# The Round Table

Finding ass on the Beloit College YikYak since 1853

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# College Announces Elimination of Japanese Major

NEWS

By CIAN MCKEOWN

Beloit College's Academic Senate officially adopted a proposal to eliminate the Japanese major and minor at a Nov. 4 meeting.

While the dissolution of the major was made official at the meeting, the proposal was finalized by faculty at the beginning of the 2026 spring semester. On the decision coinciding with her year-long sabbatical, which she will return from in January, head of the Japanese Program and Professor of Japanese Susan Furukawa said, "The timing was unfortunate because since I'm not on campus, I didn't have the chance to talk students through what was coming." Furukawa said she wanted to be able to express to students in person that the end of "one of the stronger Japanese programs at a small liberal arts college" is "obviously not something that I want." However, to benefit incoming students, the decision was made to move forward with the proposal this semester. "You want to make sure students know what's happening, and in that sense, getting it done quicker is better than dragging it out," Furukawa said.

"In general, students aren't taking languages like they used to," Furukawa said. She cited factors like a decreased emphasis on internationalism, fewer opportunities for students to take Japanese in high school, and the prevalence of large language models like ChatGPT leading to, as Furukawa put it, "people not really understanding the importance of the process of learning a language."

Systemic problems of the decline of Japanese language education have manifested themselves at Beloit College, with lower class sizes for Japanese courses overall being a major contributing factor toward the decision to cut the major and minor. "Unfortunately, if you have a limited number of resources, those resources have to be allocated where student interest is pointing, and currently there are not as many students enrolling in language courses compared to say, business," Furukawa said. The 12 current Japanese majors and eight minors will have the opportunity to complete their degrees.

Retention of students from introductory Japanese courses into intermediate and advanced language courses has also proved to be difficult. "Japanese has its work cut out for it," Furukawa said, "because it's really hard." The U.S. State Department's website classifies Japanese as a "category IV" language — one that is "exceptionally difficult for native English speakers. According to Furukawa, 40% of first-year Japanese students do not continue into a second year of language study. Students in the program also reported experiencing class sizes consistently below nine students beyond first and second-year Japanese language courses.

However, Furukawa expressed that students who clear this threshold tend to commit to the full four-year Japanese language program. "The goal has been to develop strong speakers and readers of Japanese by the time they graduate, which is very difficult to do in four years," Furukawa said. According to Furukawa, students are given the basics of the language in the first two years and are helped in applying it when they are upperclassmen. Furukawa said her goal has been to enable students to leave Beloit College feeling able to use their Japanese language skills. This application can take many forms in the work of students, from museum exhibits to translations of literature and poetry. The program also afforded summer study opportunities for students to study in Japan. Students from the program have used their training to pursue post-graduate education or opportunities in the business sector to apply their language education.

Anna King'27, a Japanese major and member of Japan Club, shared that the major has allowed her and her fellow scholars to study abroad in Japan, which King described as a "life-changing experience" that was facilitated by courses taken in the Japanese program. "Learning a language uses your brain in a completely different way, and exploring a culture that is far different from your own changes the way you think and interact with people," King said. Currently, a Beloit College student must complete two years of language study before they can study abroad in Japan.

Advanced courses in Japanese also prepared students for the cultural and social customs of Japan. "If you know Japanese, you have such a deeper understanding of the country than if you just show up and only speak English as a tourist," said M Aman'27.

On the personal and communal impact of the loss of the program and the decrease in language study, Aman said, "I have a really deep love of languages, and seeing every language department get picked off year-by-year is so disappointing to me."

King also spoke about the tightness of the small community of language scholars that she developed over the course of her studies at Beloit. "I feel like we were really bonded because we were so small, so it's also sad for me to lose the program because I made some really good friends through it," she said.

King said, "The soul of the program does still live on through Japan Club." Aman and King said Japan Club's activities will not be affected by the dissolution of the Japanese major. "We're going to keep spreading Japanese culture across campus; we're going to keep holding events like we usually do," Aman said.

Though she is the head of the Japanese Program, Furukawa teaches courses in a variety of different disciplines at the college, from literature to history to media studies to environmental studies. This includes both language courses and literature and media studies courses in translation. "For me, teaching language is very different than teaching a translation course, so I get to use different parts of my brain and different parts of my skill set," Furukawa said. The experience of teaching a language, she said, is much more logical and systematic, while still requiring her to bring humor, energy, and enthusiasm to keep students engaged.

In non-language courses, the discussions are analytical and based around close reading. With a research background in Japanese historical fiction, Furukawa said, "I have loved being able to do both." With the elimination of the program, Furukawa said that "the overall richness of my teaching experience will change. I'll adjust; it will be okay. I'll still teach great classes because that's what I want to do for students." She said that to her, students remain the most important aspect of her work. "For me, the students are the most important, so I will continue to do whatever I can to reach as many students as I can."

While looking forward to future opportunities to connect with students interested in Japanese culture, Furukawa admitted that "it's hard to see [the Japanese program] go because I've put so much time and effort into building it."




*Cian McKeown'27*

# Democracy in Peril: Susan Stokes Delivers Stone Lecture

NEWS

By ETHAN COOPER

The annual Stone Lecture took place last Friday.

The lecture, named after Dr. Ivan B. Stone, formerly the dean of Beloit College and director of Beloit's World Affairs Center, a position he held for three decades. His foundational work in study abroad and global experiences is honored in the Stone Lecture, drawing scholars of all disciplines, largely focusing on international policy and geopolitics.

This year's lecturer was Dr. Susan Stokes, Blake Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and Faculty Chair of the Chicago Center on Democracy at the University of Chicago. She has published a great deal of scholarship on global democracies, specifically in Latin America, and political behavior more broadly. Her accolades include serving as president of the American Political Science Association and co-founding Bright Line Watch, a cadre of political scientists who surveil and report on democratic stability in the United States.

Faculty, students, and community members alike gathered in the Weissberg Auditorium at 7 p.m. Joshua Moore, Senior Director of Global and Immersive Learning, introduced the lecture, and Beth Dougherty, Professor of Political Science, introduced Stokes.

Stokes discussed the rise of liberal optimism in the eighties and nineties, which fell into democratic backsliding in the first quarter of the twenty-first century. She asked two basic questions. "Why is the world experiencing a wave of democratic erosion at this moment? Why now?" and "Why are some countries more prone to seek their democracies a road than others?"

She began the answer by outlining the symptoms of a backsliding democracy. She outlined a laundry list of possible signs. "Your president or prime minister will try to undermine the power and independence of key institutions. He'll attack the press … He may impose censorship or encourage self-censorship … He'll attack the courts, saying that they're full of incompetent judges … he'll break long-established rules for judicial appointments, increasingly aligning the Supreme Court, or Apex courts, with the executive branch … He'll use the criminal justice system to go after opponents. He'll purge the civil service, the bureaucracy, replacing professionals with partisans. He'll go after civil society organizations or NGOs, trying to economically strangle civil society and the kinds of organizations that he considers to be enemies."

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

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

# Behind the Student of Concern Form

By ELISA TURNER

The Dean of Students sent out an email announcing the Student of Concern form, designed to enable students to share information about a person who may need additional support.

The Nov. 4 email highlighted that the form was not to be used for emergencies, would only be reviewed during standard business hours, was to be exclusively used for Beloit College community members, and that information reported would not be confidential. The form itself asks questions about the location of a given incident, the nature of the report, the details of the concern, whether or not the individual making the report has discussed concerns with the person being reported, and others.

"It's kind of funny, but for a small college, there's still lots of things that we may not know about. And so our goal is to really make sure that students are getting the resources that they need," said Associate Dean of Students Jessica Fox-Wilson. "And so our goal is to really make sure that students are getting the resources that they need."

*The Round Table* inquired as to the origins and creation of the Student of Concern form. "We onboarded this new program called Maxient over the summer … and initially, we were looking at it as a way for us to track students that we were concerned about, not for punitive reasons, or disciplinary reasons, but … we want to make sure that someone is keeping track of them, and making sure that they're okay," said Fox-Wilson. "The eventual goal with Maxient was to do this community form so that students, faculty, and staff could share their concerns. Again, not a punitive thing, but again, a way for students to say, 'hey, I think my friend is struggling, and I don't know what to do — could someone check in on them?'"

Maxient is a conduct software that advertises creation of reporting platforms, communication tools, analytics, access restrictions for levels of information, and user activity audit trails. "Whether it's student discipline, academic integrity, care and concern, or Title IX matters, Maxient provides a place to easily manage records for your student body's conduct and well-being," says the Maxient website.

Fox-Wilson highlighted the importance of the Student of Concern form even in light of existing campus resources, namely the academic alert system. "So for the academic alert, the purpose is primarily academic in nature — you're missing class, you're missing assignments, you did poorly on the exam, whatever that might be." Fox-Wilson said that the individuals the academic alert is sent to includes the student themselves and various faculty — such as the student's advisors, the instructor who initially sent the alert, the Dean of Students' office, coaches (in the case of student athletes), and international student advisors for international students. "It's sort of a public, 'we're going to help you with this academic issue.' The Maxient form, on the other hand, focuses primarily on well-being, and it can be filled out by staff, faculty, and students. So, someone who's a staff or student might not have access to sending an academic alert for someone that they're concerned with. So, this gives us that opportunity to do that."

"The purpose is well-being," Fox-Wilson emphasized. "We're concerned about your mental health. You might have food insecurity. You might be missing a lot from the activities you normally participate in … and I think our goal always in student life is to make sure that we match the students with the resources that they need."




*Betty Cavicchia'28*

*The Round Table* also asked about the lack of confidentiality for reporters using the form. "That's a standard, actually, across colleges … As a student, your educational record is for you. This is part of your educational record … so you do have access to it," Fox-Wilson explained. "Students can ask if they've had a form submitted and someone talks to them about it. They can ask to see the form who sent it, what did it say, that sort of thing. So, we try to be as transparent as possible with the student while also recognizing that we want privacy for the student within the professional staff."

Fox-Wilson also explained the review process for a submitted form. "It gets routed to someone in the dean of students' office and we review the information. If it is something really minor … we'll do what's called a soft check with an RA or an RLC… We don't tell the RA what it's about. We just say, 'hey, can you just check them?' That's something that we've done for years and years." Fox-Wilson said. "If it's something more serious, then we might send an RLC or the director of Residence Life to do a more explicit check where we say, 'hey, someone is concerned about you, can we talk? Are you okay?'"

There also exists a specialized committee for students of concern. "We have a committee in student life called the Students of Concern Committee, where our whole job is to say, we have the shared pool of information about students that we're concerned about," Fox-Wilson said. "In this form, if we figure out that… [something] is serious enough, we talk about the student—not in a bad way — but we talk about the student [about] how we can get them to the resources they need… It's never shared outside of student life."

Local health professionals also serve on the Students of Concern Committee. "One of our campus counselors from the Health and Wellness Center — the ones that we contract through Beloit Health Systems — serves on that committee." Fox-Wilson said that HIPAA regulations mean these professionals do not share information about students without releases, but that these professionals can use information from the college in best practices.

The Student of Concern form can be accessed through the Dean of Students page on the Beloit College website, as well as through announcements on the For Beloiters page.

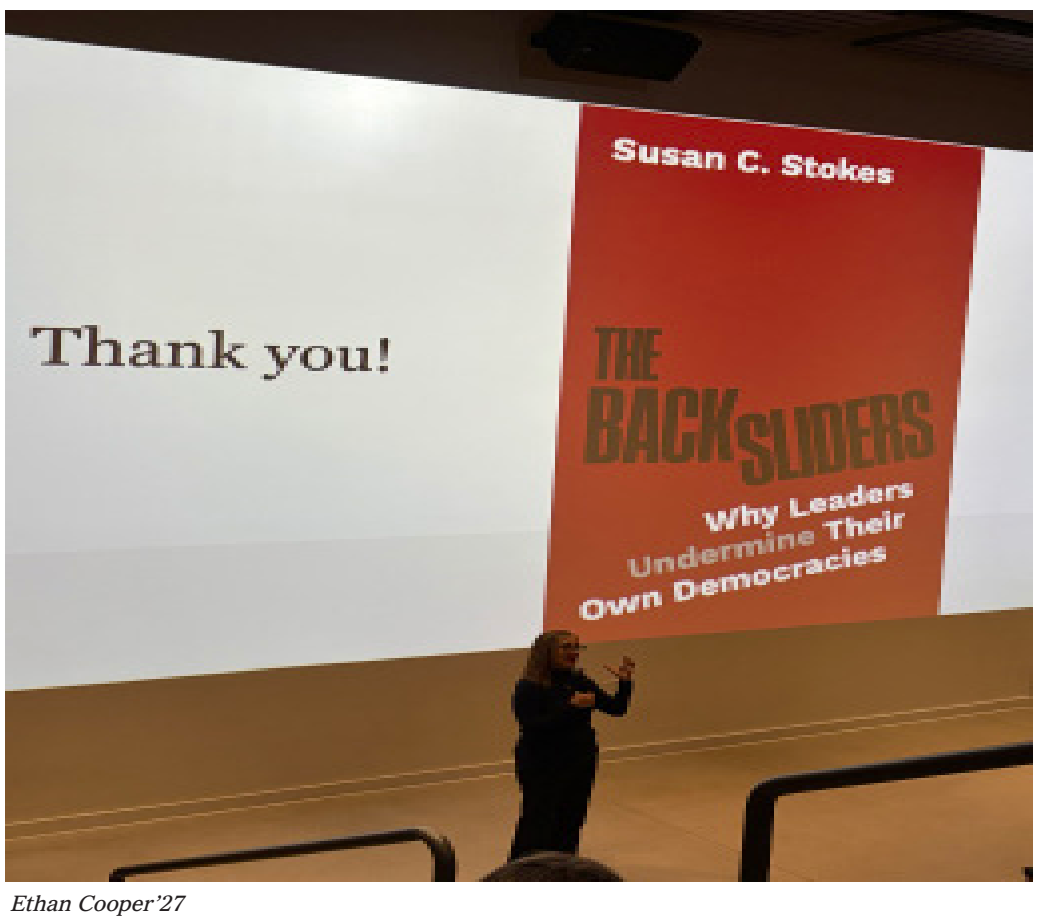
# Democracy in Peril: Susan Stokes Delivers Stone Lecture

By ETHAN COOPER

*CONT'D FROM FRONT*

Next, she analyzed the potential causes, utilizing statistical measures found in her research to back up her claims. She found that, accounting for all details and possible false correlations, unequal wealth distribution is the number one cause of democratic erosion across all countries and regions. "We kept finding one robust feature that we couldn't get rid of. And that was income inequality. So the more unequal the income distribution of a country, or the more unequal the distribution of wealth in a country, the greater its probability or risk of experiencing democratic erosion."

She delved into extant mechanisms to combat such backsliding, drawing examples domestically and abroad. One such lever, she said, is legal accountability. "So backsliders, especially once they're out of power, have sometimes been prosecuted and even removed from public life, from political life." She used the prosecution of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil as an example




*Ethan Cooper'27*

Furthermore, she elucidated electoral accountability as another weapon in the civil arsenal to combat democratic erosion. "Just in the past six months, we've had three consequential elections, involving three men, and they are Viktor Orbán … The long-serving Prime Minister, 15 years in power, in Hungary … Aleksandar Vuđč from Serbia, who just very recently lost … and then Flavio Bolsonaro, the son of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil."

She also recommended policies to decrease wealth inequality, as these measures, while potentially costly, could provide necessary democratic backbone to society.

She concluded the talk with an observation on illiberal democracies and autocracies; drawing on the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, she contended that democratic societies are less likely to make war than non-democratic societies. "What I'm suggesting to you is that if we care about world peace, we need to think about pushing back against the fraying of democracies at home. This is an international project. There are international costs to domestic backsliding, and that's something we need to keep in mind." She argued that democracy is not merely a desirable political system, but one necessary to maintain a global order of peace.

The lecture concluded by opening up to questions from the audience. The night ended around 8:20 p.m.

# Faculty Forum: All Models are Wrong

By ALANNA SULARZ

Faculty members convened at the Weeks Lounge in Pearsons Hall Wednesday, Nov. 11 for the opportunity to socialize, enjoy lunch, and hear a presentation given by Professor Tom Stojsavljevic concerning how mathematical models are used, where they break, and how they can be used to study pathogens.

Stojsaljevic opened the discussion by addressing the impact of AI on the work of mathematicians. OpenAI and other large language model companies have become increasingly disruptive to the math world as they evolve. The Navier-Stokes equation, for example, has been a longstanding unsolved problem with a million dollar bounty — a Millenium Prize Problem crucial to 3D physics and fluid motion used frequently for designing aircraft. Recently, OpenAI published a 166-page response generated by their LLM, accompanied by a vortex-shaped model. However, this model hypothesized that fluids could reach infinite speeds with finite energy, which is fundamentally impossible. Stojsaljevic used this example to outline the philosophy that mathematical models can't perfectly capture reality, and are only approximations with a breaking point to be tested.

Further controversies have arisen around the intersection between math and AI and the implications for the community. Alongside accusations of stolen work and questionable methodology, OpenAI released 722 generated manuscripts on GitHub with complicated results. Only 372 of their 4,000 prompts (9.3%) had answers, and many of those 372 were incorrect due to major and minor mistakes. Stojsaljevic said some mathematicians have dubbed this the "mathpocalypse," and prospective students question if the subject is as "safe" and concrete as it once seemed. Stojsaljevic raised the question of what



*Betty Cavicchia'28*

math values, and the value it holds intrinsically on the social and economic levels. According to Stojsaljevic, the answer is clear: the value of math lies in its ability to impact the real world.

Stojsaljevic delved into his own recent projects, which utilized modeling to study Neglected Tropical Diseases, or NTDs, a diverse range of devastating conditions that often plague tropical communities. These diseases are severely underresearched, due to being largely asymptomatic at the beginning, alongside the weight of stigma, and the World Health Organization's restrictive classification has been criticized as a social injustice. Public health efforts focus on more well-known conditions such as HIV/AIDs, meningitis, etc. while ignoring NTDs. NTD outbreaks appear worldwide, yet see little to no media coverage.

Stojsaljevic worked alongside former student Dylan Costello to create a coinfection model of meningitis and an NTD known as Dengue fever by using a compartmental model to track populations of interest — those who can transmit the diseases. They calculated what is known as the base reproductive number (Rǒ) to determine the number of cases that can result from one infected individual. If the resulting Rč is less than 1, then the diseases can be non-endemic, and the opposite is true if that value is greater than 1, causing the disease to always be in circulation. This process was repeated for a project with former student Ellie Repinski to model the spread of African Trypanosomiasis.

Mathematical models still have their uses, Stojsaljevic said, despite their inability to mirror how the world works in practice.

# International Poetry Night

By VIVIAN KOPKA

Students, alumni, and staff gathered inStudents, alumni, and staff gathered in Moore Lounge, Pearsons Hall, for the annual International Poetry Night Nov. 11.

The Wednesday reading marked the 26th year of the event, hosted by Adjunct Associate Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures Olga Ogurstova.

International students and staff joined together with modern language and creative writing students to read a total of 26 poems in 16 different languages.

Marta Zholnerchyk'27 started the night off with the poem "It Makes No Difference to Me" by Taras Shevchenko; a poem that begins with indifference, but then reflects on the devastation of war and plundering in Ukraine.

Professor Joseph Derosier read the French poem "Song of Autumn" by Paul Verlaine. He said was inspired by the fall-themed Ode To Autumn event in October and wanted to read something that reflects the changes, particularly in the modern languages department, coming at the college.

Angela Karanja'29 read a poem in Swahili by Kenyan Poet Abdilatif Abdalla, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." The poem observes the past, present, and future, and how they are connected, especially in the context of political and social progress. Abdalla wrote the poem while in solitary confinement through 1969-72, imprisoned for political conspiracy.

Professor Orgurstova ended the evening with a Russian poem, "I Can Wait for You for So Long" by Eduard Asadov, a poet very close to Orgustova's heart, as he reminds her of her mother and their similar life stories, she said.



*Betty Cavicchia'28*



*Alex Cambouris'27*

# Broadcasting Music and Literature at CELEB

By ALEX CAMBOURIS

The Introduction to Broadcasting and Advanced Broadcasting classes orchestrated a live show starring Beloit area musical acts on Thursday, Nov. 12.

The performers were Nick and Friends, with a reading of a short story from Professor Chris Fink, and student band Gutter Trash, with original songs by frontwoman Jasmine Kingsbury'28. The broadcast was directed by Professor Mats Rudels. Free pizza and soft drinks were available for the audience.

To open the event, Fink read a short story from his book "Farmer's Almanac: A Work of Fiction." He began with a tale of two siblings who spent their summer swimming in a reservoir named Bergamot Pond. The sister loses her life, and the pain and drama is captured by Nick and Friends, who perform "Bergamot Pond," a song based on the story.

Nick and Friends played a second song, also based on a short story by Fink. Sticking with the aquatic theme, this story was about a young boy preparing to cliff-dive into a deep, water-filled quarry. The story, and the accompanying song, focused on the fear and determination needed to achieve such a feat.

Following Nick and Friends, the student band Gutter Trash performed. Among its members were frontwomen Kingsbury and Katelyn Schroeder'26, guitarist Ollie Idzikowski'27, bassist Euen Hall'28, and drummer Brie Patten'30, Gutter Trash continues to keep the spirit of rock 'n roll and alternative rock alive. They performed five songs, four of which were written by Kingsbury.

Beloit's broadcasting students, each of whom have found a home within the studio, worked together to ensure that the live internet broadcast went smoothly. "My goal when I came to Beloit was to find my calling, and here it is with the sound board," said sound technician Jinx Petersen'29.

Petersen added, "I think oftentimes we get so sucked up in what's available in our hand, like we don't need to see live music all the time, but it's good to get out into the community and enjoy these things that are still here."

# Building on Tradition

## Logan Museum Welcomes Indigenous Ecuadorian Collection

By ROMINA PALOMEQUE

More than 50 years after first arriving in Ecuador, Jon Sevall found himself revisiting the past through a slide projector in a room at Beloit College.

Photograph by photograph, Sevall walked attendees through his decades of missionary work alongside the Chachi people in Ecuador's northwestern rainforest. From homes built along the Cayapa River to the medical clinics and agricultural projects he and his wife, Judy, helped establish, the presentation offered a look into a community that has experienced both change and continuity over the past five decades.

But the photographs were more than a collection of memories. The presentation, titled "Building on Tradition," was hosted by the Logan Museum of Anthropology on Nov. 11 as part of its acquisition of Indigenous Ecuadorian materials collected by the Sevalls during their years abroad. Alongside the objects, the museum is acquiring oral histories, photographs and other documentation of their experiences.

Beginning in the early 1970s, the Sevalls worked with the Christian Missionary Alliance, providing medical assistance and participating in agriculture and economic development projects throughout Ecuador.

Sevall described a community where rivers served as the primary means of transportation, with no roads connecting the places where its inhabitants worked. Homes were constructed largely from bamboo and other materials found in the surrounding rainforest, while plantains served as a dietary staple. Fishing, carving, and agriculture were also important parts in daily life and local economic activity.

The presentation also explored Chachi cultural traditions, including music and marriage ceremonies. Sevall recalled the importance of marimba, alongside the challenges of communicating across languages. While many of the Chachi men spoke Spanish, the women did not, meaning that Judy had to learn the Chachi language to better communicate with women seeking medical care.

Much of the couple's work centered on health. Their clinic operated six days a week, treating illnesses and injuries while remaining available for emergencies. Sevall also discussed efforts to improve access to clean water, including the installation of approximately 90 wells.

Returning to Ecuador decades later, the Sevalls witnessed changes in local infrastructure, including a hospital Sevall showed in photographs from 2015. Yet throughout the presentation, he emphasized that many aspects of Chachi life had remained familiar.

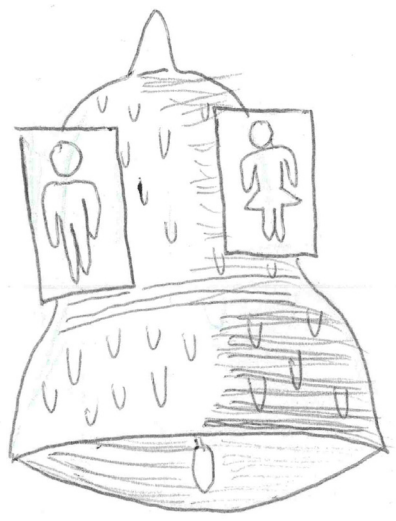
More than five decades after the Sevalls first arrived along the Cayapa River, a portion of the objects they collected are finding a new home at the Logan Museum. What began as a record of their experience in Ecuador will now become part of Beloit College's collection.



*Romina Palomeque'29*

# The Bell Run: A Campus Tradition

By QUINN ANNIS



*Betty Cavicchia'28*

On a tiled patio behind Morse-Ingersoll Hall, a bell stands on a brick pedestal. Beneath it, a plaque reads: "That it may proclaim important campus events, we set this ancient church bell, which summoned early Beloiters to classes and to worship, in this modern senior wall."

It's unlikely the Class of 1950, who were responsible for moving the bell out of storage nearly eighty years ago, knew that it would become the focal point of a tradition that spanned generations of Beloit College students. It's unlikely they knew that this tradition — the bell run — would become an enduring piece of campus mythology. And it's unlikely they knew that, over half a century later, students would be running naked across campus to pee on the bell.

"It's a piece of tradition at the college," said Donaldo Robelo'27. "I would definitely say that. I would say — for what it is, you just get naked. You start at the Wall and you run down frat row. You pee on the bell and you come back."

Robelo is the president of Omega Zeta Omicron, an on-campus social club which styles itself after a fraternity. Robelo estimated that he has done about 20 bell runs. "I think I might be at 20, maybe low 20s," he said. "I've definitely slowed down just because I know my girlfriend doesn't like when I do them. She says I'm allowed to do two more before I graduate, so I'm saving them for special occasions."

The bell run goes as follows. Students, beginning from either the Wall or one of the Greek life houses at the college, run naked down "frat row" — meaning College Street, the long strip where the college's fraternities and sororities are — to the bell at M-I, where they urinate on it and run back. While students often say "run" or "sprint" to refer to bell runs, typically, Robelo said, the pace is closer to a jog.

"I'd say people run it with some clothes on," said Claire Winter'28. "But generally, if I want to be a purist about it, it's completely naked, and you have to piss on it. I've seen variations where it's like, you don't have to go from the Wall; you go from X frat house. You go with your underpants still on. You go, but you don't piss on it. You know, that kind of thing."

Winter, a former member of sorority Theta Pi Gamma, said that Theta did one or two bell runs during her freshman year, but has since ended the practice. "I don't think anyone ran naked. I think people ran in like

undergarments or pajamas, and I don't think they do that anymore, to the best of my knowledge." She said she has not done a bell run.

Robelo described the bell run being used as a "punishment," saying he and his friends often use it for bets. "We use it as a punishment for Madden, when we're playing the game; ping pong," he said. "It's just something we like to bet with. Like if you lose, you gotta do a bell run. If you lose by this amount, the bell run."

The majority of the people who do bell runs, Robelo said, are athletes. "Sometimes, I see some non-athletes doing it, but pretty rarely, or if they are doing it, they're kind of hush-hush about it. I say athletes are doing it, because you hear them chanting it all the way down, like in the middle of the night, they'll be going 'bell run, bell run,' and then you look out your window and you see a guy stripping down and running down the street."

Students primarily associate it with fraternities. "I know I've seen Sig [Sigma Chi] do one," said Winter. "I've heard of TKE [Tau Kappa Epsilon] doing several, and I think Phi Psi's done at least one. As far as rumors go, I've heard that."

Normally, according to Robelo, bell runs happen at night — though Winter said that, during her sophomore year, she saw a member of Sigma Chi doing a bell run during the day. "I saw one singular Sig member running down and doing one, and that one was completely like, middle of the afternoon, dick out," she said. Members of the fraternity, she said, were cheering from the frat house's front porch.

The focal point of the tradition is the bell at Morse-Ingersoll Hall, or M-I. The bell is more than a century old. According to "The Middle College Bell," a 1951 piece by Professor Emeritus Robert K. Richardson, the bell was brought to campus in 1882 as a replacement for the bell in the cupola of Middle College — the second time the bell had been replaced in the span of two years. It remained at Middle College for 60 years until, according to The Round Table, it was removed "around 1940" while the building was being renovated.

Even early in its history, the bell was the subject of vandalism and practical jokes. "The Middle College Bell" broadly describes the bell as being the victim of "pranks" throughout its history. Two transcriptions of faculty meeting minutes held in the Beloit College archives — one from 1854 and one from 1914 — cite incidents involving the bell, described respectively as "illicit bell ringing" and "misuse of the College bell in celebrations."

A 1962 issue of The Round Table describes how, only six years after its installation at M-I, the bell was stolen and dropped into the college's newly-opened pool. After being retrieved by custodians, the bell remained under the bleachers for another six years before being returned to the pedestal by Round Table staff.

A 1979 issue of The Round Table also cites several incidents that occurred with the bell — including that in 1953 a group of people attempted to paint it red and that, later the same year, it was shot with a shotgun. The same article also says of the bell, "Its one function is to be rung by new Sigma Chi pledge classes." It's possible that this fraternity tradition might have been a precursor to the bell run.

"Bell run origins," a piece by Buck McMorris'65 from the Beloit College archives, suggests a link between the bell run and earlier events involving nudity — including a 1949 "Strip Fight." It argues that while the bell run may have started in fraternities, it could also be related to the presence of "naked public events" in campus culture.

Ollie Idzikowski'28 said his mom, who graduated Beloit College in 2002, recalled the bell run as coming from soccer players. "She ascribed it as being a soccer thing," he said. "Honestly, I think it being kind of a universal campus thing, from what I've gathered, is only a relatively new thing. Because I don't even know if soccer players even really do it anymore. I feel like a lot of the time it's more fraternity guys and athletic guys."

Peeing on the bell is likely a newer addition. "Bell run origins" quotes a 2002 alum, who makes no mention of it. (That alum also described how she "kissed" the bell, which would be a much bigger deal if students were regularly peeing on it.) A 2012 Round Table article, "Damn! That's a Penis: A First-Year Perspective on the Bell Run," mentions "the importance of not touching the bell," implying that, by 2012, students had started to pee on the bell.

In a 2024 article for The Round Table, "Exploring the Existence of Rape Culture on Campus," Jazmin Gomez'27 argues that the bell run "is an example of Beloit culture that normalizes the sexualization of women. For men, the Bell Run acts as a display of bravery and strength as society rewards the phallus or phallic imagery as symbols of power. For women, the Bell Run acts as in the intended manner, a joke."

*Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu*

# Underrated Services You Can Get As a Beloit College Student!

By KEEGAN DEWITT

Did you know that there are lots of services you are most likely underutilizing here at Beloit College? With campus-specific services offered by Res Life or the Wellness and Recreation department, there are plenty of offers that almost no one actually uses. Here are some unique offers found on the Beloit Website that you should really use!

**Fitness Classes**

From Yoga x Pilates to Strength Training, there are a variety of classes offered on the Wellness and Recreation webpage. You can view what classes are available by week, along with specific instructors you may want to join. If you are shy or not interested in group classes, the workout spaces on the third floor of the Powerhouse are still open to general use.

**Intramural Sports**

Are you a big fan of playing sports, but too scared to join our larger collegiate teams? Periodically throughout the year, students can join an assortment of sports from volleyball to dodgeball. From the Powerhouse's subsection on the Beloit College Website, you can view which teams are recruiting and what type of registration they are looking for.

**Community Connections**

With campus being so close to downtown Beloit, Community Connections directed by Dr. Sylvia López has formed collaborations alongside local businesses to bring students with not only unique products and services, but also amazing deals to save money on a student budget. With your college ID, you can access a number of discounts, from 10% off storewide to completely free products.

**Beloit Sky Carps**

Alongside Community Connections, students are able to obtain $7 tickets for Friday and Saturday games. This extends to all students, not just ones at Beloit College!

As a college student, you are also able to use your student ID for discounts provided by various chain stores and services. Here are some random discounts hand-picked by yours truly.

**Doc Marten's**

I know you, and I know you are some queer-adjecent human being. On the student discount section on the Doc Marten webpage, you are eligible for a 15% discount on your next DM purchase through UniDays or StudentBeans.

**Target**

With Target being so close to Beloit, located in either Janesville or Machesney Park, college students are able to join their Circle Rewards program and gain exclusive discounts once verifying their enrollment.

**Spotify + Hulu**

If you are a Spotify truther and paying for a regular premium subscription, there is a specific student discount that allows you to pay for almost 50% less than regular premium. You will pay $6.99 a month, with the first month free. Alongside that, students will get a free Hulu account at no extra cost.

**Levi's**

From backpacks and hats to their iconic 501 jeans, Levi's offers all students 15% off in their stores after verifying their student ID and enrollment. Go get some new jeans, girl!

***Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu***

# What To Do While AO3 Is Down

By ALIVIA RENTERIA

Editor's Note: As of November 15th, AO3 is back up.

Archive Of Our Own, colloquially referred to by internet users as "AO3," has been a cornerstone of online fandom communities since it first launched in open beta in November 2009. On Oct. 29, the volunteers behind the website announced that it would be undergoing maintenance, which would take a minimum of 12 hours to complete. Later that day, another post was made, estimating that the maintenance would proceed for "Around 2 weeks, but it could be up to 4 weeks." This would be the longest outage since a 30-hour outage following the DDoS attacks on The Organization for Transformative Works (the parent organization under which AO3 operates) in 2023, as recorded in the "AO3 Outages" entry of the Fanlore Wiki.

As of today, we are crossing over into the third week without the archive, and people are scrambling for something to fill the void in its absence. Here are just a few things that I think might help stranded readers in these trying times.

**Learn to reality shift**

If you were on TikTok in late 2020 to early 2021, you may remember an activity that a small subset of fandom members took part in called "reality shifting." This is basically just closing your eyes and maladaptive daydreaming your way into the fictional world of your choice, and it was particularly popular in the Harry Potter fandom at the time. You can be a part of your favorite Hogwarts house! The only downside is that your name will be a slur, and you'll never get a date with the man of your dreams because everyone will love Ebony Dark'ness Dementia Raven way more than you.

**Jerk it to real porn like a real man**

I know you're mourning the fact that you can't read E-rated fics of your favorite red/blue pairing right now, but in a time when vintage things are back in fashion, maybe you could crank your hog the old-fashioned way. You might not reinvent the wheel, but you might reinvent the citrus scale.

**Write your own fanfiction**

After undergoing all five stages of grief over the loss of AO3, I have witnessed internet users, particularly those on Tumblr, taking part in a create-a-thon of sorts. Writers and readers alike are taking this downtime as a means of working on ongoing fics, or starting entirely new ones. Many have also been passing around the notion that, once the archive is back online and functional, they will create a wave of kudos and comments for all their favorite fics.

**Email me**

I know this is a hard time for a lot of people, but please don't resort to using AI. Instead, send me an email with a list of tags, and I will write you a short and, frankly, awful story. If you aren't specific enough, then be ready to read the strangest crossover my sick little brain can devise.

**Read a book**

If you live on campus, you live within walking distance of both the campus library and the Beloit Public Library. Maybe picking up a book you've never read before will open your eyes to AU possibilities, or a new fandom entirely.



*Betty Cavicchia'28*

# Happiness is 'You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'

By SONYA EDWARDS



*Sonya Edwards'28*

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" was an outstanding success that received a standing ovation on Friday night. A cast of six performers took the stage and wowed the audience. The show was around two hours of friendship, giggles, and happiness — a true hodgepodge of optimism.

The performance was reminiscent of comedy strips, and though there were overlapping themes and bits, there wasn't a central storyline. But that only added to the humorous and nostalgic feel of the show. The show follows the friendship of five kids and a dog as they navigate through their struggles both personally and together.

The audience couldn't help but love Snoopy, played by Kaelie Moreno'27. Whether she was on top of the iconic dog house pretending to be a sharpshooting pilot in WWI or hunting rabbits with Sally Brown played by Savannah Warthen'28, the audience was laughing and cheering along.

Warthen had the audience laughing with the remarkable humor of the young Sally Brown. From her growing list of complaints about her brother to her many new philosophies, Sally Brown was definitely a character to remember.

Damilla Hurn'28 had her character Lucy's facial expression and "crabby" voice perfected. The first time those intense eyes pierced the audience, the audience knew Lucy meant business. Hurn's intense stares and powerful shouts were perfect for the bossy future queen.

Chyler Smith'28 and her blanket rocked the stage as Linus. From Linus sucking the last bits of flavor from his thumb or doing an elaborate dance with the love of his life, his blanket, Smith'28 had Linus' innocence captured in every moment.

Schroder, played by Jason Sullivan'30, was Beethoven's biggest fan and disciple. Even his pajamas had Beethoven on them. His piano skills attracted Lucy, no matter how hard he tried not to. Sullivan's'30 fake piano playing looked the most believable a cardboard piano that comes two inches off the ground can look.

Finally, the performance of Callie Harris'30 as Charlie Brown was truly show-stopping. From line delivery to facial expressions, Harris'30 delivered on every aspect of her performance. The round bowl cut wig grew on me after I got over the bald cap and three scribbles as hair.

The cast were remarkably talented singers, dancers, and all-around performers, making the show one to remember. The performance was well deserving of the standing ovation it received. This show was a one-weekend performance, so sadly it will not be performed again.

# Ken Russell's 'The Devils': Sexy, Funny, Uncomfortable, Dramatic, and Beautiful

By DEMIR KASAPOGLU

Warner Bros. had a limited rerelease of the 1971 film "The Devils" by Ken Russell in 4K with a new uncensored directors cut, named "Ken Russell's The Devils." I got to watch this movie in the gorgeous Kino International in former East Berlin.

I knew nothing about the movie before going in, and only knew about it because of a short trailer Warner Bros. released for the rerelease. The movie was, as the kids say these days, peak.

Taking place in the 1630s during a political struggle for control over the rural French city of Loudune, the movie used this real historical event as a way to criticize the usage of religion for political gain.

Oliver Reed and Vanessa Redgrave play the two protagonists, Father Urbain Grandier and Sister Jeanne des Anges, to absolute perfection. Reed makes Father Grandier into a sharp, sexy, powerful, and dedicated (yet very flawed) priest who refuses to back down from protecting his own innocence from accusations of a pact with Satan. Redgrave portrays Sister Anges as an isolated, deeply hurt, and frustrated nun whose want of sexual release leads to the destruction of Loudune.

With this uncensored release, the viewer sees a story that was just too much for the general audience in 1971. Just to name a few, scenes of Sister Anges' having a wet dream, Father Grandier's sex scenes with numerous people, extremely hard-to-watch exorcisms, torture, and the King of France in drag just could not fly.

Possibly the most scandalous scene of the movie was an extended orgy of the nuns in Sister Anges' convent that took place in a church, getting increasingly explicit as it went on. Fittingly, even this rerelease got an NC-17 rating.

Don't let my description of these scenes take away from the incredible story of the movie. The movie is full of comedic moments, beautiful cinematography, and superb acting from even the most minor supporting characters.

One of the themes that might not have hit in 1971 as it does now is the usage of religion by corrupt officials to control people, and how powerful a lie becomes when you've convinced yourself it is true. I do not want to spoil much, but it was very hard to write about this movie without talking about just how powerful lying is.

The characters in this movie convince themselves that others are involved in clearly impossible feats for their own gain or comfort. Whether it's a small white lie about someone they find attractive or accusing others of dealing with Satan for power, Russell really shows just how much we can convince ourselves of our own lies.




*Wikipedia*

Unfortunately, the movie is now out of theaters in the U.S. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to watch a disturbing yet beautiful movie, or who just wants to watch a good movie on a Friday night. If you ever get a chance to watch "Ken Russell's The Devils," just know you will not regret it.

# George Bernards: The Inky Giant

By SONYA EDWARDS



*Sonya Edwards'28*

Beloit College is home to the one and only George Bernards'28, a junior Art and Business major. Not only does Bernards sell their art online and in markets, they also recently got accepted into the University of the Arts London.

Bernards has been doing art since childhood, with a break in their middle and early high school years. They started to sell their art after taking Intro to Entrepreneurship here at Beloit. "That inspired me to start selling," Bernards said.

They make all sorts of pieces. Their main product on their website is their cards. Bernards does commissions if someone requests them, and has even designed some company logos. They have also started selling in bulk to stores, which resell their pieces, allowing Bernard to reach a greater audience.

Along with their online platform, Bernards occasionally participates in markets over the summer. "I'm selling at one or two this December as well," Bernards said.

Their favorite art to make tends to be collages and mixed media. "The stuff that I sell is usually physically rendered, then I take a picture and digitally render it after I draw it," Bernards said.

Bernards said the process to get into the University of the Arts London was simple, and just required a personal statement. The class is three weeks long, but Bernards plans to travel and extend their trip. "The college teaches you how to take your ideas and turn them into big art pieces," Bernards said.

The University of the Arts London is the biggest higher education focused on the arts in the world. Over half of the winners and nominees for the Turner Prize — an annual UK arts award — attended the University of the Arts London. It is a very prestigious school, making Bernards' achievement that much more impressive.

"I'm looking forward to starting to get ideas for my senior show," Bernards said. "I tend to work small, so I'm excited to get the opportunity to go big, I guess."

# 'Everyday Heaven' Reception In The Wright

By OLIVER IDZIKOWSKI

A reception for "Everyday Heaven," the newest exhibition in the Wright Museum of Art, was held Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. Students and faculty alike were invited to view the display in its completed and polished form as well as hear the artist, Rafael Francisco Salas, speak about his work and answer questions. Paul Salsieder, the director of the Portrait Society Gallery, was also present, and provided more information on how the exhibition came together.

Everyday Heaven is eclectic in its combination of the work of photographer Charles Van Schaick, the paintings of Rafael Francisco Salas, and an assortment of taxidermy and other intriguing objects. The space of the South Gallery was used in a very creative manner. While most of the walls displayed the art in a traditional manner, one of the walls had the largest amount of art, with the pieces being arranged in a circular pattern. A portion of the South Gallery was blocked off so that a related film could be shown without disrupting the rest of the exhibition.

Charles Van Schaick lived from 1852 to 1946 and served as town photographer for the small community of Black River Falls, a town in Jackson County, Wisconsin. His work came to public attention thanks to the 1973 book "Wisconsin Death Trip" by Michael Lesy. Schaick managed to capture the often-overlooked presence of racial minorities in communities like Black River Falls. Native Americans undergoing the process of assimilation were also documented by Shaick. One photo on display is of a trio of indigenous men dressed in European-American clothing. Looking closely at the photo, one can see one of the men is wearing a traditional indigenous belt under his black jacket.

Salas is a contemporary painter and art professor at Ripon College. His work is represented by the Portrait Society Gallery, which is based in Milwaukee. His work is inspired by his experience as a Mexican-American, country music, and the current American political moment. The brushwork on his paintings is wispy, often seemingly depicting figures in states of motion and in between two positions. Vibrant colors, bright reds and oranges in particular, are used to brilliant effect, especially when juxtaposed against the black and white photographs of Charles Schaick.

Both Schaick and Salas are Wisconsin natives, which is reflected in the aesthetics of their work. Salas was comfortable with the term "magical realism" being used to describe his work. His speech to the crowd focused on the influences mentioned above. He regaled the audience with a particular experience in which he visited a county fair and noticed MAGA T-shirts were available as prizes. Salas noted that his work was not obviously political, but the modern state of America was on his mind when creating the paintings that are part of "Everyday Heaven." The subjects of the painting transcend any specific time period; instead, the carnival is used as a timeless setting.

The name "Everyday Heaven" was chosen to reflect the nature of the county fair according to Paul Salsieder when asked about the name. The fair is an escape from the mundane while still being part of that mundane world. Salas treads the line between awe and terror with his work, taking the reality documented in Schaick's photography and highlighting the gothic and mysterious nature of the rural midwest.



*Christa Story*

# Men's Hockey Earns First Win On Senior Day

By NORAH OWENS

Buccaneers men's hockey earned their first win of the 2026-27 season Friday, Nov. 13 facing off against the Hiram College Terriers at home in Janesville. The Bucs' play has already made strides since preseason, with noticeable improvements in puck handling, skating, and the cohesion of the penalty kill units. It will be exciting to watch these facets of Beloit's team game improve as the rest of this season continues.



Abbey Schrader

Beloit scored three goals throughout the game, with the first scored in the first period byAndronique Stepanian'27 assisted by Val Kneib'27. Throughout the night, Hiram's goaltender was a fierce adversary, stopping 46 of 49 shots by Beloit skaters for a 0.938 save percentage to keep Hiram in the game. Overall, the Bucs remained in the offensive zone for most of the first and second periods until they started to get into penalty trouble.

Based on this game, the Bucs will most want to improve upon their power play showing in the future. Beloit went 1 for 7 on the man advantage, with Will McDonald'30 scoring his second goal of the season on the power play assisted by Max Von Klinggraeff'29 and Nik Johnson'28 in the midst of the second period. To close out Beloit's scoring chances on the night, defender Mac Reed'28 found the back of the net on an unassisted shot in the 11th minute of the second period.

On the other side of special teams, the penalty kill managed to subdue four of five Hiram power plays, although Beloit would probably like to have some of those penalties back. While Hiram's lone goal of the game came on a power play in the last five seconds of the second period, the Bucs managed to restrict their shot attempts throughout the rest of their power plays. Ultimately, Beloit's defensive play restricted the Terriers to only 14 shots on goaltender Mitch Taylor'27 through the whole 60 minutes.

*Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu*

# The Children's Game

By ELLIOT AVE-LALLEMANT

There's a scene in the 2011 film "Moneyball" where Brad Pitt's character is informed that he won't be able to continue playing baseball anymore. "We're all told at some point that we can no longer play the children's game," they tell him. "Some of us are told at 18, some of us are told at 40. But we're all told."

My first time writing for The Round Table was in November 2023. I didn't even know that there was a newspaper on campus. I accompanied my friend to a meeting one night out of pure boredom and curiosity, but looking back on it now, that was one of the most impactful decisions I ever made during my time at Beloit. My first article wasn't anything special. It was about how I thought Tottenham Hotspur were going to win the Premier League. I was nervous to pitch it at the time, since I thought nobody cared about the English Premier League (which is still true). I spent hours on it, and I felt really accomplished when I finally submitted it. I spent the next few issues talking about all soccer-related things: my champions league predictions, soccer news from over the winter break, and Bayer Leverkusen's crazy Bundesliga campaign. Eventually, in my sophomore year, I covered my first ever football game. It was a heartbreaking result as always, but covering that game gave me the confidence to cover Beloit events in person. My reporting managed to land me a spot as sports editor in the spring semester of my sophomore year. To say I was ecstatic was an understatement. It was my time. I was ready. Being sports editor brought a lot that was new to me. I had to learn how to navigate Adobe InDesign, though I'm probably still bad at it. It also brought me my second radio show, "Bucs & Beyond," which I host every week with my very talented co-host Cian McKeown. I may not know as much ball as he does, but being up there and making egregious sports takes has always been a blast.

Now that it's all said and done, I can confidently say I gave it my best. Every. Single. Week. I loved highlighting individual athletes. I loved reading every story that people wrote. I loved seeing different people's passions and insights on different sports. I loved translating Jeffrenese. I loved the banter I had with my fellow writers. I loved when athletes came up to me to talk about things I had written. I loved it all. Yes, even translating Jeffrenese.

Thank you to everyone who helped me get here. I would like to acknowledge my previous sports editors, AJ Lee and Brendan Meyers. Thank you guys for giving me the blueprint.

But an editor is nothing without their writers. The sports section is notoriously hard to fill, but my writers make it easy. Thank you Jeff, Kim, Sam, Cian, and ESPECIALLY Norah, who has saved me from panic writing hell. You are truly a saint. And finally, thank you to my fellow editors. Thank you all for putting up with my crappy jokes and letting me watch NFL RedZone and MLB in the office. I'm sorry if I was loud.

After all this, I think it's finally time for me to hang it up and give up the children's game. I am so incredibly grateful for everything that being an editor has given me. But this isn't the final goodbye. I still love this paper, and I'll still be writing articles. I've got a whole semester of things to report on!

Go Bucs!
Elliot



Leigh Ave-Lallemant

# Women's Basketball Drops Close Home Opener Against Rockford

By NORAH OWENS

Flood Arena hosted a hard-fought matchup between Buccaneers women's basketball and the Rockford University Regents Saturday, Nov. 14. The Regents took the win 57-55 in a game that left many Bucs fans feeling slighted by the refs.

Indeed, most calls did seem to go Rockford's way, with the Regents reaching the free throw line eight times in the fourth quarter alone. As a team, the Regents took 35 free throw attempts throughout the game, making 17 of them. On the other side, Beloit took 19 attempts from the line as a team and made 10 of them. That differential alone does make it hard not to question some of the referees' decisions in a high-intensity, equally-matched game. Both teams played hard, so why exactly did the Bucs end up taking so many more fouls?

Offensively, Beloit's starters for the matchup worked hard throughout the entire 40 minutes. The game started with Anna-Marie Godina'28, Julia Kennedy'28, Kaitlin Davis'27, Leila Boykin'30, and Reagan Gregonis'30 on the floor. Boykin led the team in points for the third time in three games this season, collecting 19 points on the afternoon. Boykin and Gregonis also led the Bucs in rebounds with nine each. Davis played a team-leading 31 minutes, thus taking the court for the majority of the game. Beyond the starters, Sophia Corley'29 saw 19 minutes of efficient game time, including good defensive play and one beautiful three-pointer right before halftime.

Plain bad luck seemed to strike the Beloit team in the second half, with most shots just not falling our way after halftime. A 32-24 Beloit lead at the half quickly turned into a tie after a 9-0 Rockford run during the first three minutes of the second half. From there, the two teams grappled back and forth for points, ending the third quarter tied 41-41 and remaining close throughout the fourth.

*Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu*

# McDavid = McJesus?

By SAM NEUBAUER

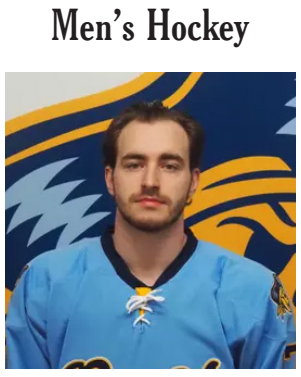
For those new to the NHL who are unaware who Connor McDavid is, he was the first overall pick in 2015, drafted to the Edmonton Oilers. He has easily lived up to that hype as not just the first overall pick, but the next great one. This current NHL season is looking exactly like that, and McDavid is already on pace to beat the all time NHL Season point record. The current record is held by Wayne Gretzky with 215 points (52 goals, 163 assists) in just 80 games. This season, McDavid was on pace for 219 points, but has slowed down over this past weekend, now being on pace for 200 points this season through 84 games. The real question is, can McDavid keep this form up? Gretzky is the only NHL player to have hit the 200-point mark in a single NHL season, which he did four times during his stint with the Oilers. The closest is Mario Lemieux with 199 points in 1989 for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

I personally think he can keep this form up, and even if he doesn't break the all-time season points record, it will still be much more impressive. Why, you might ask? Gretzky and McDavid both played in different eras. Gretzky played in a much higher scoring era in the 80s and 90s, where goaltending was nowhere near where it is today, and the offside rule wasn't fully in effect either. Multiple NHL players would put up 140 or more points in a single season when Gretzky played, but just last year, McDavid led the league in points with 138. This was 8 points ahead of Nikita Kucherov of the Tampa Bay Lightning. I think this shows the vast difference between the two eras, on top of the difference in league average save percentage. During the 1985-86 season, the league average was a .874 save percentage, while the current league average is .891 —- almost a .020 increase, which says it all. If you sent McDavid back to the 1985-86 season, he would easily destroy Gretzky's point record, but if you put Gretzky in the 2026-27 NHL season, he would struggle to put up over 120 points in a season; which is still amazing, but is nowhere near the dominance he had.



## Athletes of the Week

**Valerii Kneib'27**
**Men's Hockey**



**Leila Boykin'30**
**Women's Basketball**



# The Runner's High: Sam's Story

By OLIVIA THOMPSON

Samuel Neubauer is a first-year Beloit College student on the track and cross country team. Growing up in Rockford, Illinois, Sam didn't begin running until sophomore year of high school. After his coach told him he had "running legs," he quickly took to the track to see what he could do.



*Samuel Neubauer'30*

People often talk about the "runner's high." You see it all over social media; that burst of energy and clarity you get when you get on the track, push through your fears, and overcome your limits. While Sam has experienced that, it hadn't truly come until the end of his sophomore year. Sam said, "Running can be a high." While he meant it as a joke, as an athlete I can confirm. When you're taking that next step or hitting that rep there's a certain high to it, almost as if you're flying or just feeling all the joy in the world. All of this comes without the crash the next morning. Running is something anyone can do, and it's something everyone should be doing.

Sam has been through some ups and downs. His mother was diagnosed with breast cancer when he was in third grade and dying when he was in sixth grade, Sam has had to grow up faster than others. He knows not everything is guaranteed. He knows that, while anyone can run, it takes a certain type of person to be a college athlete runner. He knows you can't rely on the highs when there will inevitably be lows. It takes a certain type of discipline to keep going as a college athlete that someone who has had to take care of their mother at such a young age has definitely developed.

Running isn't about just highs and lows, though — just like how life isn't. It's about the mundane times in the middle. Running through a field dancing and singing his heart out is where he feels most alive.

*Read the rest on roundtable.beloit.edu*

# Practice What We Teach: Listen to Students We Claim to Serve

By JAKE FEIN

Who makes decisions at this school? I can tell you right now that it is not students. Not only do students not make decisions at this school, but they barely get told about the decisions that do get made. Here are just some examples of students not being involved in decisions at this college:

**Food Pantry**

Beloit College has over 900 students and hundreds more staff and faculty, yet the decision to cut the food pantry was made by two people, one of whom just started working here again after a four-year absence. Were students consulted about the closing of the pantry? Were students even officially told that it was closing, or where to receive similar services? No, they weren't.

One of the biggest given reasons for the cut was that 93.8% of on-campus students have a meal plan. That figure only accounts for about 760 students on-campus, not the over 900 total students. Accounting for study-abroad and other data intricacies, there are roughly 175 students not on a meal plan. Do students living off-campus not need access to food? Were they asked?

What if we took the 93.8% at face value? What that doesn't account for is that 25% (178) of students on meal plans are on the Gold Plan (7 swipes a week). Many choose that plan due to the over $1,500 in savings it provides, and that percentage may go up next year, because of the 15% meal plan increase for 27-28. Those students do not have full access to dining services. Were those students talked to? At most, according to food staff workers about 63% (450) of students on meal plans even swipe in for dinner every day. Was there any meaningful effort placed in trying to figure out the actual meal plan and timing issues affecting access for 40% of meal plan holders, ranging from hours of service, to the nearly two-week food service closure during winter break?All of this does not point to a "researched" decision.

Some points I would like to make here as someone who has used food pantries and been food insecure. I never want to hear the term "cost-ineffective" as a reason to describe decreasing food access. The "need" of a pantry is shown by the fact that food is taken, and food was consistently taken from this pantry. It is actually crazy that Beloit College has money to pay Eric Boynton over $300,000 and then has the audacity to even mention cost as a reason for the decrease in food access.

**Cost and Direction of the School**

Let's talk about decisions made at an even higher level: The Board of Trustees. At their October meeting, they voted to increase the cost of attendance by 3.9% and to approve the School of Health Sciences Graduate Programs. What is important to note is that this 30-member body doesn't represent the college very well.

There was no student representation at those meetings. While there has never been student voting power, in previous years, there was student representation on all but two BOT committees. I was one of the student representatives, but my term ended, and there have been no signs of new student representation taking place. There have already been very consequential decisions made in the one BOT meeting that has had no student representation; let's not allow it to be more.

**Pizza Oven**

Here is a very acute example. In a Nov. 10 Round Table article about the new pizza oven on campus, we learned some things about decision-making priorities. The Associate Vice President of Faculties, Nate Osterberger, implied that the pizza oven, which cost $20,000, came from the student-driven Residential Experience Advisory Committee.

REAC wasn't even introduced to the student body until a Sep. 10 information session, and the interest form to become a member did not go out until Sep. 28. According to Meghan Koning'27, one of the REAC representatives, the first REAC meeting didn't take place until early November. Construction on the pizza oven began when students were moving in, in late August, and construction was finished in October, which indicates that students were not a part of the consultation process of this new construction. Further, students have yet to receive any official communication about the pizza oven, and why that much money was spent on it when there are other active student concerns with housing.

**Doing Better**

If you were to walk into an economics or business classroom on campus, you might learn about the importance of stakeholder input. You may even hear about how this input is particularly important when decisions are risky, rushed, high-impact, etc. Why do we teach students about the importance of the stakeholder's voice for the "outside world" and then throw it out the window for internal matters? It keeps happening: from changes in housing, cost increases, status of international students, food access, space planning, program development, construction, and more. Sometimes, students get an apology and commitment that "next time," it will be better.

I would like a response from Beloit College's leadership on why they think that is.

# Berlin is Awesomesauce

By DEMIR KASAPOGLU

I had my reservations about Berlin when I initially met with Josh Moore in early January. I was going to be the only Beloiter there, the study abroad program is relatively small, and Berlin is an intimidating city.

I watched videos of Americans who did a study abroad semester in Berlin on YouTube, tried to practice my very rusty German over the summer, and in general got to know what I had signed up for. In truth, nothing can really prepare you.

In our orientation, they had told us about an expected down period, where we'd be very homesick and have a hard time adjusting to Berlin. This never happened. I was in immediately, and never once felt homesick for the U.S.

One of the most funniest and unexpected parts about studying here is that when you meet someone new, and they learn you're American, they get very curious and hound you with questions.

The culture here has a lot to offer for almost everyone. Are you the more outgoing type? Have fun in the 3-hour lines for clubs, enjoy public drinking, and visit a large selection of mainstream and underground bars. Even if you have no specific goal, you can find a place that suits you on a random walk in parts of the city.

Are you the more artsy type? There's some niche art, or film event happening everyday, and graffiti everywhere — I cannot overstate just how much graffiti is in every part of the city.

Are you the more explorative type? The Deutschlandsemesterticket allows students free travel on all public transportation and regional trains in Germany, and you can find a cheap trip to essentially anywhere in Europe.

There's a variety of cultures that exist in Berlin. You can find a restaurant of almost any background in the world, so you're not locked into just eating German food. (By the way, the hype about döners is very deserved.)

And so on. The friends you make are going to stick with you forever. You'll be surprised how fast people will get into your close friend's story on Instagram.

The selection of classes at Freie Universität is also unbelievable. The program is FU's European Studies Program, so it's catered much more towards the Humanities. I'm currently taking a class on revolutionary, guerilla/terrorist, and student movements in Germany. The best part of that class is that, half the time, we're talking about student actions that took place in our school.

Possibly the best part of the program so far has been the trip that we went on. In the summer, we had the option to sign up for one of two trips, Hamburg/Copenhagen or Nuremberg/Prague. I chose the latter.

I had a great time exploring both cities for days with new friends, and experiencing places outside of Berlin for essentially free. Both Nuremberg and Prague are wildly different from each other, and both had new experiences for me.

The friends, memories, and connections I've made here are going to stay with me for life, and I do not think I could've picked a better program to do my semester abroad. The only drawback of Berlin is that it went by too fast. It's mid-November already, and it feels like I've only been here for a month.

The time I've used so far has been incredible, and I hope to make the best of the month I have left. I'll miss out on GTA VI's release, but I guess I had to give up something.

If you are considering studying abroad in the future, I highly recommend Berlin as the program for most people. It is genuinely shocking to me that this program is not the most popular one.

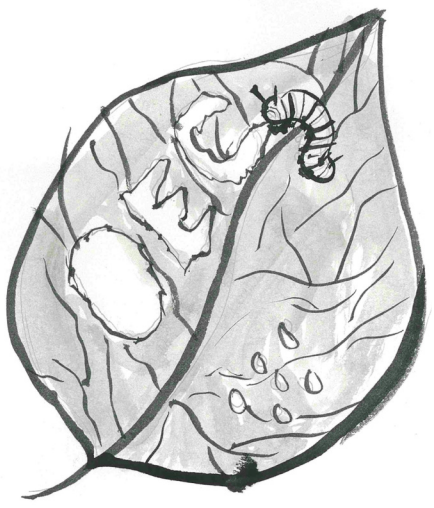


*Demir Kasapoglu'28*

# CLUB COLUMNS: Poetry of the Plant People

By OEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Below are some poems written by OEC members that reflect on nature and the environment in a diverse number of ways. Environmentalism doesn't just inform the public of scientific consensus. It focuses on shifting the culture and attitudes of our communities, and giving people the space to analyze current norms and consider how they can be transformed for the better.



*Betty Cavicchia'28*

"Untitled"
Watch the Fall flowers bloom
Watch pedals curl against the setting sun
Igniting, reflecting Its hue
Buds and soil fasten their eyes whilst
Heavens gape, dazed by the dazzle of decadence
Summer turns to mulch to feed the evergreens
To nourish the air till coming Spring

"Untitled"
You can feel the weight of the world in a late summer day
Days that keep getting hotter
And hotter.
The thought of what we're losing pulls the air from my lungs
Almost as fast as the heat
When the clouds roll in
It's a blessing, not a curse
The sky's cooling kisses rain down on my forehead
What is it?
Comfort? Forgiveness?
Things have always changed
They won't stop now
And the sky knows they'll get worse before they get better.
My human mind doesn't get that yet
But the heat breaks
If only for a few minutes
And the sky keeps moving.

"Incel Frog Poem"
Dear incel frog,
I shall put forth this notion,
A collective opinion,
On the sound croaked by thee,
On a wet November day.
Much past the mating season,
We heard your call resounding,
Yet to whom you were expounding,
We yet could not say.
For the babes have long ceased searching,
And the ball has drawn its curtains,
Yet here you are still thirsting,
In your ceaseless croaking way.

# ROUNDTABLE SEZ: THATSALLFOLKS!




## Aries
This thanksgiving will make you constipated

## Taurus
Now that it's cold that eczema should be coming in quite
nicely (on your ass)

## Gemini
Don't be a fool, it's just a matter of time with IBS for you

## Cancer
I mean, yeah, it's colon cancer. What else would it be.

## Leo
It's Ulcerative Colitis! Saying that will get you banned at Hogwarts.

## Virgo
Doctor says its Diverticulitis and ouch that sounds painful, like the morning after taco night

## Libra
E. Coli will liberate the contents of your bowels.

## Scorpio
Heard of Polyps? don't look it up.

## Sagittarius
Hallowed heroes herald the homecoming of the
hiatic hernia

## Capricorn
Looks like there's a few hemmorrhoids on your capri-cornhole

## Aquarius
Commons lunch is gonna get the water-works running real soon if you get my drift...

## Pisces
We got through this list and I haven't even mentioned Crohns! Sorry Pisces,
I hear its a bitch.

## In Elloit We Trust

*Gone, but not forgotten.*

*He's not dead, just retired!*

*We thank Eric Boynton for his seal of approval*










Cooley Clown! by Alex C

