



## Best-selling author built on basketball and books

BY SAMMANTHA DELLARIA  
News Editor

New York Times best-selling author Matt de la Peña visited campus last night to speak about his journey of self discovery through books in the Peplow Pavilion.

De la Peña started by explaining his childhood growing up in a biracial home where his father was Mexican and his mother was white. De la Peña was born when his parents were both very young, and neither attended college.

Despite his career as a writer, de la Peña said when he was a child, he was not much of a reader much less a good student.

"In the end of my second grade year, the teachers pulled my parents into the principal's office, and they decided I could not move on to third grade, and the reason they gave was that I couldn't read," he said. "I remember thinking, 'Wow, if I can't even get [into] third grade, I must be a dumb kid.'"

After struggling on the aca-

ademic platform as a child, de la Peña said he turned his attention to finding something to succeed in.

"When you aren't good at one thing, you try to find other things that you are good at; this just comes natural as a kid," de la Peña said. "For some kids, it's popularity or video games. For me, it was sports, and I was particularly good at playing basketball. So I felt a little validation when I played the game of basketball."

When he was a teenager, de la Peña's family moved to a new town, where his new high school was a combination of families who had different backgrounds.

"[It was] mostly a Mexican-American community, but also some kids who grew up with parents who had been to college," de la Peña said. "I had never met anybody who had been to college who wasn't a teacher before then, and I was curious."

However, de la Peña said his family's lack of financial resources, and his struggles with academics



Matt de la Peña speaks to a group of about 100 people about finding his passion in writing last night in Peplow Pavilion.

photo by Cenn Hall

left him unsure as to how he was going to be able to attend college.

"At that point, I remember giving up on this idea, thinking, 'Hey, maybe this is why kids like me don't go to college,'" de la Peña said. "I sort of put it out of my head."

Eventually, de la Peña said his discouragement turned to anger and frustration.

"Getting pissed off is a pow-

see **AUTHOR** Page A6

## Board of Trustees approves plans for Business and Engineering Complex

BY KYLE STONE  
Senior Copy Editor

Bradley graduates won't be the only ones leaving the Hilltop in May, as Baker Hall will be demolished following graduation to make way for construction of the long-planned Business and Engineering Complex, which was previously referred to as the Convergence Center.

The Board of Trustees voted Feb. 3 to move forward with the construction of the \$100 million complex. The building will encompass 270,000 square feet of offices, classrooms, computer labs and specialized labs, and will hold its first classes in fall 2019.

### Classroom schedules

Throughout construction of the building, engineering students will remain in Jobst Hall. But according to Gary Anna, senior vice president for Business Affairs, some business students may not attend

class on Bradley's campus, instead relocating to a Campustown location previously used during the construction of Westlake Hall from 2010 to 2012.

"There are classrooms in the Campustown space – four of them – that will serve for a variety of reasons for some adjacency for activities there," Anna said. "And it's likely that some of the graduate [business] programs will entertain use of space ... on Main Street in the Innovation Center."

Anna said Caterpillar Inc. has also used the Campustown location for business operations in the past, and the space is highly flexible to Bradley's needs.

"[Caterpillar] had over one hundred people working in the space," Anna said. "It allows for some nice configurations of work pods and spaces and a series of conference rooms for private meetings and these four modules for class spaces ... [Caterpillar] had a

very good experience there."

Most business students will attend class on Bradley's campus, but Anna also said class schedules may be modified for students of all majors.

"The entire campus will participate in some of the schedule adjustment," Anna said. "It's clear from the conversations that I've been involved with on a secondary basis that some class schedules will be elongated during the day. There will be classes on Fridays in some cases where there have not been."

Sophomore marketing major Brandon Vonachen said he didn't know Baker Hall would be torn down during his time at Bradley when he was deciding where to go to college.

"I had no idea they would be tearing down Baker and that my classes would be scattered," Vonachen, who currently attends the majority of his classes in Baker

Hall, said. "It will be an adjustment, but I'm not really upset about it because in the end it will be better for Bradley."

### Updates needed now

Anna said there are a variety of reasons that contributed to the decision to begin the construction of the complex this year, including the ages of Baker Hall and Jobst Hall, the relative importance of the engineering and business programs and the high quality of skilled labor currently available in the Peoria area.

"The buildings we're currently operating are tired," Anna said. "[The engineering and business] programs, as are all of our programs, but these programs are very important. And for engineering in particular and for aspects of business, they need upgraded

see **COMPLEX** Page A3

## Policy allows preferred pronouns

BY HANNAH SNIDMAN  
Off-staff Reporter

Student Senate will vote on a Pronoun Resolution at its next General Assembly Feb. 13. The resolution proposes a way for students to pick which pronouns, such as "he," "she" or "they," are on their Sakai and Webster profiles.

Student Body President Jenna Dellaria brought the idea to the committee for Diversity and Inclusion. The committee then drafted a proposal for presentation to all of Senate.

"After research was done on how other universities implement this policy and how many other colleges use this system, the Department of Diversity and Inclusion drafted a resolution to implement [it] at Bradley," Dellaria, a junior elementary and special education double major, said. "If the resolution passes, it will be brought to administration and decided if they will implement this policy."

If the policy takes effect, Webster will include a dropdown for students to indicate their preferred pronouns. Professors can view the chosen pronouns on their class rosters.

"The resolution is beneficial to students because it allows all students to be who they are," Alysén Newton, senior English secondary education major and vice president of Diversity and Inclusion, said.

Newton also brought up a hypothetical situation to help cis-gender students (students whose gender identity aligns with their biological sex) understand where

see **PRONOUN** Page A6

See Editorial on **page A6** for The Scout's opinion

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## BRIEFS

### Spring Job and Internship Fair comes to Renaissance Coliseum

The annual Spring Job and Internship Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 16 in Renaissance Coliseum.

Students are invited to speak to prospective employers, explore career options and submit resumes for internships and full-time positions. A full list of the employers attending the fair can be found on the Bradley netWORK website.

The event is free and open to Bradley students. Contact the Smith Career Center with questions at [careers@bradley.edu](mailto:careers@bradley.edu).

### English Department accepting poetry submissions for competition

Submissions for the Sipple Poetry Award and Academy of American Poets Prize are being accepted by the English Department until 3 p.m. March 7.

Students should submit a collection of five original poems in hard copy form to the English Department's office located in Bradley Hall 380. The winner will receive \$400, with the first and second runner ups receiving \$200 and \$100, respectively.

To enter for the Academy of American Poets Prize, students should submit an original poem in hard copy form to the English Department office. The winner will receive \$100 and an award certificate, and the first runner up will receive an award certificate.

Entry forms and guidelines may be found at [bradley.edu/](http://bradley.edu/) on the English Department's webpage under the tab "Writing Contests."

### Re-live your high school glory at the Valentine's Day Dance

The Bradley Ballroom organization is hosting its first Valentine's Day Dance at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 in room 30 of Markin Family Student Recreation Center.

Food, dancing, a photo booth and more will be provided for students who attend.

The event is free and open to all Bradley students. For additional information, contact Bradley Ballroom President Hannah Junius at [hjunius@mail.bradley.edu](mailto:hjunius@mail.bradley.edu).

## POLICE REPORTS

- A male university employee reported being struck in the head at the door of his residence at 1:31 a.m. Feb. 7 on the 1600 block of W. Ayres Street.

The employee told officers he was hit by an unknown male who ran away after hitting him.

No suspects have been identified.

- Police responded to a report of a male non-student causing a disturbance at 5:18 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Campustown Subway.

When officers arrived at the location, they approached the male, who they identified as someone who had been banned from Campustown.

The male was arrested for criminal trespassing. It was later determined the male also has an active warrant out for sexual battery.

- A male student reported an unknown male who was trying to fight him at 7:51 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Campustown parking lot.

The student told police the suspect was riding a bicycle in the parking lot when he started to yell at the student with the intentions of wanting to fight him. The student entered the CVS to get away from the suspect and contacted police.

The suspect then left and has not been identified.

- A female student reported items stolen from her car at 5 p.m. Feb. 7 on the 1500 block of W. Callender Avenue.

The student told police she left her unlocked car parked outside of her residence. When she got into her car earlier in the day, she noticed that her Bradley ID, debit cards, gift cards and coat had been taken out of the car.

The items have not been recovered, and no suspects have been found.

- Resident advisors notified police of cannabis that had been confiscated during a drug search at 9:43 p.m. Feb. 4 in a campus dorm.

The dormitory staff confiscated 6.32 grams of cannabis and turned it over to the responding officers.

- Police responded to a report of a robbery at 5:18 p.m. Feb. 7 on the corner of Cooper Street and Barker Avenue.

A male student was knocked down and struck by two unknown males. The suspects took the student's phone before fleeing. Medics on the scene treated the student.

No suspects have been identified.

### Corrections

- The Scout printed a picture with the title "Black history month kicks off" in our Feb. 3 edition and incorrectly gave photo credit to Cenn Hall instead of Nadine Nehan.

- The Scout printed a picture with the title "Ideas on Post-it Notes" in our Feb. 3 edition and incorrectly gave photo credit to Cenn Hall instead of Blake Foster.

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## From the court to the canvas

BY MADDIE GEHLING  
Managing Editor

Koch Bar, a freshman international student from South Sudan, is mostly known as the towering 6-foot-11-inch center for the Bradley basketball team. But one thing people don't know about Bar is that he is also an aspiring artist.

"You never see a tall, 6-foot-11-inch guy walking around with art supplies and books," Bar said. "It seems funny to people."

When Bar came to the U.S. to play basketball during his sophomore year of high school, he had no intentions of pursuing art. Instead, his first focus was learning English.

"[I started speaking English] when I got here. It was difficult when I was back home trying to learn English because there was nobody I could talk to, and you need to practice," Bar said. "But here you have no choice – you have to speak, you have to go to school, you have to communicate with teachers [and] you have to communicate with teammates."

While Bar originally came to

Bradley on a basketball scholarship, he soon picked up an art major to pursue a passion he's had his entire life.

"[I first got into art] a long time ago, when I was a little kid," Bar said. "My older sister and older step-brother draw, so I used

like, 'Wow, you do this?'" Bar said. "[Lots of athletes] are communications majors and want to do communications or TV, but they see me differently ... I believe [my passions for art and basketball are] even, especially when you feel like you're getting better in both."

Bar has spent a great deal of time at Bradley honing his basketball and art skills – with improvements he said he notices every day.

"With basketball, you start seeing yourself becoming a good player," he said. "[With art], I never went to school and took a drawing class or an art history class. I didn't have expectations for it, but all the classes that I have [at Bradley] I feel like I'm getting better in, and I'm seeing a lot of good people in there."

Bar said he hopes to play basketball professionally in the U.S., but he is also looking into a career in art back home.

"I'm working now on [graphic] design," Bar said. "I want to be a designer, so I've been learning ... [South Sudan] is still a new country, so finding a job in graphic design will hopefully be easy ... I'll have the



KOCH BAR

photo by Tori Moses

to take their drawings and copy. They taught me how to draw, and that's how I got into mastering art stuff."

Bar said many people are surprised to find out he's not only a basketball player but also an artist.

"I see how people look at me,

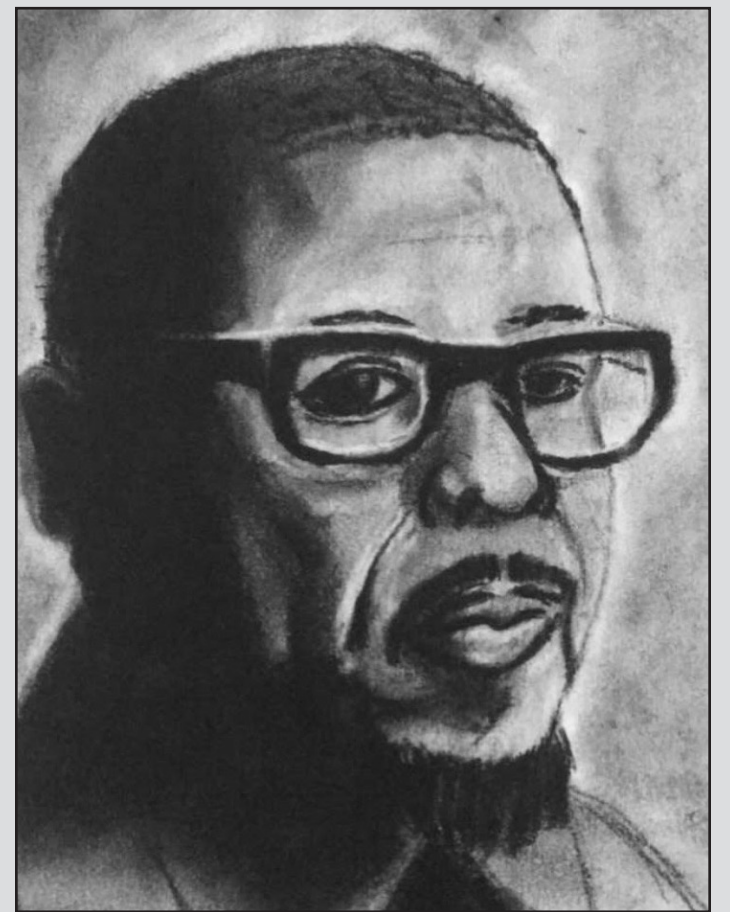


photo via Koch Bar

Freshman international student Koch Bar is not only centerman for Bradley's basketball team, but he also majors in art.

chance to be the guy to create stuff and logos for companies. There will be a lot of opportunity for me to do that."

In the meantime, Bar said he looks to improve his skills both on the court and on the canvas.

# HUMANS

OF  
THE

# HILLTOP



photo by Bradley University Marketing

Baker Hall will be demolished this May to make room for the Business and Engineering Complex. A model of the building sits in the Shaheen Hall of Pride in Hayden-Clark Alumni Center.

### COMPLEX

continued from page A1

space. It's just that simple."

According to Anna, the Board of Trustees also voted to move forward with the project because of how close the university is to achieving its financing target of \$100 million.

"We're very close; close enough

that there is line of sight," Anna said. "We still have to bid the project [and] there's still some construction drawings being finalized. But the Board of Trustees was satisfied with the information that they've had before them, and they've seen updates regularly over the last five years, [so] they felt comfortable to pull the trigger and move ahead."

Included in the financing is a combination of donations and outside funding. According to Anna, tuition paid by students will not be appropriated toward the construction of the building.

"There's a mixture of gifts and private external support," Anna said. "For a project like this, it's not unusual for there to be some financing in addition to outright

gifts ... and there's always a question of, 'Is this going to fall on the backs of the students that are here now?' The answer to that is, 'No.' That's why these other financing sources become important."

#### Commitment to community

According to University Spokesperson Renee Charles, another key component of the decision to begin the project in May is the commitment to the Peoria community, especially in light of Caterpillar's decision to relocate its headquarters from Peoria to Chicago.

"When looking at the community, with the recent announcement of Caterpillar leaving, this announcement that we have about this building is an economic boost to the region," Charles said. "Putting people to work building, to see something like this taking place is a shot in the arm for the community in general."

Charles also said the construction of the building will provide benefits to the neighboring communities not only because of its design, but also because of some of the services the complex will offer.

"Just the look and feel and aesthetics of [the building] will really brighten up that whole [Main Street] corridor," Charles said. "The programs that will be taking place in there [will be] not only for students, but will be welcoming to the community, as well. It kind of adds another doorway to Bradley for our entire community."

Anna said one of these services will be a maker's lab, which will allow local members of the community to become more engaged in engineering topics.

"[The maker's lab] is very community-oriented," Anna said. "For students attending local schools to be able to come in on the weekends ... and learn a little bit more about engineering and processes related to it and tinker, if you will, a little bit with what an engineer does."

#### Maintaining the vision

Bradley ranked sixth in the nation in student engagement last year, and according to Anna, the collaboration between engineering and business students is important toward accomplishing that goal of experiential learning.

"Most people who have been out in the field will tell you to be an effective businessperson working with engineers, you need to understand their process; you need to better understand how they problem solve," Anna said. "The same is true for engineers. In some cases, the best engineer in the world isn't going to find a good application if they don't understand the business influence on their solutions, [such as] taking their ideas to market and working with support people who engage their engineering prowess."

A physical model of the complex can be viewed in the Shaheen Hall of Pride in Hayden-Clark Alumni Hall.



# Shawarma Grill serves up savory options

BY MITCHELL TAYLOR  
News Reporter

Lively Mediterranean music and the smell of falafel fill Shawarma Grill, a restaurant located within walking distance of campus.

Fadi Atrash, manager at Shawarma Grill, said he has been able to build a steady customer base since opening the restaurant nearly a year ago.

"We have a lot of local customers that come not quite every day, but every other day," Atrash said. "We've been hearing positive comments from our customers [telling us] we have good food."

One of the restaurant's best-selling menu items is its hummus, which is traditionally eaten for breakfast.

"You can get it any time," Atrash said. "It's a special dish for any day, but usually in the morning it's the best."

Atrash said his menu offerings are wide and he has something for every customer, including a variety of vegetarian options.

"Our shawarma, hummus and falafel are our best sellers," Atrash

said. "We have the combination [entrée], which is mixed meat with chicken and shish-kabob; it's very popular right now."

According to Atrash, he focuses on the quality of the food to appeal to the Peoria community.

"You need time to make sure the people know what you're doing and how well you're making food," Atrash said. "After you make good food, it will sell itself, and customers will come."

All of the meat cooked at Shawarma Grill is considered "halal," according to Atrash, a form of cooking where only permissible ingredients in accordance with Islamic law are used. For instance, halal cooking excludes alcohol and broth. Halal is also a hand-sliced method that is considered fresher compared to traditional methods.

Atrash said some students who have dined at Shawarma in the past few weeks have never tried Mediterranean food.

"We have some students that have been coming lately, and they've all been pleasantly surprised [by the food]," he said.

While Shawarma has some reg-



photo by Mitch Taylor

A shawarma wrap from Shawarma Grill costs \$10, and the restaurant offers \$5 off all entrees for Bradley students.

ular customers, Atrash said he is constantly reaching out to more people.

"We have a new restaurant

with a new menu and items ... and we're trying to attract new customers to our restaurant," Atrash said.

Shawarma Grill offers \$5 discounts for all entrée items to Bradley students and is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

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Editorial

Pronoun policy a step toward equality

Next week, Student Senate will vote on its new Pronoun Resolution, which seeks to provide a way for students to choose the pronouns for their profiles on Sakai and Webster (Read “Policy allows preferred pronouns” on page A1 for more information). This means a transgender student may soon be able to edit their pronouns on the sites to their preferred “he” or “she,” or an agender student could soon be able to edit their preferences to display the

pronoun “them.” The resolution might seem like a small accomplishment for many students on campus, but in actuality, it’s just the opposite. If passed, this will be great news for the Bradley LGBTQ+ community, and will be a big step toward gender neutrality and equality across campus. Allowing the ability to edit their pronouns promotes an inclusive environment where students are able to feel comfortable knowing

the campus supports their chosen identities. This small change would create a safe space for all transgender and gender non-conforming students, which is important on a college campus where we should be tolerant of one another’s differences. We know there are a number of initiatives Student Senate has been working on recently (such as the Smoke-Free Campus resolution, putting an iPad in Michel

Student Center to collect feedback and other), but those initiatives have fallen prey to the long, layered processes of bureaucracy. This issue is too important to let fall by the wayside, and it’s an easy fix. We call on Student Senate to accomplish this proposal soon, so students can feel accepted at Bradley no matter what their preferred pronouns are.

Column

My most embarrassing moment



SAMMANTHA DELLARIA  
sdellaria@mail.bradley.edu  
News Editor

The day will forever be burned in my memory. I was in sixth grade, about one-and-a-half-feet shorter and 10 pounds heavier than I am now (I was a chubby kid). I was definitely not the most popular kid in middle school. However, if you don’t get through middle school with one or two memories that make you cringe to this very day, you’re either lying or your memory just doesn’t go back that far. My most cringe-worthy moment came during one of the biggest, most-anticipated days in my middle school: the class

field trip to Brookfield Zoo. Like any middle schooler, field trips were an escape from daily school life and a promise of adventure. But the Brookfield Zoo field trip was the field trip to top them all in the eyes of most children who attended Prairie Hill Middle School. So, of course, on the morning of the trip, I waited at the bus stop outside of my house, eagerly looking forward to the adventure of the day ahead. Just before the bus pulled up, my mother ran out of the house and handed me a comb while telling me my hair needed a good brush. In those days, my hair was often a thick, tangled mess that would drive my mother crazy. I grabbed the comb from my mother and told her I would fix my hair when I got on the bus. Once the bus pulled up, I hopped on and found my own private seat across from two boys who lived down the street from me. All the middle schoolers were talking about how they couldn’t wait to get to the zoo. The plan was to disembark from the bus that brought us to school and meet with our classes in front of another bus that would take us directly to Brookfield. Just as my bus approached the parking lot of the school, I remembered the comb in my backpack. I pulled it out and began to pull

it through my long, knotty tresses. While doing so, I began to daydream of the exciting, exotic animals I would see throughout the day. Absentmindedly, I began to twist the comb through a long strand of hair until I snapped out of my daydream and realized the comb was stuck in my fringe. I began to frantically pull at the comb, but that only made the situation worse. In the end, the comb had made its way almost to my scalp. The boys across from me had noticed what had happened and began to laugh. I, being the drama queen that I was (and still am), panicked. Our bus came to a stop in the school parking lot, and I knew I was out of time. I yanked my hood far over my head to cover the comb, and I ran to the nurse’s office. Now, I was one of those kids who frequented the nurse’s office daily, so the nurse and I were on a first-name basis. When I entered the office, I immediately pulled my hood down and tried to explain what had happened between sobs. The nurse, who appeared to stifle a laugh or two, calmed me down. For a good half an hour she tried to work the comb out of my hair with no success. Eventually, she called my teacher and explained why I had not shown up for the field trip. My teacher

said the whole bus was delayed as they waited for me. So in a rush, my only option was to have the school nurse cut off the comb at the base of my fringe. With one swift snip of her scissors, the nurse sent me on my way to a bus full of sixth graders who were angry that their trip of fun had gotten delayed. Puffy-eyed and fringe-less, I walked onto the bus of glaring middle schoolers. I toured Brookfield Zoo for a whole day with a haircut that never has and never will be in style. To make matters worse, the nurse called my mother to tell her how “traumatized” I was. My mother – being the easy-going person she is – greeted me as I got off the bus that day with a “I love your hair cut, Sammy.” My hope for all who read this is that you embrace the stories you would rather forget. Embarrassment is a part of life, and I often look back on that fateful day and laugh. I’ve told the story to my closest friends and have left them in fits of laughter as we recount how ridiculous it was. Bottom line: What once seemed like the end of the world is now my favorite source of laughter. Welcome your awkward, uncomfortable and cringe-inducing moments. It’s those moments that make us human.

PRONOUN continued from page A1

students who do not identify as cisgender are coming from. “I just pose the question of:

What if someone used the wrong pronouns on somebody who is cisgender,” Newton said. “It would be uncomfortable and rude. That same thought process applies for non-binary people.” Dellaria said Senate’s goal is

to represent every students needs and having different pronoun options for Sakai and Webster would help that. “Senate wants all students to feel comfortable, safe, accepted and included at Bradley,” Dellaria

said. “[The Pronoun Resolution] will make Bradley a more inclusive campus and support all non gender binary and transgender students.”

AUTHOR continued from page A1

erful thing,” de la Peña said. “It started to make me sick in that moment, and [I tried] to figure out other ways I could pull that off.” Ultimately, it was the one thing he had always succeeded in that gave de la Peña a chance to be the first one in his family to attend college. He was signed to University of the Pacific in City State on a full

basketball scholarship. “A single goal can change your life, even if you never achieve that goal,” de la Peña said. While in college, de la Peña said he realized he wasn’t good enough to achieve success as a professional basketball player, but he knew basketball gave him a ticket to further his other goal of pursuing an education. Throughout the remainder of his college years, de la Peña said he fell in love with the power of

books. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and English, de la Peña attended graduate school at San Diego State University, where he received his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. Students at last night’s event said de la Peña’s story was inspiring because he was able to find his passion after working hard. “I thought that he was interesting because I think it is so important to learn about people that are different from you,” Carolyn

Stewart, a senior hospitality major, said. “I think what I took from it was that you really need to find something that you are passionate about, which for him was books, and if you just have that passion, it can take you to really cool places.” After graduating from San Diego State University, de la Peña wrote his first book, “Ball Don’t Lie.” Since then, he has written nine other books, ranging from young adult novels to picture books.

THE SCOUT

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All letters to the editor must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday in Sisson Hall 319 or emailed to **bradleyscout@gmail.com** for inclusion in Friday’s issue. Letters longer than 500 words will not be accepted. The Scout reserves the right to edit letters for inappropriate content. All letters must include the writer’s name, contact information and relationship to Bradley. Responses to published letters will be eligible for print only the week following their



## VOYEUR



Inside:

Romantic Films - Adult Shop - The Taken

# Letter from the editors

Welcome to The Voyeur 2017!

Every year, we publish a Valentine's Day edition of our Voice section in order to bring the spirit of love to campus. We're excited to bring you a number of articles (some serious, some satirical) dedicated to sex, relationships, the history of Valentine's Day and more.

Should you plan to celebrate this day of romance with someone, be sure to stay safe and practice healthy sexual habits – and if you're planning on cuddling up alone or with friends to watch movies and eat discount chocolates, that works perfectly, too. Whatever you decide to do, be sure to have fun.

We hope you enjoy this year's edition of The Voyeur.

— Voice editors



## 5 date ideas for Valentine's Day

BY BRIEN JACKSON  
Voice Editor

Behold: Valentine's Day is upon us once again. Don't be stale and just take your date out to dinner or buy them chocolates – here are a few ideas that'll knock their socks off.

### Boxing

I don't mean going to a boxing match or play-fighting in the living room. Go to a local gym, climb into the boxing ring and (lovingly) duke it out.

I know you remember when your significant other forgot to wash the dishes that one time three months and eight days ago; a quick right-hook can be very cathartic. Getting out your frustration for one another is healthy for your relationship ... so what could be better than squaring up and breaking a sweat?

Make sure your date is up for it first, of

course ... and don't hit them too hard.

### Have a threesome or an orgy

If you want to spice up your sex game, try adding a few extra players. Invite some friends over (or put out a notice to strangers on Craigslist), set some ground rules and let your instincts run wild.

Don't forget to get consent from everyone, and use protection. A safeword might not be a bad idea either in case things get a bit too hectic (pineapples, anyone?).

### Naked Skydiving

Unsurprisingly, this has been done many times before. If you and your partner are thrill-seekers, skydiving is a great way to get your adrenaline pumping, so why not try freefalling from 12,000 feet as nature intended?

You should be sure to get permission from the business beforehand – please don't just

show up there naked – but if your relationship needs an extra spark, this is bound to bring you both closer together ... literally.

### Get tattoos together

This is quite common, but here's a twist: let your date choose your tattoo and you choose theirs, no questions asked. Assuming neither you nor your date is Satan, you'll both get some nice, personalized tattoos to show off to the world.

### Paintball

Speaking of tattoos, nothing says "I love you" like giving your date some new, full-body ink full of reds, blues and yellows. If you are considering laser tag, why not go one step further? Find a venue, rent or purchase the required gear and paint 'em up. If painting your S.O.'s face green isn't your thing, team up and wreak havoc on others in the park.



# FOUR GREAT ROMANTIC FILMS AND WHERE TO STREAM THEM

BY SAMMANTHA DELLARIA  
News Editor

It doesn't have to be Valentine's Day to watch a good, sappy romantic movie. In fact, I'm fairly certain I've watched all that Netflix has to offer. So given my experience, I've compiled a list of some of the greatest romantic films that online streaming has to offer:

## "While You Were Sleeping" – Netflix

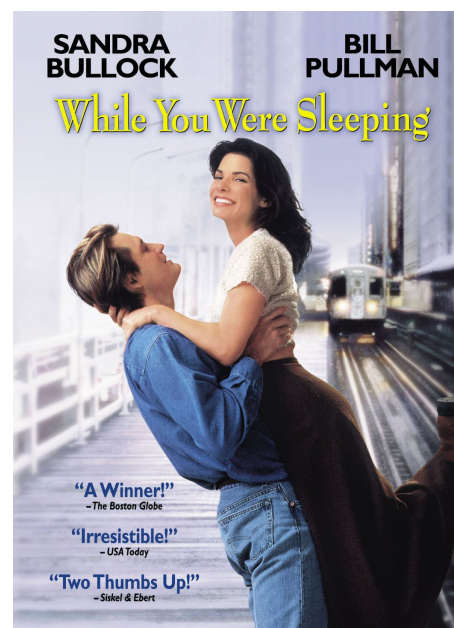
I don't know about you, but it's difficult for me to say "no" to a Sandra Bullock movie.

"While You Were Sleeping" is one of her earlier films, and it's one of my favorites.

Bullock plays Lucy, a lonely train fare token collector in Chicago. Lucy is in love with a frequent commuter (Peter Gallagher), with whom she has never spoken with, but admires from a far. Now, bear with me, it isn't as creepy as it sounds.

One day, Peter is mugged on a platform, and Lucy saves him, but only after he hits his head, sending him into a coma. Once at the hospital, the nurses mistakes Lucy for Peter's fiancé. Peter's family, though confused by Lucy, embraces her for the kind person that she is. Lucy is then torn between telling Peter's family the truth or embracing time with a new-found family, something she has never had before. What makes this movie so heart-warming is the fact that love doesn't just have to be romantic – it can be with the people who treat you like family.

Is it cheesy? Yes. But is it just what you need on Valentine's Day? Absolutely.

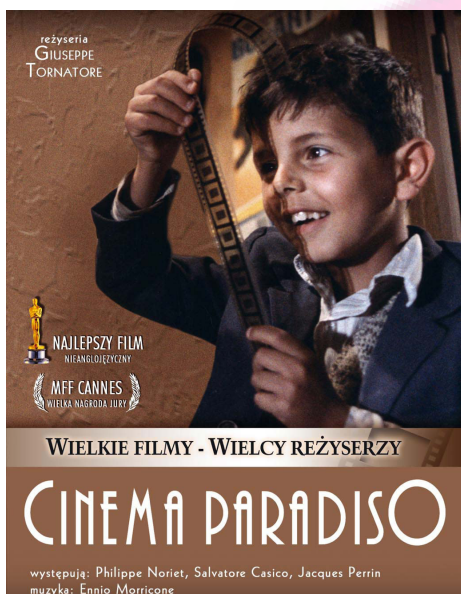


## "Cinema Paradiso" – Rent it on Amazon

I know foreign films with subtitles are not for everyone, but this one is definitely worth giving a shot. I'll give you one warning before hitting the play button: bring tissues – lots of them.

The film chronicles Salvatore, a young Italian boy who spends a good amount of time at his small town's local movie house, Cinema Paradiso. There he meets Alfredo, the projectionist of the theater, who teaches Salvatore much more about film. The two form a bond with one another; Alfredo serves as a father figure to Salvatore, whose real dad died during World War II. Alfredo gives Salvatore the confidence to pursue his dreams in filmmaking.

Though romantic relationships are not the central focus of this film, the way this 1988 classic portrays human heartbreak, hope and a desire for fulfillment is genuine.



## "10 Things I Hate About You" – Netflix

If you've ever read Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" in high school, then you may have skipped the SparkNotes and opted for this modern-day adaptation.

"10 Things I Hate About You" is the epitome of teen movies, as it revolves around the life of Kat (Julia Stiles), a stubborn and sassy teenager who refuses to waste her time dating any of the boys at her high school. Her younger sister Bianca (Larisa Oleynik) is one of the most sought after girls in school, but due to her strict father's rule, she can't date until Kat does.

One of Bianca's love interests, Cameron (young Joseph Gordon Levitt), comes up with a plan to find a date for Kat. While there aren't many suitors who are brave enough to take on Kat, Cameron settles on paying off the school's most hardened outcast, Patrick (Heath Ledger).

As an early 2000s movie, the amount of actual artistic substance it has to offer is sparse, but it's a fun way to spend two hours admiring Heath Ledger and Joseph Gordon Levitt in their earlier days.



## "Brokeback Mountain" – Hulu

You may have noticed that this is the second Heath Ledger film to appear on my list. And yes, you're right, I love Heath Ledger, but I also love Jake Gyllenhaal. So, what could be better than a romantic film about the two of them?

This 2005 Oscar-winner depicts the formation of love between two sheepherders in 1963 and their conflicting feelings about the romantic relationship they share. While Ennis (Ledger) and Jack (Gyllenhaal) part ways and start families of their own, the two men are constantly drawn back to one another. Ledger and Gyllenhaal both prove their incredible talents in each scene and were both nominated for an Oscar for their roles in the movie.

The film is heartbreaking and raw as it depicts "forbidden love." It leaves viewers both romanced and devastated.





# VALENTINE'S THROUGH THE YEARS

BY MADDY WHITE  
Assistant Voice Editor

Valentine's Day may always fall on Feb. 14, but a person's experiences can vary greatly from year to year on the day. Explore the timeline of the relationship ups and downs that a person can have through life.

## Seventh Grade

The day where that one kid in your whole grade with the significant other gets to prance around like they've struck gold before anyone else. Managing to sneak the word "dating" into more sentences than necessary, they strut down the hallways talking about their big plans so everyone knows their Valentine's Day schedule is booked. Mom leaves a "Happy Valentine's Day" note in your lunch bag, and even though you know she means well, you can't help but wonder if your crush even knows who you are.

## High school, Junior Year

You guess it's a little different now that you have someone to share it with. You make it clear that you don't want to make a big deal about Valentine's Day because you have to prep for the ACT tomorrow and the holiday is overrated. You get flowers sent to your house anyways, and even though you know it's the cheesiest thing in the world, you can't seem to wipe the sheepish smile off your face.

## College, Sophomore Year

Oh, is it that day again? It's a little sad stomaching the fact that you're celebrating solo this year, but your friends come through with a much needed movie night. All the junk food goes on sale tomorrow and you know as a broke college student you will most definitely be hitting that up. In all seriousness, it's a Tuesday night and professors don't show too much passion for Cupid's Holiday. That means you have a test and two quizzes to study for to reward yourself with a proper celebration of the single life over the weekend.

## Third Grade

It's time to buy all 22 kids in your class a little box of "Be Mine" SweetTARTS and some fill-in-the-blank cards so no one feels left out. In class, you'll all go around the room giving everyone a Valentine, knowing you can't skip your playground enemy because, to quote your mom, "Everyone deserves to feel special on Valentine's Day." Ugh, mom.

## High school, Freshman Year

Your Algebra teacher has you graph out a heart on your calculator and your English assignment is on "Romeo and Juliet." Seriously? Why is this forced holiday even a thing? Your peers wear more pink than usual, and your Instagram newsfeed quickly becomes flooded with "this has been the best two weeks of my life, I love you" pictures. The school day drags on, and the ninth period bell is the only thing you're waiting for with sweaty palms and a fast heartbeat.

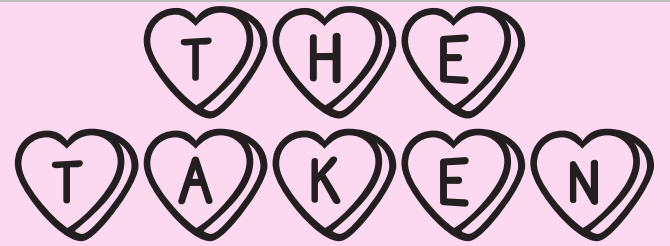
## College, Freshman Year

The first one where you can't be in the same state to celebrate it together. Whatever, it's just another normal "long distance relationship" day anyway, right? You send a quick text to let them know you didn't forget it was Valentine's Day and, in fact, you're wearing all the pink you own scattering rose petals around campus (ha, yeah right). You get an "I love you" text; those three words never seem to get old. You feel lucky not just to be with someone, but also someone who gets you like they do.

## College, Senior Year

All right, just another day of the week. Looking forward, you realize any day well spent with your significant other should measure up to this overrated holiday we all feel socially responsible to acknowledge every year. Your relationship shouldn't be tested by the gifts you get or cute texts you receive — it's about so much more than that. As you get older you realize this holiday can be used as another way to show everyone in your life how much you appreciate them. And obviously, you still take advantage of the candy sales the next day.

## Column



BY BROOKE PISCOTTO  
Voice Reporter

Another Valentine's Day rolls around, and yet again, I'll be spending it alone. Everywhere I go, un-singles surround me like The Plague. They're what I like to call "The Taken."

The Taken linger in the Valentine's Day aisle, looking for the perfect card and candy to give to their loved ones, while I'm just trying to make my way past them to get a new toothbrush.

The Taken smile shyly at their phone screens when they check them the morning of the big day, while I hit snooze on my alarm for the fifth time.

The Taken cut me off in traffic rushing it to see the dreamy romantic comedy they've waited all week for, while I'm just trying to make it to Redbox before all the best cry-it-out movies are gone.

But I can't let The Taken bring me down this Valentine's Day, and if you feel the way I do, you can't either. Even though they're extra happy and excited and feeling especially loved, you only have to endure this one day of sadness. All of your days will seem better in comparison after the dreaded annual love-fest.

Plus, being single means not having to impress anyone or pick out a gift that might go unappreciated. The Taken's hearts may be fuller, but your wallet is fatter, and that's what really counts.

But this could be our year. Maybe we'll be shoving past The Taken at Walmart and go to grab a new toothbrush at the same time as another unlucky soul. From there, fate will take its course, and we will soon join The Taken.

Or maybe not.

Either way, the loathsome holiday is only 24 hours long. So stock up on snacks and sob-worthy movies early, grab a loveable pet and cuddle up with yourself this Valentine's Day.

And remember, it really isn't all that bad — maybe someday you'll be The Taken, too.

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# RELATIONSHIP ADVICE FROM YOUR FAVORITE LITERARY CHARACTERS

BY MADDIE GEHLING  
Managing Editor

Every year, Feb. 14, I'm left living vicariously through the lives of some of my favorite fictional characters. Take a look at how some of them experienced love – and maybe use this as kindling to start your own Valentine's Day sparks.

**Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy ("Pride and Prejudice"):** Insult your significant other's family and then propose marriage. If that doesn't work, don't worry. The second time's the charm.

**Anne Shirley and Gilbert Blythe ("Anne of Green Gables"):** Remind your sweetie how much you like their hair. Do they have

long red locks? Give them the loving nickname "Carrots." Shiny brunette hair? Try "Mud Puddle."

**Daenerys Targaryen and Khal Drogo ("Game of Thrones"):** ONLY accept their proposal for marriage if there are some pretty sweet gifts involved (like a horse and maybe some dragon eggs from the wedding guests).

**Viola and Orsino ("The Twelfth Night"):** Crossdressing. So much crossdressing.

**Harry Potter and Ginny Weasley (the "Harry Potter" books):** You'd be surprised by how much bonding takes place when you're fighting an evil wizard together.

**Captain Ahab and the Great White Whale ("Moby Dick"):** Get an aquarium.

**Jane Eyre and Edward Rochester ("Jane Eyre"):** If your love interest is already married (and keeping their spouse locked away in their house), you should still get engaged to them. But wait until disaster sweeps their secret spouse out of the way and enables you to marry your fiancée freely.

**Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan ("The Great Gatsby"):** Take them to brunch, buy them expensive gifts and throw lavish parties to impress them. Try not to get hung up on the past, and stay away from swimming pools.



## TOP 8 THINGS I DON'T WANT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU

BY KYLEE HIGGINS  
Copy Editor

1. **Roses** - I know, I know – roses are beautiful and smell awesome. They're a staple of romance, but if you really think about it, getting roses from your significant other just proves they don't care about you. You don't believe me? Roses die. Do you really want the symbol of your love to be something that'll be dead in a week? No, you don't.

2. **Chocolates** - Fun fact: you can buy chocolates year-round. Nothing says love like getting a gift that could have been bought at any other time but was only bought because of the obligation of a romantic holiday. Way to get a gift that has no meaning.

3. **A store-bought card** - Your significant other could not even put forth the effort to hand-make a card for you. They went to the store and happened upon a card with a generic phrase that was probably purchased by millions of other people who also don't care about their relationships. You deserve better.

4. **Perfume/Cologne** - I'm going to be honest with you because your significant other obviously won't be. Whenever someone buys another person a gift that involves personal hygiene, it's a gift for them, not you. You think they're sweet? They just want you to smell better.

5. **Jewelry/Watch** - At first, this may seem like a foolproof gift, but when your significant other buys you an accessory, think about how it looks. This gift is just a big ol' sign on you to show people how much your significant other "cares," which is really just about how much they spent. It may seem farfetched, but think about it the next time someone asks where you got your heart-shaped necklace or your shiny watch.

6. **Handmade coupons** - You can pretend that the person you love actually cares about you enough to make a personalized book of cute coupons when, in reality, they procrastinated buying you an actual gift. Just remember the flimsy pieces of construction paper hastily stapled together are a symbol of the love your significant other feels for you.

7. **Candy hearts** - Instead of chewing on these, why don't you try chewing on some chalk or a piece of garbage? That would be the equivalent of eating these tiny life-ruiners. If someone gave me these as a gift, I would assume they hate me. See candy hearts for what they truly are – a sign that your significant other wants you to suffer. Don't be a person who accepts candy hearts as anything other than a break-up.

8. **Clothes** - Everyone knows that when you get clothes from someone else, there's a high chance the clothes are something you would never actually wear yourself – a.k.a. hideous. Do yourself a favor and have some respect for yourself. Don't degrade your fashion sense for the sake of your lover. Everyone will end up unhappy, especially you.

To sum it up, the only real gift is money. If you're looking for advice on what to get your significant other, get them money, and they can buy things they actually want. You're welcome.



# a toy factory for adults'

BY TORI MOSES  
Editor-in-Chief

Looking to spice up your Valentine's Day in the bedroom this year? Step out of the house and drive five minutes down Main Street to consult Richard Dibler, the adult toy connoisseur, at Lovers Playground.

While Dibler has worked as manager of the adult novelty shop Lovers Playground for 14 years, he said he originally wanted to be an accountant.

"I love numbers," Dibler said. "The business part of [Lovers Playground] was not what brought me here ... Honestly, I had never even stepped into this store until I applied for the job."

Dibler has enjoyed the job since he started, though, and he said he's proud to see how he's been able to change the shop's customer base.

"When I first started here, I bet it was anywhere from 70 to 80

percent men versus women, and now I bet it's 50/50,"

Dibler said. "It is so great. What we've tried to do since I've been here is make [the shop] more female friendly, and I think we've accomplished that."

Lovers Playground has a wide variety of products, ranging from toys to lingerie to tobacco accessories.

"We have something for everybody," Dibler said. "With online [shopping], it's great that you can look and find things that are cheaper, but here you get a hands on experience with it. You know what you're getting and what you take home."

Dibler said many products have multiple uses. For example, he said more than 40 percent of gentlemen buying penis pumps from the shop are coming from their doctors.

"[Penis pumps] are prescribed by physicians for their heart patients because it helps with

circulation," Dibler said.

Dibler said the media can influence what store items are popular.

"Two years ago, 'Fifty Shades of Grey' hit, and the bondage section went crazy," he said.

The average customer is between the ages of 25 to 35, but according to Dibler, the shop has a few senior customers.

"We've got two couples who come in here usually twice a year, and they've got to be in their 70s," Dibler said. "It is so cool to see them come in. When I'm 70, I still want to be doing it, too. That's awesome."

Dibler said he thinks adult stores can have bad raps, but he said Lovers Playground isn't "the dirty, typical, stereotype of an adult store."

"We like to consider ourselves a toy factory for adults," Dibler said. "We just want you to

come in, have a good time, relax, and don't bring mom and dad's credit card ... Have fun; that's what we want you to do when you come in here. Don't be afraid to ask questions; that's why we're here."



Lovers Playground, located at 335 SW Adams St., is open 24/7.

## CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

BY JUSTINE RODRIGUEZ-HAND  
Off-staff Reporter

What would Valentine's Day be without the most classic, mouth-watering, decadent form of sugar ever – chocolate? Valentine's Day has a blurry history, but there are some basic facts everyone should know if they're celebrating.

### A brief history

The initial mention of any type of celebration on Valentine's Day can date back to 1382. By the 1840s, Valentine's Day was known as a holiday that celebrates romance, and people would exchange cards and presents.

The timing of the holiday's emergence was perfect for Richard Cadbury, the founder of Cadbury UK Limited,

a chocolate company. The chocolate was packaged in delightful boxes that Cadbury had designed. Heart-shaped boxes began to gain popularity around 1861, which were so valued that people would hold onto these boxes long after eating the chocolate.

Around the 1890s, the United States began to follow the UK's footsteps and commercialized Valentine's Day as Milton Hershey began to cover his caramels with chocolate. It wasn't until 1907 that Hershey introduced the famous Hershey Kisses, which were named after the noise that was produced when manufacturing them.

### Expensive Chocolate Around The World

Entrepreneurs have taken advantage of this chocolate custom by inventing top-notch sweets. How much you should spend on chocolate for that special someone (or yourself) is entirely up to you, but if you are feeling extremely lavish, here are four of the most expensive chocolate brands from.

**1. Pierre Marcolini:** A collection of chocolate that balances taste and texture, Pierre Marcolini chocolates are perfect for those who really value dynamic flavor. These chocolates sell for around \$102 a pound.

**2. The Godiva "G" Collection:** This chocolate collection is composed of top-tier treats made from different fancy ingredients, such as Tasmanian Honey. The collection is priced at \$120 per pound.

**3. Delafee:** Priced at \$508 a pound, Delafee chocolate contains a mixture of edible 24-karat gold flake sprinkles and high-grade cocoa beans, along with vanilla, milk powder and coconut oil. The gold is added for its "esthetic qualities, its symbolic power and sometimes for its alleged magical properties," according to the Delafee website.

**4. La Madeline au Truffe by Knipschildt Chocolatier:** Known as the most expensive chocolate in the world, the Madeline Truffle is sold for up to \$2,600 per pound. This dark chocolate truffle with French black truffle in the center is made by blending Valrhona cocoa in truffle oil, then sprinkling it with cocoa powder as a finishing touch.



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Valentine's Day Horoscopes

**Aries** - Look forward to a rekindling of that fiery passion on the 14th; if you lead a single life, your thirst for life will attract admirers.

**Taurus** - If you're in a relationship, you might feel a bit suffocated by your significant other on the special day. Be sure to find some time to relax alone.

**Gemini** - This Valentine's Day, focus more on your friendships than your romantic relationships. Spend some time with friends and strike a balance between your significant other and your social life.

**Cancer** - A disagreement with your partner may not end up going your way. Patience is a must if you want to have a problem-free holiday.

**Leo** - Go big or go home this Valentine's Day. Be extra affectionate with your partner, or reveal your true feelings to that special someone if you're single.

**Virgo** - Bring back that spark in your love life this year by spicing things up a bit. Your partner will definitely appreciate the added affection.

**Libra** - You and your partner will feel plenty of romance, so this will make for quite an interesting evening. Let yourself enjoy it!

**Scorpio** - Things might not be so great for you this year. Work will bog you down, and you'll be much too tired to participate in any holiday festivities.

**Sagittarius** - Valentine's Day will be full of surprises for you – plenty of passion to go around. If you're single, someone might reveal their feelings for you.

**Capricorn** - A few changes might be coming to your relationship, but they might not be what you imagined. Be sure to be open and vocal about whatever might be bothering you.

**Aquarius** - You've been working too much lately – make up for lost time this Valentine's Day! Be passionate, get a great gift and knock your partner's socks off.

**Pisces** - Don't hold back this year – go all out! You and your partner deserve it, so do something special for you both. Try to be patient this evening.

From MSN Lifestyles

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have a good second half at all," head coach Brian Wardle said. "We definitely beat ourselves."

Wardle said Indiana State's defense got more physical in the second half, denying the ball and pressuring the Braves.

"We just played a little bit on our heels offensively [in the second half], where in the first half we were in attack mode, and the ball was moving, and we were driving," Wardle said. "We were trying to create opportunities for [our players] to drive and create for each other, but we weren't aggressive enough."

On Saturday, the Braves earned their fourth conference win over the Drake Bulldogs.

Bradley again got off to a fast start as their offense was firing on all cylinders. Thomas scored the first nine points of the game for the Braves, which were followed up by back-to-back threes by junior guard JoJo McGlaston.

"I liked the way we started, and I liked our spacing," Wardle said. "I liked how we were moving the ball. When we're communicating and talking, we're a much better team, and we definitely had that in the first half."

Bradley's solid defense was able to get Drake's offense out

of rhythm from the start, and the Braves held a 41-23 lead at halftime.

"Bradley certainly went out and won that basketball game, and honestly, I thought they won it in that first 10 minutes of that game," Drake's head coach Jeff Rutter said. "We talk about us wanting to get a team on their heels and being in attack mode, and it was just the opposite. We dug ourselves a big hole."

Over the last few weeks, Wardle said the team needed stronger leadership from its freshman point guards. Well that's exactly what happened on Saturday. Freshman point guard Jayden Hodgson set a career high with seven assists, while freshman Darrell Brown added five assists and 20 points.

"Brown and Hodgson are doing a really good job of learning [to pick] their spots in when they talk, when to lead, when to speak up, holding each other accountable," Wardle said. "There's a lot of room to grow in that area but we're making the right strides. We've just got to keep working that and keep developing our good habits when it comes to leadership."

The second half saw Drake score 49 points and draw within five points of the Braves with 57 seconds remaining, but the Braves were able to hold off



Freshman Nate Kennell knocked down a pair of three-pointers in Wednesday's loss to Indiana State.

the Bulldogs. Brown made his free throws down the stretch, finishing 14-15 from the free-throw line to finish off Drake.

"We've got to start the half like we're down," Thomas said. "I feel like we came out kind of

nonchalant, not making the effort plays that we were making in the first half. That led them to some good transition offense and some tough buckets they made."

Bradley plays two road games this upcoming week at Illinois

State tomorrow night and at Northern Iowa Wednesday night.

# Softball opens season today

BY ALEX KRYAH  
Sports Editor

After losing various key pieces of the women's softball team from graduation last year, head coach Amy Hayes said there are some big holes to fill in the 2017 lineup.

Despite the departures, Hayes said she believes the new-look, underclassmen-laden team is ready to take control of the reigns of the program.

"People know we lost a big class, and our current kids obviously respected those seniors a great deal and looked up to them," Hayes said. "But they're ready for their own moment."

The Braves graduated multiple hitters who were stalwarts of their lineup, like Rachel Huggins and Kendall Duffy, leaving many others to believe the offense would be less potent, according to Hayes.

However, Hayes said she feels they won't have to rebuild the offense, but simply reload it.

"Hitting is still going to be something that stands out for us in the [Missouri Valley Conference]," Hayes said. "[Hitting] coach [Benet] Higgs does an amazing job with them. In the time since she's taken over, it's just revamped the history of hitting for this program. I look for that to be our strong suit."

Returning on offense are senior Kelly Kapp and junior Maria Schroeder, who were instrumen-

tal pieces to last year's offense and will help anchor that unit this season.

Hayes said the obvious goal is to win the conference championship. Though many people outside the program may not believe in them, Hayes said there is a lot of belief and hope within the program.

"I think our pitching is stronger, and I think we've been a little underestimated and understandably so," Hayes said. "I think we're going to surprise some people. Our goal is to get into the top-four of the tournament and then win the whole thing and get one more championship under our belt."

The women will have to wait nearly a month to begin pursuing that goal as the MVC season begins up in early March. In the meantime, Hayes said she will have a lot of time to learn what the true strengths and weaknesses of the team are during the non-conference schedule.

"What you have is what you have when you step out on [today]," Hayes said. "You only see so much when you scrimmage every day. There are probably more positives out there than I see on a daily basis when you see each other so much."

Hayes said she will be strongly focused on pitching early on and especially in today's doubleheader against Northern Colorado and Grand Canyon. She also said she

still needs to figure out what roles her returning pitchers will fill, like senior Jaalen Hull, as well as which freshmen will see more time on the mound.

Bradley's first five games will be played this weekend in the Grand Canyon Kickoff Tournament, starting at 1 p.m. today against Northern Colorado

followed by a 6 p.m. game against Grand Canyon.

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photo by Justin Limoges

Junior Aimee Manfredo lifts the ball in the air in preparation for a serve in a match earlier this winter.

## Tennis feels absences in losses

BY NICK KONOW  
Off-staff Reporter

Losing one of your team leaders for a match or a game is a difficult task to overcome in any sport. This weekend, the Bradley women's tennis team was forced to compete without two of the four most decorated players in program history.

Bradley played without seniors Ariel Dechter (family emergency) and Ashley Thai (injury), forcing everyone in the rotation up one spot and a change in the team's Nos. 2 and 3 doubles pairings.

In an early-season matchup of undefeated teams, Eastern Illinois was able to take advantage of the short-handed Bradley lineup to earn a 7-0 sweep over the Braves last Saturday afternoon.

The Panthers started strong and continued their dominance throughout the match, taking the doubles point in a 3-0 sweep and earning the clinching point in the No. 4 singles spot.

"First and foremost, you have to give credit where credit is due," head coach Matt Tyler said. "I was very impressed with Eastern's level of play; they're a tremendous team. It obviously hurts when you have to push everyone up a position in the lineup, but I'm proud of the way we came out, fought and competed."

Sophomore Malini Wijesinghe played in the No. 5 singles spot and put up the strongest fight, dropping a 7-5, 3-6, 7-10 decision. Sophomore Julie Martin earned Bradley's only other set victory in her 6-3, 0-6, 2-6 loss at No. 6 singles.

"It was tough not having two of our better and older players there," Wijesinghe said. "Before the match, coach told us to believe that you are good enough to compete with and beat these girls. I think we all went into the match believing that and it's one of the reasons we played well."

The Braves also kicked off a three-match road swing last Sunday when they faced Northern Illinois. Still short-handed, Bradley put up a strong fight against Northern Illinois before dropping a 5-2 decision to the Huskies.

"Saturday we didn't play our best tennis, but I feel like we really turned that around on Sunday," Tyler said. "We were able to compete with a really good Northern Illinois team, and it certainly felt like we could've beaten them without two of our better players in the lineup, so I felt as good about a loss as I could have."

Junior Alexa Brandt and Wijesinghe earned Bradley's only doubles victory, with a 6-3 decision in the No. 2 spot. Northern Illinois claimed the match's opening point, however, with victories in Nos. 1 and 3 doubles.

The Braves earned their two points for the day at Nos. 4 and 5 singles. Junior Aimee Manfredo battled back from a 3-6 loss in the first set to win the next two sets 6-4 and 6-2 to take the point in No. 4 singles. Wijesinghe ended her successful weekend with two victories, pairing her doubles win with a 6-4, 6-4 victory at No. 5 singles.

"We're ready to go out and compete again next weekend,"

Wijesinghe said. "We'll have [Detcher] back, which will definitely help the lineup. Even though the wins weren't there, I think most of us felt good about our games, and we're all looking forward to getting back out there."

The Braves will continue their road swing tomorrow when they travel to Wisconsin to face Milwaukee.

## One-on-One

Who's the best men's basketball team in the MVC?

Wichita State

Illinois State

Though both Wichita State and Illinois State have lost to each other, Wichita State's bludgeoning of the Redbirds last weekend unequivocally shows the Shockers are still the best team in the MVC.

Illinois State took down the Shockers in Bloomington by 14 points a month ago, which set up the biggest game to date in the MVC last Saturday between the two in Wichita. However, Wichita State proceeded to obliterate the Redbirds 86-45. That's the second biggest margin of victory for the Shockers all year.

I don't think I need any other argument than that to prove my point. In ISU's biggest game of the year where they could've gone into Wichita and taken control of the conference, they completely dropped the ball and received repeated haymakers without responding.

On top of that, Wichita State is leading the league in scoring per game with 81.7 points per game and have an average margin of victory of 19.1 points per game. The next closest in those categories is ISU, but the Redbirds are significantly worse in those categories.

Josh might say this game was a fluke and it's not indicative of ISU's dominance throughout the rest of the season. A 40-point win for the Shockers is no fluke – it's a statement that they continue to be the class of the MVC, and that Josh continues to practice terrible judgment.

- Alex Kryah

The Missouri Valley Conference seems to be a two-team race between Illinois State and Wichita State at this point in the season, and ISU is the team to beat.

ISU is the best in the conference when it comes to stopping the opposition from scoring. The Redbirds are allowing an average of 62.2 points per game, which makes them the 11th best scoring defense in the country.

Offensively, forward Deontae Hawkins is averaging 14.5 points and 13.5 points, leading the Redbirds this season. Senior point guard Paris Lee is averaging 12.8 points, 3.8 rebounds and 5.2 assist a game to complement Hawkins.

When all is said and done, having the senior leadership from key guys like Hawkins and Lee will play a factor when these two teams see each other in the MVC tournament. I think that experience will benefit the Redbirds when they play at a neutral site.

Alex will say Wichita State is the better team, and he'll allude to the butt-kicking the Shockers gave to ISU. Let's also forget about ISU putting a beating on the Shockers earlier in the season. Don't trust him.

Besides, Alex once claimed Southern Illinois was going to win the conference this year – he's full of it.

- Josh Nelson

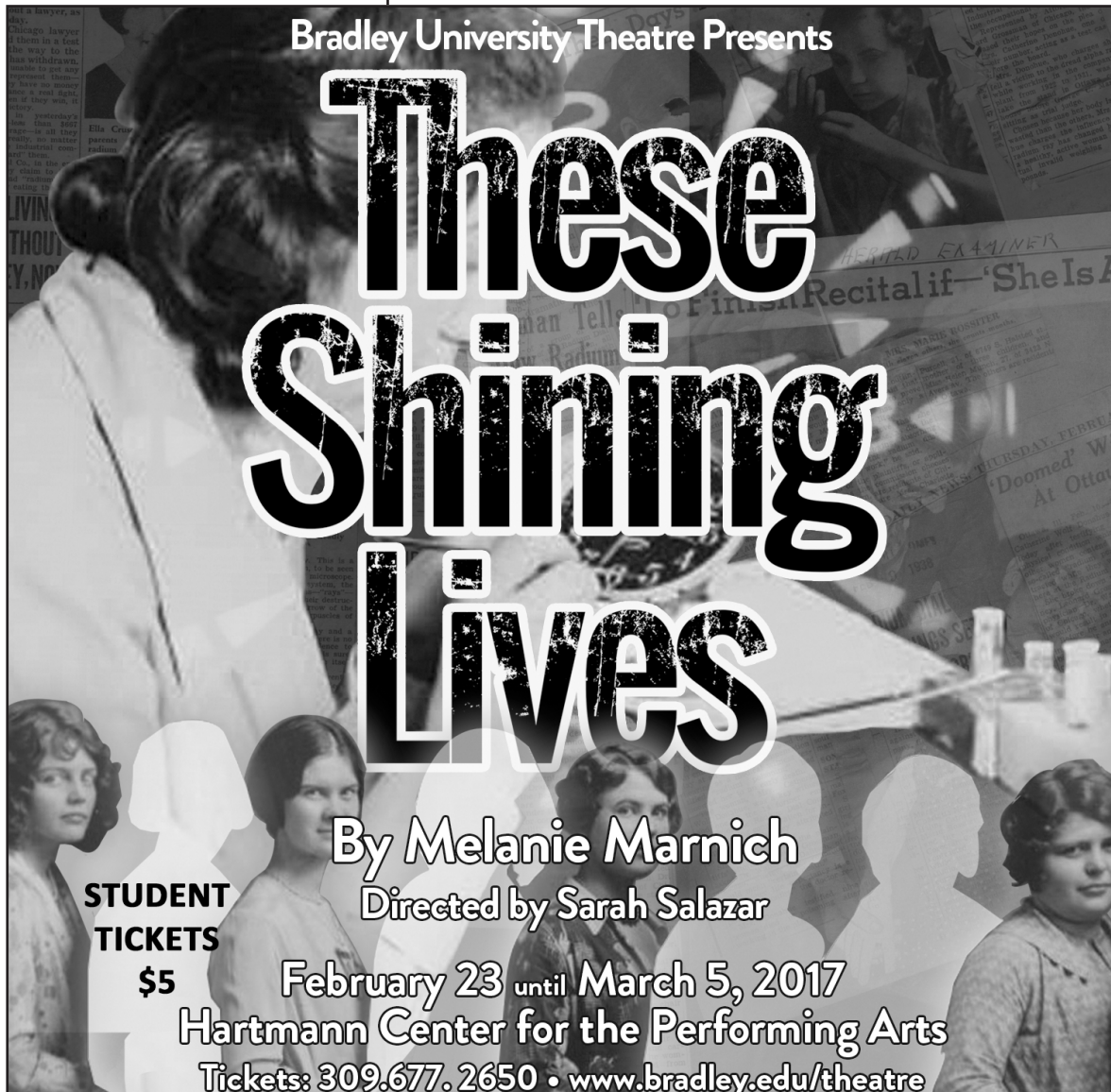
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# Streaking through February

BY JOSH NELSON  
Sports Reporter

The Bradley women's basketball team was able to collect its second and third straight wins in a row over the weekend, capping the weekend Sunday afternoon with a 54-41 win over Indiana State.

In a defensive battle, the Braves took only a three-point lead into halftime. The women then proceeded to hold the Sycamores to only 17 second half points, thanks in large part to Bradley's ability to hold ISU's leading scorer, Ashley Taia, to a lowly three points.

"We had [senior] Leti [Lerma] on her a little bit, and [junior] Dani [Brewer], so [there were] some bigger guards on her," head coach Andrea Gorski said. "From there, we kept her off the boards, so she couldn't get anything easy. I think it was a combination of just putting different people on her, and we were able to switch a lot of screens, too."

Brewer had a career high with 18 points against the Sycamores as she paced the Braves' offense, shooting 4-6 from behind the 3-point arc. Lerma also contributed 11 points and 16 rebounds, which was good enough for her ninth double-double on the season.

The Braves defeated Loyola last Friday night 72-45 as the team shot nearly 61 percent from the field in the first half.

Sophomore forward Vanessa Markert poured in a career high 26 points, shooting 10-14 from the field, while junior guard Anneke Schlueter added 16 points. The

Braves used their size to out-rebound the Ramblers 49-31 and also outscored them 34-20 in the paint.

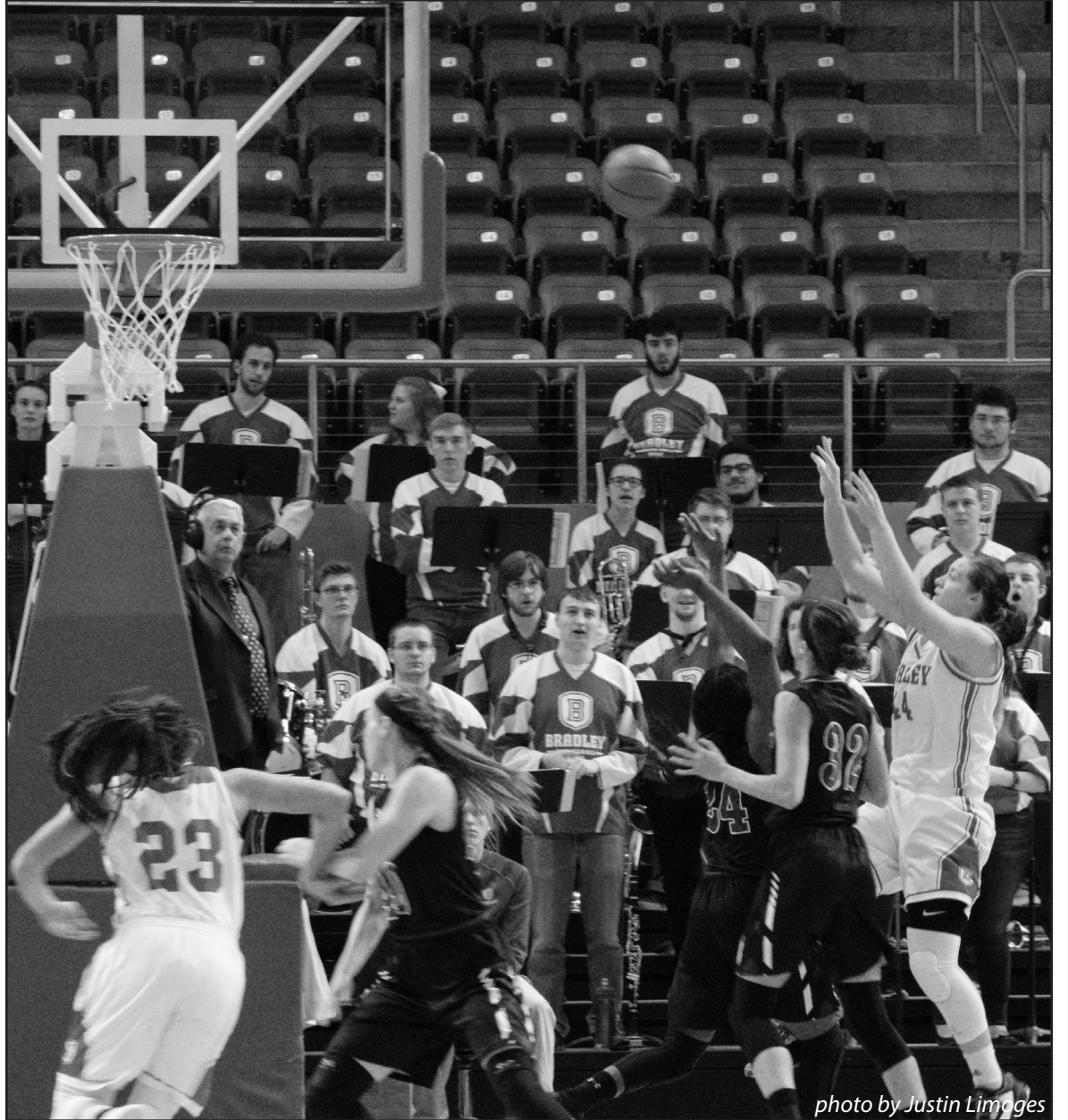
Gorski said she didn't think they did anything special in the first half – it was just a matter of "hitting their shots."

"We usually get open looks early in the game; it's whether we knock them down or not," Gorski said. "We've got to be able to have confidence whether we miss that first one or not. Sometimes we get tight, and it leads to another easy miss and another. Against Loyola, we hit our first several shots, and it just gave us more confidence the next time down on offense."

The three-game win streak for the Braves is the first one they've had since March 2013. Along with the three game win streak, Bradley has also won four of its last five. Even with the success the team has had, Gorski is trying to keep her team in the right mentality.

"[Winning] establishes 'we're moving in the right direction,'" Gorski said. "It gives the kids a little more confidence, but you can't let up. We talked a lot yesterday about our individual weaknesses and our team weaknesses ... You have to keep getting better. For the second half of the conference [play], a lot of it is going to come down to people making plays and what team is more mentally tough."

Bradley will look to add onto that win streak this weekend as they travel to Iowa to face off against the two best teams in the MVC – Northern Iowa and Drake.



Sophomore Vanessa Markert dominated in last Friday's win, dropping 26 points against Loyola.

"We have to be mentally tough," Gorski said. "We can't accept losing. Our expectations are to go in to win. The more mentally tough team will win. Just focusing on that and stuff

that we can control on the road, and that's toughness, physically and mentally and playing hard all the time."

Bradley will play at Northern Iowa at 7 p.m. today and will

face Drake at 2 p.m. Sunday.

## Opinion

BY AUSTIN SHONE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Looking out on the beautiful shorelines of the Atlantic Ocean in Nantucket, Massachusetts, sits a magnificent house with many rooms. But in one particular room on the left wall, there is a closet with a sturdy, wooden wardrobe.

This isn't some wardrobe that leads to the imaginative world of the late author C.S. Lewis, nor is it a wardrobe that houses the capes and lavish dresses of kings and queens. It's a simple wardrobe that holds normal clothes.

Blue, red and gray hoodies, to be precise.

The hoodies themselves aren't special at all. For the most part anyone could buy them at a local sports store. But there's

something different and simply sophisticated about this family of hoodies though. They belong to the Friar of Foxborough, the Guru of the Gridiron, the Hooded Hero himself: Bill Belichick.

In 2003, the National Football League entered into a deal with Reebok, forcing all coaches to wear Reebok gear on the sidelines every game. This may not seem like a big deal to the NFL coaching staffs or fans, but it changed the lives of this family of hoodies forever.

Belichick wears a hoodie every game, but he has them on rotation. It's rare to see the same hoodie two games in a row. Some say he names them for his star players, but I'm here to tell you the truth.

Belichick names each hoodie after players he's cut. Since so many people make Belichick

out to be the Grinch who steals opposing team practice film, play-calling signals, air compressors, Super Bowls, Bill thought that naming sweatshirts after players who could no longer contribute to the success of the Patriots would be a kind, sentimental gesture to make sure they could be in on the fun as well.

Some hoodies have seen greatness. In 2003 and 2004, a veteran hoodie named Drew Bledsoe was picked to cover up Belichick's torso in consecutive Super Bowl victories. It brought back sad memories for Bledsoe, who started for the Patriots before an injury allowed some sixth-round Michigan quarterback to take his place. When Bledsoe was returned to the wardrobe at the end of the 2004 Super Bowl, he was excited to have been selected to witness

history, but he was still a bit salty that he had to watch his former backup celebrate.

At least that's better than what happened to the Deion Branch hoodie, who returned to tell the worst horror story ever, after what was supposed to be a painless week one victory turned into a gut wrenching ACL tear. The Asante Samuel hoodie had a rough life, too, getting thrown inside-out on the cold, closet carpet after some guy named David Tyree helped end the Patriots hopes of a perfect season in 2008.

For better or for worse, the hoodies have seen it all. Although many moments are spent in the dark closet, on select Sundays in the fall and winter, the hoodies get to witness the spectacular. They've seen animals of all sizes and colors, including teal and orange dolphins, blue buffaloes

and, their new personal favorite, red falcons. They've flown on jets and have knocked Jets out of the playoff picture. The lucky few have even been in on the league's juiciest secrets like "Spy-gate" and "Deflate-gate." Just like in any family, there are some that are loved more than others. Some have been drenched in rain, others have been dismembered and have lost their sleeves forever due to sunny September Sundays in Miami.

Though there have been good times and bad, each hoodie knows that in the end, it's way better to be a Bill Belichick hoodie than a Rex Ryan sweater-vest, a Dan Quinn polo shirt or especially an Andy Reid windbreaker.

## Never had it so hood



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## SPORTS

## Winning women

The women's basketball team find itself on a three-game win streak.

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# Uprooted by Sycamores

BY AUSTIN SHONE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Just when it looked as if the Bradley men's basketball team had a glimmer of confidence, all hope was lost. After defeating Drake 79-72 last home Saturday, the Braves failed to win back-to-back games for the first time this season in a loss to Indiana State, 56-54.

In Wednesday's first half, the Braves were hot out of the gate as they jumped out to a 13-2 lead behind great shooting from a variety of players. Bradley was confident and stuck to their gameplan to stop Sycamore's guard Brenton Scott and forward Matt Van Scyoc, entering the locker room with a 38-27 lead.

However, everything the Braves built fell apart in the second half.

"The first 10 minutes of the second half was a poor team effort," junior forward Donte Thomas said. "That's been our story for most of our losses this season – not bouncing back in the second half and having the same energy. We often get comfortable [with leads], and that's been our problem all season."

The Braves shot a woeful 12.5 percent (3-24) in the second half and didn't make a shot from the field until the 9:42 mark.

"We obviously just didn't

see **MBB** Page A7



photo by Justin Limoges

Junior forward Donte Thomas rises for a dunk in Wednesday's loss to Indiana State. Thomas had 13 points and nine rebounds in 20 minutes.

## Track continues record-breaking run

BY KEVIN LINDGREN  
Off-staff Reporter

In the heart of both the men's and women's track seasons, the Braves are hitting their stride. Last weekend, both teams set individual records and broke Bradley records at the Meyo Invitational in South Bend, Indiana, and at the Olivet Nazarene Invite in Bourbonnais.

Sophomore David Shadid once again broke his previous record last Friday in the 200m dash, dropping his time to :22.20. Freshman

Jake Hoffert and sophomore Will Anderson cracked Bradley's top five in the 5,000m run. Sandy Freeland's 600m run was the second-best in school history at 1:23.02.

For the women's team, junior Hannah Witczak finished the 5,000m with her best personal time and the fifth-best time in school history.

Head coach Darren Gauson said he was thrilled with the team's accomplishments.

"For Hannah to place third in the conference, it was really good

for her," Gauson said. "David Shadid is doing a great job. [He's] having a really strong season."

The good times kept rolling on Saturday as more Braves wrote their names in Bradley's history book. Junior Haran Dunderdale broke teammate Michael Ward's previous record in the 3,000m run with a time of 8:04.87.

Senior Patrick Campbell recorded the fourth best time in Bradley history in the 3,000m, finishing at 8:08.21. Junior Daniel Gagne finished the mile with the third-best Braves time. Campbell and

Gagne's times were good enough for third-and fourth-best, respectively, in the MVC this season.

For the women's side, red-shirt sophomore Natalie Burant notched second place while junior Nicole Alfano grabbed third place in the 800m run.

"Anytime we get school records, it's something to celebrate," Gauson said. "We have multiple individuals ranked in the top eight of the conference in distance events. It's looking really good for us, going into more of the championship part of the season."

The teams will be heading to Michigan today for the Grand Valley State Big Meet and to Ames, Iowa, for the Iowa State Classic. Gauson said he hopes both teams continue to carry their momentum into next week and eventually into the indoor conference championships.

"The goal this weekend is to have more people move up in the rankings and run faster," Gauson said. "It sets us up for a championship. That's what I'm looking for."



WHEEL  
OF THE  
WEEK

"The game nobody deserves to win is tied at 51 with 2:47."

- @DaveReynolds2 - Dave Reynolds, Peoria Journal Star Bradley men's basketball beat writer on Wednesday's Bradley-Indiana State game.

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