The Round Table

since 1853

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Admissions, Athletics, and Administrative Policy at Academic Senate

NEWS

By CIAN McKEOWN

Faculty, staff, and student senators convened Nov. 4 for the semester's third meeting of Beloit College's Academic Senate. Provost Donna Oliver called the meeting to order, approved the previous meeting's minutes, and announced the start of committee reports.

First up to the podium, presenting on behalf of the Academic Strategic Planning committee was Professor of International Relations Beth Dougherty. Dougherty discussed her committee's continued meetings with the college's vice presidents to develop "possible models and structures for the humanities" in the wake of contemporary issues like artificial intelligence. Dougherty also announced that the School of Health Sciences master's degree program is in the final stage of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, with a meeting to complete the process scheduled for December. The college will be able to recruit students to the program after this final stage has been completed.

Following Dougherty's report, Associate Professor of Sociology Kate Linnenberg of the Faculty Status and Performance committee brought an item for action to the auditorium. Linnenberg brought forward a proposal to approve comprehensive changes to Chapter VIII of the college's Administrative Policy Manual, titled "Policies and Procedures Governing Faculty, Academic Senate, and Departments." Before voting, Linnenberg opened the motion up for discussion. Student Senator Jake Fein'27 expressed concerns with certain changes, such as the stipulation in section three, subsection A of Chapter VIII which states that "budget and financial reports are provided at All-Faculty, All-Staff, and Board of Trustees meetings, and made available to the campus community on a semi-annual basis" rather than being reported at Academic Senate. Fein argued that changes like these "end up removing student power." Despite the motion passing with an overwhelming majority, two student senators cast votes in the negative. According to a statement by Provost Donna Oliver during the meeting, the revision has been worked on for the last two years by various administrational committees. The updated language is now available on the Beloit College website, with page 23 of Chapter VIII noting that a "comprehensive revision and reorganization" was adopted Nov. 4, 2026.

Presenting next was Associate Professor of Spanish Amy Tibbitts, who began her Curriculum Oversight and Administration committee presentation by acknowledging the hard work of Japanese faculty at the college before motioning to accept a proposal to eliminate the Japanese Major and Minor. After a period of discussion in which student senators wondered about the lack of student input in the decision and the future of modern languages and literatures at Beloit,



Betty Cavicchia'28

the motion passed with three student senators voting in the negative and the rest of the voting body affirming the proposal. All current students studying Japanese will be able to finish their degrees, and Japanese courses will continue to be offered at the college. The Senate also passed proposals to revise the kinesiology minor, marketing major and minor, the Philosophy major, and the sports management minor. Additionally, two Psychology courses, PSYC 207: Political Psychology of Identity and PSYC 239: Psychology and Law, were eliminated from the college curriculum, and six courses were approved as permanent offerings.

Following Tibbits and a brief presentation on behalf of the Professional and Program Development Committee by Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Katherine Harris, Assistant Professor of Political Science Gregory Koutnik delivered an update on Academic-Athletic Initiatives. Koutnik announced the drafting of a college-wide policy to address absences related to athletics participation. According to Koutnik, the policy has gone up to the Curriculum Oversight and Administration committee for further review. He also shared the results of a survey sent out to the college's faculty that asks questions regarding the participation and behavior of student athletes in class. Out of nearly 40 faculty respondents, many reported relatively little difference in the behavior of student athletes in class compared to non-athletes, according to Koutnik. While Koutnik maintained that he was "not trying to stigmatize student athletes" in sharing the results of the survey, he stated that common themes among faculty who did express concerns highlighted issues like an excessive use of technology in class or "rudeness and disrespect" towards faculty. Koutnik further explained that this issue was raised by female faculty members who responded to the survey, talking about the behavior of male student-athletes.

For an update on enrollment, Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing & Athletics Karen Schedin took the stage, announcing that the college has secured 346 first-year students for the next academic year and the various changes the admissions department has made to its outreach strategies toward prospective students. These tactics include admissions counselors recording personalized videos for admitted students welcoming them to Beloit. Schedin claimed that, although making the videos is "a lot of work," they have already been met with positive responses from students and families.

Next on the agenda was a presentation from Marketing Manager Antony Hebblethwaite regarding the construction of a "campus designers network" surrounding the purchase of 50 Canva licenses by the college's Communications and Marketing division. The goal of building the network would be to offer graphic design initiatives and access to Beloit College fonts and templates to trained faculty and student workers to create on-brand design for the college. Orientation and training for the program will begin in December.

After an update on staffing reorganization in the Operations division by Vice President for Operations and Chief Information Officer Ted Wilder, Beloit College President Eric Boynton returned to Academic Senate for the first time in two months to give remarks. Boynton praised the recent success of the Beloit and Beyond conference, a chance for students to share their experiences and research through panel discussions and presentations. "It's a moment for me to soak up those stories [from students] and take them on the road," Boynton said. He also highlighted the success of the recent athletics day of giving, which saw $164,000 raised, an increase from last year's total of $136,000.

To conclude the meeting, Provost Donna Oliver further congratulated students on the conference's success and noted the need for more Advanced Mentoring Program instructors for the upcoming academic year, with five of the 17 introductory sections remaining unclaimed.

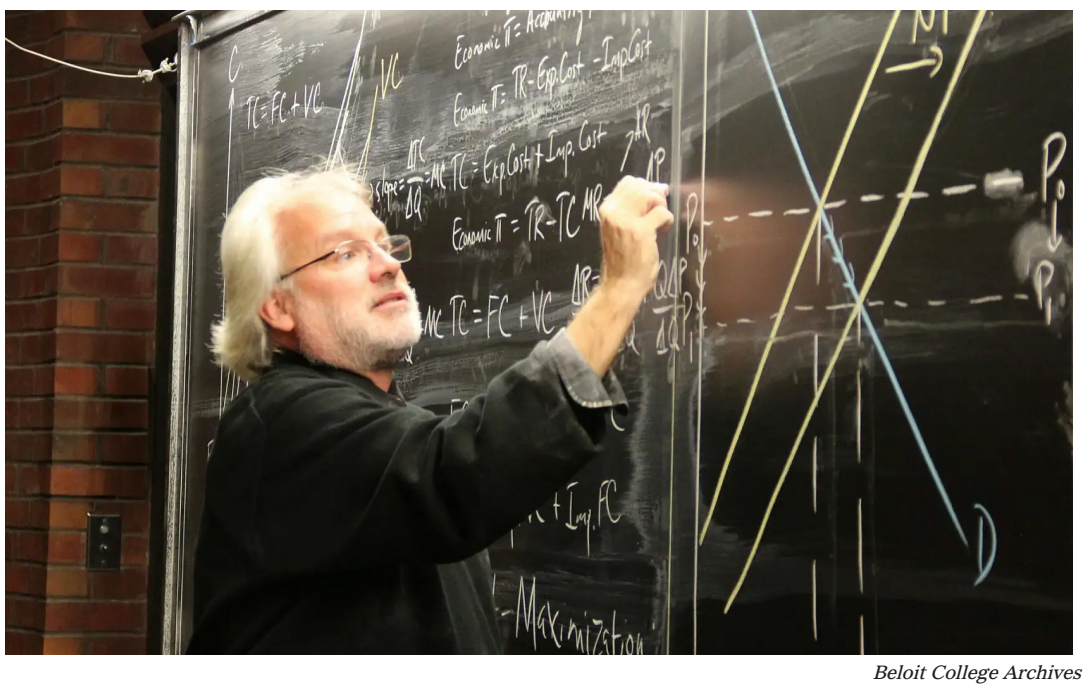
Brilliance and Kindness:
In Remembrance of Bob Elder

NEWS

By ALEX CAMBOURIS

On Friday, Nov. 6, Beloit College hosted a memorial service for Emeritus Professor of Economics Bob Elder, who passed away April 29 at the age of 69. The service took place in the Morgan Room of Mayer Hall, Elder's old classroom. Seven faculty members spoke, sharing memories and stories of their time with Elder in celebration of his life. The speakers included President Eric Boynton, Provost Donna Oliver, Professor Shawn Gillen, Professor Charles Westerberg'94, Beloit Alum Jasminka Milpak'98, Professor Laura Grube'08, and Professor Emeritus Tom McBride. Following the service, a reception was held in the Kueche Business HUB in Pearsons Hall. Students, faculty, and loved ones gathered to honor the legacy of Elder.

The event began with an invocation from Jennifer Kodl. "We come together today with sorrow in our hearts, but also with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the life and teachings of Robert William Elder," she said. "Known to his family as 'Bobby' and most of us as Bob … We are here to look back on a life that was beautiful and fully lived. Bob Elder had a real gift for making everyone feel seen, loved, and valued. Although he is no longer physically with us, the legacy of his kindness lives on in this very room, in this building, on this campus, and in this big world. Today is not about saying goodbyes, it's about remembering the moments, the lessons, and the memories that will stay with us forever."



Beloit College Archives

President Boynton took the stand to welcome the audience, giving praise to the impact Elder had left on students' lives. "Bob Elder arrived at Beloit in 1989, and spent the next 36 years doing something absolutely remarkable: he made the study of economics come alive for generations of students," he said.

"Since 1998, Bob has taught 182 courses at this college," Boynton said. "161 of them were in this room. I can't imagine a more fitting place to remember him, and his chalkboards." Elder used a colorful array of chalk during class sessions, often leaving him dusted in blue or pink by the end. Elder was beloved by students and staff, and was a continued source of joy for many.

Professors Shawn Gillen, Charles Westerberg, and Tom McBride shared stories of their close friendship with Elder, highlighting his effortless kindness and brilliant mind. Gillen said, "Losing Bob as a friend and colleague hasn't been easy, but I'm confident that I added something to his life that he loved: fantasy baseball. Bob was one of the league's most successful players. Fantasy baseball was the perfect pleasure activity for Bob. He could test out game theory and statistics while keeping up with baseball. In the league's early years, members would gather in March at one of Beloit's supper clubs, what Bob would call our 'winter meetings.' He loved the event, and emailed me months in advance asking me to book a table, and to email my colleagues. At one meeting, he presented us with a thick binder containing statistics and other data points he had put together throughout the week, along with observations of all our team's strengths and weaknesses."

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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.

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Claire Winter

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Claire Winter

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The Round Table aims to produce informative and quality content for the Beloit College community and beyond. The SPJ Code of Ethics is adhered to to maintain integrity and transparency. All news stories will be investigated with the greatest degree of impartiality possible.

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

CONTACT
roundtable@beloit.edu
kopkavl@beloit.edu
winterca@beloit.edu

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

Cost of Attendance Tops $80K: Food Up 15% and Insurance Up 13.5%

By JAKE FEIN

As the end of October approached, Beloit College quietly published the cost of attendance on its website. As of writing, there has been no public announcement of this increase, with precedent showing that such an increase will be publicly announced to students sometime in March or April. Beloit Student Workers United has also shared the breakdown of the increase on social media.

The new cost of attendance is $80,542, a 3.9% increase from the 26-27 year. From the 2017-2018 year to the 2027-2028 year, the cost of attendance has gone up 42%. Tuition will be $65,578, housing (if it is a double) will be $7,158, and the blue meal plan will be $7,262. Health insurance through the college will cost $2,900.

It is important to note that while the cost of attendance is going up 3.9%, there is variation in the increases based on the specific category being discussed. Tuition itself is going up $1,786, or 2.8%. Housing is going up $276, or 4%. Board/meal plan is going up $948, or 15%. Health insurance is going up $344, or 13.5%. If you will not be living in a double, the $800 extra you pay for a single will go up $32, or 4%.

This increase was voted on by the Board of Trustees at their Oct. 1-2 meeting. The Board of Trustees is the body that governs the college. It currently has 30 members. The board is made up of mostly Beloit College alumni. The full board meets at least three times a year to decide the organizational direction of the college, and at their fall meeting every year, they vote on the cost of attendance for the following year.

This increase comes right on the heels of Beloit College's All-In Pricing Guarantee. Of note is that the pricing guarantee only applies to applicants for the 27-28 academic year, and not any currently enrolled students. For those students currently enrolled, they can expect to see an increase in their cost of attendance for next year, with no matching of that increase from merit aid (student's merit aid stays with them for four years at the amount they received for year one) or financial aid (the college does not have a blanket policy on this, and instead, applies a case-by-case review for students with high need). While the overall "sticker price" for cost of attendance will be going up 3.9%, it is difficult to say what percentage each student's cost will go up by because almost no student pays the sticker price, and many pay varying amounts.

The less a student paid under the previous cost of attendance ($77,532), the higher their percentage increase will be, since the cost is going up for everyone by at least $3,010. For example, if you receive $40,000-$60,000 in aid this year, you could expect to see your cost go up 8%-17%.

All of these increases come on the heels of a failure in communication on cost increases last semester that were part of sparking a multi-week protest on campus. In meetings and communication sent out, the college seemed to acknowledge the failure in communication and stated that it would work to rebuild trust and provide transparent communication.



Beloit College

Blue Tsunami and the End of MAGA?

By DEMIR KASAPOGLU
Watch Party Addendum by ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT and VIVIAN KOPKA

Millions of Americans went to the polls in the highly-anticipated midterm election on Nov. 3. The election brought forward what sources such as The New York Times, NPR, and ABC News have called a "blue tsunami," going beyond the expectations of even the most ambitious predictions.

The Democrats won a clear majority in the House and the Senate, and now hold 30 out of the 50 governorships in the country.

Locally, Wisconsin Dems flipped the governorship, with David Crowley beating Republican Tom Tiffany by more than eight points, according to MultiState Elections. In Beloit's congressional district, incumbent Bryan Steil was defeated by Democratic challenger Mitchell Berman by more than 10,000 votes.

The major talking points have been the flip of longtime red Texas, with James Talarico and Gina Hinojosa winning their respective Senate and gubernatorial elections. In addition to Texas, reporting from the Associated Press shows that Democrats have flipped Senate seats in Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, South Carolina, North Carolina and Maine — almost all of which were "red states" in 2024.

At the time of writing, the AP has not yet called the Senate elections in Alaska and Mississippi. However, the Democratic candidates in both races hold a narrow majority. If the Democrats manage to flip Alaska and Mississippi, they will hold 56 seats, a major victory over their current minority of 47.

Major progressive and democratic socialist candidates also saw a boost in popularity in swing states and deep red states. Progressive Democrat Abdul El-Sayed beat Republican Mike Rogers in a highly nationalized race in Michigan by 8 points, with the AP calling the race in the early morning of Nov. 4. Democratic socialist candidate Melat Kiros won Colorado's 1st Congressional District, becoming the first Gen-Z woman to become a representative.

Although the Democrats got a major success, the night was not without Republican



Atlantic Council

victories. Angie Nixon, a democratic socialist candidate for Senate in Florida, lost to Republican incumbent Ashley Moody by four points, with 50.9% of the vote as currently counted by the Associated Press.

The election showed the mood of the electorate on the actions of the second Trump administration. An unpopular war against Iran, continued support for Israel, increasing cost of living, alleged corruption, partisan gerrymandering by both parties, and more have been at the forefront of American politics since 2024.

With this large of a majority for Democrats, Republicans have found themselves in a crisis. "The reason we lost is the war," wrote Vice President JD Vance on X. His tweet has been seen as an attempt to distance himself from President Trump, as Vice President Vance has been considered the top Republican for the 2028 nomination. Along with public doubt of the President by the Vice President, rumors of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio getting possibly fired were circulating, although the White House has denied these rumors.



Twitter

In a night-of interview with The New York Times, President Trump expressed that he is willing to work with Democrats. "I consider it to be the most successful two-year period in the history of any president," he said of his presidency preceding the midterm.

Although they won big, the Democrats are also gearing up for a factional struggle between the establishment, progressive, and democratic socialist wings of the party. El-Sayed stated in an interview with CNN that he will not support New York Senator Chuck Schumer as majority leader in January, opting for Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen, while establishment Democrats continue support for Schumer and current House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.

With such a crushing defeat, many political analysts and news organizations have been discussing whether or not this election is "the end of MAGA" and "Trumpism." Although we will not know the answer to this question for many years, it is clear that the American electorate has rejected the actions of the president, giving Democrats a wide mandate to bring stability into a highly unstable administration.

Following the midterm elections on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Beloit Votes, the Weissberg Program, and the Political Science program hosted an election watch party in the Science Center. Pizza, chips, deserts, and soda were provided. The students at the watch party kept track of all the midterm races happening nationwide on a whiteboard.

"It was very inspiring to see students come together to watch such a historical election and eat yummy food," said Rachel Lubar'28, President of Beloit Votes.

New Pizza Oven STUNS

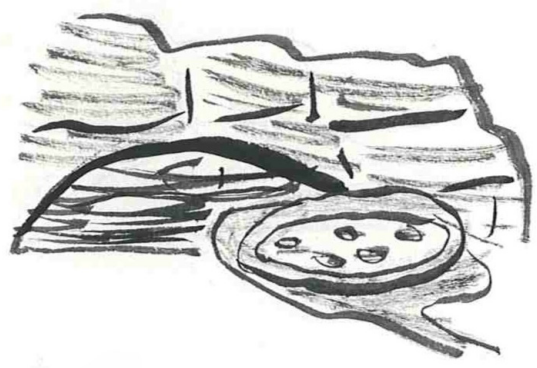
By ETHAN COOPER

Students were surprised to see a large brick pizza oven seemingly materialize out of thin air in front of Blaisdell Hall. The new installation has both raised questions and aroused the imagination of the student body. "I didn't even really notice any construction, even when I was here the week before move-in," said Liv Fisler'28.

Associate Vice President of Facilities Nathan Osterberger said the oven came from the new student advisory board, the Residential Experience Advisory Committee, or REAC. Members of the committee have expressed concern over the lack of communal spaces on and surrounding campus. Osterberger said, "Whenever I get a chance to talk to students, I always ask them, 'Well, what kind of spaces are you guys looking to add to campus?' And their responses usually are like, 'We want spaces that will help us build community, and different spaces to hang out and meet people,' which makes sense."

The oven also appears to be part of a larger initiative from administration to improve quality of life on campus. "We're looking at doing different things in the lounges at the college," explained Osterberger. "… We want to start having the lounges be themed. So maybe one's a poker lounge, and there's a nice poker table in there. And then maybe one has foosball, or one has bumper pool, or something to get students out of the room, to give them something to do."

The oven is intended to be such a space. Osterberger added. "That area is actuallv not vet done. I mean. the



Betty Cavicchia'28

structure is complete, but we're actually looking at the empty lounge in Blaisdell. We're thinking of doing some sort of indoor-outdoor lounge concept where whatever's happening in the lounge can then spill out onto this patio. So, we're going to end up putting furniture out there, and we'll get a gazebo cover on the other side of it. It'll turn into an outdoor hangout spot."

Osterberger adds, "hopefully, every student on campus can kind of find, you know, find their little niche, find where they feel like they want to hang out with their friends, and then we can just kind of let that happen organically,

However, some are confused by the addition. As the college faces continued financial stress, the oven has appeared as a questionable administrative decision. With a price tag of around $20,000 according to Osterburger, some doubt whether or not it was worth it in the first place. "First of all, I kind of think it's a big eyesore," said Fisler. I just don't understand why they made it. And pretty much every single student that, at least I've talked to, has a very similar opinion about it to me."

Importantly, the money for the oven's construction, according to Osterberger, came out of donation money set aside for dorm renovation, and not out of student tuition. While the college continues to move forward, implementing new policies and renovating old spaces, the future remains to be seen.

BELOIT & BEYOND

How Economic Theory Can Protect the Boundary Waters, May Myint Mo Zaw'27

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

May Myint Mo Zaw'27 presented about her experience during her time in the Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota at the Coe College Wilderness Field Station. During her time there, she interviewed various people in the nearby town of Ely about the recent legislation that overturned a 20-year mining ban. Zaw spoke about how Ely has a long history of being a town that is heavily involved in mining, and how a Chilean mining company plans to come into the town start copper mining in the Boundary Waters. There are promises of jobs, resources and minimal environmental impact, but research found that while jobs will be created, pollution will still drift downstream and the resources mined will be sold off to Chinese companies. The upstream pollution will affect both the town of Ely and local native populations, including Ojibwe tribes. Using different economic frameworks like a cost benefit analysis and boom bust framework, these faults can be exposed in an attempt to save the boundary waters and the neighboring environments.

What the Map Leaves Out: Questioning the Neutrality of Scientific Data, Noor ul Ain'27

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

Noor ul Ain'27 presented about environmental impacts that are not shown on satellite maps (like Google Earth). Maps, Ain said, can oversimplify a lot of data, but they can also push narratives that governments wants them to. Ain argued that local knowledge should be included in things such as community maps, citing the use of Safecast after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident, where people used individual reports to create maps that highlighted radiation. Ain's presentation also highlighted the relationship between national security and maps, since governments can censor satellite imagery, particularly over conflict zones (Gaza, Ukraine, Ethiopia, etc.), and have the potential to use these maps to push narratives.

Colby Bern's Experiences from the Beloit College Bioarchaeology Abroad Program

By ALIVIA RENTERIA

The first student to speak in the 2:05-3:00 p.m. (Bio)Archaeology Abroad symposium session was Colby Bern'27. After a brief introduction by Professor Kosta Hadavas, Bern dove straight into his presentation, recounting his experience studying in Germany over the summer at Staatssammlung für Anthropologie München (The Bavarian State Collection of Anthropology in Munich).

Osteology is the study of human bones to infer physical and cultural characteristics. Along with several other Beloit College students in the group, Bern's role consisted of osteological lab research such as skeletal reconstruction, and the analysis of remains to determine condition and demographic. He also served to assist other groups when the need arose.

The particular archaeological site being studied, Großes Gräberfeld (Great Burial Ground), was used for late Roman to early Medieval burials, and contained multiple occupation sites from different cultures and times within those periods. As such, the condition of osteological material found at the site could vary greatly. To determine characteristics such as age and condition, the team utilized a software called Transition Analysis 3. According to an article published by Elsevier, the base of the software runs off of two assumptions: that there exist "skeletal indicators that undergo unidirectional transitions as people get older," and that combining these indicators allows them to provide age estimates.

Throughout the research trip, Bern was tasked with writing up osteobiographies, which describe the characteristics of a deceased individual and assumptions that could be made about them based on the physical characteristics of their bones. For instance, one of the two individuals discussed in this symposium was an adult with evidence of degraded metals on their wrist. Bern explained that the presence of grave goods showed a certain level of care for the deceased, or perhaps even a level of social status.

The other individual that was discussed was neonatal, making it impossible to determine certain characteristics such as sex, since sexually dimorphic traits begin to appear in puberty. While not as difficult as in subadults, it can still be a challenge to determine gender in adults due to the variety of features that can be present in any one individual. Other aspects, such as third molars and premolars can ascertain if an individual is a subadult or an adult.

"This experience was an incredible opportunity to explore the career path I want to pursue," said Bern. "It gave me practice in a genuine lab setting with real bones, which can provide infinitely more information than a model. It also gave me a window into my future in this field, which reaffirmed how much I want to do this for the rest of my life."

Niko Torres Holloway Presents on 'Bones and Bronze: My Archaeological Experience in Italy'

By ALIVIA RENTERIA

At 2:35 p.m, the second speaker in the (Bio)Archaeology abroad session began his speech. Niko Torres Holloway'29 gave a symposium recounting his experience participating in an archaeological dig in Montecchio, Italy. In contrast to the previous speaker, who spent his time abroad completing osteological research in a lab, Holloway contributed firsthand to the excavation of a necropolis, which is a large, ancient burial ground, and aided in the recovery of osteological material to be studied later by other groups.

The trip lasted for four weeks, with each week being used for a different step of the process — such as cleaning the area, bringing in tools, finding and mapping out the grid perimeter, and excavating the Etruscan bronze and pottery.

The majority of materials recovered consisted of ceramics such as pots and tiles, with the addition of animal remains and, to a lesser extent, human bones. Due to the presence of animal materials and certain tools, the crew believed that the area may have been used for processing animal hides.

One find occurred, Holloway explained, when the team uncovered a set of tiles the size of a desk's surface. As they were extracted, a space was found behind them, leading to the discovery of the burial site of an early Roman woman, who had been buried with a bronze key. The significance of the key is unknown, but it could have implied a certain level of wealth or status.

Based on his experiences during this trip, Holloway shared a few important bits of advice for anyone considering attending a field school themselves. He noted that weather and manual labor can lead to dehydration fast, so recommended students consider investing in an insulated water bottle and electrolyte-heavy drinks. He highlighted the importance of documentation is important, saying students should take photos whenever they are able to. Italy also legally requires steel-toed boots on dig sites, so he advised students to bring a pair. Along with hydration, he said, working on cardio before the trip can better prepare students for the physically demanding work. Holloway also recommended that students not fall asleep on the train and end up in Bologna (this, he said,happened to him).

Holloway and friends took trips to Rome, Florence, Sienna, and Germany during free weekends. He suggested travelling with others when in an unfamiliar place, and brushing up on the language.

Wild Spaces and Wildfires

By ALANNA SULARZ

In a conference orchestrated by Professor Chris Fink, students discussed the importance of cultivating wild urban spaces on campus along with a Boundary Waters trip turned to emergency evacuation.

Kipper Bromia'27 led the discussion surrounding wild urban spaces, which they defined as areas where native plants and animals can exist in an urban environment. They spent half of their summer researching by interviewing staff, students, the Admissions Office, and groundskeeping staff, focusing on societal factors at play that determine the importance of urban nature.

Beloit College currently has two main wild urban spaces: the prairie outside of the Science Center and the woodland behind the Wright Museum of Art. The prairie at the Science Center acts as an oak savannah restoration — one of the most endangered Midwest ecosystems due to colonialism and colonization — and attracts swallowtails, bees, and birds to the area. Bromia described how wild urban spaces provide spontaneity and act as "third spaces" between home and work that can foster community. Bromia compared campus' restoration efforts to those they saw at Macalester College, which noted the role of conservation in their campus identity and ecological pride. In particular, they drew attention to the relationship between Admissions and conservation goals. Conventional standards of campus aesthetics war with the unique identity of wild urban spaces, a conflict Bromia hopes to resolve through effective communication with staff.

Following Bromia's presentation, students who attended a trip to the Boundary Waters region in Minnesota shared their experience with an emergency evacuation due to a wildfire only 3 miles from their camp. Armita Aghamiri'28, Gabe Boivin'27, Carly Carpenter'29, Will Lyng'28, Toha Abedin'29, and Jean Gris'-- signed up for month-long courses that were supposed to take place in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Ely, Minnesota.

Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu.

YOU THERE! SA'AM!

That's the fancy new blue wave portmanteu of "sir" and "ma'am." You are required to use it now.

For more **Beloit & Beyond** presentation reporting, go to *roundtable.beloit.edu* and check out news on some of our lovely presenters!

BUT! Something new is afoot!!

At *roundtable.beloit.edu*, we have a **brand-new GAMES section!** You can do **Connections**! You can play a **Mini Crossword**! You can **roleplay as your favorite editor!** (not on the website, but you do whatever gets your rocks off buckaroo!)

Plumbing the Depths of the Beloit YikYak

By QUINN ANNIS and THEO BJORNSTAD



Beloit College YikYak

Yik Yak is a social media app made for college students that lets them post anonymous messages for anyone else on campus to see. Beloit College has its own Yik Yak, where you can engage with the thoughtful comments of other students, like "Track girls the mostunloyal chicks out there" and "Baseball got the fattest asses on campus." There is also someone who won't stop writing about how much they hate Nebraska.

Is there anything actually entertaining on it? Rarely. Because it's anonymous, anybody with a phone number is free to airball five jokes in a row, throw out their most vile takes, beg for dates, and write any number of terrible things.

But this is all just the scum on the surface of the pond. Let's dive deeper and see what kind of horrible things we can dredge up.

For a very long time, the Beloit Yik Yak was dead. Its earliest post is dated to 185 weeks ago. The first person to post regularly was a user known as "yourmother," who carried the Yik Yak on their back, being the sole poster for almost two years. They disappeared 69 weeks ago.

After about 40 weeks, the posts started to pick up. There were still only a few per week, but there weren't gaps of multiple weeks between posts like there were previously. This period was marked by a blossoming community of people looking for love.

"I need a butch girlfriend with the energy of a startled horse when I flirt with her," one user said.

"Who wants to cuddle up and cry together," another posted.

"Any girls who wanna kiss other girls asking for a friend," wrote a third.

From the low level of interaction on posts around this time, we can guess that none of them got what they were looking for. Perhaps due to the poor dating prospects, around 24 weeks ago the Yik Yak went dormant once more. But it would rise again.

In the past four to five weeks, something revitalized the blighted Yak. This time period has given us the majority of the posts, with people sending anonymous images and messages multiple times a day. This explosion of activity has spread to every corner of Beloit College, with sports and frats — especially TKE — taking center stage. A number of developments in the Yik Yak's cultural ecosystem have taken place since this shift.

For one thing, people around campus are now "kids." Perm kid. Highlights kid. Tuba kid. FOMO kid. Nickname kid. If you go outside, you might get turned into a "kid," too. We're actually making you one for reading this article. You're article kid now. You gotta live with that.

The TKE empire has also risen and fallen. With the passing of Halloweekend, Yik Yak, once their stronghold, has turned on them. A party they had spent weeks hyping up fell flat from some poor music choice, and public opinion has yet to recover.

Despite all this, plenty of people are using Yik Yak as they always have. Looking for love, lamenting the quality of the new DK's menu, begging for a party to go to, shouting their hatred of e-scooters from the rooftops, and clowning on our sports teams (sometimes rightfully).

We strongly recommend giving the Beloit College Yik Yak a look for yourself, even if just for a little while. It's truly fascinating to see how the minds of these people work up close. If you listen closely, you can almost hear the rocks in their heads knocking into each other. It's like going to a zoo.

Just try not to think too hard about the fact that the person thirsting over their Intro to Chemistry professor got into the same school you did, or the fact that their vote counts exactly as much as yours does.

Fun Fact: According to NYU's School of Engineering, Yik Yak is ostensibly anonymous but does log your IP if the police ask for it. Be careful out there, Yakkers.

My Favorite Questionable Food Combos

By ELISA TURNER

I'm no culinary pioneer, but sometimes you're at Commoltons or the grocery store and you just need to shake things up. This is the guide for you. We'll start with things you can work with at Commoltons, then work our way outwards.

The Donkin

I made this originally when I was a wee lad. I don't remember why I decided to call it a donkin, but that's what I've called it in my head for most of my life. Very simply, it is a toasted plain bagel topped with peanut butter, and — using the peanut butter as a glue — further topped with whole grapes. I used to be able to make this at Commoltons, but they've gotten rid of/hid the Jif peanut butter packs. If someone knows where it has gone please email me. Otherwise, you may resort to taking some peanut butter from DK's and bringing it to Commoltons for the purposes of making the donkin.

Commoltons Tenders Dipping Sauce

There's sort of a specific use case for this. Go to Commoltons on a day they have both chicken tenders and tacos. Get the newly smaller and sadder (unless you're an athlete) Bon Appetit-sanctioned portion of chicken tenders and put them on your plate. Then, on the side, get a heaping spoonful of sour cream. Top it with cilantro, and drizzle generously with hot honey. For bonus points, get a waffle. The sweet, warm, light, and fresh aspects of the sauce go well with the tenders, dry and cardboardy as they may be.

Gardetto's and Tofu

This is a sort of last resort food for when you need protein and you want it to taste slightly better than eating straight powdered whey. A spoonful of Gardetto's, and a little cube of extra-firm tofu, both in one bite. Optionally, salt and pepper the tofu beforehand. It's savory and not too dry, with just enough protein to ensure you can walk back to your dorm AND cry without collapsing on the bridge!

Chicken Gruel

Another satiator for the dire times of Commoltons, often seen close to the end of the semester. Go to the soup section and take a ladle or two of whatever has a chicken broth base — but just the broth. No chunks. No chewables. Then, grab 3-4 packets of oyster crackers from atop the soup stand. When you sit down to eat, unleash the crackers into the broth until they have soaked up all of it. The soup should be a somewhat homogenous chicken-carb gruel consistency, like something you'd feed to someone fresh out of wisdom teeth surgery. Then, consume. This is its purpose.

Sweet Butterghetti

For this, you need some al dente spaghetti, a pad of salted butter, and a spoonful of powdered sugar. You may have seen this on the interweb somewhere. I am here to verify that the interweb is right. Melt the butter on the al dente spaghetti, and sprinkle powdered sugar on top. Mix it around to disperse, then enjoy.

Brie-se's Take 5

Get a Reese's Take 5® from Woodman's, and double-creme soft ripened brie from Aldi. Place a slice of brie (not a thin one — get a CHONK!!!) and put it on the flat side of the Reese's Take 5®. Eat it whole. The Reese's Take 5® is a nearly perfect chocolate, with the desirable elements of chocolate, peanut butter, pretzels, and caramel forming a perfect savory-sweet crunch bite. The addition of brie gives it a creamy, tangy note that also elevates the existing nuttiness and richness. Honorable mention in this category — nerds gummy clusters and brie, if you like a fruity, lighter pairing more.



Claire Winter'28

Scouticle

By EMMA LAUS



Vivian Kopka'27

I first met Scout about a year ago in *The Round Table* office. Since then, we've crossed paths only a couple times, but they have certainly been memorable.

From a sprawled position Scout measures an astounding 4.4 ft. According to Jazmin Gomez'27, "He looks like he would be a really small dog and then they just enlarged him." He has many classic dog features: a nose, eyes, and even paws. "He looks like a dog, but he is unique but his brown spots are very light, almost like a blond," said Gomez. He is often lying down, but when the possibility of pets presents itself, he raises his head, mouth slightly open. His short downy fur is surprisingly soft, especially on his brown ears.

Once you start petting him, it's hard to stop. "He's very needy," said his owner, Vivian Kopka'27. "He's kind of the textbook definition of anxious attachment when you're with him but he's fine when you leave him alone." But being pet isn't the only thing Scout loves. When asked about his ideal day, Kopka said, "It would be a Saturday, he would like to wake up and it's a cool day, not too sunny, in the summer. He'd go to the farmers' market, and after the farmers' market he'd go to his friend Coconut's house and eat a lot of pig ears. And it would wrap up at night with my parents on the couch and my dad would throw popcorn at him to catch." As Kopka talked, Scout stood next to me, pawing my hand as I tried to type, excited at all his favorite words being spoken.

He first joined the Kopka family as a foster dog in 2023. Initially they had not planned to adopt, but wanted to help shelter dogs regulate their nervous systems. "But when we got Scout, we fell in love with him and had to snag him right up and adopt him," Kopka said. She added that, if Scout could describe his own life in one word, it would be "having fun."

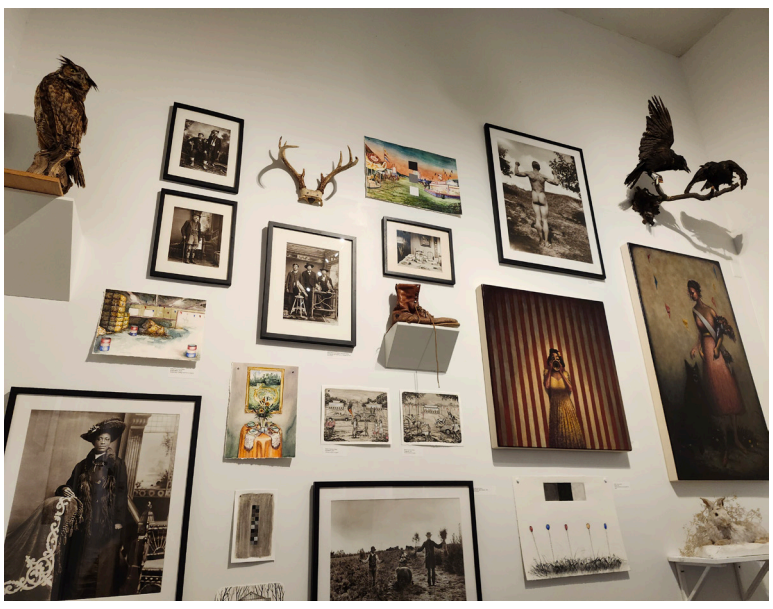
Scout's magnetic personality and wise demeanor will take him far. Anyone lucky enough to cross his path will undoubtedly come away a better person.



Vivian Kopka'27

‘Everyday Heaven’: A New Exhibition In The Wright Museum

By OLLIE IDZIKOWSKI



Ollie Idzikowski’27

On Nov. 12, the Wright Museum of Art will be hosting a reception for an exhibition titled “Everyday Heaven.” The South Gallery will display a collection of two artists: photographer Charles Van Schaick and oil painter Rafael Francisco Salas. The uniting theme between these two artists is a fascination with rural Wisconsin. Their work often captures a gothic and morbid tone. This gallery is a unique display of the fragile, ghostly beauty of the more obscure parts of the American midwest. Christa Story, academic curator at the Wright Museum and instructor in the field of art history, provided valuable information on this exhibition upon request.

Schaick’s work was featured prominently in the 1973 work “Wisconsin Death Trip” by Michael Lesy. The end of Schaick’s active period predates Lesy’s book by about three decades, as Schaick served as the town photographer of Black River Falls, Wisconsin from 1885 to 1940. Black River Falls is a city in Jackson County that was selected as the subject of Lesy’s book because of the challenging lives of locals during the late nineteenth century. Schaick’s work ranges from scenes of the mundane to post-mortem photography.

Salas is a Wisconsin-based oil painter who focuses on rural subjects. Salas’ paintings are solid examples of surrealism, as there are clear influences from historical realities, but fantastical and bizarre imagery is a prominent focus. Salas’ work, while very diverse, tends to focus on a single figure or small group of people. Carnival-like settings are common in this specific selection of his, with some paintings being completely devoted to depicting the rural American fair. Squares of a single pure color are also a common feature, creating an almost pixelated effect. A portion of the gallery is abstract paintings that are entirely composed of square grids with varied earthy tones.

“Everyday Heaven” has been exhibited in other galleries. The Portrait Society Gallery Of Contemporary hosted a collection of Salas and Schaick early last year, including different pieces from Beloit’s exhibition. This particular combination of painter and photographer seems to consistently provide an interesting gallery experience. Thursday’s reception hopefully will be a warm welcome to Wright’s latest display.

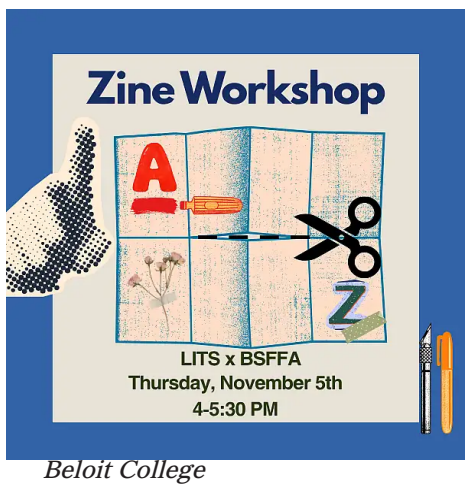
BSFFA x LITS x Reslife Zine Workshop: Creating And Celebrating

By OLLIE IDZIKOWSKI

On the rainy afternoon of Nov. 5 in library classroom 203, Ryan McGonagle’27, current president of the Beloit Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, and Archivist Diane Ray, collaborated to host a workshop on creating and celebrating zines. This zine workshop was a collaboration between LITS, BSFFA, and Res Life. Ray curated a selection of zines for inspiration, and gave a small presentation on the history of the medium. McGonagle took charge on helping attendees get started on their zines.

Rays’s history lesson on zines started with Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press and the resulting influx of cheap printing. She explained how what we would later understand as zines, sold for pennies on street corners, were a precursor to modern day social media. Theological and political topics were common subjects, and these pamphlets could be written in response to each other, with writers often attacking other writers’ positions in this manner. Ray also touched on the zine’s place in the history of women publishing and early fandom culture.

A decent number of students attended and followed McGonagle’s instructions to create a simple six-page zine. The process involved basic paper-folding and scissor-cutting. More adventurous and complex zines can include sew-binding and hardshell covers. After participants got on their way with making their zines, the rest of the time was spent in casual conversation, and reflecting on the medium. Multiple people echoed the idea that zines should make a comeback as a common form of communication, which seems like a sign of success for this event. BSFFA is having more events later in the semester, such as potlucks and presentations, a dice scavenger hunt, and a tabletop RPG board game night.



Beloit College

GAYface (A ‘Clayface’ Movie Review)

By KEEGAN DEWITT

Released Oct. 23, James Watkin’s “Clayface” provides a concise and unique take on the humble beginnings of one of DC’s most well-known villains. The film follows Matt Hagen (Tom Rhys Harries) as his acting career progresses and quickly turns for the worse after he has a run-in with one of Gotham’s crime lords. After being treated by Dr. Caitlyn Corr (Naomi Ackie), he has to cope with the fact that he has turned into goop. Of course, you would already know that if you have any background knowledge of DC characters beyond Batman and Superman, which I did not. I am, however, a large fan of the horror genre, which is an area I can review this film on somewhat confidently.

The movie begins with Matt Hagen in a car on his way to — believe it or not — the production site of a movie he is starring in. From this, we see how far he has come from his adolescence in Gotham’s Narrows neighborhood, to now being nominated for an Academy Award and invited to televised talk shows. The manner of this small section is lighthearted and cheerful, showing the bright future Hagen has in front of him. However, the overarching „too good to be true“ tone makes this a prime “she had no idea they was gonna play in her face” moment.

After a night at the clurb gone wrong, Hagen is violently disfigured by Markos Szabo (David Dencik) and has his life sent awry after trying to seek



Betty Cavicchia’28

justice for himself to no avail. With his pretty boy face gone and his money sucked dry by lawyers and doctors, Hagen is forced back into the Narrows to live his life secluded from mankind. He hits rock bottom, and ends up turning to Dr. Caitlyn Corr’s nanocell technology, begging her to use it on him despite it being in its infancy. There is a false sense of hope here — Hagen is almost back to normal after a long process of healing, but not enough to be truly okay.

With a few more incidents involving the new nanocell technology inside his body, Hagen sees his new life as C l a y f a c e and starts on the path of vigilantism to seek revenge on those who wronged him. This is, in a way, satisfying — Hagen is finally getting the justice he deserves, at least until he takes it too far and morphs into the villain most know him as.

Despite knowing little to nothing about Clayface as a character, I thought this film dipping into the horror genre was very cool and unique for the DC franchise. It makes so much sense for “Clayface,” a movie about a villain who can shape his body into anything he wants, to delve into the body horror aspect of shapeshifting. This film does not shy away from the grimy and disgusting details either — one of my favorite scenes, the club fight towards the end of the film, includes an amazing sequence showing Hagen shapeshifting in the most unimaginable ways possible. From his face smushing in on itself after getting clocked by one of Szabo’s goonies to his body warping uncomfortably after falling off a second-story ledge, these segments show the sickening ways the human body can morph and bend.

Additionally, I thoroughly enjoyed the psychological horror element of forgetting one’s self. Before becoming Clayface, Hagen always had to act as someone else, and shy away from his impoverished roots. Dr. Corr’s nanocell therapy emphasizes this; in his sleep, Hagen shifts into people that are not him. Later in the film, it appears that Hagen’s default form is just the concept of a human. He has no true shape, and barely resembles himself. His actions, and the way he rationalizes those actions, cause him to physically perform as others, much like his past occupation, except this time he struggles to return back to his true self. That is what I think is terrifying about this movie — how easy it is to become someone else, and how hard it is to remember who you really are.

My critiques are small, but still make a large impact on the visual effects of “Clayface.” Beyond the dim, Netflix-esque lighting that almost every piece of media now has, the film underutilizes Gotham and the surrounding world as a way to drive the story forward. Of course, key areas, such as downtown Gotham and The Narrows, are used, but they are very rarely mentioned. It is somewhat easy to forget that this takes place in Gotham, or the DC universe, because it is mentioned very sporadically. Additionally, I feel that romance has a bigger stake in this film than it should. It appears to be the main focus at times when it should be on, y’know, Clayface.

In short, I thought this film was very good from a horror perspective. I came out of the movie theater with a new favorite DC villain and an interest in the franchise as a whole. I hope to see more movies like this in the future, possibly with even more absurdity and gore.

Deep Purple’s Overlooked Masterpiece

By CIAN MCKOEWN



Wikipedia

At the dawn of the 1970s, three bands emerged from England that would shape the history of rock music in that decade and beyond. Two such legendary bands, Birmingham’s Black Sabbath and London’s Led Zeppelin, have been lionized as perhaps the finest in the “classic rock” oeuvre, while the third has often been an afterthought in such a conversation.

Deep Purple’s Mark I lineup first gathered in the bucolic country village of Hertford, located 40 miles north of London, originally under the name Roundabout. Ironically this would become the title of the most-loved song of their classic rock peers Yes.

The initial lineup featured vocalist Rod Evans, stoic guitarist Ritchie Blackmore, bassist Nick Simper, classically trained virtuoso keyboardist Jon Lord, and innovative drummer Ian Paice. Despite their impressive musicianship, the group’s early work presents a mixed bag. Their two 1968 LPs, “Shades of Deep Purple“ and “The Book of Taliesyn,” draw more inspiration from the psychedelia of the late sixties than from the powerful hard rock style they would later be known for.

A notable highlight from their cover-heavy early albums is a proto-heavy metal rendition of Joe South’s country hit “Hush.” In 1969, Deep Purple progressed with a self-titled album that more closely resembles their classic sound, featuring chunky organ riffs from Lord and an exploration of heavier instrumentals.

The band was trending in a hard rock direction, but Evans and Simper, being solid pop musicians, could not foresee the band’s legendary trajectory. They were dismissed from the band after the release of their self-titled album. Their replacements, bluesy vocalist Ian Gillan and rock-steady bassist Roger Glover would be the two missing pieces for Deep Purple’s ascension.

Of the three studio albums and one live album that Deep Purple released between 1970 and 1972, there is one that remains overlooked to this day within the band’s catalog. The awkward middle child of the Mark II lineup albums, 1971’s “Fireball” may be the quintet’s finest release. It should be understood that this is a bold claim. Many fans and even the casual classic rock radio listener would most certainly choose 1972’s “Machine Head” which is practically a greatest hits album, or “Made In Japan” released the same year, often considered one of the finest live recordings in rock history. However, no other album showcases the band‘s versatility, musicianship, and songwriting better than “Fireball.”

Opening with sound effects that sound like they were plucked straight from the original “Star Trek” series, the title track and album opener quickly descends into speedy and propulsive runs by drummer Ian Paice. Lead singer Ian Gillan’s voice also fluctuates between a hoarse heavy metal shriek and a soulful croon throughout. This straight-ahead rocker ignites the record nicely.

“No No No” is another stuttering bluesy jam, where Blackmore gets to fully showcase some of his subtle guitar mastery. Despite admittedly dim-witted lyrics, “Strange Kind of Woman” is a staple of the band’s live act, containing some of Jon Lord’s most cacophonous and powerful work on the Hammond B3 Organ. After three blistering rockers, the album slows down with “Anyone’s Daughter” a singular composition in the Deep Purple’s discography. A lilting and achingly beautiful countrified Blackmore riff guides the listener into a tale of a town rascal. Gillan narrates the comical story of the protagonist shacking up with the daughters of the farmer, the sheriff, and the judge in a small town, delivering the odd farce with enough sincerity to make the lyrics seem genuinely melancholic.

Read the rest at roundtable.beloit.edu

Women's Volleyball Best Knox in Senior Day Matchup

By KIMBERLY PILON

The Buccaneers and Prairie Fire both started off strong on Saturday morning, until the Buccaneers took an early lead throughout the first set with impressive kills from Kierra Rayne Hoover'27 and Daniela Perez'30. Knox attempted to make a comeback as the Bucs finished out the first set, but defensive mistakes led to the Buccaneers taking the first.



Kimberly Pilon'28

Flood Arena was set up to honor seniors Kierra Rayne Hoover'27, Sydney McClellan'27, Naomi Murphy'27 and Kyra Suiter-Meyers'27. Buccaneer family and friends crowded the gymnasium to celebrate the last game of the season and the four seniors.

The Prairie Fire started strong, but Beloit rose to the challenge, with Renee Stout'29 making strong defensive plays early in the set. The score remained close as Lilliane Bethards'30 added multiple kills and ended the game with 9. The Bucs were unable to pull out ahead of Knox and lost 20-25.

The Bucs came out strong in the third, and was pushed further ahead by Knox's setting errors, scoring 9 points before the Prairie Fire were able to get on the board. The Buccaneers were able to maintain their lead and won the set by 14 points. Murphy and Madalyn Huizel'30 were major players, contributing 7 and 10 kills respectively.

The fourth set left Beloit and Knox battling for the win, until Beloit got a short lead — before the Prairie Fire tied it up again while quickly approaching the end of the set. After kills from Bethards and Suiter-Meyers, Knox made attacking errors, leading to the Bucs winning one of their final games of the season.

The team closed out their season Saturday, Nov. 7, with another win against Alverno College 3-2.

Mens Hockey Drop Home Opener vs. MSOE

By SAM NEUBAUER

The Beloit Buccaneers took on the MSOE Raiders for their home opener in their second season as a program. After losing two games in a row on the road, the Bucs looked to get a win against the Raiders; however, the Raiders spoiled the Bucs' parade, winning the game 6-0 and suffocating the Bucs the entire game. There were a few good looks, both teams bouncing back and forth between the penalty box, but the combination of a lack of offense and being on the penalty kill constantly cost the Bucs the afternoon's game.

The first period began with an onslaught from the Raiders, who scored 3:48 into the first period off a shot from Kiki Brown. Then, almost 10 minutes later, the Raiders struck again, scoring 13:26 into the first from a shot by Ethan Thombs, ending the first period 2-0. As the next period continued, the Raiders suffocated the Bucs' hopes of winning, putting up a goal on the powerplay from Nick Sinani 7:42 into the period, quickly followed by a shorthanded goal from Luke Stevens 10:42 into the period ending the second 4-0. Going into the final period, it seemed like the Bucs had a spark of life, holding lots of pressure on the Raiders defense, but goaltender Dominick Gatto earned the shutout, following two goals from the Raiders. Kiki Brown's second goal of the night came 11:22 into the third; then, just over a minute later, Charles Fink scored 12:35 into the third period.

MSOE Raiders took the game 6-0 in front of the Buccaneers home crowd. Up next, the Bucs will be heading to Marian University Nov. 10 at 7 p.mM. The next home game will be the Bucs senior night against Hiram College on Friday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m., the first of a double header against Hiram College.



Betty Cavicchia'28

Men's Basketball Trounces Maranatha Baptist 85-48 in Home Opener

By CIAN McKEOWN

Coming off a road win to start the year, the Beloit Buccaneers men's basketball team returned home for their first contest at the Flood Arena this Saturday night, welcoming the Maranatha Baptist Sabercats. The matchup proved an ideal homecoming for the Bucs, as they dished out an 85-48 drubbing behind a 20-point performance from forward Will Schubert'28 and an avalanche of second-half scoring.



Cian McKeown'27

While it was a defensive struggle in the early minutes, with the two teams trading blocks and turnovers, Schubert and forward Owen Geiger'29 ignited the Bucs offense by imposing their will in the paint and scoring contested layups and mid-range jumpers. After falling behind 24-14, the Sabercats responded by creating space with their speed and setting up a couple of well-timed three-pointers to climb back into the game. The Bucs struggled shooting behind the arc all game, sinking only two out of 14 attempts. One of those successes came when Geiger hit a shot from the corner with three and a half minutes remaining to extend the Bucs' lead to 14 points. As both teams jogged off the Bill Knapton courts and into their respective locker rooms for halftime, the Bucs held a decisive 38-22 lead. While their shooting efficiency left ample room for improvement, they were patrolling the rim defensively and snatching rebounds to maintain possession.

The second half began with a precursor of things to come, featuring a drive for a score by Schubert, a mid-range basket from Diego Perez'27, and a two-hand jam by towering forward Olin Emerson'28 in quick succession. Overall, the Bucs greatly increased their offensive production in the second half, shooting 56.25% from the floor, a near-twenty percent increase from the first half. Maranatha Baptist once again showed their comparative acumen from beyond the arc, going on a 6-0 run in the early minutes of the second half. A brief rally ensued, as the Sabercats shrank the Bucs' lead to 50-39 with 13:33 to play. It was at this point that Schubert and the rest of the squad woke back up, powering into the paint and pulling away, going on a massive run and stifling the Sabercats on defense at every turn. In the blink of an eye, the Bucs' lead ballooned to 27 points, and there were only five and a half minutes to go, amputating whatever lingering hope the Baptist basketballers had remaining in their pious loins after failing to see a single lead change for the entire game. Bucs guard Dasan Reed'28 came alive during the onslaught, sniping decisive field goals to complement the enforcement and rebounding of stalwart defender Ebrahim Jarjue'28. Jarjue used his wingspan to swat down three Sabercat shot attempts and snag five rebounds on the day, aiding in the Bucs' domination of the paint, scoring 48 points inside the arc compared to a mere 14 by Maranatha Baptist. Reed also ended up being a solid contributor to the Bucs' scoring, totalling 12 points on the night.

A final statement came during a 10-0 run by the Bucs offense to end the game, with the opposition wincing from a possible sabertoothache and submitting to an already inevitable defeat. Using their considerable size and height advantage to wear down the opposing defense and give the offense breathing room after a slow start, the Bucs unlocked another gear and trounced the Sabercats, all without making a single three-pointer in the second half. The Bucs look to carry the momentum of this 2-0 start to their Nov. 13 matchup at Principia College.

The Denver Summit's Inaugural Season Was My Dream Come True

By NORAH OWENS

The NWSL regular season officially ended on Sunday, Nov. 1, and with it ended the inaugural season of the Denver Summit team, who did not make this year's playoffs. As a diehard fan of any Denver sports team, although missing the playoffs is never fun, I absolutely would not change a single thing about this season.

The team's inauguration was historic in Denver for putting professional women's sports back on our radar. The foundation of the team was announced by NWSL leadership Jan. 30, 2025. Two months later, the second current women's sports team in Denver was announced; the Women's Elite Rugby 7s league selected the Denver Onyx to be one of the first six teams in league history. Notably, before the Summit and then the Onyx, Denver had not had any major professional women's sports leagues since the Colorado Xplosion of the American Basketball League folded in 1998. I've been shouting from my soap box about putting a WNBA team in Denver for at least two years now, and have been hoping for a PWHL team since that league began expansion, but the NWSL was absolutely the next best thing.



Norah Owens'29

As a little girl growing up in Colorado Springs, the culture of Denver's men's sports teams was omnipresent throughout my elementary and middle school years. I grew up watching Broncos games, even if I didn't always particularly care about them. I had friends who were seriously committed Avalanche, Nuggets, and even Rapids and Switchbacks soccer fans. I tried my hand at playing nearly every sport on the block, from t-ball to soccer and swimming, and throughout that time I didn't have the chance to see many professional women's athletes in action beyond the 2012 and 2016 Olympics. I was obsessed with Lilly King and Katie Ledecky, but otherwise, I almost never had the chance to see professional women's athletes until I hit high school. The impact of the Denver Summit is monumental for young people in Colorado, who now will not only be exposed to remarkable men's athletes like Nathan MacKinnon, but will also see the remarkable talents of players like Lindsay Heaps, Olivia Thomas, and Abby Smith.

On another personal note, the Summit was the first major league professional sports game I ever got to attend, having previously only ever been to minor league baseball games (rest in peace, Colorado Springs Sky Sox). On July 12 of this year, my dad and I went to Dick's Sporting Goods Stadium in Centennial, Colorado to watch the Summit take on the Houston Dash. This meant I also got to see one of my favorite women's soccer goalkeepers, Jane Campbell, on the pitch for the Dash. At one point, I texted my mom, "This game has me kind of emotional … This is the first major women's sports team in Colorado in 30 years and I'm tearing up." I saw dozens of youth soccer teams attending the game, and adult women who loved the game of soccer finally getting to see players who looked like them, or families who went out for a fun and memorable Saturday evening together. The whole experience felt very human. I even bought a Yazmeen Ryan home jersey, and right after I put it on for the first time, she scored the first goal of that match.

Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu

Athletes of the Week

Will Schubert'28 Men's Basketball

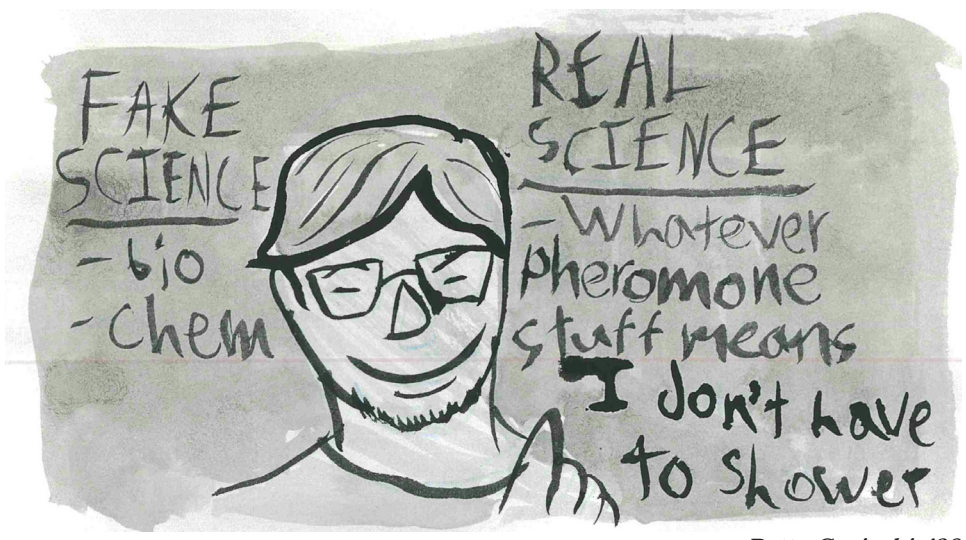


Addison Gruhlke'29 Women's Hockey



It's Not A "Soft Science," It's Just A Female-Dominated Field

By CLAIRE WINTER



Betty Cavicchia'28

First, a preface: I am, among other things, a psychology student — as such, I can only speak from where I stand. Psychology has gone through several evolutions over the decades, including periods where it was neither standardized nor held to the standard of rigor we adhere to today. These impacts were often devastating for people whose mental illness was not properly understood.

Lately, I've been hearing a lot of chatter about "soft sciences." From my professors, some of whom have begun starting research classes by talking about how the standards of study are different but just as stringent as they might be in other classes; from my friends, biology, geology, anthropology students, who are being told with increasing frequency that their fields of study "don't count" when the topic of academia comes to the forefront; and from people speaking directly to me, whether they be business, math, chemistry, finance majors, whether they are classmates or coworkers or family: "that's all soft sciences though, that's not useful."

So, what are "soft" and "hard" sciences? Nobody really seems to know.

I've searched in-person and online and gotten as many different answers as people: "hard sciences" include more math, they're more scientific, they deal with completely controlled variables, they're the ones in STEM (an answer I found particularly baffling).

"Soft sciences" are about politics, religion, education, they deal with people, they're not rigorous, they're the "easy ones." Ask people whether or not they think anthropology is a science next time you'd like to hear some of the weirdest qualifiers for what, exactly, counts as "scientific process," or who's a "scientist" at all.

In short, this infuriates me. "Hard" sciences, by these metrics, should only include math, physics, and maybe — according to some nineteenth-century views on the topic — astronomy. But, as opposed to psychology, very few people will argue that geology doesn't belong in Beloit's Science Center because "it's just guesswork," although geology doesn't deal with completely "controlled variables," and there's just as much chemistry involved in neurotransmitters as there is in the composition of rocks. Hard sciences don't mean "tougher," except maybe on the individual level (everyone has had one required class they absolutely suck ass at. If you haven't had this class yet, you're either a liar or you've got a big storm coming).

Instead, it seems like what people have started to mean by "soft science" is not a "social science," but "less rigorous." The creeping implication seems to be "a field where women outnumber men." Gender discrimination in scientific fields is as old as any scientific field itself, sure, but social sciences might be one of the few scientific spheres where women are currently estimated to outnumber men by a pretty wide margin. From my own personal experience, I'm inclined to agree: psychology classes I've taken here are overwhelmingly female, as opposed to other classes in subjects like chemistry or biology, where the split seems (roughly) even.

Men do well in a field? It must be because they work hard. Women do well in a field? It must be because the field isn't that difficult. I am sick to death of this narrative, outside and inside academia (look at what's considered a "sport" or not, or how female divisions of those sports are treated, including by the president of the United States, and get back to me). At a time when over half of college students nationwide report having mental health struggles, according to a survey commissioned by UnitedHealthcare, and ancient DNA is being extracted from cave paintings, when social sciences touch literally every part of our lives, it seems unbelievably small-minded to declare that none of those fields matter, or that the people who dedicate their lives to them — yes, even women, gasp — are simply less worthy of academic acclaim.

You do not have the option of living in a world without the benefits of "the soft sciences," and I am willing to bet none of you would want to.

A Walmart Shopping Cart Experience

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE



Betty Cavicchia'28

I hate grocery store shopping carts. They are not made for the uncoordinated. They're big and, a lot of the time, old, which means they're squeaky. But mostly, they are uncooperative. One of the wheels is always off to the side or wonky. In those cases, there are two possible scenarios that define your shopping experience. One: the cart has a stubborn wheel on one of the corners that makes it impossible to slide through the aisles. You often have to rely on pure physical strength to get it to the next one. Or two: because one of the wheels is off, the shopping cart suddenly becomes an F1 car: going too fast and crashing into everything.

I tend to avoid Walmart because of this. But when you run out of stuff, you're forced to return to an environment consumed by dysfunctional shopping carts.

And that is exactly how I would describe my sophomore year at Beloit. Nightmarish.

Everything that has happened to me in the four months I've been here has been a Walmart shopping cart experience. I've gone everywhere and nowhere in life at once. I am stuck in the same place, with the same activities, with the same people, with the same results, with a dysfunctional shopping cart.

In a generic grocery store, you start off thinking you have control of the cart. You adjust your grip, change directions, slow down, speed up. For the majority of my life, I've been pretty good at navigating the store. I know where I'm going, what I'm looking for, and how to get there. This year, however, I realized the cart has a mind of its own. Things that seemed manageable suddenly become complicated, and plans don't go the way I expect. I am rerouted time and time and time again, desperately trying to find the "peace-of-mind" aisle, only to end up in the "Yik Yak" one. The harder I try to regain control, the more likely I am to find myself in the center of chaos.

The worst part of this is that everyone else seems to be doing just fine. They're strolling through the aisles, picking up their groceries, and going about their business as if they haven't just entered the same dysfunctional establishment. Their carts move in straight lines. They don't have to wrestle with the wheels or apologize to strangers after nearly taking out an entire display of canned beans. Meanwhile, I'm struggling to make it past the produce section. It's insulting, truly. It makes you wonder whether everyone else has been given a better cart, or whether there's some secret to navigating the store you missed, or whether they're just as miserable and better at hiding it.

But perhaps I've been too quick to blame the cart. The store itself is hardly accommodating. The aisles are unnecessarily narrow, someone is always standing in the middle of them, and there is inevitably a person who decides the cereal aisle is the perfect place to have a family reunion. You try to maneuver around them, apologize for accidentally getting in their way, and somehow end up behind someone who has spent the last fifteen minutes comparing the nutritional value of two nearly identical boxes of saltines. There is no winning. Even if you manage to get your cart moving in the right direction, something, or someone, is bound to get in the way.

At some point, you have to accept the shopping trip isn't going as planned. Maybe you won't find everything you came for. Maybe you'll spend half of the afternoon trying to get through three aisles. Maybe you'll leave with things you didn't intend to buy and forget the one thing you actually needed. It's beyond frustrating, but it's also beyond your control. Not every shopping experience is going to be particularly enjoyable, and not every cart is going to cooperate.

When life gives you lemons, though, you keep pushing. You squeeze the lemons or push the cart forward. You do whatever it takes to move, to progress through the chaos. Because at the end of the day, what else can you really do?

And who knows, maybe my junior year will be a Target shopping basket.

Android Sideloading

By ALEX MAULE AND ADWYN BURDETT

Starting in 2027, Google will restrict how users can use their devices in an unprecedented decision that centralizes digital power in the hands of a few.

Google is about to cement changes that give them total control over all Android phones by effectively deprecating sideloading. Sideloading allows users to install apps on their Android smartphones the same way you would on a computer: by simply downloading a program off the web, transferring it to your device over USB connection or via a storage medium like a flash drive, and installing and running. But Google is tightening the reins: According to officially released documentation, In order to be installed, all apps — not just those on the Google Play Store, but apps from any source — will have to be signed with a cryptographically secured certificate. Each certificate corresponds to a Google developer account registered centrally with Google. If a user tries installing an unsigned app, it simply won't install. This proof of ownership mechanism, which has already launched in Brazil and other regions, effectively gives Google total control over which apps are approved for usage.

The reason Google has provided for these changes is to stop malware and bad actors. As a carve-out, Google has offered users an option to enable sideloading apps from unverified apps in Android Settings, with a 24-hour "protective waiting period" delay. However, the enabling process runs entirely through Google Play services, not through the Android OS itself. Even with OS updates blocked, as long as you have Google Play services running in the background and are connected to the internet, this pathway could be arbitrarily restricted at any time without permission. Google Play services' API encompasses everything from location information to emergency services and Google password manager, as well as many other services most apps require to function, so removing Play services is not feasible for average users.

Google is restricting activities in other ways, too. Android 17 now prohibits users from removing apps using command-line tools. Certain apps such as Google Chrome, or annoying bloatware that manufacturers and network carriers stuff in, cannot be removed normally. Such apps are unnecessary to the device operating and only serve to drain battery and eat up system resources. Now, the only way to remove unwanted apps now is rooting your device, a process which requires lowering protections against malware and viruses, voiding the device warranty, and potentially "bricking" the device if done incorrectly, making it unusable. This is likely to prevent users from removing the "Android Developer Verifier" app, a hidden system service that validates whether an app is verified to a developer, which is now pre-installed after Android 16 (but is currently disabled).

Registering as a Google developer requires paying a $25 fee, which, while fairly trivial, requires handing Google your credit card info. This process also requires a government-issued ID. These two factors means that any developer or digital activist living under an oppressive regime who wants to make and distribute communication tools will be exposing themselves to unnecessary risk.

READ MORE ON THE ROUNDTABLE.BELOIT.EDU

THREE BEERS FOR THE ROUND TABLE





COMIC STRIPS





HOROSCOPES IN QUOTES (some of 'em, anyway)

ARIES

Stubbornness will be the death of you, but you probably won't listen to me.

Taurus

Get Larry Fine on the phone cuz baby, you're balding.





Gemini

"A man chooses, a slave obeys. Are you a man, or a slave?"



Cancer

"Nothing is a cliche when it's happening to you."



Leo

"The right man in the wrong place can make all the difference in the world..."



Virgo

"The sun is a wondrous body, like a magnificent father. If only we could be so grossly incandescent."



Libra

If you don't know what to do just start saying shit. It's a lot like shitting out of your ass. Just let loose.



Scorpio

"When life gives you lemons, don't make lemonade. Make life take the lemons back! Get mad! I don't want your damn lemons, what am I supposed to do with these?"



Sagittarius

"We are born of the blood. Made by the blood. Undone by the blood. Our eyes are yet to open. Fear the old blood."



Capricorn

Only you guys can get superpowers from commons chicken. Cosmic space laser shit I swear to god.



Aquarius

Join the Libertarian party for shits and giggles

Pisces

Life is a lot like a bucket of fish. You're trapped in a tiny sea forever. Tough shit.

