

The Round Table

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Tuesday, September 8, 2026

roundtable.beloit.edu

A Look Inside Beloit’s Housing: Renovations and Reality

NEWS

By PALASH MAMTANEY

Beloit College has spent the past three summers renovating residence halls across campus, but students continue to report problems with heat, mold, pests, moisture and other adverse living conditions.

In 2024, Whitney Hall underwent a \$3.5 million renovation. Wood Hall received renovations in 2025, and Bushnell Hall was renovated this summer. At the same time, students living in other campus dorms have dealt with issues that have required repairs, temporary relocations and, in one case, finding somewhere else to stay for the night.

The Round Table sat down with three third-year Beloit Students — Keira Linton’28, Rachel Lubar’28 and Lillianne McCully’28 — to talk about their experiences with campus housing. Their experiences differed by building, but each described problems with their living conditions or the college’s response to those problems.

Emerson Hall, which opened in 2016, has also been the site of housing complaints this semester. McCully, who lives on the second floor of Emerson, and had to move in early due to being an Orientation Leader, said she and her roommate, Alex Fondrk’28, had reported what they believed were roaches in their room before a separate incident involving a suspected bed bug.

McCully said she first noticed what she believed were roaches shortly after arriving early for Orientation Leader responsibilities. “I was on campus early for my OL position, so very early on- within a few days- I realized there were roaches.” She contacted Residential Life and later submitted a Facilities request. According to McCully, Facilities came the following day, sprayed the room and placed sticky traps. She said she later found two more roaches and submitted another request with photos and videos. McCully said she and Fondrk followed up but waited weeks for another Facilities response. “I’ve had a roach stuck to a sticky trap for weeks,” she joked.

The situation changed when her roommate found what they believed was a bed bug. The roommate caught the insect, placed it in a Ziploc bag and called Security.

According to McCully, Security took the insect and told the students they would need to find another room. “Me and my roommate were very suddenly moved out, and told we would need to be put in a new room, only to find out they [ResLife] didn’t actually have a room to put us into. And so then we were kinda dragged around campus in the middle of the night...Reslife was trying to find us a room, and they kept failing.”

After waiting for multiple hours for Security, McCully and her roommate were first taken to Aldrich, where the room they were shown did not have beds. They were then taken to Haven, where she said one of the rooms had mouse feces inside.

Ultimately, they were not provided an available campus room and were forced to stay somewhere off-campus for the night.

McCully said the incident also changed how she felt her housing concerns were being addressed. Regarding her first report, she said, “ResLife immediately treated

me with disbelief, and they were very condescending.” “It was only this bedbug incident where, when we called Security, where something actually happened, people actually came in and took it seriously,” McCully said. “It doesn’t change the fact that my roommate and I were left homeless for a night.”



Lillianne McCully’28

Meanwhile, Linton and Lubar, who live in Haven Hall’s Dance Haus, said the recent excessive heat has made their room difficult to live in. “It’s just impossible to get any sleep,” Linton said. “I’ve had a headache for days now, because of the heat.” Lubar said her room also becomes humid.

To deal with the issue, Linton and Lubar said they take cold showers before bed and spend time in the library and other air-conditioned locations to get away from the heat as alternatives. According to them, condensation builds up in their floor’s bathroom and some of their belongings have been affected by the moisture.

Linton and Lubar have also dealt with mold. Last semester, one of their floormates had a mold test conducted in the room. Linton and Lubar said the results indicated a mold problem, after which the college contacted them and sent a staff member and mold inspectors to examine the room. The students said they were told the issue would be addressed over the summer. They have not had the room tested again, so they cannot confirm whether mold remains.

Haven is not the only residence hall where students have faced housing problems. During move-in

weekend, Residential Life notified students that moisture and air quality problems had been discovered on the fourth floor of Porter Hall, affecting about eight rooms. Students who were affected were temporarily relocated to the OEC house, while a professional remediation company inspected and cleaned the rooms. According to Residential Life, students will return to the affected rooms only after an independent company certifies them as safe.

Last semester, the campus community received an email stating that the Outdoor Environmental Club, or OEC, and Beloit Independent Theater Experience, or BITE, houses were being sold and would not be available as student living spaces. OEC students were relocated to other housing for the 2026–27 academic year.

Brannon Hall, meanwhile, required students to relocate after the college discovered that the building’s fire panel needed to be replaced. Residential Life said students assigned to Brannon were moved into other campus housing while the replacement panel was ordered. The college expects the new panel to be installed around fall break.

Housing conditions also vary between buildings, since some residence halls lack air conditioning. Buildings such as 840 Hall, Wood, and Haven, as well as some fraternity houses and other campus housing, do not have AC. 815 Hall is also impacted; its air conditioning is currently broken, and has not worked since move-in days.

On another front, the college has warned students about an increase in bats entering campus buildings. In an email sent out on Aug. 14, Director of Safety and Security Eric Sharlow told students not to touch bats and to contact Security if they encounter one. According to student reports, the majority of the bats were seen in Emerson Hall, but at least one has also been spotted in Pearsons Hall’s Moore Lounge.

Housing costs \$3,441 per semester during the 2026–27 academic year. This academic year, the college introduced different pricing for single and double rooms, with single rooms costing an additional \$400 per semester. The college has said the additional housing revenue will help support the maintenance and modernization of residence halls.

Recently, Beloit College administration announced that they would be creating a Residential Experience Advisory Committee, which will advise student life on residence halls, facilities improvements, common areas, laundry, recreation and other residential issues. The committee is expected to meet three times each semester. An information session will be being held this Thursday at 11:30, in Morse-Ingersoll’s Moore Lounge.

As renovations continue, students across campus experience vastly different conditions depending on where they live. For Linton, Lubar, McCully, and many students across campus, the cost of housing does not match the experience they have had in the dorms. “I pay so much money, and then I can’t even exist comfortably,” Linton said.

Keeping Cool in Beloit Above-Eighties

FEATURES

By CLAIRE WINTER

Last semester, I gave advice on how to stay warm while we were suffering through an arctic freeze. This year, in lieu of anything else interesting, I figured I would reprise my temperature-related advice. Beloit College Administration, however, has beat me to the punch with most of the easy, low-hanging fruit methods for staying cool. No matter.

Bum off your friends with air conditioning

Listen, if I wanted to be spending even more of my time in the Science Center, I’d have signed up for another three classes. However, laying on your friends’ floor and showing them awful reels is free (or, at least, will only cost you pillows being yote at your face).

Cold showers

Not just for weird sex purposes! This one should be easy, considering no shower on Beloit College’s campus has, or will ever, work properly. Most of them even have two settings for your convenience: “Satan’s Flaming Hot Asscrack Juices” and “Freezing Your Nips Off Imminently”, so it’s really kind of impossible to mess this one up. After dousing yourself in freezing cold water, the outside humidity will feel like Mother Nature herself is wrapping an inescapable and weirdly moist towel around you.

Cut your hair off

It is too hot to have anything touching your neck. Break out those clippers. Especially if you’ve been planning to make a big change anyway. Double especially if you have recently blocked your situation.

Stick your head in your mini fridge

We all know that thing is on its last legs, but it isn’t dead yet! Additionally, most of your blood flow will pass through your scalp at some point, considering how much blood your brain needs to function, so this might have the added effect of cooling down your body!

Protest

Okay, look, this one isn’t really about staying cool. It is, however, about the fact that you are paying roughly \$7,000–\$8,000 dollars in tuition for a room that might be 90 degrees for weeks on end, and that students are also forbidden from having their own out-of-pocket AC units.

A Letter From the Editors: on the Aug. 24 Hate Crime

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

By THE ROUND TABLE EDITORIAL BOARD

On Aug. 24, Beloit College Security was made aware of a hate crime: a racial slur, painted on a wall of the Podcast Room in Pearsons Hall. Security responded by reporting the hate crime to local police. The report is filed and documented, but is not being pursued further at the time of writing, since no suspects have been identified nor has any more information been released.

The hate speech has since been removed and painted over, and the Podcast Room has since reopened.

The Round Table does not condone hateful speech of any kind, and vehemently condemns this act of racism.

That being said, it is our duty as journalists to minimize harm. As per the SPJ Code of Ethics, we aim to “[b]alance the public’s need for information against potential

harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance or undue intrusiveness.”

Because the student body is intimately aware of the situation, The Round Table has made the choice to release this statement in lieu of an in-depth news article. There is a difference between ethical journalism and effective exploitation.

To read more on the situation and campus response to the crime, we encourage you to read “Addressing our community’s concerns” from Damila Hurn’28 on behalf of Black Students United (BSU) Exec, in the Aug 28 Student Digest; and to read the article by Jazmin Gomez’27 in the Op-Ed section on the subject. Unless there are updates to the investigation, this will be The Round Table’s only news coverage of the hate crime.

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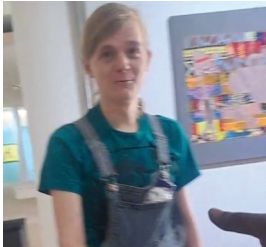
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Round Table

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

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

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

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

Beloit Student Workers United: Welcome Workers!

By KEEGAN DEWITT and ALIVIA RENTERIA

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, Beloit Student Workers United held an informational event in the Weissberg Auditorium. There was a large turnout, with student workers drawn in by curiosity about the people representing them and the promise of free merchandise and pizza. The goal for the event was to “welcome student workers to the new year and to set the tone for the next year,” according to Jake Fein’27, BSWU’s external organizing lead. “We had ~100 people participate in our event, and while numbers are great, engagement and enthusiasm of those in attendance were what we would really call success.” Working alongside Fein in BSWU’s leadership are internal organizing lead Thomas Flemming’27, events lead Lia Dirks’27, art and social lead Sam McCullough’29 and co-steward leaders Demir Kasapoglu’28 and Palash Mamtaney’28. This small group of people is responsible for making this event, and the existence of the union itself, possible. Speeches at this event were provided not only by those in the student union’s leadership, but also by State Representative Clinton M. Anderson, President of the South Central Federation of Labor Kevin Gundlach, and Vice President of the Chicago Midwest Regional Joint Board Carlos Ginard. The event honored the student union’s entry into the larger Workers United union, which represents tens of thousands of workers across Canada and America. This celebration follows the ratification of BSWU into the Workers United union, which was officially announced via Instagram on June 9. Representative Anderson shared how happy he felt to have the support of Beloit’s students for himself and the workers’ union as a whole. He stated

how he plans to support the college’s workers and, in turn, expects workers at the college to be there for their parent union during times of negotiation and protest. Kevin Gundlach gave a speech that shed light on a fraction of the history of union organizing and led the audience in a call-and-response of union chants originating from past strikes



Sam McCullough’29

and protests, including some from the Amazon and Starbucks worker strikes in recent years. For example, he would call out, “What’s disgusting?” The crowd would then respond, “Union busting!” Carlos Ginard began his presentation by recognizing and welcoming BSWU to Workers United, then discussed what the Joint Board does and the kinds of work settings they have advocated for in the past. According to the Workers United website, “the Joint Board today supports organizing across diverse industries—including distribution, non-profits, gyms, food service, hospitality,

manufacturing, and retail. With a deep commitment to racial and economic justice, the union empowers workers to build collective power, win strong contracts, and transform their workplaces and communities.” With the addition of the Beloit Student Workers Union to the Chicago Midwest Regional Joint Board, the college will be yet another of the workplaces that

non-exclusionism. The union emphasizes that solidarity does not mean charity; charity promotes a hierarchical system, whereas solidarity allows all workers to support one another with mutual benefit and aid. Independence means that BSWU is not associated with any outside entity; it is not affiliated with any other organization, nor does it work for or receive funding from Beloit College. Non-exclusionism grants workers the freedom to express differing opinions, while still keeping respect towards their peers, Beloit College, and other organizations. BSWU is just one of the about 40 majority undergraduate labor unions throughout the country, and it is the only undergraduate labor union in Wisconsin. Out of all the undergraduate unions in the country, BSWU is the seventh to provide wall-to-wall coverage, meaning all student workers are protected under the union. It is the fourth wall-to-wall undergraduate union that has won a contract with an institution, and the second to do that with a private institution. As of Sept. 2026, they are still the first and only undergraduate union to be voluntarily recognized by an institution. Beloit Student Workers United established their contract with Beloit College in 2025, with the current contract being in effect from Sept. 8, 2025 until Aug. 20, 2027. Because of this contract, student workers have received an approximately 29% hourly pay increase over the two years it has been implemented. When asked how they felt about the impact of the event on the student body, Jake Fein’27 said, “From talking to fellow attendees, to call-and-response, we couldn’t be happier with the tone this event set for the union going into our contract negotiation year.”

Senior Toast at President’s House

By THEO BJORNSTAD and ELISA TURNER

On Aug. 25, 2026, President Eric Boynton hosted the annual senior toast, inviting Beloit College’s graduating class of 2027 to dress up in their Tuesday best and enjoy cookies, champagne (or grape juice for those under 21), and a moment of celebration for all their hard work. Beneath the shady canopy of the President’s House’s backyard, many took the opportunity to relax, take photos, and enjoy an escape from the blistering heat. It wasn’t long before Boynton himself made an appearance, gradually hushing the crowd before beginning his address. Boynton proclaimed his pride in the class of 2027, congratulated students on their progress so far, and wished them luck in their final year as Beloiters before raising glasses. The senior toast was a small event, but it acted as a meaningful show of goodwill to a class that has seen a lot of Beloit College’s ups and downs. Many parts of campus life have seen drastic changes from the beginning of Boynton’s tenure as college president, from the location of the dining hall, the library, and even where campus begins and ends. From the buildings and the departments to the events and the culture, Eric Boynton has left an indelible mark on Beloit, a vision that he has been proud to share and bring to life with the class of 2027 beside him. Boynton said, “I think about my inaugural address, and the future that I laid out ...

is the future that we’re living in.” Still, Boynton concedes there is still much work to be done. Beloit College, now more than ever, has found itself at the center of a rapidly changing world, one that threatens to unravel the foundations of academia, the social landscape and even the concept of truth itself. “For the recent instance that happened, [the] graffiti we found ... The world is cracked about the head, it’s woven into this place ... and it’s up to the people here ... to actually activate a different possibility for the future,” Boynton said, in reference to the racist vandalism found in the Podcast Room on Aug. 24. “I doubt we’ll purge this in your lifetime ... [but] what I’m hopeful about is all of you. Looking back in the past, it’s ... damage and despair, but ... hope contains, in it, doubt, ‘cause you gotta hope for something different ... which means where you are right now is not where you want to be,” said Boynton. The College as an institution has to adapt to this to survive. Faced with this challenge, Boynton affirms that the kind of people who can bring about that positive change are the exact type he believes Beloit College has made under his watch. “Beloit College, not perfectly, not all the time, but it is designed to open up different kinds of pictures, to get you all to think



Betty Cavicchia’28

about things in many ways, that we can’t yet understand based upon our teaching of the tradition, of our own disciplines, and our own approaches,” Boynton said. “So all of you to open up this new kind of place ... that’s what I’m hopeful about.” And finally, The Round Table asked President Boynton the pressing question we’re all wondering about Beloit College leadership — will the Boynton family be acquiring any new dogs this year? “No, not if I can help it,” said Boynton, laughing a little to himself. Immediately after Boynton said this, Jetson, the family’s newest dog, bolted out of Boynton’s range of sight. She was located shortly after on the other side of the President’s front lawn, taking an interest in a nearby squirrel.

BUG & OEC “Bring Your Own Mug” Tea Party

By ALANNA SULARZ

The Beloit Urban Garden and the Outdoor Environmental Club convened at the Marca Bristo Keep Friday, Aug. 28, 2026, to share



Betty Cavicchia’28

various herbal- and fruit-flavored teas and introduce themselves for the upcoming year. OEC and BUG strive to create outdoor spaces for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy nature, find community among their peers, and educate students about the environment. OEC focuses on encouraging appreciation and understanding of nature, and BUG partners with Bon Appetit to provide Hamilton’s with freshly grown produce from the urban garden, including lettuce, tomatoes and other goods. The tea party was aimed primarily towards the incoming freshman class, hoping to make a good first impression for the environmental side of campus and to welcome potential new members for each club. “I was blown away by the amount of people who attended,” said Oliver Idzikowski’28, commenting on the event’s turnout. “Their enthusiasm was inspiring.” BUG will soon be having elections for the Bosun, Emissary, and Steward of the Wildflower Gardens, and will also have regular meetings throughout the week. Additionally, OEC plans to host hiking events and film screenings throughout the semester in collaboration with other clubs, while also focusing on cultivating the greenery around the Science Center. Work days will also be held to maintain these growing parts of the campus.

What Changed in the 2026–27 Student Handbook?

By QUINN ANNIS

This year’s Student Handbook includes several changes from last year’s edition, including policy changes that disallow chalk writing on the steps of Middle College, set more rigid standards for student demonstrations and define what qualifies as graffiti.

A link to the updated 2026–27 Student Handbook was emailed to students Aug. 31. by the Dean of Students’ office. In accordance with its new guidelines, chalking is no longer permitted on “the steps, ramp, or red brick area” of Middle College, and all chalk writing must have a listed take down date within two weeks of its initial writing. Both of these changes come as clear responses to last school year’s protest against the housing price increase, which, in addition to a sit-in at Middle College, saw chalk messages around campus used as a form of protest.

Also seemingly in response to those protests is an addition to the section on student demonstrations. Protests are now prohibited “inside academic

and administrative buildings” (thereby including Middle College), and may not obstruct emergency entrances and exits to buildings.

A new note on page 114 defines graffiti as “any unauthorized writing, drawing or marking created on any campus structure, public or private,” and specifies that this applies whether the graffiti is made using temporary or permanent materials. The Dean of Students’ office sent an email on Sep. 3 to draw special notice to this updated definition, implicitly relating it to the recent incident when racist graffiti was written in paint marker on the wall of the podcast room.

The subsection on Housing Policy, which lists various housing-related policies and resources, now lists the Residential Experience Advisory Committee, or REAC, which was created in response to the housing protest. The committee is described as “a point of contact and conversation between campus community members

and the residential and student life staff... Points of conversation may include service offerings, spending priorities, strategic direction, and compliance concerns.”

Also according to the subsection on Housing, first-year students in their second semester are no longer permitted to live in special interest houses, fraternities or sororities without permission from the Director of Residence Life. In practice this change only affects special interest housing, since the 25–26 edition included a requirement for second-term first years to have approval from either the Director of Residence Life or the Dean of Students before moving into Greek life housing.

Lastly, the Housing Policy subsection has a new heading: “Continuing Student Enrollment, Housing, and Accounting Holds.” This part of the Student Handbook contains information on tuition deadlines and the process of resolving Accounting/Enrollment Holds (which occur when payments to the college are overdue, and restrict students from participating in classes or living on-campus). This addition is not marked in the table of contents.

The subsection on Political Activity now contains a note that “willful interference with any sanctioned campus activity, including political debate, forums and similar programming, in a manner aimed at preventing such activities from occurring may face disciplinary action[.]”

The heading Gender Neutral/LGBTQIA Housing now makes reference to offering housing for students “regardless of sex or gender identity,” instead of just “regardless of sex.” It also now refers to “legal” instead of “biological” sex.

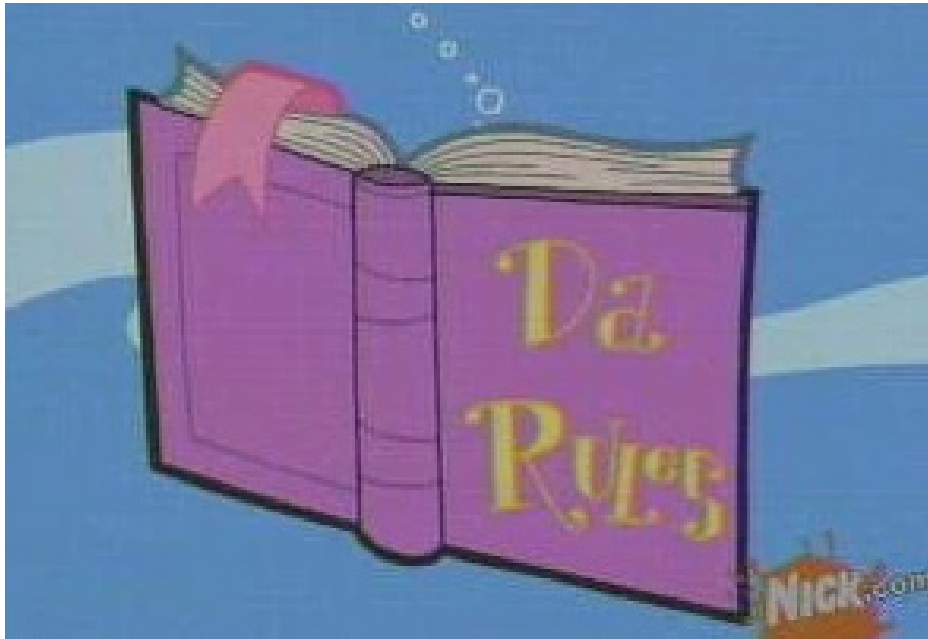
The list of criteria for when the college classifies an activity as hazing now contains, as its third item, the following definition: “Requiring, coercing, or

pressuring any person to participate in an activity, ritual, tradition, or conduct that humiliates, degrades, intimidates, ostracizes, endangers, abuses, or compels unwanted acts or duties, particularly where the activity is unrelated to the legitimate purposes of the organization or group[.]”

A note on page 53 regarding the college’s rules for inviting speakers emphasizes that “the College encourages campus groups to invite speakers with a wide range of perspectives. ... Community members and visitors may not suppress others’ speech by obstructing, shouting down, or otherwise preventing them from being heard.”

The Student Handbook no longer opens with the Statement of Student Culture as it did in the 2025–26 edition; instead, subsection A of Section I now sets student responsibility for “reading, understanding, and following all rules, policies, standards, and expectations expressed within the Student Handbook and all other campus publications.” It is still labelled as the Student Statement of Culture in the table of contents.

Relatively insubstantial changes include the following: some instances of “Residential Life” have been changed to “Residence Life”; “Portal” has been changed to “MyBeloit”; some instances of “his/her” have been replaced with “their”; two numbered headings with longer sets of information — the locations of on-campus emergency phones and the security camera guidelines — now contain links to those guidelines online instead; “AI tools” are no longer explicitly referenced on page 13; page 49 includes the statute definition of hazing; REAC has replaced the “Residential Life Committee of BSC” on page 113; there are additional clarifications regarding RAVE alerts on page 88; and page 77 now contains a list of common fines and fees for housing damages.



Fairly Odd Parents Wiki

Record measles outbreak in WI, the Amish, and RFK Jr.

By ALEX MAULE

Wisconsin is in the midst of an unprecedented measles outbreak. Preliminary data from the CDC indicates 104 confirmed cases, all but two of which are from July and August. The number of individuals with a “rash onset” from the week of August 9th — 36 counts — matches the number of confirmed cases for all of Wisconsin in 2026 alone. The majority of confirmed or probable cases have been localized in the Southwest, specifically in Lafayette County (44) and Iowa County (55). No confirmed cases have been identified in Rock County yet.

State data on child and adolescent MMR vaccination rates shows that for 2025, among the percent of 6–18 year olds with 2 doses of MMR (needed for full immunization), Lafayette County ranked 7th lowest (76.7%), with Iowa County around 86.3%. Lafayette County also ranked fourth lowest in percent of 24-month-olds with 1 dose of MMR (60.1%), with the worst being Vernon County at 42%. Overall, the amount of 24-month-olds with 1 MMR has continually declined, from 88.2% in 2013 to 79.8% in 2025. 40% of measles cases are among adults, with the rest being split among toddlers of 0–4 years (15.5%) and teens and adolescents. According to CDC data from 2024, Wisconsin ranks third lowest in MMR 2 doses among kindergarteners, with a coverage of 84.8%, below the 94% threshold required by the CDC for herd immunity.

Nationwide, the U.S. is on track to lose its “measles-free” status designation by the Pan American Health Organization, which it has maintained since 2000. As of Sept. 3 2026, the number of confirmed measles cases nationwide is now at a 35-year high of 3,134, greater than all of 2025 (2,289). The last recorded spike that exceeded this amount was in 1991, at 9,643 cases. Historic measles outbreaks are also occurring in other states, with Texas seeing the largest number of confirmed measles cases since 1992 in 2025.

Measles is an exceptionally contagious disease. According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, 90% of all non-immune people who come in contact with an infected person will become infected. The virus can remain alive and airborne

for two hours after a person leaves the room, and those infected can remain asymptomatic for 4 days before a rash appears.

One unusual potential cause of this outbreak may be Amish Wisconsinites’ hesitancy towards immunization. A 2023 study conducted by Penn State University that tracked vaccine adoption rates from February 2021 — when vaccines first became available — through October 2022 found that Amish populated communities had approximately 1.6% lower vaccination rates than the general public. Amish population data from Elizabethtown College for 2026 estimates that there are around 1,765 Amish residents residing in various settlements throughout Grant and Iowa County, and 1,620 concentrated in a settlement in Platteville Wisconsin in Lafayette County. Amish residents make up over 10% of Lafayette County’s population.

Another potential cause is shifting policy from federal officials on vaccines under the leadership of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a long-time vaccine skeptic.

On Aug. 26, Trump signed Executive Order 14420, calling for the MMR vaccine to be administered in three separate jabs spread out over time rather than in one combination shot. The decision was made based on an internal “scientific assessment” and a stated desire to “match best practices from other scientific, peer developed countries.” This follows a January decision by the HHS to alter the federal vaccine schedule by reducing the amount of recommended routine childhood vaccinations from 17 to 11, reclassifying respiratory syncytial virus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, dengue, and two vaccines for meningitis and sepsis as only for “high-risk” or immunocompromised children. The decision was later reversed in 2026 following a lawsuit by the American Academy for Pediatrics, wherein a District Court judge ruled that the 13 federal vaccine advisers appointed by Kennedy to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the body that determines recommendations and vaccine policy for the CDC, were unlawfully appointed. In June of 2025

Kennedy removed all members of the advisory committee, replacing them with eight new members, many of whom are vaccine skeptics. The committee includes Robert Malone, who previously claimed that COVID-19 could cause AIDS, and recommended ivermectin (an anti-parasitic medication commonly used on horses) and hydroxychloroquine, neither of which has been approved by the FDA for treatment.

While the order does not force vaccine manufacturers to split MMR vaccines, the new guidelines are relied upon by states for determining coverage and recommendations for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services for patients who qualify for Medicaid. ESPDT also includes a Immunizations/Vaccines for Children Program for children as part of its treatment options, which may be affected. Additionally, If the federal vaccine schedule changes were to be permitted, it would affect which vaccines are covered by the Vaccines for Children Program, which covers out-of-pocket costs for vaccines, and is included with Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus.

During the signing event, Trump also implied vaccines cause autism, saying, “It’s inconvenient, it’s five stops, but it’s something that I think will have a huge impact on autism.”

The new MMR guidance contradicts official recommendations on the CDC website, which currently states that “MMR vaccination is the best way to prevent measles, mumps, and rubella.” Furthermore, the CDC also states: “There is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Scientists in the United States and other countries have carefully studied the MMR vaccine. None have found a link between autism and the MMR vaccine.”

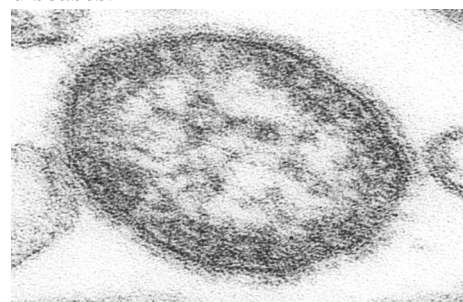
Republican senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, a licensed physician and chairman of the Health Education and Pension Committee, criticized the order on social media: “Breaking up vaccines will mean children have to get more shots to get the same protection, not fewer shots. It will increase hesitancy and make children less safe.”

Numerous scientific organizations have spoken out against the schedule

changes. Dr. Ronald Nahass, president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, released a statement criticizing the order as undermining an established process of recommendations made by input from qualified experts and based on science. “This action follows an alarming pattern of government efforts to reduce Americans’ access to vaccines and sow unfounded doubt about vaccine safety and effectiveness,” he wrote. Dr. Andrew Rancine, president of the American Academy for Pediatrics, released a similar statement criticizing the order, saying, “The only thing I can see is going to happen as a result of the announcement today is the injection of greater amounts of uncertainty and fear and confusion where there doesn’t need to be any.”

MMR and Rubella manufacturers have also objected to the plan. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a nonprofit trade group representing pharmaceutical manufacturers, said, “[I]mposing a narrower schedule by importing recommendations from foreign countries wouldn’t reflect gold standard science – it would mean accepting a lower bar of protection against diseases that remain life-threatening for children in the United States.”

According to the American Academy for Pediatrics, the pharmaceutical company Merck discontinued the last standalone monovalent vaccine for Measles Mumps and Rubella in 2009 upon recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, claiming their usage “would unnecessarily delay administration of the three vaccine components, leaving children susceptible for a longer period of time to serious, life-threatening diseases.”



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Serbia Sidequest

By CHYLER SMITH

This summer, I was given the opportunity to join a residency with Dah Theatre in Belgrade, Serbia. The residency was focused on the creation of a piece formed on the basis of democracy, a topic that is growing increasingly important to explore in today’s world. I was joined by three other students and Professor Amy Sarno (the organizer of this study abroad program) in this adventure of devising, script writing and acting.

Each day we worked from 10–4 p.m. crafting this show. The process began as self-reflective research among the group, interviewing one another to understand a deeper sense of what democracy meant to us, and where we thought the country was heading. We had discussions on patriotism and its blurred lines with nationalism; how some believe democracy was never fully achieved in this country; and what the symbols of our nation mean through the lens of modern America. Lady Liberty, standing to greet all who come to the U.S., shamed to the exclusion and the turning away of the people who made this country what it is, and



Chyler Smith ’28

concerned with the birth of the new country — whether it’s nationalist or yields revolution. Uncle Sam, with the face of patriotism, embarrassed by the blatant disregard for constitutional rights and laws. How “We The People” grows and wilts based on the strength

of these figurative symbols, and how we rise above them. This exploration also included our discussion with Dah Theatre and locals of their experience with democracy, or lack thereof. In a meeting with an actor after a show in Nis, he told us that he was traveling to the U.S. as

soon as his wife got a job offer there. We joked, saying “good luck” to lighten the underlying fear we had for someone moving to America with the current face of our nation. He just laughed back, saying, “We invented the Trump. We’ve had three Trumps.” The shared laughter

left something unresolved. The community there was not afraid to discuss their disdain for their leader, their fears for us as they observe America from afar, and most importantly, their hopes for the future that they continue to speak out for.

This month-long experience is one I would not trade for the world. Getting to explore a new country, have open conversations with strangers from each city we traveled to, and be introspective about my views of democracy as an American was something that opened my eyes to much more than I anticipated. In the end, one of the most important takeaways is to truly explore what something means to you, such as democracy. There are so many sources for us in the digital age to be forced into an opinion without knowing its true meaning to ourselves. It’s not until we allow ourselves to discover our own thoughts, create something out of the meaning we find, and take that new lens into our life that we can truly know our own thoughts.

How to Fight Homesickness

By EMMA LAUS

I’m in my fourth year at Beloit and I still miss home everyday. I miss my parents, my friend and her cat Tofu, watching stupid YouTube videos with my brother, and Trader Joe’s (sorry). I miss making breakfast in my kitchen and terrorizing my dog when he wants to be alone and Douglas fir trees and my go-to overpriced acai bowl place.

I don’t think there’s a truly effective cure for homesickness, and it’s probably not inherently a bad emotion to feel. However, over the past three years I’ve tried to minimize the feeling in small ways. This is pretty basic advice, but the most effective way I’ve dealt with homesickness is by forcing myself out of my dorm room. Everytime I go on a walk around Beloit, I find at least one

special thing — a weird squirrel, interesting yard decorations, beautiful trees. Even just forcing myself to study in the library rather than my dorm room significantly improves my mental health. My dorm has always been the place on campus that feels the most like home, probably because I bring a suitcase full of items from my room back home to decorate with. I want the space to feel like a reward after a long day, but when I barely leave it, it doesn’t feel special anymore.

My freshman year, I would walk to Turtle Creek fairly often, and once I came across this little cat who followed me along the entire trail. I still think about that, and how happy it made me. I also met this dog named Olive (her owners owned J&G’s

Coins, Rings, and Things but they moved; fml), and she was a licensed emotional support animal. Needless to say, she was amazing at her job and whenever I missed my dog I would go visit her. If you go outside intentionally seeking someone’s pet to hang out with, I think most times you can probably at least pet a cat or something. If you’re blessed with friends who have pets that’s also a viable option, obviously.

Invest in things that bring you comfort — if possible, don’t let dorm life stop you from doing things that you enjoy. I love baking at home and it’s something that helps whenever I’m feeling sad, but for my first three years here it felt too inconvenient to buy supplies. Looking back, I totally should’ve

just bought a brownie mix and handled it. No matter what your hobbies are, make sure you give yourself the time to nurture them. Read in the library, draw in your free time, play piano in the Powerhouse. Despite how busy things can get, I think it’s definitely worth it to dedicate time to activities that you know bring you comfort.

I always dread spring in Beloit because that’s when homesickness hits me hardest. Without a car on campus I hate feeling confined to my dorm, but I don’t want to set foot outside in the biting cold. My support systems back home feel far away, making it more difficult to lift myself out of seasonal depression. But I know that everyday moves us closer to

summer again, and all I can do is try my best to make the most of my time. Through this cycle, Beloit has slowly become more and more of a home, and I know there will be so much to miss here. I’m never going to stop feeling homesick, and I’m sure the feeling will linger after graduation, evolving as I move on through life. I don’t think that’s necessarily a bad thing, as long as it doesn’t hold you back from experiencing the world around you and all the unexpected joys it can offer.

Club Spotlight: Destigmatizing Athletics, Strengthening Community, Wellness: a Conversation with the Run Club

By VIVIAN KOPKA



Vivian Kopka ’27

Have you ever been awake at 9 a.m. on a Sunday morning at Beloit College? Well, the Beloit College Run Club has.

Every Sunday at 9 o’clock sharp, the group gathers on Aldrich Field to start their jaunty jog. A few stretches, some camaraderie, and then

they’re off to Riverside Park. Run Club didn’t start as a club, though. Ana Tolentino’27, president of Beloit College Run Club, relayed the club’s beginnings in an interview with The Round Table.

Last fall, Renée Nguyen’26 had the idea to invite her

friends to start running with her. Nguyen was on track to run a marathon in November, so she was training either way.

As Nguyen’s gaggle grew, other friends started calling them the “Run Club.”

“[W]e were like, actually, let’s just make that happen,” Tolentino said. “So now this is our second semester officially as a club, and our first semester with a budget. So [now] we’ll be able to do more [club activities].”

Once at Riverside Park, the run is up to the individual. Tolentino added, “[Y]ou can come and run one mile with us. If I [run] more than that, it doesn’t matter, right? Just join us for the time you’re willing to.”

Destigmatizing exercise and running is a big goal for the club. Tolentino said the club focuses on “taking the

competitiveness and like the pressure out of [running],” and added that walking is totally fine too.

“It’s just like a way for you to go out with a group of people, and do something together, right?” Run Club is also taking steps to publish their Sunday workouts on IMLeagues, so individuals can easily sign up and view more details.

The Run Club is also planning a Turkey Trot 5K for the week before Thanksgiving. They take inspiration from the Health and Wellness Center’s former “Happy Healthy 5Ks,” which aimed to take the competitiveness out of running, and instead make it about fun and prioritizing mental and physical health.

Exec team members Sam Schowalter’27 and Shobhita Bharadwaj’27 emphasized

the impact that running and exercise have on their mental health. “I either feel very enthused and like I need to run, and if I can’t, then I will absolutely blow up. Or, [it feels like], ‘oh God, please, no,’” Schowalter said.

“But usually once I get into the swing of it, it’s kind of a relaxing thing. It’s a good way to decompress.”

Bharadwaj added that “anytime I’m going through a hard time, I try to get out for a run. And it’s like, it’s instantly a dopamine rush. You instantly feel better. Even if it’s temporary, it definitely gets your mood up a little.”

The Run Club is looking for more members. To join and get more details, you can join their GroupMe by going to their Instagram (@beloitrunclub) and clicking the link in their bio.

How to Review a Murder: “How to Write a Murder” Review

By VANESSA SKILLDUM

Jessica Brody is an author I have been aware of for some time, mainly from her book “Save the Cat! Writes a Novel,” which has been on my shelf. When I heard the title “How to Write a Murder,” I thought it would be another informative book guide; and in a way it was, along with a good old-fashioned murder mystery/thriller.

As a reader, I stay about as far away from thrillers and mysteries as possible. I am, for lack of a better word, a chicken, and do not remotely possess the skill set to be a detective. I’m a writer (shocking, I know), and when I saw that the cast of characters was all writers, I was sold.

The cast of characters was rather intriguing, with classic suspects including an amateur detective, an ex-lover, an assistant, an ex-business partner, and more. I genuinely thought each point of view in the novel added something valuable. Character-wise, my heart belongs to Evelyn, an 80-year-old woman with a cat named Dexter.

A fact I loved about the book was the extra point of view included, which was

the “author” themselves — and no, I don’t mean Brody, but the author of the mystery unfurling before the character’s eyes. The addition of such a POV is one of the reasons I love this book so much. Not only was the “author” witty and a total puppet master, but the hyper-awareness of all the characters about murder tropes and classic acts within a mystery led to a very meta and entertaining read.

It was simply hilarious and led to fantastic one-liners. One of my favorites was, “‘Why don’t we search the study, then the ballroom, then the conservatory!’ He snapped his fingers. ‘Oh, right. I keep forgetting it’s not a game of fucking Clue.’”

Speaking of “Clue,” the movie was a big inspiration for Brody to write this novel, and as a result, there were a bunch of subtle elements from the film that I adored: the guest list, everyone being a detective, the constant finger-pointing, and the chaos of splitting up into pairs. It created a sense of nostalgia in me (“Clue” has celebrity status among my family), and I think contributes to a big part of why I adore this

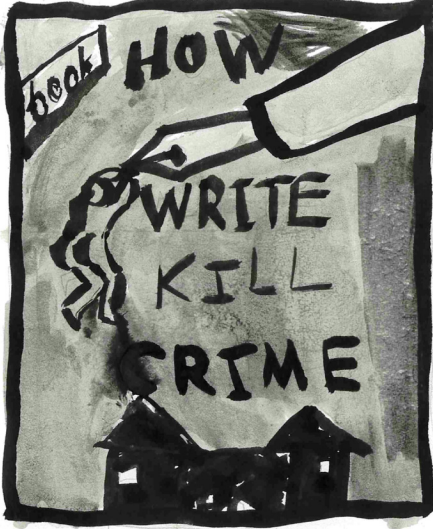
book so much. It wasn’t an exact copy by any means, but it felt familiar in a way that made it easy to follow everything that was happening without thinking hard about it. A perfect companion to all the academic text the semester brings.

Alas, the additional POV is a bit of a double-edged sword. While I eagerly devoured it, it did get long and over-explanatory in some parts, which took me out of the story. This novel is hefty, coming in at 560 pages compared to an average of 280–360 for murder mystery stories. The pacing was relatively good; it did drag here and there, but nothing that made me ever want to stop reading. In fact, the length was something I didn’t notice until the end. I was simply eager to pick back up where I left off.

As far as my detective skills (or lack thereof) go, I was able to put some pieces of the puzzle together, even before the characters did. When I felt like I was two steps ahead and had the murderer figured out, I got humbled and had to go back to square one. I didn’t end up being correct

about who was responsible for everything, but I wasn’t completely blindsided either.

Overall, I had a lot of fun with this book and can sense it becoming a book I return to now and again. “How to Write a Murder” officially releases later this month, on Sep. 22.



Playing with Discovery and Identity Through Pop Culture and TV

By ALEX CAMBOURIS AND BETHANY YU

Until Oct. 31, the Wright Museum will be hosting the Fall 2026 semester’s Ferrall Artist-in-Residence Tyanna J. Buie. Buie is a Chicago- and Milwaukee-based artist who specializes in screen printing, painting and digital art. Her work, such as the “Voting Rights are Human Rights” mural, is displayed prominently in the city of Milwaukee. Besides her collection of public art, Buie also has a diverse and cohesive portfolio of work ranging from self-portrait paintings to deep-faked VHS tapes which have been featured across the United States. She has earned many awards — most recently the 2020 Fellowship Art Award and the 2023 Ruth Arts/Mary L. Nohl Alumni Award. Currently, she works as an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for printmaking at Rhode Island School of Design. She also is currently commissioned for the Obama Presidential Center.

Buie is a graphic artist who focuses on themes of identity and belonging, coupled with a nostalgic, pre-millennium twist. “She talks about how she found her own voice, and herself, through TV and characters,” says Wright Museum Curator Christa Story. “If you look at the titles, there’s ‘Me as Oprah,’ and ‘Me as Cleopatra Jones,’ etc.”

Buie’s work deals heavily with the youth culture, especially Black culture, of the 80s and 90s. “When I look at it, I think of a young adolescent discovering who they are,” said Story, pointing to a collection of self-portraits of Buie youthfully styled after high school photos. “The titles are really important: they’re all about the self. What she’s depicting is not only this nostalgic, growing up, becoming yourself, but also what these things do for your character as you’re growing up. In Milwaukee, [Buie] was creating a lot of billboards and murals, very public-facing art. These feel very private to me.” Buie draws heavily on her childhood during the artistic process, and her gallery gives her audience a chance to glean a more personal side

of her, less overtly-wrapped in powerful social commentary, although that is certainly still a major theme.

The combination of political commentary and personal childhood experience is shown most prominently in one of her most interesting collections of pieces: several VHS tapes of her face deep-faked over videos of different Black



stars, comedians, and cultural figureheads. “What you watch has so much to do with what you become or how you shape yourself. I can imagine someone sitting here and picturing themselves asking, ‘Am I like this? Could that be me?’ So here, she’s actually doing that visually,” Story says. “80’s and 90’s kids, it was huge to have [television]. The exposure to pop culture just exploded.” The gallery not only offers a unique perspective into Black American

culture, but a glimpse into a nostalgic past that shaped millions of childhoods.

At 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, Buie will be hosting a presentation at her gallery discussing her style, inspirations and themes with students and faculty. The following day, she will be hosting a keynote in the Richardson Auditorium to talk about her journey and career as an artist. All are encouraged to attend. Finally, Buie will be visiting various classes from Oct. 19 to Oct. 22 to engage with and guide senior art students. Students can learn from Buie’s journey as an artist, her connection to her work, and her technical expertise in screen printing and multimedia design. If you see her around this October, make sure to say hello! And if you are curious about her expansive art collection, you can visit her website at tyannajbuie.com.

Buie is not the only new exciting gallery being showcased this fall. The Wright is also celebrating the new exhibit “Woven & Embroidered Identities: Fashions from China’s Last Dynasty,” which is open Sept. 8 through Oct. 10. The exhibit explores women’s identities in the Qing dynasty and the American collection of Chinese textiles and accessories. The exhibit includes pieces from the Wright’s collection that have not been displayed in 30 years. With over 5,000 pieces in the Wright’s collection, this exhibit gives students and the community an opportunity to see and discover new stories in the museum.

The Fall Opening Reception will be held Thursday Sept. 10, 4:30–6:00 p.m. There will be light refreshments and live performances, including a pop-up concert with Dr. Cullynn Murphy and an art performance by Professor Mats Rudels.

If you are interested in further developments and work done in the Wright Museum, you can find updates and information on their Facebook (@wrightmuseum), and Instagram (@WrightMuseum).

“OBSESSION” MOVIE REVIEW

By ETHAN COOPER

Curry Barker’s “Obsession” was undoubtedly this summer’s biggest hit. Although perhaps later overshadowed by film behemoths such as “The Odyssey” and “Spider-Man: Brand New Day”, the numbers speak for themselves. Created with a measly budget of \$750,000, “Obsession” made \$17.2 million in its first weekend at the box office, only to double the next weekend, generating \$32 million during the four-day Memorial Day timeframe, and \$24 million over the next weekend. After only about a month and a half, it overtook “Sinners” as the highest-grossing original English-language film of the 2020s, and rose to become among the most profitable movies of all time, a near-unprecedented feat, especially for the horror genre. Perhaps just as striking as the box office numbers is the critical acclaim it’s received, garnering an aggregate score of 93% on the Rotten Tomatoes, 7.8 on IMDb, and 4.1 stars on Letterboxd, as well as notably entering the one million watched club within weeks of its release. So what’s the obsession behind “Obsession”? Was it a love only the branch of a willow tree could conjure, or just another trend? Spoilers and trigger warning ahead for those who haven’t yet seen it.

“Obsession” follows Baron “Bear” Bailey and coworkers Ian, Sarah, and Nikki. Bear is hopelessly and unrequitedly in love with Nikki, trying in vain to get her attention. Distraught after the death of his cat and growing



CREATIVE COMMONS

increasingly desperate for Nikki’s affection, Bear enters a seemingly normal crystal shop in order to replace a necklace she had broken, but instead buys the mysterious One ish Willow, a novelty knock-knack that promises to grant exactly one wish after being broken. After his attempts to romance Nikki fail embarrassingly, Bear breaks his One Wish Willow, wishing for Nikki to love him more than anyone in the world. However, in typical monkey’s paw fashion, the wording of this request proves disastrous. After a brief initial period of innocent romance, things quickly devolve into horror and chaos, as Nikki’s behavior grows increasingly erratic and disturbing.

Her lying about her father dying and relapsing into MDMA to guilt Bear into spending time with her, building a shrine using Bear’s dead cat (and later feeding him the cat’s body), watching him sleep, and brutally harming herself at a party all cause Sarah and Ian to grow worried about the uncanny nature of their relationship. It is revealed that Nikki’s consciousness has been forcefully hijacked by Bear’s wish, with the real Nikki forced to view and experience everything from behind her own eyes. In a brief moment of lucidity, she requests that Bear mercy-kill her, to which he refuses, whining that being with him can’t be that bad.

Sarah asks Bear to meet with her, and he sneaks out to talk with her about the situation. Sarah says that she is worried about Bear, concerned that Nikki is somehow taking advantage of him, and hints at her own personal feelings for him. However, before the conversation comes to an end, Nikki finds them and brutalizes Sarah in what is perhaps the most memorable and shocking scene in the film. At the end of his rope, Bear confesses the full truth to Ian, who doesn’t believe him. While Bear pleads with Ian to make a wish of his own to reverse his previous wish, Ian breaks his One Wish Willow, flippantly asking for a billion dollars. Much to Bear’s despair and horror, cash rains from the ceiling. Desperate to end their collective

suffering, Bear commits suicide as a horrified Nikki returns to her senses.

As Curry Barker’s second feature-length film after “Milk and Serial”, and first to receive a theatrical release, “Obsession” had its success driven by an immense word-of-mouth campaign and a majority Gen Z audience. Seen alongside the overperformance of A24’s “Backrooms”, “Obsession” demonstrates a renewed interest in original horror. Given the relatively simple premise and mostly predictable storyline, “Obsession” still manages to feel fresh and original, walking an incredibly fine line between comedy and psychological horror. The film is satisfyingly paced, not too much of a slow burn as to be boring, but certainly not rushed. The gore is used sparingly, yet disgusting enough to garner a reaction from even seasoned horror veterans. “Obsession”’s show-don’t-tell ethos provides a refreshing moviegoing experience, where new details can always be discerned on rewatch. Rather than devolving into a preachy, moralizing affair, the film allows the characters to develop naturally, as their traits emerge in an organic fashion, and the consequences of their actions feel wholly grounded in their characterization. Thematically, “Obsession” may rely too heavily on well-worn genre clichés; however, the film makes up for it with its overall originality and uniqueness.

Beyond its writing, the film was driven by the standout performances given by breakout stars Inde Navarette and Michael Johnston. Navarette delivers the best horror performance since Florence Pugh in Midsommar, perhaps even more daring. Of particular note is Barker’s use of reverse photography, making for some intensely creepy scenes when combined with Navarette’s natural talent for body horror and commitment to the role. Overall, while “Obsession” may not be a transcendent horror masterpiece alongside the likes of “The Shining,” “Onibaba” or “Silence of the Lambs,” its bone-chilling and deeply disturbing execution makes its success well earned.

Women’s Soccer Falls to Kalamazoo After Competitive First Half

By NORAH OWENS

Buccaneers Women’s Kalamazoo College Hornets. Calypso Ayoung’29 put the Bucs on the scoreboard in the ninth minute of the game with a beautiful goal



Kayla Wolff

assisted by freshman standout Grace Ramel’30. The Bucs played solidly throughout the first half, with possessions regularly alternating through both halves of the field. The Bucs offense struggled especially in the second half, with the only two corner kicks for Beloit coming in the first half. Beloit put up a total of seven shots on goal throughout the whole 90 minutes, with two close shots on target. The Hornets offense eventually dominated the Bucs, but Beloit’s defensive play kept the game as close as possible with good touches by Fianne Makela’29, Maggie Wood’30, and captain Zyana Turcios’28.

Notably, Kalamazoo took 17 corner kicks throughout the game, but only two of their four goals were off corners. Goalkeeper Sophia Dietz’29 battled especially hard, coming up with seven key saves for the Bucs in key moments in both the first and second halves. Mikayla Campbell’30 also showcased impressive versatility for the Bucs in the second half, transitioning from fielding and stepping into goal to cover for Dietz for the last 15 minutes of the game. She made the Bucs’ last two saves on the stat sheet. This year’s women’s soccer team is a young team on average, with no seniors on

the roster and five first years starting the field during the opener. They may have run out of gas in the second half, but as they learn to read each other throughout the rest of this season, their cohesive play can only continue to improve. It’s very promising that this year’s entire squad could all return together again next year. The future looks bright for this squad! Women’s soccer will be back in action at Strong Stadium on Thursday, Sept. 10 for an exciting game versus Rockford University.

Football Outlasts Rockford 14-12 for Their First Home Win Since 2023

By CIAN McKEOWN

Revenge is sweet. But victory is sweeter. On Sep. 3 at Strong Stadium, on a night that Bucs play-by-play announcer Matt Laszlo referred to as “muggy and buggy,” the Bucs football team cut through the humidity to defeat the Rockford University Regents 14-12, earning them the first win in the Battle of the Rock River and their first home victory since the 2023 season. The Bucs defense put up a sterling performance that began with the crunch of pads and ended with the splintering of wills. Beloit utilized their superior manpower by taking full advantage of the free substitution rule, plugging in a few new Bucs on each series to prevent injuries and fatigue. This created a relentless push akin to a snowplow powered by rocket fuel, tossing our Rock River counterparts out of its way like rag dolls. As it turns out, these new-look Bucs don’t mess around. One minute and nineteen

seconds on the clock, cowbells fall silent as the entire home and student sections stand on their tiptoes to see every inch of the play. The peach dusk has turned into a deep cobalt night. Fourth down and one yard to go. The Regents have no timeouts in their back pocket; they must convert. Under center, the man taking the snap is one Bucs fans know: last year’s woeful second-string quarterback Ben Parker. Parker announced via Instagram last spring that he was transferring to Rockford University after a 1-9 season with the Bucs in 2025. Many teammates and disciples of Bucs football were irked by Parker leaping off the ship and swimming across the river. After all, the Regents’ only win in 2025 was against Beloit College. Even in the insular world of Midwest Conference Football, a move like this is the definition of bulletin board material. However, to Parker’s credit, he had kept the Regents

in the game long enough to get possession of the ball at their own 44-yard line with 3:26 left in the game and only a 2-point deficit. After a short and attritional drive filled with runs up the middle, screens, and quarterback keepers, the Regents found themselves with a third down and five at the Bucs’ 40-yard line as the whistle blew for the two-minute warning. Parker took the snap and charged forth into the maw of the Bucs with every inch of his six-foot-two frame. A clutch tackle by Bucs linebacker Brayden Gonzalez’29 dragged Parker down short of the line to gain as the clock ran. The Regents called a timeout with 1:19 left in the ballgame. At this particular moment, the play-calling strategy of Rockford U’s offensive coordinator resembled your little brother playing Madden. If you gain yards on a play, simply run it again. This time, instead of

gaining four yards, Parker was met behind the line of scrimmage by a grits blitz-esque posse of bull-rushing Bucs, driven back before he could even step forward. What followed was a millisecond of stunned silence, followed closely by an eruption. Tears were shed in the press box, and a new crop of Bucs football fans finally got a proper introduction for the first time since 2023; a plethora of Beloit gridiron greats of yore, watching from the home section, saw that this

team could finally win again. Car horns blared in the grass parking lot of Strong Stadium, and cries of victory rang out up and down Chapin Street as fans made the pilgrimage back to their cars, homes, or dorms. As it turns out, this euphoric release owed just as much to the victory as it did to the smash-mouth intensity and wire-to-wire tightness that typified the game.

Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu



Cian McKeown’27

Men’s Soccer Take a Tough Loss in Home Opener Against Trine

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

The men’s soccer team took on Trine University on a cloudy Saturday at Strong Stadium last week. The game saw a standout performance from goalkeeper David Staats’28, and a team that refused to go down without a fight. The first half was mainly spent on Beloit’s side of the pitch, but the Bucs defense held strong, with Marco Jijon’29 preventing an early Trine goal in the tenth minute. This was

followed by two incredible saves from goalkeeper Staats, who flattened out, grabbing a ball straight out of the top corner for what many thought was a sure goal. Jijon wasn’t the only defender who was committed, with Hunter Nelson’28 putting up a good block toward the end of the first half. Unfortunately for Beloit, an error proved to be costly when the Thunder took advantage of an open net in

the 34th minute, making the score 1-0. This did not deter the fighting Bucs, who put up two more shots before the half finished. With the second half underway, Beloit’s mission was clear, and it reflected in their play, with the team taking 12 shots throughout the half. The second half had its struggles, including an exciting three goal line clearances from Beloit’s defense. Despite the

Bucs’ best efforts, Trine closed the door with a second goal in the dying moments of the game, ending in a 2-0 loss for Beloit. Though this wasn’t the result they hoped for, the team still feels optimistic. “I feel like there are a lot of things we learned,” said midfielder Diego Escobar’30. “[T]owards the end, there were like five freshmen on the field, and it really shows that this team

has a lot of potential.” Striker Pearce St. John echoed Escobar’s sentiment. “I feel like we just got really unlucky. If we can put them away next time, it should be a different result.” You can catch the Bucs at their next home game on Sept. 13 vs. Lakeland University at 1 p.m. at Strong Stadium.

Top 5 NHL Preseason Cup Contenders

By SAM NEUBAUER

With the NHL season just a few weeks away, some fans might be wondering which teams are the ones to watch this year. Last NHL season was a roller coaster, with six new teams making the playoffs, as well as one of the tightest division races in NHL history, and the back-to-back cup champs missing the playoffs — so who’s to say this season won’t be the same? Look no further, because I’m here to tell you which teams you should keep your ears and eyes on this entire upcoming NHL season.



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Honorable Mention: The Minnesota Wild This team is always looking really good during the regular season, only to fall apart during the playoffs; however, I think this could be the year the Wild go on a run. After trading for Quinn Hughes mid-season last year, sending shock waves through the NHL world, the Wild have looked like a different team. Forward Kirill Kaprizov coming off nearly a 50 goal season (45 goals, 89 points) still looks like a goal-scoring powerhouse that teams need to shut down. On

top of Kaprizov, the Wild have a strong power forward in Matt Boldy, who is also coming off an amazing season (42 goals, 43 points). The only thing this team truly lacks is a number one center, with Joel Eriksson Ek stepping up to fill that position, but having to battle injuries, missing the entire second round against the Colorado Avalanche in these past playoffs. If this team can secure a true number one center, they could easily be in the final, going for the throat of other teams. 5. The Buffalo Sabres After all the years of mediocrity and missing the playoffs, last season the Sabres won their division as well as dominating the Bruins and falling in overtime in game seven to the Montreal Canadians. This team is extremely inexperienced, but they played as though the complete opposite. Captain Rasmus Dahlin finished third in Norris voting, with many fans arguing he should have

won over Columbus’s Zach Werenski. The only downside of this team is its goaltending, being very questionable at times and streaky, having traded what could have been a future starter in Devon Levi to the Edmonton Oilers, opting to run with Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen and Alex Lyon, who both looked decent in playoffs. If this team can get consistent goaltending, they will be finding themselves in the cup final yet again. 4. The Montreal Canadians The Montreal Canadians are a fairly young team, but still made it deep in the playoffs, falling to the eventual cup champions, the Carolina Hurricanes, in five games. This team has everything needed to win a cup except for experience. They have a powerful first line with a 50 goal scorer in Cole Caulfield; the reigning Selke winner in Nick Suzuki; a former first overall pick, budding

into a star in Juraj Slavkovský; a strong top defensive pairing in Noah Dobson; and Lane Hutson, along with a budding goalie in Jakub Dobeš, who looks like the successor to Carey Price. This team is poised to go on yet another deep run, whether it’s this season or next. 3. The Florida Panthers Last season was a massive fluke for this team, going from winning back-to-back cups to finishing in a lottery position. This team is poised to win now, trading for former Ottawa Senators captain, Brady Tkachuk, who will be joining his brother, two-time cup champion Matthew Tkachuk. Last season, the Panthers lost their captain, Aleksander Barkov, to a practice injury for the entire season, letting the team completely unravel.

Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu

Athletes of the Week

Noah Carrasco’30
Football



Calypso Ayoung’29
Women’s Soccer



Resist and Persist

By JAZMIN GOMEZ

When Security alerts the entire campus community of a hate crime committed inside of a signature campus space by describing the offense as “race-related graffiti,” the temptation to minimize the crime feels like an immediate reaction, especially due to the anonymity of the crime and lack of physical harm. However, faceless acts of racist vandalism are not victimless crimes– they send messages of intimidation that can amplify fear and create feelings of ambient hate. The uncertainty allows certain questions to linger: Who did it and will it happen again?

Security confirmed and reported the crime on Aug. 24 to campus as a community alert email. Eric Shalow, the Safety and Security Director, wrote “there was race-related graffiti which contained only the uncensored N-word written in all capital letters on the wall of the podcast room on the 3rd floor of Pearsons Hall with what looked like blue marker.” The investigation later confirmed the message was written with a paint marker.

Shalow’s standardized email intended to offer the raw facts of the

situation as the initial alert of the crime to the community. Ron Watson, the Dean of Students, sent another StuAlert email later that day that acknowledged the incident as a hate crime and encouraged resiliency. Communication in investigations, especially for crimes where harm becomes intentional, is critical for easing fears among the community. Yet, with no person to hold responsible, justice seems elusive.

The anonymity and intangibility of faceless hate crimes, paradoxically, visibly exclude the targeted marginalized group. With no face to blame, the focus shifts onto the targeted group, which further pushes the intended harmful narrative.

This is not just graffiti. This is an act of cowardice. This is a crime of hate. Do not minimize these violent acts of racism, but do not allow the faceless to become every face. Although this crime created uncertainty within the community, campus support systems stand strong and ready to aid students. As Ron Watson stated, “We remain resilient, unbroken, and ready to stand and care for one another, as all Beloiters should.”

Ich bin ein Beloit

By DEMIR KASAPOGLU

“Wait, so where is that?” “Deloit?” “Why are you actually in Wisconsin?” These are all real things I’ve heard after introducing myself in Berlin.

With a vast majority of students coming from larger state schools, coming to Berlin was, to say the least, nerve-racking. I was far from home, the people I knew, and outside of my comfort zone in general. I mean, I don’t speak much German outside of basic introductory sentences, so there was going to be a large learning curve.

Possibly the biggest challenge was introducing where I’m from. The FU-BEST program, the direct enrollment program that Beloit College has with Freie Universität Berlin, is 95% American. Even though I was surrounded by Americans, I only met one person who had heard of Beloit– a Wisconsinite from Madison.

These conversations with new friends have been a reality check for me, making me even happier for being a Beloit. I’ve spoken highly of Beloit, giving my friends an impression of a school that is close and personal.

I asked a few friends what Beloit sounded like to them after two weeks of me hyping the college up. Anson

everyone knows each other.” Jared Munguia from Rutgers University told me something he liked about



Demir Kasapoglu '28

Hacey from University of Kansas said it “seems like Beloit is a pretty tight-knit community that almost

Beloit is “the smaller classroom sizes,” because “you kind of have a more personal relationship with

a professor.”

In my view, both of them were right in their takeaways. I’m sure when I come back in spring I’ll see a bunch of new faces, but it’ll still be the campus I left in May.

Other students talk about how hard it is to get into their frat parties in their schools of 50,000+ students or about sitting in lectures of hundreds of people where there is no interaction with professors.

Ruby Schober-Colburn ‘27 from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill told me that Beloit sounds great as a small school; however, “while you can form close connections, it may be a little trickier to broaden your circle. If there is a conflict it’s a lot harder to step away from it since everything is so tight-knit.”

Over the past two-ish weeks I’ve come to appreciate Beloit more, as an unknown rough-around-the-edges gem that is near to my heart. For the students who plan on studying abroad, a surprising aspect you might not expect is that you begin to appreciate Beloit far more when you’re away from it than when you are on campus.

Yes, People Still Suck

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE

Everyone should, at some point in their life, work in customer service. That’s what they all say, right?

I don’t disagree with this. Customer service does make you inherently kinder to people, more patient, and overall, more adept at dealing with people’s stupidity.

However, I would not recommend doing so in the era of the literacy crises. Because oh my God, do I have nightmare stories from this summer. From theft accusations, getting yelled at and insulted by customers, having my boss give me a couple of ‘you cannot be serious right now’ looks, to getting a few phone calls from upper management, I’ve endured it all.

To be completely fair, I did work in a very high-stakes environment. I worked at a bank, which was also a DMV, and no one wants to have to deal with either of those individually, let alone together. But you would think that people would be prepared to deal with the rules and regulations of an establishment like this. You would think wrong.

Take, for example, the simple act of signing a document. For the majority of my life, I went around thinking that if you handed people a document that said “sign here,” they would know what to do. This summer I learned that sign here is apparently more of a suggestion than an instruction. No matter how many highlighters I went through or how many Xs I drew, customers did not understand and signed anywhere else but where I needed them to. That is, if they did not refuse to sign the documents altogether.

As frustrating as it was, I think I understood that it wasn’t an issue of not being able to follow instructions, it was just entitled thinking. It’s not that customers didn’t understand the paperwork, it’s that they expected someone

else to deal with the consequences of their not understanding it. That person being me, of course. I was not having it.

Then there are the people who love to create problems where there aren’t any. To provide context, I worked in a Hispanic environment. Every single one of my coworkers either grew up speaking Spanish, or learned how to speak it because of our job. Being bilingual is a requirement. As a result, I would often forget which language I was speaking in, and customers and I would end up laughing about it together.

It was never a problem until someone made it one. In the middle of a conversation with this lady, I got distracted and started talking to her in Spanish. I’ve never seen anyone be as offended as she was. The funny thing about that is that she’s Mexican and bilingual; I’ve heard her speak Spanish before. There is apparently a very thin line between a customer having a problem and a customer deciding to have one. I was very confused.

However, the most unbelievable thing that happened to me during my job was being accused of theft.

I’ll admit at the beginning of my summer, I could see how this might happen. I’m not the best at math, and I was constantly counting money; safe to say, it was not easy to train me.

I did get better, so it was so surprising when halfway through my day, I picked up a call from a customer that had come in an hour prior. It was equally as surprising when he started yelling at me accusing me of stealing a single dollar from him.

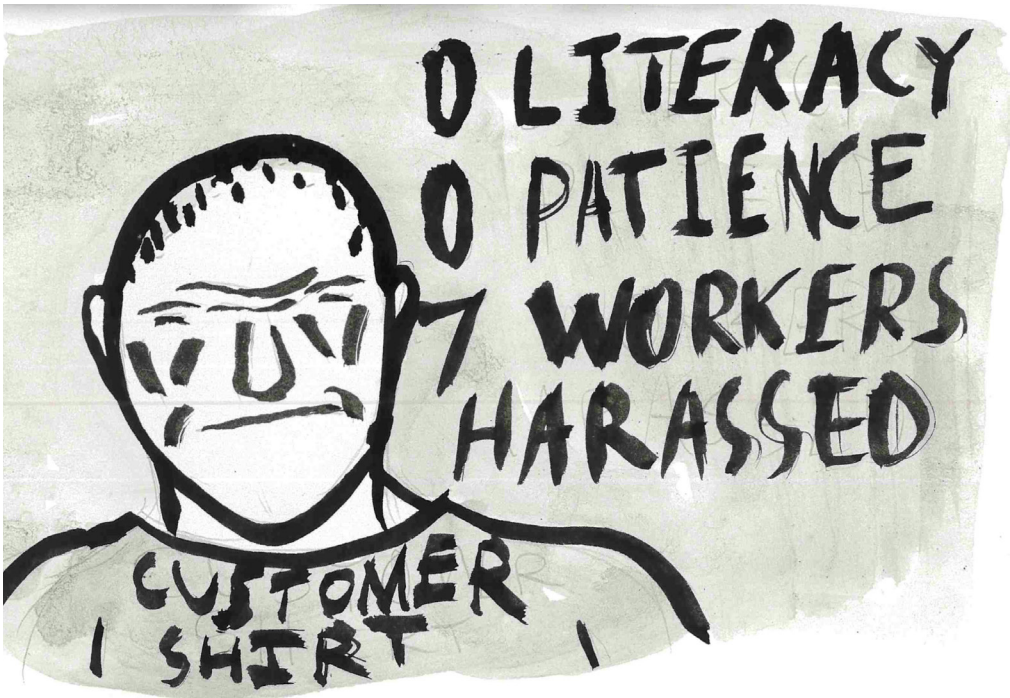
It was ridiculous and, more importantly, something my manager could deal with. So, I told the customer I was getting my manager, I put him on hold, and he hung up. Approximately thirty

minutes later, this customer calls again, and when my coworker answers, he not only accuses me again of stealing a dollar from him, but of hanging up on him. In an attempt to calm him down, my coworkers say, “I do that all the time”— which is blasphemy— and that it’s not a big deal, he can come back to the building and we’ll give him his dollar. He never came.

And yet, somehow, my favorite customer had to be this old guy who came in and pretended he didn’t understand a single thing I did or said. He would come in, make eye contact with me, hold it, and whether I signaled him or started yelling “next customer,” he would not budge. Instead, after a couple minutes, he would approach me and then start yelling at me. He was not very nice. He always came in for the same thing, but wouldn’t

be prepared any time he came to give me the information I needed from him. Throughout the summer, I tried to keep my professionalism intact, no matter how much it tended to waiver. With him, it was just impossible. However, I grew to like him more when at the end of my summer, he did understand that I did not like him very much, and started avoiding me as if I wasn’t there.

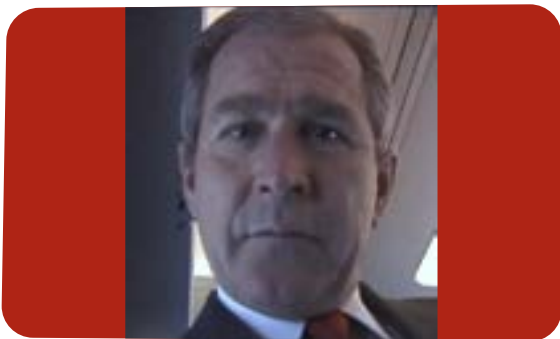
Overall, what I took away from this summer is that the customer is never right, at least not on my shift. I’m glad I worked in customer service. It did make me kinder, and more patient, as much as it tested my limits every billable hour. At the end of the day, after dealing with all those customers, I was always glad that only one of us was getting paid for wasting my time, and it ain’t them.



Betty Cavicchia '28

ROUND TABLE: WE GOT BUSH

HOROSCOPES



Aries

A future president will give ur child a kiss

Taurus

Check your driveway. You might have a Ford.

Gemini

Good luck will come your way if you can just

Cancer

Cancer? I hardly know her! Avoid direct sunlight tho lowkey.

Leo

-nardo is the best ninja turtle but ik u like mike.

Virgo

Beware visiting spirits between 1 and 2pm. Like deadass.

Libra

Don't underestimate that goat-headed bastard. Nightreign fans know what I'm talking about!

Scorpio

Good news! You may just make it through the week without being a total dick!

Sagittarius

I'm deeply in love with you.

Capricorn

That paper ain't getting done. All bets are off at this point so don't even stress.

Aquarius

Let the sunshine.

Let the sunshine in. The sunshine in.

Pisces

Someone you despise will make your day so BE READY BUDDY!

