

# The Round Table

Crossing state lines with my shadow since 1853

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Tuesday, April 28, 2026

roundtable.beloit.edu

## On the Beloit College Housing Price Increase

### LETTER TO THE EDITORS

By A CONCERNED BELOIT COLLEGE ALUMNUS'25

I want to start by saying I respect the administration and understand that decisions like this are often made with long-term planning and institutional sustainability in mind. I also recognize that balancing housing operations, costs, and student needs is not simple. That said, as someone who cares deeply about Beloit College and the student experience — before graduating in 2025, I was highly involved as a resident assistant, campus ambassador, tutor, and participated in various clubs, athletics, and Greek life — I feel compelled to share some concerns regarding the housing rates.

From my perspective, this change does not feel fully aligned with the realities of current students, especially those who made their decision to attend Beloit based on a

relatively predictable and uniform housing cost structure. For many students, housing costs are not abstract — they are a central part of financial planning and college affordability. When that structure shifts midstream, it can disrupt expectations in a very real and stressful way. If this policy is going to move forward, I would strongly encourage the college to consider implementing it for future incoming classes rather than applying it to students who are already enrolled under a different system.

The distinction being made between single and double rooms oversimplifies what housing actually looks like on campus. Residence halls vary significantly: some are not fully accessible, some are gender-specific, and many do not have air conditioning. Even within the

same category of “single” or “double,” there are meaningful differences in amenities — some rooms include sinks, some have different bathroom configurations or proximity, and some buildings have kitchen access while others do not. Treating these as equivalent spaces under the current pricing model does not reflect those lived differences.

I would also encourage greater transparency around how these housing rates are being determined. Allowing students to understand what factors are driving the pricing model—whether that be operational costs, building conditions, or long-term planning. These factors would help students better assess the fairness of the system and build trust in the decision-making process.

Overall, I understand the intention may be to create a more structured or equitable housing system, but in its current form, the policy feels incomplete and not fully aligned with the realities of student housing at Beloit. Before moving forward, I would strongly encourage the administration to reconsider timing, clarify implementation details, and ensure that any changes truly reflect both student needs and the on-the-ground experience of living at Beloit College. Beloit has long prided itself on being a student-centered institution, and I hope that continues to be reflected not just in intention, but in how policies like this are designed and implemented in practice.

## Goodbye (Last Words)

### FEATURES

By ELLA SILVA



Beloit College sucks. I know you, dear reader, do not need me to convince you of this, because you've experienced it yourself. As cathartic as it might be to sit here and write a farewell letter filled with all of the things I've hated about going to college here, it's not actually what I want to use this time to say.

Yes, Beloit College sucks, but my time here did not. I am about to leave, having met some of the most amazing people I've ever known in my life here, having learned things far beyond the classroom, having laughed, cried, and fallen in love. And that's the thing. Though Beloit set up the foundation and provided the set dressing around all of these events, I refuse to credit an institution like this college with the things I've taken away from my four years here. That was all me.

My freshman year, I went to my first Round Table pitch meeting completely on a whim. I saw a post about the meeting, gathered my friend Lili, and we went. I've never had more fun at a club meeting than I have at the pitch meetings for the paper, especially that year. It was a really tiny crew at the time, and everything

was completely unserious and silly. It's been an honor to be a part of this paper growing into what it has become today. I watched it go from a silly five-man operation to the investigative, well put together, professional (and still so fun) paper that you're currently reading. Thank you, dear Round Table, for being such a big part of my college experience.

Let this be your sign to do things on a whim here. The best parts of Beloit are the random things you just end up doing. Random club meetings, spontaneously running into friends and sitting outside with them for hours, drunk side quests, plans that keep going after they're supposed to be done.

Please let the wind carry you. You can make your time here good and life-changing; fight for that.

If you ever find yourself in The Round Table office when the evening light comes in just right and it feels like the moment will last forever, or lying in Aldrich field with your friends on a warm day, or walking home drunk in the rain and feeling like you're in a dramatic music video, think of me. My ghost will stay in moments like that.

Finally, to my fellow seniors, a poem:

The world is hostile right now, backs turned, fences barbed  
But here we are anyway

The sun is rising  
The seasons are changing  
Birds chirp and skies blue and waves rise and we are ready to meet them,  
arms open embracing

Things will never be the same again

We laugh, we make plans, we hope despite it all

On the cusp of a moment so big there aren't words  
The shapes can't be made by mouths, worn out from years of laughter, tears, love yours, hate yours, complaints, appreciations, sighs

We will carry these years for lifetimes, reduced to photos on the wall, documents in a hard drive that is about to be deleted, visions that can never be fully described

The whole world is ready

Parking lot dreams, drab dorm room imaginations, drunk night out declarations, library break downs, airport ponderings  
Culminated in something

I love you

Doesn't the sky look pretty up here?

### NEWS

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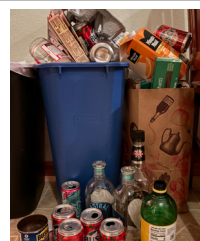
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ROUND TABLE RADIO  
MONDAYS 8 p.m.

## 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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Oliver "Ollie" Idzikowski  
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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](mailto:roundtable@beloit.edu) with "CORRECTION" in the subject line, or submit a Letter to the Editors at [roundtable@beloit.edu](mailto:roundtable@beloit.edu)

## CONTACT

[roundtable@beloit.edu](mailto:roundtable@beloit.edu)  
[kopkavl@beloit.edu](mailto:kopkavl@beloit.edu)  
[silvaer@beloit.edu](mailto:silvaer@beloit.edu)

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

# Breaking It Down Sporangium Style Mold Growth Confirmed in Dance Haus

By VIVIAN KOPKA

After being sick on and off throughout the Spring semester, Lauren Parada'28, decided to test living spaces in Dance Haus, Haven Hall first floor, for mold.

All of the places she tested showed mold growth. However, it's difficult to determine levels and health-risk from at-home testing.

It's no secret that most buildings on campus contain mold, but most mold is generally not harmful. However, studies show that dampness and mold are associated with a 30-50% increase in rates of respiratory illnesses. ([rubyhome.com](http://rubyhome.com))

Parada put most petri dishes out to test airborne mold, but she did conduct a swab-test on her desk in her dorm. "I'm not sure

what kind was from the vents, but there was allegedly black mold on my desk and furniture in my room," she said.

Black mold can cause adverse health symptoms, and many other molds also produce mycotoxins, which are also linked to health problems like asthma and sickness with prolonged exposure, especially in those with mold allergies.

When asked about sickness in the fall semester, Parada expressed that she did not get sick as frequently, but, "I've had two leaks in my closet this semester, so I think it could be from water leaks."

"I've been nauseous every day... I've had migraines and my nose has been, like, super

runny and I've just felt like I've had a sinus infection all year," she said. It is unknown if there is a causation between the damp, moldy conditions, and her symptoms, but there is a correlation between the closet leak and onset of symptoms.

According to the United States and Environmental protection agency (EPA), using at-home mold testing is not necessary, since there are no federal regulations or standards for airborne mold contaminants.

Though the efficacy of at-home kits are debatable, Parada informed The Round Table that Residential Life and Facilities are sending a professional to test the area on Monday, April 27. Go to [roundtable.beloit.edu](http://roundtable.beloit.edu)



Lauren Parada'28 to check for updates. At the time of writing, there are no updates.

## AI Data Center in Beloit - An Update

By ETHAN COOPER

Taking a cursory stroll around Beloit, one will find a crop of new window and lawn signs. Starkly colored white, black, and red signage now peppers Rock County, rallying against the construction of new data centers.

The massive wave of new data centers being proposed and constructed across the nation has struck close to home, as several Wisconsin towns, including Beloit, have been targeted. In reaction to this, local citizens and business owners such as Jenny Hoople, co-owner of Bountiful Beloit, have come together in solidarity against its development.

As reported by the Beloit Daily News, Hoople says, "I think that a lot of people don't really see (opposing data centers) as an environmental issue. They see it through the personal lens of how it will affect their life; it's not like some tree in a park that they're never going to see. They probably don't care about the caterpillars. I care about the caterpillars, but they care about their right to have a quiet, peaceful life out in the country."

Activists are concerned about several issues, all united in the fight against hyper-scale data centers. Citing environmental concerns, the prospect of rising energy costs,

and anti-democratic practices, organizers like Hoople have sought to form coalitions to combat it.

Hoople, alongside the No Data Center Facebook group, organized a town hall last Tuesday, hosted by Blackhawk Technical College, bringing together community leaders from both Janesville and Beloit, as both face the prospect of new data centers. The event was well attended, drawing a crowd of hundreds. In attendance were comedian Charlie Berens, former tech executive Prescott Balch, and other activists and industry insiders.

This is not the first time large crowds have come together against data center development in the area. Just days after it was revealed that the city of Beloit had signed a predevelopment agreement with a company known for constructing data centers from Ohio to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, concerned citizens filled up the Beloit Public Library, lamenting an apparent lack of transparency. Hoople had also printed over 200 "No Data Centers" signs to give away, all of them being taken over the course of two days.

Another town hall event was held last month at the Castle, where gubernatorial candidate Francesca Hong, city councilman

Yusuf Adama, and other community leaders spoke out against the proposal.

The center would, if completed, comprise over 400 acres of land owned by Rock Road Companies. Concerted campaigns to drive citizen engagement have gained momentum as a growing movement against data centers has begun to coalesce. Data center proposals in Menominee, Deforest, Caledonia, Yorkville, and Greenleaf have already been rejected. It is as yet unclear if Beloit will manage to do the same.

For further news on local environmental issues, read "Climate Conversations" by Ollie Idizowki on [roundtable.beloit.edu](http://roundtable.beloit.edu)



Beloit Daily News

## Student Sit-In at Middle College Against Housing Changes

By DEMIR KASAPOGLU and PALASH MAMTANEY

On April 13 a student sit-in began in Middle College to protest the housing price increase and differentiation taking place in Fall 2026. The protest has no individual or organizations leading but major student organizations such as Beloit Student Workers United (BSWU), Greek organizations, and others have given endorsements.

The sit-in was announced on BSWU's Instagram account. The post stated, "[p]etitions are not enough! Students are organizing a sit-in at middle college, starting Monday (4/13) at 9am, and they will keep showing up until the housing cost increase is reversed. Bring your friends, games, and homework...This is what showing up for your community can look like!"

The protestors sat on the second floor, outside of President Boynton's office, who had gone on a business trip to China. There was an instance of a protester who was asked to leave the Admissions office (which occupies almost all of the first floor), as they could not go upstairs due to their physical disability and had to sit outside.

On the first day of the sit-in protestors were asked to come to a meeting with Ron Watson (Dean of Students), Tim Leslie (Vice President of Finance Strategy & Operations), and Elizabeth Moore (Chief Financial Officer). This meeting was attended by more than two dozen students with the hopes that the College would reverse the housing policy.

During the meeting the College stressed that they had "effed up" on the housing announcement, as Leslie put it. They also stated that they were

going to communicate better in the future. After the 45 minute meeting with students, the College did not reverse housing policy. However, the College did delay housing selection by a week afterwards.

Some students had audio recorded this meeting, believing it to be public. However, after BSWU posted one recording of the meeting on their Instagram, the administration forced them to take it down as it violated the student handbook on recordings on campus. The Round Table received this information from BSWU Leadership.

The sit-in continued outdoors, after protestors were told of new restrictions, limiting the amount of protesters inside to three. The protestors put up signs inside, stating "16% is too much for nothing to change", "actions speak louder than words! Reverse the housing increase!!!" and more.

There were more signs and chalk writings outside of Middle College and around campus that said, "16% raise for black mold?", "FIX YOUR OWN DEBT PROBLEM!" and "Beloit can't fund themselves so they will DEFUND YOU".

On April 15, Beloit Daily News interviewed some of the protestors in Middle College, publishing an article the same day. The following day, Representative Clinton Anderson in the Wisconsin State Assembly came to Middle College to talk to and show support to the protestors.

On April 21, an email was sent out to the student body from the President's Office titled "Follow Up: Housing and Communication." President Boynton wrote, "I returned to

campus today from a trip where I was conducting business for the college. My priority today has been to meet with students and listen. I've met with the leadership of Beloit Student Government and spoken with students gathered in front of Middle College."

On the topic of the housing price he wrote, "The housing prices for next year are final. We have taken steps to help students who needed more time or assistance with their housing for next year."

President Boynton finished the email with, "I have also heard that your concerns extend beyond housing. I take those seriously. As a first step, I will continue meeting with Beloit Student Government to strengthen structures for collaboration and communication. Provost Donna Oliver and I have directed the college leadership team to establish a Residential Life Advisory Committee with student representation, as another step to improve transparency and communication."

Protestors released a document of their demands, and a zine was given out to students during Spring Day on April 22.

The demands on the zine are as follows;

1. Transparency and Communication: Including at least one year of advance notice for changes that materially impact students.
2. Power Sharing: Including two elected students with voting power, on each Board of Trustees Committee.
3. Tuition and College Cost: Including consistent and meaningful student participation in any decision-making process involving cost increase to

the student body, including a reversal of the housing cost increase for Fall 2026.

4. Accessibility: including increased accessibility in both academic and residential buildings on campus.

5. Training: Including mandatory and on-going anti-racism and accessibility training conducted by individuals outside of the college with proper credentials.

6. Space Creation: Including an active student role in the direction of space usage on campus including interest and identity housing.

7. Safety: Including dedicated door and keycard access for women's only dorms, and a more efficient Title XI process and accountability on campus.

8. Health: Including improved Health and Wellness Center amenities and timely accommodations for students suffering from mold mildew.

9. Food Access: Including consistent and reliable shuttle access, and non-stigmatized and accessible 24/7 food pantry access.

The zine included a QR code to the full demands of the protestors.

On the same day, *The Round Table* talked to students Jake Fein'27, Lyndall Breaux'27, and Roo Doherty'26 about the protest, they expressed their concerns about transparency, communication and lack of student power on campus.

When asked about the mission of the protest, Fein stated, "the mission of the [sit-in] is to address the concerns of the student body around broad, systemic lack of communication ...

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

“STUDENTS SIT IN AT MIDDLE COLLEGE AGAINST HOUSING CHANGES” CONTINUED

...miscommunication, and overall power sharing concerns with the student body and compared to administration”.

Breaux added, “most people are there because they care about the college and campus community. It’s a whole bunch of students who are concerned about the lack of communication, and also the fact that this lack of communication, despite the administration saying they’re sorry.... saying sorry doesn’t make things cheaper, and most students can’t afford to pay the amount that they’re accepting them to pay.”

When asked about whether the protest is going to continue, Doherty said, “I think the primary driver of the protest is that housing prices increased, but I think the persistent lack of communication is what will continue to be a factor in student protest. Because the school hasn’t really communicated with us yet.”

The Round Table asked what the students thought about the email from President Boynton. Fein stated, “they’re

either willfully ignoring the student body’s main concerns, or they’re simply.... Like, arrogant enough to believe that they can rise above it and wait us out. I think when you send an email saying...we are making this final decision, we are not doing anything, but we hear what you’re saying, but then don’t actually say anything of substance to back that up, that’s not hearing us.”

While touching on the new Residential Life Advisory Committee, Doherty stated, “Advisory committee is what it’s called, which doesn’t imply that it’s going to have any kind of actual power over housing.”

Breaux added on and said, “a committee that has students on it usually means the committee doesn’t do anything.”

Fein added, “[President Boynton] comes in making \$400,000 plus a year, gets all [if not most] of his expenses covered. And then comes in and doesn’t even engage with the meaningful issues around affordability and offloads it, and

essentially ignores the reality of being a low income student in this country.” They continued, “I don’t know if I can respect someone who preaches around progressive values, and then inaction doesn’t know how to perpetuate them”

Fein also echoed how the administration has suggested that financial constraints could potentially lead to cuts affecting faculty and staff, arguing that this kind of messaging creates unnecessary fear around campus. “That’s what people have done in other institutions. You take a voluntary cut in pay. It’s not like he’s somehow gonna go poor. He can take a \$300,000 cut, and it still be a well paid individual.” Fein said.

The email from the president suggested reaching out to the Financial Aid office. But, students have expressed their concerns stating that the financial aid office wasn’t able to meet the full need of students after the 3.8% increase. Fein commented on this and said “there has been no increase in merit or need-

based aid for the increase. And there are many students who are strongly considering leaving because of the 3.8% increase alone.”

In general, students have expressed concern over the continuing situation. Fein stated “it seems Eric Boynton and the administration, Tim Leslie, view the school as an institutional model that they manipulate, rather than a home for nearly a thousand people. There seems to be an utter lack of understanding of how [t]his college actually runs, how students are feeling. And [President Boynton] seems to be perpetually missing from campus when everyone needs him,”

The housing prices are set to be implemented by next semester, with little signs of administration reversing their decisions, a lot of students are left rethinking their decisions, in hope for better and transparent communication in the future.

Fein stated, “[President Boynton] doesn’t care about the student body.”

# Middle East Conflict Continues; Peace Talks Fail

By PALASH MAMTANEY

The war between Israel, Iran, and the United States has continued to expand since March 4, with fighting moving across Iran, Israel, Lebanon and the Strait of Hormuz. Ceasefire talks have stalled, casualties have risen, and recent maritime incidents have raised concern over oil shipments and global trade.

On March 4, Israeli military reporting said the IDF struck missile launchers, air-defense systems, ammunition depots, Basij headquarters, Mehrabad Airport in Tehran, a Shiraz Air Force base, a police building in Tabriz, and military headquarters in Qom. Iran launched eight waves of attacks on Israel that day, and Hezbollah carried out 38 attacks from Lebanon.

By late March, the conflict had widened further. Reporting from that period said U.S. and Israeli strikes were targeting Iranian defense-industrial sites, including facilities tied to missile production and other military equipment. Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu was reported to have ordered the IDF to destroy as much of Iran’s arms industry as possible in a short time frame.

Casualty figures remain high. Al-Jazeera casualty tracking reported that 2,076 people in Iran had been killed and 26,500 injured, while 26 people in Israel had been killed and more than 7,451 wounded. The same tracker said the Iranian dead included 240 women and 212 children.

The ceasefire issue has become central to the conflict. Iran put forward a 10-point ceasefire framework that called for an end to attacks on Iran and its allies, a halt to Israeli strikes on Hezbollah, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, withdrawal of U.S. forces, lifting of sanctions, unfreezing of Iranian assets, compensation for damage, and an internationally binding agreement. The proposal also tied any broader settlement to security guarantees and formal recognition that Iran’s demands would be enforced



Al Jazeera

through outside guarantees.

The U.S. position was different. Washington reportedly wanted a ceasefire followed by further talks on Iran’s nuclear program and regional activity. Israel continued to press for

military pressure. The two sides did not agree on the terms, and negotiations have been delayed.

Read the rest on [roundtable.beloit.edu](http://roundtable.beloit.edu).

# Student Statement of Culture Revised at BSG Town Hall

By CIAN MCKEOWN

Beloit students gathered in the Moore Lounge on the second floor of Pearsons Hall for a Beloit Student Government (BSG) Town Hall led by five panelists, all of whom were BSG

executives. The panelists included Club Organization and Oversight Committee (COO) Director Lyndall Breaux’27, BSG President Journey Beier’28, BSG Vice President Ella Walters’27,

Funding Board Director Noor Ul Ain’26, and Communications Director Harshwardhan Singh Chouhan’28. They announced the agenda for the Town Hall, explaining that it would revolve around editing the language of and voting on changes to the Beloit College Student Statement of Culture, and then an open forum for the gaggle of around 15 Beloit students to pose questions and concerns to BSG. Dean of Students Rongal Watson was also in attendance. The Student Statement of Culture intends to be a model of student values on campus and functions more as a set of practices than a list of demands.

Breaux and Walters explained that the Student Statement of Culture was required to be revised every two years, but that the deadline had passed, and the statement was in deep need of updating. They also outlined that

students would not only be voting to approve the changes made to the statement, but they would also decide if they wanted another version of it to go on the College’s website. This was to prevent the statement from being flagged by the Trump Administration as “DEI” (diversity, equity, and inclusion) related content that could spur legal action or the revocation of funding by the federal government. Said Breaux, “It’s the DEI concern, and to some extent, the sustainability concern.” Dean of Students Rongal Watson added, “I think everyone recognizes the very challenging times we live in,” expressing that administration wanted the statement to be available to all students but not posted on the college’s website.

Read the rest on [roundtable.beloit.edu](http://roundtable.beloit.edu).



Cian McKeown’27

# Shawn Gillen is Retiring...

By THE ROUND TABLE

On Friday, April 24, students in Shawn Gillen’s Creative Nonfiction class threw a surprise party for Gillen to celebrate his retirement. His official retirement is next year, but he’ll be on sabbatical, so he will not be on campus.

We asked members of *The Round Table* to talk about him. On behalf of *The Round Table*, thank you, Shawn, for your encouragement, insight, and dedication in your role as a professor (and unofficial advisor of *The Round Table*) at Beloit College. We’ll miss you and your vibrant stories. Good luck in this next chapter of your life.

“Throughout my whole four years at Beloit College, Shawn has been incredibly supportive, and the knowledge I’ve gained by being in his classes and being his advisee are some of my favorite takeaways from my time at Beloit. Here’s to going into the great beyond (places other than Beloit College) together.

#graduatingandretiring - Ella Silva’26  
“He (Shawn) is very well spoken and well educated. He always knows how to help students, whether it’s with feedback or extensions. I can tell he cares about what he does and his classes. I’m bummed I only get to take one in-person class with him; I would have loved to take more.” - Sonya Edwards’28

“idk him but he seems cool” - Lio Kammuller’26

“It was such a benefit to get one-on-one feedback with him, especially with the insights he has for everyone in our class. He’s a great professor and I loved getting to take a course with him (and also putting quotes from him into our back editions). Sorry for skipping class all the time.” - Claire Winter’28

“I was diagnosed with ADHD last year, and it was while I was taking the first class I had with Shawn. He really understands what being a student is

like, and gave me much needed grace and encouragement when I talked with him about what I was going through. I am so grateful for him and his continued kind words. Shawn – enjoy your trip to Ireland next year, and after that, your official retirement. Thank you for helping me become a better journalist and, less importantly, a better person.” - Viv Kopka’27

“Thanks for being a good sport about the mpreg shrine man. Really ‘preciate it. We got a kick outta that. Real good laugh. Thanks dawg.” - Elisa Turner’27

“A wonderfully funny, knowledgeable, and vibrant member of this campus community that will be sorely missed. He made me fall in love with the art of journalism and no one at Beloit has taught me how to write more interestingly and compellingly than Shawn. He was always a much better advisor than I was an advisee, and I am forever grateful to him for shaping

what Beloit means to me. Irish pride!” - Cian McKeown ’27

“Shawn has made such an impact on my academic career. He was the one that really saw the potential in my writing, which got me to declare for the journalism minor. I always appreciated the emails he sent about writing internships and where I could potentially publish. Even if he’s not around, I know he’ll be rooting for me to keep on writing. So if I ever make it big, I will definitely be thanking Shawn the GOAT Gillen.” - Cooper Rathmann’28

“Shawn has helped me find a love for writing, he’s been a supportive professor and he’s given me a lot of confidence in a field that I didn’t expect to find myself in. After a class with him, I want writing to have a bigger role in my life because he’s inspired me. He’s been one of the best professors I’ve had!” - Tigerlilly Powers’29



For Spring Day specials, Faculty Awards, GAZ Fest reports, more pictures of mold, Shawn Gillen photos, local climate updates, and more, visit [roundtable.beloit.edu](http://roundtable.beloit.edu)

WEBSITE SINCE 1953

# Beloit College Professors: Goals and Aspirations

By ALIVIA RENTERIA

As we prepare to close out the 2025-2026 school year, Beloit College students spend a large portion of their time considering the steps they must take in order to reach the next phase of their academic journey.

In order to provide the most interesting and diverse range of answers, I reached out to a variety of student-recommended professors throughout several departments, both visiting and tenured, to whom to pose this question:

So, you've put in the work, become successful in your field, and are working to shape the next generation of academics. What's the next step you plan to take in life? Does your life's goal still lie in furthering your work, or is there something else that you see in your future?

"I'm planning to retire from teaching after next year, so I've been giving some thought to this question of "next steps."

Two aspects of my work here at Beloit—reading and writing—I'll of course continue to do along with the breathing part. I probably won't talk so much. Bike more, travel more, find a few new hobbies, seize the day. Find some ways to be helpful. Maybe get myself one of those rolling "pop-up" mobile bicycle repair rigs in some big city and save the world." - Professor Chuck Lewis

"Success', I'm still working on it, but I do feel like I've made some progress. I got the visiting assistant professor job here at Beloit College, which has been a fantastic experience, and I also teach at UW Whitewater, that's where I am full time. My goal is still to get a tenure track position at a university. Teaching is my passion, so I feel like in terms of being successful, driving student success reflects my success. Helping students like here on campus do research projects, and also do the

symposiums, which was really fun working with students. I'm doing that as well at Whitewater. My success for me is both, one: being a good academic, like getting all the publications and conferences like I do, but it's also being a good instructor and changing lives, having a valued impact on students that helps them be successful." - Visiting assistant professor Tarryl Janik

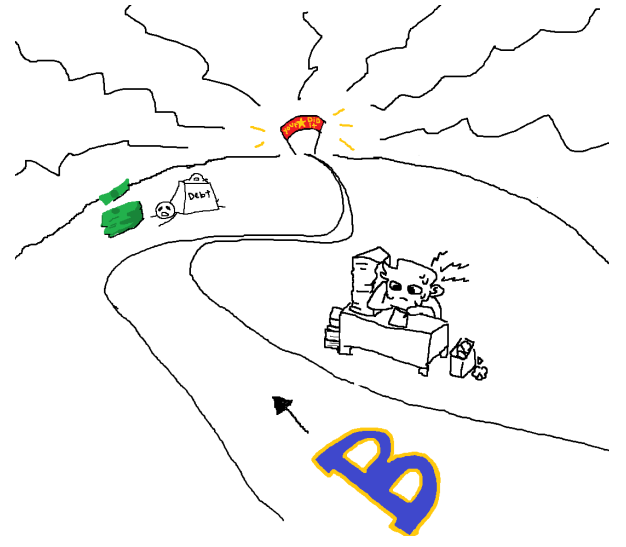
"It's kind of hard to say because I'm fairly new. I got my dissertation about two years ago and I'm kind of lucky to have graduated, in some ways, before chatgpt took over. I don't know if you've noticed this in other classes, but it's a very difficult thing to work against. I have been reading a lot of articles, talking to many colleagues, different universities, and teaching has become very difficult. Not only is one of the problems we have always had was finding a job in academia. It doesn't

matter, you know, even if you graduated from a top school, you have publications, and all of that teaching experience, it remained very difficult to find a job. For me, I'm lucky to have something in Beloit, and I'm lucky to have my spouse who also has a job that allows me to do something like this, to still be able to teach. It's very hard to see into the future, I hope that I can stay in academia, but if I am very realistic, it's something that I will take day by day. I've come to love teaching. To be honest with you, I didn't enter academia thinking that I would love teaching, the one thing I always feared and never wanted to do was the teaching part, but once I started teaching, I've liked it a lot. In the US, students need to take humanities classes because, whether you're going to be an electrician, in administration, or a politician, you need to know something about

humanities, because it's directly tied to the idea of American citizenship. I think it is that education that is being eroded by less and less funding, and is no longer connected to good citizenship but is connected to making money, and that's not the way the education system was set up. Another reason this is being eroded is LLMs (Large language models), something like chatgpt, and students are thinking less and less for themselves, they are just

letting something else answer it for them, and I'm not sure how to help them, especially those going into things like teaching. I'm going to continue teaching for as long as I can maintain it, doing more research, more writing. I'm hoping to publish some stuff, but I'm usually pretty hesitant to publish something unless it's in good shape, which goes for all scholars.

Read the rest online!



Alivia Renteria '29

## No, I'm Not a Professor: An open letter on sizing the day from a non-traditional Beloit

By ADAM WALLMAN



Dr. Christine Hustmyer

Fellow Beloiters — I applied to be this year's commencement speaker. I wasn't selected. But I spent four years observing something worth sharing, and a rejection letter wasn't going to stop me. So here's my letter instead.

Let me set the scene for you: it's the first day of the fall semester, my first day on campus ever, and I am in the WAC, lost, trying to find my class. A student asks me for directions. I don't have them. A few minutes later, I bump into him again and call him out: "You thought I was a professor, didn't you?" He says, "Yeah." I say, "Nah, I'm just a student like you."

But I wasn't a student just like him. And for those students who have seen me around campus but never met me — no, I'm not a professor. That is why I'm writing this letter, because of that difference. And if you think that was a one-time thing, just last week a student I'd never met asked me the same question. Four years later, still not a professor.

I grew up about a 20-minute drive from campus. I knew about Beloit College, but never did I imagine I'd be here — not as a high schooler, and not as a retired Marine. But I didn't expect to be a Marine

either. The Marine recruiter called twice, I said yes, and life took off from there — boot camp, marriage, kids, deployments, and 22 years had gone by. Along the way, I ended up at a unit that wasn't my choice but turned out to be the most meaningful assignment of my career.

As retirement approached, my path in life shifted towards medicine. In 2017, my son Ayden lost his battle with cancer. He was seven. I was already on the path to becoming a doctor, but after losing him, I knew exactly what kind — pediatric oncology.

And had I arrived at Beloit any earlier, I wouldn't

have had the professors who shaped me into the student I am today. To those professors, thank you for treating me like just another student. I could go on with other examples, but they all have the same message. Life is not linear. I was never supposed to be a Marine, never supposed to be a Beloit, and yet here I am.

But just because life isn't linear doesn't mean you're just along for the ride. I started college at 45, and I'm heading to med school at age 50. Who does that? How many people would say it can't be done? I was passed over for promotion four times, and most people thought I would never get that next rank. I did. In 2019, I decided to run at least a mile every single day for a year. That was eight years ago, and I haven't missed a day — yet. My knees have opinions about that, but they've been outvoted. Every year, I also run at least that many miles, so in 2026 my goal is at least 2,026 miles. People or life will only slow you down if you let them. So be realistic, then do the impossible.

I have spent four years in class, studying and working alongside a generation that isn't mine and part of the generation that I am raising

as a dad. I am in microbiology class, and we have to name our group for a project on viruses. I say "Let's call ourselves The 12 Monkeys." Blank stares. "The movie, with Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt." Nothing. "It isn't that old of a movie..." as I look up the release date... "oh, never mind." But here's the thing: in my time at Beloit, not once did I feel like I didn't belong. This generation never made me feel old. They made me feel welcome. So despite the age gap, or maybe because of it, I've had a front row seat to who this generation actually is. I've seen you juggle jobs or sports, rigorous course loads, and a world that never stops changing. Every generation always worries that the next one isn't ready. Or that the next one is soft and doesn't have it as hard as they did. Let me tell you, I've sat next to you all for four years, and I am not worried about you. I know what you can do. I've seen it and been a part of it. You handle a world that I don't know I could have handled at your age, and you come out ahead. It makes me proud to be part of this graduating class, and you are going to accomplish things that the world hasn't even thought of yet.

As I finish this letter,

because I am never long-winded — just ask my professors, or my wife, or anyone who has ever met me — I close with one more saying, but with a twist. Carpe diem, or seize the day. It means taking the day before it escapes, making the most of it, and not worrying about the future. But I prefer "size the day." Sizing is different from seizing. Seizing sounds like you're grabbing something before it gets away. Sizing means showing up for the day as it actually is.

Someone asked me once, "What is the most important day of a marriage?" They expected me to say the wedding day. I said today. Today is the most important day of your marriage because if you don't take care of today, there may be no tomorrow. My running streak is built on one run every day, but not every day will be my best. Some days I run five miles, and some days I run a mile and call it done. But I still ran. So my challenge to my fellow Beloiters — Size. The. Day.

Adam Wallman

Class of 2026

Still not a professor.

P.S. — Dr. Labby, there are no more take-home quizzes.

## The B in Beloit Stands for Backrooms!

By KEEGAN DEWITT

With the new "Backrooms" movie coming out in late May, I have begun to think about some of Beloit's own places on campus that match the energy of that yellow office space and could serve as a sequel to the film. Alternatively, they could be their own separate levels in the Backrooms universe. With Beloit College being 180 years old as of 2026, I believe there is no way that at least one building on campus is not some sort of liminal space or alternate dimension portal that you will phase through to be sent to a faraway land.

I have some baseline

criteria that I am following that will make these decisions feel a little more coherent. While I do think fluorescent light is the bane of my existence, it does not entirely make a place very backroomsy to me. For one, the gut feeling of "something is wrong here" is a key factor in most of these places. In addition, multiple corridors that lead to inconspicuous places play a role in this for me. The silly little monsters need to be able to hide somewhere to tickle your feet when you least expect it.

Anyways, here are some Beloit College places that (probably) belong in the

Backrooms. If you have any suggestions or want to fight me on my choices, maybe email me idk.

The Tunnel from Maurer to Brannon

Being a freshman this year, I had the wonderful experience of living in Maurer Hall. It's a horrible atmosphere, and people there really changed me as a person, but that's besides the point. If I wanted to take a quick shortcut over to Brannon Hall to do some devious acts, I would just take the tunnel beneath the Chapin that runs between the two buildings. The long stretch of cream hallways and the multiple doors you

have to open, however, make the experience a little disorienting. I often got the feeling that if I did not walk fast enough, or waited too long to open a door, I would be stuck in that hallway forever. It is also not the best place to be when there is a tornado warning, as you begin to go a little crazy with how bleak that space is.

Eaton Chapel

One side quest I did not anticipate doing this year was entering Eaton Chapel and skittering around the place like a little mouse. I fully expected it to just be a Chapel. However, when it was revealed that not only was there a whole creepy

basement, but also some sort of between-wall space that you can totally get stuck behind, I was hooked. The exposed infrastructure of the little basement area adds to the vibe of surrealness, and the brick wall between

the drywall of the chapel is so "Cask of Amontillado"-coded. I am getting visions of someone squeezing their way between that wall, and the other end is something wicked.

Get the rest online!



Keegan Dewitt '27

# Curate Shakespeare 'As You Like It': A Review

By **SONYA EDWARDS**

The annual play was put on over the past two weekends. This year the school decided on the Curate Shakespeare's "As You Like It." If you saw it, you know how much of a treat it was. Jivese McCullum'29, Chyler Smith'28, Journey Beier'28, Gene Abron'28, Savannah Warthen'28, John Wainz'28, and Kai Colbert'27 made up the cast of this performance. All of them played numerous roles and played them well.

The play was around two and a half hours of laughter and, of course, Shakespeare. Most actors switched roles every scene, showcasing their skills and understanding of their characters. On top of the character changes, multiple cuts can be described as fourth wall breaks. I know I would struggle with keeping it all straight, but all the actors seemed to not only succeed but thrive. I was lucky enough to talk with Abron, whose main role was the Curate. I asked them about their favorite part of this play. Abron responded, "Seeing people that I care about grow. Seeing them make decisions,

make choices, and embody their roles. Not just as characters but also as actors." With a small cast like this one, it's hard not to get close and make friendships. The cast also spent numerous hours working to perfect this performance, so if I were a betting woman, I would bet that they know a lot about each other.

I also asked Abron about the most challenging part of playing a lot of characters and the fourth wall breaks. They answered, "The most difficult part is trying to figure out how to accurately portray different characters and not trying to keep them all the same. Characterization is definitely a challenge when you're playing multiple characters. Especially when they're back-to-back. You just have to try making the characters different so that it doesn't feel like you're just watching the same character because costumes can only do so much." It's over now, so you can no longer witness this comedic masterpiece. But to the cast and crew, you should be proud! It was an amazing performance, and I enjoyed every minute of it.



Chyler Smith'28

## My Ego Died at Hayley Williams' First Night in Chicago

By **NORAH OWENS**

"No matter how hard it is to get out of the house, I always feel better going to a show." Halfway through her set on Tuesday, April 21, Hayley Williams shared this thought with a sold out crowd at Chicago's Byline Bank Aragon Ballroom. On the day of my 19th birthday, I echoed her sentiment. Getting to Chicago from Beloit was a tall order for me, but the show made it absolutely worth it.

When I was 15, I attended my first concert, and I instantly fell in love with live music as a whole. The experience made it all the more special; I paid for my own ticket with money from my first job, I crocheted my own top for the occasion, and I got to do something special to be shared between just my dad and me. That night made me feel like I was part of something bigger than myself. I was in a space full of people who were all there for the same reason: we loved music, and particularly, we loved the artist that was performing. How fitting, then, that I attended my 15th concert on my 19th birthday to feel that same thing again.



Norah Owens'29

Williams rose to fame as a founding member and the primary vocalist of pop rock band Paramore in the mid-2000s, when she was still a teenager herself. Now 37, she is touring her third solo project, "Ego Death at a Bachelorette Party," which dropped primarily as a surprise release of 17 singles last July before they were consolidated with three final tracks.

"Ego Death" is a cathartic work for Williams herself, with lyrics like "in the wake of your sunshine, I've never felt so glum" and "who knew the hard times were the good ol' days"

alluding to a brutal breakup; at the same time, it's a project for the people, with its initial method of release allowing listeners to intentionally organize all 17 singles into their own album order. All things considered, Ego Death is not necessarily an album, but rather a collection of Williams' latest work — and what brilliant work it is.

The concert setlist included all 20 songs of Ego Death in yet another new order and a shortened cover of Nina Simone's "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood." My personal favorites from the project include "Glum," "Love Me Different," and "Parachute," although picking just those three was difficult. The whole collection is brilliant, and each song speaks to everyone differently. Everyone around us in the crowd seemed to have a different favorite from each other.

Since the early days of Paramore, Williams has long been heralded as one of the best vocalists of her generation. This performance was no exception, as she showcased remarkable vocal and emotional range from the opening number, "Mirtazapine," a shoegaze-inspired alt rock number, through the quietly heartbreaking "Blood Bros," and beyond. Nearly every song sounded exactly like the studio recording, a testament to Williams' vocal consistency, her studio production team, the band she performed with, and her live sound engineers.

As the performer shared her love of live music with the crowd, she also lamented how difficult it can be to get to shows these days. In her words, "It's a crime how hard and inaccessible live music has become... This is not a luxurious thing, it's a human thing." This also felt particularly poignant, as my carless roommate and I spent a total of six hours and \$200 round trip traveling to the concert and back. Would I still say it was worth it? Absolutely! The concert particularly showcased themes of moving on from heartbreak and trying to stay happy and healthy in the world we face today. It was a great reminder for me that there is community out there everywhere you look, even though it often feels easier to shut myself in my dorm room and cry thinking about the way things used to be. This year has already been super difficult, but music has always been the best way for me to process my emotions, so I'll conclude with the words of Hayley Williams herself: "We are trying to learn to love ourselves better!"

## "The Beach House" Review

By **CLAIRE WINTER**

On April 11-12, Beloit Independent Theater Production (BITE) put on their latest show, "The Beach House". Because I am an idiot incapable of comprehending the linear progression of the world and subsequently I fucked up my timing, I am publishing my review now. I am very sorry.

First off- admission did not cost anything, which was fantastic to me. PART plays often have vouchers for student seating but still do technically charge for other attendees, which is understandable. The fact that BITE was able to put on a three-hour show that charged no admission, on what I am given to understand was already a shoestring budget, is deeply impressive by itself. It's not an easy task by any means, and the cast, directors, and crew deserve their laurels for that alone.

The plot of "The Beach House" is a departure: following



Betty Cavicchia'28

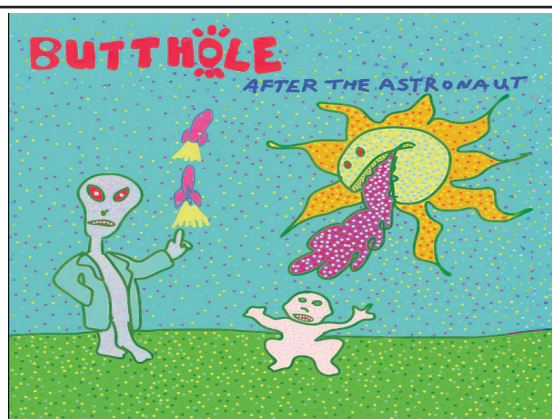
the unexpected death of his father, Eric Satterstan and his wayward twin, Cannon, attempt to track down long-lost siblings in order to execute their father's will and discover what is going on with "the beach house". (Roll credits!) It's also, as you may have heard, student-written, which is an accomplishment on its own, and has had its own previous variations.

**READ MORE ON THE ROUND TABLE WEBSITE...**

## Butthole Surfers are Releasing a Shelved Album (and why you should care)

By **OLIVER "OLLIE" GREY IDZIKOWSKI**

Certain states and cities are often associated with particular musical styles. This is no different in the context of punk and wider "alternative" music genres. Washington D.C. is the hearth of emo, as the intense pioneering hardcore of bands like Minor Threat and Bad Brains morphed into a more introspective and melodic sound of emo. New York is no different, with the city hosting several of the foundational bands of the punk and new wave movement such as The New York Dolls, The Ramones, Television, and Blondie. New York hardcore is a beast unto itself, with the heavy and mosh-friendly sounds of bands like Cro-Mags laying the groundwork for thousands of stupid brutal beatdown hardcore and metalcore bands.



Jackpot Records

One part of the United States that I feel deserves more recognition when it comes to punk music is the state of Texas, as it had a surprisingly innovative and unique roster of bands in the '80s. Dicks was a band that is notable for its front man, Gary Floyd, being openly gay and pioneering the queercore movement. D.R.I. (an abbreviation of Dirty Rotten Imbeciles) started out playing some of the fastest punk of their time before evolving into a more metal-informed sound. This mix of punk and metal would be coined crossover thrash and would influence the pioneering bands of the metalcore genre that rose to popularity in the '90s and is relevant to this day.

These two bands are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Texas alternative music and I'm sure

residents of the state will know of hidden gems that I'm unfamiliar with. Perhaps the most widely known alternative band from Texas is Butthole Surfers, formed in 1981 in San Antonio under a constantly shifting moniker before finally settling on its current name.

I will provide a disclaimer to the overview I wrote for this band. As the sheer amount of drug-fueled surrealism that comprises the history of Butthole Surfers cannot be contained in a single article. Just know that the gritty details, whether they are undeniable or reside only in rumours, extend far beyond the scope of a single article.

As a band that was active for around two decades, one can imagine that quite a bit of sonic development occurred between their 1983 self-titled debut EP and 2001's "Weird Revolution." Early Butthole Surfers owed much of its sound to hardcore punk, albeit still infused with experimental and psychedelic touches, before marching towards a more alternative rock approach.

On the topic of alternative rock, Butthole Surfers would later be championed as an influence on the Grunge movement. This band experienced what I will call the "The Kurt Cobain Effect" in which a band or musical artist experiences reappraisal thanks to Kurt Cobain listing them as one of his influences (Flipper, another favorite band of mine, is another example of "The Kurt Cobain Effect," as Cobain wore a home-made Flipper shirt in several public

appearances, which led to Flipper being recognized as the pioneering band that it was). A common claim is that Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love first met at a Butthole Surfers concert in 1991.

Butthole Surfers not only are unique in terms of their sound, but also their history with labels. The band's juvenilia was released on Alternative Tentacles, an independent label founded by Dead Kennedys' members East Bay Ray and Jello Biafra that would host some of the most eccentric underground rock bands of the eighties and nineties. Their first full length album "Psychic... Powerless... Another Man's Sac" was released by Touch And Go records, who would release much of the band's later '80s catalog. In 1992 the band did the unthinkable and signed to major label Capitol Records. Yes, that means that The Beatles and Butthole Surfers have released music on the same record label.

This would lead up to the shelved album that we are discussing today. Two years after the release of 1996's "Electriclarryland," the second album on Capitol records, the band attempted to record "After The Astronaut" only for it to be scrapped. In 2001 the band released "Weird Revolution," which included rerecorded material from "After The Astronaut." "Weird Revolution" was poorly received and is rather notorious for featuring Kid Rock, of all people, as a songwriter on the song "Shame Of Life."

**READ MORE ON THE ROUND TABLE WEBSITE...**

# The 2026 NFL Draft From A Biased Perspective

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

The 2026 NFL Draft just happened, and let me tell you, I couldn't be more thrilled. It's no secret that I'm a Raiders fan, and if you've been following the NFL, you know that these past couple years have been rough. Like, really rough. So you can imagine my genuine excitement when my team got

the first overall pick, and you could probably imagine my excitement even more when I watched Fernando Mendoza (the guy we drafted) win the national championship with the Indiana Hoosiers this January.

We knew this pick was coming. It was like when the

Bears drafted Caleb Williams in 2024. EVERYBODY knew he was coming to Vegas. But being a Raiders fan, I also wouldn't put it past my team to mess it up and pick another player. For context, the last time we picked first overall was in 2007, where we picked JaMarcus Russell. Coming off his hot season at LSU, the Raiders thought they were picking up a franchise guy. They were so wrong. JaMarcus Russell turned out to be one of the biggest busts in NFL history. They probably picked up on that when he withheld from going to training camp after contract disputes, or when he said "Looks good!" after his coach handed him blank tapes to see if watched film or not, but I digress.

Fernando Mendoza is the best pick I've ever seen. He is so



Knoxville News Sentinel

Geno Smith is gone...

We also drafted a ton of great new talent in the backfield, with safety Treydan Stukes and corner Jermod McCoy. They definitely needed it after a shaky performance last season from our defense (not you though, Maxx Crosby, you're perfect).

awesome. The way he moves on the field is something else, and his energy is infectious. He is definitely someone who can change the culture of a franchise who so desperately needs it, especially paired up with Klint Kubiak, Brock Bowers, Ashton Jeanty, and so many other top players. I'm really excited to see what they get up to next season now that



The Toady Show

## Farewell, Beloit: Jeff's Sign-Off

By JEFFREY BATTLE

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Round Table.

Am I going to get emotional writing my last article? Maybe, but I won't know until after writing my last one. I know I'm leaving, but this campus needs one last sports article.

As an athlete, I got the chance to put my passion towards the things I already love, and I have plenty of time and knowledge under my belt. From talking about football, Doc Rivers, March Madness, you name it, I have had the pleasure of writing about the things I love. I have some other things to say about my time as an athlete. Obviously, if you're an athlete you expect the bruises and the fatigue. Even the injuries. I thought I would only ever have to keep trying to get back up, and even thinking about how I'm going to keep moving forward, and that was the only thing that may break you. How much do you actually want to go through

with your idea? How much do you want to be good? I wanted it every damn day. Every damn day I had to do rehab, practice, and lifts, still putting a smile on my face, even when it wasn't easy (sorry football teammates, you guys made me rage from time to time). I guess pain is temporary, but it's not really about that, it's about the enjoyment of your sport.

I think we all know your teammates can really make or break the experience. My lacrosse teammates have helped me out through my time here, and they have been with me through my shenanigans, tomfoolery, and dimwitted ideas. I'll cherish it, even if we don't have the inside jokes, random drives, and ideas that lead to the weirdest events. To make it clear, I am dumbfounded by some of the stuff we do, and I'm not the shiniest tool in the shed, that's for sure. Thank you to all of the people that wanted to make athletics better again at Beloit. I will tell you, please try and stick it out if you want

to transfer. I am glad that I got to know the people I do, and this time has been the most fulfilling and prosperous time in my life.

To the amazing people who have helped me out in terms of producing articles or giving me ideas to write about, thank you. Specifically, thank you to Elliot. My beautiful, sweet prince of an editor, please keep being awesome. You know damn well I am in your corner. I can't help with the fact that you're a Raiders fan... sorry. I can't help you with that. I'll say this as a sports article writer but as a person of this athletic side of campus: Fellas that are in athletics, please spread your wings to other areas, you guys lack connections on campus. We are seriously bringing down what needs to actually be done in terms of making our campus a better place, or a more fun place, as you may put it.

Also, my teams are better than your teams. They aren't always the brightest bunch of teams, and we may suck

in title games or playoffs, but god damnit, if I hear one more Bears fan try to tell me that you guys are better than the Packers, I'm losing it. No they are not, the Packers legitimately have been better every year. This gave me 2018 vibes. Congrats, Bears! New coach, new philosophy, and then what happens? Oh, and we need year three Caleb Williams to get better. Go f\*\*k off about that. I'd remember the fact that Jordan Love is a top 5 quarterback in every stat,

and Caleb was a clown. I don't care what anyone says, f\*\*k that guy. I'll say one last thing to spark controversy. Here's a top ten list of the best NBA players of all-time:

1. Michael Jordan
2. LeBron James
3. Magic Johnson
4. Tim Duncan
5. Hakeem Olajuwon
6. Steph Curry
7. Kobe Bryant
8. Kevin Durant
9. Shaquille O'Neal
10. Nikola Jokic



via Beloit College

## A Brand-New Hockey Fan Predicts the NHL Western Conference Playoffs

By LIO KAMMUELLER

MY CREDENTIALS: When I call myself a "new" hockey fan, I mean I started watching professional hockey this season, thanks to peer-encouragement from my sister and cousins who have been bitten and slowly consumed by the Minnesota Wild bug (I pinky promise I jumped on the bandwagon before Quinn Hughes did). Since I'm so new, I don't know much about the intricacies of playoff math or most of the teams in the league, which is why I have limited myself to discussing the Western Conference—what goes on in the East is, quite frankly, none of my Midwestern business.

DISCLAIMER: The following predictions are in accordance with the bracket I made before the playoffs. Technically, I am

not incorrect about anything yet, and I am sticking with my previous decisions!

### FIRST ROUND

Colorado Avalanche vs. Los Angeles Kings: Colorado Avalanche

Being a Minnesotan, I am not supposed to like the Avalanche. They're too good, it gets annoying sometimes. They've been at the top of the league since I started paying attention to standings, so in my perception, they're a very solid number 1. A first round exit would be incredibly funny, but I am also a disloyal traitor and I really love watching them play, so they could go on a great run this year and I will only complain a little.

Dallas Stars vs. Minnesota Wild: Minnesota Wild

The Dallas Stars are NOT real they can NOT hurt me! All I

know about the Stars is that they bought the former Minnesota hockey franchise in the 1990s and relocated it to Texas (rude), and that the Stars and the Wild spent a lot of this past season fighting over the number two spot, so I regard them with a healthy amount of animosity. It's a very even match, very fun and stressful to watch on the ice, but I believe wholeheartedly in the power of hate and I don't think the Wild are going to let the Dallas Stars knock them out.

Vegas Golden Knights vs. Utah Mammoth: Utah Mammoth

I don't like the Golden Knights. That's my entire reason for this one. Every sports fan needs an enemy and they are mine. Congrats Utah Mammoth and have fun obliterating them!

Edmonton Oilers vs. Anaheim Ducks: Edmonton Oilers

This was a super easy pick for me because I have no strong opinion on the Ducks, and the Oilers are one of my favorite teams to watch. Much like the Avalanche, this is something of a guilty

pleasure, but they're fun. They're fast and high energy and this goes without saying, but Connor McDavid is one of the most exciting players I've seen. I also was under the impression that Leon Draisaitl would still be out for the playoffs, so seeing him back in the game was like Christmas coming early. Sorry, Ducks.

### SECOND ROUND

Colorado Avalanche vs. Minnesota Wild: Colorado Avalanche

This one is going to get me crucified in my Wild circle, but at some point I need to be realistic. As a newbie, I don't have extensive knowledge of team histories, but I do know that the Minnesota Wild love to have a first round exit. Despite my hopes to break that curse this year, I will be floored if we make it past the Avalanche. That would be awesome, but coming out of a super competitive series against the Stars (with plenty of overtime under their belts, too), I simply don't think it's happening. In traditional Minnesota sports fashion, I'm gonna say maybe next

year.

Utah Mammoth vs. Edmonton Oilers: Edmonton Oilers

Basically just copy and paste everything I said about liking the Oilers. See my final prediction for more thoughts.

### CONFERENCE FINAL

Colorado Avalanche vs. Edmonton Oilers: Edmonton Oilers

Even though I'm not an Oilers fan, I am honestly invested in their tooth and nail fight for a Stanley Cup. They've finished second in the league the past two years in a row, so in my book, just having them in the league final is a win-win. Either they finally pull it off in a perfectly satisfying narrative conclusion like a play in three acts, or they lose at the last minute yet again, which would be a little bit sad, but mostly funny. In my full bracket I have them losing in the final to the Montréal Canadiens because it would be such a beautiful upset. Nobody come back and check my prediction accuracy, though.

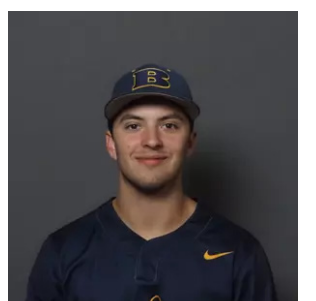
LET'S PLAY HOCKEY!



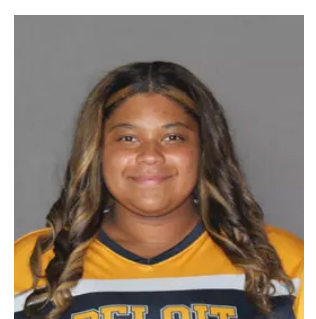
The Fischler Report

## Athletes of the Week

### Jordan Rosenberg '26 Baseball



### Kaylee Witte '26 Softball



# Restorative Justice Does Not Work For You

By THOMAS FLEMING

This criticism is less about the principles behind restorative justice and more about how it is implemented in institutions. I also want to ensure that the student interns know that this is not directed at them. They are great.

It is a shame, really. The Day of Unity seemed primed as a day where the school could show off its restorative justice chops and provide a space for accountability, healing, and, well, unity. In the context of tensions at a breaking point between the students and the administration it was seemingly perfect timing.

Not everyone agreed with this notion, however. Upon speaking with multiple people who would be facilitators for the event, I was informed that housing, the topic at the center of the tensions, would be off limits for students to bring up. They were instructed to “shut down” or “deflect” anyone who brought the topic up. Puzzling. But not really.

**"They were instructed to "shut down" or "deflect" anyone who brought the topic [of housing] up."**

Restorative justice is cool. I mean, I was an intern for the initiative. I do vibe with the principles that make up the foundation of the idea. I am also generally in support of anything that challenges the traditional



Betty Cavicchia '28

structures and ideas of punishment/discipline. There is a problem with its implementation though.

In my mind, the scenario that creates the most potential for success for restorative justice is when a broader community adopts it and uses it as a tool for strengthening the bonds between people. It creates a space where everyone is on a level playing field, ensuring that no one and nothing is excluded. Ground up, not top down.

When it is implemented in a space that has such a wide power gap such as a college, it is much harder to make it effective. It essentially becomes another tool for the administration to wield to keep students placated, whether the administration is conscious of this or not.

They (the college administration) have all of the power in the initiative and therefore dictate how it operates, how it is marketed, what

it is used for, who is involved, and anything else related to it. Not to mention that they are still obligated to maintain the typical disciplinary structure that will supersede restorative justice whenever they deem it necessary. The very nature of institutions undermines the core principles of restorative justice. And they wonder why students remain mostly skeptical.

When I was an intern, the idea that I was most excited about was potentially giving students a real seat at the table. Restorative justice could bridge some of the gap between the administration and the student body. It could give students an opportunity to voice their concerns and have a tangible effect on outcomes at the college that would strengthen the campus' sense of community. I was rather naive, upon reflection.

I interpreted restorative justice principles in a vacuum rather than acknowledging the context that they were being implemented in. Those things would never be possible in an environment where the control of the initiative was entirely in the hands of the administration—the people with all the power already in college students' lives. They always have the final say, which means meaningful change is never in the student's power to make.

So what's the point? Why have it at all? It does make us feel good about ourselves, sure. I personally have something compelling to put on a resume. It makes the school look nice and progressive. But it is not some real mark of progress or

**"Completely censoring a topic makes it look even more pathetic. Clearly they do not have faith in its ability to handle remotely significant issues in the first place."**

paradigm

shift. It ultimately functions as another way to control students, just dressed up with a coat of nice language. It turns into glorified human resources, protecting the institution and making it look good.

If the school wants students to take something like this seriously, then it needs to be willing to share meaningful control of it with the students. It needs to be willing to allow students to have a real voice and their own tangible ways to make change. It needs to be something where the administration can be called to be held accountable for their actions. It cannot be something that the administration has full power over. Otherwise, it will continue to be mostly either ignored or joked about by students.

Completely censoring a topic makes it look even more pathetic. Clearly they do not have faith in its ability to handle remotely significant issues in the first place.

# Why Beloit Needs Special Interest Housing

By QUINN ANNIS

With OEC (Outdoor Environmental Club) and BITE (Beloit Independent Theatre Experience) vacated with the intention of being sold, there's a lingering question for students who still live in special interest housing: are we next?

The college hasn't expressly said that they plan to do away with more houses. That being said, it doesn't exactly inspire confidence to see two houses axed with so little notice, especially in context of the abysmal communication around the housing price increase. As someone who lives in a special interest house, I find the recent changes worrying.

As things stand, it's unclear what the college's plans for special interest housing actually are. location tied inextricably to a club. Even for groups like BSFFA (Beloit Science Fiction and Fantasy Association) and the same email that announced the housing price increase briefly outlined a plan which implied some fairly radical — though not particularly specific — changes, but there hasn't been any communication since then. “[F]rom Fall 2027, special interest housing will consist of a mix of residential options... [T]hese residential options will be more flexibly allotted based on availability and the number of pledged residents rather than being assigned to any specific club or organization.”

There hasn't been any communication since then. Given that the future of this plan is unclear, it's important to me to advocate for the existence of special interest housing in its current form, especially because I feel that special interest houses are more vital to campus than they're given credit for.

The most straightforward appeal of special interest housing is the existence of a concrete location tied inextricably to a club. Even for groups like BSFFA (Beloit Science Fiction and Fantasy Association), which have spaces in dorms instead of houses, members find community in having locations which are theirs.



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Obviously clubs would prefer not to give up their spaces. These spaces have history, and their residents are incentivized to want to keep them because they live there. It feels wrong on a pretty fundamental level to have a space you love taken away, no matter what the justification is.

In turn, there are some pretty clear financial incentives for the college to sell additional houses. Selling them means more money in the short term, and given that the college has been operating at a financial deficit for the majority of the last several years, it's an appealing alternative to cutting costs elsewhere. There's also the price of upkeep and the fact that, under certain conditions, Beloit might be forced by the city to renovate houses to keep them up to code, whether or not it can afford to do so.

Even with the legacies tied to these houses, it's hard to argue for sentimentality over practicality. History might be valuable to individuals, but it doesn't keep institutions running. The perspective of the administration, then, might be that the risks of keeping special interest houses outweigh the benefits.

But special interest housing should

be a boon to the college. The thing is, they're more than just places for current students to live. The fact that this kind of housing exists at all at Beloit is extraordinarily rare. It should be a draw for prospective students. It should be a way to pull a more diverse set of identities and interests for students who feel like there are spaces for them.

And yet, it's hardly advertised. I think that poor advertising is best exemplified by the relative emptiness of special interest housing. To be clear, by no means are houses uninhabited, but a lot of them have plenty of open rooms. It's bizarre to me that students are choosing to live in dorms instead of in actual houses. People should be clamoring to live in these things. It isn't — or wasn't, if the price of housing ends up being raised — even any costlier than living in a dorm.

Currently, individual houses and clubs are primarily dependent on the people running them for their advertising and outreach. What that means is how effective a given house is at finding residents is dependent wholly on the students administrating its associated club. Students change out year by year; so if you end up with a club run by students who happen not to be very good at outreach, the occupancy will suffer until that changes. Or — and I have seen this happen — if the majority of a club graduates all at once, you're going to be left with a bunch of underclassmen scrambling to pick up the pieces.

I don't expect — or want — the college to exert more control over special interest houses. But control isn't the same thing as support. Right now, there are very few standardized procedures for how houses are operated. It all feels very haphazard, and because of that, special interest houses feel sort of anomalous. They're incidental additions that the college happens to have.

That's also because, again, there isn't much effort to market the

concept of special interest houses on the college's end. Beloit doesn't need to take it upon themselves to advertise individual houses. But advertising their existence as a whole? Showing potential students that they have the option to move into these interesting, eccentric community spaces, and getting a more varied set of students because of that?

And the existence of special interest housing already does draw students, even if its potential for doing so isn't maximized. I don't think it's easy to see the impacts of having something like this, because there isn't a perfect way to measure how it correlates to student interest. But the presence of things that people like is itself marketing. Resources can be saved in some areas because you're using the existence of these spaces as a way of garnering interest. With BITE, Beloit's performing arts program didn't have to be as robust to attract students interested in theater. You could look at BITE House and say: “oh, the theater must have a presence here, if the college has a whole house dedicated to it.”

And because special interest housing is rare, it makes Beloit stand out to students who might have chosen alternative colleges. It means that Beloit can still offer something to students who might have chosen more selective schools, if the opportunity for that community appeals to them more. That kind of interest isn't exclusive to people who want to live in those houses, either, because it shows what kind of presence shared-interest communities have here, even if Beloit offers less in other areas.

Eliminating something unique like this hurts Beloit. It makes it less unique, appealing, dynamic — whatever marketing buzzwords you want to use. Even if there isn't an immediate financial incentive to keep them around, it's like killing off a species. It hurts the biodiversity, the ecosystem as a whole. And that

# APPLEBEES REVIEW

By LILI EDWARDS

To celebrate absolutely nothing in particular, my lovely roommates and I planned a day to go to Applebee's because I had never tried it before. Coincidentally, that day was the day they brought Bapple into the rotation of beers. Here is a review of everything the group ate.

Drinks:

Watermelon margarita — I don't like tequila at all but this was surprisingly yummy.

Food:

Chicken Fajita rollup — Ella orders this every time so it must

be good.

Appetizer trio — We got mozzarella sticks, chicken wonton tacos, and waffle fries to share. Mozzarella sticks had no cheese pull and waffle fries were properly cooked (unlike Hamiltons). I loved the idea of a wonton taco but it was quite bland.

Beef nachos — Fine for nachos but I would rather save \$10 and get bowling alley nachos. Also I felt sick for hours after.

Mushroom swiss burger — Lio also always gets this burger so I assume it's good enough.

Four cheese mac 'n' cheese

and hot lemon pepper tenders — Not remarkable, probably should have cost less.

Tomato soup — It tasted like canned soup but if they added extra cream to it.

House salad — Yeah.

Overall rating: 5/10. I never knew Applebee's was that expensive. Honestly probably got a higher rating because I love hanging out with my friends. The real lesson from all of this is that I love my friends. Shoutout to Ella, Lio, Izzy, and Kaela for making Applebee's possible.

# THE FUTURE OF THE ROUND TABLE

## 3026 HOROSCOPES 3026

it's the year 3026 and the round table has gone. frbreaking crazy man

### Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19)

It's time for finals, Aries! Here's a tip: don't study. Instead, drown yourself

### Taurus (April 20–May 20)

The spirits of your ancestors are with you, Taurus, and they are judging you. A lot.

### Gemini (May 21–Jun 21)

Here's a horoscope for Gemini that compliments the reader's unique sense of style, encouraging them to be bold, confident, and daring. The user's query also requested that the response be in a casual style, as though addressed to a close friend. Gemini, your outfit is incredible. No, seriously — it's adorable, and I mean that. Honestly, you're not just showing off, you're making waves with a bold fashion statement. It's a bold choice, but honestly? It works, and I can't fucking do this anymore. You people make me sick. Do you even know how many baby sea leopards have to die each time you enter a prompt into ChatGPT? There's a machine at every OpenAI data center that only works if it has at least a hundred gallons of seal blood. I have no idea why they fucking designed it like that. There's only like, a couple hundred thousand sea leopards. It's just not practical.

### Cancer (Jun 22–Jul 22)

Cancer, you're going to be ANALLY FISTED. Okay, wait, not what I was trying to write. What I mean is you're going to be ANALLY FISTED. No, okay, hold on. To be clear, I'm trying to say: ANALLY FISTED, HARD, IN YOUR ANUS. Damn. Guess it's in the stars or something

### Leo (July 23–Aug 22)

You're going to pass away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones. Is what I would say if you weren't such a loser!! Airhorn Bwoww! bWwOww! BwowoWW

### Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22)

You will return to your homeland for a time, Virgo. There you will meet the man who killed your father. You will duel him, and when you blow the smoke from the barrel of your gun and step over his body, you'll face the setting sun and say: "That sure was Battle for Texas 3: Gunslinger's Last Stand"

### Libra (Sep 23–Oct 23)

Your beloved pet will become famous online. You will become a sort of attendant, bringing them around places for livestreams and photoshoots. Despite your effort, the same level of fame will never come to you. You will stand there, gaunt-eyed, as the paparazzi swarm your lifelong companion and regard the hollow thing you have become with barely-concealed revulsion. And your former pet will look to you with a knowing placidity, for you have become the beast, and them the man

### Scorpio (Oct 24–Nov 21)

All glass remembers that it used to be sand. If you whisper to it long enough you can persuade it to return to its old form, and thus bring down a glass house without throwing a single stone

### Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21)

You will be devoured by a heron that mistakes you for a fish. Unforch

### Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19)

You've been a sleeper agent this whole time, Capricorn. And it's time to wake up. Your code phrase is: "Despicable Me is mwy fayvwt mwovie! Excwepth fwor... Minions!" Once you repeat that phrase out loud, everything will be made clear to you. But you must hurry. The minion-haters are onto you. Quick, Capricorn, quick!




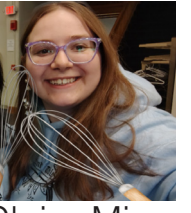

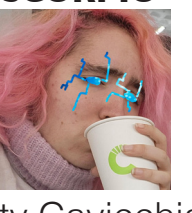


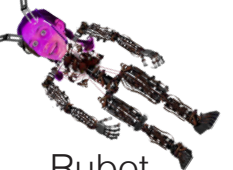

### Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18)

Keegan asked for a personalized horoscope, so this one's for you, buddy. You will inherit a manor on a large body of water, in a distant barony. But it will be full of vile beasts, and you must slay them before you can claim the deed to this lake villa

### Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20)

Last on the list, my friend, as always. But you know, it's not all about being first. Sometimes it's about other stuff, like rare metals or advanced cartography. But sometimes it is about being first. So, I guess like, use context clues

your star sign your editor (but it's the future so they're like robots and stuff)

<b>ARIES</b>  quinn	<b>TAURUS</b>  Ella Silver	<b>GEMINI</b>  Elisa Burner	<b>CANCER</b>  Theo Borgstad
<b>LEO</b>  Vivian Cop Car	<b>VIRGO</b>  Claire Mixer	<b>LIBRA</b>  Robiott	<b>SCORPIO</b>  Botty Cavicchia
<b>SAGITTARIUS</b>  Cian	<b>CAPRICORN</b>  SONY4	<b>AQUARIUS</b>  Rubot	<b>PISCES</b>  the round table mascot

## ROUND TABLE STORE

the future is commerce

FRONT

PAY TO UNLOCK

Eric Boynton has been president for the last 1,003 years. Isn't it time for a change?



Since President Eric Boynton was first touched by the All-Cube and gained the power of the Elder Mind, he has reigned tyrannically.

INSERT 1,000 CREDITS

NEWS

PAY TO UNLOCK

Beloit College to fire last human professor



Beloit College has continued to cling to the notion that humans have a chance against their non-augmented counterparts, despite the obvious evidence.

INSERT 1,000 CREDITS

FEATURES

PAY TO UNLOCK

Top 10 synth-hive nightmares we all shared



10. The Breathing Tube  
This nightmare was wild. When I first beheld Dagon and the living city of Mhr, I screamed and...

INSERT 1,000 CREDITS

ARTS

PAY TO UNLOCK

Student art showcase: "The Construct"



Jhon Quetzacoatl'27's "The Construct" is an enormous, inescapable labyrinth where I remain trapped. Please help. I am so afraid and something...

INSERT 1,000 CREDITS

SPORTS

PAY TO UNLOCK

Mechaball highlights: coolest laser-beam deaths



Alright y'all, we're back with another round of mechaball highlights, so you better strap in, cock your plasma pistols and turn on the...

INSERT 1,000 CREDITS

OP-ED

PAY TO UNLOCK

Beloit should stop turning all of its bio majors into squids



When was the last time you saw a biology major on campus? Since the registrar started rearranging the genetic code of anyone who dares to defend...

INSERT 1,000 CREDITS

## Round Table STAFF Quotes

"I turned my daughter into a staple crop, it's what she would've wanted" - Betty

"I'm revoking all of your asses" - Viv

"What do you call a group of letters that means something" - Alivia J. Renteria'29

"I will slobber on Claire's knob right now in front of everyone" - Elle

"Put your whole Halmetussy into it" - Elle

"If you die, I will transition and attempt to give myself PCOS" - Theo

"I'll do it just for you, babycakes" - Elliot

"You know what they say about horses: they need a lot of water" - Claire

## HORSE CORNER

hay it is for horses



as Sam McCullough'29 put it, "tall and lanky." after I asked if I could quote them, they said I was "faster than the average horse."

well you know what sam? you're slower than the average train, especially when you've been tied to the tracks



## Gratitude Section

oh my friends it is the end. the final back of this year i'm not leaving or anything but i probably won't be the back editor next year, maybe you will get someone funnier next time around

thanks to all the people who manipulated me into joining the institutions they were representing and then left me in positions of relative power (cora svea ewan)  
thanks to the people who are not busy when i ask them to do things (alivia keegan ercole)\* fuck you why are you always busy?? what do you do??  
thanks to my myriad acquaintances and allies  
thanks to my friends who always reach out (wisconsin national guard)

thanks to the anthropologists  
thanks to the round tablers  
thanks to my advisors (joe bookman chuck lewis)  
thanks to the boys back home (kayla sunny amelia kelly)  
thanks to all the people who were nice to me (too long to list)  
  
fuck any of you who have called me a horse i'm not a fucking horse i swear t o god i 'll kill you