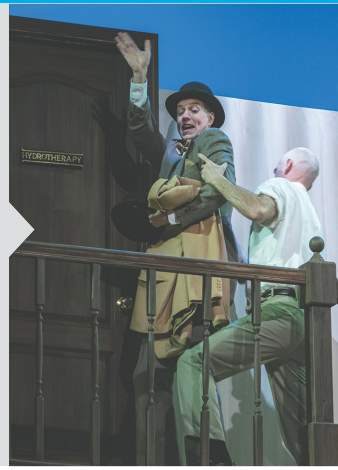




**OPINION**  
Changes to state's gun laws are not needed » 5



**ARTS**  
Classic comedy 'Harvey' was very entertaining  
Talents of Madison College Performing Arts students showcased in latest performance » 9



**SPORTS**  
Hoffman follows his own path to NCAA basketball » 12



# Moving to Division II

Change allows scholarships in all sports, making athletics more accessible

**KALEIA LAWRENCE**  
Editor in Chief

Representing WolfPack athletics is not an easy feat. During their season, athletes are spending about 20 hours per week practicing, competing and traveling. Tournaments can span entire weekends and away games have players riding the bus late into the night.

In order to be eligible to play, athletes must be full time students. Not only that, but they have to maintain good grades to stay eligible.

Because of the time commitments to being a full time student and athletic obligations, little time is left for work. This can put athletes in a tight spot where many already struggle. In 2019, the NJCAA found that 37 percent of athletes come from households earning \$20,000 or less a year.

**One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes.**

Most athletes represent Madison College without

any financial help. All of the sports except for baseball and softball currently compete at the NJCAA Division III level, meaning no athletic scholarships are given. Baseball and softball have been playing at the Division II level and receiving athletic scholarships since 2000 and 2014, respectively.

But starting next season, Madison College athletics are moving to a whole new level. All sports will compete at the NJCAA Division II level. This shift greatly affects returning and future student athletes in many ways.

"It provides access," said Steve Hauser, athletic director. "It's not going to cost more in terms of the teams that we play and it provides better competition, which we're really excited about."

One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes. Scholarships can be used for tuition and books, but not for room or board.

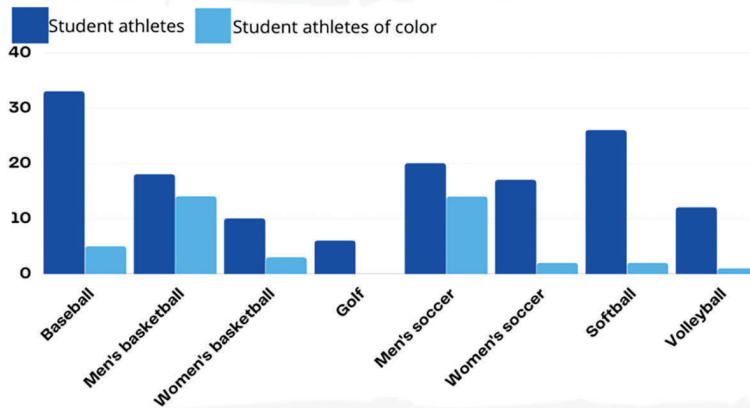
The school hopes to have at least \$200,000 avail-

» SEE **DIVISION II** PAGE 4

Looking at the numbers...

## Diversity in WolfPack athletics

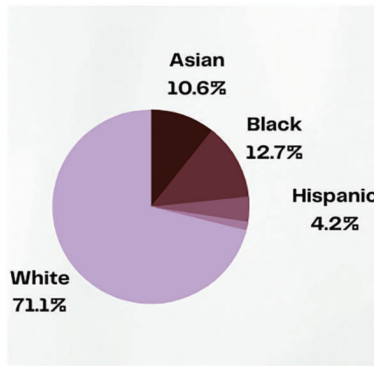
With the move to Division II, the new offerings of scholarships will likely impact equity within athletics. Here's a deeper look into some of the numbers...



In the 2020-21 season, there were 142 total student athletes, 28.9 percent were minorities.

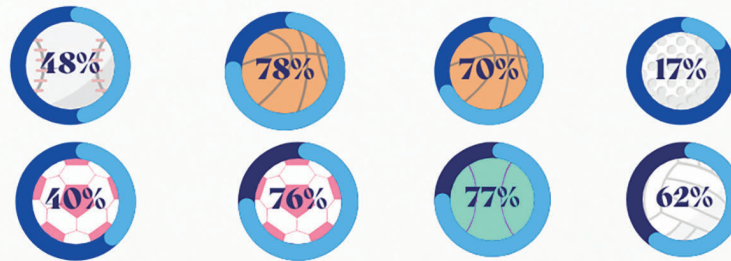


Across Madison College, student enrollment came to 22,852 people, with 26.1 percent were minorities, according to data provided by the athletic office.



### It's one thing to see percentages...

And another to know the numbers. Across the student athlete body, there are 15 Asian athletes, 18 Black athletes, six Hispanic athletes, two multi-racial athletes and 101 white athletes.



### FAFSA recorded

A majority of the teams filed for financial aid. In order of appearance from left to right: baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, golf, men's soccer, women's soccer, softball and volleyball.

## WHO GETS THE MONEY?



The goal is to have 20 percent of the scholarships be awarded to athletes of color.

If the athletics program can meet the goal of \$200,000 then \$40,000 would be awarded to underrepresented athletes.

Source Information was shared by the athletics department at Madison College

# Legal help removes a barrier to employment

**STUART PATE**  
News Editor

Students with convictions on their records face unique challenges in finding their careers. These "barriers to employment" are fought on Madison College campuses by Megan Sprecher, an attorney working with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

"The goal of that is to make it easier and more feasible for students to access their education, finish their programs and then find a job that can be fulfilling for them," said Sprecher. "Just having certain convictions on your record can make it difficult to find employment."

Sprecher's project utilizes pro bono and volunteer attorneys, paralegal interns and paralegal and law students from places like Madison College and UW Madison and focuses on expungements, pardons, corrections and removals as well as challenging driver's license suspensions and revocations.

When approaching Legal Action of Wisconsin, everybody goes through a background check to see what can be removed, corrected, expunged or pardoned. Then work is done either in house or through a network of volunteer attorneys.

Pardons are granted by the governor. According to Sprecher, a pardon hearing takes about 14 months. A pardon is something that restores civil rights that were lost because of conviction. Currently, Governor Evers is only considering felonies for pardons.

Madison College faculty and staff can play a role in an individual's pardon case.

A support letter would be

» SEE **HELP** PAGE 4

# Alternative Break featured 4 projects

**KALEIA LAWRENCE**  
Editor in Chief

This past spring break, the Madison College Volunteer Center stayed busy. Over the course of the week, the group did four different projects across Dane County.

On Monday, nine students volunteered at Second Harvest. The organization is southwestern Wisconsin's largest

foodbank.

On Tuesday, students gathered at the Truax campus to do some benevolent DIY.

Twelve students came together and made 24 blankets for Project Linus, nine cat beds for Dane County Humane Society, 18 posters for Bleed Shamelessly, and three Kynd Kits for project helping.

On Wednesday, five students helped out at the Dane

County Humane Society. Various volunteers said they had a good time with the animals.

On Thursday, seven students visited Little John's kitchen in Verona. There, the volunteers packed meals for those in need. The kitchen focuses on eliminating food waste and meal insecurity at

» SEE **PROJECTS** PAGE 4



PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE CLARION

Students show the blankets they made for Project Linus.

# A look at the Russia/Ukraine crisis

**SHERRA OWINO**

Assistant Editor

If you drive a car or even pass by gas stations on your commute, you'll notice that gas prices have begun to increase. You may even have heard or read that this is due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that's happening now. But what is happening and why is it affecting us in the U.S.? And what's the definition of the terms so common in the news right now?

## WHAT DO THE TERMS MEAN?

There are a few terms that are heard regularly but not necessarily understood. So, what do they mean and how do they play into the current conflict?

**NATO** – Stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which was created in 1949 by the U.S., Canada and a number of western European countries to provide security against Russia.

**Economic Sanctions** – A withdrawal of standard trade and financial relations which could include travel bans, foreign aid reductions, capital restraints, frozen assets and others.

**Autocratic vs. Democratic** – Refers to governmental structure and leadership. Autocratic is to be ruled by one individual in a dictatorship, while democratic government is ruled open and free elections by the people.

## HISTORY

To begin to understand and answer the question of what's happening and the effects on the U.S., one must first take a step back into history. To assist in this endeavor, Joel Ryan, instructor of history at Madison College, provided his knowledge.

"The relationship between Russia and Ukraine is pretty complicated," Ryan explained.

For starters, these two countries



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / POOL / AFP / GETTY IMAGES / TNS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky virtually addresses the U.S. Congress on March 16 at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Auditorium, in Washington, D.C.

(along with several others) used to be all part of a much larger nation considered the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). After the fall of the USSR, these countries, Ukraine included, broke off and gained their independence from what is now called Russia. An uprising and revolution occurred within Ukraine in 2014 on Maidan Square ("Independence Square") when Ukrainians fought to maintain their freedoms such as protesting from government officials being pressured by Russia.

An understanding was reached in the 1940s between Russia and Ukraine that Ukraine would not be part of NATO as that is not in Russia's best interests, according to Ryan.

Recently, Ukraine has been considering joining this organization. Ukraine's physical position in the middle between Russia and the rest of Europe also is a factor. Ukraine, by definition and the meaning of their name is "border or

frontier" Ryan said. This country joining NATO would have significant implications for Russia just with their proximity alone.

## BRINGING IT HOME

"The world is so much more interconnected than it's ever been," Ryan explained.

With this crisis and sanctions going into place, Ryan said to expect gas prices to go up as a manifestation of what's occurring around the globe and travel, including study abroad or student exchange, halted in addition to an understanding of threatened democracy in democratic states.

Stephanie Belmas, the Director of the Center for International Education expressed her thoughts:

"This is a very challenging, difficult, and troubling time on many levels, especially for individuals from both of these countries," said Belmas.



MADALYN BREUNIG / CLARION

Madison College students participating in the Volunteer Center Alternative Break programs fill food boxes at Second Harvest Food Bank.

## PROJECTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the same time.

Some volunteers made it to every event. Two of those people, Arya Kethireddy and Zora Smith, are STEM students at Madison College. They enjoyed spending their break giving a helping hand to others.

"I always feel like, 'Oh my gosh that was so nice.' I got to help these people...even if it's like directly like helping them, but it's like doing these things that'll make their life easier and it just feels good," said Smith.

Kethireddy shared similar sentiments by saying, "It's just it really doesn't feel good when you see other people struggling in any kind of way and helping out the community."

The Volunteer Center has a busy April lined up, with events on April 15 for Earth Day, April 27 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and another event at Goodman South.

paper court records, but like who they are and how they've grown."

Those interested in utilizing these services can go to legalaction.org or find Sprecher at the Goodman South campus every Tuesday and at the Truax campus on Wednesdays.

A struggle Sprecher faces is to reach people who would benefit from her services.

"I think as things pick up in person on campuses, we're hoping to reach more students," said Sprecher.

## DIVISION II

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able for scholarship funding, which equates to 32 full ride scholarships. Each coach will be allotted a certain amount of money that they can use however they see fit. Full ride scholarships could be offered to a couple select players or be divided into multiple smaller scholarships.

This money comes from funds raised by the athletic office. Some of it comes from ticket and concession revenue, while some of it comes from training camps that the school hosts.

The idea of Madison College athletics making this move has been in the works since 2014. There were a couple different reasons why the shift was finally made, most of which relate to accessibility.

Many of the schools Madison College currently plays are also moving to Division II. Because of this, scheduling would become incredibly difficult had the switch not been made.

The WolfPack will still travel mostly to Illinois for games. Travel costs will remain relatively the same, as will travel times. The main difference is teams that would usually be played just in tournaments will now be conference rivals.

Another perk for athletes is they'll be facing higher levels of competition.

"As a student athlete...we want you to have the best experience you can have. We want you to participate against the best teams possible because it does make a difference," said Hauser. He also noted that playing against the higher ranked teams will provide athletes hoping to move on to a four year school more exposure to coaches.

The new division change also hopes to attract more students, especially from underrepresented communities. One goal is to have at least 20 percent of the 32 scholarships awarded to athletes of color.

For the 2020-21 season, the athletics diversity was similar to the overall Madison College student body, not including esports. It found that 28.9 percent of athletes are from communities of color. Data from the athletics department showed that 26.1 percent of all Madison College students are diverse.

However, the only teams that had over half of their athletes from diverse backgrounds were men's basketball and men's soccer, with 14 athletes each. Baseball came next with five players of color on a roster of 33.

Five of the sports offered had over half of the athletes on the team qualifying for FAFSA.

Having the scholarships available should help the college recruit and retain athletes of color.

"This gives us an opportunity to, for example, attract a basketball player that now would typically go to Illinois if they're going the junior college route and receive aid where maybe they'll stay home if we're able to help provide assistance financially for their tuition," said Hauser.

This move will not affect esports, as they currently don't get scholarships. However, they can compete in leagues that offer cash prizes which other athletes can't do. If an esports player wins, they get to get half of the prize money and the rest goes to the program.

## Senate hosts Town Hall event

**STUART PATE**

News Editor

The spring Student Senate Town Hall was held Tuesday, March 1 to discuss issues affecting Madison College students. The event was hosted by Student Senate members, Sean Green and Lisa Linger from the Truax campus. It was largely attended virtually by students from the Goodman South campus.

Issues including the textbook rental program and transportation for students were discussed via interactive polls.

There were presentations from student run organizations such as the Volunteer Center, Executive Leadership Team, the Student Senate as well as from The Clarion.

Also discussed were the upcoming Student Senate elections which begin March 28.

## HELP

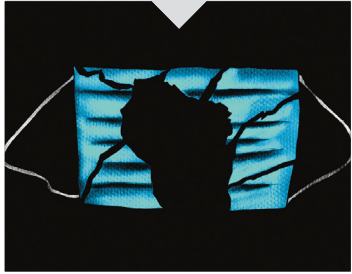
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

really helpful in showing that a person is on a good path and also potentially why they need a pardon said Sprecher.

For Sprecher, this project is personal.

"It's really rewarding, having people trust you with their story." She continues, "Our job is to paint a picture for the pardon advisory board about who this person is, as a person, not their

**OPINION**  
**End of county's mask mandate is a positive sign** > 5



**ARTS**  
**'King Richard' a compelling portrait**  
 You don't need to be a tennis fan to appreciate Will Smith's portrayal of Richard Williams and his determination to mold his daughters into athletic sensations > 9



**SPORTS**  
**Championship team has a new home on campus** > 12



LUIS ALCALA ROBLERO / CLARION

A Madison College student boards the campus-to-campus shuttle outside the main Truax Campus building.

# Shuttle running again

Service connects the Truax, Goodman South campuses

**SHERRA OWINO**  
 Assistant Editor

The shuttle service offered by Madison College has been of great benefit to the college community, especially before the pandemic and when classes were almost exclusively in person. So where does that stand now?

The shuttle is up and running again between Truax and the Goodman South campuses in Madison said Jackie Dahlke, the Transportation Program Analyst for

Madison College. It closed with most of the rest of the world mid-March 2020 when the pandemic struck.

She's hopeful that students will start taking advantage of this opportunity more now that the campuses are all a-flurry again with onsite courses and transportation has again become necessary for many people.

"You don't have nearly as many in-person, on campus classes as you used to have pre-pandemic," Dahlke acknowledged. "I estimated they would have just a fraction of the ridership and, so far, that is the case."

But maybe it's just slow in getting started again.

All that's necessary for a ride is your OneCard student ID.

Passengers can expect masks to be mandatory while riding the shuttle and that it can take about 45 minutes to cover the 10 miles one-way between these campuses. Each of the two shuttles can accommodate 27 passengers and one wheelchair at a time.

"It's one of the things that, hopefully while you're a college student, can make your life easier," Dahlke explained.

There may be bigger news around the corner for the city of Madison and the surrounding areas as years of planning to reorganize the public transportation system will be com-

> SEE **SHUTTLE** PAGE 4

# Dane County YouTuber has 1 million subscribers

**KALEIA LAWRENCE**  
 Editor in Chief

When you think of making it big in the Midwest, being a YouTuber is not the first career that comes to mind. YouTubing as a career might make people think of LA or maybe New York.

Narrow it down some more to specifically Wisconsin. How many people come to mind as successful YouTubers?

Just because it's not common doesn't mean it's impossible. Craig Benzine of Dane County hit 1 million subscribers July 2020, now at 1.1 million. His main channel, WheezyWaiter, features a wide variety of content, from life-style challenges he's completed to discussions about why people own dogs.

WheezyNews is his second channel that hosts movie reviews and some interviews with other creators.

"I want to be a positive, fun place on the Internet and show that that's possible even though there's so much negativity around," said Benzine.

Benzine is from Marshall, right outside of Madison. During his first driving test, he failed because he went too fast past Madison College.

Although his original major was something related to video games, he graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Communication Arts and Radio Television Film. It was there that



Craig Benzine

> SEE **YOUTUBER** PAGE 4

# Changes underway in Truax, Health Services buildings

**STUART PATE**  
 News Editor

Construction has been underway and is quickly coming to an end with promising results.

While walking the length of the Madison College main Truax building, there comes a gentle transition. Students with backpacks change to construction workers wearing hard hats and safety glasses. The open spaces become suffocated in a sort of maze of barriers and signs telling students and faculty where they can and can't go safely.

Truax is under construction for good reasons. A facelift is coming as programs that have been moving to

where the students are in the active locations of the main Truax Building.

Preparation is being made to bring the IT classrooms from the Health Services Building to the D and E section of the first floor of the main Truax building.

"They don't really have a lot of synergies where they are, so they're better suited at Truax on the first floor," said Design Assistant Lynn Dahlgren. "We're expanding to allow more students into the programs and offer them the latest technologies so that they're prepared for the workforce."

The new IT department will include classrooms, data centers and

> SEE **CHANGES** PAGE 4



LUIS ALCALA ROBLERO / CLARION

Workers move lifts around in the D-wing of the main Truax building.

## YOUTUBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he learned the basics of video production, though he did a lot of self-teaching after.

He formed a band with some friends, the Driftless Pony Club. After playing some in Madison, he eventually moved to Chicago, then Texas, then back to Wisconsin.

It was while in Chicago that he started his channel. At that time, being a full-time YouTuber was not his final career goal. He started in 2007 when making a living off YouTube was just barely becoming a thing.

Since the start of the channel, he's expanded. He's been featured on the educational CrashCourse channel, a project of John and Hank Green. His main topics were Film History and Government and Politics. Benzine mentioned that he gets tweets from relatives saying that their kids are watching him in school.

However, his level of success was not expected.

"I thought it would be cool to make videos on the Internet, but it was...a way to maybe get into making movies or something, some other thing, like a means to an end," said Benzine. He added that he still might try to make a movie someday.

Though he spent some time out of the Midwest, Benzine settled back down after getting married and having a child.

"I think as I've gotten older... I have more Midwest pride than I did when I was younger," said Benzine.

While the move back to Wisconsin was a practical one, Benzine likes that he can have a successful career while living in a place that people might not expect.

"I like showing that you can do it anywhere," said Benzine.

Even though it's not super common right now, Benzine thinks that YouTube careers everywhere will become more prevalent with time. There's access to many free video editing platforms and almost all phones have a camera.

He shared some advice for students pursuing a career in media, whether it's YouTube or another platform.

"I think you'll experience burnout at some point, and I think at that point you should just really try to figure out what it is you want to do, how you want to use your skill," said Benzine. "Not just use your skill for the sake of using it."

Some other rules that Benzine follows and shared as advice to aspiring creators include communicating with purpose, being authentic and having some kind of schedule.

No matter what point you're at in your life or where you're living, Benzine encourages people to pursue their passion.

"Get your work done if you're in school, but, but do extra things. Do things that you find fun and just figure out how to edit, figure out how to shoot," said Benzine. "Figure out your own style. Don't worry about where you are."

## SHUTTLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing to fruition summer of 2023.

This new design will have larger buses to accommodate more people while also providing faster service will less waiting and stops. According to Dahlke, 73 percent of Madison will live within one fourth mile of transit with 42 percent living within one fourth of a mile to transportation that has a 15 minute or less wait.

More information on how all that will unfold and affect Madison College is yet to be revealed in full.

More commute options such as Ride Share, Park & Ride, Round Trip, Vanpool, e-bikes and Metro Transit for both Madison residents and those in surrounding cities can be found at the Student Life office as well as a full list of shuttle pick up times.



LUIS ALCALA ROBLERO / CLARION

Work has started on a former classroom on the first floor of the Truax building.

## CHANGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

faculty office space. This will be partially completed in time for the fall 2022 semester and entirely completed for the spring of 2023.

Also coming to the first floor is the college's Honors Program. Currently, it is on the third floor, separated from the bulk of student activity.

"This will offer students better access to those services," said Dahlgren.

Another service returning soon will be the Fitness Center which is slated to re-open in March after spring break.

According to Dahlgren, the Fitness Center will be expanded with updated locker rooms and added locker rooms for fitness officials and visiting teams.

Students can expect a new look on the first floor. Dark brick will be replaced with glass walls to open the space and just feel bigger, better and brighter, said Dahlgren.

Dahlgren continued, "I think everyone is going to be impressed with that as well."

# WRITING CONTEST

Enter at: <https://students.madisoncollege.edu/yahara-journal-submissions>



Scan to Enter

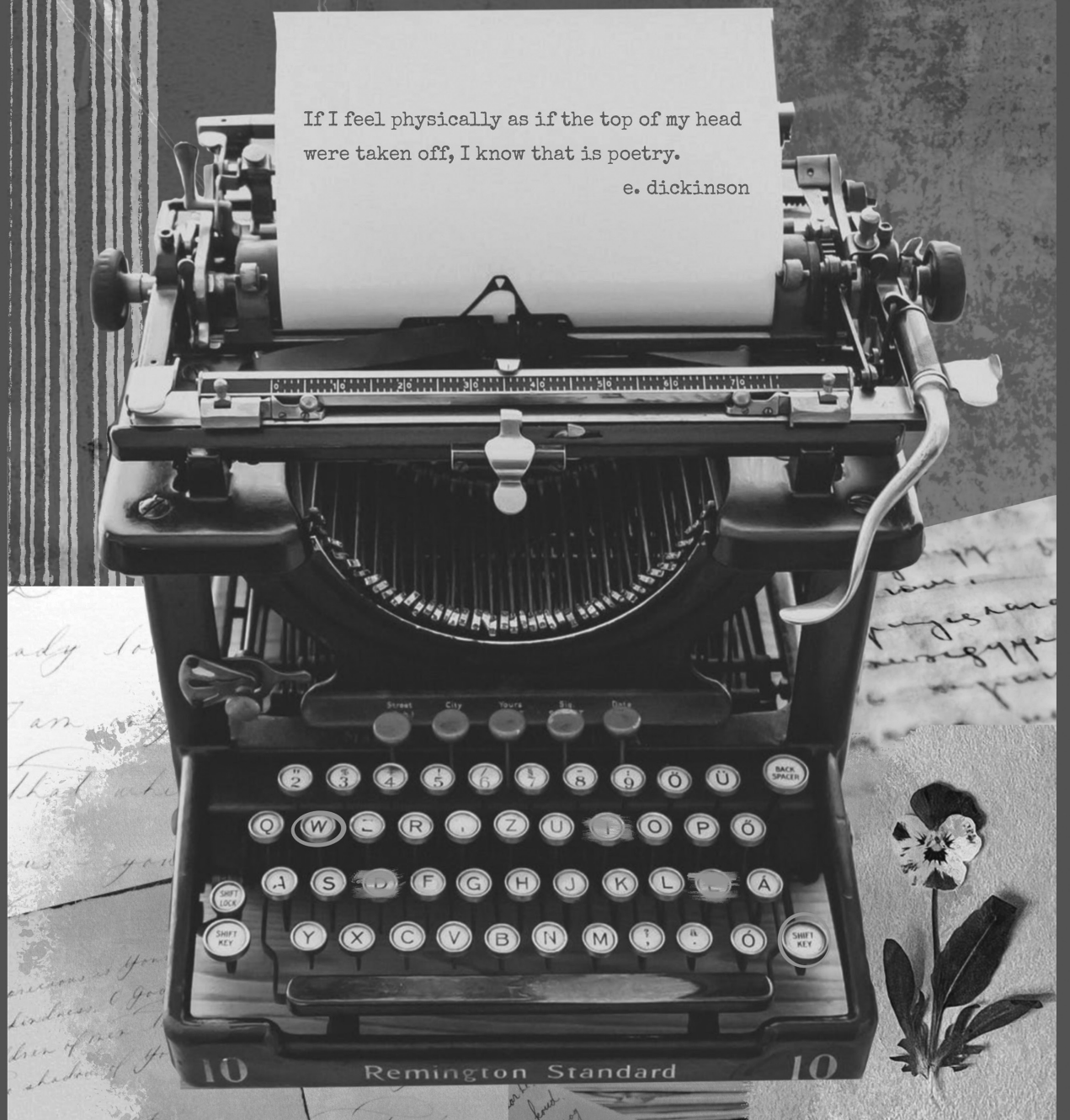
## Poetry and Prose

Deadline:  
March 14

1st place- \$50 2nd place- \$25 3rd place- \$10

If I feel physically as if the top of my head  
were taken off, I know that is poetry.

e. dickinson



Questions? Email [yaharajournal@madisoncollege.edu](mailto:yaharajournal@madisoncollege.edu)

# sports

EDITOR:  
COLE DOWNING

CLARIONSPORTS@  
MADISONCOLLEGE.EDU



## MEET THE PACK

Profiles of WolfPack athletes

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

#### KARMEN SMYTH

A freshman midfielder on the Madison College women's soccer team, Karmen Smyth has played in all six matches this season and has started four of them. She is the team's No. 2 scorer with five goals on the season and two assists. She has taken 17 shots, including 11 shots on goal.

Her best match of the season was against Illinois Valley Community College on Sept. 8, when she scored two goals and had



SMYTH



LUSKEY SANDERS

an assist. In addition, she had goals against Triton College, Elgin Community College and Harper College. A graduate of Stoughton High School, Smyth earned second team all conference honors.

### MEN'S SOCCER JONAS LUSKEY SANDERS

Madison College sophomore Jonas Luskey Sanders currently leads the WolfPack men's soccer team in scoring with nine goals and five assists through eight matches. He has scored a hat-trick twice this season, with three goals against Milwaukee Area Technical College on Sept. 18 and three goals against Joliet Junior College on Sept. 25.

At Madison East High School, Luskey Sanders scored 10 goals and had five assists as a senior to help lift his team to the Big Eight title. The son of Kelly Luskey and Scott Sanders, he is a liberal arts major.

# Making the team just part of the battle

Experience of LGBTQ+ athletes different than CIS gender teammates

**KALEIA LAWRENCE**  
Editor in Chief

As exciting as sports are, there are also times where it's hard. Outside of just the athletic aspect, LGBTQ+ athletes have an entirely different experience. They have to go through the same things as everyone else: tough practices and disappointing games, but also have to experience extra hardships. Things like concerns about being accepted by their teammates, digs from opponents or fans and fear of being harmed are common.

When it comes to queer acceptance, Wisconsin is lacking. The House of Representatives has proposed the Protecting Women in Sports Act. The bill would only allow those who were assigned female at birth to compete in women's sports. It would limit those in public sports from kindergarten all the way up to public colleges. There's been a lot of support throughout the state and 28 co-sponsors on the bill.

Gov. Evers, who hasn't

shown support for the bill, tweeted "My message to Wisconsin's transgender kids and students today is simple: I see you. You are welcome, you are wanted, and you belong."

Even though there has been pushback against the bill in Wisconsin and the other states where it's been introduced, bills like this being written and met with support demonstrates the lack of support for gay athletes.

While much of the public discourse regarding queer athletes is negative, that doesn't dictate everyone's experience.

#### Athletes are athletes

Take Paisley Bennett, a current member of Madison College's esports team. During her time with the team, Bennett hasn't experienced any homophobia from her teams or opponents.

Bennet uses the label of gay because "I just, I like girls. I don't know...the word lesbian; it's just weird to me. I'm like, I'll say gay versus lesbian."

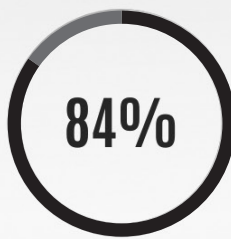
While this is Bennett's second year as an athlete at Madison College, her athletic history goes back several years.

Upon graduating, she

» SEE **LGBTQ+** PAGE 13

## LGBTQ+ YOUTH

IN SPORTS

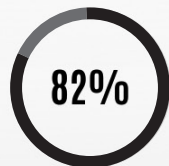


84% of Americans surveyed have witnessed or experienced anti-LGBTQ attitudes in sports.

Information was found in a study done by the Human Rights Campaign in 2017



75% of LGBTQ youth are not open to their coaches about their sexual orientation.



82% of transgender and gender expansive youth are not out to their coaches about their gender identity



51% of trans youth never use the school locker aligned with their gender identity.

CLARION ILLUSTRATION BY KALEIA LAWRENCE

# Checking in on WolfPack volleyball

**ADAM FROHMANDER**  
Staff Writer

With less than a month from the end of the volleyball season, things are beginning to heat up in conference play for the WolfPack. The team is off to an 8-9 start on the season and will have its next home match on Sept. 30 against College of DuPage.

I had a chance to check in with Coach Quinn Lukens on how things have been so far this season. The questions and answers are as follows:

**Q: How do you feel about your season since it has started?**

A: I am happy with the momentum we are starting to gain. We have been working hard in the practice gym and the overall environment continues to build as one that is both competitive and positive. I am happy with our progression. Lots of things to improve on, as there always is, but we are moving in the right direction.

**Q: Who have been your shining stars so far this year?**

A: Volleyball is the ultimate team sport. It takes more than one or two players to drive team success. Everyone on our roster plays an important role in the growth of our group as a whole, and it will take everyone on the roster for us to get

» SEE **WOLFPACK** PAGE 14



CLARION STAFF PHOTO

Madison College's Jonas Luskey Sanders, right, scored three goals against Joliet Junior College in his team's 6-0 victory on Sept. 25.

# WolfPack men's soccer team rebounds in dominant fashion

## CLARION STAFF REPORT

How do you get past your first loss in weeks? By dominating an opponent, 6-0. At least, that's the way the Madison College men's soccer team responded in its match against Joliet Junior College on Sept. 25.

Sophomore Jonas Luskey Sanders led the way in the big win with three of goals. He leads the team in both goals and assists this season, scoring nine goals and five assists through eight matches.

Madison College now stands and 6-2 overall and 4-1 in conference play. Its only conference loss was 3-2 in overtime at Harper College on Sept. 22. The loss snapped a five-match winning streak.

Harper College is the defending conference champ and now has won nine straight matches against Madison College.

Although Madison College currently leads the conference standings with a 5-1 record, both Harper College and Rock Valley College have only one loss. The WolfPack will play both teams again before the season ends on Oct. 16.

#### Women's soccer

When the Madison College women's soccer team scores, there's a 50/50 chance that Angelina Perez had a part of it. The team has scored 26 goals this season, and Perez has scored 10 of them and had assists on three of them.

Madison College beat Rock Valley College, 4-1, on Sept. 15 and beat Harper College, 5-1, on Sept. 22. Perez scored the go-ahead goal against Rock Valley and netted two goals against Harper College.

Other scoring leaders for the WolfPack this season include Karmen

» SEE **SOCCER** PAGE 14

# Picking 3 big upsets in college football

**BOH SUH**  
Staff Writer

I predict that there will be three upset games for week five of college football. I was on the fence whether I should pick Kansas State over Oklahoma because Oklahoma has struggled in the past two games against unranked teams, such as Nebraska (2-3) and West Virginia (2-2). Oklahoma is considered as a playoff contender this year, so it was disappointing when Oklahoma beat them by seven points and three points respectively at home. Away games in college football can be tricky, so we will see how it turns out.

The only reason I picked Oklahoma over Kansas State is that Kansas State beat Oklahoma last year at Oklahoma, so I believe that Oklahoma will be more motivated this time to take revenge.

The real possible upset this week is Kentucky against Florida. Kentucky has been surprisingly good in football in the past few years here and there. With a home field advantage, Kentucky definitely has a shot.

The next upset matchup is Wisconsin against Michigan. The only reason I think this is going to happen is because how Wisconsin has performed at home in the past decade. I just do not see them losing twice at home out of first three home games. To be honest, I was shocked with the loss to Penn State in week one because I have not seen Wisconsin lose at home for a while. However, after losing against Penn State and Notre Dame, Wisconsin needs a new game plan. Believe it or not, Wisconsin still can take the Big Ten title this year if they win all their remaining games.

The last upset would be LSU over Auburn. Auburn is actually a good team. They pushed Penn State to eight points at Penn State a couple weeks ago, but they barely survived against Georgia State last week. I think it was due to the close loss in the important

matchup, so they were a little bit down. Then, why would I pick LSU over Auburn? Again, a home game advantage logic like the two other upsets. LSU is traditionally a good team and is hard to beat at home (alright except against Alabama, but who really can beat Alabama??). The loss against UCLA in week one was disappointment, but LSU has bounced back and even beat Mississippi State at away game. LSU should be ready to host Auburn.

- No. 1 Alabama (4-0) vs. No. 12 Ole Miss (3-0) - Alabama  
No. 2 Georgia (4-0) vs. No. 8 Arkansas (4-0) - Georgia  
No. 3 Oregon (4-0) vs. Stanford (2-2) - Oregon  
No. 4 Penn State (4-0) vs. Indiana (2-2) - Penn State  
No. 5 Iowa (4-0) vs. Maryland (4-0) - Iowa  
No. 6 Oklahoma (4-0) vs. Kansas State (3-1) - Oklahoma  
No. 7 Cincinnati (3-0) vs. No. 9 Notre Dame (4-0) - Notre Dame  
No. 10 Florida (3-1) vs. Kentucky (4-0) - Kentucky (Upset Alert)  
No. 11 Ohio State (3-1) vs. Rutgers (3-1) - Ohio State  
No. 13 BYU (4-0) vs. Utah State (3-1) - BYU  
No. 14 Michigan (4-0) vs. Wisconsin (1-2) - Wisconsin (Upset Alert)  
No. 15 Texas A&M (3-1) vs. Mississippi State (2-2) - Texas A&M  
No. 16 Coastal Carolina (4-0) vs. UL Monroe (2-1) - Coastal Carolina  
No. 17 Michigan State (4-0) vs. Western Kentucky (1-2) - Michigan State  
No. 18 Fresno State (4-1) vs. Hawaii (2-3) - Fresno State  
No. 19 Oklahoma State (4-0) vs. No. 21 Baylor (4-0) - Oklahoma State  
No. 20 UCLA (3-1) vs. Arizona State (3-1) - UCLA  
No. 22 Auburn (3-1) vs. LSU (3-1) - LSU (Upset Alert)  
No. 23 NC State (3-1) vs. Louisiana Tech (2-2) - NC State  
No. 24 Wake Forest (4-0) vs. Louisville (3-1) - Wake Forest  
No. 25 Clemson (2-2) vs. Boston College (4-0) - Clemson

## The fall of Clemson and Wisconsin

**BOH SUH**  
Staff Writer

Week four was a disappointment for Wisconsin fans. Coming into the fourth quarter, Wisconsin was up 13 to 10 against No. 12 Notre Dame, but then I do not know what happened.

If someone tells me that a team can score 31 points in 13 minutes against Wisconsin, I would have laughed because it is unrealistic. Even Alabama probably cannot score 31 points against us in 13 minutes.

However, that is exactly what Notre Dame did. A couple turnovers definitely made it possible as Wisconsin had five turnovers in that game. The momentum shifted quickly after Notre Dame had a 96 yard kickoff return.

Anyway, the game knocked Wisconsin out of the Top 25. Wisconsin is on thin ice this season already, so we will see how Wisconsin turns around

this year.

Clemson is another team having disappointing season. Even after their star quarterback Trevor Lawrence went to the National Football League, Clemson still has been getting top recruits, so they started the season ranked No. 3.

However, after losing against Georgia by seven points and barely winning against Georgia Tech at home, Clemson lost again against NC State. And there are no good matchups left for Clemson to climb up the ranking.

They can still become the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) champion, but the two loss ACC champion is likely out this year, especially after losing against Georgia. Basically, Alabama and Georgia are likely to see each other at the Southeastern Conference (SEC) championship game. It is likely that will Alabama beat Georgia, and both will make the playoffs.

## LGBTQ+

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

played softball at North Central University, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is a private, Division 3, Christian college. During her years there, she played mostly as an infielder.

At the time, she wasn't out to her teammates. Instead, she was taking time to figure herself out and wasn't dating anyone so she could focus on herself more.

However, when Bennett moved on to her next athletic endeavors, women's semi-professional football, she was out to everyone.

"It was easier to be out 'cause like 90% of the team was gay... like some of them are like my lesbian moms, so it's pretty cool," said Paisley Benett.

During her time with Madison Blaze, Bennett played against transgender and cisgender athletes. "...they both hit the same. Still got a concussion from both of them, like, doesn't matter if they're on T or estrogen. Like if you get hurt, you get hurt."

In regards to the Protecting Women in Sports Act, Bennett thinks it's wrong and a double standard.

"I find it ridiculous too because already we have it in place: if there is not a sport for women to play like an equivalent sport, they can play on the guy's team. So in high school, if you are a female you can play on the guy's football team or if they didn't have softball, you could try out for baseball, vice versa. So I don't understand why it's such an issue. Like if you're gonna put a born at birth female out there on the field with born at birth males, it shouldn't matter," Bennett said.

### Being yourself takes bravery

Queer people are not a monolith, so each story is shaped by different life experiences. Alanis Harris plays volleyball at Ripon, a private liberal arts college in Wisconsin. They're a junior defensive specialist.

Harris uses the labels nonbinary and pansexual or demisexual. While they're out as pansexual to their team, only a few of them know that Harris is nonbinary. The main thing holding Harris back from being fully out is the challenges that come along with it. "To make myself even more different from them in yet another way... I don't know whether it's more exhausting to put on my girl persona every time I go to practice or dealing with that," said Harris.

Even though they haven't experienced homophobic behavior from teammates or opponents, that doesn't stop struggles that Harris faces.

"For someone who is not straight or not cis-[gender] like it's really scary because it's just like, I don't know...I just sometimes I wonder if I really belong on this team," Harris said.

While Harris struggles with the feeling of belonging, they have words of encouragement for younger athletes who might be scared to pursue sports because of who they are.

"The only way it's ever gonna change is if we have more young people willing to be themselves and willing to put themselves out there and make themselves visible. So it's just going to be a long, lot of steps. A lot of kids having to be brave over and over again, basically, until something changes," said Harris.

### Sharing your identity

Olivia Marron is a dual sport athlete at Madison College, playing both basketball and volleyball. This is her second year as captain of the volleyball team and will be filling that role for basketball in the spring.

Marron, like others, struggles with what labels to use.

"Queer, gay, bisexual, I don't know. It's hard. I haven't, like, officially labeled myself...so yeah,

any of those," said Marron.

Marron came out to her basketball coach over Facetime. The rest of her team found out over time. While Marron was talking about her partner to a teammate, others joined in on the conversation.

"I'm not shy about it anymore," Marron said.

While Marron doesn't shy away from talking about her identity, the same doesn't apply for queer youth participating in sports.

Four out of five queer youth are not out to their coaches about their sexual orientation and 82% are not out to their coaches about their gender identity, based on a study done by the Humans Right Campaign in 2017.

When it comes to her journey and advice she'd give to others, Marron feels that one of the hardest battles to overcome is the battle with yourself.

"I think that the biggest thing is the battle within. But if you validate your own feelings and talk to people who love you and people who you feel safe with, then you will be able to get through it. And keep pushing, you know, push for your own identities and keep working hard and doing what you gotta do and you'll feel comfortable one day," said Marron.

### Existing regulations

Across all colleges, there are different rules that each has to abide by. For example, private colleges can make and enforce different rules that public colleges can't. This can be things like dress codes and curfews.

Madison College is a public, two year college. While some of the sports are Division 3 and some of them are Division 2, they all fall under the realm of the National Junior College Athletic Association, or the NJCAA.

Although Madison College must abide by NJCAA rules no matter what, Athletic Director Steve Hauser said, "My interest and our interest is that we offer involvement opportunities for as many people to be involved as possible that want to be involved."

When it comes to transgender athletes, most of the NJCAA rules are about how much surgery or hormone treatment is required to participate in sports.

Transgender athletes who aren't getting surgery or taking any hormone treatment are allowed to participate in sports that correspond with their identity that was assigned at birth. Female to male athletes are allowed to participate in men's teams, the same way that cisgender females are. Male to female athletes are not allowed to participate on women's teams, same as cisgender males, unless the status of the team is switched from "sex segregated" to "mixed" status.

Even though these rules would be subject to change if the Protect Women in Sports Act were to pass at a large scale, Hauser said that Madison College creates an accessible atmosphere.

"I do feel that we could effectively accommodate any interest of any gender or gender identity with our student body," said Hauser.

### Feelings uncertain for athletes

A study conducted across NCAA Division 3 schools in 2018 found that most people think that the schools are welcoming and free from discrimination for LGBTQ+ athletes, while LGBTQ+ athletes did not agree or felt "neutral" about it. The uncertainty of it indicates that the environment might not be the most welcoming.

Since the introduction of the Protect Women in Sports Act, another similar bill has been proposed in Wisconsin. It would force the University of Wisconsin and technical colleges to only allow cisgender athletes to participate. The bill was introduced on April 22, 2021, almost one month after Transgender Visibility Day.

Every student athlete is going to have a different experience. But queer athletes already face uncertainty and regulations from collegiate organizations, and they feel matters will only be made worse if the government passes bills.



Paisley Benett



Olivia Marron



Alanis Harris