

The Round Table

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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

roundtable.beloit.edu

Follow-Up on Transparency and College Communication with Students

NEWS

By VIVIAN KOPKA & ELISA TURNER

For more information and context, read last week's article titled "Transparency and Trepidation: College Communication with Students" on roundtable.beloit.edu.

On Wednesday, April 8, an email was sent out to students notifying them that the college "[has] decided to align single and double housing costs to differentiate pricing between single and double rooms." This comes after an email sent on April 3 by the Dean of Students, stating that housing costs will not increase until the 2027 academic year.

Single-room housing will now be an extra \$400 per semester, starting fall 2026, according to Vice President of Finance and Strategy & Operations Tim Leslie and the college's CFO Elizabeth Moore. This news comes after some students have already registered for housing.

The reason listed as explanatory for this change is claimed "to align with industry standards, promote equity by ensuring students pay in proportion to their living space and privacy, and better manage demand and housing resources while supporting the maintenance and improvement of residence halls" per the email sent by Leslie and Moore.

Based on current housing capacity, every double – excluding Greek life housing, special interest housing, and Peet Hall – accounts for around 460 individuals.

Last year in the Fall, around 825

students were living on campus total, including all types of housing.

If all doubles are filled to capacity, depending on enrollment, nearly 300 students would have no other option but to reside in single rooms, adding an extra \$240,000 for the college next year alone. There are around 415 single dorms on campus, so that number would increase at full capacity.

Of course, there are many factors like accommodations, Resident Assistant living, enrollment, and other extenuating circumstances that will increase or decrease how much the college makes from the housing fees decision.

In a document attached to the email, titled "FAQs - Single Room Pricing," Leslie and associated faculty restate the equity claim—the "flat rate" model often means that students in double rooms are indirectly subsidizing the higher square footage and increased privacy of single rooms. This new structure ensures that students pay a rate that more accurately reflects their specific living environment," and "Single rooms are in high demand and represent a higher "footprint" per student in terms of maintenance and utility costs."

Associated faculty repeat the notion of equity even later in the FAQ in response to the poor communication from administration about the increase in housing, saying, "[t]he decision to increase room rates this year [rather than next year] is

the correct decision to align pricing with industry standards, promote equity, and better support the maintenance and improvement of residence halls."

College leadership acknowledges that they, at one point, had aligned with Dean of Students Ron Watson in delaying the price increase until the 2027 academic year, claiming "the leadership team reconsidered our decision [to charge different prices for single and double rooms] and the Dean of Students sent a communication indicating that room rates would remain flat. This reconsideration was a mistake[.]"

Additionally, the FAQ also states that the money from this increase goes towards "the necessary revenue to reinvest back into the maintenance and modernization of all our residence halls." Notably, the 2025-2026 overall tuition increase claimed to "continue to invest in the spaces... that make Beloit exceptional"; these spaces apparently did not include any sort of housing updates to current dorms despite Bushnell's "huge patches of mold", as Claire Winter '28, arts editor of *The Round Table* and Bushnell resident, says.

The most recent version of the FAQ also ensures that students with single-room related accommodations will not pay the higher rate, but the standard double rate: "[s]tudents with housing-related disability accommodations will continue to work with the LEADS office to ensure their housing accommodations

are met." This email was sent after the deadline to get housing accommodations for the 2026-2027 school year.

College leadership's claims in the past have not been consistent about how money is distributed. From the 2025-2026 tuition increase email, college leadership claims that the tuition increase for that academic year would be used "to provide a transformative educational experience" and reinforce Beloit's "[commitment] to providing a superior education"—yet, as of September 2025, the college has lapsed in licensure for numerous teaching programs.

The news regarding the housing changes have come during a time of overall inconsistency in communication between the college and its students, as covered in last week's article.

Student leaders organized a petition, demanding that the college reverse the policy. The petition states: "[s]tudents matter more than profit! The student body should not pay for the mistakes of the administration, who make six-figure salaries, including Eric Boynton, who made nearly \$400,000 in his first year as president."

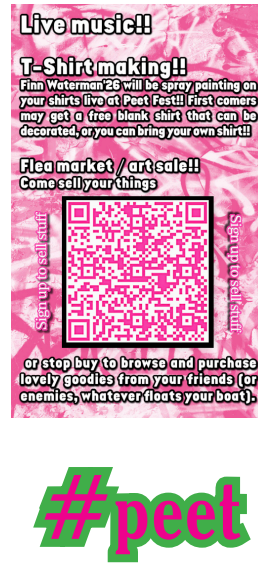
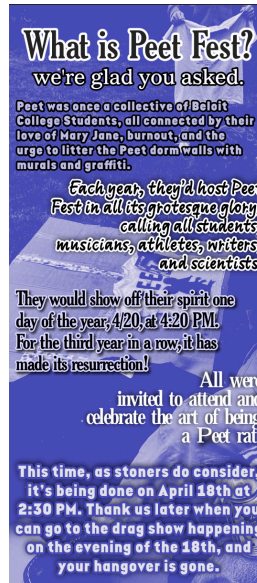
At the time of writing (Sunday, April 12) the petition had almost 600 signatures. The organizers' goal is 1,000 signatures. Starting on Monday, April 13, at 9 a.m., there will be a sit-in in front of President Boynton's office to demand a reversal of the change.

PEET FEST IS BACK AGAIN! APRIL 18. BE THERE.

NEWS

By CLAIRE WINTER

That's right, you thought it wouldn't be back but, joke's on you mothershuckers! Come see local bands and music! Come buy clothes, food, random stuff people don't want in their dorms anymore, and our graphics editor (Betty)'s rare and unique sculptures (patent pending). Chill out in the sun (or overcast shade, or tornado-adjacent weather) with your friends! We will play even if they tear down the gazebo and raze Chapin Quad to the ground and that's a *Round Table* promise!



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MONDAYS 8 p.m.

Round Table

The Round Table provides a balanced, creative, newspaper for the Beloit College community. Our student-run organization is an outlet for its members to juggle truth and integrity with vividly and humor.

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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.

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.

If you find an error, please send an email to roundtable@beloit.edu with "CORRECTION" in the subject line, or submit a Letter to the Editors at roundtable@beloit.edu

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

'What We Do Matters': Optimism, Resolution, and Hard Truths at Academic Senate

By CIAN MCKEOWN



Cian McKeown '27

The April meeting of Beloit College's Academic Senate filled Morse-Ingersoll Hall's Richardson Auditorium with staff, faculty, and students on April 8 to dictate changes to the college's academic program. In the meeting, administration stressed trust, admissions provided hope for the next academic year, President Eric Boynton was reverent toward the college's accomplishments, and healthcare costs rose for faculty.

After Provost Donna Oliver called the meeting to order, ballots were handed out to faculty for the purposes of a tenure track faculty only vote to give an honorary degree to 2026 commencement speaker Silvija Martinovic '02, a Beloit alumnus and tech CEO for the workforce management company Deputy. This motion was adopted, as was the customary motion to officially approve all the seniors eligible for this spring and next fall for graduation.

Faculty-led committee reports began with Professor of Sociology Charles Westerberg presenting on behalf of the Academic Strategic Planning committee. "Hi, I'm Charles," he said, waiting for a collective chuckle to subside and explaining that he was standing in for the committee's usual "fearless and inspirational leader," Professor of Japanese Susan Furakawa, as she dealt with "personal matters." Westerberg explained in his brief presentation that the committee's main goals in the short term were to have further discussion about and revise chapters 6 ("Special Provisions Governing Faculty Employment") and 8 ("Policies and Procedures Governing Academic Senate, Divisions, and Departments") of the college's Administrative Policy Manual. Both were last updated in December and April of 2025 respectively, according to the college's website. It is unclear at this time what these proposed changes are.

An item up for action came courtesy of the Faculty Status and Performance committee, anchored on the podium by Associate Professor of Sociology Kate Linnenberg, who then handed the floor to Associate Professor of Geology Jay Zambito, who sprang up from the aisles mic in hand. Projecting a new policy on the screen for approval, Zambito explained that in order to qualify for the federal funds that many departments rely on, the college must institute an institutional base salary. Said Zambito, "We

should have this in place already, and we don't." The motion to outline a plan to calculate what that salary would be was approved by the voting body.

Next up was a presentation from the Curriculum Oversight and Administration committee, which was spearheaded as always by Associate Professor of Spanish Amy Tibbitts. Tibbitts outlined a slew of new courses in the Sociology, Business, and Economics departments and changes to the Museum Studies minor. Tibbitts also gave a brief comment on the use of digital translators or apps intended for international students for whom English is not their first language. She indicated that there was no official policy regarding the usage of these tools in the classroom at Beloit and that they "will continue to not have a policy on this," clarifying that it is at the discretion of faculty whether to allow it in their syllabi.

Tibbitts handed things off to Professor of Cognitive Science Robin Zebrowski, who spoke on behalf of the Professional and Program Development Committee (PPDC). Zebrowski said succinctly, "PPDC continues to give out money, please keep asking for money," adding that funding requests for departmental programming must be submitted prior to the committee's final meeting of the semester on April 27. Zebrowski also admitted that it has been perhaps more difficult to get guest speakers or scholars to come to campus this year because the United States is a "literal war zone right now." Because there is more money in the budget, Zebrowski says, "We've been trying to award every allotment \$500 over."

Armed with her usual arsenal of numbers, Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing, and Athletics Karen Schedin transitioned the proceedings from committee reports to an update on admissions. "Good news from the admissions office," she said cheerfully, announcing to a showering of applause that Beloit College has received 192 first-year deposits from new students for fall 2026. Schedin also emphasized that this was a 45% increase from this time last year, when the number was 134, and that there will also be 67 students on campus for Accepted Students Day on April 18. The numbers also reflect a good pace for accepted students, a 35% increase from last year, and Schedin estimated that Beloit will reach 4,000 accepted students in their current

recruiting cycle.

As she often does, Schedin outlined the current recruiting angles admissions wants to be widespread, urging the audience to focus on "differentiating attributes" when they speak about the college. She compared Beloit's strategy to that of regional rival Cornell College, which unleashed an inbox blitz of 16,000 offers in order to spike its applicant numbers, although this strategy might lack substance. "We're still outperforming them," Schedin proclaims. In fact, according to Schedin's admissions office, Beloit College has the best admissions numbers among the fourteen Associated Colleges of the Midwest since March 31. All of these numbers acutely indicate an upward trend, Schedin says, as she predicts that Beloit will hit 275 first-year students in this year's class, among them 140 athletes.

An update on benefits from Chief Human Resources Officer Hope Ballentine sent some in the room from applause to gasps as she announced that healthcare costs for faculty and staff would increase by 19% on January 1, 2027, explaining that the increase is "right where the market projected us." She clarified later in her presentation that not all of this additional cost would be levied on faculty. Ballentine assured faculty that meetings between the college's Board of Trustees and Human Resources department were being held, and the groups were looking to "find innovative ways to drive these costs down."

Dean of Students Rongal Watson delivered an update on student affairs, discussing the Beloit Student Government's updating of the student statement of culture, and the renewal of a "Last Call" celebration to bookend the semester and coincide with Residential Life's Late Night Pancake Breakfast on April 29. Watson also previewed the upcoming April 17 Day of Unity from 4 to 6 p.m., featuring Oakton College's Director of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Rick Daniels. Watson also expressed regret about the "miscommunication" contained in the initial email sent to students campus-wide regarding the increase in housing costs, which confused students. "The single [room] is the one increasing," Watson clarified, also confirming that a second email had been sent out to students by the college's Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Moore, and Vice President of Finance, Strategy, and Operations, Tim Leslie, to resolve any misunderstanding.

Watson also addressed a question posed earlier by Marguerite Richardson '27 regarding the effect of the costs on students with disability accommodations, saying that these students could occupy a single room for a lesser cost of a double if their specific accommodations deemed it appropriate. He concluded his remarks by admitting that

he was taking the mistrust of administration among some students caused by miscommunication about housing costs "pretty hard," and that he does not want students to feel as if they cannot trust the messages that administration disseminates.

Beloit College President Eric Boynton provided another edition of his neatly arranged oratory as the meeting drew to a close, speaking about navigating challenging times and saying, "We need to make sure we listen to one another." He told the audience a story of a recent conference he had with the presidents of regional public universities, and that they were trepidatious about their model of education being subsumed by the convenience of artificial intelligence and large language models. His remarks revolved around the broader theme of the importance of people and connection across campus, which Boynton often frames in his Senate addresses as a knotted interdisciplinary web.

To Boynton, it is the style of education that becomes more important in this world. "What we do matters," he remarked, "Probably more than ever at this point." He posited that Beloit offers a personal connection, "something that gets through the noise and finds the signal." Touting the recently announced donation goal of \$85 million by 2030, Boynton finished off his speech with new numbers that were "hot off the press," as he said. He boasted that the college had already raised "almost 50%" of that goal, having taken in a total of \$42 million in gifts as of March 30.

Before adjourning the meeting, Senate president and Provost Donna Oliver gave a brief reminder to faculty about alert slips ("they really, really, really are important") and that remote learning arrangements for students are not permitted to be longer than a week and a half. Oliver also announced a new initiative to pair advanced transfer students who already know exactly what they are going to major in with advisors from that department immediately to solidify a connection with their academic purpose at the college earlier. Oliver encouraged faculty advisors to "please be responsive." The Provost concluded her remarks with the juxtaposition of celebrating newly minted parents on the faculty through a baby photo slideshow after announcing that, "We need to cut some more expenses from the operating budget," across departments.



Beloit College

The (very) Distinguished Explorer Awards

By RACHEL LUBAR and SONYA EDWARDS

On Friday, April 10, 2026, Dr. Nicholas D. Pyenson was the latest recipient of the Roy Chapman Andrews award. The Roy Chapman Andrews Society recognizes a distinguished explorer every year in an effort to keep Andrews' legacy alive. Roy Chapman Andrews is best known for being not only a Beloit native but also an explorer who made knowledge accessible to the masses through his photography and scholarship. This year, Dr. Nicholas D. Pyenson was given this honor for his work as a remarkable paleontologist.

Currently working as the head curator of Fossil Marine Mammals and chair of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., Dr. Pyenson focuses his work on whales and other marine vertebrates. His work highlights a larger effort to make knowledge of marine paleontology more accessible to larger audiences.

Dr. Pyenson's work is a continuation of Andrew's legacy. His research can be found

online, as well as in books and interactive works. "Part of Roy Chapman Andrews' legacy is still on display. Here's [the picture of] the actual skeleton that was collected in 1912 by Roy Chapman Andrews. If you wanted to know if the legacy is still patent, the answer is yes," said Dr. Pyenson.

Dr. Pyenson provided a unique perspective in his lecture about the necessary collaborations that come with his career: "Anyone who knows anything about doing science in the real world knows that you do not do it alone. There's a need for expertise. There's also the need for contributions from different backgrounds. A lot of the work I'll share relies on the collaborations that have happened over the course of my career."

Dr. Pyenson relayed an important lesson on the importance of his work in documenting knowledge. "Collecting still happens, not with a harpoon, but we collect with different tools such as drones and tags." The Roy Chapman Andrews Society not only



Beloit College

reminds us of the importance of collecting and documenting our world, but also reminds us of the advancements made every day in the field.

Chris Taylor Wins Bid for State Supreme Court

By ETHAN COOPER

Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Chris Taylor beat opponent Maria Lazar in a statewide election held April 7, 2026. Taking the seat left by conservative justice Rebecca Bradley's absence, the liberal court majority will increase from 4-3 to 5-2 as several divisive issues find their way to the upper courts later this year, including congressional redistricting and reproductive rights.

The spring elections came after incumbent Rebecca Bradley chose not to seek another decade-long term.

Over 1.5 million people cast their ballots, with Taylor winning just over 900,000,000 votes or about 60%, and Lazar garnering around 600,000,000 or 39.8%, losing by a margin of 20 points.

324,000 people sent in early ballots, meaning about 77% of those who received an absentee ballot, compared to 694,000 early votes last year.

The elections were technically non-partisan, despite the candidates aligning themselves along partisan lines. Taylor, for example, was previously a Democratic lawmaker in the state assembly, stressing her previous connections to Planned Parenthood and labor union endorsements, while Lazar garnered support from former Republican Governor Scott Walker as well as the Fraternal Order of Police, decrying Taylor's liberal agenda.

Wisconsin Democrats have been emboldened by the last two Supreme Court elections, both resulting in double digit victory margins.

Lazar, as assistant attorney general under Scott Walker, defended the controversial Act 10, a law which eviscerated collective bargaining in

the state of Wisconsin. A Dane County Circuit court judge has recently ruled the act unconstitutional, a decision likely to end up in high courts. While the effects of Taylor's election to the supreme court have yet to be seen, the act is certain to end up in a liberal court, a fact which is certain to bear on their decision.

According to AP, approximately 32% of voting age Wisconsinites exercised their civic prerogative to vote, down



Fox 11

by 20% from last year's historic supreme court election. This can likely be attributed to changing stakes, as the ideological makeup of the court will remain reliably liberal for the foreseeable future, in contrast to last year where a flipped seat would have meant a conservative majority.

Being the most expensive judicial election in history, billionaires George Soros and J.B. Pritzker donated a

combined \$3.5 million to winning candidate Susan Crawford, while Elon Musk spent at least \$3 million himself, with groups he funds spending upwards of \$19 million. Total campaign expenditures reached previously unseen heights, soaring past a combined \$100 million, more than dozens of past elections combined and drawing over 50% of eligible voters. Sitting at less than \$10 million combined, this year's spending and turnout seem meager in

seeking to keep the office of governor later this year as well as flipping the state legislature while elections continue to loom large. Democrats see this as a critical moment to start shifting public opinion in a deeply purple swing state, working as well to undo the state's conservative legacy which lingers from the 2010s.

The emphasis which certain political actors place on the Wisconsin state government highlights just how crucial of a role it plays in national politics. For example, when President Donald Trump sought legal action to overturn the election results in 2020, the conservative majority court was only one vote away from siding with the executive, sparking deep concerns over judicial independence and democratic backsliding.

Since gaining a majority in 2023, the courts have already worked to defend Democratic Governor Tony Ever's congressional redistricting plan, and overturned a prohibition on absentee ballot drop boxes.

Notably, yet another conservative justice, Annette Ziegler, will not be seeking another term, giving liberals another chance to expand the majority even further. Ziegler was a member of the conservative court who voted against the majority opinion in Trump v. Biden to overturn election results.

Other elections that took place on April 7 included the appointment of several county supervisors, village trustees, alderpeople, mayoral candidates, and more. State primaries will be held on August 11, and the general election on November 3.

comparison.

"Once again," Taylor began in her acceptance speech, "the people of Wisconsin showed the entire nation that we believe that the people should be at the center of government, and the priority of our judiciary, not the billionaires, not the most powerful and privileged, but the people."

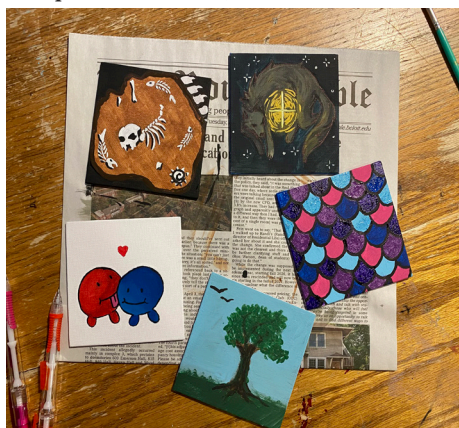
As liberals deepen their hold in the Wisconsin judiciary, Democrats are

Scoop and Paint in the Maurer Link

By KEEGAN DEWITT and ALIVIA RENTERIA

On Saturday, April 11, a Scoop and Paint event was held in the Maurer Link. Hosted by RA Snigdha Dasoondi'28, this one-hour painting session was attended by a number of talented artists and students seeking ice cream.

At the Scoop and Paint, attending students were provided with canvases, paint, and an assortment of different flavored mochi ice creams to choose from. A number of students showed up, both from within Maurer and the campus as a whole, and set to work on



Keegan DeWitt '29

their paintings, quickly falling into a productive groove.

Dasoondi, the RA for Maurer's first floor, shared her thoughts on the event's turnout: "I think [the Scoop and Paint] went pretty good," she said, going on to say how "there were like 15 people who showed up, and everybody stayed the full hour, so that's nice. Everybody painted some awesome stuff, and ice cream is always a hit."

Students used the gathering as an opportunity to put their artistic skills to use, with some truly standout paintings of wolves, trees, and internet memes making memorable centerpiece of the event.

As one of the last RA events hosted this year, the Scoop and Paint served as a nice break for students hoping to socialize and destress from the pressure of finals, which are approaching in a matter of weeks.

Deckard Ponce Jacobson'29, a Maurer resident who attended the event, gave his opinion on how the event went. "It was a fun little event! It was a good break from doing my homework and chores."

The Invisible War

By KIMBERLY PILON

Scott Wallace, assistant professor of journalism at the University of Connecticut, visited campus on Monday, April 6. His talk was titled "The Invisible War: Environmental Destruction and Human Rights in the Amazon rainforest." Wallace began by describing the area and how the Amazon rainforest is slowly disappearing.

Wallace focused on the Matis Tribe in the Jaravari Valley, which is in western Brazil, as well as the Awá tribe in the east. These groups both have contacted and uncontacted members, and how the illegal logging is hurting the contacted members of the Awá as they protect the uncontacted members. Wallace has made a lot of connections throughout his career traveling to Brazil, and he introduced us to the contacted members of the Awá. The contacted members have had to band together to patrol their land for loggers, and around six people have died. The

land with uncontacted tribes are the only areas across the Amazon where the rainforest is still partially intact.

Wallace also focused on the climate impact that the Amazon has on the world. As the dense rainforest declines, its ability to store carbon, produce rainfall and the biodiversity decreases. The indigenous land is what is left of the dense rainforest, making it a prime target for illegal activity. Legislation that protects uncontacted tribes and their land has endless benefits.

Although there is a lot to be done to save the Amazon, the current government is providing more support and resources than previous administrations. Different government agencies are helping the tribes, and legislation is still continuing to be passed. There is hope, but more needs to be done, and the world needs to understand the severity and importance of the Amazon.



@flicksbyjulio

UW-Madison Researcher Arrested

By ELISA TURNER

On Friday, April 10, a University of Madison Wisconsin lab employee was arrested for reckless endangerment after an incident in the UW Madison lab. Makoto Kurada, researcher in the UW-Madison Department of Pathobiological Sciences, known mainly for his research on SARS-CoV2 vaccination and Ebola virus particles, was connected to the release of an "unknown chemical," according to Channel 3000. Per the UW-Madison Police Department Incident Report, an "unknown odor" warranted the investigation, and "Evidence was collected and later tested positive for the presence of a chemical." Kurada confessed after investigation and interrogation by UW-Madison police, and was promptly arrested.

Speculations have risen from the UW-Madison student body. On the UW-Madison subreddit, user u/Affectionate_Tea6482 says "[Makoto Kurada] works

in the Department of [Pathobiological] Sciences. If you search the name + UW Madison you will get lots of studies recently on Ebola and SARS. Sounds like a BSL2 [Bio Safety Level] or BSL3 lab," who was then corrected by user u/lilac_chevrons, saying "Ebola is a BSL level 4 pathogen and there aren't any BSL 4 labs on campus." The user adds "Although there's a history (with a different faculty member) of getting into trouble on this... But that didn't actually involve 'live' Ebola." Another replier on the forum thread, user u/medted22, says "these viruses wouldn't likely be reported as a "chemical", as they are not and wouldn't produce any odor. I'm guessing it was more along the lines of there was a volatile compound probably mixed with water and was off-gassing."

Details and specifics of the chemical(s) at play in the incident

remain unclear. According to the report, "The incident appears to be isolated and there is no known threat to

public safety. The investigation remains ongoing and additional charges may be filed."



Channel 3000

Ranking Every Alani Nu Energy Drink

By ELLA SILVA

A lot of my life is fueled by caffeine. What can I say, I'm busy and I don't sleep and I like to feel like I'm moving at super speed when I do things. Throughout my whole time at Beloit College, no caffeine has fueled me more than Alani Nu energy drinks. Bright colors, yummy flavors, a ton of caffeine per can — it doesn't get better than that.

But what's my absolute favorite flavor? That's what we're here to find out today.

DISCLAIMER: I am only including in this ranking flavors that are considered by the company as part of their permanent lineup for 2026, including flavors that have come out so far this year. If your favorite of all time is a seasonal flavor, so sorry, she will not be included here.

16th Place: Dream Float

In last place is the flavor Dream Float. This

is an orange creamsicle flavored drink, and I personally just hate things with that flavor profile.

15th Place: Orange Kiss

This flavor is still orange but less sugary tasting than Dream Float. I'm just still not a huge orange flavor fan.

14th Place: Lime Slush

This is a new edition to the Alani Nu lineup, being released earlier this year. This is very sugary more than very lime-y, and it tastes like a canned cocktail I would drink so I could get drunk even though it tastes gross. Since this tastes like that and won't even get me drunk, I am not a fan.

13th Place: Watermelon Wave

This flavor tastes like if a watermelon Jolly Rancher became a drink. This is fun, but I'm not the biggest watermelon flavor fan.

12th Place: Cosmic

Stardust

With perhaps the lineups least descriptive name, this flavor isn't bad, but it also isn't great. It has a melted grape popsicle flavor that's fun for about half of the can, and then loses its luster.

11th Place: Cherry Slush

The lowest ranking of the three different cherry flavors contained within the lineup. It's very sweet and very cherry forward, and the sugar flavor makes my teeth ache a little bit.

10th Place: Sherbet Swirl

Also a newer edition to the lineup, coming out last year, I really want to like this flavor more than I do. The can is gorgeous, and it feels very sticky summer tasting. The issue is that the flavor profile gets old to me before I can finish a can.

9th Place: Hawaiian Shaved Ice

Now that we're

By REAGAN THOMPSON

"This place is a veil of tears. When am I gonna get out of here?" - Shawn

"My sister in law likes to drink wine and watch the Hallmark channel, and I just don't get it. Of course, I'm not a 50-year-old woman in an unhappy marriage," - Shawn

"It doesn't matter what gender you are... he [Walt

Whitman] wants to roll around in the grass with you" - Shawn, on Leaves of Grass

"Everyone is smoking hot in Turn of the Screw. Except for Mrs. Grose" - Shawn

"I need a reason to drink tonight, so you might as well give it to me" - Shawn, after Jamie Edwards asked for his permission to

use a British accent while reading Turn of the Screw out loud

"The English department is hosting 'tea and scones.' But there's also pizza. Which is kinda why I'm going. I want pizza for lunch" - Shawn

"When I read Edgar Allan Poe late at night with a glass of wine and a cigarette..."

Shawn, desperately trying to relate to the youth in the room

"Sometimes a story is more interesting without context. Like, you might go up to your friends at lunch today and say, 'IT happened again!' and when they go 'WHAT happened again?' you'll say... I don't know... 'Shawn



Beloit College

walked into class smoking a bong!"

within the top ten, I officially like all of the rest of the flavors on this list. The Hawaiian Shaved Ice flavor on its own is good. Perhaps less good than some of the other slushy flavors, but yummy. The real shame is that there was a previous recipe of this drink that was Much yummiier, and I can't help but mourn the loss every time I crack open a can.

8th Place: Cherry Bomb

Another cherry flavor!! This drink truly tastes like if a cherry Dr. Pepper was an energy

drink. A very unique flavor in the lineup, it's really great when I'm in the mood for it.

7th Place: Strawberry Sunrise

The strawberry flavor in this drink is much closer to the taste of an actual strawberry than artificial strawberry tends to be, and I really love that. I think this would be a lot higher on the list if it were a little bit less sweet.

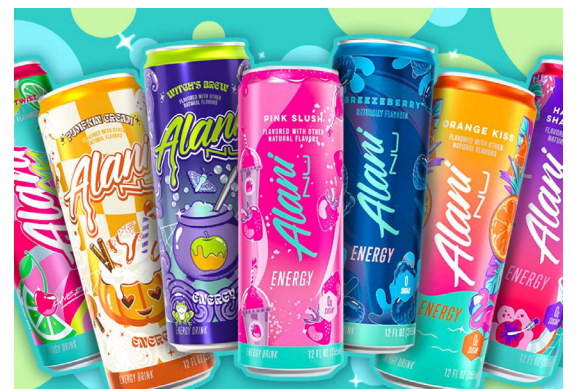
6th Place: Cotton Candy

This drink tastes like an injectionw of pure summer vibes flowing through my veins. The

can design is gorgeous, it tastes like melted sugar, I love. I know a common criticism in this ranking has been the sweetness level, so this placement might seem silly. But this is obviously going to

be very sweet. I came into this experience prepared, and that makes all the difference.

See the top five flavors on our website!



Sporked.com

I Scientifically Determined the Hottest Man on My Favorite Sports Team

By NORAH OWENS



DNVR sports

To start this article, I'd like to apologize to social scientists everywhere for my probably very improper survey and analysis techniques. In my defense, I am a future chemist and not a sociologist (for now). With that being said, as an aromantic sort-of lesbian,

I've often pondered what exactly, makes a man "objectively" attractive to the general public. For example, why do straight men apparently love Ryan Reynolds so much? To help me find an answer to this question, I've conducted very serious and real

science over the past few weeks to determine the group-sourced hottest man on the Colorado Avalanche, my favorite sports team.

To collect my data, I had 20 respondents from around the United States (but mostly in Beloit) fill out a tier list of the 2024-25

Avalanche roster based on their own subjective opinion of so-called attractiveness, whatever that meant to them. There were no guidelines other than to rank every one of the 24 players on the list in the default five tiers and send me a picture of their ranking. I then assigned a point value to each tier, with the highest S tier earning 5 points and the lowest F tier earning 1 point. The numbers I will reference from here are the total sum of points earned for that player based on a total maximum of 100 (5x20) and a minimum of 20 (1x20). I noted that multiple respondents chose not to put anyone in the S tier of their ranking, meaning it became impossible to earn that total maximum number of points. Why, you might ask, did I not use the Avalanche roster from after the trade deadline this year? The answer is simple: I'm too lazy to create my own

tier list, and someone on the internet made one that was apparently accurate to the team roster as of March 31, 2025, so I used that. Thanks, Tiermaker.com user Lu Abu.

Many of the players on this tier list are no longer part of the Avalanche organization, as you would expect from over a year's worth of personnel changes. Therefore, I collected data on Jonathan Drouin (now with STL), Kevin Mandolese (Slovak Extraliga), Charlie Coyle (CBJ), Miles Wood (CBJ), Jimmy Vesey (Swiss NL), Ryan Lindgren (SEA), and Samuel Girard (PIT), who are all now part of different organizations, as well as Keaton Middleton, who is currently playing with the Avalanche AHL affiliate, the Colorado Eagles. Erik Johnson also retired at the end of last season. The other 15 guys are still with the Avs currently. This list also did not include Gabriel

Landeskog and Valeri Nichushkin, who were on injured reserve at the time of creation of this list and thus were not considered part of the active roster. So I guess my research isn't as up-to-date as I had initially hoped.

Drum roll, please... The collectively-chosen hottest man on the Colorado Avalanche is 27-year-old defenseman Sam Malinski, an undrafted player to the NHL and a former captain of Cornell University's hockey team before his graduation in 2023. He's also the Avs' 2026 King Clancy Memorial Trophy nominee, the league-wide award for humanitarian efforts and community engagement. Does being kind and working harder than other people in order to achieve your dreams make you hotter? Likely so.

Catch the rest of this on The Round Table website!

The Kosta Doing Business

By BETTY CAVICCHIA

NOTE: The following is an abridged version of an interview conducted with GLAM and media studies professor Constantine Hadavas. For Kosta's uncut thoughts on the evolution of the GLAM program and why we should all start cross-dressing, read the full exclusive interview online.

How long have you been teaching at Beloit?

K: A long time... This will be year 30.

Related to the paper: what do you think is the reason for the paper's obsession with your image? It's appeared multiple times in many mutations.

K: I don't know because, I mean, I think I teach, in some ways, greater variety of types of classes than most other faculty members. So I'm not pigeonholed so much.

Do you have a favorite among the images that have been published of you so far, just from your recollection? Are there any that stand out?

K: Well, I mean, the centipede one is just so creepy and cool.

BC: And it has limbs, which you like...your sentiments are the same about tentacles. In multiple classes, you've said that tentacles are cool.

K: ...when I was

doing some research on [Godzilla vs. Biollante], I obviously stumbled upon the whole thing of the Japanese art and anime and getting into the more outre aspect of it with tentacle sex that the Japanese were into in the 80s and 90s.

BC: Yeah, it's big, it's a sizable niche even now.

K: Oh, really? Is that so? I didn't know.

If you were able to, what is one thing that you would change about Beloit?

K: I mean, the major issue that I have noted over the years is that Beloit seems to go from one economic crisis to another. So obviously if I

could change something, I would somehow solicit from some very wealthy donor, a big pot of money

to alleviate the economic crisis that the school has had to continuously negotiate.



Betty Cavicchia '28

A Biased Look at This Year's Senior Art Exhibition

By QUINN ANNIS

April 10 was the opening reception for this year's Senior Studio Art Exhibition, a showcase of the works made by soon-to-be-graduates to fulfill their major requirements. I attended and had a look at the pieces — of which there were plenty of very interesting, unique, or just aesthetically-pleasing works. Here are my thoughts.

Firstly, at no point did I ever see a piece I actively disliked, which is very good. Everyone who made something for this did a good job, and it's clear that a lot of love and effort went into every single thing in the exhibition's three galleries. Medium-wise, there were canvas paintings, digital art, sculpture, and textile work. In a broad sense, I appreciated the variety. Maybe this is just something uniquely wrong with me, but I really don't like walking through a museum that has nothing except paintings on the walls. I need that 3D experience.

They also had snacks out at the reception, which made me happy.

The North Gallery had the largest set of works. Of particular note to me were the textile works created by Amelie Lichte'26, including quilts named after and dedicated to friends and relations and a patchwork trans flag made for her sister.

Even though there was more

physically in the North Gallery, my favorite works were in the South Gallery. I really loved Molly Overmier'26's "The Roost"



Quinn Annis'29

collection, digital art pieces styled after magazine covers with a bit of worldbuilding thrown in. I don't really have the art knowledge to describe it precisely, but something about the aesthetic cleanliness of it was really appealing to me. Just in terms of pure design, they were probably my favorite.

The little piece-labels which described those works were also written in the style of in-character reviews of the fictional magazine, as though they were being analyzed as historical pieces at an actual museum, which was a cute touch.

Jessica Galvez'26's pieces, which showcase how her identity and heritage as a Latina in the U.S. has affected her life, were some of the most thought-provoking and visceral there. The South Gallery also hosted work by Sophia Berger'26, who won the Ellen Malsch Memorial Prize in Art for "Discipline and Control," drawings in the style of photographic print exploring simultaneous themes of female empowerment and objectification.

During the reception, there were fewer people upstairs in the Neese Gallery, which is a shame, because the work up there was really nice as well. Keegan Peterson'26's charcoal portraits of his friends all contain birds which are mostly integrated just subtly enough that

you could miss them with a glance. Emily Lopez'26 had some very beautiful oil paintings as well — I especially like "LOOK AT ME" for its delicate gold patterning.

One thing I will say is that I have mixed feelings about the way the pieces were contextualized. By that I mean the literal, on-paper description next to the collected works of each artist — somewhere between one and three short paragraphs, either about the artist themselves, their work, or both.

Some of these descriptions were fine and contextualized the art in ways that were probably necessary, or just gave some nice details about the person who made it. But I do feel like certain descriptions gave away too much about the intended meaning or idea behind a particular piece as opposed to letting the viewer figure out the underlying symbolism for themselves. To be fair, that probably has more to do with the actual requirements of the exhibit itself, so I'm not sure I can put any blame on the artists for that.

Overall though, I liked the exhibit, and getting to see people recognized for their work was really cool. If you want to see any of these works for yourself, there's still plenty of time! They'll remain on display until May 10, one month out from its opening.

'Conclave' (2024) Review

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE

I'll be honest, the last thing in the world I care about is the election of a pope. Truly, it does not interest me at all. Which is exactly why it's a little surprising how much I love "Conclave."

At face value, the film is substantially about the secretive process of selecting a new pope. In reality, however, it plays out more like a Catholic version of "Mean Girls." Between sex scandals, blackmail, and the occasional vape hit, the cardinals in this movie do not know a single moment of peace.

The very first scene of "Conclave" sets the tone immediately, establishing a sense of tension that never really lets up. It begins in the immediate aftermath of the pope's death, and the atmosphere is so heavy it's almost suffocating. There is grief, but it feels controlled, and almost rehearsed. No one is unraveling, no one is even particularly expressive.



IMDb

As the film fast forwards to the days leading up to the Conclave, it becomes clear why. The Curia is quickly depicted as more of a political one, than a spiritual one: an environment driven by reputation, rumors, and quiet competition, in which everyone is watching one another as if waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Visually, the film reinforces this sense of control. The establishing shots are precise and almost unsettling. They emphasize perfection in moments that are undeserving of them. As cardinals stand around, gossiping, scrolling on their phones, and smoking, there's a distance to it all, as if these moments were performed rather than lived. If anything, the cinematography of this movie does what the institution itself tries to avoid. It makes the cardinals look ordinary, replaceable, and, at times, kind of small.

One of the things "Conclave" does is strip belief of its certainty. You would expect a film about the inner workings of the Catholic Church to center unwavering faith, but it does the opposite. Instead, belief is portrayed as unstable, something that is constantly negotiated, doubted, and, in the most extreme of cases, weaponized. This idea comes through most clearly in one of the film's most memorable lines, "certainty is the greatest enemy of unity ... the deathly enemy of tolerance." It's a line that lingers throughout the movie because it applies not only to the Church, but to everything else in the world.

The characters bring these tensions to life in ways that are often unintentionally hilarious. Cardinal Tedesco, for example, represents a rigid, traditional vision of the Church, constantly pushing against any form of progress. But honestly, between the hair, glasses, and the vape, he feels less like a conservative cardinal and more

like someone who belongs in a completely different movie.

Cardinal Bellini, on the other hand, feels grounded in a way others don't. He advocates for practical responses to issues such as divorce and LGBTQ+ matters, while also supporting a more open and progressive Church, particularly when it comes to the role of women. What makes him compelling is not just his perspective, but his reluctance to be pope. He does not want the papacy, but he clearly understands the stakes of allowing someone like Tedesco to take it. The tensions between personal hesitation and moral responsibility grounds his character in a way that feels human.

At the same time, the film fully leans into its own chaos. The scandals, the constant gossip, and the increasingly dramatic reveals, all chip away the illusion of order. The scene revealing Tremblay's resignation is one of the best examples of this. Everything unravels at once, and the composure the film has been holding onto just collapses. At a certain point, the "Mean Girls" comparison rings true as Tedesco basically becomes a conservative Regina George, watching everything fall apart while insisting he's the solution.

"Conclave" also bargains with the concept of religious wars, what it means to fight in the name of belief, and whether those conflicts are ever truly justified. The film does not offer easy answers, but it does make it clear that faith, when intertwined with power, becomes something far more complicated than doctrine alone. And then, just as the film seems fully grounded in its political and ideological tensions, it shifts. The revelation at the center of the final scenes of the movie, "I was who I had always been ... I know what it is to exist between the world's certainties," reframes everything that came before it. The introduction of an intersex identity within a space as traditionally rigid as the Catholic Church is not treated as spectacle, but as something deeply human. In a story so concerned with certainty, this moment insists on ambiguity, on complexity, on the validity of existing outside of fixed categories.

The very last scene, centered on the presence of women, feels almost quiet in comparison, but is no less significant. It suggests, without overstating it, the possibility of change, of a Church that might begin to move in a different direction, however slowly.

"Conclave" is one of my favorite movies. It's not just a film about selecting a new pope. It is about power, belief, and the fragile systems that hold both together. It is about the tension between certainty and doubt, tradition and change, performance and truth. And somehow, it manages to explore all that while also being genuinely entertaining, occasionally absurd, and at times, unexpectedly funny.

It's a film I believe everyone should watch, if not for all of that, then at least for the two hours of cardinals being gossiping divas.

Organizations Collab for First Annual Student Film

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE and QUINN ANNIS

Held on Friday, April 10 from 7 to 9:30 p.m., the first annual student film festival brought together a range of student work in a setting that felt both casual and intentional. While the event itself was relatively simple, the films and conversations around them reflected the amount of effort and experimentation that goes into student filmmaking. Rather than focusing on polished final products, the festival highlighted the process behind them, what works, what doesn't, and how ideas change as they move from script to screen.

The festival was hosted as a collaborative effort between the School of Media and the Arts, LITS, BSG, and Marketing Club. While originally intended to be outdoors, the event was moved from the lawn of the library into the Impact Beloit classroom because of the cold.

The festival featured a collection of films from both current students and alumni. It opened with a panel from three student filmmakers, all of whom had films of their own shown that evening: Quentin Schane'26, Sivan Selvan'26, and Eduardo Alfaro'26. They talked about the films that they would be screening and answered questions from students about their experience, while also consistently offering extremely positive opinions of Joe Bookman.

The screening started 30 minutes into the event. Some of the films were shorter projects and scenes, a few minutes or shorter; others were longer, with the longest, Julian Cole'20's "Thy Will Be Gone," being around 20 minutes.

The very first film was Eduardo Alfaro'26's comedy "All Expenses Paid Trip to the Bahamas," starring Levi Hansen'26 as Jim, a student in Professor Middleton's (played by Frank Hooton'26) economics class.

Several people in attendance had acted in it as supporting characters, which made the watch much more entertaining.

Highlights from there on included a mix of short films that balanced humor, technical skill, and experimentation. Quentin Schane'26's "Road House 3," for example, featured a bar fight scene that was notably well-choreographed, showing a clear emphasis on planning and execution.

In contrast, Joe Bookman's "Old Walls, New World: Ursula K. Le Guin's Legacy at Beloit College," had a more academic and reflective approach. The short documentary features Beloit faculty discussing Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Dispossessed," focusing on its themes of society, structure, and alternative ways of organizing the world. The film is driven by conversations, using faculty perspectives to break down the ideas of the novel and connect them to broader world problems.

Shorter projects also made up a significant portion of the festival, and while not all of them were as fully developed, they still showed the range of ideas students were working with. All together, the lineup made it clear that the festival was less about showcasing perfect films and more about presenting the different ways students are approaching the process of filmmaking.

At the end of the festival, three buckets of candy and stickers were raffled to anyone who had submitted a ticket with their name into the draw. So concluded the first — but hopefully not the last — time the student film festival has been held, with the potential of growing into a lively campus tradition.



Quinn Annis'29

Beloit College Lacrosse Celebrates Senior Day

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

Saturday, April 12: On a windy April day at Strong Stadium, Beloit College's Lacrosse program celebrated its annual Senior Day, honoring the contributions of each graduating senior.

The Men's team kicked off the day by playing Concordia University Wisconsin. After three goals from the visitors, Sam Van Der Kolk'26 set up forward John Imbriale'28 for

a goal, opening the scoring for the Bucs. Less than a minute later, midfielder Isaac Guttormson'27 put another ball past Concordia's goalkeeper, making the score 3-2.

After a long scoring bout from the Falcons, Beloit's offense reignited in the third quarter when Van Der Kolk set up Rilan Larmore'28 to take Beloit's total goals to

three. Later in the third, Liam Walker'26 scored his first goal of the game, taking his season total to 21. In the fourth quarter, Cole Conway'26 scored the final goal of the day, with the game ending in a 18-5 loss for the Bucs.

Thank you to Sam Van Der Kolk, Cole Conway, Liam Walker, Ethan Scutchfield, Samuel Slabaugh, Alex Klemp, and RT's very own, Jeffrey

Battle, for your contributions to our men's team!

The Women's team followed shortly after, suiting up to play Marian University (Wis.). After a scoring drought from the Bucs, attacker Willow Mashkuri'28 fired a goal past the Marian goalie in the second quarter, capitalizing on a man-up advantage. In the second half, attacker Julia Fussy'28 scored the second goal for the

Bucs, going up unassisted to score her eighth of the season. This goal was the final one scored for the Bucs, with the game resulting in a 13-2 loss.

At halftime, the team honored their four graduating seniors. Thank you Aileen Garcia, Zoey Soost, Jane Price, Hailey McNamee for your contributions to our women's team!



Kayla Wolff

Does Michigan Have the Blueprint? March Madness Final Recap

By JEFFREY BATTLE

March Madness is the greatest sports tournament and no one can tell me otherwise. Unfortunately, the event has officially ended and we won't get another chance to see it until next year. However, we should still talk about the team that just won: Michigan. Sorry Vandy, they just put BTA on some of the teams that we were all rooting for. I had Arizona as the team to beat (beat up a tough conference schedule pretty well), and they sucked horrendously against the now reigning champs in the final four. What is interesting to me, from football to basketball, is the importance of having IQ instead of relying on actual athleticism. It seems to be the main contributor to championship-winning teams. Indiana won the College Football National Championship due to all the transfers they acquired and the fact that they brought in multiple coaches established a strong foundation. The transfers usually had

experience playing at their previous schools, even if limited. In my eyes, the fact that Michigan Basketball did the exact same thing makes them an interesting team to watch. It's not just about getting the athletic, one-year wonders and freaks anymore. It's about getting the guys that understand the situation, play good defense and capitalize on mistakes. Another item of note is the eligibility executive order that was just put in by the NCAA. When transferring to multiple schools, you now are required to sit out for a year at the school you just transferred to. If you're transferring for the first time, then you're ok. I think this will bring some more balance to the NCAA in terms of basketball, especially regarding the transfer market. If not, a top prospect could regularly hop around from one school to another without consequence. Now that I've given my two insights, I really want to talk about the actual game that occurred.

Michigan played UConn in the National Championship, and what I can tell you is that Michigan showed pure dominance in the paint. They understood that two-pointers have become more valuable than three-pointers, and that having big men who can get rebounds is still a very valuable tool. I think it's interesting that you can actually see how the pace of play is slower compared to what we are traditionally used to seeing nowadays, even at the college level. Different rules allow for different play styles to be utilized. Obviously, you can have a center in the paint for a lot longer and they can have more of an ability to grab those offensive rebounds. So technically, having height DOES matter when it comes to having a center that has those traditional traits you're looking for. Michigan capitalized on that. It seems to me that two big men can just really sit in the paint and take a lot of contact, working that low man game that Michigan

has. Obviously, they have good talent, even with their best player having an off night in the championship game. I think that was the best part of seeing a complete team. When your star player has an off night, can the others step up? Look at Boozer on Duke. He was that star, but when it hit the fan, did anyone around him elevate or make the play? I don't think so. UConn can say what they want, but let's be real, they're lucky they got

there. It was a scrappy win, but as soon as I saw the way Michigan steamrolled Arizona, it was over. I mean, what the...? It seemed like Michigan just didn't really change their style. Their pace was on point with their players, but they still have fast enough wings to really push in transitions. So they can capitalize on the mistakes you made.

Scratch this whole article. Congrats Michigan, but I hate you.



KCCI

Trying to Give Life to the Buccaneer

By COOPER RATHMANN

Naming mascots is always a great challenge. It has to be carefully curated by the community that it will eventually represent. A name should incorporate a sense of the city's culture or at the least be catchy to say — something that rolls off the tongue. No matter how hard colleges try to create an iconic mascot, most cannot replicate the infamy of mascots like Bucky Badger or the Oregon Duck.

As of May 2025, Beloit College revealed its new logo for athletics, replacing the old Buccaneer that survived a legal battle with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Tampa Bay failed haha get ratioed). The new logo takes on the appearance of an

SEC school, a more simplified design with subtle hints toward the culture of Beloit. One of the most noticeable differences is the change of face, going from a traditionally dressed pirate to a skeletal head with the same pirate elements. Overall, the logo change was a success, and now under the direction of Athletic Director Pat Miller, the college is in the pursuit of a rebranding of sports on campus.

However, there have been recent attempts to name this new Buccaneer, as it's safe to say the proposed names do not roll off the tongue.

Atlas
Atlas is the only name that I would be accepting of. It pulls from nautical themes, fitting for a buccaneer mascot. It carries a sense of power when it's spoken, which I think is a good advantage for promoting sports and a symbol for all teams. Round Table Sports Editor Elliot Ave-Lallemant'27 concurs that Atlas would be appropriate for this

mascot, saying "it's the best one of the bunch ... I think it has that sense of power the teams need."

Blue
Uhhh, we have two colors last time I checked. We would need to incorporate yellow or gold somewhere in that name if the college moved forward with it. Blue is already trademarked by the Indianapolis Colts, and that horse knows how to dance, meaning we won't have much of a fighting chance to steal it.

Bones
Bones makes me giggle. I would not be afraid of our teams if I were our opponents. However, if we're looking to show our humorous side, then maybe something like Bones would be effective. This seems very contradictory toward Pat Miller's business model of athletics, so I doubt this one will land.

River
Every mascot naming contest has to have a couple of joke submissions, so this is

one of them. Buccaneers historically sailed the seas and the rough waves, not your local city's stream. Therefore, we at least need to try to be lore-accurate while naming a mascot that should last for decades. Additionally, people's names only work for certain mascots like Raymond for the Tampa Bay Rays or Benny the Bull for the Chicago Bulls, and in this context River does not flow well.

Shiver
Looks like we got another jokester in the submissions. Buccaneers cannot control the weather, thus making the potential name a load of barnacles. This is by far my least favorite option and if this were the name, I would lie my butt off about it if another team asked me about our mascot at a cross country or track meet.

Ave-Lallemant had some opinions about the name Shiver too, saying, "I think it's terrible ... the worst one. I see what they were trying to do ... you know, like 'shiver

me timbers'... but that's just so corny and no one likes it." Sorry to whoever submitted Shiver, but please hit the drawing board again.

I have to give credit to the student body and administration for trying; it is quite a difficult mascot to name. Perhaps Beloit College should take notes from the Stanford Tree, a literal tree that has captured the attention of millions. Stanford University has utilized its marketing skills and thus transformed its essence of being a mascot. The fact that a tree started fighting UCal's mascot Oski on a basketball court in 1995 plays into the absurdity of how a non-charismatic organism can be successful on TV and marketing.

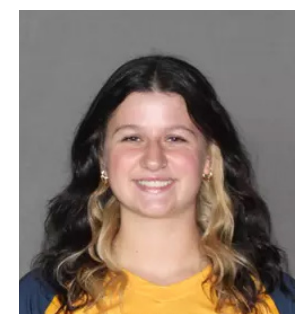
Therefore, I believe that our new nameless buccaneer should go toe to toe with Torty the Turtle to see who should be our college's rightful mascot. If the Buccaneers win, then he will have the honor of being named Torty.

Athletes of the Week

Josh Beserra'26
Baseball



Adelaide Schmitt'28
Track and Field



via Beloit College

The Hypocrisy of Catholic Health Care's Transphobia

By LIO KAMMULLER

Two weeks ago, Transgender Day of Visibility fell in the middle of Holy Week, so I am making like Jesus and climbing up a hill to die on: Catholic health care needs to stop excluding and neglecting gender-affirming care for trans people. As a trans person who attended Catholic school from kindergarten through high school, the Church's thinly veiled hostility towards the trans community is nothing new to me. While socially transitioning in high school, I was singled out by the administration for things like using my chosen name in contexts where my cisgender peers used preferred names or nicknames with no issue or concern. I powered through until graduation, but I continue to be haunted by the Church's anti-trans health care policies.

In my case, I am a dependent of an employee of my local Catholic Archdiocese, meaning what is and is not covered by my health insurance is determined by the Archdiocese. Since Catholic doctrine is categorically against gender-affirming medical care, be that hormone therapy, surgery, or otherwise, any costs associated with my medical transition (medication, bloodwork, appointments, and so on) come out of my own pocket—and those numbers add up fast. What really offends me about this policy, though, as someone who is educated

on Catholic doctrine, is the hypocrisy underlying the Church's exclusion of gender-affirming care. This exclusion is also not only applied to individuals insured by the Church, but extends to the prohibition of gender-affirming care in any Catholic health care facilities, such as hospitals. The Catholic Health Association of the United States lists its status as "the largest nonprofit provider of health care services in the nation" as a point of pride, and claims it "serves the full continuum of health care across our nation."

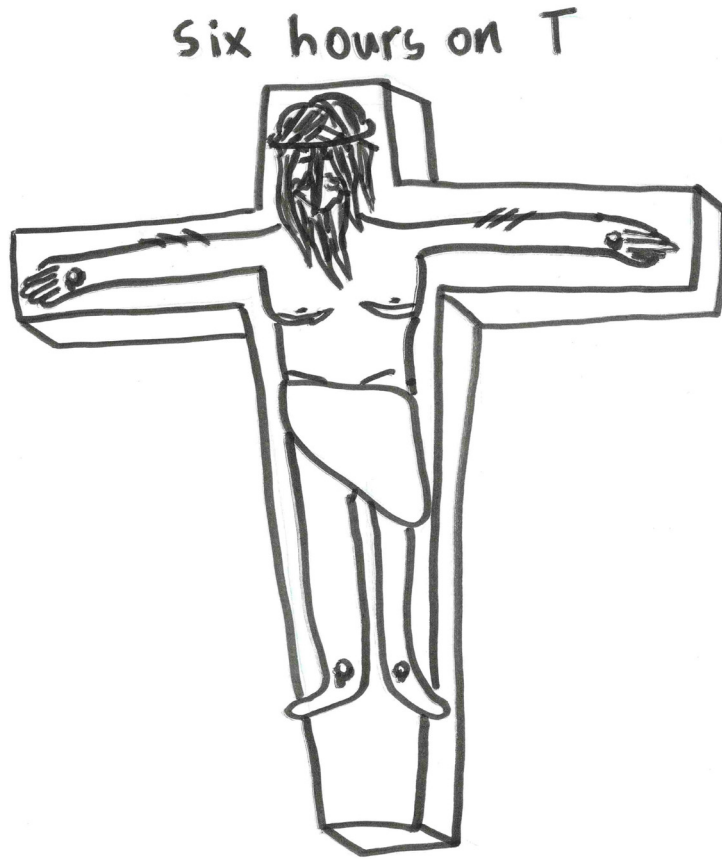
Despite this, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), "Catholic health care services must not perform interventions, whether surgical or chemical, that aim to transform the sexual characteristics of a human body into those of the opposite sex," and doing so would "contradict the organization's core mission and identity as a ministry of faith." The basis of these ideas is the Catholic doctrine regarding the unity of body and soul, and an argument that changing the body would disrupt this unity and cause harm rather than help. Catholic health policies regarding gender-affirming care are "developed in consultation with... medical ethicists, physicians, psychologists, and moral theologians," and the USCCB Committee on Doctrine is made up of exclusively

Catholic bishops, who are all cisgender men. Notably, no emphasis is given to the inclusion of transgender people in creating policies that affect us, despite the USCCB itself acknowledging in its descriptions of Catholic Social Teaching principles that "dialogue must not only favor the preferential option on behalf of the poor, the marginalized and the excluded, but also respect

These policies that prohibit gender-affirming care are not based on scientific or medical evidence, they are based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Catholic Tradition, papal doctrine, and the Bible. Catholic health care policies claim to "provide the best medical care... to all patients, no matter who they may be or from what condition they may be suffering." However,

"irreparable consequences," "has not been substantially associated with improved long-term health outcomes," and can be "detrimental to patients' health" because it does not find these treatments medically necessary, or beneficial to "the authentic good of the human person." As cited by the Human Rights Campaign, multiple systematic reviews of studies on the mental health impacts of gender-affirming care for transgender youth and adults found increases in happiness and quality of life, and decreases in depression, anxiety, and suicidality. While the Church presents its position on medical transition as being in the best interest of transgender people and our wellbeing, this position is in direct contradiction with secular medical science and ignores the input and experiences of the people these policies affect.

While my expectations for the Church to do better are slim, it is important to call out the hypocritical and harmful policies that affect the lives of transgender people who need gender-affirming care through Catholic-affiliated insurance or facilities. The Church should not portray itself as benevolent, charitable, and in favor of justice for the oppressed while creating and upholding a medical system that neglects a marginalized minority group in need of care.



Betty Cavicchia '28

them as having a leading role to play."

the USCCB also claims that gender-affirming care has

How Many Platforms Does it Take to Complete One College Semester?

By CLAIRE WINTER

Hey Beloit students! Here's a fun exercise for you: open up your laptop. Now, count how many different applications, websites, or submission-machines you would have to use to submit an assignment for each class. Is the answer "more than two?" Is the answer, as it has been for me in past semesters, "more than five?" Beloit College technically

works off of a free software called "Moodle", but professors absolutely can and will often run their classes through an entirely different platform altogether. Google Classroom? Why not. A secondary subject-specific website? Go for it. Entirely through subfolders of Google Drive, where any student in the class can view (and therefore copy) anyone

else's work? FUCKING SURE.

(These are all, in fact, actual methods I have turned classwork in with, some much less objectionable than others.)

Why do professors do this? Well, simple answer: there's no rule against it. I kinda get it, even- Moodle is notoriously difficult to program and finicky at the

best of times. I can't knock professors for running classes via something they, at the very least, know how to use and can grade with. Still, I will not lie and say I do not kind of want to stab something in the eyes every time I have to convert a project rubric in screwyou.fileformat thrice over or navigate through Google Classroom's frankly

mystifying "work folders" when it hides my own work from me. What is up with that? Crazy stuff going on in the Google Classroom world, man.

One day, perhaps, Beloit College will pay for a software that is usable on both ends. Until then, I shall continue to have seven sites open as I lock in for my classwork.

I'm Undergoing an Existential Crisis Because of Artemis II

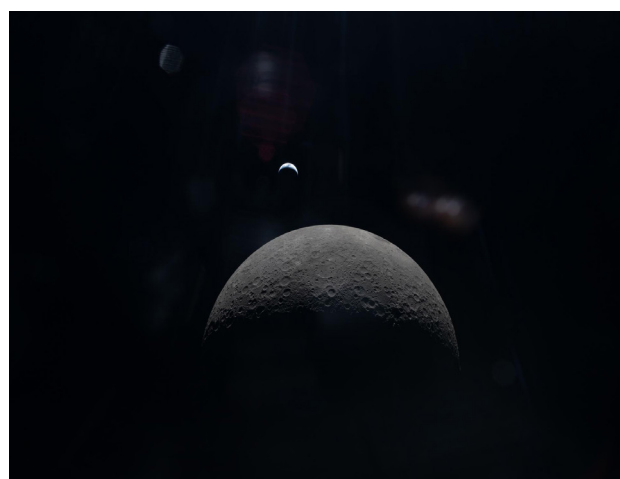
By ALEX CAMBOURIS

A manned spaceflight to the moon is seen as a somewhat archaic concept in modern times. The 20th century aspirations of "Star Trek" and "2001: A Space Odyssey" seem almost quaint to us now given what we know about the sheer immeasurable scale of the universe. It doesn't help that the famous space race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was highly politicized and coincided with the rapid development of science that brought on fears of nuclear armageddon. The entire adventure has left a bad taste in the mouths of more than a few people.

Still, the moon landing persists as an incredible and romantic moment in the history of not only the U.S. but also humankind. Despite our earthly quarrels, we are intimately aware of the universe's looming presence. The stars, millions and millions of light years away, hover right above our heads, beckoning us with their secrets.

The stars, of

course, are a mere pipe dream. Our nearest stellar neighbor, Proxima Centauri, is just over four light years away, which means reaching it would necessitate 10,000 years of space travel with our current technology. Even within the solar system, the space between objects is enormous. NASA eventually plans on sending people to Mars, but even missions to the moon are no easy task. The moon is orbiting at speeds over 2,000 mph around Earth, so any craft would have to be aimed with extreme precision, lest it be lost in the cold vacuum of space. NASA obviously knew this, which is why the unmanned craft Artemis I was launched in November of 2022. Its success prompted the launch of Artemis II. Once more, this moment is a profoundly important point in history. The Orion spacecraft flew over 250,000 miles away from Earth, farther than any manned craft before it. An incredible feat, but an insurmountably



NASA

small number on the cosmic scale. Indeed, it is one of humanity's greatest achievements, and there's no measure on the value the men and women at NASA have contributed to the advancement of science and technology, and their research, if considered ethically, could bring immense prosperity to humankind. My concern, however, is more existential.

I mentioned before the sweet allure of the cosmos. This allure, for all intents and purposes, is irrational. The universe is hostile, and most unnervingly,

indifferent to humankind. Yet its majesty continues to inspire us to uncover its mysteries. A major part of the Artemis II mission was to scout out the moon's South Pole, analyzing geologic and topographic data with unprecedented accuracy. The crew also took several jaw dropping photos of the dark side of the moon, which has always held a haunting mystique. While there were no lunar settlements or mysterious ancient monoliths, its state revealed an interesting difference between the geologic activity on each side of the moon.

Because of Earth's gravitational pull, the close side experiences increased volcanic activity, which explains the large dark patches on the moon: seas of hardened magma. The dark side, in contrast, is lighter, and features only innumerable craters.

The crew of Artemis II returned with this information on April 10, splashing down off the coast of California. NASA hopes with Artemis III to land a craft onto the moon, and at some point in the future construct human settlements. I don't believe it is particularly unethical to colonize the solar system, as there are no indigenous species to replace. However, the question arises of who gets to leave Earth, and settle on the moon and even Mars? No doubt such experiences would be reserved only for the richest and most privileged of us. Are most of us left to be stranded on a dying planet while its destructors leave to conquer other realms? The answer to this question is likely a long

way off, but I can't help but consider it when I see the success of the Artemis program.

Despite my cynicism, my interest in the moon remains unchanged. I am incredibly excited for Artemis III and IV in 2027 and 2028, respectively. Our first landing on the moon in over 50 years will surely be an incredible moment. It will be a testament of humanity's insatiable curiosity, and while we will never truly learn all there is to know, there is beauty in the thrill of discovery. It is an immense shame suffering and inequality continues to exist on Earth, despite all we know about our standing in the universe. We all ought to have a little more humility in the face of the cosmos and its vast regality. Hopefully the future of space travel will be a prosperous one, not built on conquest, but of scientific discovery built on a love and respect for all that exists.

THE QUILT OF THE ROUND TABLE

HOROSCOPES

guys i just went home for a day but i forgot to bring my laptop back so now i don't have a computer

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19)

You will encounter a leprechaun. If you trap it, it'll be forced to tell you where it keeps its gold. But if you torture it you can learn where its leprechaun family lives and learn where they keep their gold, too, and if you repeat this process forever you will either make infinite gold or run out of leprechauns

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You will be abducted by aliens, Taurus. Prepare your anus

Gemini (May 21-Jun 21)

You are ever so slightly magical, which has no effect except that wyverns can smell you from farther away than average

Cancer (Jun 22-Jul 22)

You have it

Leo (July 23-Aug 22)

Be open to new experiences and join a cult

Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22)

Fairies are allergic to iron, Virgo. Keep this in mind for pride month

Libra (Sep 23-Oct 23)

Spend some money on yourself for once and get something you actually like, like an industrial freezer or a hematocrit centrifuge

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 21)

After watching a mistranslated copy of How to Train Your Dragon you will find yourself cosplaying as Legless

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)

Never have children

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)

I'm afraid you've been cursed, Capricorn. From now on every time you sneeze a rare Cental American moth will die

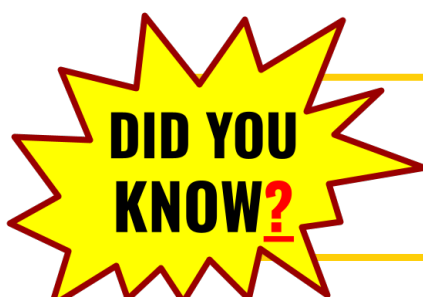
Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

You will fall into water and instead of getting out you will adapt and become a fish. And this will break your lover's heart because land and sea cannot be together and also you are all wet and slimy

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)

You know how you've always wanted to be remembered, Pisces? I have great news for you. Next year, an airport is going to be named in your memory

guys please i'm so tired. whydo we meet on sundays that's like the worst day of the week i'm supposed to be at church right now



You can lead a horse to water

PROFESSOR QUOTES.

"That's logic-alicious" - Matt Tedesco

"This class is a dual-hostage situation" - Klara

"Are you thugging it out, as the kids say?" - Chris Fink

"See you then! Chat-This goes on a rec letter some day :)" - Chris Fink

"i don't know if you can scream" - Shawn Gillen

"If you were to cut your kidneys in half, it would hurt" - Craig Kohn

"Limbs...man, I love those things" - Kosta

housing situation update!

D Dean of Students <deanstu@beloit.edu> to StuAlert ▾

Changes in Special Interest Housing

In line with these changes, from Fall 2027, special interest housing will *explode* *im* *a* *o* *s* *e* *r* *s*.

we will all sleep in the rafters of the res life office

your star sign your textile

ARIES



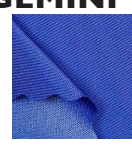
burlap

TAURUS



pleather

GEMINI



nylon

CANCER



pllastic

LEO



canvas

VIRGO



hundreds of ants

LIBRA



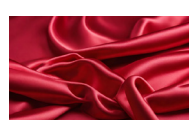
bamboo weave

SCORPIO



wool

SAGITTARIUS



satin

CAPRICORN



polyester

AQUARIUS



velcro

PISCES



spider silk