

The Round Table

Freaking people out since 1853

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Transparency and Trepidation: College Communication with Students

NEWS

By DEMIR KASAPOGLU and VIVIAN KOPKA



Via Beloit College

Events and changes made in the past month at Beloit College have led students to question the transparency of information the school has with its students. This started with a potential safety threat on campus, and has continued with housing access and pricing information.

On Tuesday, March 3, an incident involving two students and a firearm took place on campus. The Beloit Police Department became involved, and the event culminated in a student’s arrest the same night. Information, including misinformation, quickly spread through the school.

On March 6, three days later, the Dean of Students’ office sent out an email to the student body confirming this incident had taken place. However, no information other than the fact that “the firearm was not used or brandished at any point” was given.

The Round Table has reached out to BPD for any information. At this time, as the investigation is still ongoing, BPD was unable to disclose any further information about the incident.

This incident allegedly occurred mainly in complex 3, which pertains to dormitories 609 Emerson Hall, 815 Hall, 840 Hall, Haven Hall and Wood Hall. The Round Table spoke to a resident assistant (RA) in the complex about the incident.

“I think they could’ve been more

specific and they should’ve sent out an email earlier, because there was a gun on campus.” They continued with frustration over the perceived minimizing of the situation: “you can’t just be like ‘there was a small little hiccup, but don’t worry, it’s all sorted,’ and not give any more information.”

They also referenced back to a situation that took place last spring semester, saying, “they don’t tell faculty sh*t, they barely tell the students, and I think this is sort of a pattern.”

On Friday, April 3, the Dean of Students sent out an email regarding the changes in housing. For weeks prior to the message being sent, students were already hearing about a major change in housing via individual meetings: single rooms would cost \$400 more than doubles and triples, per semester.

The speculation by the student body came after an email by the College’s CFO informing students that the comprehensive fee was increasing by 3.8%. The fourth paragraph of the email stated, “[t]his adjustment reflects the average cost associated with double occupancy housing and the Blue Meal Plan. Please be advised that fees may vary depending on specific housing selections and meal plan options.”

The Round Table spoke to Jake Fein’27, an RA, about the housing policy change. When asked about how

they initially heard about the change in the policy, they said, “it was something that was talked about in the ResLife office one day, where some office workers were talking because they had read the original email sent out on March [5] by the new CFO, announcing the 3.8% increase. They had read the paragraph and apparently understood it in a different way than I had, and read into it, and then they were thinking [the cost of a single room] was going to increase.”

Fein went on to say, “That same day I walked up to Randi’s (Randi Mogul, director of Residential Life) office, and asked her about it and she confirmed the change. She confirmed the email was not the clearest and there should be further clarifying stuff and Ron (Ron Watson, dean of students) was going to do that.”

While the change was supposed to be implemented during the next academic year, starting fall 2026, it has since been rescinded and will now begin starting in the fall of 2027. However, it is unclear what the difference in pricing will be.

Alongside the proposed pricing, the Outdoor Environmental Club (OEC) and the Beloit Independent Theatre Experience (BITE) special interest houses are being moved, and those homes will no longer be campus housing. The Round Table asked Louis

we’re going to try to figure out a way to rightsize something that has been sort of out of whack for a long time. Really, no other school does what we’re doing. None of our peer schools do,” Watson elaborated.

On the topic of the OEC and BITE houses being “taken offline,” as Leslie put it, Watson touched on timing, flexibility, and thinking creatively:

There were a variety of different factors that resulted in that decision, us not being able to make that decision until late. And that’s something that was, I mean, that was a tough decision... We are committed, and I certainly am committed to making sure that we always have, if not several months, if not a year, at least more weeks in advance notice, if we have to make those sorts of changes. And that’s one of the reasons why the message I put out now is already telegraphing things from next year... Because, again, those changes will come. They will happen, and that gives everyone involved at least a full calendar year to be thinking about, well, what can we do? That also gives me, and my office, and other folks in senior leadership the opportunity to meet with and talk with students, especially those who will feel that they’re being targeted in some way. It gives us an opportunity to talk to them and to find different ways to



Via Beloit College

Benard’26, president of OEC, about the move.

“They are selling the OEC and BITE properties because upkeeping those old-ass properties cost the school too much money. We were assured club housing by Ron Watson either in 815 or 840.”

Benard went on to say, “[Mogul] has given away all of the singles in 815 which means we probably can’t get housing there. Due to the proximity of them telling us, to the [timing of the] housing lottery, there may be no way for us to get club housing in the dorms.” This information is alleged, and Benard expressed that there will be a meeting with him and the Dean of Students in the days following the release of this edition of The Round Table. The reasons for this discrepancy of information relayed by Mogul and the Dean are unknown at the time of publication.

Fein commented on the timing of the housing-price announcement, saying, “I think the school is knowingly trying to push things through later in the semester... when they know students won’t be able to put up a fight.”

Touching on previous issues, they continued, “every single time there’s a tuition increase, they vote on that in their September Board of Trustees meeting and have historically announced it in April, this year it was early.” Fein is a student representative in the Board of Trustees.

In an interview with Vice President of Finance Strategy & Operations Tim Leslie and Dean of Students Ron Watson (aforementioned), both Watson and Leslie responded to criticisms on the timing of the announcements relating to housing: “[t]here was an initial thought that the differential pricing... would happen for this coming year. But, we ultimately made the decision not to do that, because, quite frankly, we do think students do need more time to understand,” Watson said, on the topic of the \$400 single-room increase.

“The thought process there was:

achieve those goals based on the other housing options that we have.

The two also expressed their shared perspective that the changes will benefit the most students possible.

Leslie told The Round Table of a list of tenets being used to improve housing on campus: “improve living conditions for as many students as possible, improve the worst living conditions first, and then... finish all the previously started dorm projects that are partially improved, but not entirely improved.”

And, since the houses being taken offline are “historical homes,” as Watson refers to them, they “are very expensive to maintain,” Watson said. “In order to keep them in the repair that historic homes need to be in, presents –one could argue– an extreme investment of resources that actually could be better served in other places.”

When The Round Table brought up concerns raised by other students about identity-based special interest homes, and the possibility of those being taken offline because of the current national Presidential administration, Watson assured that the events are not connected in any way.

Overall, Watson and Leslie acknowledged that there is room for improvement in terms of transparency and communication. “I think we could definitely communicate better when it comes to space use,” Leslie said.

“It was absolutely not ideal to have to have to make that call when we did,” Watson said. “[t]hat being said, the folks who were directly impacted by this decision, they really impressed me by how willing they were to think through: what other options could we do?And that’s the kind of creative thinking that I think we are all being forced to do – meaning myself too.”

Wisconsin Supreme Court Candidates Face Off in Televised Debate

NEWS

By ETHAN COOPER

On April 2, campus organization BeloitVotes held a watch party for the hitherto postponed Wisconsin Supreme Court debate between candidates Maria Lazar and Chris Taylor.

The event, furnished with pizza and drink, was held in Richardson Auditorium from 7-8 p.m. Although the debate was pushed back last week after Taylor was hospitalized, Beloit Votes adjusted accordingly, moving the event back a week. Unfortunately, extreme weather reports would intervene to delay the debate once more, this time by an hour.

Despite continuous setbacks, Beloit Votes remains intent on continuing their work, especially as elections lurk just around the corner. Keira Linton’28, co-founder and treasurer of the organization, describes the club as “a nonpartisan initiative [whose] main focus is educating students on voting, elections, and getting them to go out and vote.” She maintains that the club is “hoping to get more people educated on the candidates for the Supreme Court election that is coming up in five days (April 7) and just letting people know who they want to vote for before they go into the polls.”

The first and only debate between the candidates took place at WISN Studio located in downtown Milwaukee, moderated by studio political director Matt Smith and anchor Gerron Jordan. Beginning an hour past schedule, the moderators laid down the structure of the debate, which aimed to cover

broad, divisive topics in a conversational manner. The first speaker was decided by a coin flip, giving Taylor the opening words.

Chris Taylor was appointed as a judge in the Dane County Circuit Court by incumbent Tony Evers in 2020 and was elected to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals in 2023. She was democratic lawmaker in the state assembly previous to her appointment.

Maria Lazar was formerly a Waukesha County Circuit judge from 2015 to 2022 and an assistant attorney general for the Wisconsin Department of Justice from 2010 to 2015, serving under Republican Governor Scott Walker. She currently serves on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals since being elected in 2022.

Despite almost 251,000 ballots being sent in early, many around the state are still unclear about who to vote for in this race. Although the office of the Wisconsin Supreme Court is technically non-partisan, Lazar and Taylor have taken on conservative and liberal personae respectively. They are competing for the vacancy being left by conservative justice Rebecca Bradley, who has chosen not to run again after completing her decade-long tenure. As of now, the court is split 4-3 liberals to conservatives. If Lazar beats Taylor, the ideological makeup of the court will remain the same. However, if Taylor wins, the liberal majority will expand to 5-2.

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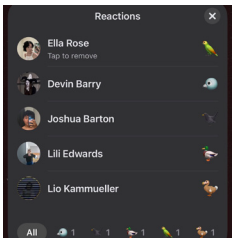
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Round Table

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 vividity and humor.

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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.

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

Wisconsin Supreme Court Candidates Face Off in Televised Debate

By ETHAN COOPER
CONT'D FROM FRONT

The first question addressed to the candidates regarded the stakes of the race. Both candidates were asked why their leadership would be better suited to the office. Taylor emphasized protecting rights and democracy, consistent with her liberal positioning and ties to the democratic party. She even invoked past ties to Planned Parenthood, hinting at support for reproductive rights.

Lazar, on the other hand, underscored legal independence, in the process framing Taylor as a judicial activist and liberal ideologue, employing language such as "extreme" and "radical agenda" when describing Taylor's policy.

When asked about their respective judicial philosophies, Taylor responded that hers was "centered around people and equal justice," while Lazar described hers as "originalism with a touch of textualism."

Textualism and originalism are formalist legal doctrines which seek to interpret the text of the constitution as it was written, while giving limited consideration to context or intent. This doctrine was notably advocated for by conservative justice Antonin Scalia, and has since been employed by Trump appointees Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Comey Barret.

Lazar attacked Taylor's philosophy, saying what Wisconsin needs is "not a judge who loves their causes or their beliefs or their agendas. I am going to be a judge on this court who's looking to put only the law and interpret the law as it's written."

Taylor responded in kind, saying "Judge Lazar is the only person in this race who has brought an extreme right wing political agenda to the bench. . . she ruled to release personal private voting information to a right wing group that tried to overturn our election." Importantly, Taylor noted that the latter decision was overturned by the supreme court. "In Wisconsin Voter Alliance versus Secord . . . she was admonished by our state supreme court because she ignored precedent," said Taylor.

Lazar countered that reversals are normal and a sign of an independent, functioning judiciary. "You're actually not a true judge until you've been reversed," she argued.

Throughout the debate, Taylor emphasized broad and trenchant political support from the state's courts and legislature, while Lazar highlighted her superior experience as a judge, having held office 10 years longer than Taylor.

Bradley, whose seat the candidates are fighting for, also cautions against judicial activism, saying, "For years, I have warned that under the control of judicial activists, the court will make itself more powerful than the legislature, more powerful than the governor. That warning went unheeded." Gerron Jordan asked the judges whether or not her assessment was correct.

Taylor alleged the courts are in the pockets of right-wing extremists and promised to be independent, citing her "spine of steel" and Lazar's lack of endorsements. Lazar fired back with her endorsements from the Milwaukee police and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Moving on to redistricting, Smith and Jordan inquired about recent lawsuits directed towards the new congressional maps and subsequently rejected by a three-judge panel. These congressional maps,



Wisconsin Watch

drawn by democratic governor Evers, were alleged by 11 citizens to be illegally partisan and gerrymandered. However, the circuit courts rejected the case, citing a lack of authority over the Supreme Court. The moderators asked the candidates if they agreed with the court's ruling, and whether similar suits should be rejected for the same reason. Both judges refused to comment, as the cases are still pending, but both also took the opportunity to besmirch the other. Taylor alleged that Lazar participated in gerrymandering efforts under the leadership of Scott Walker, while Lazar deflected towards Illinois, conceding that the Wisconsin map is fair, but that if liberals were to have control as they do in Illinois, the situation could get worse.

Up next on the docket were controversial voter ID laws, made constitutional in Wisconsin after a vote last year. While Taylor again declined to comment on whether she personally voted on the amendments, she vowed to uphold the law of the land, and expressed concern over Lazar's position on the outcome of Trump v. Biden, the suit brought by President Trump to challenge the results of the 2020 election.

After fielding questions over judge recusal and the Save Act, the debate moved to abortion, a hot button issue in contemporary politics, especially after the contentious overturn of Roe v. Wade. Smith asks the candidates about last summer's 4-3 decision, led by the court's liberal majority, to invalidate the state's 1849 abortion ban.

Lazar promised to honor existing abortion legislation, leaving aside what she thought about the decision while simultaneously decrying Taylor as too liberal on abortion. "My opponent . . . said that she thought that it shouldn't be 20 weeks or any type of restriction whatsoever," said Lazar, "but that abortion should be allowed at any time during the pregnancy up to the end."

Conversely, Taylor affirmed the court's decision last summer, recalling her empirical support for women's reproductive rights and a history with Planned Parenthood. When asked if she would recuse herself in a case involving Planned Parenthood, however, she distanced herself from the organization, saying "I have not worked for Planned Parenthood in 15 years." Moreover,

Taylor cited a report where Lazar allegedly expressed support for a heartbeat law, a statute that would severely limit access to reproductive healthcare. Lazar denied outright support for heartbeat legislation in the debate, although she hinted at wanting to know more about "where people in Wisconsin stood." She added that "Some people wanted it from the beginning."

Under consideration next was Act 10, also known as the "Wisconsin Budget Repair Bill" or the "Wisconsin Budget Adjustment Act." The bill, signed by Scott Walker in 2011, imposed significant limits on collective bargaining powers and compensation for public employees with the exemption of the police and firefighters, in order to combat the state's \$3 billion deficit. After a recent ruling by a Dane county judge, an appointee of governor Evers, that Act 10 was unconstitutional under the equal protection clause, Republican Speaker Robin Vos has appealed the decision. As the case will eventually find its way to the supreme court, the candidates were prompted as to how they might decide.

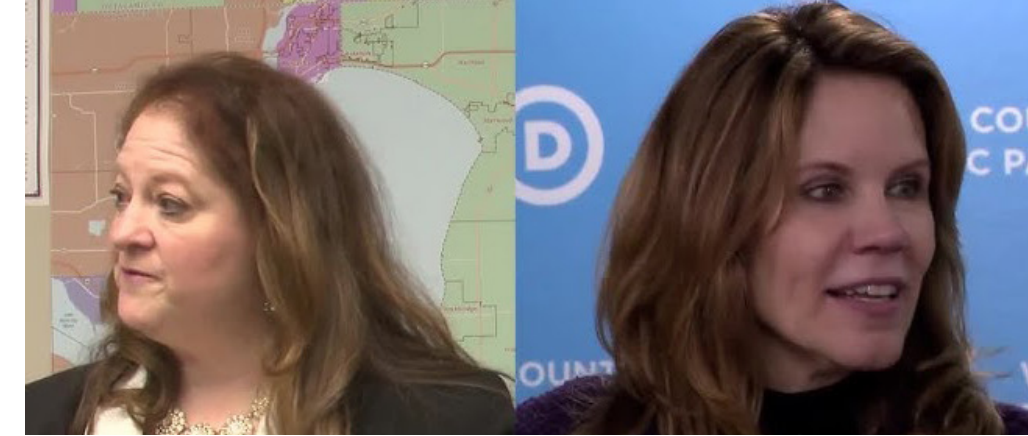
Lazar defended Act 10 as Assistant Attorney General, while Taylor has long been an outspoken opponent of the legislation. Both candidates denied the necessity of recusing themselves if it ever came to the high courts. Although there was no direct answer about rulings over Act 10, Taylor expressed support for unions and workers' rights, saying "I very much value the rights of working people to be fairly compensated."

The meat of the debate concluded with discussion of the arrest of Milwaukee County Judge Hannah Duggan on felony charges for obstructing federal immigration officials attempting to make an immigration arrest inside the courthouse. Again, both refused direct comment on the pending legal case, while Taylor decried federal overreach and expressed concern over judicial independence. Lazar concurred with the general sentiment.

Overall, the debate was symptomatic of the turbulent, highly partisan political climate in which it took place. Although the majority makeup of the court will not see any major changes regardless of the outcome, remaining reliably liberal for the foreseeable future, the results may still carry high stakes for the state of Wisconsin

Klara Fredriksson, assistant professor of Political Science at Beloit College, said "A lot of voting rights cases, which are extremely controversial, will end up in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, because states run their own elections. Any kind of voting changes in Wisconsin are typically going to be down to the SCOTUS specifically. So, for those kinds of things, it really matters who's in the courts, because Wisconsin is so balanced. It might have national implications for that reason."

Elections will take place April 7, determining who Wisconsin wants to represent them in the judiciary.



WISN 12 News

Archives Exhibit: 'Beloit College Against War: Alumni Stories of Anti-War Movements'

By VIVIAN KOPKA

On Friday, April 3, The Beloit College Morse Library hosted an opening for a student exhibit, "Beloit College Against War: Alumni Stories of Anti-War Movements."

The exhibit, curated by Casper Voca'26, hosted pictures, news clippings, and other various archival materials, along with oral histories from alumni of three different times.

The Vietnam War, the 1991 Gulf War, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq were the three wars that Voca focused on.

Out of the three time periods, Voca spoke on four similarities across time: Beloit students traveling to Washington D.C. to protest, student organizations spearheading and organizing anti-war protests and events, faculty hosting teach-ins to educate students on the war, and lastly, almost all of the interviewed alumni-activists were largely led by their morals and ethics.

Alumni who went to the opening felt the Vietnam war was the largest anti-war movement at

the school, as the draft directly affected many Beloit students.

Voca's project was for their Museum Studies minor, and they are a History and Anthropology double major. A large portion of their past year was spent in the archives, having worked closely with Diane Ray, the college's archivist, through the summer and throughout the past two semesters.

The exhibit is open to the public during library hours, on the first floor directly outside the archives.



Kaila Nork'26

“We’re All in This Together”

Weissberg Chair Daniel Wilkinson Speaks to Campus

By ALEX CAMBOURIS, ETHAN COOPER, and CIAN MCKEOWN

Daniel Wilkinson is the 2025-2026 Weissberg Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice, focusing during his week-long residency on the topic of climate change and climate justice. Wilkinson made his Keynote appearance before a packed audience of students, faculty, and administration at 7 p.m. in the Weissberg Auditorium for a lecture titled “Human Rights and the Climate Crisis,” in step with this year’s theme. Wilkinson had spent the previous day visiting classes, and he would host a luncheon the next day to talk with Beloit students, as well as host a workshop entitled “Ending Avocado-Driven Deforestation: Anatomy of a Climate Campaign” on April 2.

Wilkinson was given a multi-layered introduction featuring Beloit College President Eric Boynton and Professor of Chinese and Associate Dean of the College Daniel Youd. In addition to giving a short biography of Wilkinson, Youd shared stories from his time as Wilkinson’s roommate when the two were students at Harvard College.

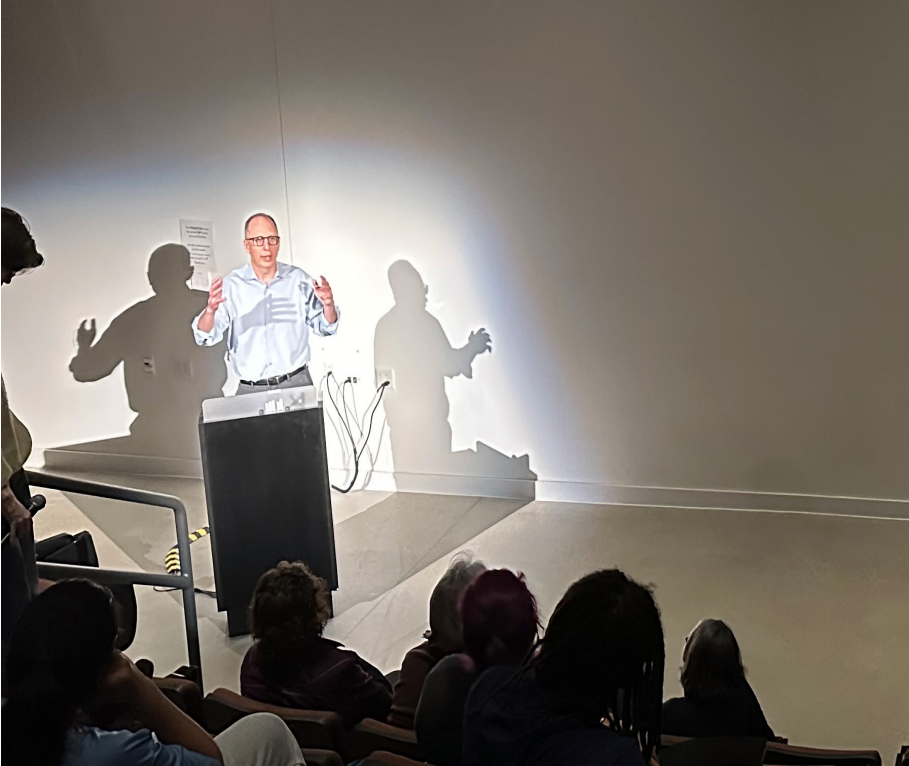
A Harvard and Yale School of Law graduate, former director of the Environment Division at Human Rights Watch, and currently a senior policy advisor at Climate Rights International, Wilkinson has had a long career as a human rights advocate. His work includes the award winning book “Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala,” an environmental and sociological history of Guatemala’s tragic civil war, as well as numerous reports featured in the New York Times, The Washington Post, and more.

After quickly thanking faculty and administration, Wilkinson began the lecture with a discussion on the Global Human Rights Project, a unifying international framework under which each sovereign state is obligated to respect and uphold the norms of human rights. Wilkinson situates human rights broadly as civil, political, economic, and cultural rights, which are to be upheld for both domestic and international security. These rights were codified under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundation of the Global Human Rights Project, and the code by which all human rights agencies follow.

He relayed that the foundation of the United Nations was built on the idea of cooperation between the world’s leaders. Despite this success, the UN has little authority over operations within state borders. Since its inception after World War II, there have been many humanitarian crises across the globe. Wilkinson cited the 2002 Venezuelan

coup d’etat as an example of the UN’s inability to respond to internal affairs. It is up to human rights agencies to step in and do what governments cannot or refuse to do.

In 2000, Wilkinson joined Human Rights Watch’s Latin American division, methods commonly employed in these struggles: appeals to altruism, naming and shaming, and, perhaps most importantly, self-interest. Appeals to altruism depend on the good nature and democratic integrity of a nation to work effectively. Naming and shaming on the



Cian McKeown’27

working to compel powerful state actors to adhere to human rights. Wilkinson described the organization’s efforts in Colombia, where human rights groups set up a meeting securing a valuable trade deal with the United States on the condition that the Colombian government would oust the far-right paramilitary group United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia in Spanish), which was terrorizing the citizens. Wilkinson also worked on the InterAmerican Democratic Charter, helping to ensure cooperation between countries of the Americas and consolidate democracy.

However, following the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, foundations of world peace and international cooperation were shaken. It seemed war and conflict would continue into the next century. Wilkinson said in his address that he believed that the global human rights project was “doomed” and that “I felt gutted, but I still had a job to do.”

Creating strategies for keeping governments accountable can be extraordinarily difficult work, but there do exist levers of power to push in order to get things done. For example, Wilkinson described three

other hand seeks to expose atrocities and leverage international pressure in order to bring them to an end. This too is limited by the international context in which it’s situated, being effective only in a strong global human rights regime. Appeals to self-interest can also be powerful tools in the human rights advocacy arsenal. “The question,” Wilkinson said, “is whether we can harness [these strategies] in the service of solutions.”

The next historical snapshot that Wilkinson projected onto the massive screen in the Weissberg auditorium was an image of the 2015 Paris Climate Accords. He described the summit as perhaps the closest moment in the modern era that has attempted to recapture the collectivist ethos of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights he had mentioned previously. It emphasized the idea that, as Wilkinson puts it, “States have responsibilities beyond their own borders.”

The Earth has warmed considerably since the beginning of the Industrial Age, and a climate crisis is more than expected, it’s already happening. Coastal flooding, droughts, and food shortages have already caused large amounts of violence and displacement.

But Wilkinson offers a new perspective; “We are all in this together.” The life of the planet affects all of us, and our collective need to respond will spur governments to action and by necessity consider the value of human rights. Two main strategies that we can pursue now, Wilkinson said, are to “keep fossil fuels underground” and “keep trees standing.”

Continuing the presentation, Wilkinson provided the salient example of Brazil, specifically under the right-wing presidency of Jair Bolsonaro. Under his regime, deforestation of the Amazon skyrocketed as more and more land was taken up for industrial agriculture, flying in the face of previous climate declarations and environmental protections. Wilkinson explained how, working with Human Rights Watch and employing a combination of strategic international campaigning, leveraging coveted trade-deals with the EU, as well as membership into the influential OECD, they effectively curbed deforestation and partially discredited Bolsonaro’s legitimacy. In 2023, Bolsonaro was ousted and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva would take his place, working to restore much of the democratic and environmental damage wreaked by his predecessor.

Similar action was taken in Mexico, when land was taken by criminal organizations to illegally farm avocados and sell them in the U.S. market. Human rights groups stepped in to work with indigenous landowners to expose the injustices and protect against deforestation. Wilkinson stressed the idea that NGOs work not to impose a proclaimed superior ethics on foreign governments, but to work with citizens to fight against organized crime syndicates and autocrats.

Near the end of his remarks, Wilkinson offered a glimpse at the future through the lens of two possible scenarios for climate action that could play out over the next couple of decades. The first would be an environmental catastrophe that fuels mass displacement and the development of reactionary politics. The second and decidedly more hopeful strategy that Wilkinson put forth was one of human rights advocacy, playing a central role in navigating through the climate crisis and urging a sense of collective responsibility among people and governments. Before taking questions from audience members, Wilkinson ended his keynote by once again uttering what appears to be his human rights and climate mantra. “We are all indeed in this together,” he said.

“I do not regret to inform you that we are going to win, because we are tough as hell.”

GWIS Women in STEM Faculty Panel

By ELISA TURNER

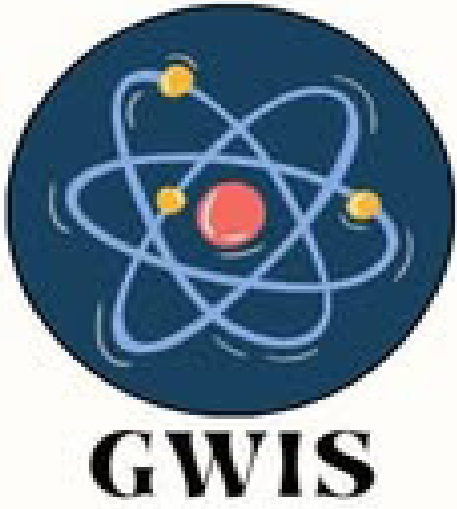
On March 31, 2026, the Girls and Women in Science (GWIS) organization hosted a Faculty Panel in the Powerhouse Stack. The panel posited questions to key speakers Dr. Disda Shende, Dr. Britt Scharringhausen, Dr. Helen Werner, and Dr. Katherine Harris. Throughout the event, GWIS representatives asked questions to panelists, whose responses not only answered pressing questions facing women in STEM

today, but advised attendees as to how to navigate a historically male-dominated field in today’s social and political climate.

On the topic of community, Dr. Disha Shende, Assistant Professor of Economics and Co-Chair of the Data Science and Data Analytics Department, advised attendees, “Diversify your friendship portfolio.” She emphasized the importance of having support and friendship from peers in non-STEM fields. “Talk, share, and be honest about what you’re going through,” advised Dr. Britt Scharringhausen, Department Chair of Physics. Within the topic of community, the idea of mentorship came into play. “There’s not always women or non-binary [mentors] around,” said Dr. Katherine Harris, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science. Dr. Harris emphasized the importance of finding a mentor who, first and foremost, worked well with the advisee. “Seek out places you can be around like-minded people, and you and those like-minded people can make change,” said Dr. Helen Werner, Assistant Professor of Biology.

“We have to take active initiative to increase representation of women in STEM,” said Dr. Shende on the topic of representation and equity. Dr. Harris echoed her sentiments, saying, “You don’t stumble into equity... We’re not gonna change representation just by chance... We have to be intentional if we want representation of certain groups of people.”

Towards the end of the panel, questions from GWIS representatives centered around the struggles that women in STEM face. “The reality of being an underrepresented group in STEM is... sometimes bad things are gonna happen to you, or to people you know,” said Dr. Harris. Dr. Scharringhausen brought up the normalization of hiring discrimination based on the flimsy preconception that young women in STEM are certain to have a child and leave their field, arguing, “We’re physicists. We can count things. How



Instagram

Instagram many women have a baby and leave the field? Give me a number.”

Still, panelists demonstrated great hope for the future of women in science. Dr. Werner reflected on how she got into bioarchaeology while maintaining a family. On the topic of balancing her family and career, she said, “I could have a life, and be a scientist, whatever that meant to me.” Dr. Scharringhausen, too, reflected on her own experiences and how it paved the way for her hope presently, saying “I have a chance to create space, forge a path, or just try to change the culture to make it better for the women who come after me,” and “I do not regret to inform you that we are going to win, because we are tough as hell.” Dr. Harris holds hope for the future because of her experiences with her students– “The students in my classroom are so much kinder than the students around me growing up.”

Top Six Stardew Valley NPCs

By SONYA EDWARDS

Part of what makes Stardew Valley so charming is the NPCs that inhabit Pelican Town. They all have unique personalities, likes, and dislikes. There are even a few characters you can romance and marry. We all have our favorites, so I thought I'd share mine as someone who has spent hours playing.

6. Robin

Robin is not only a carpenter, but she's also a baddie. Listen, I know she's married to a man, but I'm 90% sure she is a lesbian. She is one of the shop owners who is almost always there, in my experience. She's only

gone for water aerobics on Tuesday at Pierre's. Most other days, I can find her there and get some buildings put up on the farm. I wish she could be a romance option, honestly. I'm tired of Demetrius getting her new tools every year, and so is Robin.

5. Sandy

She's one of the new bachelorettes and Emily's good friend. She works and lives in the Calico Desert, and once you unlock the bus, you can get there. Once the bus is unlocked, she'll also come to the Pelican Town festivals. She has my favorite hair in the game, and most of

her favorite gifts are easy to forage in the spring and summer seasons. I would love to romance her in an upcoming playthrough once the update has officially hit.

4. Evelyn

Who doesn't love this sweet old lady? Not only is she an angel, but she also tends to the gardens in the town square. Not only does she go to her checkups, but she also accompanies her husband, George, to his. She is a caretaker through and through, as proved further by her taking care of her grandson, Alex. You know the broken glasses you fish out of the

river? Well, those are her lost glasses, which she's constantly losing.

3. Penny

Now, I might have some bias here as she is the one I am currently romancing in the game, but she is the kindest soul you'll meet. Since there is no school in the town, she educates the two children, Vince and Jas. She lives in the trailer with her mother Pam, who is an alcoholic and makes living there challenging. She loves reading and can be found in the museum with and without the children.

2. Sebastian

This is my OG emo man. In my past playthrough, I

was married to this man with two kids. I've heard from the very credible comment section of a TikTok that he wasn't a good husband and lied about the things he was doing. That was not the case for me. He would fill up our pets' water dishes, feed the animals, and water the crops before I got the automatic feeders and sprinklers. In the warmer seasons, he'll sometimes be working on his bike. He makes you coffee in the morning and is just the best husband if I am being honest.

1. Linus

Linus is my day one. He is

the first person I've gotten full hearts with, and he's the most gracious person in the game. Anytime I give him anything edible, he is overjoyed. He is misjudged by the townspeople, and it breaks my heart. He is slow to trust and admits his encampment has been torn down before. Linus doesn't want a life of domesticity, though. He prefers to live off the land in his tent. I aspire to be as free as Linus is someday. This is my only pick that can't be argued with.



Robin



Sandy



Evelyn



Penny



Sebastian



Linus

Stardew Valley Wiki

10 Music Genres That Exist

By ALIVIA RENTERIA



Alivia Renteria '29

Rock

The sound of taking your dad's side in the divorce, this genre sometimes dips into the realm of metal, but differentiating the two

is not important because they're both good and often complement each other. Women beware: if you can't name five songs by every band you like on the spot,

some guy named Kyle is going to assume you have no real personality, you poser. It is fine to ignore Kyle.

Metal

Yes, metal is amazing, but nobody is learning the names of 500 subgenres based on how much of the lyrics are audible. The popular bands are popular for good reason, and the more obscure ones are great when you've had time to familiarize yourself with the genre. A Keith is like a Kyle but for metal.

Pop

People may call it basic, but pop is probably the most iconic genre on this list. The early to mid 2000s were probably the most notable era for both pop and hip-hop, as both catchy genres would work together to create generational hits and several white girl party music staples.

Musical theater

Live theater is one of the most difficult musical performance types to pull off, requiring performers to tell a story through song and stage presence all while powering through several hours of dancing and quick changes. With all of that in mind, you still shouldn't be caught dead listening to musicals in public.

Country

If you can get past all the songs about trucks, girls, and beer, there are actually plenty of good and genuinely heartfelt country songs out there. Hearing about a man's journey of starting a family or a woman slashing her cheating husband's tires is enough to bring a tear to your eye.

Jazz

Be honest, is Frank Sinatra the first musician that comes to mind when

you think of jazz (or '50s music in general)? He was an amazing vocalist, but is often used as a device to overlook the amazing Black musicians of the era like Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole, who are still two of the most renowned jazz musicians to this day.

Mariachi

These bands are often used as a comedy bit, but the music style is actually a traditional Mexican ensemble which can be blended with other styles to create lively parties or rich storytelling. Shoutout to Antonio Aguilar, the most famous man in Tayahua.

Classical

Classical music can be great for when you want to study without distracting lyrics, and the composition is impressive to even the most casual enjoyers. Be careful not to become too pretentious about it,

though, or you won't be invited to any parties.

Electronic

NOT to be confused with AI music, this style is formed through the creation of sound through electronic instruments and software. As with all human-produced music, there is always a chance it won't be to everyone's taste, but any art is better than AI art.

Folk

"Folk" is a broad term that can refer to traditional music from nearly anywhere in the world. The replication of any one of these styles creates modern day folk, which is for the cottagecore girlies and the nonbinary people whose wardrobes look like a Shakespeare stageplay.

The Ridiculous Ease of Making Opium

By ELISA TURNER

As the title suggests, opium is so ridiculously easy to make. I discovered this on a late-night rabbit hole deep dive and quickly realized that I could have a promising career in drug dealing, given that I'm a bit of a plant aficionado and that's literally all it takes.

Note that for all intents and purposes, I do not condone making or distributing any sort of drug, nor does The Round Table as an institution.

That being said, it's almost too fucking easy. The first thing you need is the papaver somniferum poppy seeds, which you can get for as little as three measly dollars at Walmart. These plants are fully legal to purchase and cultivate.

Then? You plant them.

It's not very different from a typical herb garden. Ruffle the dirt, sprinkle the seeds, don't suffocate them with dirt, and keep them wet without drowning them. Keep them alive for

six months.

After six months and some change, you'll get these green bulbous things sprouting up. When they look bigger than a grape but smaller than a golf ball, they're ready to harvest. Slice them off at the stem. Make shallow slices in the bulbs and hang them upside down in a closed container. A latex substance will drop out from the bulbs. Allow it to drip down until the bulbs are empty, then allow the latex to harden.

Congratulations! You have made opium. That latex-y stuff is opium.

It is ridiculously easy to produce the common ancestor of an entire class of drugs. If you perform an acid-base extraction on this substance, you'll get morphine; acetylate and crystallize morphine, and you'll get heroin. This sounds intimidating until you realize that just about anyone in the Beloit College chemistry department can

do this.

I don't want to encourage anyone to make or consume opiates recreationally. Obviously these are highly addictive substances, and the scope of them goes beyond "having a good time." Em Norman is a popular opiate addiction spokeswoman on shortform social media, and in her stories of heroin addiction, she reiterates the fact that after two months of regular opiate use, one no longer feels "high," one only continues opiate usage in order to stave off withdrawal symptoms (which can, in fact, kill you! It's called delirium tremens). But with a business model so easy, a startup price so cheap, a target demographic so easy to exploit and abuse, and a profit all but guaranteed, it's no wonder why people start and continue operation in the opiate industry. There's no real conclusion or moral to the story — opium and its

derivatives are ridiculously easy to make, and insanely addictive due to their mechanism exploiting the brain's most basic neurotransmitter reward system.

On a college campus where young adults with underdeveloped brains are constantly trying new things, we are newly independent and an easily exploitable demographic, and we are walking ROI for folks with poppy plants. For this reason, it's so vitally important that we do our

best to carry Naloxone on us. The Beloit Public Library has a free Narcan vending machine, as well as free test strips. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services also has a list of locations across Wisconsin that distribute free naloxone. Naloxone is safe to give out for everyone in any circumstance, including but not limited to pregnant people, pets, and people on medications. When in doubt, always administer Naloxone. Remember

to call 911 in events of suspected overdose, but do not mention overdose or drug usage to a 911 operator — mention the drugs to paramedics who arrive on the scene; this is to keep the person safe and to prevent a life-threatening medical emergency from being treated as a criminal matter. Stay safe and be responsible.



Betty Cavicchia '28

Making and Producing “The Beach House”: A Series of Interviews

By CLAIRE WINTER

“The Beach House” is a student-created and performed production from the Beloit Interactive Theater Experience (BITE) Club. I interviewed actors and directors for the upcoming play on their experiences creating and acting in “The Beach House”.

So you wrote and co-directed “The Beach House”, which was originally a radio production- how did translating it into a stage play affect the content? Did you have to make any drastic changes to the content?

Casey Barasch ‘26 (co-director): Oh, there were definitely drastic changes- I actually originally wrote the Beach House as, like, a fusion novel and play, but it was novel-length. So it was 300 pages. There was absolutely no way to do all of that on stage, or even in the radio play, so the radio play is a total of three hours and 45 minutes. Again, still too long for the stage, so I was like ‘I have to cut down massively on the text of the radio play script, or we won’t be able to do it.’ I’m not gonna make actors be in a four hour show, I’m not gonna make tech do tech for a four hour show- no one’s gonna come do it. ...But yeah, we did have to make cuts in the script to try and alleviate the load that the tech crew were taking on. ...I miss a lot, really, but I think that you can’t really focus on all of the stuff you cut or that you could have had. You have to focus on the stuff that you do have, and I think that the play script as it stands right now is a really good version of the story. Almost all of the plot is still the same, and the characters are as they



Elisa Turner ‘27

were in the radio play and the book. And I’ve managed to retain most of the jokes, too.

Why did you decide to make “The Beach House” into a stage play?

Casey Barasch ‘26: So, I started writing “[The] Beach House” when I moved into BITE house, which is the ‘theater house’, in the fall of my sophomore year. I think that’s kind of what inspired it- I didn’t have a lot of theater experience and I didn’t write a play before it [“The Beach House”], but I wrote this story that was so outlandish and fantastical at parts that it kind of lended itself more to a play or dramatic performance art. ...I was going through drafts, I showed it to my roommate Kendrick (Kendrick Chen’26) at the time, and he was like ‘you should consider making this into just a straight play script’, and I wasn’t sure that it could be done. ...I did test reads with my friends and they all liked it, and I think they were interested in a version that was- that the whole story could be told in one sitting.

Were there any difficulties in getting financing or permission from administration, staff, or professors?

Casey Barasch ‘26: Oh, we got really great at working up the bureaucratic chain. That was, like, a skill that was developed. I’ve written so many emails- and then if you, like write an email to somebody and they’re like ‘ah, I don’t know how to do that but I know someone who might,’ and so you write to them, and then they don’t respond, and then you’re like- ‘just following up!’ There’s so much logistical stuff to booking a space, booking times, figuring out the schedules with the actors- ...that part was really stressful.

Voice acting is obviously very different from physical theater. Was there anything that was especially hard or surprising to you?

Colin Bolger ‘26 (actor): Definitely the biggest things for me, that have always been like ‘oh, I just can’t do regular acting because of this’: one, line memorization. You can’t be looking at the paper as you deliver the line properly. You need to gesture, on a stage. Another thing is it being in front of an audience, that’s always been a bit nerve-wracking for me. ...You need to work on moving around and gesturing at the same time. So you not only have to memorize what you say, the way you say it,

as well as what you’re doing while you say it- which, like, you only need two of those for voice acting. In fact, you don’t even have to memorize at all. You can just do it on the fly. ...I’m stepping a bit out of my comfort zone, trying this out.

Rowan Wilson ‘27 (actor): Well, I think that a lot of it is just having characters look believably related. ...It’s mostly a show about family. We have, y’know, a lot of people who are very short and very tall, trying to play family members. And I think it ended up working out very well. For example, seeing...a ten year old, who is taller than his supposed father but definitely not taller than his actual father, is really funny.

Jinx Petersen ‘29 (actor): I’m a type one diabetic...It’s been kind of a hassle with me specifically this past week. ...It’s still kind of this difficulty of trying to balance managing my health and managing the stage. It sucks because a lot of those times, they don’t mesh- sometimes neglecting my health means going for the stage, sometimes neglecting the stage means staying home and taking care of myself.

Are there any parts of “The Beach House” physical production that you are especially looking forward to? Highlights, things you didn’t expect to like?

Rowan Wilson ‘27 (actor): My character has a rather toxic relationship with a guy, and I really enjoyed putting together those scenes. It’s been really interesting to do that sort of relationship, because there’s a lot of physical movement. Like, I get threatened with a gun several times, so working with all of the physical acting that comes with that. ...On a more funny note, I do have a musical number, which is very funny, because it’s a completely straight play, and then at the end I’m like ‘hey! I’m gonna sing a song.’

Valentine Friedman ‘28 (actor): There are a couple of scenes where my character... every so often, I go from pitched-up to...“let the pigs try”. I have a line where I’m very reserved, and I think they’re very funny. It’s a testament to Casey’s writing- it’s an incredible play- but I really enjoy doing that, and the first time I did it on stage, I could hear people in the wings howling with laughter.

Jinx Petersen ‘29 (actor): Dying. Dying on stage. Mainly because- it’s kind of a joke between me and Rowan. ...I got to drag him off stage, and now he gets to drag me off stage. Also, the stage combat from it

as well...it lines up perfectly to be able to practice what I’m learning.

For people who are planning to see the Beach House- what would you want them to pay the most attention to?

Colin Bolger ‘26 (actor): I would say- the costuming is a big part. They’re definitely taking a lot of attention to detail, where- for example, my character wears a suit, and it was almost perfect- but the time period was off. It was like, too modern of a suit. So they’re looking for an older one, which- I think the devotion to getting the time period accurate will reflect in the actual show.

Rowan Wilson ‘27 (actor): This show is, like- the last show we had was very set focused...this is going to be more of a focus-on-the-characters moment, cause I think all of us have really really defined characters. We worked a lot on our facial expressions, the way that we walk, the way that we move. And it is a mystery! ...It’s really fun to watch it for the first time, I’d say.

Valentine Friedman ‘28 (actor): The thing that is going to be the most difficult for the actors is memorizing all the lines, because it’s a very verbose play. ...There are so many monologues in this.

Noah Elmer ‘27 (actor): I think it’s really awesome when you- because we don’t have the biggest budget ...it’s kinda cool how we’re working with the props and the set in a lot of ways, changing scenes and the set in order to make these different scenes work out. So even if it isn’t the grandest thing in the world, I think it’s really awesome to see our backdrop board, and how it will move around and shift to different scenes... to make those scenes unique is really awesome. So I’d keep an eye out for that.

Jinx Petersen ‘29 (actor): I think people should pay attention to the way the cast portrays all these characters. ...There’s a lot of complexities to the Satterstans, to the entire complexity of “The Beach House” that these actors really bring out in a way I never expected from simply voice acting those characters. It’s really magical, hearing the radio play and then taking it to stage... it’s really a magical thing to go from a different version of the same production. ... If I could do it all over again, I would do it with these exact same people, in these exact same roles.

“The Beach House” will run from April 11-12 in the Wilson Theater in Mayer Hall.

“Project Hail Mary”: A Perfect(ly good) Movie

By SAM SCHOWALTER

Have you ever woken up alone in a spaceship with no memories or idea where you’re going? If so, please come to our meetings, because you might be a really hot scientist. Unfortunately for Ryland Grace, played by Ryan Gosling, he is unable to come as the sun is dying out. “Project Hail Mary” is Earth’s collective effort to stop this event, and the film alternates between scenes on the spaceship and flashbacks to Earth as Ryland slowly recovers his memories. The amount of switching back and forth could easily ruin the film, but it doesn’t, and the thematic payoff at the end is well worth it.

Like “The Martian,” another movie based on an Andy Weir novel, much of the film features Ryan Gosling talking to the camera, or incredibly beautiful views of space, but the meat of the story is in a series of three buddy cop movies. First, it’s Ryland and security guard Carl (Lionel Boyce), letting us know that, despite

the circumstances, this is not a dark film. Then it’s the head of the project and most German woman alive (Sandra Hüller), who has fantastic on-screen chemistry with Gosling while representing the cold logic of necessity and efficiency (see? German). Finally, it’s man’s best friend, alien. I won’t talk much about Rocky (the alien), but it’s no big spoiler that he’s around and far more heartwarming than hostile. These relationships give

the film its sense of adventure, but are also very effective at building up the personal stakes beyond the universe-destroying threat introduced early on in the movie.

This movie was based on the 2021 novel of the same name, and I think it’s as well adapted as any movie really can be. While some scientific details and a plot about how they got the energy to build the spaceship were removed, most major plot points are similar.

More importantly, the emotional core of the book is much improved, and the plot points feel much more earned.

The credit for this goes to many, including the directing duo Lord and Miller, but the top of the pile has to be Ryan Gosling. I may be a bit biased, as he is my family’s favorite actor, and we have watched the very underrated “Fall Guy” eight times and counting, but his performance in “Hail Mary” shows once again that he is the best.



Betty Cavicchia ‘28

may be misinterpreted or ignored. Director Dmytro Hroshko’s “Divia” aims to do just that, to advocate for Ukrainian ecology damaged by eras of conflict with the Russian Federation. The 78-minute documentary film allows the viewer to bear witness to the harsh reality Ukraine’s environment is facing and shows how its healing will require significant efforts from the United Nations and other global powers to compensate for Ukraine’s losses.

In order to truly invoke emotional responses from viewers, Hroshko teams up with Grammy-winning composer Sam Slater to create the music for “Divia.” There is great emphasis on natural ambience in the background to

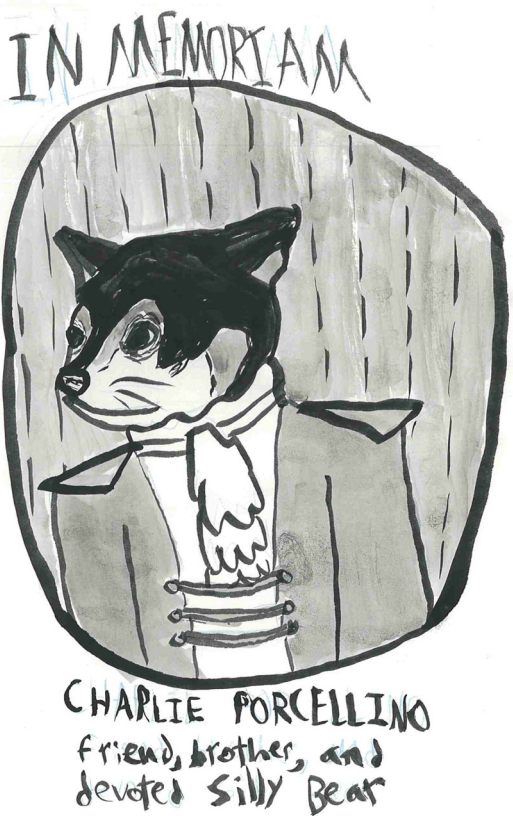
connect the viewer to the intimate side of nature in a film without dialogue or narration. Slater also utilizes heavy and suspenseful instrumentation in scenes of fighting and destruction to paint a disheartening picture of Ukraine’s human and animal populations in times of despair. These two elements contribute to the film’s function as a “metaphysical symphony,” per the film’s logline, letting the viewer take in all truthful landscapes and witness sites of brutality.

The introduction is a representation of what Ukraine could look like in a time of peace. Prior to the title card, aerial shots cut between lush green forests, cerulean rivers, and lush

rolling hills. The panning shots of these naturesscapes make the viewer feel as if they are not in a war-torn country, the way Ukraine is not often perceived by the west. Conflict with Russia has transformed nature into more of an imagination, something running through the minds of Ukrainian citizens and wildlife.

As “Divia” progresses, the sight of war reveals itself, causing populations to abandon their villages and old lifestyles, only looking back towards the rubble that carries years of history.

READ MORE ON THE ROUND TABLE WEBSITE...



Betty Cavicchia ‘28

Ukrainian Nature’s SOS:

Review of “Divia”

By COOPER RATHMANN

Imagine being in a dire situation where you cannot speak. It can become a matter of life or death if action is not taken. The area and environment become crucial tools that must be

used to conjure up a way to move toward safety. However, even if you utilize your surroundings to the best of your ability, you may not receive the necessary treatment, or worse, your cries for help



IMDb

The WNBA Implemented a New Collective Bargaining Agreement

What Does That Mean for the League?

By NORAH OWENS

On March 20, the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) and the Commissioner of the WNBA announced the signing of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), effective immediately, to span the league's 2026 through 2032 seasons. This announcement comes as a relief to players and fans, who were preparing for the possibility of a significant season delay or cancellation due to ongoing negotiations. The Players Association, led by president Nneka Ogwumike of the Seattle Storm, has been protesting the previous CBA since at least the start of last season. All things considered, this new contract is another win for unionization.

In the two weeks since the tentative agreement was announced, most key details of the new agreement have been released to the public. Firstly, this contract includes the first instance of revenue-sharing in professional women's sports history, which will hopefully ensure fairer compensation for players as the league continues to grow.

This means that individual player and team finances are also being adjusted. The salary cap is increasing to \$7 million per 12-player team for the 2026 season compared to \$1.5 million in the 2025 season. Additionally, in 2025, the league's minimum salary was \$66,079 and the supermax was \$249,244. The new minimum salary starts at \$270,000, while the supermax, intended for top talents like Ogwumike or the Las Vegas Aces' A'ja Wilson, will increase to \$1.4 million in the new season.

Because of the implementation of the revenue-sharing model, these numbers are projected to continue to increase over the next seven years of the agreement. Other elements of the CBA include housing stability, better health and safety benefits, two new developmental player roster spots, and increased award and recognition bonuses for both active and retired players.

These adjustments should make drastic improvements in the lives of players in the WNBA. Seriously, I can't emphasize to you enough how

absurdly low the previous salary cap was. It's supremely unfair how underpaid these women were before, and they're arguably still being drastically underpaid now, but that's a discussion for another time.

I also still think a league-wide increase in roster size is necessary for the WNBA. This CBA increased the previous minimum of 11 players to 12, which is also the current roster maximum. I believe there is more talent available which is currently being overlooked even as the number of teams continues to grow. Adding expansion teams helps to alleviate this concern, but being taken in an expansion draft, being drafted, or even being signed at the start of the season does not guarantee a spot on the roster for the entirety of the season.

Additionally, by having a few more full-time personnel on the roster, it could reduce the need for hardship contracts, which often feel like players are being strung along by the team and the league. For example, Haley Jones was just



The Conversation

drafted to the Toronto Tempo's inaugural roster in the second round of the two-team expansion draft, but I worry about her future after she was signed, dropped, and re-signed again repeatedly with the Dallas Wings last year. She doesn't deserve that, nor does any other player.

In all, the new CBA should make it more lucrative for players to support the WNBA as the league continues to boom in popularity. By providing these women with better benefits and opportunities, the

league will actually continue to grow, and the players will be better protected as it happens. Additionally, if players are better supported by the organization, the experience will be elevated for fans, too.

I'm so excited to see this season progressing on schedule and to see these women making progress towards equitable compensation, though there is still a long way to go before we actually get there. I love the WNBA! This new agreement allows me to keep loving the WNBA! Yippee!

Hot Streaks and Cold Slumps from MLB's First Week

By CIAN McKEOWN

The first week or so of Major League action has brought with it controversies, shocks, and disappointments that have some fanbases already crowning their teams or calling it quits. Baseball in 2026 began with a bizarre opening night game between the New York Yankees and San Francisco Giants broadcast on Netflix. The proceedings felt less like a baseball game and more like an award show or variety special you would see on Netflix, with celebrities stationed in pseudo hot dog stands near the dugouts. It was a brand of pageantry that baseball fans didn't particularly respond to, especially when Netflix cut away from live action for recaps or promos. As soon as we were allowed to forget that monstrosity, plenty of standout performers and performances have revealed themselves in the early goings of the 2026 Major League Baseball season.

They say making it to the big leagues and performing is difficult, but the show appears to have given a few new faces fantastic starts to their MLB

careers. Rookie sensation and

South Side, the previously

Hopefully, the White Sox can



Los Angeles Times

Cleveland Guardians right fielder Chase DeLauter has developed quite an aptitude for the long ball, mashing five home runs in just his first seven games. One of these included a three-run slap shot turned towering fly ball that he sent out of the yard with haste into Cleveland's amber dusk during the Guardians home opener against the Chicago Cubs. On Chicago's

lowly White Sox, denizens of the unfortunately named Rate Field, glow alight courtesy of Japan's Munetaka Murakami, an infielder that the Sox lured away from Nippon Professional Baseball's Tokyo Yakult Swallows. Over the weekend, Murakami became the fastest Japanese player to hit four home runs in the Major Leagues, with three of those coming in consecutive games.

parlay this major addition into sustained team success as they begin the climb out of the American League Central cellar.

During the second game of the Los Angeles Angels' first series at home against the defending AL West champion Seattle Mariners, we saw a sterling and singular effort from Angels outfielder Jo Adell, who decided to don a

cape in right field Saturday night. Adell, 26, took three runs off the board for Seattle with his glove alone. Two wall-scaling leaps in the first and eighth innings to take away a trip around the bases for Mariners sluggers Cal Raleigh and Josh Naylor would have been enough, but Adell accomplished the truly impossible in the top of the ninth. After a high line drive by Mariners shortstop J.P. Crawford drifted toward the stands behind the foul pole in right field, Adell tracked it down and sent his glove nearly into the third row to come up with a generational snag that sent him over the boundary and into the protective screen.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, unfortunately, did not make a very good first impression in front of the home crowd, particularly centerfielder Oneil Cruz. Cruz lost a routine fly ball in the sun in centerfield, and got a bad jump at another ball in play near the warning track.

Read the rest on routable.beloit.edu

NBA Playoffs: Who's Hot, Who's Not

Not the Bucks, unfortunately

By JEFFREY BATTLE

There have been a lot of teams that have risen to the top when it comes to the playoff time of the NBA. Unfortunately, there have also been a lot of teams that have fallen off a cliff right now, like my Milwaukee Bucks, who are not in the playoffs. It doesn't help that the coach Doc Rivers somehow got elected into the NBA Hall of Fame. I think he's a terrible coach. You know my opinions, I wrote an op-ed about it. If you haven't, I would suggest you read that, but I dislike his talent in his coaching style immensely. Anywho,

with the teams that are in the playoffs currently, there's a few that I don't really want to talk about. But I want to see how some teams do, given how they progressed throughout the season.

The Oklahoma City Thunder is the team that stands out to me as the favorite to win the NBA championship again. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, along with Chet "Shit" Holmgren, and some of the other role players like Jared McCain have opened up a lot of their spacing. It's allowed them to create a lot more shots

and opportunities that you would not usually see from the earlier teams like the Thunder this year. I think what they're doing right now has them on pace to have one of the more efficient seasons that we'll see. However, I have two other teams that I am actually more invested in as the playoffs come around.

The San Antonio Spurs are some of my favorite players in the league right now. Victor Wembanyama is a freaking alien and I think that his progress since coming into the league has improved

leaps and bounds. With his length, we have never seen a player like him before. I'm currently on a binge of watching his games where his athletic performances, night in and night out, have been nothing short of spectacular. He's averaging 30 points right now, along with 11 rebounds. If I'm not mistaken, he's having one of the most efficient, dominant seasons that we have seen (RIP Giannis).

The last team I will talk about is the Detroit Pistons. The Pistons are one of my favorite teams to watch because they play with such physicality that reminds me of a modernized version of a style that we would've seen from their 2004/2005 teams. Unfortunately, Detroit will never be able to replicate those seasons because of the rule changes, the overall space, and style of play that's more common nowadays. Detroit is a

sneaky team with Cade Cunningham leading the way. Without his leadership, I don't see them making a deep run or any type of actual impact in the playoffs. Detroit's success is contingent on Cunningham staying healthy and continuing to progress in terms of passing the ball. He is such a fantastic shooter, flasher, and overall finisher. As long as that passing goes up, I think he'll be a freak on the court, continuously developing with his teammates.

Lastly, I would like to say that there's plenty of other teams that are going to be just as good. The Celtics, the Lakers, and the Nuggets are all coming out as lower seeds than some of the teams I just talked about, but I still think they'll make an impact during the playoffs. I can't see a world where one of these teams actually ends up making it further than the top teams.



Detroit Free Press

Athletes of the Week

Ryder Story'27
Men's Lacrosse



Kim Pilon'28
Women's Lacrosse



Socrates and the Skeleton: An Analysis of a Trend

By OLIVER IDZIKOWSKI

Every field of study is subject to public perception, both in terms of presence and absence when it comes to public consciousness. Philosophy is no different, and while there is some debate to be had concerning how much the tradition of philosophy should concern itself with the temperaments of the public, a philosophical figure suddenly gaining presence in modern pop culture is something that is worthy of analysis. Internet meme culture is a topic that has already been documented and explored in academics and the ability for memes to express certain viewpoints, especially political ones, is obvious to anyone who has so much as heard the word 4chan. Rapid public accessibility to AI only has added to the complicated phenomenon that is meme culture. A recent trend in meme culture are AI-generated videos that feature Socrates interacting with a time-traveling skeleton.

I will make an immediate judgement of the value of these videos. The existence of these videos does not justify the water it takes to generate videos of this length. Even if some of the criticism I will make later on is rectified I do not see why this concept needs to be executed through the usage of AI. A rough animation or a short film with a cast of one actor playing all the roles would be preferable as the content of the video would not have to prove itself against such a steep tax on resources.

The basic plot of a majority of the memes in this trend are as follows: The viewer, depicted with a skeleton with eyeballs fully intact, time travels to an

ancient civilization, often Athens but other ancient civilizations are sometimes used as settings. All of these videos are narrated in the second person. The skeleton brings along with them some modern inventions and presents the item to the Greek public. These modern items tend to either be tech items such as smartphones or, ironically, Chat GPT, or a trendy or popular edible item such as matcha or pizza. The public, oftentimes the military and athletes in particular, will be wowed by this item and will begin to buy the item in large quantities, which leads to wealth for the skeleton.

This is where Socrates will enter the scene and inquire about the nature of the item. Socrates might sample food or interact with the technology. The philosopher will present questions to the skeleton, with the common question being if results achieved by using the item are attributable to the person using the item or the item itself. The question is often met with annoyance from the skeleton and even outright hostility. This firing off of questions is commonly labeled ragebait and may or may not provoke a reaction from the public of Athens. These videos often end suddenly and somewhat inconclusively, often with the skeleton ascending to some high rank in Greek society or having a lasting-effect on the public.

As with all memes, this trend has and will continue to mutate. Initially I found a variant of this meme that focused on historical scientists traveling back to meet Socrates. Videos including Issac Newton, Nikola Tesla, and Albert Einstein were the early

examples of this specific branch of this trend. Now it seems as though other philosophers have been introduced. One video featured Nietzsche traveling back in time to meet Socrates and was riddled with many inaccuracies, to the point where I am concerned that dissecting the misportrayal of Nietzsche would derail this article, so I will hold off for now. Some videos have the reversal occur, with Socrates traveling to the modern world and commentating on daily life in the 21st century.

The appearance of Socrates is a point of interest. He is depicted as an older man mostly inoffensive in appearance. This is in contrast to his appearance as described in actual ancient Greek texts, which is ghastly. Socrates was said to possess basically all of the physical qualities that were seen as ugly by the Greek, with his appearance being sometimes pointed to



Instagram



Betty Cavicchia '28

as a secondary reason he was so willingly put to death. This is an inaccuracy that is far from exclusive to AI and can be seen in varying degrees through-out art history. All of these videos depict ancient Greece as made up of white individuals as opposed to the racial diversity that was present in the Mediterranean region.

I am not writing this article necessarily to defend Socrates and the thinkers in his wake. I think that there is valid criticism of Socrates and I do not take issue with philosophers being depicted in humorous or satirical manners. My main concern is how philosophy as a whole is being implicitly portrayed in this trend. My theory for why Socrates was picked out of all other philosophers is a combination of recognizability and his ability to be used as an archetypical figure. Socrates did not write anything, so his work is preserved only in the interpretations of his successors. Using a thinker like Confucius in these situations instead would require AI to consistently understand the complex philosophy illustrated in the Analects, the main record of Conficius' thought. With Socrates, one can arguably be more varied in their interpretation and not be contested.

Socrates in these videos verges on becoming a general

caricature of the philosopher. His verbose questioning being antithetical to the very medium of short form content. If Socrates is the stand in for all philosophers, then these videos promote the view that philosophy is ultimately inefficient in changing the dispositions and actions of individuals. Socrates never convinces the skeleton to truly think about the effects of their actions, and the skeleton tends to go unpunished and is rewarded economically.

One could argue that this trend will inspire more people to look into and discuss Socrates. Obviously this article would not exist without this trend, and I therefore would not have reviewed my knowledge of Socrates. However, I do not feel that will be the case. This content by the nature of the medium of generative AI is effortless, so I question if a casual audience will be willing to put in effort in response, and if this content does not truly promote education then I do not believe the resource usage can be justified.

At the very least, those of us that prefer Heraclitus to Socrates can find some solace in the fact that the AI content machine has yet to caricaturize him and make Heraclitus a character in these bizarre digital scenarios that haunt your For You page.

My Completely Valid Phobia of Fish

By SONYA EDWARDS

It's no secret that I have a strong dislike of fish. Maybe it's the trauma of growing up on the river with an older brother. His favorite bit was convincing me the fish would bite my toes and try to drown me. There's not many fish, if any, in the St. Croix river that have the strength to do that, but that doesn't mean that the giant fish puttering around the ocean can't. There are so many reasons as to why this is a rational fear and hatred. One, they're so freaky looking. Two, they breathe water! Three, they're slimy and gross. And finally, four; they don't even taste that good.

Fish are some of the most unsettling looking creatures. I don't like how the toothless fish's mouth moves when they eat; I am convinced that they can suck my skin clean off. Don't even get me started on the ones with teeth. Piranas and Sturgeons are two fish I never hope to see. While my mom and I were snorkeling in Mexico (her idea) I saw a barracuda and I've never left the water faster in my life. Another time in Hawaii my dad and I got our flippers on and started wading into the water. Within seconds of plunging my face into the water the fish had me surrounded. One slimy fish bumping into me, sent me running out of the water, flippers and all. It's still quite the story in my family to this day; my dad can't retell it without laughing his ass off.

Yes I know it's natural for fish to breathe water. That's why they have those god-awful gills that people can and have stuck their fingers and arms through. Have you ever heard of noodling catfish? People use their hands and arms as bait to lure catfish out of their dens. THEY PUT THEIR WHOLE GODDAMN FOREARM IN THE FISH. Tell me this, would a sane person do that?

Besides, water creatures don't all need gills. Take turtles and whales, they swim majestically through the waters and come up for air. I wish fish were the same. They couldn't lurk in the depths like they do now and they would be much easier to spot. So evolution, I'm gonna need you to get on that.

Getting asked to hold a fish is my worst nightmare. I'd rather pet a bear than touch a fish. The slime that coats them is a love child of nickelodeon slime and saliva. The smell is putrid and has made me gag on more than one occasion. Before I had the option of sitting out on family fishing trips, I would watch in disgust as one of my cousins reeled in a fish and eagerly grabbed it with their bare hands. I moved as far away from the fishers as possible but that didn't stop them from taunting me with their catches and bait. If you like fishing for fun, ignore this part. Catch and release is the most pointless thing in my mind. Why bother fishing if you're not gonna eat the fish? I'm not a monster, I don't wish fish pain so why don't we just let them be instead of tricking them into impaling their lips on a hook. Why release them out of the water, where they suffocate for lack of better terms, just to release them back into the water? If we stopped bugging them, maybe they would stop bugging us (me specifically).

Fish can be as common as chicken or expensive as a prime cut of wagyu steak. It depends on the fish and how it's prepared. A shocker to no one, I don't like any fish. The only seafood I like is lobster, crab, and on occasion, shrimp. The texture of fish is both slimy and flaky, which I didn't know was possible. I've tried many fish



Betty Cavicchia '28

as a part of a fisherman family. Walleye, sunfish, trout, etc. I could only stomach a few bites of each. It doesn't help that I almost swallowed a fish bone once. The thin twig-like bone poking the back of my throat is something I'll never forget. Let's talk about caviar. What kind of weirdo do you have to be to like eating salted fish eggs? I think the only reason this is a 'delicacy' is because only rich people can afford to eat it on the regular. Who doesn't wanna be rich? Especially so you can afford some slimy, salted fish roe!

So now you know the horrors of fish. If this too inspired a fear or disliking to the creatures, I am sorry. But join the club (it's just me) of fish fearers. I think this fear is more common than people believe and I felt a calling to bring attention to the very real, very rational, fishphobia.

I Miss Nuns

By LYDIA WILLIAMS

I miss nuns. I miss long black and white robes speckled throughout the crowd, gray hair and wrinkles made from either laughing and smiling or scowling and condemning. Once, I couldn't go a day without at least seeing a nun in passing, or more likely having a conversation with one. Some were our teachers, our lunch supervisors, neighbors and other everyday figures. Sister Mary Ann taught junior and senior religious studies, Sister Beth stood at the school's entrance and showed me pictures of quilts she made, Sister Tamara warned me to stop wearing nonuniform striped socks but never actually gave me detention.

Now, nun sightings are restricted to spring and fall Saturday mornings. I didn't realize how comforting two or three nuns behind a table cramped with pastries and baked goods could be until that first farmer's market trip. I don't quite remember the freshman orientation group

I went with but I certainly remember the sisters. A few other students whispered in surprise, a few giggled and many didn't even notice. But I knew exactly what my first stop would be. Sometimes I buy something even when I don't want anything just to talk to one of them.

There is something about nuns that puts people on edge, like they are being watched and judged. They probably are, but I think that is part of their charm. The laughter that overtakes you when a nun walks past your table during a conversation about mpreg is unparalleled. Swearing in front of a nun gives a dumb sort of feeling of rebellion that could never be achieved with a regular teacher. Even if you don't particularly care about God or sin there is an accomplishment in getting a nun to like you. Like, if heaven does exist, this is a point in your favor. I think about nuns more than is probably normal, even for someone raised Catholic. I wish it were more common to see nuns in everyday secular life.



Claire Winter '28



HOROSCOPES

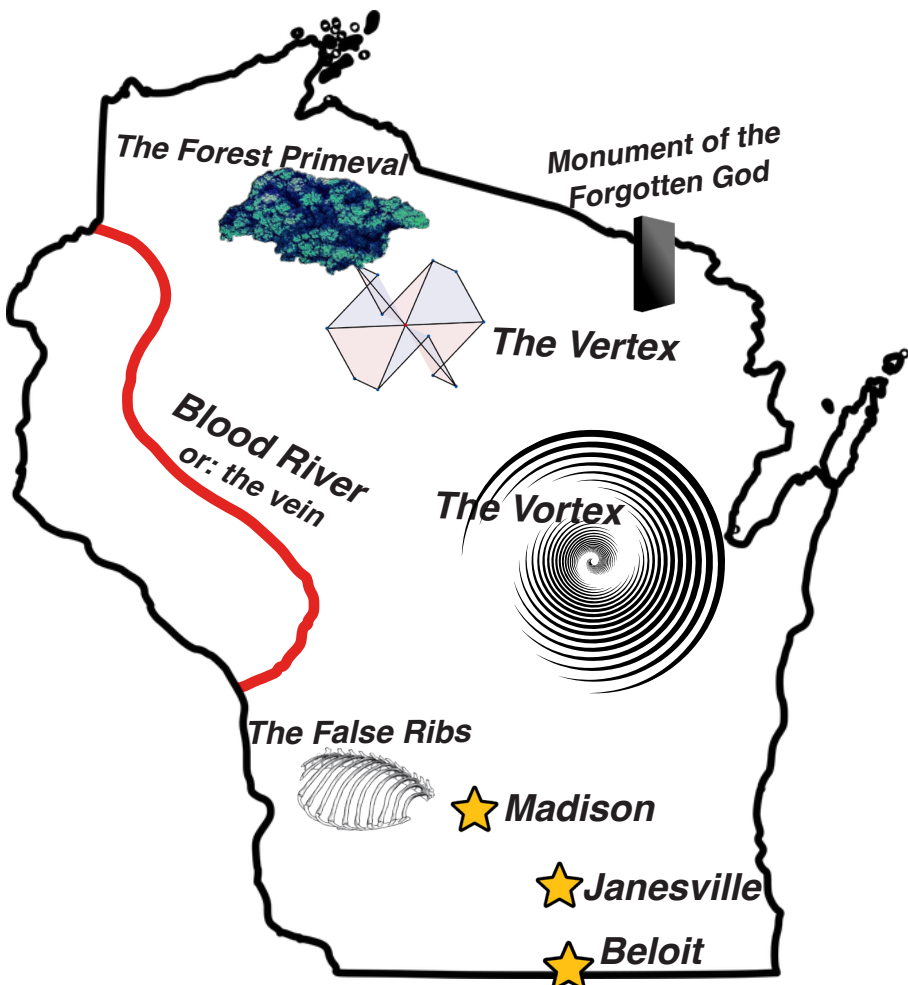


i could have made this Easter themed or election themed but i don't care about being topical. i make my own rules



this is real he's representing the suave party

did you vote?
if not, don't worry!
i will find you



Know the state!

- Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19)**
If the word monk is pronounced munk, then why isn't the word honk pronounced hunk? Food for thought, right? Anyway you're going to be hit by a train
- Taurus (April 20–May 20)**
Things are looking up for you, Taurus. You better buy yourself a nice bottle of Svedka and turn that all around
- Gemini (May 21–Jun 21)**
Be wary of birds, Gemini. They have it out for you
- Cancer (Jun 22–Jul 22)**
You and your BFF are inseparable! Soon you will fuse
- Leo (July 23–Aug 22)**
Do you know how you're doing mostly bad and terrible things? Stop and I think things will go better for you
- Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22)**
Don't trust anyone named Michael. You can't, okay? They're all traitors who only serve the Consortium Michaelium
- Libra (Sep 23-Oct 23)**
You will have fleas and they will never ever go away, and everyone will call you flea boy. "Little flea boy," they'll say, "little flea boy, come hither!" And you will come
- Scorpio (Oct 24–Nov 21)**
Day after minor surgery. Your appendix should be there but... it missing
- Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21)**
Hungry? Bones contain secret meat stashed away inside
- Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19)**
uyo uaare going to be the president of the united stats
- Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18)**
You will be the first person ever
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
Instead of seeking help submit to apathy and dissolve. When you are nothing more than a loose collection of dust carried on the breeze you can finally achieve your lifelong dream of being a particle

HOTEL reviews

★★★★
The Shack
"warm but no place to water the horses"

★★★★★
The Atlantian
"wet"

★
Rock County Jail
"doesn't get doordash"

★★★★
Your Room
"shhhh"

your star sign your carry-on luggage

ARIES suitcase	TAURUS briefcase	GEMINI briefer case	CANCER satchel
LEO ancient chest	VIRGO covered wagon	LIBRA suit case	SCORPIO pet monkey
SAGITTARIUS white elephant	CAPRICORN the hordes of Genghis Khan	AQUARIUS the orb	PISCES emotional baggage

Candid Shots (fuck all of you)

