

# The Round Table

The parody issue comes out next week everyone since 1853

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Tuesday, March 25, 2025

roundtable.beloit.edu

## College to Recognize Student Union

By EZEKIEL KINGSBURY and JAZMIN GOMEZ

On Thursday, March 20, Beloit College agreed to voluntary recognition of Beloit Student Workers United (BSWU) so long as a majority of student workers sign with the union.

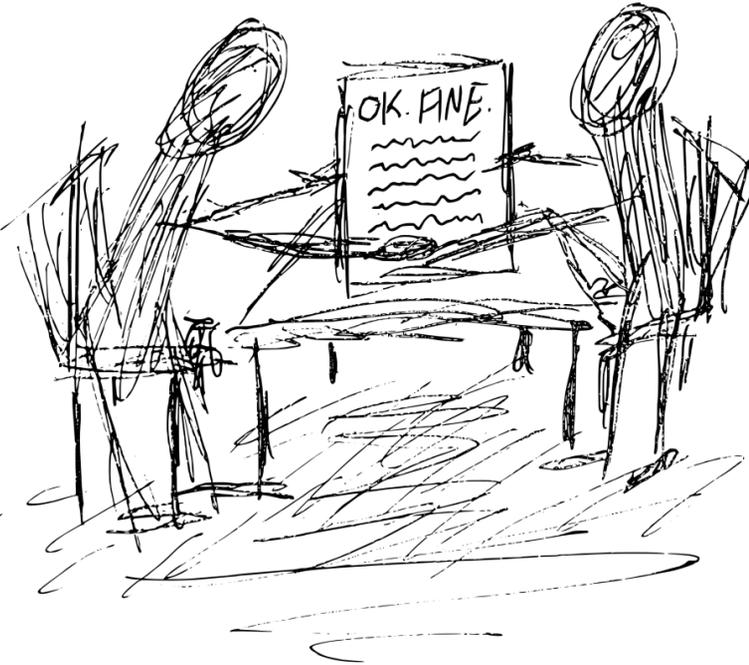
Tim Leslie, Vice President of Career and Professional Development, says “We are really proud of the students who identified concerns about student work and decided to take action. They have worked hard to organize and made impressive progress. While we believe that student work concerns could be addressed more efficiently and effectively via a student work committee of faculty, staff, and students, which we incorporate into the APM, we also are happy to work with students if they form a union.”

This came after weeks of stalemate, as BSWU organizers Jake Fein’27 and Ela Heywood’26 were unable to find a compromise with the administrators present.

BSWU demanded that the administration sign a ‘neutrality agreement,’ which dictated certain rules for discussion and behavior within and outside of meetings before conversations began. The neutrality agreement, copied in large part from Grinnell College’s, set rules that prevented administrators from engaging in any efforts to influence students around Union formation, including but not limited to speeches, one-on-one meetings, distribution of literature, or other activities intended to influence the free choice of the covered employees.

As administrators were concerned about the contents of the agreement (particularly the lack of concessions), little progress was made. According to Fein, BSWU encouraged administrators to make comments on the agreement and come to a compromise, but “To this day they have left no comments.” However, the administration maintains they did provide comments on the document.

Another point at issue was that administrators wanted to address certain concerns, particularly the accusation that student workers have been subjected to discriminatory supervision practices, but BSWU organizers were unwilling to discuss such



Ezekiel Kingsbury’25

issues before the agreement was signed.

In response, the administration proposed the creation of a Student Work Committee, made up of students, faculty, and staff, that would meet separately from the Union. The Student Work Committee will be voted on by faculty during an upcoming meeting. Fein and Heywood had no objections to the creation of this committee.

Administrators and organizers also disagreed over the definition of ‘student worker.’ Under Heywood and Fein’s definition, “anyone who is actively enrolled in the college part-time or full-time and is currently employed by the college,” roughly 350 current students qualified as student workers. Under the administration’s definition, up to 950 students qualified. According to Fein, the College argued that as anybody can become a student worker, BSWU’s

definition would be unfair to people who want to become a student worker eventually. Fein interpreted this as an attempt to block the formation of the union, citing it as one of “the most common union-busting tactics on college campuses.”

What eventually fostered common ground was Fein and Heywood’s admission of their reluctance to go to the National Labor Relations Board on Thursday. In this current presidential administration, they told Beloit College, they were concerned such a petition would not just be rejected, but place all student unions under the heavy supervision of the federal government, potentially removing student unions altogether.

Administration, in what has been described as a “heart-to-heart,” appreciated the admission. From this point the parties

were able to agree on a definition of ‘student worker’: Any student who has been employed by the College in the past fiscal year. This does not include RAs and OLs. Altogether, this includes almost 600 students.

While the administration still has concerns about the democratic process of union registration (a lack of information given to signatories and undue social pressure), they have agreed that once the union achieves a majority signature by the body of student workers, they will be recognized. This will involve signing a modified agreement by Wednesday, at the latest.

In the BSWU GroupMe, Fein told the signatories that they were successful in this meeting due to the “pressure of a possible protest,” which was called off. Administration contests this characterization.

As for their plans? Fein and Heywood shared with the *Round Table* that among their top priorities once the union is recognized are “Increased transparency around job descriptions, more supervisor training, a student worker employee handbook that lays out the firing process and gets rid of at-will firing, creating an appeal process for if someone is fired.”

BSWU claims “There are certain supervisors across campus who have been discriminatory in their treatment of student workers,” and they aim to change this. Administration has found no evidence of discriminatory practices or supervisory practices that jeopardize the psychological or physical well-being of student workers.

To ensure broad representation and avoid hierarchical structures, Fein and Heywood plan to establish a 30-person leadership team. Their preliminary constitution (described as a “very rough draft,” meaning none of its stipulations are necessarily representative of the future of BSWU), outlines a strike policy, potential compensation for leadership through non-mandatory dues, and grievance procedures. BSWU also indicated openness to affiliating with a national organization if student workers express interest in such an arrangement.

## The WI Supreme Court Election

The Most Expensive April Fools Joke | An Interview with Susan Crawford

By ADELIN TRAMMELL

On April 1st 2025, the state of Wisconsin will vote on a new supreme court justice, potentially switching from a liberal to conservative majority in the court. The candidates running are Susan Crawford and Brad Schimel, and despite the non-partisan nature of the race, the political and monetary lines could not be drawn clearer.

This election has gotten national attention and national funding. \$76 million has been spent as of March 20th, with \$40.9 million in spending to Schimel and \$35.8 million to support Crawford, according to WisPolitics. This is the most money ever spent on a state supreme court election, and some of the biggest spending is yet to come, with the race intensifying as April 1st approaches.

Elon Musk is by far the biggest spender in this race. Through various PACs and organizations, has spent over \$11 million dollars on Schimel’s campaign. Elon Musk, through the America PAC he owns, is offering \$100 dollars to every Wisconsin voter who signs a petition to “reject the actions of activist judges.” This is the same strategy he used during the 2024 presidential election where swing state voters who signed a petition had a chance to win \$1 million dollars.

When asked how she felt about the amount of money being spent on this race Crawford said, “There’s obviously a lot of money being spent by the campaigns, but there’s a lot of money being spent by outside groups.” She also said that in the first round of attack ads released by Elon Musk’s PAC, they used a photo of a different wom-



Isthmus, Madison WI

an named Susan Crawford. “He clearly doesn’t know anything about Wisconsin; he doesn’t know anything about me.”

Beloit’s district representative, Clint Anderson, explained why there is so much attention on this race, saying, “Everybody is really trying to do this as a temperature check to see how people are feeling about the new administration.” This will be the first major election since the presidential one in 2024, and Wisconsin favored Trump by less than 30,000 votes. The results will inform both parties on

whether or not their strategies and policies agree with voters.

Brad Schimel and his team did not respond to requests for an interview. Trump officially endorsed Schimel in a Truth Social post on the 22nd. His current campaigning has included attending a MAGA rally with a 20-foot inflatable Trump figure that said “Vote Brad Schimel Supreme Court”, and a Musk-funded group left flyers with supporters saying that Schimel is essential to protecting Trump’s agenda.

During the debate, Schimel claimed the 1849 abortion ban

was being used as a political pawn, noting that the Wisconsin Supreme Court finished hearing arguments 5 months ago and still hasn’t made a ruling. Crawford stated that this is how the process works, and “It’s not unusual for the court to take several months to get a decision out.” She also said she expects the ruling to happen before this election’s winner is sworn in next August. Despite this, advertisements for Susan Crawford’s election still heavily focus on the potential impact of the 1849 law being imposed. Brad Schimel is personally an-

ti-abortion and has previously said there is no constitutional right to abortion in Wisconsin.

One of the first cases that the newly elected justice will likely rule on is Act 10. Act 10 is a law that limits public sector unionization significantly, and it’s been in place since 2011. In 2011, 14.1% of employed Wisconsinites were unionized, and in 2024, that number is less than half, sitting at 6.9%. “Act 10 is a 50-page long act that did a lot of changes to Wisconsin statutes”, Susan Crawford states. She previously sued on behalf of a teachers union to overturn Act 10, but it’s unlikely she would recuse herself from the case. Brad Schimel also has had involvement in Act 10, defending the law when he was Wisconsin’s Attorney General. He also would likely not recuse himself from this case.

When asked what she would say to Beloit students, Crawford concluded that, “I encourage students to become well-informed,” and that, “their fundamental rights and freedoms are at stake in this case.” On Brad Schimel, Crawford warns that he’s “a long time politician, he has extreme views, and he’s bringing a political agenda to the Supreme Court.”

Voting is already open for this race, with both candidates encouraging their supporters to vote early. Despite all the money and attention, historically elections like these don’t get good turnout. The last Supreme Court election in Wisconsin had a 51% voter turnout, and it remains to be seen if the big spending will change anything.

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WBQR 90.3 FM  
Meets every Sunday at  
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Pearsons.

## Round Table

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.

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The content of each issue is neither reviewed nor approved by college faculty or administration before it goes to print.

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The *Round Table* meets every Tuesday at 9 p.m. in Pearsons.

### By FRIENDS OF JAZIB

It is never easy to say farewell to a loved one. It is even more so difficult when you could foresee their potential, their zeal, and passion for things in life. Such was the spirit of Jazib.

Muhammad Jazib was from Lahore, Pakistan, and if you did not know this, you would learn it within ten minutes of conversation with him. He carried his immense love for his hometown on his sleeve, wherever he'd go, and was the absolute representative of the city's character. He was hospitable, boisterous, and energetic, just like his city. He'd choose the grey skies of Lahore over any clear, blue skies, its crowded and aromatic streets over any other place.

Jazib had immense love for his culture. You'd find him outside during the coldest nights of Beloit, listening to the qawwalis of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. He was an incredibly talented fast bowler, and his passion for cricket was incomparable.

We could fill every page of this paper with words, but it would still not do justice to the vastness of his dreams. While it has been extremely difficult to say goodbye to our friend, it was heartwarming to see a large number of people attend the memorial and share their stories of what Jazib meant to them, and how he showed them kindness even in a brief moment they interacted. Some of his friends have shared a few words to express their gratitude for the memories they shared with Jazib.

Ojaswi - "Everything I write I may not achieve, but let everyone know that I had a dream." - this is my favorite sentence from Jazib. He was very thoughtful and loved to observe. I remember our freshman year, I used to see him lie down in one of the blue chairs at Chapin Quad a lot, listening to Coke Studio music and looking up at the sky. I always thought he would make a great poet and a writer. He was a thinker, a dreamer, a good friend, a kind soul, who meant well. I pray his soul rests in peace, and he knows how much we all love and miss him here.

Tanzil - Jazib was not just a thinker, not just a philosopher, he was also the heart of our friend group. He had this incredible ability to bring lightness to any situation, no matter how complicated. His sense of humor was sharp, quick, and always perfectly timed. He was our stand-up comedian, our voice of reason, and the one who reminded us that even in the most serious moments, it was okay to laugh. But beyond his humor, he had a depth to him that made conversations with him unforgettable. He could jump from cracking a joke to discussing life's biggest

questions without missing a beat. He made us think, he made us laugh, and most of all, he taught us some interesting lessons of life.

Ali - I miss you, brother. I miss our conversations, your jokes, the way your energy lit up every room, and how we'd high-five over the smallest things. You made everyone around you feel seen, welcomed, and genuinely happy. You were a gem of a person with the biggest heart, and your presence left a huge mark on me. I truly hope you're in a better place now. The impact you had on me, even in such a short time, is something I'll carry with me forever and I'll always be praying for you. Rest easy, brother.

Amna - Jazib was one of those rare people you never forget. The kind of person who could make you laugh at the dumbest things and, in the next moment, dive into the deep philosophical questions of life. Time moved differently around him — you'd run into him and end up in a conversation about the meaning of life and everything in between. He had this quiet kindness — the kind you don't always notice until you look back. He would wait for me to show up and never complained when I would be running late for my shifts, and when I'd apologize, he'd just smile and say, "It's okay, I was free anyway." And he meant it. Once, he helped me book a flight and spent hours looking up alternate options because he didn't want me to be

“Though my heart is heavy,  
I am honored to carry the  
weight, for it will remind me  
of you.”

- *Infinity Train*

uncomfortable. When I realized my baggage wasn't included in the fare, he offered to pay for my bags himself. That was Jazib — thoughtful, selfless, always going out of his way for the people he cared about. He was one of my closest friends — someone who made the world a little brighter, a little funnier, and a lot more thoughtful. His presence was calming, comforting, and deeply missed.

Moosa - When I first got here, I only knew of Jazib as a guy who had gone back home and was not sure if he would return. Next semester when he came back, he saw me working



Photo of Jazib taken by friends

at Hamiltons and approached me, "I am from Pakistan, and we should chill sometime." Over 2 years, we were just acquaintances who used to greet each other when crossing paths, but sitting down with him for the first time this semester made me realize interacting with people reveals their true personality. Every time I sat

always find a way to bring them into the conversation. Even though he could talk a mile a minute, he was also an incredible listener. He genuinely put an effort into getting to know the people around him and would bring their interests into future conversations, making you think, "Oh? You still remember that?" I had the privilege of knowing him not only as a friend but also as a coworker at the library info desk. Every time someone would come up for help, especially with the printer, he'd see the look on my face and, without missing a beat, would say, "Don't worry, I got this." His ability to step in and make everything seem effortless, while always keeping the mood light and funny, made every shift enjoyable. We've spent countless hours talking, from silly debates about cats to discussing Imran Khan, or even our dreams for the future. He truly was a ray of sunshine. I think I'll forever miss him for longer than I've known him.

down with him, he mentioned how his friends mean everything to him and how he wants to see them happy and successful. That speaks volumes of his character, as there was never a dull moment with him. Talking to him was like an escape from reality. I remember him saying, "Moosa, you said let's chill for 10 - 15 mins, but we've wasted 3-4 hrs."

Noor - He was, without a doubt, the funniest person I've ever known. What I loved most about him was how he made sure everyone felt included. In any group, whether he knew someone well or not, he would

Momina - Jazib had a way of making every space brighter just by being in it. His laughter would echo across Commons, lingering until their whole group had to be asked to leave. Late-night library shifts became the usual meeting spot, where our conversations ranged from deep, philosophical debates to the most ridiculous, pointless chatter. No matter the topic, time always slipped away unnoticed in his company. Talking to him was never just talking—it was an experience. Being around him meant feeling lighter, laughing more, and seeing the world from new angles—sometimes profound, other times just hilariously absurd. I wish I had told him more often how much his presence meant to us, how his kindness, warmth, laughter, and personality made life a little brighter. I hope he knew that.

Faiq - I am at a complete loss of words, I cannot wrap up 3 years of being together with him in 5 lines. He was my brother, my fallback cushion, and my partner in crime. I hope he is in a better place until we meet again. He will always be in my prayers.

*Donations in Jazib's honor will be taken till the end of this month, with Beloit College providing a matching donation at the conclusion of the drive. You can donate electronically or in person to the Dean of Students' office. All funds will be donated to a local charity in Jazib's home country of Pakistan.*



Photo of Jazib taken by friends

# Multi-Generation Beloit Natives Share Irish Family Histories

By SHYLEE GRAF

Members of the Beloit Historical Society and the wider community gathered around for an event titled "Hometown Conversations: Growing Up Irish American in Beloit" on Thursday. Held in the Impact Beloit classroom on the first floor of the library, the event focused on the story of Mathew Goodwin, a fourth-generation Beloit native.

As people found their way into the room, friendly conversations were intermittently interrupted by laughter. The atmosphere suggested a tight-knit community, everyone coming together for a conversation that emulated those held around barbecues and campfires in the summer months.

Betsy Schmiechen, a member of the BHS Board of Directors, briefly introduced the event and the speaker of the night. She spoke highly of Goodwin, highlighting his talents and charm. Ellen Joyce, associate professor of history at Beloit College and also a member of the BHS Board of Directors, moderated the conversation.

Goodwin started the night by reading from a newspaper article from long ago recounting a riveting story about Thomas Goodwin, the first of Goodwin's family to arrive from Ireland. The tale went that

Thomas Goodwin climbed to the top of a tall flagpole to cut down an effigy of St. Patrick hoisted up by "some town roughs."

The event quickly moved to an

"[My father] busted his butt for the city of Beloit," Goodwin shared. His father Jerry served on the Rock County Board of Supervisors for many years.



Shylee Graf '26

open discussion among attendees. Goodwin shared anecdotes from his childhood and family stories. His father, born in 1916, was not welcome at the YMCA, and according to Goodwin, that discrimination drove his father to work hard.

Goodwin's uncle Francis owned Goody's Bar, a staple tavern in Beloit in the 1960s and 70s. Goodwin himself never had the chance to get a drink with his father there, but still remembers his uncle's business.

"A guy could walk in there hungry

and sober as a Baptist church mouse with three dollars in his pocket and come out stuffed and drunk," Goodwin said. The room erupted in giggles at this statement.

The event was the second of a mini-series hosted by the Beloit Historical Society. Inspired by the PBS documentary aired in October about Beloit's history, BHS decided to continue the conversation.

"We were seeing people on Facebook saying 'well they didn't talk about this group or that group,' and we thought we could keep talking," Joyce said in an interview.

Joyce is interested in Beloit's rich history, and hosting events like this encourages people to have meaningful conversations and remember their commonalities. BHS hopes to host more events like this in the future, she said.

"I just love hearing people's stories," Joyce shared. "If you've got a story, come tell us."

The next event in this mini-series will be on May 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Impact Beloit classroom. Special guests Frank Crivello and Tom Polaski will talk about their experiences growing up Italian American in Beloit.

# CELEB Slam Poetry

By SVEA JONES

Beloit, WI - March 1, 2025

- Gallery ABBA brought the art of spoken word to life on Saturday evening, hosting a Slam Poetry Event at the Center for Entrepreneurship (CELEB) in downtown Beloit. The event, which ran from 5 to 7 p.m., welcomed aspiring poets to share their work and invited everyone to sign up to present up to three poems each.

Despite the low turnout for a Saturday night, the atmosphere was charged with creativity and a sense of understanding, with hosts Shobhita Bharadwaj'27 and Helmi Kawsar'27 leading the evening. Among the contributors were fellow students Nancy Clark Mather'28, Jasmine Kingsbury'28, Ella Walters'27, and Svea Jones'25, each bringing their unique voice to the stage.

The intimate setting allowed for meaningful engagement as attendees offered thoughtful feedback on each other's work. Many poets shared pieces still in draft form, encouraging a supportive environment for

artistic growth.

One highlight of the evening was Ella Walters' poem, "A Tuesday Morning in Spanish House," written just days prior. The piece painted a vivid picture of a golden, warm atmosphere, captivating the audience with its imagery.

"A Tuesday Morning in Spanish House"  
By ELLA WALTERS

As the sun shining so  
warms past my open window  
I turn a sunflower self  
in my seat  
to meet it with my face

a women  
and her two dogs  
stop aside the window  
In the taking of a picture  
I wonder what for

I pause the music  
to almost ask  
but she starts to get on going  
and I find myself content  
in the peace of just observing

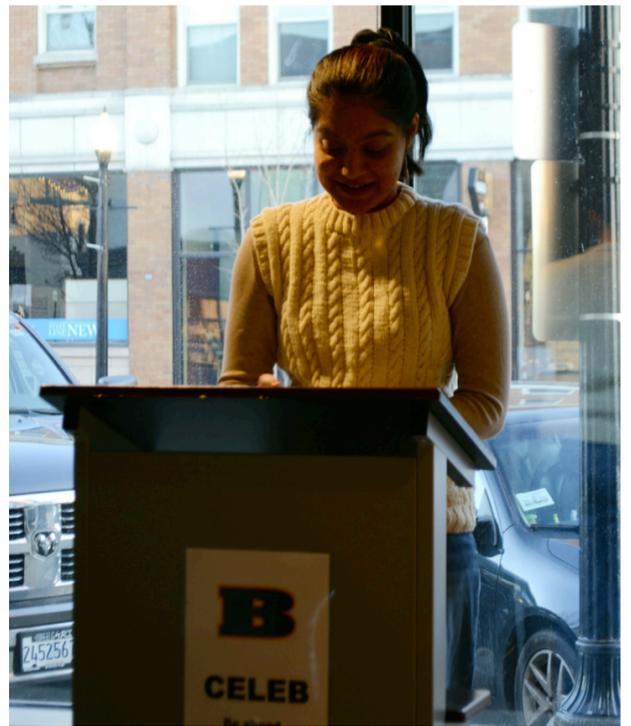
Today I pulled open the blinds

Opened my eyes  
and let the light in  
I cleaned a bit- I tried!  
I made myself an egg  
laid softly onto a buttered  
bread

I wished to open the window  
So that the rays may meet me  
wholeheartedly  
I found the cheeping  
conversation of birds  
upon my ears  
such a gift in the endeavor of  
opening up

The poems' subjects varied widely, exploring themes of desire, humor, hate, loss, and the changing seasons, showcasing a wide range of experiences and emotions for each participant.

As the event concluded, attendees expressed hope for more frequent gatherings of this nature. With warmer weather soon to be, there is excitement about utilizing outdoor spaces, such as the poetry garden, to further complement the experience of sharing and celebrating the velvety words of poetry.



Shobhita Bharadwaj'27 at podium by Svea Jones'25

# Women's History Month Panel Discussion

By ALEX CAMBOURIS

On March 18th, 7:00pm, the Moore Lounge of Pearsons Hall hosted a panel discussion focused on empowering women's voices on campus. Dr. Gloria Bradley, Assistant Dean of Student Success, Equity, community, as well as the co-director of the Weissberg Program in Human Rights and Social Justice, moderated the discussion between Shobita Baraday of BSG, Sarahi Gonzalez of Latinx Voices, Sydney McClellan of BSU, and Siona Shishak of FemCo.

March of every year is celebrated as Women's History Month, and this crew of influential female figures on campus united in committee to discuss the successes and struggles women face in Beloit. Dr. Bradley led the discussion by asking many open-ended questions for the group to answer.

"How do you feel your organization has empowered you as a woman on campus?"

These spaces provide opportunities for voices often left unheard. Having a place for women to meet and create a community is super important. For women of color, it allows them to express themselves and their culture amongst each other.

"What are some unique challenges women face here at Beloit?"

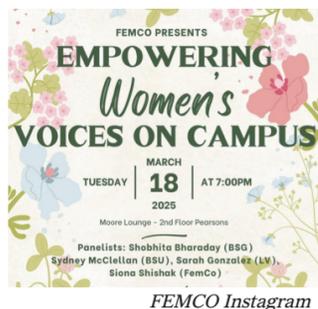
"I often feel I have to step up and take control while at risk of ruining the fun for others. I grew up with an expectation of higher responsibility," Baraday answered. The group discussed how childhood had its influence and the impact parents made.

"It's hard being in places where

you aren't represented," said McClellan, "It's hard to speak up. Luckily, at Beloit I'm comfortable with finding my voice and empowering myself and others." Beloit is built to be an accepting and loving community which prides itself on inclusivity and notions of justice. This Women's History Month, many on campus come together to recognize the power of each other's voices.

Dr. Bradley touches upon representation, "Representation matters. You don't have to be a formal leader to still be a leader. We are aiming to have more spaces to further restorative justice. Can you speak about the initiative that your club has taken to empower women's voices?"

The panelists discuss the value of providing spaces. From hair products in Grace's Place to Karaoke at LV, there are plenty of ways anyone can have their identity be seen. Beloit is home to several strong female role models, such as Dr. Johnson and Prof. Dougherty, who can encourage us all to be the best person we can be. As Dr. Bradley said, "Courage is doing something even when you're afraid."



FEMCO Instagram



Hats off to Gregory Koutnik.

Hats off to Eric and Zeke (I love you please don't leave us)

Hats off to Heath Massey (goated)

Hats off to Svea for drawing such a sexy lady (or they them?) that is going to go on a sweatshirt I'm going to wear in front of my mom.

Hats off to bagels. Shit is good as hell

Hats off to the ladies <3

FUCK OFF to whoever bolted the goddamn secret door in the podcast room shut. We liked that. We were gonna leave Claire in there :(

FUCK OFF to my upstairs neighbors for finding new ways to make obscene

amounts of noise

Hats off to your mom, she's very gentle when she pegs

FUCK OFF to Amazon for tricking me into buying something with the little "OnLy oNe LeFt iN sToCk" bullshit, only to restock it two seconds later.

Hats off to DK's smoothies and also Diana.

FUCK OFF to white chocolate snickers because that's literally missing the point of snickers

FUCK OFF to anyone who has ever left their Qdoba bags in a nonspecific dorm lounge for an entire week

Hats off to Woodman's for consistently having gas prices at least 10 cents cheaper than anywhere else.

FUCK OFF to whoever stole my waterbottle. I have had that waterbottle since my sophomore year of highschool. It was painted by a friend I no longer speak to. I left it next to my MacBook when I went to go piss, and you take the water bottle? You should know I haven't washed it in minimum 2 years. Its for sure covered in diseases, and I hope you get them and die.

FUCK OFF To people who insist that something is stolen, even when they may have very well lost it themselves

FUCK OFF to the person that stole the orange ashtray bucket from the OEC porch, hope you have a nice plate of american spirit butts to eat

Hats off to the drag performers Ayesha Voodoo, Roxy Toxin, and Yvette Infiniti Sidera for the performances at the TEAA Transnado Bingo on Friday <3

FUCK OFF to Joy DeLeon. Fuck that guy.

Hats off to the people who did a bell run Saturday night where everyone was watching like it was a parade and shrieking like you were Harry Styles

Hats off to Mason, goated DJ, better than those frat party DJs.



# Top 5 Things to Buy with a \$50 Walmart Gift Card

By ELISA TURNER

Have you found yourself in possession of a \$50 Walmart gift card? Don't know what to do with it? Are you required to spend it within the next 24 hours in order to acquire the rest of your great uncle's abundant wealth? Then boy do I have the article for you.

## 5. 20 Chicken Pot Pies

Savory, microwavable, artery-clogging. What's not to love? They are delicious. I ate these every day for, like, a month. Has it done irreversible damage to my cardiac health? Probably. Will that stop you? No, because let's be real—you've probably put nastier, greasier meats into your body. And, hey, more power to you, no shame here! But maybe it's time to put Chad down for a second, and pick up Marie. Marie Callender, that is, and her delicious pot pies.

## 4. One hundred and sixty-six bricks of ramen.

Maruchan ramen, our lord and savior. Remember when those crappy youtube channels would fix sinks and toilets and

stupid shit with these ramen noodles? The lies they had us believe about noodles and plaster. But with one hundred and sixty-six bricks of ramen, you too can bait children with brain-rot "life hacks." Or, you could replace your foe's entire ceiling with a panel of ramen. Then, on a day when they're particularly grinding your gears, pour boiling water atop their ramen ceiling. Aside from the third-degree burns, this dumbass won't have a ceiling. It'll just be noodles on the floor. Everyone will look at them and cry out, "Hark! Feast thine eyes upon the disfigured one! Sans roof, sans skin graft, sans harlots!"

## 3. At least two booktok books

Okay, the prices range on this one, but the point still stands. There's like three shelves dedicated to this literary shame in almost every Walmart. You could get at least two booktok books and cringe with your friends at them. There's deranged sex fantasies everywhere you look—Haunting Adeline features

vaginal penetration with a firearm, Hooked showcases the desire to fuck a woman

(read: sex, for some reason, with second-degree burns, a running oven, broken glass,

clumsiness. Personally I'm convinced that Colleen Hoover might have never been inside a

atmosphere). You, too, can be a hater like me.

## 2. 75 hours of energy

With fifty Walmart dollars, you can buy 15 bottles of 5-hour energy, which comes out to 75 hours of energy. And as we all know, if you are in an impending-death situation, 5-hour-energy is required (by basic advertising laws) to grant you five additional hours of spry, energetic life—otherwise it's false advertising, and you can sue for that. With 15 bottles of 5-hour energy, you will gain three additional days of lively survival, effectively evading mortality with a \$50 Walmart gift card.

## 1. One raw, unrestrained, passionate night with your mom

I mean, I don't know if you personally would wanna do this, but it's what I got with my \$50 Walmart gift card.



Vivian Kopka '27

atop her father's dead body, and It Ends With Us gives a filthy kitchen safety tutorial

and open wounds. Not even in an "ooh dark sexy masochism" way, actually just character

kitchen in her life and does not understand that those things are not conducive to a seductive

# What is St. Patrick's Day Really Like in (Northern) Ireland?

By ELLA SILVA

As I'm sure most of you are aware, St. Patrick's Day in America is largely just an excuse to party. People pull out their best green t-shirts, maybe attempt some sparkly green or rainbow makeup, and find a place to go party. In my experience in the U.S., this typically happens primarily on the weekend immediately before or after the actual holiday. Sure some people get wasted on a Monday, but a large amount of more formal celebrations will happen on a weekend night.

That is most certainly not the case here.

I woke up bright and early last Monday morning to my upstairs neighbors shouting and screaming because they were already pregaming. At 7:30 a.m. This wonderful human experience was possible because our university was closed and there were no classes since it was a holiday. School-sanctioned day

drinking!! Yay!!

I myself chose to participate in some of this day drinking by getting ready to hit the bars with one of my friends at noon. We decided to walk the roughly 30 minutes to where we were planning to go so we could feel the vibes in the air, and we could certainly feel them. Other than people heading to events, bars, or parties, there was basically no one around. Many businesses were closed. It felt kind of like Christmas if it was a little more chill and entirely about partying.

The green shirts and sparkly makeup are certainly universal though. On our journey nearly everyone we saw was wearing green, or some kind of joke t-shirt, or both. City employees were handing out little flags with shamrocks on them. People were drinking from full bottles of wine in the street. Vibes were incredibly high.

I genuinely don't think I've ever experienced an energy

quite like how it felt to just walk down the street with all of this happening on kind of just. A random Monday. We ended up going to a handful of bars throughout the day, and the vibes were even more fun inside. Lots of singing and cheering and drinking. Just extremely fun and filled with joy overall.

Going into this day, I was super curious to see what people in Ireland (well. Northern Ireland which is technically the U.K. cause that's where I am. But you get it) actually do for St. Patrick's because I know that in the U.S. we have a tendency to take a holiday from another country and kind of make it our own thing, but honestly the energy was pretty similar, just more fun and a little more commitment to it being an Actual Holiday, with school and businesses being closed. This makes me want to experience it in bigger cities in America to see how it holds up.



Crayola.com

Honestly though, if you happen to find yourself in Ireland, the North, or the Republic, for St. Paddy's, be

prepared for fun and drinking and silly energy. 10/10 would recommend. It was however extremely exhausting to keep

going all day and I did take a giant nap between rounds of going out.

# Are the Anti-Rape Stairs a Myth?

By EMMA LAUS

The wide staircase leading up to the science center is a point of intrigue on campus. Sometime during my freshman year, I heard they were designed in order to help people run away from attackers. This claim doesn't really make much sense when you really think about it, but I never heard another explanation so I didn't look into it. However, I feel as though the time has come to get to the bottom of this mystery.

To investigate this matter, I contacted my friend, R.F. Baudhuin, a scholar onof the subject. Baudhuin had attempted to answer this question months earlier, and with intensive questioning, she opened up about her findings.

"When my professor learned that I was pursuing this case, he feigned ignorance," Baudhuin told me. "He eventually said he knew the contractor who had created the stairs, and he could get me in touch, but the contractor said he had heard nothing about the allegations. I searched for an hour for a plaque explaining the backstory of the stairs, which I was certain I had seen before. But there was nothing except grass and dead leaves. I felt like I was crazy, or making this all up. I brushed myself off and decided to take on another case."

This dead end was disappointing, but like Baudhuin, I brushed myself

off and decided to consult the ultimate resource: legitimate online forums. It was here that I found my answer. Sources on Reddit and similarly credible platforms concur that the design was intended for crowd control, to slow down groups of people in case of large crowds or an emergency. When I returned to Baudhuin with my findings, she fell to the floor in disbelief.

So there you have it. Crowd control—I should have known.



Stairs between Morse-Ingersoll and Science Center (Emma Laus '27)

# Stay Alive Sweetheart “Sunrise on the Reaping” Book Review

By VANESSA SKILDUM

Since “Sunrise on the Reaping” (SOTR) was announced in June of 2024, it has had a place on my calendar, and I eagerly counted down the days until its release. Sure enough, this Tuesday, March 18, three friends and I hopped into a car and drove 30 minutes to the nearest Barnes and Noble. The following two days were full of tears and minutes of staring numbly at walls as Suzanne Collins crushed me with her words.

SOTR is the fifth book in the popular young adult “Hunger Games” collection by Suzanne Collins. As a prequel to the original trilogy, the book dives into Katniss and Peeta’s mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, and his experience participating in the second Quarter Quell, the 50th Hunger Games. Starting on his birthday, the day of the reaping, you watch a series of unfortunate events unfold, leading to Haymitch getting whisked off to the Capital, where he quickly shows off his rebellious spirit, landing him with President Snow as an enemy.

I will admit that I was surprised when I first found out that this would include Haymitch. It’s not that I don’t think Haymitch is an interesting character—he is one of my favorites—but in *Catching Fire*, Collins showed Katniss and Peeta watching Haymitch’s games, so I already knew what the arena looked like, who he teamed up with, how he won, and even what happened to him afterward.

Collins made me eat my doubts as she created a hard-punching tale about David Hume’s concept of “implicit submission,” which refers to the ease with which a few individuals can control the masses. The members of the giant collective passively accept the ruler’s authority even if there is no clear contract or explicit consent. Collins further dives into this idea by focusing on how implicit submission relies on propaganda, precisely how Panem, the Capital, controls all of the districts.

Everything I thought I knew about the arena, what happened, and how it happened was completely and utterly wrong. It was a tale spread by Panem. This concept was so interesting to explore, especially in our society, where clips of videos and photos are taken out of context to create a narrative, even if it is not the truth. False narratives are common in political campaigns, as each side tries to slander the other.

One thing Collins’ never fails at is writing a fantastic first-person narrative. Haymitch, while still sassy, is entirely different in this book. He has a family and a loving girlfriend, and while his family is poor, they don’t live badly by Seam standards, which is the poorest section in District 12. This makes it so he has so much he could lose at any given moment, making his stakes so high that I was terrified for him as he flaunted his rebellious spirit. I felt like I was in Haymitch’s brain as he contemplated every decision. His losses were mine, and the small victories brought me the same satisfaction.

SOTR got a five-star rating and took the top spot in the

series for me, beating out the previously held victor, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” (TBOSAS). It is not a common occurrence that I love prequels or sequels better than the original, but Collins has done this twice. SOTR delicately weaves strands from TBOSAS as well as the original trilogy, from the inclusion of well-loved characters, songs, sayings, and even a beloved nickname to fill in the pieces I didn’t even know I was missing.

This book should not be read without reading the original trilogy first. While TBOSAS can be read first, SOTR would pack quite the punch it does without having the information the other four books in the series provide. The epilogue would also spoil the ending of “Mockingjay.”



“Sunrise on the Reaping” book cover; Goodreads

**Fair warning:** Everything I discuss past this point includes spoilers, and it might be hard to follow if you have not finished the book. I loved seeing the previous victors, Beetee, Wiress, and Mags, and how they were before “Catching Fire.” Beetee’s introduction nearly made me cry, and every time I thought the Capital could go no lower, they took home the limbo trophy.

It is known that the victors of the Hunger Games do not

get treated well in the slightest, but the fact that Beetee had to mentor his 12-year-old son Ampert is so unbelievably heartbreaking. Beetee knows it’s a punishment and how it will end. His telling Haymitch he hopes his son’s death is quick is something no parent should ever have to say.

I truly appreciate the insight into the rebellion we see as Haymitch joins Plutarch Heavensbee and the victors to try to end the games. Even though Haymitch’s efforts in the arena, attempting to blow up the water tank and then later the generator, don’t result in the desired outcome, that doesn’t stop the rebellion. Plutarch and Haymitch’s conversation towards the end of the book on how the rebellion will still be there so that when someone with more time or simply luckier comes along, they can end it is a jumping-off point to land at the original trilogy.

This setup shows how lucky Katniss’s circumstances were that everything played out how it did. Haymitch had people he loved, but they got erased from the narrative, so the Capital didn’t care about them, which allowed President Snow to murder them all. Katniss volunteered for her sister, who the capital adored, and Peeta was the other half of the star-crossed lovers that everyone was rooting for, making it so that President Snow couldn’t hurt either of them. It was less of Katniss being the chosen one and more like all the pieces laid down for years finally falling into place.

Seeing Burdock and Astrid, Katniss’ parents, young and in love, had me kicking my feet. It is confirmed that Katniss is officially Covey from her Dad’s side, which makes it all the more symbolic that she is the face of the rebellion that finally dethrones President Snow, especially after his storyline with Lucy Gray.

Haymitch is the king of pinning after a woman. Lenore Dove was never far from his thoughts, no matter the circumstances. His promise to end the reaping to her kept him going all those years until Katniss and Peeta came along. Haymitch taking care of geese at the end of “Mockingjay” is not just a random choice but an easter egg of how much he loves Lenore as she kept geese while she was alive. They both say they are like geese and mate for life, which is cringe-worthy, yes, but perfect.

I was thrilled when Effie appeared. I genuinely jumped up and down, but I was disappointed Tigris was not even mentioned once. From *Mockingjay*, we know she was a stylist for the Hunger Games, so I was hopeful we would see her character more in-depth.

How SOTR tied everything together when I finished the epilogue felt like a proper end, not one that could be revisited, but like a goodbye. The stories of the characters who wanted to be told were told, and that was that. Collins only adds to this series when she has something to say, so she could very well come out with another, but the ending just had a ringing of finality to it, like how the end of “Mockingjay” from the original trilogy did.

# The Forgotten Art of Screwball Comedies

By INDIA DAVID

Growing up with a movie fanatic as a father, I was forced to sit down and watch all of his favorites, and I developed impeccable taste because of it. One of those movies, which has become a classic with my family, is the 1972 screwball comedy “What’s Up Doc?” starring Barbara Streisand and Ryan O’Neal.

This warm and captivating romance is the definition of a screwball comedy, a genre that dramatizes comedic catastrophes accompanying a romance story. However, this form of the romance genre has been forgotten in the recent onslaught of rom-coms on streaming services.

A screwball comedy leans into the more physical forms of comedy and usually involves the female lead challenging the male lead and making him uncomfortable with his masculinity. These themes are constantly seen as Judy Maxwell (Streisand) and Howard Bannister (O’Neal) are placed into ridiculous situations that escalate to extreme heights. For example, when Howard

tries to hide Judy in his hotel room from his fiancée, he breaks a TV and sets the room on fire while Judy hangs from the window ledge outside, wearing nothing but a towel. Nowadays, there are very few screwball comedies. Romantic comedies tend to be more realistic, with some dramatized situations, but none reach the heights of outlandish adventures “What’s Up Doc?” does.

If I were to compare it to a modern rom-com to offer it as a recommendation, I would say it is similar to “Anyone But You,” the 2023 movie starring Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell. Though the stories follow different plots regarding comedies in the romance genre, they are very similar.

Both movies are filled with fast-paced and witty dialogue, two powerhouse actors with impeccable chemistry, and outlandish situations ending with characters having to be fished out of a harbor. The movies also both have an iconic song that the characters

sing. “What’s Up Doc?” has the Broadway classic “You’re the Top” from the musical “Anything Goes,” allowing Streisand to showcase her famous voice. “Anyone But You” has “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield, which is brought up multiple times and sung by many characters.

Even today, “What’s Up Doc?” remains fresh in its comedy. While it has excellent shenanigans and physical comedy, what’s most impressive is the quick dialogue, specifically when performed by Streisand.



Clip from “What’s Up Doc?”; *New York Times*

She delivers her lines with such precision and charm that they shock the other characters and the audience as they take in her brilliant punch lines.

Streisand carries this movie with her impeccable comedic timing and remarkable charisma. Her character, Judy, is grander than life and untouchable. Streisand’s talent makes it easy to ignore how dubious her character’s actions are. Judy is trying to seduce a man away from his fiancée. The two leads never had a moment of connection before Judy starts to flirt and finagle her

way into his life.

O’Neal, as Howard Bannister, is the lost puppy beside Judy. He accurately represents the audience as he can’t help but be pulled into Streisand’s charm and flounder through the situations she gets him stuck in.

One of the movie’s genuine stars is Judy’s rival, Eunice Burns (Madeline Kahn). Eunice is Howard’s fiancée, and she is shrewd, opinionated, and annoyingly controlling of Howard, whereas Judy is shrewd, opinionated, and not as annoyingly

controlling of Howard. It seems the man has a type.

Kahn’s performance is brilliant, especially her comedic timing and how she makes her voice more shrill with each line of outrage. She is there to make Judy look like a better partner for Howard, and Kahn’s comedic genius makes her an aggravating presence on screen.

The movie takes place in San Francisco, and with its warm seventies aesthetic, it offers a haven for all the mayhem that ensues.

Beyond the romance, there is an underlying story involving four identical overnight bags filled with clothes, jewelry, government files, and igneous “tambula” rocks with musical properties. The plotline of the bags can be a bit confusing to follow at times, but the comedy that comes from the bags being misplaced among characters is delightful. It all culminates in a shooting at a house party for musicologists, which leads to a bizarre car chase.

“What’s Up Doc?” is known for its eleven-minute car chase through San Francisco. The scene moves through famous spots in San Francisco, including Lombard Street and the grand staircase in Alta Plaza Park, which you can see get damaged in the chase and still is to this day.

The props alone for this scene are ingenious. They include a three-wheel delivery bike, a Chinese dragon, and four cars, one of which is a bright blue Volkswagen Beetle that floats in the San Francisco Bay.

Judy and Howard speed through the streets throughout this scene and get into bizarre and hilarious scenarios. There are a few close-up shots with the characters that give some quick-witted dialogue, but for the most part, it is filled with sweeping wide shots of the vehicles being expertly maneuvered through the San Francisco streets. While entertaining to watch, at some point, you ask yourself, when will this end?

The scene is iconic, but it makes it clear how dated the film is—seeing a character smash through a pane of glass or watching the four cars cause more destruction than the last as they drive over cement or run into a parked camper are comedic tropes that have been done to death now. The only way to appreciate them is by acknowledging the age of the film.

Beyond some aged comedy bits, “What’s Up Doc?” stands the test of time compared to similar movies of that age.

# Men's Lacrosse Outmatched

By KIMBERLY PILON

Men's lacrosse hosted Lake Forest on Saturday for their second conference game of the season. Lake Forest took an early lead, but nearing the end of the first quarter, junior



Beloit College

Liam Walker scored his first goal of the game, assisted by sophomore Ryder Story.

In the second, the Foresters' offense stayed strong, but a crucial mistake by their goalkeeper allowed Rilan Larmore to find the net. He was able to score again before halftime, and the teams left the field with Lake Forest ahead 12-3.

During the second half, the Buccaneers' defense improved, and offense took advantage of their chances. The defense only allowed three goals in the third quarter, and added another point from Ethan Scutchfield early on.

Liam Walker scored again in the fourth, the first goal of the quarter, and was followed by the Foresters' last goal of the game. Seniors Jordan Rice and Will Palmer finished the game strong with a goal each in the last four minutes of the game.

Eric Seo, Beloit's starting goalkeeper, faced an astounding sixty shots Saturday afternoon. He allowed sixteen goals and made twenty-three saves. Sophomore Christian Moore played the last quarter for the Buccaneers, making one save.

The team plays away on Wednesday, March 26th versus Lawrence University at 7 p.m.

# Why Are the Patriots So Rich? NFL Free Agency

By JEFFREY BATTLE

The 2025 NFL free agency period has seen several notable moves, with teams bolstering their rosters for the upcoming season. Here's an overview of some key signings and their potential impact:

Milton Williams to the New England Patriots: The Patriots secured defensive tackle Milton Williams with a four-year, \$104 million contract, making him the highest-paid player in franchise history by average annual value. Williams, 26, was a standout performer in the previous season, notably excelling in the NFC Championship Game and the Super Bowl. His addition aims to strengthen New England's defensive line and contribute to a new team culture under head coach Mike Vrabel. Milton was the sleeper pickup of FA that I thought, and was wondering if the Packers were going to try to pick

him up, but alas, this is a huge amount of money for a team that can't do that.

Zack Baun's Contract Extension with the Philadelphia Eagles: The Eagles re-signed linebacker Zack Baun to a three-year, \$51 million contract, with \$34 million guaranteed. Baun's versatility was instrumental in Philadelphia's defensive success, as he played multiple roles, including defensive lineman and slot defender. His performance earned him recognition as one of the top defensive players, nearly securing the Defensive Player of the Year award. HE'S SO GOOD GOD DAMNIT.

Aaron Banks' Signing with the Green Bay Packers: The Packers addressed their offensive line needs by signing guard Aaron Banks to a four-year, \$77 million deal. Banks, formerly with the San Francisco

49ers, is considered a solid player, though some analysts feel the contract may be slightly above market value. His addition is expected to provide stability and experience to Green Bay's offensive front. Interesting pickup because he is 325 and 6'5". Luckily he can move but I'm a little nervous about this signing for the Packers. He might be a solid role player, or at least starting caliber.

I think some other notable signings are:

Carlton Davis to the New England Patriots: The Patriots bolstered their secondary by signing cornerback Carlton Davis to a three-year, \$60 million contract. Davis' experience and playmaking ability are anticipated to enhance New England's defense. Carlton Davis has always done a great job and I'll never dislike this pickup unless he plays like JC Jackson did for the Pats a

while back.

Javon Hargrave's Move to the Minnesota Vikings: The Vikings strengthened their defensive line by signing defensive tackle Javon Hargrave to a two-year, \$30 million deal. Hargrave's presence is expected to disrupt opposing offenses and bolster Minnesota's pass rush. Minnesota is loading up to do a very good job of

being a complete defense and having a good o line for a healthy JJ McCarthy. Sad to say though, cause man, I hate the Vikings.

Levi Onwuzurike's Re-signing with the Detroit Lions: The Lions secured defensive tackle Levi Onwuzurike with a one-year, \$5.5 million contract. Onwuzurike's consistency and performance are valued

assets to Detroit's defensive front. Especially with the lack of defensive line play. We shall see with the NFL draft if they add anyone.

These strategic moves reflect teams' efforts to address specific needs and enhance their rosters ahead of the 2025 season.



NBC Sports Boston

# Top 5 Sports of all Sports

By ELISA TURNER

5. Hockey  
First of all? Skating is a skill. Skating while trying to hit a

better. All the visual loveliness of sports without the pungent sweat smells (thank you ice-cold

conductive to violence, and boy do I like watching those men bleed.

them dancers. Then put them in pretty outfits. I could probably count all the haters of figure skating on one hand, and they're all just miffed drunkards who came to the ice rink on the wrong day wearing jerseys and face paint, looking stupid as hell while the pretty and talented people skate around.

3. Swimming  
Water! I don't even care what kind of swimming. Not only is swimming a valuable skill, but the fact that it's a sport is pretty epic. I think Michael Phelps has single handedly convinced parents to teach their kids how to swim. Think about it. When was the last time you encountered a child who didn't know how to swim? I'm, like, pretty sure the number of swimming children has increased recently. My mother is a first-generation immigrant from a water-

surrounded third-world country, and she still does not know how to swim. If you threw her into the pool, she would not make it. That's a little embarrassing. Swimming is awesome though.

2. Starting an essay at 11:42 when the deadline is 11:59

A blood-pressure raising, butt-clenching sport if I've ever done one. Now, you may be thinking—dude, that's not a sport. Well, then why am I blowing through preworkout trying to do it?? Why does it skyrocket your heart rate to, like, 200?? I rest my case.

1. Volleyball  
I admire volleyball, it is my one true love. You ever seen the players with the three-foot verticals? The absolutely decimating, skull-crushing spikes? The insane volleys? It's so fun to watch. And beach volleyball is fun for everyone, despite the fact that physics will be your enemy during the play time. Volleyball is the winner of sports, it is the bestest sport. Thank you for coming to my TedTalk.



MLB

mobile hamburger patty flits across the ice? Absolute art. It's like soccer but a trillion times

rink). And they fight each other! With sticks in hand and blades on feet, it fosters an environment

4. Figure skating  
Take the previous thing, but remove the violence. Then make

# Do I Know Ball? The Uninformed March Madness Experience

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

March Madness: A time for all men to gather together in hopes of completing the perfect bracket. The crazy thing is that everyone finds out pretty quickly that getting a perfect bracket is impossible. This is my first time participating in March Madness, and I have some thoughts.

First of all, is Kansas even a real school? That like, does basketball? The last time I checked on them, I thought they were good. I had them going to the final four, which shows you

just how much I clearly don't know about basketball.

I put too much trust in Marquette, Louisville, Wisconsin, and VCU. I made half of those picks thinking I was a basketball genius, but I just looked so silly.

Duke might win, but I'm still sticking to my guns and I picked Auburn. I thought that Auburn beat Duke the last time they met, and I probably should have checked instead of guessing, but I'm sticking to my guns and

staying with Auburn. I really hope I win too, because I have both of my brothers to prove wrong.

I still hate Kansas for losing. Why did they do that? To Arkansas of all schools. Tsk tsk. I'm convinced that the University of Kansas is a psyop that exists only to be put on unsuspecting brackets, luring unsuspecting basketball fans into picking a really shitty team, and messing up their whole bracket.

These are all my current

thoughts, but hey, I can't be that bad at picking teams, because I'm second in my group with a

87.9% success rate. Maybe being uninformed is the best way to go.



NCAA

# A Word of Caution to BSWU

By EZEKIEL KINGSBURY, ERIC SEO, and CIAN McKEOWN

On Thursday, March 20, after weeks of talks with the administration, Beloit Student Workers United (BSWU) came to an agreement with Beloit College Administration on the definition of a student worker and, thereby, an agreement for voluntary recognition if BSWU is successful in getting a majority of the student workers to sign with the union.

This is a commendable effort on the part of Jake Fein'27 and Ela Heywood'26, the leaders of this movement, whose relentless advocacy has galvanized peers and forced administrators to reckon with student worker concerns. Yet, as we transition from protest to practice, we urge BSWU to confront its contradictory narrative, reconcile clashing accounts with the administration, and weigh idealism against reality. This is a plea for clarity from those who share a desire for progress.

BSWU's rallying cry for a 'living wage' strikes an emotional cord, but the nature of student work and Beloit's financial realities should temper this idealism. Student work is, by its nature, supplementary. Students do not face the same financial pressures as non-students (e.g., rent, groceries), and when they do it is deferred. The difference between a student's and a non-student's financial necessity could not be more stark. However, students still depend on student work to some extent. Unless you work or are blessed with parental cash infusions, you will be unable to buy textbooks, afford clothes, or have fun.

Thus, a higher hourly wage sounds appealing, but the \$900,000 student-work budget is fixed. At \$8.25/hour, this funds 20 hours weekly for 600 students. Raising wages to, for example, \$12/hour without budget growth would result in 30% fewer hours or jobs.

BSWU organizers acknowledge this; "Assuming no budget movement, hours will be cut," Fein told us. It's a zero-sum game: if pay goes up, hours or jobs go down — probably both.

So, who gets hurt by this? The first would be positions deemed 'non-essential' (i.e., jobs that could be performed by a helpful sign). Second, even if hours aren't cut unilaterally, any cut would impact essential services at some point. Services such as DK's, facilities, and the Morse Library rely on student labor. Any cut to their student hours may force non-student staff to shoulder heavier workloads. Fein acknowledges this, but also asserts that any adverse effect on non-student workers is "not our responsibility." Heywood adds, "It's not ideal... but if it proves a point about our conditions, I'm prepared to make that statement."

This is a striking admission. BSWU leaders recognize that their demands may actively harm non-

student workers but justify it as collateral damage for their broader movement. That selective concern for labor solidarity should give student workers pause, especially if they subscribe to the ideals of a workers' union.

This laissez-faire attitude from union leadership regarding outside consequences may be detrimental to lasting gains and a healthy, collaborative relationship between the union and the college community. As a legitimate labor organization, it should be within the union's principles to, at the very least, give lip service to non-student workers. We hope their priorities here will change.

A key point that the organizers of BSWU raise is that any increase in wages should be done through a tiered pay structure and that jobs requiring more effort should pay more than passive roles. But here's the problem: the administration agrees. Tim Leslie, Vice President of Career & Professional Development and Executive Director of Impact Beloit, says, "We are absolutely open to a tiered system of pay. It makes sense. There are different types of jobs with different expectations and different types of work." Why does the union frame such a demand as 'the College not willing to compromise'? In recruitment materials, hyperbolic claims of conflict may provoke support, but they erode trust. If collaboration is possible, why default to adversarial posturing?

In interviews, BSWU leaders have also claimed that concerns about student work have been brought to administration. They told the *Round Table* that a group of students brought concerns to Eric Boynton in the Fall of 2023 and were "laughed out of the office." Yet, members of the administration state that Boynton never had such a meeting. This contradiction raises an important question: Was there a genuine dismissal of concerns, or is this narrative a retroactive justification for the union's adversarial stance? It is suspicious that such an incident was not reported in neutrality agreement meetings.

Also, the claim that certain departments and supervisors exercise "discriminatory practices" is frequently cited by organizers. In

a recent news interview, Heywood even called working conditions "inhumane." Heywood later clarified with the *Round Table* that she meant that it may be the case that "the treatment itself wasn't inhumane, but it has created inhumane situations." However, we do not see significant disparity between these two statements and find the latter unnecessarily confusing. Regardless, claiming inhumanity in the treatment, or the situations that treatment creates, is a distorted exaggeration of the truth.

While we can only speculate, we believe it is pertinent to note that this has been heavily investigated by the administration, and they have not found formal evidence.

This, of course, does not mean discriminatory practices are not occurring, but it could mean that students are too frightened to speak up about this. If these discriminatory practices are as rampant as BSWU suggests, why aren't students being encouraged to file formal complaints? If BSWU purports to support student workers, and the administration has no accounts of worker mistreatment, some of these incidents need to be shared as evidence. It feels insufficient to claim that excessive injustice exists without recording any of it.

BSWU's rhetoric further muddies trust. Posts like "Check your privilege, it's the difference between food and no food" energize supporters but risk alienating allies. Again, a misrepresentation and overstatement of truth seems only to provoke antipathy towards the College when we should be building a supportive community in solidarity. While Fein insists the union isn't "antagonizing the college," their messaging suggests otherwise. It is possible to unify without relying on hostility. If BSWU truly aims to build community, why does its public posture encourage hostility?

The contradiction deepens when considering non-student workers, as previously mentioned. Fein dismisses the union's impacts on non-student staff as "not our responsibility," yet these employees, who lack the privilege to unionize without risking their jobs (and wages actually vital for their survival), are essential

to campus life. Selective advocacy feels incongruent and inimical for a movement preaching solidarity.

As leaders of a campus organization ourselves, we also have doubts about sustainability. Getting people to show up to meetings is like pulling teeth. With the union's proposed 30-person-leadership committee, we don't believe those teeth will be any easier to pull. Right now there is a movement, there is energy, and, thus, finding hopefuls is not difficult.

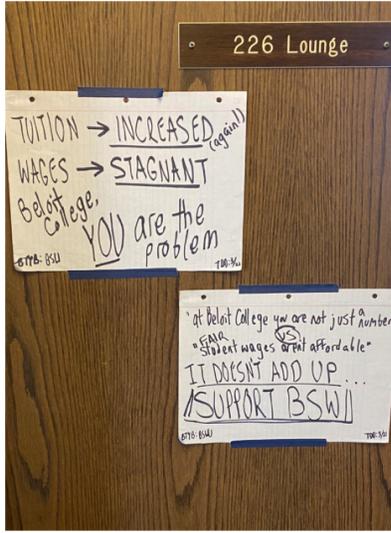
The ongoing maintenance and management of the union is an especially important responsibility because unions are a legal structure governed by federal law, and the onus for this maintenance will be solely on the students. But once something becomes institutionalized and made banal, how will it sustain itself? Will this union outlive its founders' graduation, or become yet another relic in Beloit's history of fleeting activism? Fein floated national affiliation to address this, but that too brings the baggage of further legal complexity, compliance standards, and rigidity.

In the wake of the presidential election, the desire to act is understandable. There may be a feeling that, if reform cannot be implemented nationwide, we might as well start with our small, residential community: the idea that we can make things better for our neighbors.

The desire to act in defiance of political upheaval may eclipse self-interest. Is BSWU recruiting students with their ideas, or are they leveraging the liberal idealism disseminated throughout campus? Support for the new student union may originate from cancel-culture-adjacent fears herding students towards conformity. Speaking from experience, we have felt pressured to support BSWU without being presented with many facts. It seems that a pro-union stance is integral to the I'm-not-one-of-them liberal image, regardless of union specifics. We fear that performative liberal support without pause for thought may be harmful to the community.

We do not mean to say there is no value in activism as a community-building structure. However, if our primary goal is to build community, which it should be, we should go directly there: join clubs, make music, create art.

If you create an unnecessarily adversarial us-versus-them dynamic, you drive a wedge between an already fragmented community; you run the risk of killing the seed before it has even had a chance to sprout. With this union, we urge Beloit Student Workers United to change the pattern of its behavior and rhetoric. We urge good-faith collaboration, transparency, and consideration.



Ezekiel Kingsbury'25, signage outside Thursday meeting

# This Is Not Unprecedented

By CIAN McKEOWN

One of the most prominent adjectives used in politics to describe the magnitude of our current president's disregard for the checks and balances of the federal government and extremist policies is perhaps not the right one. Unprecedented should mean that there's nothing close to the threat that the current administration poses to public health, foreign policy, the economy, working people, and minority groups than this one. While this may be true, we see some strikingly similar administrations in the long, checkered history of the American presidency.

During the first Trump presidency, a portrait of Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States hung watchfully in the White House Cabinet Room. Which presidential portraits an administration chooses to hang there are often telling about the values a president may have. Trump's predecessor hung portraits of George Washington and Harry Truman. This subtle gesture is not the only public ode Trump has made to Jackson however, delivering an address at Jackson's Hermitage in 2017. In 2020, when protesters tried to tear down a statue of Jackson in

Washington D.C.'s Lafayette Square, Trump protested, saying the protestors "don't love our country" and calling the statue a "great monument."

Jackson, like Trump, entered the political arena as an outsider and positioned himself as a man of the people. At the time, Jackson lived at his famous Hermitage, a plantation in Tennessee where he owned nearly one hundred slaves. Jackson suffered a humiliating defeat in 1824 despite gaining a groundswell of support. It was a close election, so close in fact that no candidate won a majority of the Electoral College vote. As a result, the 12th Amendment dictated that the House of Representatives decide the election. Henry Clay, the Speaker of the House at the time, threw his support behind John Quincy Adams, even though Jackson outpaced Adams in both the popular vote and Electoral College.

Adams was then handed the presidency by Congress, appointing Henry Clay as his Secretary of State. Unlike another presidential candidate 196 years later,

Jackson conceded the election to Adams. But Jackson was still furious, calling the perceived deal between Adams and Clay a "Corrupt bargain." From then on Jackson vowed to clean up what he viewed as rampant corruption in

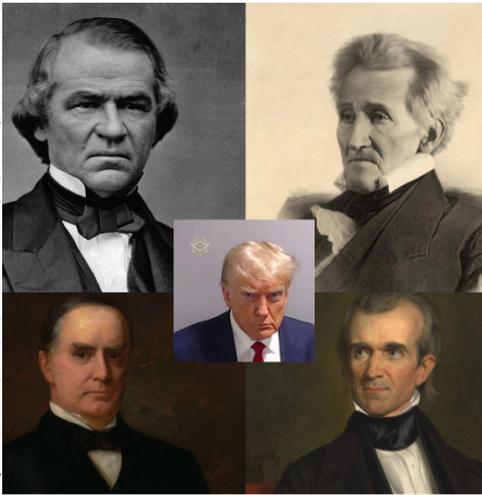
Party. Although the mud-slinging presidential campaign of 1828 dredged up many unsavory details about Jackson's past, such as his many duels, he easily won. If you would believe it, there is another president who convinced voters to ignore his many scandals based on the populist image he had cultivated. His easy victory was overshadowed by the death of his wife Rachel in 1828. In a very Trumpian move, Jackson offered a vengeful jab at Adams supporters in eulogizing his wife, saying "May God Almighty forgive her murderers, as I know she forgave them. I never can."

Before John Quincy Adams and his family could even move out, a disorderly mob of Jacksonians descended on the White House and damaged thousands of dollars worth of the White House's china. Jackson made almost the same racket when he began his presidency. Popularizing the "spoils system" that would dominate American

politics for the remainder of the century, Jackson placed his friends and political allies in positions of power in the government. The Jackson Administration also conducted in-depth investigations of government waste, trying to exorcise whatever corrupt elements they believed to be present in the federal government. What they perhaps should have been investigating was the waste present just outside the White House in a putrid sewage bog that would contaminate the water supply and lead to the death of William Henry Harrison in 1841.

A wannabe king (as political cartoons of the day often depicted) Jackson was one of the most tyrannical presidents this country has ever seen. Much like Trump, Jackson targeted marginalized groups with his policies, infamously setting into motion the events that would lead to the tragic Trail of Tears, where sixty thousand Cherokee were forcibly displaced from their home and forced on an arduous march to Oklahoma that led many to die in the harsh winter conditions on the journey.

Read the rest of this article at [roundtable.beloit.edu](http://roundtable.beloit.edu)



Washington, to drain the swamp if you will.

Jackson supporters were an almost cultlike mob, the first in a long line of tribalist partisans to enter American politics. In the election of 1824, Jackson was painted as a victim, and "Jacksonians," as they came to be known, founded the Democratic

# *dreamy dreamy dreamy dreamy dreamy dreamy*



## *horoscopes*

- Aries - dreams sometimes do come true but your dream last not WILL NOT. especially if the dream was students actually reading the content of the paper.
- Taurus - when you wake up tomorrow, go straight to the bathroom and let it out there. it's gonna be diarrhea.
- Gemini - everyone knows about the sex dream you had, you dirty dog
- Cancer - keep chasing your dreams even in this economy trust
- Leo - sleep with a weapon tonight. dream the streamer is after you he says that's what the mask is for or whatever
- Virgo - your sleep paralysis demon fell in love with the rise and fall of your breathing :)
- Libra - you have weird dreams but maybe they'll stop idk
- Scorpio - oh Scorpio... you're in trouble
- Sagittarius - don't sleep walk and accidentally suck dick!!!!!! trust me
- Capricorn - another reminder to wash that sex pillow I know you still didn't do it.
- Aquarius - you dream of the revolution but I see you with the brandy melville underwear. the kind with the hearts. trynna smash?
- Pisces - beware of your neighbors... they b fucking. they are stealing your sexual energy, draining everyone in your building.

*Was I in your dreams last night?*

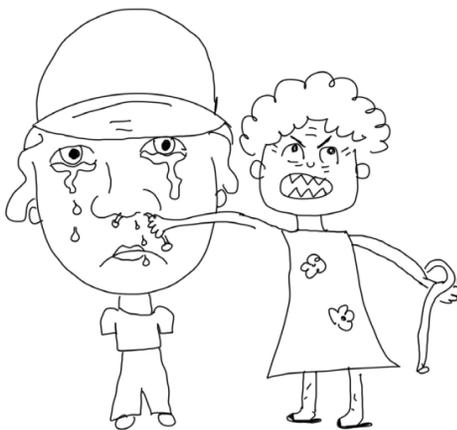
*Was I in your dreams last night?*

## *Your Dreams*



Flagged down taxi in beautiful gown - Bea

Grandma ripped out septum ring - Pat



Roommate ate my mango then I ate a rotten one - Rosa

Ryan Ross Alcoholism - Lili



Diploma got taken away, had to go back to high school - Sophia



Caught Kyogre in stadium parking lot - Cece

Basement portal to Kwik Trip (among other things) - Korynne

