

Tom Holland stars in Russo Brothers' new movie.

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BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

THE SCOUT

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The best men's basketball newcomers.

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Fellows program put on pause

BY ANGELINE SCHMELZER
Assistant News Editor

Fellows, a long-term scholarship program has been put on pause for internal and external reviews. The announcement was made via an email sent to students in the organization on Jan. 23.

Fellows is a Bradley leadership organization with a focus on service and leadership practices. Students in the program volunteer in the community, have meetings to discuss what they have learned through these opportunities and host programs to spread awareness of civic responsibility.

When members fulfill their requirements, they receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship.

Nathan Thomas, vice president for student affairs, and the one who sent out the email, recognizes the importance of the program to the institution and the students involved. He said the decision was not an easy one to make.

"I understand the impact that it has on the students and don't take that lightly at all," Thomas said. "[I] want to ensure the quality of experiences is in place for the future as well."

During the review, general assembly meetings and programming events will not be held, but the members are encouraged to volunteer together and continue to positively impact the community.

Thomas said the review will consist of an evaluation. A committee is being formed to compare Fellows with similar programs at peer institutions. The committee will also evaluate the core mission of the program. A member of Fellows will be included on the committee.

Ben Wright, assistant director for leadership and service and adviser for the Fellows program, said the requirements to be in the program

have stayed the same since the beginning of Fellows over 20 years ago. He said the needs are different now than when Generation X was in college.

"When the program started, it started with \$1,000 scholarship," Wright said. "That was significant 20 years ago ... \$1,000 scholarship is not as much of a recognition or reward for the great work in which they are doing."

Students are still being rewarded the \$500 scholarship each semester when they complete the requirement of 40 service hours and a written reflection paper explaining the social impact they made in the community.

Thomas hopes to finalize the committee details by the end of next week, and he hopes they can communicate to students in the program what the changes will be by mid-April.

Wright recommended that a staff member, a faculty member and a community partner should have seats on the committee.

According to Thomas, there may be conversations with former Fellows, current Fellows and past directors.

"I think that it's appropriate that we take a good, strong look and see what is best practice and what might be some emerging practice out there as well," Thomas said.

Both Wright and Thomas said "everything is on the table."

Some areas that may be reevaluated are when students can join the organization or if Fellows should be a four-year program, instead of all students learning the same concepts and having the same requirements.

"There's no easy time to do this," Wright said. "What we realized was there were needed structural and cultural changes."

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Students protest proposed cut of theater degrees



Student protesters passed out pamphlets encouraging students to sign an online petition to save programs in the Department of Theatre Arts.

photo by Angeline Schmelzer

BY ANTHONY LANDAHL
Managing Editor

At 9 a.m. on Monday, Bradley students gathered on campus to protest the recent university proposal to cut the degree programs in Department of Theatre Arts, among others, and reallocate resources.

Protesters gathered on the lawn in front of the Hartmann Center and came prepared with chants and signs that read "#SaveBradleyTheater," "Theater Arts MATTER!" and "Our home is Hartmann."

Junior theater production major Cierra Conrad was one organizer of the protest. She said she was devastated when she heard of the news of proposed cuts and knew action needed to take place.

"We can't stand idle," Conrad said. "We have to sway anyone's opinion and get support from our fellow classmates, to show the administration how important this is."

Sophomore theater arts, public relations and advertising double major Maggie Sullivan said she was protesting to emphasize theater's

importance in the university ecosystem.

"Theater is one of the umbrella majors," Sullivan said. "Theater can involve engineering, graphic design [and] artists. They can involve communications with publicity for our shows ... there's a job for everyone in every field that Bradley has to offer."

Since helping start a movement to save the program, Conrad said there has been a surprising amount of support from friends and Bradley alumni.

"It's honestly been overwhelming how much support I have from alumni," Conrad said. "I'm getting calls and text messages and Facebook reach outs and through our campaign page."

Sullivan was also delighted to see how those outside Bradley's campus were reacting.

"It's really interesting how you don't really see in every day how the theater can impact a community," Sullivan said. "But once it's threatened, the community will stand up and support it."

Bradley theater alumnus and filmmaker Nicholas Thurkettle produced a video that was posted on the "Save Bradley Theatre" YouTube account ton Feb.3. In the video, Thurkettle said his experience in the Bradley theater program changed and inspired him.

"I learned at Bradley that all you need to make theater is two planks and a passion," Thurkettle said in the video. "And if you are focusing on the monetary cost of the planks, you have missed everything that makes theaters important."

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BRIEFS

Galentine's night in Peoria Heights

On Thursday, Feb. 13 from 4 to 8 p.m., Peoria Heights will host Galentine's night for a girl's night out. Businesses and shops will be open late, gift basket prizes will be given to eight women by the end of the night and each shop will have special activities for everyone to enjoy. No cover fee is required.

Coffee with engineering experts

Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, and the Smith Career Center will be hosting "Coffee with Engineering Experts" on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Peplow Pavilion of the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center. Engineers from various fields will be there for interested students to ask questions and receive information. Business casual attire is suggested. Contact Rick Smith at rsmith@fsmail.bradley.edu for more information.

Kids in the zone

Tomorrow from 10 to 11 a.m. JCPenney at 2200 W. War Memorial Drive will be hosting Kids Zone, where kids get to make crafts as well as receive an ID badge, collector's pins and a master medallion if they complete six projects. Parents will receive a 10 percent off coupon to shop in store. For more information contact JCPenney at 309-685-6111.

A date for father and daughter

On Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 4 to 8 p.m., Hy-Vee located at 4125 N. Sheridan Road will be hosting a Daddy-Daughter Date Night. Market Grille Express will be making dinners and are now accepting reservations. Call 309-686-5920 to make reservations and receive more information.

POLICE REPORTS

- Police were called to Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity to reset a smoke alarm at approximately 10 p.m. on Jan. 30. No smoke or fire was observed. Residents believe it was someone using a vape device.

- A male had been drinking alcohol and had vomited several times at the 1700 block of W. Callender Ave. at 10 p.m. Jan. 31. The male was evaluated by medics, permitted to refuse further treatment and escorted home.

- Six students were stuck in the north elevator of the Business and Engineering Convergence Center at approximately 9:40 p.m. on Feb. 2. Peoria Fire Department arrived and evacuated the students.

- A female became sick at Heitz Hall at 9 p.m. Feb. 4 after consuming a cannabis-laden brownie. She was assessed by AMT and did not receive further treatment.

- Three males unaffiliated with the university were banned from campus after being caught in Lovelace Hall with alcohol. One of the males was invited over by a Bradley student he had met on a dating app and arrived with the other two males.

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NEWS

Chinese Culture Club brings the fun for turn of decade

BY SAM MWAKASISI & TONY XU
News Reporter & Editor-in-Chief

Jan. 25 marked the start of the Lunar New Year, the most celebrated holiday in Asian cultures. Chinese Culture Club hosted a celebration last Friday bringing in the spring season and creating an interesting event for the Bradley community. It was the fourth year that the organization hosted the event.

"I thought the event was fun and I enjoyed the questions asked during the games," Kameron Hoover, a senior graphic design major, said. "I felt the event was welcoming to all people of different backgrounds to understand and explore Chinese culture and celebrations."

The event took place in the Garrett Center and featured a traditional Chinese performance, mini-games and trivia. Performances from high school freshmen dancers and Peking opera singers provided entertainment.

Upon entry, attendees were given tickets to receive Amazon gift cards in raffles conducted throughout the night.

"Overall, we had a great turnout and we had a lot more interactions with the audiences this year compared to the past," said Dongcheng Yang, vice president of Chinese Culture Club and one of the organizers for the event.

Yang, a senior electrical engineering major, said that the event provides an

opportunity to celebrate the new year with the local Chinese community and with people from other cultures.

"Sharing this celebration with the Bradley community is important because Chinese New Year is one of the most representative festivals in Chinese culture," Yang said. "Sharing this meaningful festival here can greatly help the whole Bradley community with different diversity backgrounds to know more about China."

Senior biology major Annie Tserendavaa also enjoyed the inclusivity of the event.

"I enjoyed that the meeting was inclusive to non-Chinese students and made them feel comfortable," Tserendavaa said.

The celebration started off with dinner that included ma-po tofu, chicken broccoli, rice noodles and fortune cookies to name a few.

"I like the wide-ranged food that they had at the event," Amanda Brito, senior photography major, said. "They were really good and the games were fun."

The night concluded with opportunities for audience members to partake in Chinese calligraphy and receive Peking masks.

To get involved further with Chinese Culture Club, email bradleychineseculture@gmail.com.



Audience member were treated to Chinese cuisine and traditional performances of dancing and singing.



photos via Chinese Culture Club

FELLOWS

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The committee will make recommendations of changes to the program and Thomas will make the final decisions. Thomas said he is unsure what those decisions will be, and he is comfortable not knowing.

"I think it's appropriate not to have a predisposition to what the ultimate outcomes are going to be and really let some of the benchmarking and other

discussions that will take place happen, so that we can have a true understanding," Thomas said.

Previous reflection papers and a culmination of other data from previous years were factors in making the decision to put the program under review.

Wright said it was evident that students enjoy their Fellows experience, but is aware there are areas the program can improve upon.

According to Wright, students have asked for more leadership

practices since the organization has been heavily focused on service. Even though many recognize changes need to occur, both students and Wright are emotional about the break.

"I empathize with the students who might be frustrated or confused, but I'm also excited about what can come out of this," Wright said. "I think it'll bring something new that will actually provide great experiences for our current student population."

running from Feb. 27 to March 8. Conrad said the potential cuts will always be a thought in everyone's mind.

"We are in a different program today than we were last week," Conrad said. "If anything, that has invigorated us and our passion for what we're doing."

A two for one deal with public relations and advertising majors

BY VALERIE VASCONEZ
News Reporter

Starting fall 2020, students with an interest in public relations and advertising can take both as one major. The decision was made after a study was conducted looking at where students in the respective majors go after graduation.

The chairperson of the communication department, Tony Adams, said that the field has been changing in recent years.

"People in the industry, when we tell them we have advertising and public relations as majors, they tell us to put them together," Adams said. "In the industry they're treated to go hand-in-hand."

Both of the majors were viewed as separate jobs previously and do have some differences.

Christopher Marsh, an instructor teaching both fields of study on campus, noted the differences between the studies. Advertising answers the needs of a company while public relations is looking to create bonds with the audience.

"You can spend millions of dollars on a Super Bowl ad, that's great," Marsh said. "But what are you doing on the ground?"

There are different types of advertisement, but the one that has more involvement is "earned advertising." This is mostly the work of a company's social media account and being interactive with an audience which introduces the public relations part of advertising.

While the industry changes,

Bradley is making its own changes to reflect what students might face once they graduate.

"Some of my friends were not aware until I told them, but they thought it was pretty cool," said freshman advertising major Jennifer Reyes. "Other [people] don't want to have two majors as one and prefer to have one they originally [came in with]."

A change in course requirements may have some students worried if they'll graduate on time. Students who are far along their respective studies won't be affected. Enrolled underclassmen aren't forced to take any, but they are encouraged.

Adams explained forcing students out of their field of study would be problematic. The only students that will be affected are incoming students or current undecided students that want to claim public relations or advertising next semester as to not interrupt current students' credits.

"We aren't changing any of the courses," Adams said. "It's just a new structure of classes, nothing changes."

Since advertising and public relations have classes that overlap, the new requirements will be more of a reformulation.

The new major will require 42 credits to graduate and will introduce a minor. It will be the third minor in the communication department and will require 18 credit hours. The minor will be open to every student on campus even without a relation to communication.

PROTEST

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Students were also handing out pamphlets promoting a Change.org petition to save the theater program. The petition has reached over 10,500 signatures as of Thursday evening.

"In making such a proposal," the petition reads, "the leaders of the university are not only doing a disservice to the students and faculty members but also, recanting the university motto 'Mid-sized big difference.'"

In the midst of the proposal, the theater department is currently in the rehearsal phase of its upcoming play "The Wolves," which will be



Look for the Voice's
Valentine edition,
on Feb. 14

The Voyeur



SCOUT ON THE STREET



What's the dumbest thing you've done in college?



Loreece Haddad

"I took an 8 a.m. math class that I don't need."

-Loreece Haddad, senior biomedical science major



Cam Lockwood

"I had this pepper at my house and I thought it was a pepper from Olive Garden, so I ate the whole thing in one bite. However, it ended up being an extremely hot pepper."

-Cam Lockwood, freshman economics major



Marco Blancas

"I was taking a shower and didn't bring my ID and phone, so I had to wait for my RA to let me in."

-Marco Blancas, sophomore graphic design major



Maggie Sullivan

"I showed up five minutes before a class ended on the first week of classes, because I thought it was at a different time."

-Maggie Sullivan, sophomore theatre arts, PR/advertising double major



AJ Schmall

"I tried to make pop come out of my nose after I drank it, but it came out of my eyes too and it burned."

-AJ Schmall, freshman finance major

BY TONY XU
Editor-in-Chief

Greek life implements sober monitor trainings

BY HALEY JOHNSON
News Editor

Greek life social events are getting stricter, as fraternities and sororities now require sober monitors to complete trainings.

While students in Greek organizations have always had sober monitors at events, the trainings will assure that everyone's on the same page, according to Kathleen Prout, assistant director for fraternity and sorority life.

"It is the goal of this program to give sober monitors the standard rules and tools needed to host safe social events," Prout said. "It is our expectation that this will minimize miscommunication and conflict when it arises."

The training is an hour-long session that will go over standard procedures like serving alcohol and working entrances and exits, but it also covers emergency scenarios.

"This can include over-intoxication, unwanted physical contact, physical altercations or uninvited guests and more," Prout said.

Senior nursing major Claudia Blanchard served as social chair for her sorority for the past two years. In her position, she was a sober monitor for all her chapter's social events and supervised the other sober monitors.

"Being a sober monitor is a lot of common sense in that you take responsibility for anyone who may need assistance and look out for any signs of danger," Blanchard said.

Blanchard believes the implementation of the training was a necessary change to ensure social events are safe.

"I don't feel like everyone in the past has taken the job very seriously and so the trainings may be very beneficial," Blanchard said.

Being cautious with cannabis

BY CONOR MCENTEE
Copy Editor

On Jan. 17 the university sent an email, reminding students that cannabis use on campus is still forbidden because Bradley is a recipient of federal funding and thus subject to the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. The act prohibits the possession, use and distribution of all federally-controlled substances, including cannabis, even with the new state law.

"We are pretty much doing what every other school is doing because of the federal [law], it still being a schedule one federally banned drug. So even in Colorado and California they still have similar policies as us to dealing with cannabis and it not being allowed on campus or in the residence halls," Ryan Bair, executive director of residential living and student conduct, said.

What Bair wants students to be aware of is that even if a student is 21 or older and can use cannabis they should be careful and cautious, as the city of Peoria has not clarified what can be considered public use when using it.

"To be cautious I wouldn't tell students to be using even on their properties in the front yard or the backyard," Bair said. "You will probably be considered in public at

that point. There's still some of that that still needs to be worked out with the city and things. And how are they going to enforce that?"

Currently, the university is in the early stages of producing resources, that will hopefully give students a better grasp on the new cannabis law. Currently, they have been evaluating a website at prevention.org titled, "Let's talk about Cannabis" as a possible resource.

"We are trying to find a site that is comprehensive and talks about or agreed upon information about wellness, the law and then we'll always have to add in our rules on campus," Bair said. "Hopefully, soon we'll be putting some messaging on campus and things as well."

Additionally, staff wants to see what students are feeling and thinking before they make any assumptions.

Nathan Thomas, vice president for student affairs, foresees that educational efforts are going to evolve.

"But going into this, we have taken the approach, a little bit of 'We need to see what the students are expecting and what some of those pieces are' so we can provide that information as opposed to us making our own determinations as to what we think is the best way to handle this too," Thomas said.

In the near future, Bair hopes that

they will be able to have presentations about cannabis as they currently do about alcohol where they can explain to students how to use it in a healthy manner.

"A part of that is that it's still a schedule one drug and it hasn't opened up a lot of good research in the United States about things. So that makes it hard for the university to put its stamp on, 'Here's the best way or most healthy way to use this,' like we would with alcohol," Bair said.

Bair and others hope that they get to a place soon that they can have educational presentations about cannabis that mirror the presentations the university does for alcohol use.

Overall, the University feels that its students will take initiative to do the right thing, as well as following the university's policy and utilize resources to learn more about the law.

"I think above all else is [to be] respectful of our policies to campus which so far is very much what we have seen," Thomas said. I think the second part is probably on the wellness component of things and really for students to utilize those resources that are now available online and other places about marijuana and if they choose to use it to use it legally."

NEWS



Studios styled to you

BY VERONICA BLASCOE
Copy Editor

The atmosphere inside Styles Studios Fitness is sleek yet comfortable. The main floorspace is all glass and mirrors, with dark hardwood floors protected from the neat rows of exercise equipment by thin black mats.

A tour around the building, located at 4100 W. Willow Knolls Drive, will reveal a pair of spa-like locker rooms and four separate exercise studios, each employing a different theme.

The four studios include “Hustle,” designed for strength and cardio; “Chain,” a cinematic biking experience; “Urban Ritual” resembles a white-floored nightclub complete with flashing overhead lights and heart-pounding music; and “Freesol” is a warm, quiet room designed for meditation and yoga.

“We wanted to create this because right now, in bigger cities in America and the world, boutique studios are trending,” co-owner Carrie Kepple said. “Those though, are awesome, but they’re such an intense experience in one boutique ... What we wanted to do

was bring you the boutique experience alongside a traditional gym floor and locker rooms and smoothie bar but for one price.”

Kepple, a native of Central Illinois, has been involved in the fitness world for over 15 years. She was employed at Gold’s Gym in Dallas, Texas, and then joined international fitness organization Les Mills in New Zealand. Kepple also serves on the board of the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association, an organization dedicated to the protection and growth of the fitness industry.

Her co-owner and wife Amy Styles has a B.A. in exercise science and a U.S. National Strength and Conditioning Coach certification. She is an experienced personal trainer who uses her skills by programming and teaching classes in the various studios.

The two, joined by silent partner and Pennsylvania-based businessman Jim Worthington, have been planning and creating Styles Studios Fitness for roughly two years now. The official grand opening was on Jan. 31.

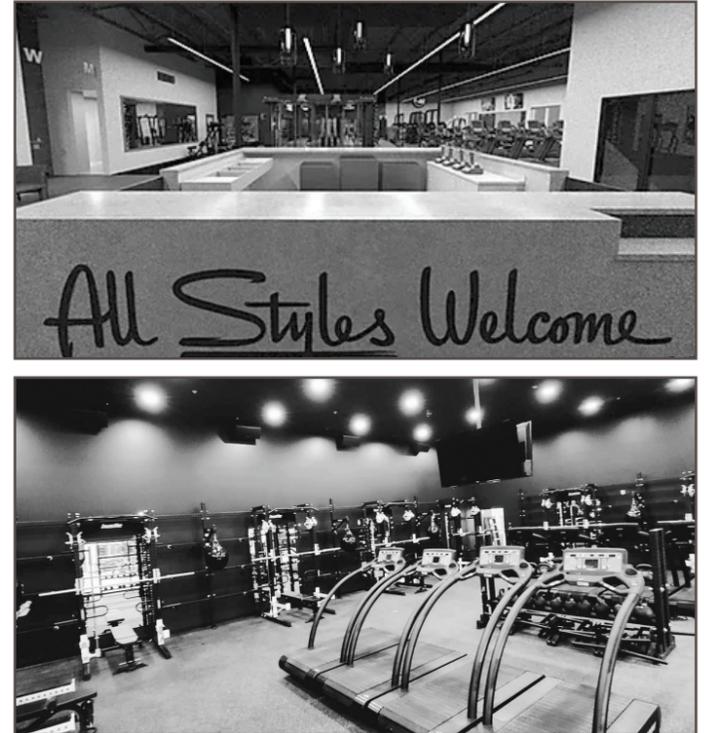
The gym also contains the Dexa Wellness office, packed with

technology like the softly-humming Dexa bed. The bed’s full-body scans can tell a customer their body mass index, amount of visceral fat and diabetes risk, as well as a generated virtual avatar which allows athletes to compare their body types to others in similar sports. A nutritionist will work on-site. Non-gym members are welcome to access the Dexa office.

Members receive an electronic wristband that allows them to access their Spotify and Netflix accounts, open and close their lockers and purchase items from the smoothie bar with a swipe of their wrist.

Styles Studios Fitness members pay a monthly rate of \$65 a month when paid for a year or \$85 for a monthly rate that can be stopped any time. Students can access the monthly rate for a discounted \$65.

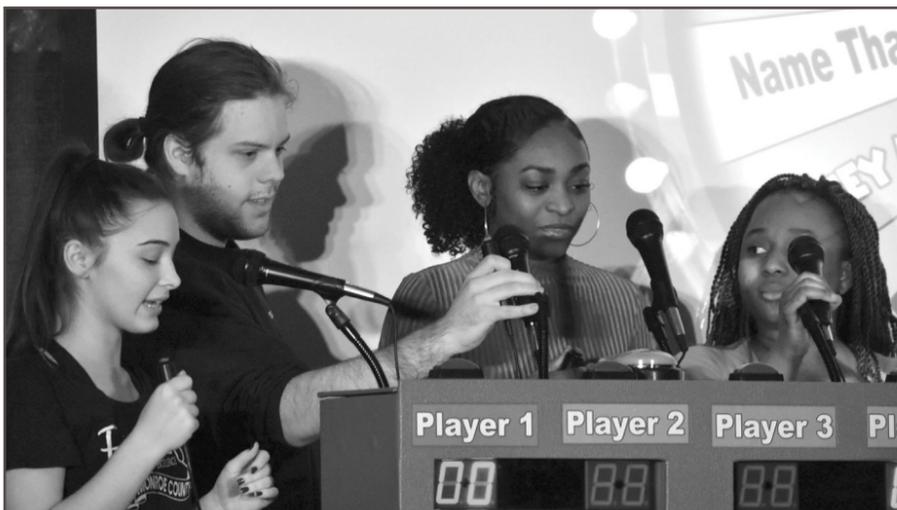
“As younger generations get older, they carry with them a set of values that some of the older generations that are now, sadly, dying off didn’t quite have,” Kepple said. “[For] some of us younger-generation people, wellness and health is like second only to family. It’s a huge part of our lives.”



Styles Studios Fitness, a new type of gym with new fitness technology, is located at 4100 W. Willow Knolls Drive.

photos via Styles Studios Fitness

The game for broke college students



Comedian Adam Ace hosted ACBU’s “FREE MONEY Game Show” on Tuesday in the student center ballroom. A wheel was spun to pick a musical category and contestants buzzed in to guess the song pertaining to that category. Students also had the chance to spin to win money or lose money.

photos by Morgan Patrick

Service. Change. Braves Lead.

BY KAPRICE YOUNG
News Reporter

Braves Lead is new to campus and aims to develop students’ individual leadership skills.

Since the launch of the Braves Lead program over 45 students have signed up.

“We have doubled our goal for the semester,” Ruth Bertram, the graduate assistant in the student activities office working on Braves Lead said. “We originally wanted roughly twenty to 25.”

Ben Wright, the assistant director of Student Activities Office for leadership and service helped start Braves Lead. After some assessing, Wright said he realized that there was a lack of places outside of the classroom for students to learn leadership skills. He also felt that some students believed that leadership was limited to a title.

“Leadership is a process rather than a position,” Wright said.

With Bertram’s assistance, Wright was able to create Braves Lead to allow students to learn that concept.

“The major takeaway would most likely be to understand that leadership is a lifelong journey that takes time and effort,” Bertram added.

To achieve what the overseers of Braves Lead hopes, participants must complete one of two tiers of the program.

Tier one is all about who the participant is as an individual. They must attend an orientation, attend various seminars, complete volunteer hours and perform an exit interview to ensure what they have learned. This portion only lasts for a semester.

Tier two is on a group dynamic base. Participants will be put into mentored group, partner with a non-profit organization in Peoria, and create a group project to enhance the community. This portion will last for one school year.

If a student successfully passes tier one, they are eligible to move on to tier two, however, it is not required to go on to tier two to complete.

After finishing, students will receive a Braves Lead graduation cord, a certificate of completion, and the ability to add the program to their resumes.

Unlike other leadership programs such as Fellows and LINC’s, Braves Lead is open to any and all students. No major, affiliate or year is excluded from this opportunity. Students who are not active on campus are especially encouraged to join.

“We want to find students who might not be engaged on this campus and let them know that they are capable of making a change,” Wright said about the inclusivity of Braves Lead.

Wright explains that they are using the data collection and student responses to determine the future of Braves Lead. The exit interviews will be used to find out what the students enjoyed and what they learned. Whatever response received, Wright hopes to improve the organization to make sure students become the best leaders possible.

Braves Lead’s submissions are closed for this semester. However, for students who want to register for upcoming semesters can visit the Bradley website under the leadership and service link.



TikTok's symbiotic relationship with the music industry

BY SYDNI ADAMS
Contributor

You're driving to dinner with your squad. The friend who called shotgun also called dibs on playing the music, and after a moment of confusion about pairing their phone to the car radio, they pull up their playlist on Spotify. Everything is normal. After a few songs, you begin to notice a common thread: "Panini" by Lil Nas X, "Truth Hurts" by Lizzo, "Say So" by Doja Cat—Oh! It's a TikTok playlist.

As a platform, TikTok has perfected the art of unintentionally popularizing the music of many up-and-coming artists.

Artists like Doja Cat experienced large bursts of fame from

their content being used repetitively in TikTok videos. After songs like "Say So" and "Candy" became popular background choices for videos, Doja Cat's music began to top the charts in late 2019. Now, she's much more well-known with a Grammy to show for it. Most people have probably heard of at least a few of her songs if they're at all familiar with TikTok music.

What does this mean for the music industry, though?

It is near impossible to predict which songs will have a greater chance for production of memes.

Sometimes all it takes is a little nostalgia.

This may be the reason why songs like "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen consistently make it into top TikTok songs lists, despite

not necessarily having much meme value.

However, songs like "Truth Hurts" by Lizzo are very obvious choices for memes. This is evident by the "Turns out, I'm 100% that" meme that circulated on the app, where TikTokers would replace the line of the song with their own jokes. "Replayability" and adaptability also make for great original content.

Many artists benefit from being discovered on the platform, causing them to overlook TikTok users profiting off of their work. Those who would otherwise go down the old-school Taylor Swift route of banning their songs on Spotify might begin to see the brighter side of letting others copy their work with a twist and a bad lip-sync.



'Planet Zoo'

BY BLAKE MCBRIDE
Assistant Voice Editor

The media that we consume has historically influenced our culture in some pretty interesting ways. From the way we interact with others to the nomenclature we utilize, media sources can shape the reality we live in. However, the media doesn't have to beget negative reactions from consumers.

Some media influence may be utilized to increase support for conservation efforts world-wide. For example, Frontier Development recently released their newest game, "Planet Zoo," which seeks to offer a realistic zoo-building experience for gamers, giving special attention to conservation efforts.

The Principle Audio Designer for the game, Matthew Florianz, said in a 2019 promotional interview that "Something we want players to take away from this is . . . a better understanding of the animals that are in zoos and the animals that are in nature, so conservation plays a very important role."

The design team took deliberate efforts to make the game feel as authentic as possible and refused to exploit creative liberties to make the game more interesting.

Each week, the game features a new "Franchise Community Goal" in which players across the world will attempt to breed a certain species for the week. The goal is set at a high number to be met collectively by the "Planet Zoo" community.

This feature is derivative of real-life conservation goals; zoos across the world collaborate with one another in order to meet breeding quotas in efforts to save certain species from extinction.

In order to make the experience as authentic as possible, "Planet Zoo" also maintains a breeding system in which genetics plays an integral role. Players are encouraged to utilize a strong gene pool for breeding their animals to improve specimens' immunity, longevity, size and fertility.

Tom Morledge, a Principle Rigger at Frontier Development, said, "If through this game we can highlight some of the key conservation issues and things that everyone should be aware of, then that just feels really good to be able to provide that while also providing a really exciting game."

In the interest of protecting the amazing species of the planet, "Planet Zoo" is surely the first in a new generation of games that aim to highlight environmental issues for media consumers, and educate them on what can be done to help.

"We're a team. You wanna play? You play with Us. All of Us."

The WOLVES

by Sarah DeLappe
Directed by Ginna Hoben

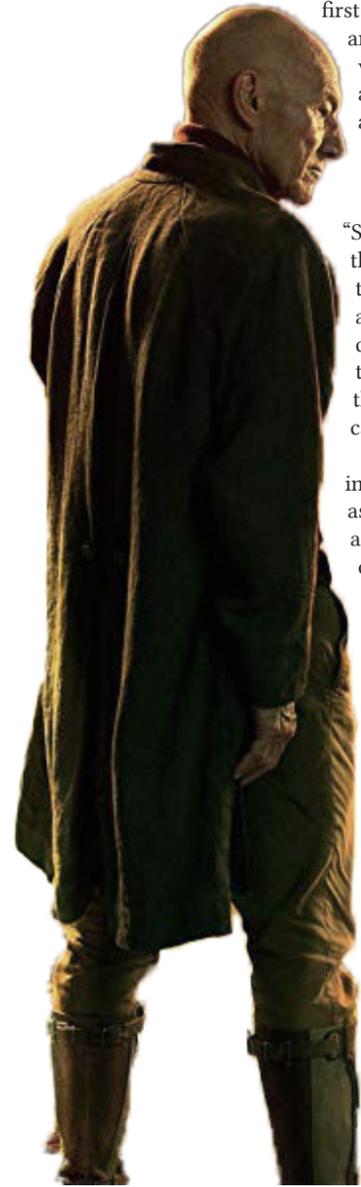
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Still we boldly go

BY HANNI SALATA
Contributor



Roughly fifteen minutes into the first episode of “Star Trek: Picard,” an unnamed interviewer (who I was already sure I couldn’t stand) asked Jean-Luc Picard the question all viewers were wondering: “Tell us, Admiral, why did you really quit Starfleet?”

It’s a fair question. In all of “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” the closest we see Picard get to disowning Starfleet is in an expression of fatherly disappointment, the sentiment that he will not accept the state of things because he knows Starfleet can do better.

So, when Picard’s face curled into something resembling disgust as he responded, I was more than a little concerned. In fact, I was so caught up in that concern that I almost missed his muttered reply: “Because it was no longer Starfleet.”

And in one extremely Picard line, I found myself in an unfamiliar position: I felt like I understood Jean-Luc Picard.

In context, the line becomes even more powerful. Years ago, Picard led a campaign to save the citizens of Romulus from the supernova that would destroy their planet. As preparations were being made for the mission, tragedy struck. A group of synthetic life forms—which, here, can range from androids to accidentally-sentient holograms—rebelled and destroyed a settlement on Mars in an act of terrorism that killed thousands.

In the aftermath, synthetic lifeforms were completely banned from the Federation, and the resulting spike of cultural distrust inspired Starfleet to terminate their aid toward Romulus. It’s hinted for the rest of the episode that the few Romulan survivors are not well-treated by the Federation.

The rest of the interview scene shows Picard raging about the injustice of it all, including a particularly chilling pair of lines where his interviewer suggests that Romulan lives are somehow inferior to those of Federation citizens.

Jean-Luc Picard may be an old Frenchman from a utopian future, but at that moment, I couldn’t help but relate to him, even as a modern American college student.

Anyone who has paid attention to American politics in the past few years can see the comparisons. Romulans become equivalent to Middle Eastern refugees, discriminated against based on past conflict.

Synthetics do the same, as the government tries to enact a ban on them based on the actions of an extremist sect.

The exchange of lines about Romulan lives is reminiscent of certain statements that have been made regarding children at border camps.

Picard is horrified at the hate and indifference surrounding him, and he removes himself from association with the people who are enabling it, tearing at the world for its selfishness. Still, his fury seems to retain that strange undercurrent of hope that he is known for: We can do better. We must. We will.

As of now, I’m not sure how I feel about this series, but I am sure that, as the world marches on into unknown territory, “Star Trek” will keep pace beside us.

The best Super Bowl promotion isn’t on TV

BY JOSSIE WARD
Voice Reporter

Ryan Reynolds and his recent investment, telecommunications company Mint Mobile, shook things up this Super Bowl by opting not to buy any airtime.

The trailblazing brand was launched by parent company Ultra Mobile in 2017 and has worked its way into the spotlight with their shockingly low rates and help from Reynolds and his accompanying 50 million Twitter and Instagram followers.

“I love ads. Except when they cost 5 million dollars for 30 seconds of airtime. Mint Mobile is premium wireless for an almost suspiciously great price. So instead of creating a pricey ad trying to convince people to try Mint, we’re going to let them try it for free,” Reynolds said in an online ad.

While most companies spend months preparing their Super Bowl ads and spend millions upon millions of dollars on celebrity endorsement deals, Reynolds and Mint used the money allotted for a Super Bowl ad to offer a free three-month trial of their services to anyone who signed up during the game.

Despite being absent from the Super Bowl scene, the wireless company did choose to purchase a full-page ad in The New York Times. Along with the cost of the ad, Reynolds boasted that Mint could afford to give away over 300,000 months of free service with the money it would have cost to produce the commercial.

It’s plain to see that it wasn’t just the newspaper ad that made the promotion successful; the role of Reynolds in their press and public relations seem to be the real reason they have seen such a rise in notoriety.

So, what’s the catch?

The deal appears to be as genuine as Reynolds himself and is on par with the company’s record for offering affordable service. There aren’t many other companies that offer a straight-forward, \$15 per month plan for new customers. Keep in mind, though, the Super Bowl promotion was limited to one line per household and was only offered to new customers who signed up during the game, a promotion that eventually extended to midnight.



From heroes to heroin: The Russo brothers assemble for ‘Cherry’

BY ANTONIO DUCA
Contributor

April 26, 2019 marked quite a day for box office history.

“Avengers: Endgame” amassed \$2.174 billion worldwide, the highest in theatrical revenue. Lately, the names Anthony and Joe Russo have been ubiquitous after their directing enterprise—consisting of 4 installments in the Marvel Cinematic Universe—defined childhoods across North America.

Now, the duo is venturing off into darker artistic territories, away from the innocent sagas of good versus evil. Their next highly anticipated project, “Cherry,” will star Ciara Bravo, Bill Skarsgård and Jack Reynor with Tom Holland playing the lead role.

“Cherry,” is a semi-autobiographical novel by decorated war veteran turned heroin-addicted bank robber, Nico Walker. The 2018 novel has played an integral part in pop literature for shedding light on victims of the opioid epidemic. However, the word “victim” in this instance is not the tone the author intends

on establishing. Walker writes in a way that suspends himself from self-pity.

The narrative timbre of “Cherry” can be analogized as “The Catcher in the Rye” meets “The Hurt Locker.” This is the story of a kid from a middle-class family whose apathy towards his otherwise affluent life is sporadically savored by ruinous romances and streaks of pointless hedonism.

Initially, the novel seems to be a study on those who somehow slip through the fine cracks we cautiously hop over in life. On paper, his societal position could spark envies in those less privileged. Our protagonist recognizes his assets and almost deliberately sabotages them.

Therefore, you’ll be getting a character with a unique voice; an intelligent, sensitive and introspective young man with charming candor and no idea the perilous journey he is to embark on.

According to the American Addiction Centers, veterans are twice likely to die from an opioid overdose than civilian Americans. Walker stated in an interview that, at a point, his

greatest fear was to be placed in a position where he would not have access to heroin. Walker’s main priority is to tell the American public what the Iraq War really was: a story that conveys the disorder of American militarism and the noxious effects on its survivors.

The Russo brothers and screenplay writers Jessica Goldberg and Angela Russo-Otstotmay may have to overcome the challenge of achieving authenticity and evading the temptation of tropes and romanticizing our self-proclaimed “scumbag” of a protagonist. The war scenes that were so brilliantly brought to life in the novel will also need to be compelling enough to truly bring the audience to an understanding of PTSD and survivor’s guilt. Also, how “the soldier” habituated with a militant lifestyle must adjust to function in society.

As for Holland, this could be a landmark role in his career. The young actor recently acclaimed for playing our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man can now demonstrate some serious acting chops. Expect me to be there opening night!



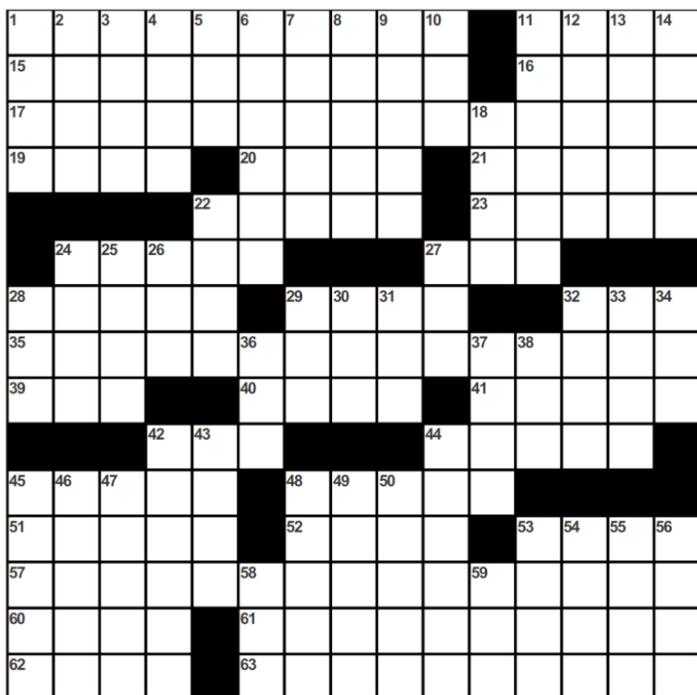
Crosswords

Across

- 1) Flowerpot material
- 11) Hung up on esses
- 15) Communism and others
- 16) Excited by
- 17) Letters to the editor
- 19) Draws to a close
- 20) Bold and sassy
- 21) "Superman" actor Christopher
- 22) Brazen one
- 23) Supply provisions
- 24) "___ well"
- 27) Figure to shoot for
- 28) Bundle
- 29) Common carrier
- 32) Early afternoon hour
- 35) Monopoly square
- 39) Babysitter's handful
- 40) 007
- 41) Eagle's home
- 42) Amniotic ___
- 44) Fix firmly, in a way
- 45) Boozehound
- 48) Demolished a London flat
- 51) Acclaim
- 52) "Boola Boola" collegians
- 53) The "fat" in "Fat Tuesday"
- 57) Lets have it
- 60) Famous clinic
- 61) Used Western Union
- 62) Negotiation problem
- 63) Providing support

Down

- 1) Grow bored or impatient
- 2) Adam lived there
- 3) This puzzle's theme word
- 4) Towel holders
- 5) Pub favorite
- 6) ___ Christi
- 7) Baddies
- 8) Wedding cake parts
- 9) Cantankerous
- 10) Fanged Nile menace
- 11) Like some equations
- 12) Map inside a map
- 13) Carell of Hollywood
- 14) Baffling problem
- 18) "Blackfish" animal
- 22) Bygone music system
- 24) "Don't forget about me"
- 25) Go bungee jumping
- 26) Man in the making
- 27) Islands dish
- 28) ___ Lanka (Ceylon)
- 29) It may come after many moons?
- 30) Coffee container
- 31) Young boy
- 32) Ripped
- 33) Bide one's time
- 34) Poem with complex stanza forms
- 36) Major network
- 37) ___ an egg (bombed)
- 38) Increase motor speed, briefly
- 42) Skilled mariner
- 43) Word with "industrial" and "martial"
- 44) Dwell permanently
- 45) Contract conditions
- 46) Deep blue sea
- 47) Costa del Sol feature
- 48) Strike anew
- 49) Last Olds model produced
- 50) "Cops" sound
- 53) '60s sports cars
- 54) Indian royal
- 55) Breezed through, as an exam
- 56) Eyelid affliction
- 58) Pan Am alternative



Classifieds

Classified ads can be submitted to the Scout Office in Sisson Hall 319 or by calling the Scout office at (309) 677-3067. Please submit classified ads by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in the Friday issue.

UNIVERSITY PROPERTIES 2020-2021 STUDENT RENTALS

We have a few properties remaining for groups of 1 to 7 for the next school year. Prices have recently been reduced. They are located on some of the most desirable streets surrounding Bradley's campus —Barker, Bradley, Cooper, Fredonia, Main, Rebecca and University. Check out our website for additional information. Select June 2020 as the lease start date. www.rentUPbu.com

Houses for Rent 2020-2021 School Year

2-5 bedroom houses located on Barker, Cooper, Callender, and Elmwood, all close to campus. Washer and dryer provided, remodeled bathrooms, new flooring, maintenance included. Leases starting May/June 2020. 1 year or 1 semester leases available. Please call or text (309) 472-7386 for info. & showings. Email: offcampuspeoria@gmail.com website at www.offcampuspeoria.com.

Matthew J Seymour has a court date scheduled on April 27th at 10:30 A.M. to change their name to Rachele Julianna Seymour.

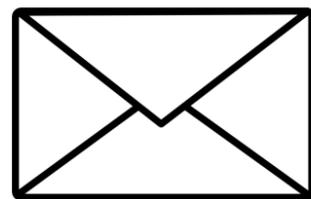
Sudoku

					2	7	4	8
	4		7	1			2	
		5				1		
	1					3	5	2
			5		4			
7	5	8					9	
		1				2		
	2			8	5		3	
5	9	6	3					

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All letters to the editor must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday 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 appearance in the Scout. Any emails directed to members of the Scout staff may be published as letters.

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The Scout is published by members of the undergraduate student body of Bradley University. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the university.

Editorial

Lead the change you want to see

The proposal made last week to eliminate degrees offered in theater, among others, sparked a student protest. This has spiked campus discussion surrounding the topic. Regardless of whether their protest will preserve these degree programs, the idea of student activism is what Bradley needed.

In the age of social media and the distribution of online petitions, it has become easier for people to voice their opinion online. However, physical gatherings are becoming harder to come by.

In recent years, the campus has had a few other protests in topics related to some larger issues such as climate change and gun violence. These are important national issues and such activism can mobilize local crowds and bring the movement to grassroot.

But it is rare for Bradley campus to have a protest in related to a Bradley-specific issue; a protest that's organized

by students.

After all, local issues are usually the ones that struggle to attract the public's attention but have the most impact in people's life.

The attention given to the issue is starting to spread and is evident with more than 10,000 signatures on its Change.org petition. In addition, the students in the program have utilized social media to post pictures and videos of students and alumni expressing their thoughts. This is a phenomenon of a community coming together and a program of 41 students quickly turned into a mass amount of support.

The protest was quickly constructed shortly after the news broke. It was a simple operation of chants, poster board signs and pamphlet distribution promoting their online petition to save the theater degree program.

Indeed, many of the students who passed by the protest were surprised

to hear that multiple degree programs were being cut. Not only did the protest establish the thoughts in students' minds, it served as a medium of information for those students who has not been keeping up with the news.

The protest has successfully attracted local media outlets and broadened the impact beyond the campus. As these proposals will eventually need the University Senate's votes to be implemented, the protest has more or less added pressure to the decision-makers.

These students who participated in the protest all followed the university's guidelines to make it a peaceful protest, delivering the message without causing disruption.

We as students are one of the most important components of a university. Our opinion matters. It is university's obligation to honor students' opinions, but it is the students' job to voice them.

Column

Procrastination sparks conversation



Kayla Johnson
 kejohnson3@mail.bradley.edu
 Assistant Photo Editor

We've all been there: sitting in class toward the end of the semester listening to the professor talk about how quickly the deadline will be coming up for the final project. For my class project last semester I chose to shine a light on the black community on campus because we don't get the recognition that we deserve.

First, it was going to be about all the goals and accomplishments students have achieved while attending Bradley. Then, I decided to highlight Greek life and all they do to bring the small community together as one.

The topic I finally decided to go with

was the lack of diversity on campus. I quickly learned that not a lot of people are willing to talk about the subject and just because the black community is so minute doesn't mean that we don't have a voice.

My professor was incredible at encouraging me through the process, even though I was ready to drop the class. We had mini projects due throughout the semester which would ultimately lead to the final outcome. What he didn't understand was, even when I turned in my mini projects on time, it did not mean my video was coming together.

A week or so before Thanksgiving break began, I was sitting in my room staring at iMovie simply hoping the approach I wanted to go would appear on my screen

Then it hit me. A couple of weeks into the semester, Bradley released its "Welcome Week" video and it didn't take long before the university got dragged by the students who saw it. Why, you ask? There were only THREE black students in the six-minute video! THREE! I took this idea and I ran with it.

I didn't make this final decision on my topic until three days before Thanksgiving break and then I had five days to create and edit an eight-minute video! The students I planned on interviewing were no longer available

for a few more questions and I had to improvise. I had more data in my video because statistics matter and out of the six students I planned to interview, only three were available.

So boom. The interviews were done, the extra material needed to complete the project was ready to be placed in order and there I was again staring at a blank iMovie screen, waiting for all my elements to come together.

I completed the project at five in the morning sitting at the foot of my sister's bed with her asking every hour, "Is it done yet?"

My procrastination paid off, when I told one of my advisers about the project. She asked for a link to the video and sent it to her colleagues. I began to panic. What if one of my professors saw? What were they going to think?

My emotions shifted almost immediately when I was sent a room full of Bradley University faculty and staff of who had finished watching my "procrastination at its finest" video. They loved it.

Two lessons I learned: 1.) When your professor says the deadline is coming quick, believe them! 2.) Diamonds are formed under pressure. I have never put that much effort into a video before, and I'm so glad my procrastination finally paid off.

Opinion



Renaissance Coliseum, Bradley's on campus arena, seats 4,200 people.

photo via BradleyBraves.com

The smaller the arena, the better?

BY LARRY LARSON
Assistant Sports Editor

When Loyola was putting the finishing touches on its victory over Bradley on Saturday night, a sold-out Gentile Arena crowd was booming. The crowd of 4,963 reverberated throughout the arena at multiple points throughout the game and could be felt in the back rows.

Ramblers' head coach Porter Moser could fire up the crowd at a moment's notice by waving his arms at a packed student section. It was an undeniable home court advantage.

It's an advantage that has propelled LUC to a 10-2 record at their on-campus arena. It's one that will likely only get better as the season goes on, as the team is close to selling out the remainder of its home games.

The Braves have known Loyola's advantage better than any team, as they haven't won in Rogers Park since January of 2016.

All this begs the question: Does a smaller arena create a better atmosphere for homecourt advantage?

Bradley plays its home games in Carver Arena at the Peoria Civic Center, a near polar opposite of Gentile Arena. It's off-campus and is over twice the size.

Personally, I enjoy making the three-minute trip down to Carver for Bradley games. Every game feels like a big one when you walk into the largest arena in the conference. It almost has an NBA-type feel.

And that's part of the problem. Despite leading the Missouri Valley Conference in attendance the past few seasons, the Braves struggle to fill Carver Arena. This season's average home crowd of 5,465 still leaves half of the arena of about 11,000 seats empty. In comparison, Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium seats 9,314.

Most students on the Hilltop don't share my affinity for Peoria's largest venue. Despite the short trip, free shuttles and cheap tickets, student attendance is weak. Some of this can be blamed on the fact that games aren't held on campus.

Bradley has an on-campus arena very similar to Gentile in Renaissance Coliseum. The 10-year old arena seats 4,200.

It would take a small renovation to add seats and parking to be able to host crowds of 5,000 plus at RenCo, which would cost time and money, but it could be worth it.

If the Braves held their average attendance at over 5,000, every game would be jam-packed. The crowd noise would be intense. Instead of sound fading deep into the cavernous

Carver Arena, it would bounce off the ceiling and walls of the considerably smaller RenCo.

Student attendance would get a nice boost with the games being held within walking distance of classes, dorms and fraternities and sororities.

Carver Arena's large capacity provides the amenities needed to host the largest crowds in the Valley, which is a big plus. It would be hard to recreate that on Bradley's campus.

It would be remiss to assume the athletic department hasn't looked into moving home games back to campus and there are solid, quantifiable reasons for keeping the games downtown.

However, concentrating the Valley's biggest attendance numbers into the smaller and louder venue of Renaissance Coliseum has the potential to create a hostile atmosphere for opponents, similar to that of the legendary Robertson Memorial Field House.

The team has played a few pre-season games on campus in the past, so why not try it again for some exhibition and or non-conference matchups?

Fans should keep an open mind to playing games on campus again. RenCo deserves a good look, and perhaps more importantly, a good listen.

Defense not on par, offense in funk and no luck for Braves

BY RONAN KHALSA
Sports Editor

The Bradley women's basketball team (16-4, 7-2 MVC) lacked toughness this weekend on the road, according to head coach Andrea Gorski. Because of this and the lack of effective offense, the Braves fell at Missouri State 90-56 Friday night and 64-50 at Southern Illinois Sunday afternoon.

"We were soft and that's on me," Gorski said in an interview with WIRL's Ed Hammond. "We weren't focused this entire weekend."

Bradley wasn't able to get the 50-50 balls and turned the ball over a

total of 33 times. The offense couldn't get it done and neither could the once league leading defense. Gorski said that holding opponents to 37 percent from the field would be a goal for the season in October. This weekend, the Bears and Salukis shot a combined 44.1 percent.

The Braves shot 7-28 from beyond the 3-point line, and it seemed to be their Achilles heel. Gorski said that the team can't rely on the shots from deep falling.

"We weren't very smart, we were dribble happy," Gorski said in a video posted to BradleyBraves.com following the Southern Illinois game.

"We flat out got out hustled today and we will get back at it in a few days and correct that."

Senior Chelsea Brackmann led the Braves last weekend but only contributed 20 points and 14 rebounds across two games. Bradley's two leading scorers combined for 43 points across the two games while shooting 12-44 from the field.

Bradley now sits tied with Drake for second place in the Missouri Valley Conference. It will play its lone game this weekend at Illinois State tonight at 7 p.m. to close a season-long three game road stretch.

ONE-ON-ONE

Which newcomer is more valuable?

Danya Kingsby vs. Ville Tahvanainen

On a team that welcomed eight new players to the roster, the Bradley men's basketball team has called the number of some new faces quite often.

No player has stepped up to the challenge like junior guard Danya Kingsby, a transfer from LSU. Available to play this season thanks to a waiver passed by the NCAA, Kingsby has made an immediate impact in an offense that has struggled to find rhythm away from Carver Arena.

Offensively, Kingsby is not a spot up shooter like freshman Ville Tahvanainen, making him more valuable. Kingsby's speed and strong passing ability allows shooters like Tahvanainen and senior Nate Kennell to spot up beyond the arc. In addition, Kingsby's speed allows him to create shots for himself. Whether its beating the defender to the basket off the dribble or beating defenders down the court off a missed basket, he is an offensive threat with a keen sense of finding the open man or open basket.

So far this season, the junior is averaging nearly 8.5 points per game while shooting 38 percent from beyond the 3-point arc, good for third on the team. In addition, he's averaging only two turnovers per contest, taking care of the ball on a team that averages nearly 13 turnovers per game.

But, basketball is more than just offense. For as cliché as it sounds, defense truly does win championships. Despite being just 6-foot 1-inch on a Bradley team that starts two undersized guards, Kingsby has stepped up on the defensive end, drawing tough matchups. St. Joseph's Myles Douglas, Valparaiso's Eron Gordon and even UNI's AJ Green, all had their hands full when guarding Kingsby.

He's averaging a steal a game and holding his own against taller players, using his athleticism to push them off the ball and deny shooters.

What makes the junior guard even more reliable is his versatility and willingness to adapt to the Bradley system. Whether it be running point, coming off the bench, or being the third or fourth scoring option in a talented shooting starting lineup, Kingsby is willing to contribute his part to the team.

His two years of experience and success at the junior college level have prepared him for the spotlight at the Division I level.

Though Jonathan might argue that Tahvanainen has been the better newcomer this season, it's hard to argue against the experience Kingsby has and the results he's produced on the court this year.

- CAMERON IRWIN

When freshman Ville Tahvanainen made the leap to America from Finland, the Bradley basketball community did not know exactly what to expect. Although he starred in the 2018 FIBA Europe Under-18 Championship, making the transition across the Atlantic isn't always easy for basketball players.

Tahvanainen began the season quietly, averaging a hair over 10 minutes a game off the bench in nonconference play. Shooting from behind the arc has always been Tahvanainen's strong suit, shooting 46 percent on 3-point attempts in the 2018 FIBA Championship, but as of late, he has proved his game is more than just shooting. As a result, he has earned increased playing time.

As the season transitioned into Missouri Valley Conference play, Tahvanainen's shooting percentage rose dramatically. The 6-foot 4-inch freshman has shot at least 50 percent in seven out of Bradley's first nine conference games. His 49 percent field goal mark stands fourth on the team, entering this week.

Perhaps the factor contributing most to Tahvanainen's recent stretch of success is his newfound willingness to attack the basket. Tahvanainen stands taller than the rest of Bradley's guards, except for Nate Kennell. He has transitioned into a multi-dimensional player with a quick shooting trigger and an ability to attack the basket against the Valley's big men. Whenever Tahvanainen steps on the floor, he opens up the offense for Bradley and garners questions as to how to guard him.

Offensively, the Finnish guard brings food to the table but his defense impresses as well. In Bradley's loss at Loyola, Tahvanainen corralled six defensive rebounds which tied his season high. Hustle remains a large part of his game and he disrupts opposing offenses with many plays that do not show on the stat sheet.

There was no better place for Tahvanainen to prove his worth than on Jan. 22 against Illinois State. In front of a packed Carver Arena, Tahvanainen torched the Redbirds for 18 points along with seven rebounds. He jump-started the offense after scoring 10 points in five minutes during the first half and made four clutch free throws in the waning minutes to preserve a Braves victory.

Enough can be said about what Tahvanainen does for Bradley currently, but it is astounding to think that he is still a freshman. With three years of eligibility left after this season, he possesses the skillset to become a first team all-MVC player in two to three years. There is no question that Ville Tahvanainen has been the most valuable out of all of Bradley's newcomers

- JOHNATHAN MICHEL

SPORTS

Bradley softball confident with new campaign on deck

BY JOEY WRIGHT
Podcast Producer for Sports

A new season is on deck for the Bradley softball team and there are numerous reasons for the Braves to feel confident ahead of the new season.

The Braves return a talented core from last season's 29-win campaign, Bradley's most successful season since the 27-win 2014 squad won the Missouri Valley Conference championship. Seniors Kealia Wysocki and Allison Apke, along with juniors Emma Jackson, Taise Thompson and Stacia Seeton as well as sophomores Lucy Mead and Grace French headline those returning.

These players combined for a .330 batting average at the plate and 3.62 earned run average in the circle last season.

"Our kids who were freshmen last year who are sophomores this year

got a lot of really good experience and exposure," head coach Amy Hayes said. "I think we have a really good core group of seniors who are backed by some good juniors ... there's a lot of power in that junior, senior class as far as offensively. I think we have a really good core group returning on both sides of our game."

The Braves open their season at the Troy Cox Classic at New Mexico State this weekend. The first pitch against a nationally ranked Arkansas squad scheduled for this afternoon. From there, they'll face the Aggies tonight. On Saturday morning they'll face Nebraska, then a rematch with the Razorbacks and a game against UTEP Sunday to wrap up the first of five season-opening road trips.

Though the Braves' nonconference schedule is rich with good competition, Hayes said she views the opening weekend as the toughest one of them all. Indeed, the battles with

Arkansas may represent the only time all season they'll face a team ranked in the USA Today preseason coaches' poll.

Nevertheless, Hayes said that the schedule is designed to set the team up for success in conference play.

"I always feel strongly that if you want to be playing in the postseason, you have to be prepared by playing those people throughout your preseason," Hayes said. "Arkansas has done a really good job of turning things around down there ... Arkansas and New Mexico State are both pretty strong offensively and I know Nebraska is never an easy opponent either."

This year's Braves are picked sixth in the Valley and a fortified by a cast of freshmen that Hayes said can make an immediate impact on the Hilltop, keyed by left-handed pitcher Morgan Radford. She is the first lefty on the staff since Jaelen Hull graduated on

2017.

"The circle is always such an important part for us, big piece, and I think for us that's going to be Radford," Hayes said. "[Radford's] going to be a big part of our success this year. That's a lot for a freshman, but there are a lot of freshmen all over the country stepping up and doing that for their teams."

Hayes also touted the abilities of freshman utility player Avry Blume.

"She's probably going to be behind the plate or in a corner [infield position]," Hayes said. "Super athletic, and has really picked up on the offensive side of our game and how we do things so she'll be good to watch too."

As the team takes the field in New Mexico, one of its former softball stars will be enshrined among the greatest Bradley athletes to ever compete. Ashley Birdsong will be inducted into the Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame

during Sunday's men's basketball game against Evansville.

Birdsong, who entered the hall of fame in her first year of eligibility, played for the Braves from 2006 until 2009. A cornerstone of Bradley's 2009 MVC title-winning team, Hayes offered high praise for her work ethic and leadership skills.

"She was a senior when I got here and she is absolutely the reason why that 2009 team won ... I cannot say enough about what Ashley did," Hayes said. "That comes from her work ethic, from her pitching until she did not get a pitch wrong ... huge kudos to her for going in on the first try and I'm really thankful that she was recognized. She meant a lot to this program."

The season begins today at 3 p.m. when the Braves play Arkansas in hopes of seeing future hall of famers make a name for themselves.

Tippet makes a difference across campus

BY JACOB STEINBERG
Contributer

Steve Tippet holds a position that fits into the woodwork of NCAA athletic departments while maintaining his career as chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and Health Science.

However, the nature of the job is critical to the overall well-being of Bradley Athletics.

Tippet also serves as Bradley's NCAA Faculty Representative, and was appointed in 2012 by then-university president Joanne Glasser. In a simpler context, he is the administrator serving as a connection between the NCAA and Bradley student-athletes.

The job includes approving athletic schedules with academics in mind, signing off on rosters, proctoring exams for the annual recruiting examinations and chairing the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee for the university.

Senior associate athletic director for academics and student development and senior woman administrator Jen Jones said Tippet

has been key to the success of the department as a whole.

"He is highly regarded by his peers on campus and in the Missouri Valley Conference, and his reputation with students is that of a professor who is challenging, yet approachable and attentive," Jones said.

Tippet sees his responsibilities as a big part of contributing to what Bradley student-athletes have achieved in the classroom.

"Being involved in this position for so long, it's just really good to see how consistent Bradley student athletes are in the classroom," Tippet said.

Consistent they are indeed, as Bradley has won the MVC All-Academic Award for three years in a row. One of Tippet's roles in that success is providing assistance in communication across units of campus.

"That is due in large part to the talent of the athletes but also to a dedicated faculty and staff that see the learning actually take place," Tippet said. "... Not all faculty members on campus are aware of the NCAA regulations and reporting that

the athletic department must adhere to, I try to intervene when necessary."

He has played an integral role in enforcing the department's high standards of ethical behavior, while serving as an advocate and liaison to enhance the student-athlete experience, according to Jones.

"He understands the unique challenges of our student-athletes and has been a tremendous resource to them - and their instructors - as they navigate their academic and athletic responsibilities," Jones said.

Tippet has been a faculty member at the university since 1995. Before his role as a faculty member, he worked in the athletics department as a physical therapy consultant.

Over time, he said that he got to know the coaches and student-athletes within the athletic department. When he was asked to serve in his current role out of the blue, he gladly accepted.

He is proud of the success Bradley has had throughout his oversight and believes that the department competes academically with Power Five schools, albeit with fewer resources.

"We continue to rank very high nationally in Academic Progress Rate, Progress Toward Degree requirements, as well as teams and individuals being recognized within the top-10 team GPA's in the country," Tippet said. "The NCAA is taking an exciting step towards recognizing institutions whose athletes are successful in the classroom and these institutions will be rewarded financially for this success."

Jones utilizes Tippet's breadth of knowledge and inquisitive way of thinking often.

"I often seek his input on a range of matters, and I always find him to be impartial, fair and knowledgeable," Jones said. "He takes the time to listen and consider each situation, and I appreciate his sound judgement and leadership."

With an athletic department that values strong academic performance, Tippet praised vice president for intercollegiate athletics Dr. Chris Reynolds for building a culture that values strong academic performances.

"I think Dr. Reynolds has done an outstanding job of providing the best opportunities available to our student



Steve Tippet
photo via BradleyBraves.com

athletes, especially in light of the resources," Tippet said.

Despite the constantly changing world of college athletics, Tippet believes Bradley Athletics is keeping up to date and adapting to change when needed.

"The future is bright and continues to be bright because of the dedicated faculty and the dedicated students and the athletic staff," Tippet said.



Hannah Ivy finished fourth in the 400-meter at the Black & Gold Invite

photos via BradleyBraves.com

Top-10 placings at Black & Gold Invite for track

Sophomore Hannah Ivy 400-meter dash 57.72, fourth
Sophomore Joey Simon 800-meter run 1:55.04, seventh
Senior McKenzie Altmayer mile run 5:02.35, seventh
Senior Luke Hoffert 3000-meter run 8:31.27, fifth
Freshman Matt Richtman 3000-meter run 8:29.60, seventh
Sophomore Alec Danner 3000-meter run 8:41.34, eighth
Senior Gabby Juarez 3000-meter run 10:15.03, eighth
Senior Abby Jockisch 3000-meter run 10:17.60, ninth

The team runs at the Meyo Invitational at Notre Dame today and tomorrow.

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SPORTS

One-on-One:

Which men's basketball newcomer is making a bigger impact?

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Ville Tahvanainen

LETI LERMA LETS HER WORK ETHIC TELL THE STORY

BY RONAN KHALSA
Sports Editor

Former women's basketball standout Leti Lerma is back to Bradley as the video coordinator/assistant director of basketball operations.

After playing professionally with CSU Alba Iulia in the Romanian league, Liga Națională, and with the St. Louis Surge of the Global Women's Basketball Association and then joining the competitive atmosphere at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in sales, Lerma was ready for a change.

Originally, she was on the graduate assistant route and was prepared to attend the University of Illinois, but she couldn't work with the basketball program rather in a vague premium seating role; something she had little interest in doing with the Illini.

"This position opened up and I knew I loved the coaching staff and I'd get to learn from them," Lerma said. "Coming back to my alma mater felt like I was coming back home."

Although she was involved with the program as a player in some down years (2013-17), she still enjoyed her time on the Hilltop.

Her first visit to Peoria came when Paula Buscher still held the head coaching position, yet assistant Michael Brooks was the only person to talk to her at the camp. She was confused and thought the program didn't like her.

"[When Brooks was announced as the head coach in July 2012] I was like I loved him and the girls were great," Lerma said.

Lerma was the only freshman on a team where everyone knew everything upon arriving. She had to learn fast. Fittingly, now she leads the charge of educating the team through creating and distributing the digital playbook.

"They just took me under their wing and I think that's a big thing," Lerma said. "I was just bought in from the beginning that you really do get a family feel here, not only from teammates, but your athletic director knows your name, your professors know your name and everything was perfect."

That program is now winning and that's because current head coach Andrea Gorski and staff have instilled a day in, day out hard-working culture.

"When I was playing it was more

inconsistent, you really weren't sure what Bradley team you were gonna get," Lerma said. "Now it's that consistency, that you're going to get a team that's going to play you hard, play you tough."

For a short time, Lerma was the school's all-time rebound leader. Until current senior forward Chelsea Brackmann broke her record on Jan. 17.

According to Lerma, she's disappointed it didn't stand for longer, but glad she has a relationship with the one who topped her.

"I think what is important is the legacy you want to leave behind and I never really cared about that record," Lerma said. "It shows my hard work, but it's even cooler that I know the person that broke it. I got to see Chelsea from summer workouts before freshman year to the player she is now."

The two used to joke about how close their career totals were and Brackmann said she has long aspired to bring the work ethic Lerma possesses.

"Coming in freshman year, Leti and I were very close and I looked up to her a lot as a player and person ... she helped make me the player I am today," Brackmann said.

"When I came back [in August] it was the running joke in the office, like recruits would come in and be like, 'This is Leti she is our leading rebounder' and 'coach would be like only 10 more games,'" Lerma said.

In Lerma's final semester of eligibility, she was a "recruiting intern," or rather, according to Lerma, an activity to keep her sharp for games and build for a career. It also gave her a start on a career in athletics, but she's still trying to figure out what she wants to do.

"I had one class, so coach was like 'You know you're not going to just sit around and waste your time.' She always wants to make sure we are prepared," Lerma said. "I did a lot of learning how to create graphics, working with the recruiting coordinator, working on our social media and got to see behind the scenes."

In her current role, she still utilizes those skills as well as her degree in psychology and two minors in social media marketing and management and leadership. Lerma said she breaks



Leti Lerma graduated in 2017 as the leading all-time rebounder and is now back in an administrative role.

photo via Scout Archives

down practice film, gets the coaches personnel information and puts together the playbook so the team can have easy access on their phones.

She isn't technically a coach, but has the ability to learn every day. She wants to create as many professional paths possible. Lerma is mostly a supporter on the bench at games.

"I have that relationship with [players] where it's like 'Hey try this little tidbit.' I give them 'A hey you got it, it's okay type of thing,'" Lerma said. "I really like this position because I can really jump in and help, [the staff] are all teaching me a whole lot of different things. I'm the kind of person who wants to learn how to do everything. I understand I might not be great, but it's good to have paths."



Freshman Victoria Sanchez Bronzetti won both of No. 4 singles matches over the weekend.
photo via Bradley Athletics

Singles goes the distance while doubles struggle for tennis downstate

BY HERNAN GUTIERREZ
Sports Reporter

The Bradley tennis team was on the road this past weekend to face Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and Saint Louis. It moved to 2-2 on the young season with a full-distance loss to the Cougars and 5-2 match victory over the Billikens.

Bradley started Friday off against SIUE by winning only one doubles match at No. 2 doubles. The duo of sophomores Bozana Lojpur and Nikki Perlwitz got the sole doubles win 6-3. Singles was Bradley's strength on Friday, winning at No. 1, No. 4 and No. 5 all in straight sets.

A chance to bounce back was quick on the horizon on Saturday against the Billikens in O'Fallon, Illinois. The Braves won a tight match 5-2.

Doubles continued to be an issue for Bradley Saturday. It allowed Saint Louis to clinch the doubles point. The No. 2 match was a left unfinished at 6-6, as the point was already determined.

Singles proved to be the driving factor again, as the Braves won the No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5. The win did not come easy, however, as four of the five wins went to a decisive third sets.

Head coach Matt Tyler believes his team's fitness allows them to go the distance in singles.

"We do a lot of conditioning," Tyler said. "When it comes to winning third set matches, it really comes down to who's going to be able to stay out there longer. The physical fitness is where we're able to make ground on better teams."

The doubles point seems to be an issue for the Braves early on this season, managing to only pick it up in their opening match against IUPUI.

"[Doubles] is something we're going to continue to focus on," Tyler said. "We have not played our best doubles to this point. We're still figuring things out."

Tyler says winning the doubles point gives a mental advantage heading into singles.

"From a mental standpoint, knowing that you have a bit of a lead, it takes the pressure off the singles matches," Tyler said. "It certainly makes things easier for us. When you can get [the doubles point] it has a positive impact on everybody."

The difference in doubles and singles play comes down to precision according to Tyler.

"You've got your opponent at the net," Tyler said. "It affects the return of serve, where we're trying to take the ball when we're hitting the alleys. You have to be a bit more precise or else you're leaving that ball kind of hanging up for your opponent to just put away."

At practice, Tyler plans on working on first shots, particularly in doubles at practice this week.

"The biggest key ... is the first shot, the serve and the return," Tyler said. "We've struggled with some double faults giving our opponents free points when we're serving and then missing returns as well."

The Braves head to Missouri this weekend to meet UMKC today at 2 p.m., and Mizzou tomorrow at 3 p.m. ending their four-match road trip.



Read about Peoria's new pre-professional soccer team at
BradleyScout.com