

The Round Table

coming to golf but not to pitch meetings since 1853

VOL. CCXXIX, NO. 4 Tuesday, September 29, 2026 roundtable.beloit.edu

“It’s Pretty Much Voting Yes on Everything” Academic Senate and Student Representation

NEWS

By CIAN McKEOWN

On Sept. 16, Beloit College’s faculty, administrative members, and student representatives gathered in Richardson Auditorium in Morse-Ingersoll Hall for the inaugural Academic Senate meeting of the 2026-27 academic year. Per the Beloit College website, the duty of Beloit College’s Academic Senate is to carry and direct responsibility for the academic program of Beloit College.

Before the meeting, a letter from the Office of the Provost and Dean of the College and addressed to “Round Table Representative” was left in the hall leading to Richardson Auditorium next to the meeting’s sign-in sheet. The letter thanked *The Round Table* for its “interest in the proceedings of Academic Senate” and offered a “heads up” regarding “a few guidelines” that the letter claims have been included in the college’s Administrative Policy Manual since 2015.

The section which the letter highlighted with a red border was from Chapter VIII section H, titled “Reports of Academic Senate Proceedings.” It detailed that a representative from *The Round Table* is conditionally allowed to report on Senate proceedings and have one reporter present at the monthly senate meetings. The manual says that, “considering the responsibility and possible legal liability which such a privilege entails,” quotations or paraphrased quotations from Academic Senate members may only be used if the from individual senators may only be used “if the text has been approved for accuracy by the person being quoted.” Another stipulation offered by section H says that, “any published report shall be signed by the reporter.” Section G, titled “Confidential Nature of Action,” was also cited in the letter. It states that faculty deliberations — though not the decision-making process of the Academic Senate — are confidential, and not to be discussed except between members. The actions of faculty and Academic Senate should only be announced by “the proper officer,” typically the provost. Section G ends by providing an exception for the confidentiality clause, noted in the aforementioned section H.

The meeting itself lauded advancements from the School of Health Sciences, and included remarks from President Eric Boynton emphasizing the need for a unified direction for the college over the next five to ten years. The senate also voted on course cuts and course changes, notably the elimination of the French and Francophone Studies major and minor. President Boynton’s speech included the introduction of the college’s new Human Resources director, Michael

Meteyard’97. When speaking about Meteyard, President Boynton remarked that among his qualifications were “navigating complex union negotiations.” President Boynton then promoted the at-the-time-upcoming Beloit Days and compared the expected attendance with previous years, calling the increase compared to previous years “mind-blowing. [The increased Beloit Days turnout] is not unrelated to the kind of momentum we’re seeing on the fundraising side,” Boynton said.

All Beloit College faculty are required to attend the monthly Academic Senate meetings, although not all do, and the voting body typically consists of eight student senators (two from each graduating class) and the Beloit Student Government — or BSG — president. At this meeting, owing to ballots for the election of new student senators still being open, the only student representatives present were BSG President Journey Beier’28 and a reporter from *The Round Table*.

Student voting for new academic senators closed on Sept. 21, and winners, along with the voter turnout from each class year, were announced via a message in a student digest email on Sept. 25 from Associate Dean of Students Jessica Fox-Wilson on behalf of the Dean of Students’ Office. Fox-Wilson stated that the eight new voting members of Beloit College’s Academic Senate are Haily Atkinson’27, Jake Fein’27, Annika Carrasco’28, Valeria Samaniego’28, Najeebah Junaid’29, Ava Tedesco’29, Zoe Cheng’30, and Anjali Gupta’30. The results Fox-Wilson shared indicate that no

class year exceeded a 40% rate of voter turnout, with the highest participation rate coming from the class of 2027 at 38%. The classes of 2028 and 2030 recorded a 24% turnout, while the class of 2029 saw 30%. Fox-Wilson explained her reasoning for sharing the turnout rates, saying in the message that she did so to demonstrate the importance of student participation, adding that, “Academic Senators represent [student] voices to faculty, staff, and administration, and every vote helps make that representation stronger.”

The Round Table spoke with BSG President Journey Beier’28, who reflected on the importance of student representation at the Academic Senate. “It is important to have students there,” they said. Beier also “That kind of holds them accountable in one way. People will know who those people are that they are voting with or without.” Beier stressed the crucial nature of communication during a fraught time for Beloit College’s campus, especially between faculty, administration, and BSG.

Despite the value of student representation, Beier acknowledges the limited power of student representatives within Academic Senate. With nine student voting members including themselves, Beier said that they have not experienced a Senate meeting in the past academic year where students have influenced concrete policy changes. “I’ve never really seen a point in time where it hasn’t just been ‘we’re voting on this thing that’s going to happen anyway, push it along,’” Beier said. This experience is

mirrored in the five Senate committees on which student representatives are allowed membership, where student concerns can be overruled or outvoted by faculty members or committee chairs. There is also a limit of two student members per senate committee. Matters for action voted on by the Academic Senate are predeliberated on by these committees, or at the All-Faculty meetings that occur monthly and which students are prohibited from attending. Additionally, Chapter VIII of Beloit College’s Administrative Policy Manual states that any “major” legislation voted on by the Academic Senate is “subject to the final jurisdiction of the board of trustees.” This means that the work of faculty and student voting members and committee members can be overridden if deemed necessary by the board.

“Having students just at academic senate meetings, where it’s pretty much voting yes on everything, isn’t really going to make any feasible change,” said Beier.

One of the main student concerns regarding the housing cost increase announced last spring was a lack of clear communication between administration, faculty, and student representatives. Student concerns surrounding the housing policy were not fielded in Senate last spring until student senator Margarite Richardson’27 posed a question regarding accessibility in relation to cost increases.

A possible solution which BSG and others have discussed would be designating a regular platform for an update on student affairs from a student senator or BSG member along the lines of the updates given about admissions, athletics, and other topics by faculty or administration in every Academic Senate meeting. Beier also expressed the importance of BSG being more visible and the campus community knowing what actions are being taken. There is also the issue of many students who are elected to be senators failing to fully understand the importance of the duties with which they have been entrusted. “I know a lot of students I’ve talked to literally don’t know what they do,” Beier said.

Beier believes Academic Senate could provide a conduit for increased transparency and accountability between all levels of the college. “I genuinely think that having the communication and having people that can tell their friends, and their clubs, and other people about what is going on is incredibly important,” they said.

The Round Table *strives to provide accurate, timely and respectful coverage of campus news and events.*



Cian McKeown’27

Is Radio Rebel Better Than The Dark Knight ?

OP-ED
By ROMINA PALOMEQUE and TIGERLILY POWERS

There are a lot of things you expect from a movie about a billionaire vigilante: crime, corruption, explosions, otherworldly villains. What you probably don’t expect, though, is a teenage girl with a secret identity, a fedora, and an excessive amount of high school emotional turmoil. And yet, somehow, “Radio Rebel” can easily compare to that iconic superhero film.

You see, “Radio Rebel” and “The Dark Knight” have a lot more in common than you would think. Both follow characters with secret identities who are trying to figure out who they are, deal with the expectations placed on them, and find their way through a world that seems hellbent on making things difficult for them.

But while “The Dark Knight” has Gotham, “Radio Rebel” has high school. While Batman has the Joker, Tara has a principal who doesn’t really like her radio show. And while Christopher Nolan gave us one of the most critically acclaimed superhero movies of all time, Disney gave us a sideways beanie.

So, obviously, we have to ask: Is “Radio Rebel” better than “The Dark Knight?”

Our first point of judgment is the acting itself.

While many may say the role of the Joker was Heath Ledger’s best performance, it simply cannot top the iconic Debby Ryan smirk. It simply cannot be recreated. The Joker may have terrified an entire city, but Tara Adams only needed one look to convey every emotion known to man: confusion, fear, determination, and the occasional flirt. The smirk does it all. In “The Dark Knight,” Heath Ledger had an entire script to portray his character. Debby Ryan had a facial expression, and somehow, she made it work.

Next, we have fashion. Anyone can find a Batman or Joker costume. What people can’t recreate are the bold and immersive fashion statements made in “Radio Rebel.” This movie stands as an ode to early 2010s fashion. Can Batman say the same? From the fedoras worn by every character to the mismatched patterns, every outfit is a statement. Each character in “Radio Rebel” had a signature accessory that added to the layers of their personality. Take the sideways beanie Tara always wore. It wasn’t just a hat, but an expression. An ode, some might say.

Now, when it comes to the soundtrack, it can be difficult to decide who’s best. Hans Zimmer is one of



Betty Cavicchia’28

the most talented musical composers in the movie industry. However, only one of these movies gave us the heavenly song that is “We So Fly” by The GGGGs. Don’t get us wrong, Hans Zimmer gave us an iconic theme that perfectly captures the darkness and intensity of “The Dark Knight.” But can it make you feel like you’re about to walk into a high school hallway in a sideways beanie and change the entire social hierarchy? I don’t think so.

“We So Fly” has everything a movie needs. It has energy, it has emotion, and most importantly, it has the ability to make

you forget that you’re watching a Disney Channel Original Movie. Hans Zimmer may have composed some of the biggest films in Hollywood, but he simply doesn’t have what it takes to compete with The GGGGs.

The climax is the most important part of a movie. It’s where all the action happens and what draws the attention in. Following the journey of discovering who Radio Rebel is was an immersive experience. My eyes were locked to my TV. The anticipation built with every minute that passed.

And then came the infamous “Morp.” The reveal. The chanting.

The collective realization that Radio Rebel was among them, easily overlooked by them, the entire time. I was clutching my pearls the entire time. Christopher Nolan may have given us Gotham City, but “Radio Rebel” gave us high school prom and somehow made it feel like the fate of the world depended on it. The movie ended with the collective chanting of “No, I’m Radio Rebel.” It was the perfect ending and, honestly, it brought tears to my eyes.

The truth is, “Radio Rebel” raised a generation. The cultural impact of this movie is so significant, and its relevance has resurged on TikTok. This generation will never be able to forget the smirk, the intense love story, the unforgettable soundtrack, and, of course, the sideways beanie.

At the end of the day, “The Dark Knight” may have won awards, changed the superhero genre, and made Christopher Nolan a household name. But did Batman ever wear a fedora? Did the Joker give us “We So Fly?” Did Gotham City ever experience “Morp?”

I think we all know who really won.

FIN

Round Table

The Round Table provides a balanced and 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.

September 29, 2026
Volume 229, Number 4

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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.

College Announces New Pricing Guarantee for Incoming Students

By VIVIAN KOPKA

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, Beloit College announced their All-In Pricing Guarantee on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The guarantee ensures that incoming students will pay no more than \$30,000 for tuition and room and board. The guarantee covers “domestic and international, first-year and transfer” students entering in the next academic year, according to the Beloit College website. \$30,000 is not the baseline tuition and room and board cost, but it is the maximum total cost after scholarships and grants are applied. With the comprehensive cost at \$77,532, this means each incoming student will get at least \$47,532 in scholarships and grants. “The All-In Pricing Guarantee is accomplished entirely through gift aid and does not include loans or work study,” says the Beloit College website, although the eligible student is still required to apply for financial aid. Domestic students must file the FAFSA to be eligible, and international students must either “file the Beloit College

International Student Financial Aid Application, the CSS Profile, or the International ACAC International Student Financial Aid Application,” according to the website. Many individuals — alumni, parents, and community members — have raised concerns in the comment sections on Beloit College’s Instagram and Facebook posts about the guarantee. Many were concerned with how the totals of current students would add up to incoming students. Beloit College responded to one such comment, saying “average costs for the vast majority of our continuing students are already under \$30k per year; many pay less than \$15k after all financial aid.” Data from U.S. News also suggests something similar based on a sticker price of \$77,748: the average student receiving need-based aid pays \$29,828.* The introduction of the pricing initiative on the website brings another change. The “Regional Tuition Programs” page, formerly nested under the “Tuition & Aid” sidebar, no



Beloit College

longer exists. The regional programs — The Beloit College Commitment and the Midwest Flagship Match — guaranteed automatic admission for students with a minimum 3.0 GPA who resided or attended high schools in the eight counties closest to Beloit

(including Rock County itself) and price-matching tuition for their respective flagship school. The Beloit College Commitment still stands. A new page under the Apply page, titled Regional Admission Program, states that Beloit College still guarantees eligible students admission to the school. Instead of a flagship match, though, the page highlights the new All-In Guarantee, which puts “the cost of attendance at Beloit on par with Wisconsin and Illinois state flagship universities.” The \$30,000 commitment isn’t far off from the 2025-26 flagship match, where eligible Illinois residents were guaranteed a maximum net cost of \$29,812, and eligible Wisconsin residents were guaranteed a maximum cost of \$26,113. *Note that the data provided ranges from 2023-25 (\$77,532 is the 2027-28 sticker price).



Beloit College

Fall 2026 Involvement Fair

By ALANNA SULARZ

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, a wide array of Beloit College’s clubs and organizations gathered in the Powerhouse from 12:30-1:30 p.m. to encourage students to get involved in events on campus. The Involvement Fair is organized at the start of each semester by Student Engagement and Leadership to foster community, bringing students together and encouraging them to pursue their interests. Clubs who register to be in the Involvement Fair also get the chance to recruit new members and interact with one another. Club booths stretched throughout the first floor, with tables lined up from the left side of the Weissberg Auditorium down towards the Riverside Lounge, ending at the Spirit Shop. Each booth showcased unique eye-catching embellishments, including poster boards and artwork. Some clubs asked relevant trivia questions for passersby to earn prizes, while others offered free merchandise and candy. Every table strived to communicate key information about club activities and raise awareness about upcoming events, many showcasing posters that will be hung around campus and offering sign-ups for email lists in order to send out regular updates to those interested.

The Involvement Fair allows students to branch out their interests and interact with each other, and helps clubs to find and welcome new members. The next fair

will take place in the spring semester, but students can opt to participate in activities any time throughout the year, which will be noted in the campus events calendar.

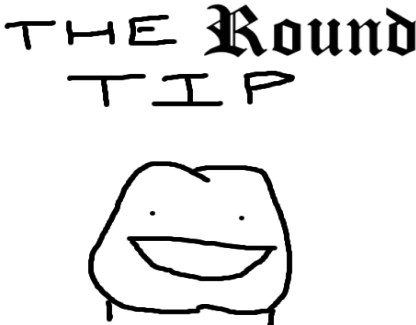


Alanna Sularz’30

The Round Table WANTS YOUR TIP



Do you have the next big story? Want to share it with The Round Table? Give us your tip at roundtable.beloit.edu under “SUBMIT A TIP” right immediately now!!!!!!



Speculating or having a hunch does not rise to the level of a tip. A good news tip should articulate a clear and understandable issue or problem with real-world consequences. Be specific. Please do not send feedback, story ideas, pitches or press releases through these channels (you can always send a “Letter to the Editors”). If you do not want to provide your email, please outline a way for us to contact you in the message. The Round Table really wants your tip but we will not, in fact, take you to dinner first.

A Week of Team-Building With Ousley Scholar Jasmine Nears

By ALEX CAMBOURIS and ETHAN COOPER

This year’s Ousley Scholar-in-Residence, Beloit Alum Jasmine Nears’09, led a panel discussion in Moore Lounge Wednesday, Sept. 23, followed the next day by a Keynote address at 7:00 p.m. in the Weissberg Theater. Nears is presently serving as Chief of Staff at America Votes, a national organization working with over 400 organizations across the U.S with the mandate to increase access to voting rights and civic engagement. She has been involved in some of the most important elections in recent history, coordinating strategies and building coalitions. At both events, she gathered students and staff together to discuss the state of our nation and the future of democracy. Nears believes that thoughtful engagement and fair deliberation are the keys to a healthy democracy. She stresses the importance that democracy is a team effort, and a task that can be exercised daily, using the proper methods. History is fluctuating, and Nears believes we must meet people’s needs, and grow our community in order to secure a more perfect future.

After Beloit, Nears got her Masters degree in Public Administration at NYU, and joined Everytown for Gun Safety, before eventually joining

America Votes, where she has continued to work for eight years. She notes how important it was for everyone to understand each other’s needs, especially when surrounded by so many experienced and passionate people. This sentiment was echoed at the panel, where civic discussion took place with these thoughts in mind.

The panel, titled “Paths to Power: The Future of American Democracy”, was joined by Political science faculty Gregory Koutnik and Klara Fredriksson, as well as state senator Mark Spreitzer of Senate District 15, encompassing Beloit and Janesville, and Sam Liebert, the Wisconsin state director of voter advocacy organization All Voting is Local.

Nears moderated the panel, asking questions such as “How do you see yourself as candidates, but also practitioners in civil society, how organizations are really adapting to the changes that are already taking place to make sure that there’s an increase in civic participation?” The panelists each gave insightful answers, all lending toward their specific fields of expertise. Professor Koutnik, with his background in political theory, deliberated on the meaning of coalition building, and why people stand behind

certain ideals. Mark Spreitzer discussed his experience as state senator, using it as a backdrop for his answers. Professor Fredriksson cited empirical data and historical lessons, and Liebert deliberated through his experience as a non-profit advocate. All agreed that we lived in a turning point in history, and that things can only get worse if we don’t ask the difficult questions and work with the right people. She and the panelists agreed that local governments can become “sleepy” as Spreitzer said, but there are certain issues that spur people into action. One example given at the panel was data centers, as we see more people than ever feel the need to speak out. In many ways, such issues bring people closer together.

The panel covered a wide range of topics, from money in politics to misinformation. Frederiksson discussed the reconstruction era, noting how ...“it was a real period of huge expansion of enfranchisement rates for black men... suddenly, we see thousands [of black men] running for office in the South, which for the generation before would have been impossible...and we see a very quick reversal of this as soon as the north pulls out.” She notes this in reference to democratic backsliding in American history, drawing parallels between historical moments and the present. Students, faculty, and alumni also asked questions for the panelists. May Zaw’27, asks “How do you, in your classrooms, your office, and your organizations, create safe environments, so communities who are most vulnerable feel empowered? How do you get them to open up and to have these sorts of safe conversations with you guys?” Sam Liebert and Jasmine Nears both voiced the importance of meeting people face to face, and how achieving daily functions like childcare and grocery access can encourage people to participate in their community.

This sentiment was echoed at Nears’ keynote as well. “I want to innovate. I want to prove things. I want to test assumptions, and make sure good policy actually has the impact that’s intended.” She eventually entered the field of lobbying, where she raised funds and advocated for her cause. She sought out “the right levels of influence” to make drastic changes to



Beloit College the legislature, but soon wished for more direct ways to make a change. “You can have all the great ideas in the world, but without the right champions in office, you can’t get too far,” Nears said. Thus, she started her journey into electoral politics.

Nears also notes how politics and cultural values can swing like a pendulum, and there are moments of rapid progress, as well as rapid fallbacks. “The fight for a more perfect union has never moved in a straight line. It’s always swinging back and forth.” Over half of the U. S. have different forms of voting restrictions and laws like the SAVE act add further restrictions. America Votes voices their chief concern: that the voter turnout is far too low, and only getting lower. Over 40% of eligible adults did not vote in 2024, a massive group that America Votes hopes to reach. Nears expresses concern about how unaware people are about the impact they can make, and wishes to show how proactive coalition building and advocacy can make a drastic difference.

If you are interested in further information on Jasmine Nears and her work, stay tuned next week for an exclusive interview.



Alex Cambouris’27

Annual Security and Fire Safety Report- 2026

By CLAIRE WINTER

On Sept. 25, Beloit College sent out an email to all students containing the annual Clery Act 2026 Annual Security Report, Fire Safety Report, and Campus Hazing Transparency Report. This report contains all reported security incidents, as well as statistics about fire safety (i.e. alarms, reported fires, fire damage, etc.) and all reported hazing incidents that occurred on campus in 2025. Any reports from this school year are not included.

In the 2025 school year, there was one reported case of on-campus rape, three drug-related arrests on college property, two weapons possession arrests, eight on-campus drug-related referrals*, eight on-campus liquor-related referrals, two reported cases of dating violence, and one reported case of stalking.

Several of these statistics- particularly drug and liquor-related referrals- have significantly decreased from 2023 and 2024 statistics, according to the report.

As far as fires go, there was one fire in 2025, in Emerson Hall. The listed cause was cooking, and there was \$0 listed in the value of fire-related property damage.

Additionally, new Overdose Aid Kits (OAKs) were added to campus this year. These boxes contain naloxone (brand name Narcan) to aid with potential overdoses and are not monitored by security “to promote any community member to take the free naloxone or overdose informational materials inside”. There are three OAKs on campus, which can be found in the Pearsons basement, the first floor of Porter

Hall, and in the Powerhouse outside of the Health and Wellness Center.

*A referral is defined in the 2026 Report as an instance wherein “the Adjudicator may refer the student(s) to another person or department within the College or select professionals, agencies or programs outside of the College.” According to the report, a “student may be referred to a local or student-selected physician, an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) program, or a mental health professional or other program or professional as part of the disciplinary sanction and/or as a condition of remaining on or returning to campus.”



Betty Cavicchia’28

El Nino and Our Collective Climate

By INDRAYUDH SINHA

From our apartment in Calcutta, a nightly drizzle is a beautiful sight. As a boy, I would tiptoe in the middle of the night to our wide balcony facing the planned line of true palms by the concrete pathway of the complex, gaze at the lamplight reflected in the rainwater and close my eyes while the cool winds traced my face. Growing up in the East Indian metropolis, the Asian monsoon was an inescapable element. Prospects of an evening of outdoor sport would be refuted by a sudden, aggressing cumulonimbus, like an imposing bully taking over the playground, or the lazy inability of a school morning would receive a torrential consensus.

Our lives in the city — its gated apartment complexes, its concrete pathways, peached roads, its very urban facade — is built upon layers and layers of sedimented alluvial soil. The Asian monsoon, now an inextricable element of the landscape, was its earliest, most formative element; in the recession of the Ice Age, melting glaciers gave rise to a tremendous summer monsoon, eroding and pushing down billions of tons of sediment all the way from the rising Himalayas to the Bay of the Bengal, laying the foundation for what eventually became the Bengal Delta, now politically split between East India and Bangladesh.

As the Himalayas rose they developed into the boundary wall of the Indian subcontinent, trapping winds from the Indian Ocean, pushing warm, moist air upwards, creating the summer monsoon.

On the first Wednesday of September, my father sent me a video from Calcutta. The short, forty second clip showed our balcony flooded, and the concrete pathway in knee-deep water. Sudden, torrential bursts of rain after a parched month had inundated the city and its littoral margins. Erratic

spells of extreme weather activity were threatening the economy of the region.

The economic historian Tirthankar Roy compared the resourcefulness of the monsoon to that of fossil fuels in the Industrial Revolution; likewise the German sociologist Karl Wittfogel had conceptualised, albeit erroneously, societies in the Indian subcontinent as having had historical top-down institutions because of the bureaucratic management of water as a resource, which, Roy shows, became increasingly scarce the more it was channeled into dams, reservoirs and canals to be an accessible resource for everyone. The historian Sunil Amrith depicted this eloquently in his essay on the Asian Monsoon, focusing especially on a pervasive technological element in South Asia: the tube well, a tap to siphon out groundwater, often used by farmers in rural, and working class people in urban areas. The usage of groundwater is slowly depleting underground aquifers in South Asia,

jeopardizing the economic usage of water, coupled with the monsoon.

In Beloit, merciless heat has made class days difficult for us students. On the first Thursday of September, the Dean of Students sent an email to all students with guidelines to cope with the heat, and shifted some classes to different buildings. In many classes, and on screens across campus, the flash floods in the Nepal-China border were the most important news item in discussion. Our automatic wisdom imagined our climate as a kinship network, as a lineage of disparate local weathers coalesced into a collective climatic one; across campus these extreme weather events across hemispheres were being tethered under broader rubrics: “climate change,” “global warming,” “Anthropocene.”

My immediate impulse was to think about the monsoon back home, and to perhaps go midway between the zone of climate catastrophe, Nepal, and the heat of Wisconsin: the Bengal delta. I imagined the

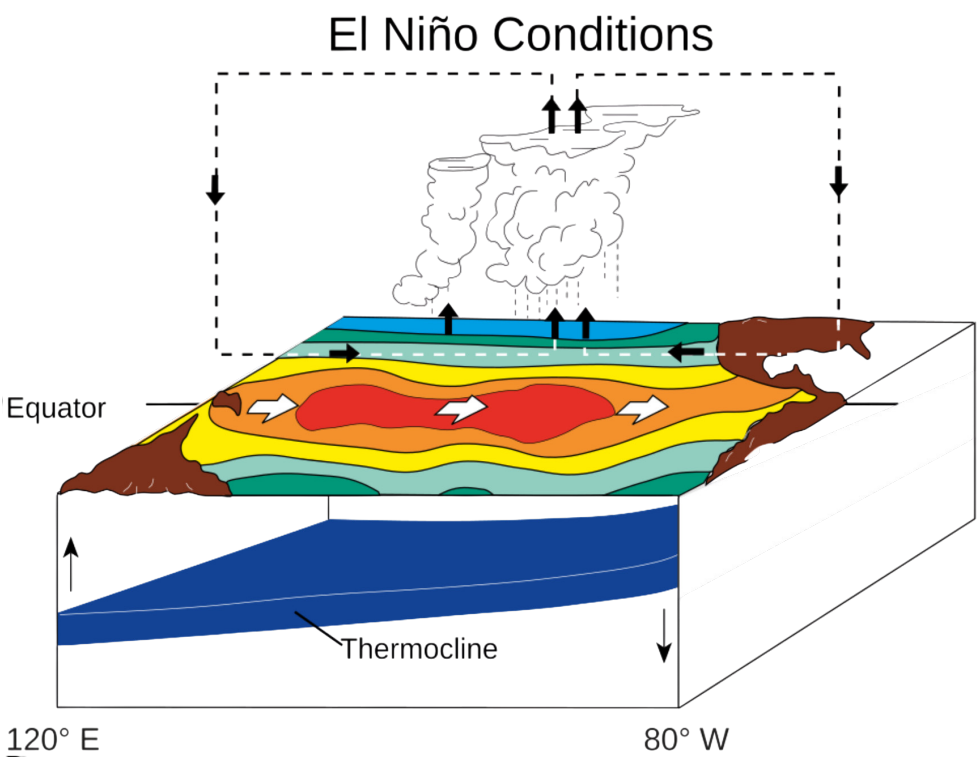
precarious landscape of the littoral periphery, the coastal countryside of the region, beyond the urban confines of Calcutta. Much of that landscape still remains at the mercy of the coastal economy, and the threat of entire parcels of silt land washing away. British colonial authorities had encountered this futility with devastating consequences for their imperialist project: in 1774, an Englishman named Benjamin Lacam attempted to build a harbour on the silty landscape. With great enthusiasm for his future earnings, Lacam drafted a plan quickly which was rejected equally fast by the colonial authorities who admitted their own ignorance about the incredibly precarious place.

But the hubris and ignorance of colonial intervention has nonetheless significantly altered the ecology of the region. The overarching presence of the monsoon had previously imbued it with an identity, yet colonial ambition was soon to realise that the deltaic rainfall were the regional products of a

larger, climatic determinant: the winds, what the South African anthropologist poetically called a “permanent aeroplankton ... a buoyant ecology too soft to hear.” With the rise of the colonial global economy, and the expansion of the grain market, long distance trade and the circulation of commodities were to face the disruptions of a warming, global wind: the el nino; as the historian Mike Davis famously put it: “suddenly the price of wheat in Liverpool and the rainfall in Madras were variables in the same vast equation of human survival.”

This convergence of a globalised economy and a disruptive, global wind has a particular prominence this year, of what scientists are calling a “super el-nino.” The flash floods along the Nepal-China border, the merciless heat of Wisconsin, and the sudden monsoon that flooded our balcony in Calcutta occupy different places and histories, yet all unfolded within the atmospheric system of the el-nino. The United Nations has issued warning statements about an increasingly “supersizing” el-nino this year, which researchers from the University of Michigan have predicted, in conjunction with an already warming world, is going to dry up wells, deplete resources, and make weather patterns less predictable, while its own cycles intensify further. Warnings have also been issued about the possibility of a “wet winter” in the United States, with possible events of coastal flooding.

Our globally converged economy and climate creates opportunities for both global catastrophe with global consequences and also grounds for global solidarity and legislation. It’s incumbent upon us to make the right decisions when we are compelled, inevitably, to do so.



Wikimedia Commons

Club Spotlight: Why You Should Join the Girls and Women in STEM Club

By ARMITA AGHAMIRI



GWIS Instagram

The reason I decided to pursue my career in the United States is very simple, but also quite sad. I was born and raised in Iran, where students are required to take religion classes, with the total hours per week

being even more than some STEM subjects. I was encouraged to pay attention to my sewing classes more than my math class. Schools are separated by sex, male and female. If you are in the latter category, you don’t have access to a

laboratory. For the sake of better education, my mom, brother, and I moved to Türkiye, where I finished high school with a Turkish Diploma. It is still a developing country, but at least all genders have the same access to education. Despite all these obstacles for a woman to be able to pursue science, you look at different scientific journals and you come across so many Persians and Iranians who have clawed their way into academia, left the country, and become who they always wanted to be.

In the past two years, I have run away from my past, trying to adapt to the culture of a country that is completely different from what I knew. But no matter how hard I have tried, it is still who I am: a woman in STEM from a third world country. Lately, I

have been sitting with my feelings, trying to figure out who I am and what my background represents for me. That is why I decided to join the Girls and Women and STEM Club, or GWIS, after receiving an invitation from the current president, Isabella Galvan’28.

For those unfamiliar with GWIS, it is a club at Beloit College whose main goal is to encourage and uplift young women in STEM. Our aim is to organize events that build community and provide support. We want our club to be visible to others so young women can see positive examples of what they can achieve. When funding allows, we also hope to bring the broader community into our activities so that we can support girls from a young age and show them that STEM can be a place for them, too.

Galvan, the current president, shared her story with the club. “When I was 12 years old in sixth grade, I was invited by GWIS at Beloit to come stay overnight and explore the different STEM fields through fun and engaging activities,” she said. “I met so many strong and capable women that night who were students of Beloit College. That was the first time I had heard about Beloit, and ever since then I knew I wanted to go to Beloit. That was also when I knew I wanted to pursue science. Being President of GWIS is such a full circle moment for me, and I would like to eventually bring back the community aspect to our club so we can engage a wider audience.”

Galvan’s story is exactly why clubs like GWIS matter. Sometimes, all it takes

is seeing someone who looks like you, comes from a similar background, or has gone through something you resonate with to make you believe you can do it as well. Supporting women in STEM is not only about encouraging women to become scientists, doctors, engineers, or researchers. It is also about creating an environment where they feel they belong, and are desired. I can for sure say that STEM can be intimidating, especially when you are entering a room where you do not see many peers like yourself. For me, GWIS is not just another club. It is a constant reminder of the obstacles I faced growing up that do not have to define who I can become. And we want GWIS to be that ray of sunlight for someone else, too.

Slayr’s Halfblood Tour: The Experience

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

A few weeks ago, I attended a Slayr concert at the Rave/Eagles Club in Milwaukee with a few of my friends. No, not Slayyyter with a bunch of Ys. No, not the metal band Slayr. Slayr, with no E at the end of his name. As a person who doesn’t go to concerts much, I was very surprised with how much I enjoyed the show, even if I thought I was going to get crushed at the beginning. But more on that later.

Evan McDonald, who goes by the stage name “Slayr,” is an underground artist whose music is a blend of rap, hyperpop, and a whole bunch of different other things. He’s best known for his most popular song “Sloppy Joe,” which currently sits at almost 18 million streams on Spotify. I’ve been a fan of his music for a while, so when one of my friends asked if I wanted to see Slayr in concert, I said “sure.” The Halfblood Tour was Slayr’s first tour, and Milwaukee was the final stop.

Like I said, I don’t go to concerts much. Before I saw Kanye West at Soldier Field earlier this month, the last concert I went to was in 2017, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. Needless to say, I walked into the Rave/Eagles Club not knowing what to expect. You can imagine my surprise when the first words Slayr’s DJ said were, “Open it up.” “It,” in this case, referred to the giant mosh pit in the center

of the room, which was now rapidly forming in front of me. Everybody kept moving backward, myself included, until I felt the wall behind me. Despite hitting the wall, I could still feel myself getting pushed back, and after a brief second of thinking I was about to get crushed, I managed to wriggle my way out and find a pocket of space. Keep in mind, Slayr himself wasn’t even there yet. This was just his DJ warming up the crowd. And warm was right. This room was HOT. It almost mimicked a TKE basement party. It also didn’t help that one of my earplugs got knocked out during the opening of the first mosh pit, but the music wasn’t so loud that I felt uncomfortable.

The mosh pit dynamic was intense and almost cyclical. The cycle went as follows: in the lead-up to a beat drop, the pit would start to open, and people would start to enter and mosh. When the beat dropped, the pit would close, and the people on the outside would rush in. The cycle would repeat a few minutes later. In my opinion, the pits were the best part of the concert. It was so high energy, and you could tell people were really excited to be there. Every pit rush made the song hit a little harder each time.

After Slayr’s DJ had spent 45 minutes warming up the crowd, Slayr himself came on. My friends and I saw Slayr walking into the venue before the show,

and it wasn’t what I was expecting. If the random guy standing behind us hadn’t said anything, we probably wouldn’t have known he was Slayr. He was short, wearing all black, and had his hood up. He wasn’t even walking with a large entourage, just two people. He said something to the guy behind me, and then threw up a peace sign over his shoulder behind his head at me when I yelled, “HI SLAYR!!!!”

His performance was amazing. His energy was high, and he would hype up the crowd by counting down to a beat drop. And the energy was infectious. The crowd was popping off, chanting “ay” at any chance they got. There were also a ton of people dressed up in different costumes. I saw a few Teletubbies, Omni-Man, Ghostface, Dr. Doom, hot dogs, burgers, and even Velma from Scooby-Doo. Slayr even invited a few of them onto the stage at the very end.

Once the show was over, Slayr thanked the crowd for coming out and said that he was done with his first ever tour. He said there was more to come and then left, and sadly didn’t come back out, despite the “one more song” chants from the crowd.

If I had to compare Slayr’s concert and Kanye’s concert, I would say that I enjoyed both. Soldier Field had a vibe that only Kanye in Chicago can create, but I liked the closer community that



Elliot Ave-Lallemant ’27

Slayr brought together. Ultimately, it’s reflected in their popularity, but the crowd and mosh pits at Slayr were top tier.

Overall rating: 10/10. This concert was amazing. The energy from both Slayr and the crowd was incredible. The mosh pits were awesome. The songs were awesome. The room was boiling, but that comes with the territory of mosh pits. And 40 dollars too — what’s not to love? Thank you, Slayr.

Lizzy McAlpine’s ‘Angel’ (Album Review)

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE



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Going into Lizzy McAlpine’s album “Angel,” I was really scared. Not because I thought it was going to be bad, but because I knew what I was getting myself into. McAlpine has done me dirty too many times to count. Her music has a way of finding every emotion I don’t want to think about and stretching them across an entire song.

As a result, I was shocked when the first four songs of “Angel” were not as sad as I had prepared for. It felt like a trick. Apart from the first single, “The Light in the Painting,” which coincidentally happened to be the first single released from this album, its second track, “Anybody’s Fool,” sets the scene, with McAlpine sounding conversational as she moves through the song. Then comes “I Have a Friend,” a beautiful, romantic song that feels less like a love song and more like a warning. It’s the kind of song that makes you think, okay, this is going to get sad.

“The Moon” only reinforces that feeling. There is something almost painfully beautiful about the way McAlpine describes love and dependence, particularly when

she sings about being no freer than the moon. As angelic as the song is, there is already something uneasy underneath it.

Then comes “Ugly Things.” Four songs in, I had started to regret what I had gotten myself into. I knew exactly where the song was going, and somehow that made it worse. “Ugly Things” moves between anger, regret, and the kind of love that you wish you could unlearn. When she sings about wishing someone had made her not love them, while also wishing they had loved her too, there is something especially painful about the contradiction. She is not simply angry at someone for hurting her; she is angry that she loved them enough for it to hurt in the first place. And then, after everything, comes the “I’m sorry.” Of course it does. McAlpine had already done enough damage.

Thankfully, “Soldier of the Road” gives the album some breathing room. And by breathing room, I mean McAlpine casually decided to put Fleet Foxes on the album. The harmonies make the song feel almost expansive compared to the intimacy of the songs before it. It is one of the moments where Angel reminds you that it’s not just a sad album. There’s a lot of beauty in it, even when the subject matter is anything but beautiful.

“Peach” takes that beauty somewhere else entirely. The song feels caught between two versions of McAlpine: the person people see and the person who exists outside of being an artist. There is something strange about being perceived as something almost otherworldly while still being a person who has friends, family, memories, and people who can hurt you. It is a tension that seems to

run throughout “Angel.” McAlpine is an artist, but the album, like the majority of her music, reminds us that there is a person underneath all that.

That person becomes increasingly clear in “Over Country.” This was the first song that made me stop thinking about McAlpine and start thinking about myself. All I could think about during the song was my family and friends back home. It became a vessel for my own memory. I could hear what McAlpine was singing about, but I was thinking of my own life instead.

“Two Elevens” continues this feeling, but with a different kind of sadness. The song is not looking to assign blame. There was love once, and now there isn’t, and sometimes that is all there is to say. There is something remarkably mature about admitting that both people can have been hurt without either person being entirely responsible. Not every relationship needs a villain. Sometimes people change, sometimes they grow apart, and sometimes all you can do is acknowledge that there was love there and move forward.

“Our Stranger Ways” takes that distance and makes it audible. The distortion at the end of the song feels almost disorienting, especially against the intimacy of the rest of the album. It is as if the familiarity of another person is slowly becoming something unrecognizable. By this point, “Angel” is less concerned with the dramatic ending of a relationship and more interested in what happens afterward, when you are left trying to understand what that person means to you now.

This idea continued through “Mason’s Song,” which made me think about my friends, and “The Crowd,” which immediately made me think,

no, absolutely not, we are not doing daddy issues now. Unfortunately, we were. The album keeps expanding its definition of love beyond romance, moving through friendship, family, childhood, and the people who shape us without necessarily staying in our lives forever. In a way, McAlpine makes these relationships feel interconnected, as if every person we love leaves something behind whether we want them to or not.

By the time the title track, “Angel,” starts playing, the album feels almost like a full circle. The image of a “hologram in neon light” captures something that has been present throughout the album: the tension between being seen and being known. A hologram looks real without being something you can touch. In an album so concerned with memory, relationships, and the different versions of ourselves that exist in other people’s minds, it feels fitting.

I went into “Angel” expecting Lizzy McAlpine to make me sad. She did, obviously. I knew she would. What I didn’t expect was for the album to make me think less about her experiences and more about my own. “Angel” is full of heartbreak, but it is not really an album about heartbreak. It is about what remains after it: the people you remember, the people you lose, the people you grow away from, and the parts of yourself that you find in all of them.

Unfortunately, McAlpine has once done me dirty once again.

Ode to Psych Lounge Water

By ELISA TURNER

I drank from the psych lounge water,
“DO NOT DRINK” atop the green,

I sipped before the sign went up on the cooler

From color I thought was a glare from a desktop screen

My sanctuary of hydration cooled us all
On the hottest and loudest days

In my hydrangea-speckled water bottle
While the tense air around me sways

But then it stood with tones of green
Indications of algae growth



Betty Cavicchia ’28

And though it hasn’t yet crumbled
Something here is next to go

So when that botox-bolstered billionaire takes control of this town

And the amalgamation of machinations digs its monstrous roots in the ground

And not a poor bastard here can have solid roof or clean drink
Dirt and algae and misery will pool in some shallow sink

Today the water is clear and clean
And when the algae comes next time

I wonder if we’ll have the kindness, will, and competence
To still hang the “DO NOT DRINK” sign

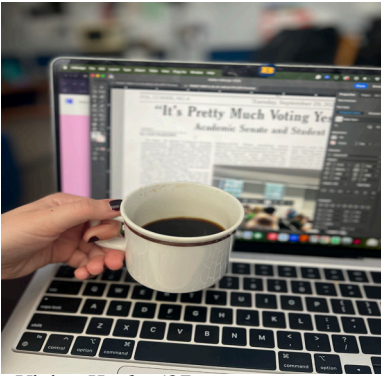
Haikus on the Season

By VIVIAN KOPKA

What to wear
Sweating through a long-
Sleeved shirt, not accounting for
The sun. Chilly-hot.

Working
Round Table office
Collective headaches holler,
Cold night slipped away

What’s that smell
Stinky rock river,
Quiet down now, let your flow
Cease, go to silence

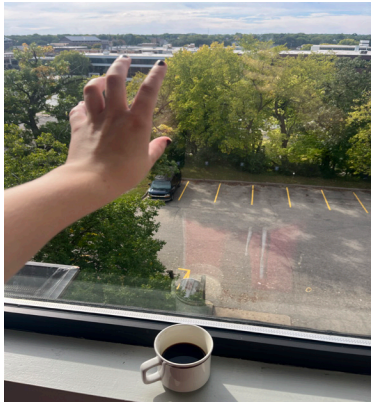


Vivian Kopka ’27

yowch!
Criss-cross-applesauce
On the brink of going numb
Blood silence the stream

Cigarette clarity
bird, dead at the grate
Pesticides, clear glass window
Things rise, all things fall

All day
Coffee brews in a
sweaty room where I work, I
Will not see the sun.



Vivian Kopka ’27

Women’s Soccer Drops Hard-Fought Matchup With Marian University

By NORAH OWENS

It was a pleasantly cool evening on Friday, Sep. 25 at Strong Stadium, where Buccaneers women’s soccer took on the Marian University Sabres for one of their final non-conference matchups

of the 2026 season. The game was close and evenly-matched in front of a crowd that included families of the players, members of the men’s soccer team before their Friday practice, and

supporters from both men’s and women’s hockey teams. Beloit student game day event workers rounded out the scene, capturing photographs of the game and maintaining the video livestream of the event.

The first half was characterized by defensive play on both sides of the field. Beloit managed to head off five shots during the first 45 minutes, with two shots being saved directly by goalkeeper Sophia Dietz’29. Both teams struggled with offsides calls and penalties throughout the game, with both the Bucs and the Sabres committing four fouls each in the first half alone. The second half was largely the same, although

Marian’s deeper bench allowed more substitutions and fresher legs in later minutes of the game. The Sabres’ only goal, in the 65th minute of the game, came from a midfielder who first entered the game at the start of the second half.

Ultimately, the Bucs suffered from a streak of bad luck in this game; the team managed to put five shots directly on target, including two strong attempts from Fianne Makela’29. Unfortunately, none of those shots found the back of the net.

Still, even if the scoreboard didn’t reflect it, there is plenty for this Bucs team to celebrate from this matchup. The team benefited from strong leadership and communication

by Dietz, who kept the team in the game with six stellar saves on target and plenty of encouragement from the defensive end of the field. The team’s first-year class also continues to shine, with midfielders Maggie Wood’30 and Alejandra Martinez-Bates’30 and forward Grace Ramel’30 showcasing impressive ball control, grit, and determination throughout the game.

The Bucs will continue Midwest Conference play this Saturday, Oct. 3, at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.



Kayla Wolf

Formula 1: The Ragebait Never Ends

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE and ANIKA SINGH

Have you ever loved something that has made you question why you love it in the first place? Well, for those of you who aren’t familiar, that’s the relationship Formula 1 fans have with the sport. From crash outs both on and off the tracks, decisions that make you question why you even support the team you do, F1 fans go through it all and more.

Let’s talk about what’s currently happening.

Nineteen-year-old Kimi Antonelli, a Mercedes driver, is about to win his first world championship. Think about it like this: someone who is our age, maybe a little older or even younger for a lot of us, has a very high chance of being a world champion for one of the biggest, toughest

and most competitive sports in the world. Yeah, we know, we already had our existential crisis.

Although, there are some people that are having a bigger existential crisis than us: the rest of the drivers on the grid. Past world champions such as Lewis Hamilton, Max Verstappen, and extremely strong contenders such as George Russell, Oscar Piastri, and Charles Leclerc, all of whom have had, to put it lightly, very strong careers, are being crushed by someone in his second year of the sport.

Shifting the focus to Ferrari, it’s been another huge emotional rollercoaster of a season for the fans. They are the second strongest team after Mercedes this year, to the point where they have

even matched Mercedes’s speed for a good amount of races. However, like always, their strategies doomed them. Being a Ferrari fan is not for the weak. After every weekend the fans are left disappointed, saying they are going to stop supporting the team, even stop watching the sport. And yet, every weekend you see the stands covered in red and people from all over the world tune in to say “Forza Ferrari.”

And then there’s Max Verstappen.

To put it simply, being a Verstappen fan leads to a constant cycle of hope, delusion, and rage. Every race is the emotional process: maybe this is it, maybe he will win, or end up on the podium. Maybe Verstappen will have a clean race, maybe the car will

cooperate, and the strategy will make sense.

That, of course, never happens.

At this point, being a Max Verstappen fan feels less like supporting a driver and more like participating in a long-term social experiment designed to determine how much nonsense one person can tolerate before finally giving up. And yet, every race weekend, there we are again. Watching. Hoping. Getting emotionally invested. Making increasingly bold claims about how “this weekend will be different.”

It’s never different.

And somehow, we keep coming back.

Moving on to last year’s champions. Oh God, poor Oscar Piastri. After being done

dirty by his own team last year, this season has unfortunately not played out in his favor. One too many mistakes from the team for a damn good driver. But everyone in the Formula 1 world can agree that he is a world champion in him.

As for Lando Norris, after last year’s championship he seems to have taken a bit of a backseat. He still pushes and gets podiums and pole positions. However, the competitiveness of last year is not as present. The car itself hasn’t done either drivers any favors.

Read the rest on
roundtable.beloit.edu

My Predictions For The Next NHL Captains

By SAM NEUBAUER

With the newest set of captains in Mikael Granlund (Anaheim Ducks), Connor Bedard (Chicago Blackhawks), Drew Doughty (Los Angeles Kings), Bo Horvat (New York Islanders), Macklin Celebrini (San Jose Sharks), and Robert Thomas (St. Louis Blues) all being named this past off season, I figured I would take a look at who I predict will be the next captains for the five teams without a captain.

Up first are the Boston Bruins, which have already openly stated that the team would name a captain before opening night — but who could that be? My guess is Czech veteran David Pastrnak. Now,

some fans think it could be Charlie McAvoy, but if you look at it on a team-wise standpoint, Pastrnak has already worn the “C” early in his career in a preseason game, and it would only make sense as he’s one of the longest tenured Bruins currently, having spent his entire career in Boston.

Next, for the Columbus Blue Jackets, I believe the newest captain will be Zach Werenski, coming off a Norris-winning season as the league’s best defenseman on top of being one of the longest tenured players on the Blue Jackets. However, the team may go in a different direction, giving captaincy to a player like Mathieu

Olivier who has been a huge veteran presence as well. On top of this, Werenski did request a trade over the off season, but changed his mind, deciding to stay with Columbus for the foreseeable future.

The third team without a captain is the Detroit Red Wings, who had a little controversy this off season, stripping Dylan Larkin of captaincy after he captained the team for the past five seasons due to him requesting a trade out of Detroit. This leaves an opening for the one that I am most certain of, that being Moritz Seider. It seems like the German defenseman in Seider is viewed as a leader in the Red Wing’s locker

room, on top of being favored off the ice. If it isn’t Seider, then my next pick would be Lucas Raymond, but that seems quite unlikely.

After trading their captain this past off season to the Florida Panthers, the Ottawa Senators have at least three very solid options to be named, all three with very solid backing: a German in Tim Stutzle who is arguably the best player on the Senators, and the two defensemen Thomas Chabot and Jake Sanderson who both have served as alternate captains at some point in their careers. My prediction, however, is American Jake Sanderson, a young

guy who commands a lot of respect on top of emerging as one of the top defensemen in the league this past season.

Lastly, the dumpster fire in the Vancouver Canucks. My prediction is defenseman Filip Hronek, who is very favored amongst the management and the rest of the team, but it could also go to Swedish forward Elias Pettersson, who is a former Calder winner, but has struggled with his play these past few seasons, butting heads with former teammate and now-captain of the New York Rangers J.T. Miller.

Read the rest on
roundtable.beloit.edu



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Athletes of the Week

Ervin Rosas’30
Men’s Soccer



Naomi Murphy’27
Volleyball



The Sport of Kings: Polo

By PALASH MAMTANEY

Polo is widely considered the oldest organized team sport, with roots tracing back to ancient Persia and Azerbaijan. Its first documented tournament took place in 600 BCE, making the sport approximately 2,600 years old.

The history of polo is quite fascinating. It was originally played by cavalry units as a way to sharpen their riding skills and practice tactics useful for battle. Over time, it gained popularity among royals and eventually spread throughout Central and South Asia. India significantly influenced polo’s development. In

Manipur, a traditional version called “Sagol Kangjei” was played long before the British arrived. The British grew fond of the game and took it back with them to Britain, where it became popular among the wealthy. From there, it spread to various parts of the globe, including the United States.

Polo earned its reputation as the “sport of kings” because it has long been associated with rulers and royal families. Persian kings played the game centuries ago, and Indian maharajas like Sawai Man Singh II of Jaipur, and Maharaja Hanwant Singh of

Marwar became prominent supporters, helping establish India as a major polo center. The British royal family carried on the tradition. Prince Philip and King Charles III played for many years. This is likely why polo has developed a reputation as a sport for the rich. With all the costs related to horses, equipment, training, and maintaining fields, it’s certainly not the most accessible sport. Its ties to royalty and wealthy families also helped shape its current image.

When they think of polo, most people probably picture the brand or the shirt

before thinking of the sport. But polo is so much more than that. The actual game is quite intense. Players ride fast horses, trying to hit a small ball with a long mallet. It requires them to manage their horse, keep an eye on the ball, and stay aware of other players. It takes a lot of skill, and things get pretty chaotic on the field.

Polo has also evolved differently depending on the location. In the U.S., there are clubs nationwide, like the Meadowbrook Polo Club in New York and the Madison Polo Club in the midwest. There’s also Arena Polo, played on a smaller field

with fewer players. So while polo carries a traditional image, the game itself has adapted quite a bit over time.

That’s part of what makes polo so intriguing. It’s been around for thousands of years and has taken on various meanings based on where it’s played. It began as a training tool for cavalry, became favored by royals, and eventually transformed into the sport and lifestyle we recognize today. Many people probably associate polo primarily with a brand. But there’s an entire sport behind it, and its rich history is much more fascinating than just a logo.

The Case for Shared Governance

Giving Students Power Is Not Radical

By JAKE FEIN

Concerning Beloit College's Fall 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting:

"I am going into my fourth year at Beloit College and have experienced my fair share of this institution, and I think we need a course change. On Oct. 2 and 3, the Beloit College Board of Trustees will have one of their three annual meetings. This piece is, in part, for them. However, the main goal of this piece is to stimulate a community-wide conversation at Beloit College..."

READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT THE ROUNDTABLE.BELOIT.EDU

No, I’m Not Dating Any Of My Best Friends

By NORAH OWENS

Over the past six years or so, since I started high school, all sorts of nosy people occasionally get really interested in whether or not I’m dating anyone. No, that picture I posted getting boba with my friend Izzi was not a picture of me and my girlfriend. No, my best friend Ash and I are not dating, we were just a little codependent in high school. No, I’ve never dated my dear friends and former teammates Peyton and Hunter (pictured with me), although I did once claim Peyton was my girlfriend so that a random guy at the skating rink asking for my Snapchat would leave me alone. No, none of the guys in my favorite picture from my graduation are my boyfriend. They never have been, and they never will be! And no, I am DEFINITELY not married to any of them, I just had to wear a white dress to my private school graduation ceremony. In fact, I’ve never dated anyone at all! And holy shit, I am so tired of dealing with those sorts of questions. While I understand where people are coming from... Man, can we just give it a rest?

As someone with various flavors of aromanticism and asexuality, I genuinely don’t understand why people can’t separate platonic relationships from romance. In my opinion, it’s always safer to assume that two people are just friends rather than assume that they are together romantically. By considering dating to be the norm of relationships between two people, it



Norah Owens’29

actually ends up putting people in a lot of awkward, uncomfortable situations, and there’s really no reason to do that! Now, it sometimes seems like people are at least trying to be progressive. Look, I appreciate that I’m not being shoehorned into ONLY relationships with men; people think I’m in relationships with women and other queer people too. But that still doesn’t actually make things any better. Why exactly are people so comfortable assuming things about everyone around them?

The thing is, I feel the weight of those so-called “dating allegations”

within those friendships, and I feel that awkwardness particularly heavily with my close male friends. I want to tell my friends that I love them, because I do; but I don’t want them, or anyone else around us, to misconstrue that as romantic love, particularly in opposite-gender friendships. I also don’t want my friends to think I mean it in a weird way because we’ve also been conditioned by the people around us to think that a guy and a girl can’t love each other unless it’s romantic. For me, it’s purely platonic, and it always will be! Why should it be

weird to give my best friend a hug one of the three times a year I get to see him anymore? Why can my male friends tell each other that they love each other in a “bro way” but I can’t do the same? Similarly, I’ve always thought that being aromantic only gives me an even stronger love for my friends. That means I only feel more conflicted between trying to express my care for my friends and worrying about how we might be perceived by outsiders.

I guess the crux of this article is that I just think we should normalize close platonic relationships a little more. Not everything has to be romantic, and it is good and normal to love people that aren’t just your romantic partner! If everyone could just be a little more aware that the way that you perceive someone or their relationships actually does affect that person, I think we would all be a little better off. So, dear reader, the next time you feel compelled to ask someone unprompted if that guy they’re with is their boyfriend, I hope you’ll at least think twice about it.

Finally, since I keep talking about how dearly I love my friends from home, I think a lot of them deserve a shoutout. Here’s to Hunter, Peyton, Ash, Chase, Kolya, Hayden, Lilly, Alex, Caleb, Malia, Izzi, and anyone else who has been sticking it out with me since middle school or early high school. I really do love you guys so freaking much.

A Mother’s Identity

By KATELYN SCHROEDER

I am lucky enough to have a kickass mom (though we didn’t always get along), and she has this saying: “You and your brother are my whole world.” For a long time I didn’t understand why the phrase made me so uncomfortable, why it made my stomach turn. I’ve realized that I am the center of her life, when she should be the center of her own life.

Now, this is not to put my mom on blast or critique her. I’m very grateful to have such a generous and kind person, who is always thinking of me, as my mom. The issue of identity after motherhood arises when I think of my mom and other mothers around the world.

The literary journal “Gender, Work & Organization,” tackled a similar subject in their article “More than ‘just a mom’: Identity distancing and reactivation during re-entry transitions.” They interviewed mothers who had stayed at home for three or more years after giving birth, rather than going back to work. They wanted to see how the mothers felt during the time they stayed home with their baby versus going back to work and how easy or difficult that transition was.

One question they asked their participants was how they felt being a stay-at-home mom; were they proud telling the people around them that they were a stay at home mom?

Anne, one of the mothers in question exclaimed that while being a stay-at-home mom she “wasn’t really fulfilled at all.” Being “just” a mom made her unhappy; she said she “felt like a part of [her] was missing.”

Another participant went as far as to hide their motherhood from their coworkers, explaining, “at work no one really knew about my family ... so I was a separate person, so it was almost like I was back to myself pre-children and that was quite a nice feeling.”

In the study it was very typical to find that women would distance themselves from the identity of being a mom. When they did this, they found themselves happier and filled with confidence, connecting more with their career identities. When they were stay-at-home moms, before going back to work, they described themselves as unfulfilled.

In “What’s the point of kids?”, a very different article published by the Harvard Gazette, Harvard staff writer Samantha Laine Perfas interviews Anastasia Berg. In the article, Anastasia Berg answers questions about her book, “What Are Children For? On Ambivalence and Choice.” She seems to have a very different perspective on having kids, reflecting on how becoming a mother did not take anything away from her identity.

The author asks Berg why people have gone from being compelled to have children to not wanting to have children at all, and what the factors in that change are.

She goes on to explain that in the past having kids was a necessity, no matter the risk or cost. People now view having children as “a project among many projects,” according to her. Many people discuss questions around parenting like they would travel plans or career paths; there has to be a straightforward answer and plan.

Berg, concluding her interview, shares how having children raises a fundamental question on what we want to contribute to the human species. This “project of human life,” as she calls it.

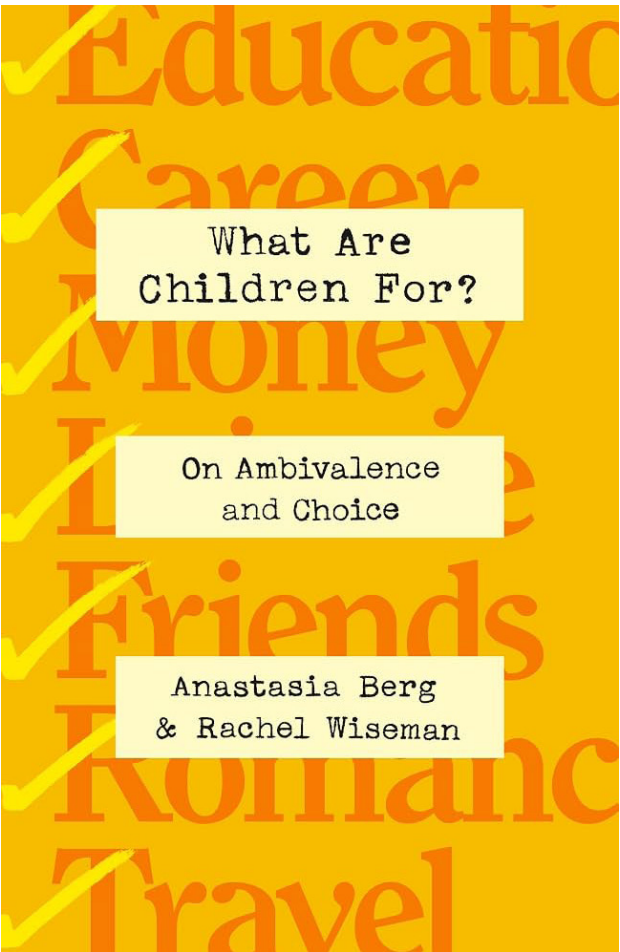
She shares that when she had children, her identity remained intact and simply grew. While being a mother was a transformative experience, she didn’t feel as though her identity was being completely deleted.

I do think she has a point. Becoming a mother doesn’t automatically mean your identity will disappear. I think it’s important, however, to point out that this woman is not staying at home and only doing things that connect to her kids.

She wrote a whole book on the questions of motherhood and what it means to be a parent, and she’s actively being interviewed by the Harvard Gazette for her writing on the subject. Berg is holding on to her identity with an iron fist, doing things that don’t revolve around her children; she’s even a professor of philosophy at the University of California.

I like to think that being a mom can be a joyful experience. I also realize that when someone becomes a mom, it’s essential for them to hold onto the things that they individually love. This

is also why, for me, I deeply believe in the saying “it takes a village.” The father of the child needs to be just as involved as the mom is. The people that they trust and care about can also help out as much as they can, giving the parents time to do something for themselves. If I ever have kids, holding onto my hobbies will be the most important aspect of this life-changing transition. I will remain a writer, a musician, an artist, and a leader. Being a mom does not have to take anything away from me.



Amazon

IT'S BIG, ITS ROUND, ITS A TABLE

Hats Off or F*ck Off!

(All your likes and dislikes in one place!

Submitted by students like you!)

“Do we have to say the F-word so much... everyone I know

is transmogrifying into a 33-year old barcade fanatic who

does NOT play about IPAs and Rick and Morty...”

“Hats off to green eminem”

“Fuck off to the people who cackle, whoop, and jabber in

the Whitney 2nd floor lounge after quiet hours. Seriously,

how inconsiderate can you be?”

“Fuck off to people who pretend not to know how to use

google docs to avoid doing work in an assignment.”

“Hats off the security guard whos really into numerology”

“Fuck off to users of e-scooters on campus.”

“Why do people always stare? They better watch out, or

a nintendo wii u legend of zelda edition will be coming at

their head.”

Hats off to Dr. Allison Nickel for always telling students not

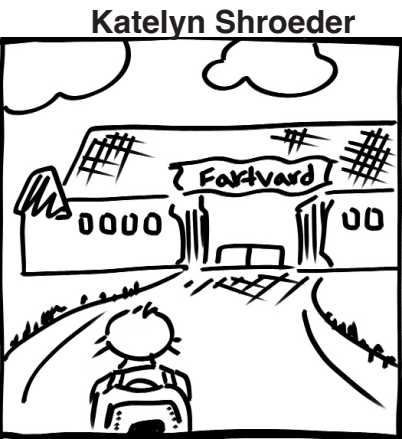
to say ‘thank you’ for exams. You real as fuck for that.”

“Fuck off to Commons for triggering several of my friends

allergic reactions. If you don’t start labeling your food I’m

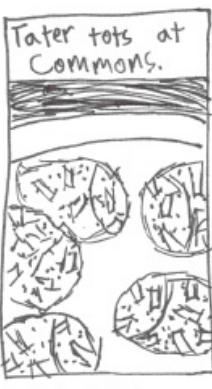
going to come in there and go straight for your kneecaps”

“We all love Daniel Youd. None of us know who he is.”



Cooley Clown!

Alex C

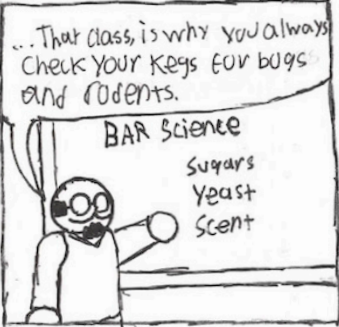


SEPTEMBER 22 WAS A GOOD DAY. betty caviechia



GOLF!!!!!!

The New BEER RAT Adventures #3



BY Arturo Garcia & Ollie Idzikowski