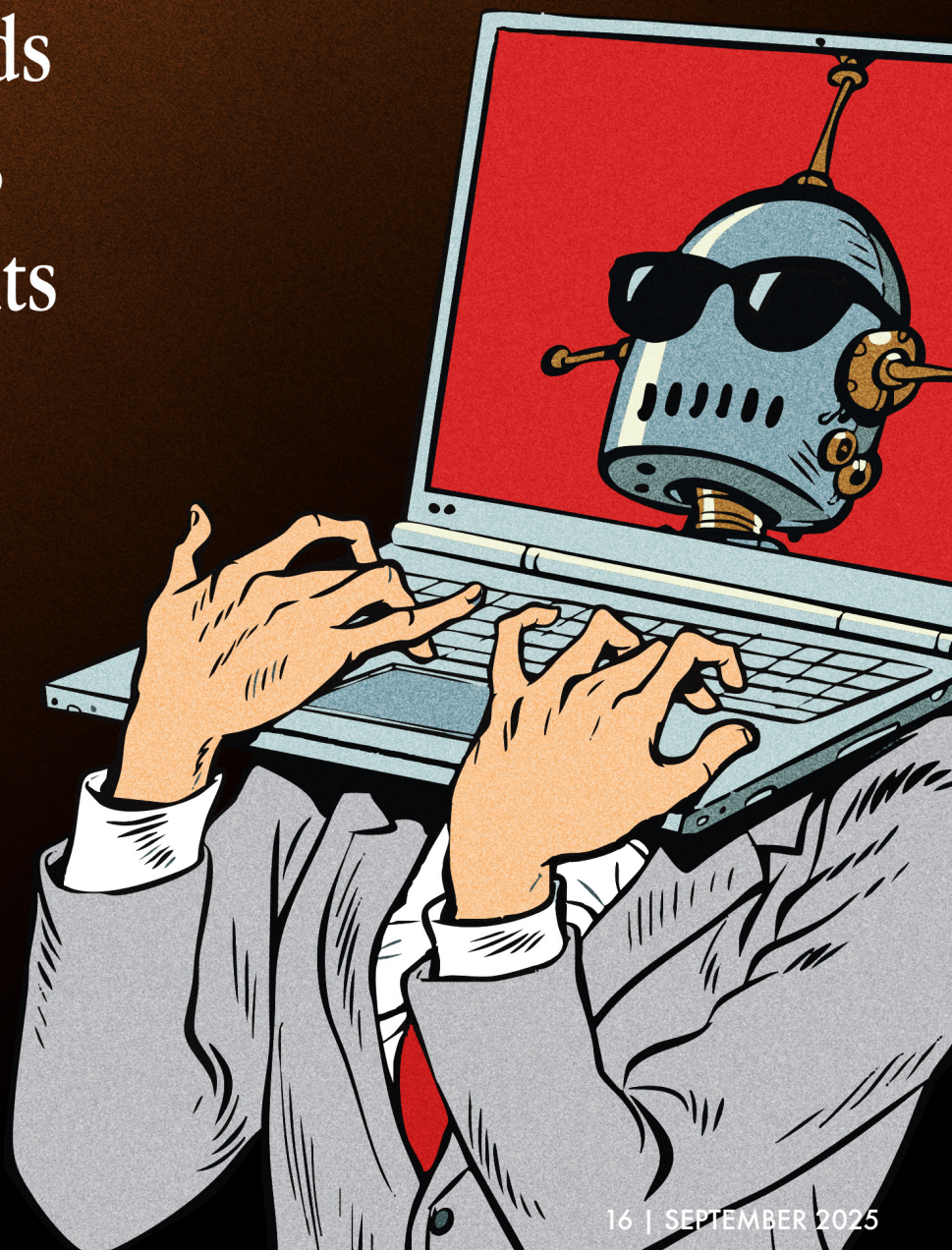
On one hand, I wondered if the film should have addressed this crisis directly. On the other, I believe art is a powerful tool for expressing difficult emotions and sparking conversations that can resonate in ways that news headlines and statistics simply cannot. Not every work of art needs to carry a political message or social commentary. Cregger made a deliberate choice to keep the film's message open-ended, allowing space for viewers to bring their own interpretations, and to me, that is valid as well.

So, what do you think? Should Weapons have taken a stronger stance against school shootings, or is it enough for art to just be art?

Hire a real person.

(it's worth it.)

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MORTON
DESIGN COLLECTIVE

This Month in History

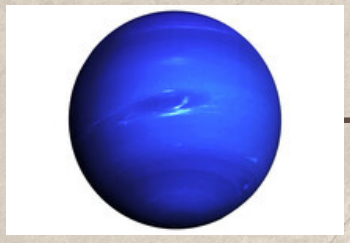
September 2, 1789: Congress establishes the United States Département of Treasury. George Washington appoints Alexander Hamilton as the first Secretary of Treasury, and he was later sworn in on September 11th.

September 1, 1985: The wreck of the Titanic is found. The joint British-French expedition locates the wreckage on the floor of the North Atlantic 73 years after it struck the iceberg.



September 13, 1985: Super Mario Bros. is released in Japan for the Nintendo Entertainment System.

September 22, 1888: The first issue of the National Geographic magazine is published. It was sent to 165 charter members of the National Geographic Society; since then, the magazine has reached millions of people worldwide.



September 23, 1846: The Planet Neptune is discovered by astronomers Jean Urbain Le Verrier, John C. Adams, and Johann Galle.

September 3, 301: San Marino is founded. It is in the Italian Peninsula and is one of the smallest nations. It is the oldest sovereign state still in existence and the oldest constitutional republic.

September 4, 1998: Larry Page and Sergey Brin founded Google. Both founders were PhD candidates at Stanford University who built the search engine as part of a research project.



September 14, 1752: Great Britain changes from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian one, making September 3, 1752, to September 14, 1752, instantly.



September 24, 1929: Jimmy Doolittle flies an airplane at Mitchel Field in New York. This is a notable feat as Doolittle flew with a canvas canopy covering the cockpit.

September 25, 1981: Sandra Day O'Connor is sworn in as the first female US Supreme Court justice.

September 6, 1991: Leningrad is renamed back to Saint Petersburg after the collapse of the USSR by Russian legislators. It was changed to Leningrad in 1924 after the Bolshevik Revolution swept communists into power.



September 5, 1774: The first Continental Congress was held in Philadelphia. Attendees such as George Washington, John Adams, and John Jay assembled to draft a response to the British Parliament's passage of the Intolerable Acts.



September 15, 1916: Tanks are used in war for the first time at the Battle of Somme in WW1.

September 16, 1620: The Pilgrims set sail for America on the Mayflower.



September 26, 1687: The Parthenon in Athens explodes. When Turkish forces were occupying the city, they used it as a munitions dump. It exploded, partially destroying the Parthenon when a missile from Venetian forces sparked it.

Allee Skinner



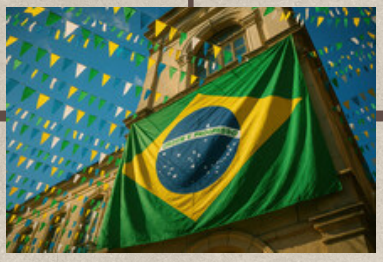
September 8, 1883: The Northern Pacific Railroad is completed in the US. This makes it the second transcontinental railroad to be completed in the United States.

September 9, 1956: Elvis Presley makes his first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show. He performed "Don't Be Cruel" and "Hound Dog," becoming a household name overnight.

September 12, 1940: Prehistoric paintings are discovered in a cave in Lascaux, France. An 18-year-old discovered the entrance of the cave. The paintings depict horses, deer, and other animals. The paintings are estimated to be around 17,000 years old.



September 7, 1822: Brazil declares independence after being under Portugal rule for 322 years.



September 10, 1913: The Lincoln Highway opens. It is the first paved highway in the United States that stretches from the East to the West Coast.



September 11, 1903: The Milwaukee Mile opens at the Wisconsin State Fair Park, making it the oldest motor speedway in the world.



September 17, 1787: Members of the Constitutional Convention sign the Constitution, making this day Constitution Day.



September 18, 1977: Voyager 1 photographs the Earth and Moon together.

September 19, 1902: The Wright Brothers begin experimenting with gliders. They performed 1,000+ glider flights near Kitty Hawk, NC. A year later, they took off with the world's first airplane.

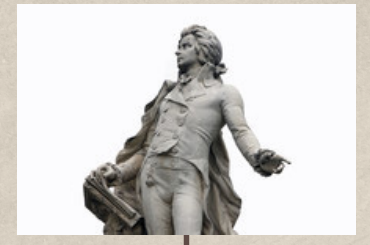
September 20, 2011: The US Military ends the "don't ask, don't tell."

September 21, 1898: The Hundred Days of Reform in China come to an end. The Empress Dowager Cixi seized power from the emperor, putting an end to his social programs.

September 27, 1825: The Stockton and Darlington Railway opens in England. This was the first public railroad to use steam locomotives.

September 28, 48 BCE: The Roman General Pompey the Great was murdered. After his army is defeated by one led by Caesar during the Roman Civil War, he fled to Egypt. King Ptolemy wanted to win favor with Rome, so he ordered his execution as soon as he came ashore.

September 29, 1227: Pope Gregory IX excommunicates the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II for refusing the take part in the Crusades.



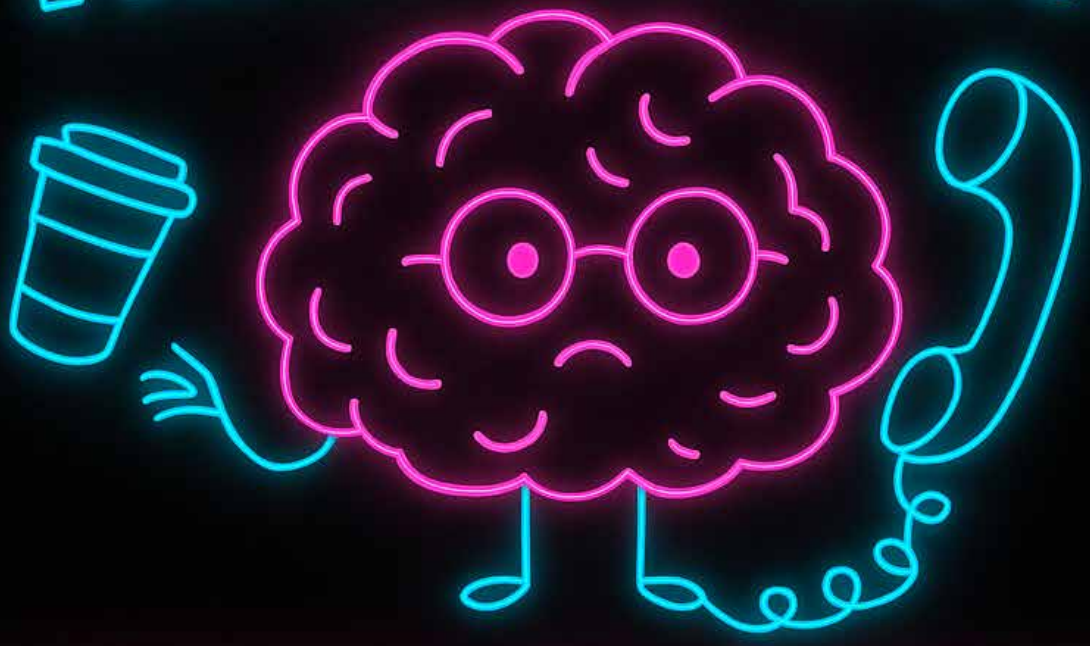
September 30, 1791: Mozart debuts The Magic Flute in Vienna, Austria

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