

The Round Table

Poorly performing “*Lover, You Should Have Come Over*” since 1853

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@BeloitRoundTable

Chelonia: The Preshow

By FLORA MILFORD AND ELLA DIERS



Dorian Serra'25

Get your dancing shoes on and mosey on over to the last Chelonia in the Neese Theater this week! Directed by Chris Johnson, Chelonia is Beloit's annual dance concert. There will be an astounding eleven dance performances choreographed by students and faculty alike. "The choreography is by both students and faculty, there are lots of different styles and I'm gonna be busting it down personally. It's gonna be lit," said Ava Parr'25. This is not Parr's

first rodeo. The junior has participated in Chelonia in the past, but that doesn't dim her excitement for this show. "I heard Adrianna's twerking in Chelonia," she said. Adrianna Terrell'25 is also a dance veteran. "We're so excited to show you what we've been working on... we've been working on it since September," she said. Terrell also participated in December Dance and will be performing that solo again in Chelonia.

Marino Komai, a sophomore at Beloit and a dancer in the show, raved about the upcoming performance, stating that "Chelonia has beautiful lighting and setting... People should know how beautiful it is, the dancers are amazing and creative. So everyone should be there!" Gina T'ai, assistant professor of dance at Beloit, is choreographing a dance featuring Emma Logas, Shakira Wilson, and Bethany Yu. T'ai also

spoke about the beauty of dance. She spoke about how through witnessing live art, you experience something visceral. In a culture where everyone is living through a screen, we don't value live performance art. In going to a performance like Chelonia, the viewer can experience a way of feeling, experiencing art for art's sake. T'ai said that people are sometimes put off from going to dance shows like Chelonia because they feel like there's something they need to "get." They come away feeling stupid for not "getting it," but there's nothing to "get." The point is to feel. Viv Kopka'27 is in three group numbers this Chelonia: "Hallucinations," "Alive!" and "Why?" Kopka spoke about her costumes for the show, saying "One of my costumes has a 'going-out' vibe, and I think the choreographer and the costume shop did a good job matching our personalities with our outfits." She also spoke about Shelbi Wilkin, the manager of the costume

shop at Beloit. "Shelbi, and everyone in the costume shop, have been doing amazing. They want to make sure you feel comfortable and look good." In classic Beloit fashion, Chelonia is turtle-related: the name "Chelonia" refers to a type of turtle, scientifically known as Testudines. The word "Chelonian" is now used in place of the word "Chelonia," but the words can be used interchangeably. Chelonians are known for their hard outer shells because, like turtles,

they are turtles. The dance has its own sneaky connection to Beloit's favorite animal! As the former Beloit College President Scott Bierman would say, "Chelonians all the way down!" Chelonia goes up this Thursday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. with subsequent shows on Friday and Saturday, also at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. From behind-the-scenes technical aspects, outstanding dancers, and masterful choreographers, the show is set up to be a smashing success.



Dorian Serra'25

An Alternative to Give-and-Takes?

By EZEKIEL KINGSBURY



Ezekiel Kingsbury'25

On November 16 of last year, Reslife announced that "give-and-takes," where students leave unwanted clothing items in a location for others to pick sweet

treats from, were hereby prohibited. The Round Table's features editor, Svea Jones'25, reported that Reslife wanted to relieve student workers of monitoring unregulated

locations for items like trash and foodstuff. However, as this policy meant "books, clothes, items, and appliances would be inaccessible to students who don't have transportation" or financial means, the idea of "give-and-takes" needed to be reevaluated to continue this necessary feature of campus living. On Friday, February 2, the Sustainability Channel hosted a clothing exchange in the Carson Club Hub of the Powerhouse, right by the front desk. Simone Aurelie de Montigny'26, who works for the Sustainability Channel, said this exchange was a good stand-in for give-and-takes, as it still features the integral elements of reuse and sustainability without allowing the possibility of unwanted items (like a sack of potatoes) finding their way in. The exchange only lasted for a couple of hours, though, a clear drawback that doesn't allow for many students with time conflicts to have access. "It would be awesome if we could have a give-and-take that could be productive and clean," Simone said. "I want a

give-and-take with only the beautiful bits." Sustainability is a huge feature of give-and-takes, as there will always be "things in [your] closet you don't wear, but other people might," Maj Sprenger-Otto'24, who also works for the Sustainability Channel, said. Also, "it's always fun to get something new." This reporter found a beautiful sweater at the exchange, which was wonderful. Lili Edwards'26, speaking for the Round Table's own Arts Editor Ella Silva'26, boasted "a big pink robe with feathers on the sleeves. The kind people wear after they murder their husband, but hot pink." Briana Perez'25 showed off their T-Rex shirt, and Simone flexed that they once found a great pair of mittens, "the kind with fingers and a little hat." Exchangers and perusers discussed the importance of exchanges like this. They reduce waste and bring the community together. One commented on being inspired by other students' fashion choices. After the exchange, the winter clothing items that were left over were placed

in a bin, which Students for an Inclusive Campus (SIC) will place in the Powerhouse for students in need of winter wear. SIC is accepting winter items such as socks, scarves,

hats, gloves, sweaters, jackets, mittens, and snow pants until February 7. You can donate these items by bringing them to the Powerhouse desk.



Ezekiel Kingsbury'25

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CONTACT
roundtable@beloit.edu
kingsburyew@beloit.edu
diersem@beloit.edu

The Round Table meets every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on the second floor of Pearsons. Come with anything. We will take anything. Please.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Round Table provides a balanced, creative, newspaper for the Beloit College community. It is an outlet for creative minds that don't take the news too seriously.

STANDARDS & ETHICS
The *Round Table* prides itself on producing content of the highest quality and integrity. All stories will be covered with the greatest degree of impartiality possible, resulting in a fair and balanced presentation of the news.

For more info, visit beloitcollegeroundtable.com/about-this-site/standards-and-ethics

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If you find an error, please send an email to roundtable@beloit.edu with "CORRECTION" in the subject line.

STAFF

Editors-In-Chief:
Ezekiel Kingsbury
Ella Diers

News Editor:
Sophia Nitsche

Features Editor:
Svea Jones

Arts Editor:
Ella Silva

Sports Editor:
AJ Lee

Op-Ed Editor:
Flora Milford

Copy Editor:
Vivian Kopka

Graphics and Web Editor:
Cam Stenberg

Back Editor:
Cam Stenberg

Staff Writers:
Ben O'Connor
Miles Souza
Brendan Meyers
Vanessa Skildum
Tazia Machl
Dorian Serra
Brigid Parker
Jazmin Gomez
Joya Saxena
Chris Andaya
Kai Colbert
Eric Seo
Grayson Thobe
Siona Shishak
Emma Laus
Elyashive Amster
Isaac Holt
Morgan Sheldon
Elliot Ave-Lallemant

Contributing Writers:
Alex Cambouris
Chuck McQuaid (former college trustee)

The Round Table editorial board pride ourselves on providing an entirely student-run news and editorial source for the Beloit College community. The content of each issue is neither reviewed nor approved by college faculty or administration before it goes to print.

Executive Board's Karaoke Extravaganza Leaves Beloit College Speechless

By EZEKIEL KINGSBURY

On Saturday, February 2, C-Haus hosted BSG's first-ever inaugural celebration. In the ambiance of C-Haus' new lighting, the freshly appointed BSG executive board took the stage amid applause, setting the tone for an evening of karaoke, pool, foosball, and other festivities. President Camille Ledoux'25, Vice President Momina Amjad'26, Communications Director Sristi Halder'26, Funding Board Director Julie Bach'26, and COO Director Jasmin Bowers'25 each gave a brief speech that emphasized their goals of transparency and being a bridge of communication between students and administration. Also mentioned were Reslife and Bon Appetit, and how this board hoped to better students' experiences on campus through various Beloit College institutions.

Ledoux shared with the Round Table that she was drawn to BSG with the aim of influencing administration for the better and fostering greater engagement in social activities. She said, "We're working on visibility and transparency." She also touched on the "food situation," labeling it as a priority and spoke on how BSG planned to amplify communication for both BSG and all campus organizations to boost engagement.



Ella Diers'25

For those eager to contribute, Ledoux suggested joining the Food Advisory Committee as one avenue for involvement, but unfortunately, the Funding Board and Communications Team is filled. Additionally, she mentioned upcoming fall elections and the opportunity to become an academic senator. She further shared that BSG's top goals this semester were community, transparency, engagement, change, and inclusivity. After their speeches, the board sang "Love Story" to a thunderous crowd. They were pumping their

fists, love was in the air, I had my first kiss, Jalen Ponder'25 did a backflip... Let me tell you, it was w i l d. The rest of the night was filled with dancing and karaoke. This reporter, if I do say so myself, did extremely well on karaoke at a couple of Tyler Childers numbers. I would say more but I don't kiss and tell. This campus, if this night said anything, is on the up and up. Feel free to reach out to BSG over email if you have any questions, and thank you to C-Haus for hosting.

Big Time Rush Vibes, Stinkiest Deuces, and TKE's Love for Bricks

By MORGAN SHELDON and EZEKIEL KINGSBURY

This week, Rush is in full swing. Kappa Delta, Theta Pi Gamma, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Chi are all looking for new members in the Spring 2024 semester. If Greek Life interests you—or you just want to check it out—each Fraternity & Sorority will be hosting Rush events to look for potential new members.

To understand why one might want to Rush a fraternity or sorority, the Round Table spoke with Phi Kappa Psi's president, Steven Hall Jr.'25. In his words, "[Fraternities and Sororities] offer a large group of friends and a sense of belonging." He explained his reason for joining a Fraternity, "I want to break out of my shell and learn more about others; I want to learn more about myself and how I interact with others." Steven then talked about the similarities between Greek Life and a business—it has to be well-oiled, work well, and the people within need to have a true sense of trust and companionship with each other. He ended our conversation by saying that connections made in Greek Life can last a lifetime, not only because of the companionship

of your fellow brothers, sisters, or siblings, but because you now have something in common with people across the country. In essence, Greek Life can be a lot more than simply parties on the weekends and a nice room.

The Round Table also sat down with Solvi Gunderson'23 and Dillon Coclasure'25, members of TKE.

RT: When you think of Rush, what do you think of?

DC: First thing that comes to mind is Big Time Rush... but I love the recruitment process. I love meeting the new guys—making them and molding them into new TKEs.

SG: For my Rush, I didn't want to go to any events until I was forced to, and then I was in TKE. I'm glad I was forced to.

RT: Talk to me about the TKE brick.

DC: When they were making the science center, they left a bunch of bricks behind. We paint these bricks each Rush for our littles. We really think of each other as a family.

RT: Give me some classic Rush characters.

SG: There's some geeks, there's some jocks. We've definitely gotten

more shy people, and I've been pleasantly surprised when they come out of their shell.

At this point, Dillon asked us "Do you know who drops the stinkiest deuces?" and proceeded to pat Solvi on the leg, all gentle-like.

RT: What's your pitch for the frat?

SG: We offer a support system. We offer an inclusive environment.

RT: 3 words to describe TKE?

SG: So super cool

RT: Any rush memories?

DC: We do an annual boathouse event in the fall. An anonymous individual has fallen into the river on three separate occasions.

SG: I don't know, Rush is pretty mundane. For me, I don't have enough time to really connect with people. You might say Rush is... too rushed.

If you think Greek Life is for you, feel free to reach out to a member of your chosen chapter and make yourself known by going to their events—or, you could attend a few different chapters' events and see which you fit with most.

Rush week events:

THETA
February 5 - jewelry making
February 11 - cupcake decorating
February 12 - valentine's making
February 14 - chocolate-covered strawberries
February 16 - hot chocolate

PHI PSI
February 6 - cook-in
February 8 - Smash tournament
February 9 - ice cream social
February 11 - dodgeball
February 12 - house tour (with pizza!)

KAPPA DELTA
February 6 - photo frame decorating
February 8 - hot chocolate bar
February 13 - cookie decorating
February 15 - house tour

TKE
February 7 - game night
February 9 - house tour
February 13 - tacos
February 15 - games in the sports center

Welcome Back Beloiters: First Week Shenanigans

By SOPHIA NITSCHKE and FLORA MILFORD

Beloit College campus, this spring semester, has been bumping. From jujitsu, parties, studying, and a Gaga Ball injury, Beloiters have had a mixed bag of emotions about this first week. Some arose after this amalgamation of experiences, stating "I woke up on the right side of the bed," while others blew a raspberry at it.

Frank Sharp Hooton'26 and Cory S. Harrison'24 were loitering in the Powerhouse gym when

they started to spin a yarn. Hooton, a professional Gaga Ball player (a game consisting of hitting a ball with your hands at the under-knee portion of the body) injured himself during a tournament at the Powerhouse Takeover. An event marking the beginning of the semester, they had all sorts of activities, including Hooton's weakness: Gaga Ball. Predictably, he went straight for the ball, and started a

hyper-competitive round, ending with him and one other person. Legend says it was one of the most intense things to have ever occurred in the Powerhouse. Sweat could be smelled in a ten-foot radius of the pit.

As the duo smashed the ball in an attempt to hit the other's foot, war cries could be heard from Commons. Hooton, a quick-witted guy, came up with a plan to end this once and for all. He was

going to acquire the ball, go behind his opponent, and hit it off the wall, winning the game. When he went to execute his plan and got behind his target, all of a sudden, he got hit by an arm in his face. "Dazed" is how Hooton described the feeling as the crowd went silent, and blood started gushing from his nose.

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Checking in with himself, it was very clear at that moment that he had broken something in his nose. The game, his livelihood, the love, and light drained from the room, but Hooton, in his ultimate wisdom, thought “No.” When explaining this story to the Round Table in the Powerhouse gym, he said, “In my mind, I am thinking, ‘I broke my nose for this and I am not losing.’” Then he took the ball and shot it at his very distracted opponent’s foot, taking the win and earning his nickname: Awesome Guy. Beloit College senior Deveroh Grey’24 was one of the few students to blow a raspberry when initially asked about their

first week back. Upon further reflection, however, he stated “It’s just been long. The first week back has felt like three weeks. I don’t know if it’s getting back to a normal schedule but half of my professors have had to have Zoom classes or skip classes altogether so I haven’t fallen into that schedule yet that’s supposed to help. But my classes are fun! I’m sure I’ll get there.” Although not all sunshine and roses, Grey has a writ determination that seems to underlie many students’ thoughts for this semester. Brothers in fraternity, as well as real life, Caedyn Wells’25, and Cameron Harper’27 expressed more overall excitement. Wells smiled jauntily before stating “Classes have been going really well!

Break was refreshing and I feel re-energized. It’s been a struggle getting back into the life-school-work balance, but other than that, my professors seem happy to be back and I’m happy to be back as well!” Harper backpacked off of this excitement, stating “I love getting to meet new people and put myself out there again. I’m actually very excited for this semester, I have high hopes for it!” While the attitudes of Beloiters are mixed, most students, regardless of the occasional adversary, seem to share a collective eagerness surrounding this semester. We hope this semester is wonderful for students, faculty, staff, and beloved President Eric Boynton alike!



Frank Sharp Hooton’26 and Corey Harrison’24, by Sophia Nitsche’25

Black History Month Archive Night: Reflecting on Beloit’s Past

By CHRIS ANDAYA

Beloit College kicked off its celebration of Black History Month with a compelling look at the history of Black students at Beloit College. On Feb. 1, 2024, Fred Burwell, the College Archivist Emeritus, hosted an Archives Night detailing the history of Black students at Beloit up until the 1970s. The event was attended by Gloria Bradley, Cecil Youngblood, Eric Boynton, and several students. Burwell started with the statement, “[we’ll go over] lots of things, both uncomfortable and comfortable, but it’s all part of the story.” What followed was an exploration of the deep history concerning Black students at Beloit College until the 1970s. Burwell covered many important events, such as when the first Black students arrived at Beloit College in the 1880s, the Great Migration and its effects on Beloit, the first Black students to enter into Beloit’s Greek life, the first set of Black Demands, and

much more. While I’d love to be able to include everything that Burwell presented, I’m going to avoid doing so for two reasons: 1. I would not do Burwell’s presentation justice by forgetting minor, yet important details. 2. I would not be able to include everything that should be included when summarizing the Archives Night. Instead, I would like to describe the lives of a few students who proved to be important in Beloit’s Black History. Keep in mind, these are very rudimentary descriptions of people’s lives which were full of significance. Charles Winter Wood, class of 1895, was one of the first Black graduates from Beloit College. Wood attended Beloit College after he was heard reciting Shakespeare. At Beloit College, Wood became a well-known actor and orator during his time, winning local, state-wide, and interstate championships. After his time at Beloit College,



Chris Andaya’26

Wood taught at Tuskegee Institute among other schools. Grace Ousley, class of 1904, became the first Black woman to graduate from Beloit College. She taught at an orphan school but sadly died shortly after in 1908. Patricia

Hamilton, class of 1963, had another interesting story. When she attended Beloit College, she attempted to pledge to the Delta Gamma sorority. After being unfairly turned away by nationals, she withdrew her pledge with the rest of Delta Gamma standing with her.

After rebelling against the national sorority, the Beloit chapter of Delta Gamma became the local sorority Theta Pi Gamma. After Beloit College, Hamilton had acquired a career at Ohio University. During the Archives Night, Burwell showcased many more

notable students in a much more descriptive way than I could ever try to achieve. If the stories of these Black students interested you, or you’re curious about the specifics of what within Beloit College’s Black history has led to what the school is today, contact Fred Burwell at burwellf@beloit.edu. Burwell also published an article series called “Fridays at Fred,” where he chronicles the rich history of Beloit, including the history of Black students.

Art, Anarchy, and a Silhouette Rifleman

By ALEX CAMBOURIS



Svea Jones’25

The Wright Museum of Art hosted a special panel on Thursday, February 1, presented by the talented artist troupe Fatherless. Greg Lang, Javier Jimenez, and Dave Menard united in Rockford in 2010 and have pursued many forms of artistic media together as Fatherless. The trio operates symbiotically, always collaborating and improving upon each other’s work. In doing so, they hope to encourage their combined creativity to flourish. Dave

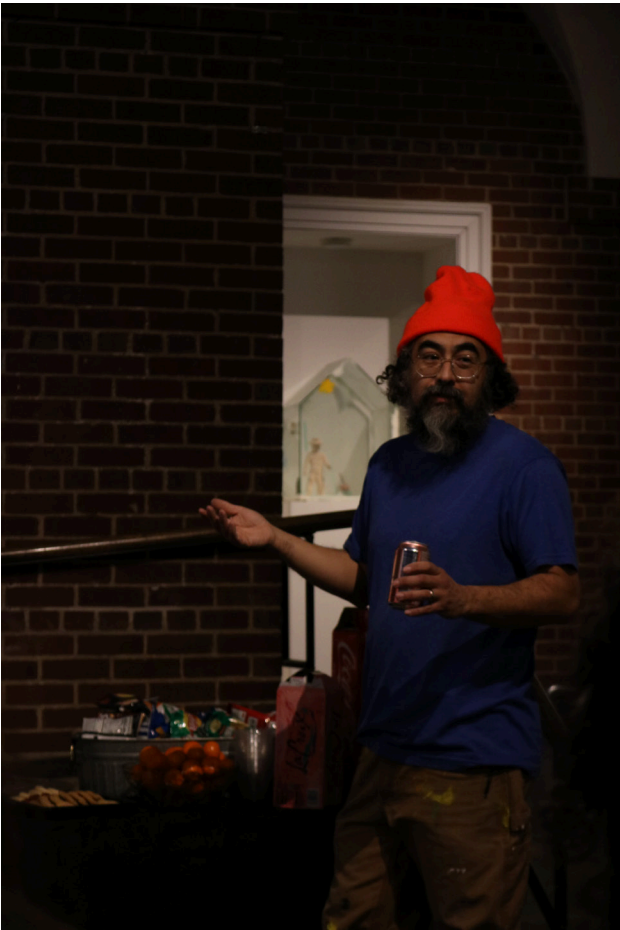
described it best during his presentation, “our powers were stronger together.” Fatherless’ distinctive approach to artistry is undoubtedly reflected within their art. The group specializes in printmaking, which Dave described as “the graphic reproduction of anything,” and “the art of the multiple.” In layman’s terms, it is pressing an image onto a certain surface. Fatherless stated they particularly love collage-making and printing. By combining

any number of elements, an infinite set of unique collages can be made, yet working with such a monumental amount of creative freedom is no challenge to the good men of Fatherless. Printmaking has other unique benefits as an art form. For one, it’s cheap to produce as well as sell. While still a business, Fatherless are artists first and foremost, and being able to allow as many people to enjoy art as possible is of great

importance. They have been known to host free art giveaways, and many pieces can be enjoyed by anyone in public, such as the enormous HANDSHAKE mural located in Rockford, Illinois, or the many street graffiti art pieces around London! Fatherless can be recognized by the distinctive logo of a silhouette rifleman, or by the many other “brands” they employ to spread their message. Look out for a brand of the name “fine,” it might just be Greg Lang of Fatherless! To Fatherless, the most valuable lesson about making art is to have fun and enjoy your efforts, however, their work is not without many politically charged statements. The men were all raised in the punk rock world, and thus have adopted and reproduced progressive, anti-establishment ideals. Their work often features idealists and prominent figures with similar messages, such as the martyr John Brown. To Fatherless, it is important to spread the message of love and acceptance and to denounce the hate and violence so prevalent in this world.

Greg, Javier, Dave, as well as their occasional partner and good friend Ben Rider, all operate together today as Fatherless Print Posse. They host occasional

shows around the country and the UK and can be found online at wearefatherless.com and @wearefatherless on social media.



Svea Jones’25

Attending A Drawing Workshop With John Martin

By VANESSA SKILDUM

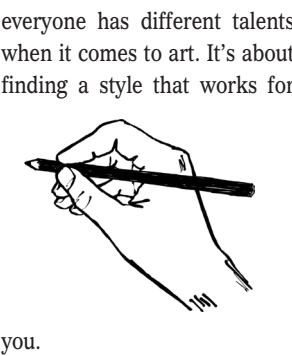


Some of Andrew Norman's artwork he was handing out. (Vanessa Skildum'27)

The Beloit Art Center, located at 530 E. Grand Avenue in downtown Beloit, held a free drawing workshop with John Martin on Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. John Martin has been an artist his whole life. He started drawing when he was little with a crayon on the wall. As he grew older, he began working at the Rock County police department as a “paper pusher” and a

coffee-getter for the chief. One day, the chief saw his drawings and recommended he go to a forensic sketch workshop to become a forensic sketch artist. And so he did. Today, he hosts workshops for the Beloit community. The workshop I attended was full of artists of all styles, mediums, and ages. The focus of the workshop was on shading and faces. Reference

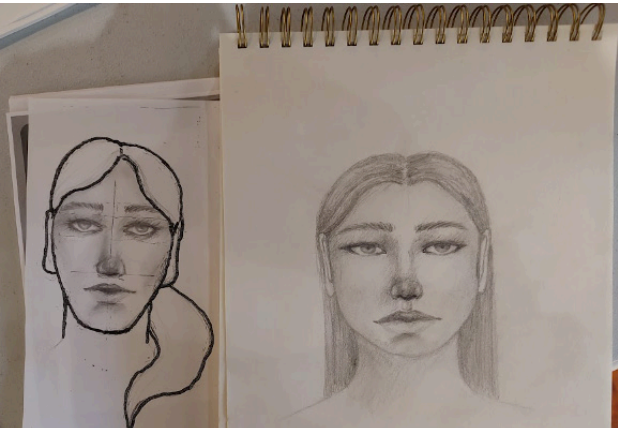
sheets, as well as packets of outlines and tips, were handed out, but you were allowed to work on anything you wished. Ben Henthorn, Beloit Art Center board member, daytime volunteer, and artist, was also there as a helping hand. Both he and Martin walked around, providing an opportunity for one-on-one advice and improvement of techniques. Another artist, Andrew Norman, was present, and he was giving away prints of his latest sketches. All three artists share the thought to just keep practicing. “It’s consistency,” says Martin, “You have to keep drawing and sketching otherwise your talent won’t grow.” “I started with just tracing bottle caps or coins and built off of those initial circles. I just kept at it until my style appeared,” says Henthorn. The workshop highlighted that



everyone has different talents when it comes to art. It’s about finding a style that works for you. As someone who doesn’t draw much, the environment was warm and inviting. Everyone was eager to see everyone’s sketches and meet one another. Multiple people had been to similar workshops before, but there was no divide based on skill level. The two hours flew by, and I ended up with two completed sketches. Ellie Repinski’27, a first-year student at Beloit College, also attended the workshop. “It was insightful and it was nice to see everyone’s personal artistic style show through,” she says. “If the art center held another

workshop, I would go back.” John Martin doesn’t just hold workshops at the Art Center. He has also held some at Beloit College and The Beloit Public Library. He hopes to hold more workshops in the future and connect with more

The Beloit Art Center is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Mondays and Saturdays. They hold other classes and workshops periodically, and host gallery receptions each month. More



Sketches by Ellie Repinski'27 at the end of the workshop. (Vanessa Skildum'27)

young artists. “The more we can collaborate and learn from each other the more exciting art becomes,” he says. information can be found at beloitartcenter.com. John Martin can also be connected with on Facebook.

Meme Wars Expert Dr. Joan Donovan Coming to Beloit in March

By JOYA SAXENA

Beloiters! How often have you been scrolling through social media and come across a devising meme that distorted or obscured the truth about a political issue or candidate? What are these memes for? Who created them? And for what purpose? They spread misinformation like wildfire! Through this, we have learned that some memes are created to stir emotion, confuse people, and control public conversation. Memes have long been dismissed as inside jokes that make people laugh from the comfort of their couches. However, memes have been weaponized by public figures in fringe politics, pushing conspiracy theories into the mainstream in hopes of dragging a large audience down a rabbit hole. What can we learn from this? How can we as a community discern these memes and critically think about their accuracy? What can we do to combat misinformation and promote honesty in public discourse? Get ready for March 18-22, because it is time to prepare for the 24th annual Weissberg

Chair Residency. This will be the opportunity to meet real Human Rights & Social Justice leaders. Every year, the Weissberg Program brings to campus scholars and activists who have made important contributions to understanding and defending human rights across the globe. Beloit students meet these individuals in classes, seminars, and keynote lectures. The Weissberg residencies are amazing ways for students to network and prepare for their careers in human rights advocacy. Additionally, Weissberg residencies contribute to important conversations on campus about relevant issues of our time and how we as a community can push for social change. This year, the Weissberg theme is Misinformation & Media Literacy. Our Chair is Dr. Joan Donovan, a leader, and trailblazer in examining Internet and technology studies, online extremism, media manipulation, and disinformation campaigns. Dr. Donovan is an assistant professor of journalism and emerging media studies at

Boston University, the Founder of the Critical Internet Studies Institute, and the coauthor of “Meme Wars: The Untold Story of the Online Battles Upending Democracy in America,” with Emily Dreyfuss and Brian Friedberg. Her research explores how media manipulation is used to control public conversation, derail democracy, and disrupt society. Dr. Donovan conducts research, develops methods, and facilitates workshops for journalists, policymakers, technologists, and civil society organizations on detecting, documenting, and debunking media manipulation campaigns. Dr. Donovan was the former Research Director of the Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media Politics and Public Policy, where she directed the Technology and Social Change Research Project. This project largely centered on media manipulation, disinformation, and adversarial media movements and published the Media Manipulation Casebook. Dr. Donovan’s academic research can be found in

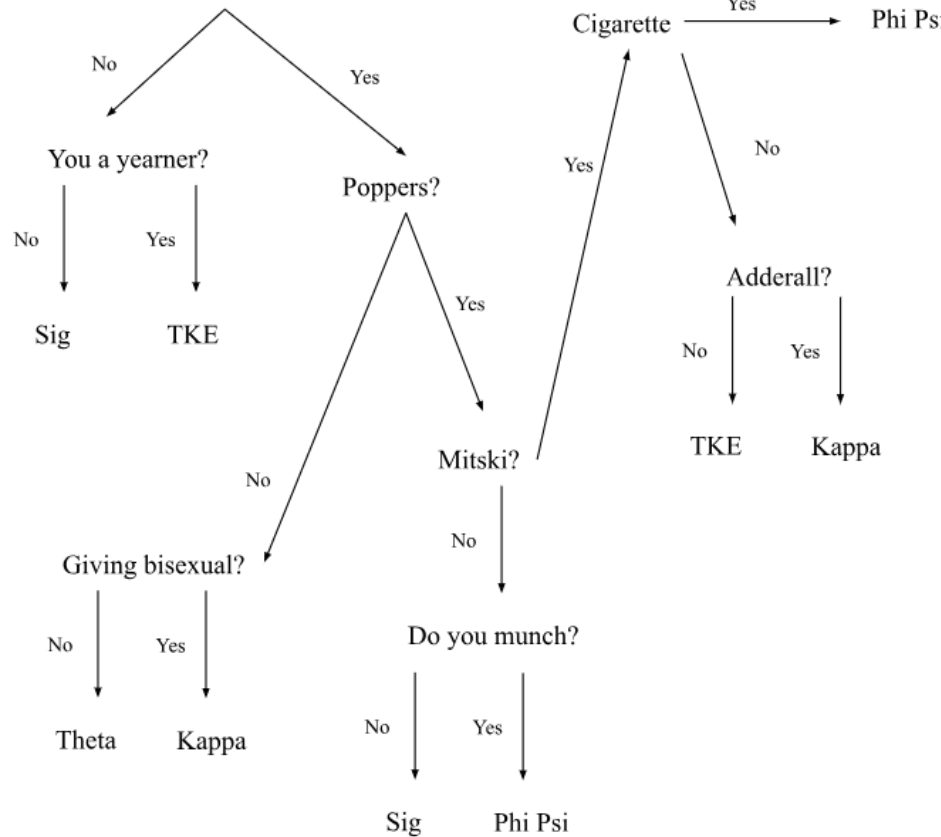
peer-reviewed journals such as Social Studies of Science, Social Media + Society, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Information, Communication & Society, and Online Information Review. Her contributions can also be found in the books, Data Science Landscape: Towards Research Standards and Protocols and Unlike Us Reader: Social Media Monopolies and Their Alternatives. Dr. Donovan has been publicly recognized for her scholarly work by mainstream media such as MIT Technology Review, NPR, Washington Post, The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Atlantic, and more. While Dr. Donovan has been a leader in this field, she has also been at the center of controversy. Dr. Donovan made national headlines recently for filing a lawsuit against Harvard University for bowing to Meta after the company retaliated against her for exposing the “Facebook Papers.” Dr. Donovan criticized Meta for owning the intellectual property of everything she wrote, including the copyright to her book “Meme

Wars.” This controversy has raised questions about the scholar’s right to free speech and academic creativity. Nonetheless, “Meme Wars” is arguably a groundbreaking body of work because before then, there was limited literature on the role of memes in political discourse. An excerpt from “Meme Wars” says, “Meme wars are culture wars, accelerated and intensified because of the infrastructure and incentives of the internet, which trades outrage and extremity as currency, rewards speed, and scale, and flattens the experience of the world into a never-ending scroll of images and words, a morass capable of swallowing patience, kindness, and understanding.” The Weissberg Program hopes students come out of this year’s program with a better understanding of how to navigate the ever-changing landscape of media consumption. It is important to understand how media manipulation tactics work to undermine our critical thinking ability and our integrity at large. On Monday, March 18

from 4 to 5 PM, we will have an exhibition opening called “Memes at War: Twentieth Century Propaganda” at the Wright Museum of Art to showcase visual propaganda from multiple national contexts in the 20th century (Japan, Spain, and Russia) as an analog precursor to Meme Wars. On Tuesday, March 19 at 7 PM, Dr. Donovan will deliver her keynote address in the Weissberg Auditorium about misinformation, Meme Wars, and media manipulation. The lecture is usually 50 minutes long with 30 minutes of Q&A to follow. On Wednesday, March 20 from 4 to 5:30 p.m, Dr. Donovan will facilitate a creative workshop with students on technology called “The Future Will Be Terrible.” Before that, there will be a lunch and learn Q&A with Dr. Donovan about careers and ethics in communication, journalism, and related fields from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. . Both events take place at Pearsons Moore Lounge. We cannot wait for you all to meet Dr. Donovan!

WHAT GREEK LIFE ARE YOU?

Have you ever stepped foot into OEC?

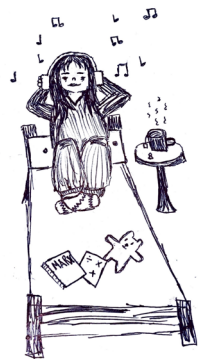


The Ultimate Sick DAY MIXTAPE

By Viv Kopka

Hello Round Table readers, Have you ever gotten a case of the Sniffles? If so, this mixtape is for you. I got sick last week, and from out of that darkness emerged the indomitable spirit of human creativity. With no further explanation, here is The Ultimate Guide to Sick Days, by me, Vivian17K on spotify:

- 1) T.I.B.W.F. by The Budos Band
- 2) Hung Over by The Martini's
- 3) Afraid To Feel by LF SYSTEM
- 4) Stratford-On-Guy by Liz Phair
- 5) Bobby by Alex G
- 6) King of Silence by Cibo Matto
- 7) A Change is Gonna Come by Sam Cooke
- 8) 4 Better (or Worse) by D'Sink and the Grease Monkeys



When I'm not feeling well, I like to listen to songs that make me feel good. I hope these songs fill you with love and inspiration, just like they did me. Thanks for reading and listening xoxo ♡

The Inner Themes of “Whiplash”

An Analysis

By KAI COLBERT

What does it mean to be great? What does it mean to be perfect? What does it mean to be the best? These are the questions that the film “Whiplash” makes you think about.

Welcome to the first part of my ongoing series where I will do a deep-dive into all of Damien Chazelle’s films and reveal to you my perspectives on what the movie is all about. I admit that I am and have been a huge fan of Damien Chazelle’s work and I am so excited to have you along for the ride.

As you have probably guessed by now, we will start this series with Damien Chazelle’s directorial debut titled “Whiplash.”

“Whiplash” was first conceived as a short film and was drawn from Chazelles’s own experiences in a highly competitive high school jazz band. After finishing the initial draft of the script, Right of Way and Blumhouse Studios became interested in the idea and helped it become an 18-minute short film. After the short film was complete, it was presented at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival catching the attention of numerous investors to help produce the completed version of the script.

Shortly after this, it premiered as the opening film for the 2014 Sundance Film Festival where it won both the Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize for Drama and opened to theaters on October 10, 2014, until March 26, 2015.

Aside from the massive financial success earning \$49 million on a \$3.3 million budget, the film earned widespread acclaim for its unique screenplay, direction, style, cinematography, and film editing. This is the film that put Damien Chazelle as well as his lifelong friend and collaborator, Justin Hurwitz, who composed

all of the music for all of his films on the map.

In case you’re bored by all of this necessary backstory to the film and eagerly waiting for me to talk about the actual story and themes, I feel you, but this was necessary for you to truly understand and appreciate the film.

This is important information for many reasons. One, it explains how the main idea of the film came from Chazelle’s own experiences. Two, it tells you how the story and takeaways were meaningful enough to attract lots of famous investors and producers to transform it from a short film into a full-length feature film. Lastly, this tells you that the film struck a chord with everyone who saw it because of its incredible financial success and enduring legacy even 9 years after its initial release, with people still ranting and raving about it just like I’m doing right now.

With all that out of the way, let’s now talk about the story. “Whiplash” centers on our main character, Andrew Neiman (Miles Teller), a naive first-year college student at the highly prestigious New York City Shaffer Conservatory. He has always aspired to become a great Jazz drummer and leave a lasting legacy behind just like his idol, Buddy Rich, did. The conductor of the school’s conservatory band invites Andrew to join the band as an alternate for the core drummer. The conductor’s name is Terrence Fletcher (J.K. Simmons), and as the audience and Andrew soon find out, there is much more to him than meets the eye.

This is perhaps best shown when he throws a chair at Andrew and then slaps and insults his failure to keep tempo in front of the whole band. Fletcher is manipulative

in the fact that he will give you chances but only fleeting ones and will always go out of his way to make it clear that you failed.

What is amazing about this film is how Andrew as a character is shown leading up to this fateful moment. We are shown that Andrew is a hard worker by his constant practice of the drums and is someone who doesn’t crumble under pressure. He also has a crush on a girl named Nicole and is too nervous to ask her out—which is all too relatable.

These small but important scenes make us want to root for Andrew to succeed, to prevail, and to be the best. That is why, as the film goes on and Andrew’s life becomes consumed by trying to earn Fletcher’s approval, we still are hoping that there will be a happy ending.

“Whiplash” is a thriller, but at its core, it is a cautionary tale. It is a story about how the pursuit of greatness can consume your entire life, relationships, joys, dreams, and identity.

My favorite scene in the whole movie is one that wasn’t even in the movie, funnily enough. There is a deleted scene where we spend some time with Fletcher alone in his apartment. J.K. Simmons, in an interview with That Shelf, describes the scene.

He says, “We shot a half a day of scenes in Fletcher’s apartment—again, most of which aren’t in the movie—where we see just how Spartan his existence is. It’s a nice apartment, but the one time we see him, he’s drinking a glass of red wine with a frozen microwave dinner and eating by himself. He’s a sad guy, and the ONLY thing he has in his life is the music. At the end of that sequence, we showed me exercising and being obsessive about things around the house. The last thing is me putting on an old jazz record from 1938 and letting that wash over me.”

I love this scene because it is a perfect visual vignette of what can happen if you close your whole life off to everything and everyone except your passion.

Fletcher seems to be doing well in all of the requirements that people deem important. He is financially well-off, he has a

stable career as a composer, he is popular enough to land gigs at local bars playing the piano, and he is “helping” teach the new generation.

But take a look back at all of those points and notice how there’s one similarity between all of them. Everything that he is known for and everything that he lives for is all about music. This means that when he’s not conducting or playing an instrument, he is utterly alone with nothing and no one else in his life to connect with which this scene shows perfectly.

This scene shows one possible future that Andrew could experience if he continues to go down the toxic path of perfection which at the start of the film, seems to be completely different from the Andrew we have come to know and love but the end flips the coin on its head.

The climax of the film appears at the very end of the film when Fletcher deceives Andrew by switching the song the band is going to play without informing him. He tries his best to improvise and catch up with the band but it is pointless and he storms out embarrassed and angry. His father is there to comfort him and it is this moment where Andrew is at a crossroads.

One outcome is that he can leave the concert with his father and cut himself off from Fletcher’s toxic teaching methods, giving him the chance to start his life anew and reconnect with others—which is why he played drums in the first place.

The other outcome is to step back onto the stage and get Fletcher’s approval by any means necessary even if it means abandoning his family. Andrew chooses the latter much to his father’s dismay. He stands up for himself by cutting off Fletcher and cueing the band himself for the next song, “Caravan”, which is one that he excels at playing. Andrew goes one step further by playing an extended drum solo. This, at first, catches Fletcher by surprise, but slowly, he sees potential in Andrew to be the next great drummer, the next Charlie Parker.

Finally, in a moment of

triumph, Andrew gets the approval he has been sacrificing blood and sweat over throughout the whole course of this movie. Fletcher cues Andrew to end the solo and the film cuts to black. This is a good ending, right? This is what Andrew has been seeking the entire movie and we were rooting for Andrew to succeed, to be the best, right? No, this is not a triumphant ending, the director himself even said so.

In an interview with RogerEbert.com, Damien reveals, “I had always thought, when writing the film that the ending had always veered a little more on tragic than triumphant,” he goes on to say, “It’s that “Red Shoes” idea of dancing until you die, playing drums until you die and literally giving your entire life to your art, resulting in your death. In this case, I don’t think Andrew physically dies, but I think a big part of his soul has definitely died.” I couldn’t have said it better myself.

In conclusion, this film is about showing the purposeful and sometimes unintended negative consequences of one’s pursuit of greatness and stardom. It chooses to show how addicting and all-consuming the effort of self-improvement can get if left unchecked and/or forcefully pushed upon you by someone else. It is for these reasons that I feel that this movie became such an instant success and timeless film to look back upon.

Andrew’s journey could be applied to literally any person trying to succeed in virtually any creative endeavor which makes this film a cautionary tale for all who watch it. I love this film and deeply appreciate all who are still reading this. I hope this helped give you new insights into this film or hopefully intrigued you to see it for the first time if you haven’t already. I glossed over much of the story beats and individual character moments but I highly recommend all to watch this film. Thank you again and look forward to part 2 of this series where I will be looking at “La La Land!”



Hollywood Reporter

The Art of Karaoke

By SOPHIA NITSCHKE

Once upon a Friday night, seven beautiful people sat around a bottle of... water, listening to music. Friends occupying all sorts of creative corners, the room they were in, amateurly decorated, held all of its guests like a glove. Some leaned on pillows, and others on each other’s laps, most with a calm, but not unpleasant look on their face. Vivian Kopka, a young, vibrant woman, turned to her friend Zeke with a mischievous look. She cupped her hand around their ear and looked around suspiciously as she told them something of the utmost importance. Zeke nodded their head, and with a startling jump, they pumped their fist in the air and yelled,

“Karaoke!”

All sitting in a metaphorical circle, each friend perked up, one after the other, and as if the spirit of the night seeped in through the floor, they all stood up, pumped their fists into the air and yelled,

“Karaoke!”

Flora Milford, one of the hottest brunettes on campus (statistically), took a huge swig of water, and handed it around to her buzzing friends. Their crescent moon faces consumed every last drop, and as soon

as the clock rang eleven pm, they started their march across campus. Spinning down the stairwells, and hopping over concrete curbs, the friends were quite the spectacle. Ella Diers, and Cam Stenberg, two of the seven people, wore the same hot-pink T-shirt cut vertically so that the two best friends could, in their words,

“Match-ie twin-sie”

When they reached the end of the block, the famous twenty foot neon C-Haus sign made their shirts turn a purple color that everyone noticed, but said nothing. Not unlike how one manages to sober up around a parent, the group straightened up on entrance, saluting and greeting their many friends. Sophia Nitschke and Siona Shishak, the best dancers in the pack, got to work, shredding the dance floor, and cranking moves. Distracting the C-Haus patrons from signing up for karaoke, while the five others scribbled their name on the list as many times as possible, contracting them legally to sing. Once the heist was complete, they all hustled to the stage, and sang their favorite song, “All Girls Are the Same” by Juice World, twenty times.



Alex Cambouris

Basketball Splits Two Games

By MILES SOUZA

Beloit College basketball matched up in two Midwest Conference games this week. Both games were important for the trajectory of the Bucs' season. The men's team going into the matchups had a spot in the conference tournament, while the women's team was on the outside looking in.

Bucs basketball headed to Ripon College on Wednesday to face the Red Hawks for their last game of January. The men's team went into the game as the third

seed in the Midwest Conference.

The men's team started out the game pretty slow, only scoring 20 points in the first half. They went into the locker room down 20-26 at halftime. However, the Bucs came out fiery. They outscored the Red Hawks 40-30 in the second half, taking the game by a score of 60-56.

The Bucs were led to the win by senior center Azzez Ganiyu'24, who had a monstrous game. Ganiyu scored 24 points to go along with

seven rebounds.

The women's team had a tougher time against the Red Hawks who at the time, were an undefeated 10-0 in conference. They lost the game 41-88.

Beloit College then held a home, double header against the Cornell College Rams this past Saturday. A very winnable game for the men's team and a very competitive game for the women's team.

The men's team came out slow and had no answer. The Bucs headed into the locker room at halftime down 21-31. The Rams ran a 2-3 zone defense that the Bucs struggled to find openings in. Open shots were hard to come by even with the effort the Bucs were putting in on the defensive end.

The Bucs found something near the end of the second half, but it was too little too late.

The Bucs matched the Rams with 40 points each and dropped the game 61-71. With a field goal percentage of 36% and a three point percentage of 27%, the Bucs had difficulty on the offensive end.

However, the team is still in prime position to make the conference tournament. They are currently the third seed in the conference. With two wins the Bucs will be guaranteed a spot.

On the women's side, this game was a must win to be on the outside looking in. The Bucs stayed in the first half, losing by only two heading into the locker room.

The halftime speech was one of the best of the year for the Bucs. They came out and outscored the Rams by eight in the third quarter and two in the fourth. Beloit took the



Beloit College Athletics

game by a score of 65-57 to take the must-needed win.

The game was highlighted by two outstanding scoring performances. Senior guard Elizabeth Kalk'24 scored 19 points to go along with eight rebounds and five assists. Sophomore center Hailey Johnson'26 also scored 19 points off the bench. They are currently tied for sixth

in the conference, but are one game out of the four seeds.

The men's team will take on Maranatha Baptist on Tuesday in Watertown, WI, while the women's team will also have a non conference game at home against Mount Mary on Wednesday.



Beloit College Athletics

Super Bowl Preview

By BRENDAN MEYERS

This NFL season is down to its final game and it will be between two heavyweights. The Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers met in Super Bowl LIV four years ago and will rematch in Super Bowl LVIII on Sunday, February 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The reigning Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs have faced plenty of adversity this year compared to years past. They hosted five consecutive AFC championship games before beating the Ravens in Baltimore for their sixth last Sunday. It will be the fourth Super Bowl appearance for Patrick Mahomes in his sixth season as a starting quarterback.

The San Francisco 49ers are one of the most storied franchises in the NFL with five Super Bowl victories. In the past, the 49ers have been led by hall-of-fame quarterbacks Joe Montana and Steve Young. Quarterback Brock Purdy is looking to follow in their footsteps after a 13-4 season and the best record in the NFC.

The Chiefs were 11-6 in the regular season and beat the Dolphins, Bills, and Ravens to win the AFC. They are led by Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce, and defensive tackle Chris Jones. The biggest story in the NFL season has been Kelce's new relationship with Taylor Swift. At the time, it seemed like

teaming the two icons together was unfair to the competitive balance of the league. The team has put some horrible regular season losses behind them and is the first team since the 2004 New England Patriots to repeat as champions.

The San Francisco 49ers got a first-round bye in the NFC for getting the one seed. They defeated the Green Bay Packers and Detroit Lions to advance to the Super Bowl. They have a star-studded roster with a young coach in Kyle Shanahan, the son of the great coach Mike Shanahan. Offensively, running back Christian McCaffery had a monster season leading the NFL in rushing

yards. On the other side of the ball, Fred Warner has become one of the best middle linebackers in the league.

The Chiefs defeated the 49ers 31-20 in Super Bowl LIV in Mahomes's first Super Bowl. The 49ers were up 20-10 in the fourth quarter before the Chiefs went on a 21-0 run. A lot of key names are still playing in this game for both teams, but not at quarterback for San Francisco. Jimmy Garrappolo was the starting quarterback in that game for the 49ers.



www.X.com

Soccer News: What YOU Missed Over Break

By ELLIOT DAVID AVE-LALLEMANT

Beloit College may have gone on break, but the soccer season is still in full swing. We've got transfers, drama on Ivan Toney's return, AFCON and the Asian Cup, and a whole lot more. But let's get to the main thing everybody's talking about. It's the middle of the season, and you know what that means! It means that the winter transfer window has been opened, giving

soccer teams around the world a chance to sign the best talent money can buy (or get lucky and get them for free)!

While the winter transfer window doesn't usually produce crazy headline signings as the summer does, there are still a few big names that everyone is talking about, like Jordan Henderson. After 12 years at Liverpool, Henderson

made a move to Saudi club Al-Ettifaq in 2023 but is now moving to Dutch club Ajax on a permanent deal. Jordan says the main reason for his move was that he was having a hard time adjusting to life in Saudi and that the quality of play in the Saudi league wasn't great.

Timo Werner also made a move, going out on loan from German club RB Leipzig to

the Premier League's Tottenham. When asked about his move, he stated that he "wanted to win titles," which is ironic considering that he's at Tottenham.

Speaking of Tottenham, Eric Dier made a move to German club Bayern Munich, with the hopes that he'll actually end up getting some playtime.

In other soccer news, AFCON and the Asian Cup are currently going on! This year's African Cup of Nations (AFCON) saw some of the biggest names in African soccer competing for their country's glory and the ultimate prize, and with it came some of the biggest upsets. All of the top five African countries Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Senegal, and Egypt have been eliminated. Morocco's 2022 World Cup campaign saw some insane upsets, beating the likes of Spain, Portugal, and Belgium, only for them to lose 2-0 to South Africa at AFCON. The Asian Cup is also taking place at the same time,

with the hosts Qatar doing a lot better than they did in the World Cup, making it to the quarter-finals.

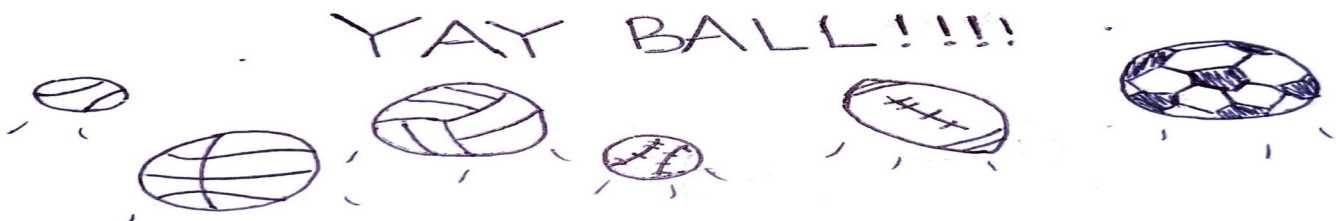
On another note, Brentford striker Ivan Toney returned from his eight-month gambling suspension, and he wasted no time sparking more controversy, moving the ball twice on his free-kick goal. If you ask me, he's just looking for reasons for Brentford to sell him to a bigger club like Arsenal, as he has previously expressed interest in a permanent move.

The last big piece of soccer news comes from Premier League club Liverpool. Last week, the long-time manager of Liverpool Jürgen Klopp announced that he is retiring at the end of the season. Under his leadership, Liverpool saw great success, winning both the Premier League and the Champions League. In addition, Liverpool's 9-0 win over Bournemouth in the 2022-23 season is the largest in Premier

League history. At the time of writing, Liverpool sits at the top of the Premier League table with five points between them and second-place Manchester City. It would be very poetic if Klopp lifted the PL trophy in his last season with Liverpool, but I think everybody would just be happy if Manchester City didn't win the title.



The Guardian



The Future of the U.S. Dollar In the Global Economy

By ISAAC HOLT

Every year, trillions of dollars worth of goods and services are traded between foreign entities on the global market. In 2023 the IMF estimated that global external trade amounted to roughly \$30.7 trillion (USD), a nearly five trillion dollar increase since 2018. This figure represents a diverse spectrum of national, corporate, and individual economic factors that are unique not only geographically, but socially, culturally, and politically.

The United States is nominally the largest economy in the world and plays a major role in influencing economic affairs on the world stage, things like exchange rates, market access, and liquidity of foreign exchange reserves have played to the advantage of the USD for much of modern history. Recent trends indicate that this is still the case to this day, however, there have been growing movements against the dominance of the USD in the global economy.

A foreign exchange reserve (Forex reserve) is a large reserve of currencies, bonds, or other securities held by a central bank. Forex reserves are used to maintain a positive balance of payments (trade) with other countries, control exchange rates, and maintain confidence in their domestic markets. Foreign exchange reserves are a vital part of the modern economic order, they allow countries to use a diverse range of foreign currencies to interface better with international markets and keep their economy safe from economic threats that could arise from global actors.

At the end of 2022, the IMF reported that 58.36% of official foreign exchange reserves were comprised of US Dollars. Since the early 90s, this percentage has steadily decreased each year from about 75%. This number only represents official reserves, it does not account

for unreported reserves and certain other securities that may be kept by countries or central banks.

Despite this, the fact that more than half of all Forex reserves are kept in USD means that there is an immense demand for Dollars in the global economy. By keeping exchange reserves in USD, countries can influence the nominal exchange rate between their currency and the USD. Countries that keep USD reserves are also able to utilize the strength of the USD in their economy to stimulate demand as the USD is historically one of the most stable and inflation-resistant currencies in the world.

Regional economic stability, while a big motivator of international economic policy, is not the only one. Starting in the 1970s, the price of crude oil imports to the US began to increase as a result of numerous global trends. OPEC countries comprise more than a third of the world's oil production, and Saudi Arabia, one of the founding members, is second to only the US in total oil production worldwide.

OPEC, a political organization of oil-producing countries, started to finance more of their oil deals in USD with the rise in prices in the 70s. This trend is very important to understanding the USD's dominance of the global energy market, specifically the petroleum industry.

By the 1980s a very large percentage of all OPEC oil deals, specifically with the country of Saudi Arabia, were financed solely in US Dollars, even if the buying country did not use USD as its primary domestic currency. Recently, some countries such as China have begun to sign agreements with OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia to finance oil deals in their own currency, a trend that could undermine the 'petrodollar' system.

Politics also have played an important role in the USD's international role, the ability to control access to market and currency exchange has played a significant role in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

In recent times, the term sanctions has been used by many U.S. administrations to describe economic limitations placed on countries or individuals that limit their ability to interact with the global USD market in some way. In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. government announced major sanctions against Russian businesses and the Russian financial and banking sectors, preventing most Western corporations and businesses from trading or operating inside Russian territory.

These sanctions were sweeping and have had massive effects on Russia's economy, since the invasion Russia has lost an estimated (in USD) \$450 billion in foreign exchange reserves and more than \$1 trillion in foreign assets. These actions are predicated upon the U.S.'s ability to control Russia's access to international markets as well as its ability to sell foreign reserves held in USD.

The history of the USD in the global economy coupled with the fact that U.S. Treasury bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government means that these bonds have been one of the safest investments for a foreign investor, often countries, to make.

In its history as a country, the United States has never defaulted on treasury bond payments or securities that were backed by its full faith and credit. By purchasing a U.S. Treasury bond, a country is both investing in the strength of the U.S. economy and betting on its future success.

In 1944, during the ending stages of WW2, the major allied powers realized the

need to establish not only a new political world order but a new economic one alongside it. The system that came from this realization was called Bretton Woods, a complex international monetary management system that is still mostly in use today, albeit with some major changes and adaptations.

Some of the major tenets of the Bretton Woods system were establishing the USD as the foremost international reserve currency, enabling all member countries to exchange their currency for USD at a set rate, and pegging the foreign USD-gold exchange rate to a set amount. Additionally, institutions like the World Bank and IMF were created to establish international monetary authorities that could foster better economic relations and trade between the traditional Western order and any non-aligned countries, specifically low-income, underdeveloped ones.

BRICS, a multinational economic alliance between the countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is one of the most prominent alliances that seeks to usurp the traditional Bretton Woods system and the USD's dominance of the global economy. Major institutions like the World Bank and IMF have come under attack from alliances like BRICS due to what they perceive as politicization of their economic policies and inequality in their outcomes, usually on the basis of ideological or political affiliations.

Over the past few years, BRICS and its allies have created numerous projects like the New Development Bank and the BRICS payment system that are alternatives to major Bretton Woods institutions. The New Development Bank is BRICS' ongoing initiative to create a counterpart to the World Bank.

The World Bank has existed since WW2 and its primary goal has been to give loans and grants to middle/low-income countries to pursue national development projects. BRICS has stated that the goal of the New Development Bank is not to destroy the World Bank but to create a cooperating partner that involves more countries from the BRICS alliance and its affiliate nations.

Alliances like BRICS will likely continue to attract many states as time goes on. Since WW2, the U.S. has had many foreign policy successes and failures, the results of which have immeasurable effects on domestic and international markets. By dominating the currency exchange and foreign reserve aspects of the global economy, the U.S. has been able to leverage economic power to affect geopolitical change. This is a dynamic that BRICS has seen over time and wishes to respond to in their future policy decisions.

While there are always at least two sides to a conflict, it is important to underscore that the two sides are not necessarily enemies in this specific instance. Going forward, the USD will have a complex role in the global economy, and its position as the dominant foreign reserve currency might change.

As the demand for USD and other currencies shifts over time, the ability of the USD to take center stage in economic affairs will fluctuate. The question of which currency or which economy will be number one is not as important as which policies will dictate a more cohesive and efficient economic system for the world. As a matter of policy, countries like ours must always stay at the forefront of responding to and acting on economic trends both in domestic and foreign markets.



- I love a tuna sub (say it backwards)
- Pandas are the best type of bear
- Sometimes it is ok to be stoic
- Yeahh Mitski
- There is a difference between being a contrarian & simply having an unpopular opinion
- Hotdog mmmm

Introducing this week's
HOT TAKES
Hell is hot but your takes
are hotter

- Mitski's music is just trauma-dumping
- Mitski is one of the greatest artists of our era
- Mitski could write Das Kapital but Karl Marx could never write "Working for the Knife"
- I love listening to Mitski trauma dump
- I don't know what Mitski is and I'm too scared to ask



An Alternative View of K-12 Education in Beloit

By CHUCK MCQUAID

I didn't have the privilege of attending Beloit College, but my son graduated from Beloit, and I was so impressed with the College that I served on Beloit's Board of Trustees until late 2020. I typically return to the College for the Miller Upton Forum, and did so last month.

While on campus I read the October 10 Round Table Op-Ed, "My Opinion on the New Charter School: From a Future Educator," which was well-written, but I found several items that I disagree with. There were also a few places where having the numbers and sources would have improved our understanding.

According to budget documents Final Budget Presentation 2023-2024. pptx.pdf (boarddocs.com) published by the Beloit School District for the 2023-24 school year, total expenditures (less charter and voucher costs) are \$106,590,310. Total costs per the 5,739 students projected in the budget are \$18,573. But according to the Beloit Daily News, the September 2023 student count was just 5,044 students. This suggests total spending per student of \$21,132! Both numbers are well ABOVE the national average of \$16,080 (according to the Education Data Initiative). Large class sizes mentioned in the Op-

Ed cannot be explained by so-called "underfunding".

In contrast, the Lincoln Academy spends \$16,016 per student, of which only \$11,852 comes from public sources, and the rest from philanthropy. WISEdash Public Portal - Department of Public Instruction provides spending and performance data for all publicly-funded schools in Wisconsin.

The Op-Ed was correct about The Lincoln Academy providing competition, but I think competition is good for students attending both BPS and Lincoln. History shows us the terrible automobiles produced by government monopolies in Communist Eastern Europe, the Trabant and the Yugo. Public housing is also often decrepit. I believe no one should be forced to buy a government-built car, live in public housing, or attend a government-run school to which they are assigned. Everyone deserves choices, and competition induces improvements in goods and services.

K-12 public education is a disgrace in many cities in the USA, with academic performance lower than it has been for decades. In contrast, our college and university system is the envy of the world. I believe that is because philanthropists started many private colleges and universities, including

Beloit College, that compete with state-sponsored schools. The state of Ohio alone has more colleges and universities than all of England, for example.

Lincoln Academy's results prove the point. The school draws from the same Beloit student pool via a lottery, yet after only two years in operations, 51.2% of Lincoln third grade students are proficient or advanced in math, and 37.3% are so in English. These percentages are about three times as high as BPS students, and proficiency rates should continue to rise as students spend more time at Lincoln. The absentee rate at Lincoln is 5.9% versus 17.1% at BPS, which suggests how well students like their schools.

Beloit College has had trouble attracting faculty and staff due to the poor results at Beloit Public Schools. Lincoln Academy is a relatively new alternative. I was told by a very happy Beloit College spouse that Lincoln Academy provides not only an excellent education, but also a more diverse environment than previous alternatives.

I believe teachers may be better off teaching at charter schools. Often, they will experience a learning environment with less bureaucracy, more academic support, and better results. There is often

no need to join a teachers' union at charter schools, as management tends to work hard to compete for excellent teachers and provide a quality environment.

With respect to Diane Hendricks, I got to know her when we both served on the Beloit College board. Her path to success was incredible. Starting with nothing, she and her late husband began by rehabilitating homes in Beloit and renting the improved properties. Some were rented to Beloit College students, and the Hendricks were hurt by a revised policy requiring students to live on campus. But Diane didn't hold a grudge, and later donated tens of millions of dollars to the College. The Hendricks Center and the Powerhouse would not exist without her, and without those assets, the College would be in a precarious position.

Diane has made her fortune via ABC Supply and other businesses which she and her late husband started from scratch. In the private sector, businesses succeed only if they provide needed goods and/or services at competitive prices. Her success should serve as an example to anyone who wants to work hard and succeed financially. Diane and her businesses have hired and mentored many

Beloit College graduates.

When my son attended Beloit College 15 years ago, Diane had already started her efforts to improve the city. Beloit had become a hollowed-out Midwestern industrial city, with vacant factories and storefronts. There were then some signs of life in downtown Beloit, but it was nowhere near as vibrant as it is today. And the Ironworks Campus funded by Diane is likely to continue to create jobs at an increasing rate.

Diane's philanthropy is evident throughout the city, including gifts to the Beloit Health Systems, the public library, ACTS Housing, Kids Fun and Drama, Safe Families for Children and the DEFY domestic violence shelter, just to name a few. The Hendricks Family Foundation has lived up to its motto "Cultivating Opportunity. Building Community. Honoring Country."

In 2017, the New York Times had an article entitled "In Weary Wisconsin Town, a Billionaire Funded Revival". This was of course about Diane and her successes in improving the city of Beloit. Rather than express envy or demand more from Diane, each new cohort of Beloit College students should express appreciation for her and consider her as a role model.

CAM SPIES



- ARIES:** I SPY YOUR MOM ON MY PENIS
- TAURUS:** I SPY YOU HOGGING THAT KARAOKE MIC
- GEMINI:** I SPY YOU CRYING AT THE PANINI PRESS
- CANCER:** I SPY YOU GETTING JUMPSCARED BY A SQUIRRELL
- LEO:** I SPY YOU PUTTING PAPER TOWELS IN THE PEARSONS VENDING MACHINE
- VIRGO:** I SPY ALL THOSE ANTS N YOUR FLOOR
- LIBRA:** I SPY YOU ORDERING THE FREAKIEST FLAVOR OF GELATO
- SCORPIO:** I SPY YOU BEING AWKWARD IN THE GOOGLE DOC
- SAGITTARIUS:** I SPY YOU TRYING NOT TO COUGH IN CLASS
- CAPRICORN:** I SPY YOU BEING ON A FIRST NAME BASIS WITH THE EXTREME SMOKE'S EMPLOYEES
- AQUARIUS:** I SPY YOU TAKING SLOPPY MUDPIES IN THE POWERHOUSE BATHROOM
- PISCES:** I SPY YOUR BARE ASS FEET ON THE SHOWER FLOOR



EDITORS AS VARIOUS TRINKETS FROM THE NEW YORK TIMETIMES BEST SELLER I SPY



Svea Jones'25 as fun rubber surfer guy
Features Edior



Ella Silva'26 as assortment of rubber dinos
Arts Editor



Cam Stenberg'24 as rubber bug
Graphics and Back Editor



Sophia Nitsche'25 is nuts and bolts
News Editor



Flora Milford'24 as a stray playing card
Opinion Editor



Ezekiel Kingsbury'25 as silly little cars
Editor In Chief



Vivian Kopka'27 as rubber duck
Copy Editor



AJ Lee'26 as a comb
Sports Editor



Ella Diers'24 as beautiful marbles
Editor in Chief