

# The Advance-Titan

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Courtesy of UWO Flickr

UWO's Student Rec Plex, commonly called "the bubble," shortly after its construction in 2018. The university originally intended to take it down during the spring. However, costs prevented this from happening, and the Student Rec Plex now stays up year-round.

## Pub Crawl turns violent

By Jacob Link  
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Oshkosh's biannual drinking event, known as Pub Crawl, turned violent for the second straight semester after a stabbing in the 800 block of Woodland Ave. Oct. 11.

UW Oshkosh sophomore Alyssa Kremer, whose yard was the scene of the stabbing, said she still hasn't been informed as to what happened.

"I heard about [the stabbing] at 10:15 that night when I got home from work, and I was shocked because there were several police cars outside my house," Kremer said. "When I got inside my house my roommate told me about what happened. I don't really know anything about what happened other than my neighbor's party spilled over to my yard and got out of hand. I do think students should be aware of what happened, especially considering it happened in my own backyard, and I'm not even aware of what exactly happened."

Oshkosh police have yet to provide details on the incident.

UWO senior Abby Dreger said that she felt at Pub Crawl safe during the day, but not at night.

"The night is when most fights broke out and the stabbing occurred which definitely causes fear about going out," Dreger said. "There were a lot less cops than last semester. That was surprising due to how big the event is in Oshkosh. I was sad to hear about [the stabbing], but unfortunately, not surprised. Every year, an incident like this happens."

Oshkosh Police wrote 32 tickets for the fall 2024 Pub Crawl last weekend compared to last spring's Pub Crawl, which saw just five tickets handed out. Law enforcement gave just two warnings and arrested two individuals over the weekend, which is a decrease from the spring, when three people were taken into custody and three warnings were given.

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## Don't burst the bubble!

By Anya Kelley  
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UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt stood behind a podium at the Culver Family Welcome Center wearing a sharp black suit and a blue tie.

Just outside stands the Student Rec Plex – a billowing inflatable structure that houses a full-size artificial turf football field. The walls of what UWO students call "the bubble" ripple as the blowers push just enough air in to keep it standing. A constant dull hum surrounds the complex.

It was the annual UWO convocation, a meeting held to welcome in the new school year and update the campus and surrounding community of the biggest updates to come.

Just last year, Leavitt and his new provost, Edwin Martini, had to announce an \$18 million budget deficit that was going to result in layoffs and furloughs.

Behind Leavitt a large projector screen showed a bulleted list of objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. The first bullet point said "Hibernations: STEP, Rec Plex dome, others TBD."

"... We need to take down the Rec Plex dome," Leavitt said in his convocation speech. "It costs well over \$100,000 a year to keep that hair dryer blowing 24/7, 365 to keep it inflated."

Inside the brick structure that connects a small seating area and reception desk to the airlock chamber sat Jane Ciambone behind a large white desk. She has

been working for Student Rec and Wellness at the Rec Plex since last spring.

Caimbrone had known the university planned to take the bubble down.

"We talked about it in a couple of staff meetings," she said.

When convocation happened on Aug. 29, a petition called "Preserve the Vital Athletic Recreation Bubble at UW Oshkosh" was created before the day was over.

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, student athletes gathered around the bubble to protest its closure. Some held signs, others led chants, and low and behold, that same day Leavitt attended the protest to let them know that he had decided to keep the bubble in operation for the rest of the academic year.

Olivia Naser, a sophomore and team manager for the football team, and Jon Mathieu, a senior wide receiver, sat quietly in a room on the third floor of Sage Hall talking about a meeting Naser had recently had with Leavitt regarding the bubble. Naser had started the initial petition.

Before the football team's fan training camp, Naser and Mathieu agreed that they didn't know the bubble was considered a temporary structure. They were made aware that the future of the complex was up for debate during training camp.

Naser said the wider campus community was made aware of the situation when she published the petition.

Mathieu quietly let Naser take

the lead. She was sure of herself, and though she spoke in a monotone, it didn't lack conviction. She was much smaller than him, but carried the confidence for the team. He nodded along as she talked about the bubble being a big selling point for recruitment.

Temporary structures like this one are a hot commodity in Wisconsin. UWO is the home to one of four bubbles in the state – the others being at UW-Madison, UW-Eau Claire and in the Wisconsin Dells.

In 2018, the official groundbreaking for the complex came after an increasing number of students began participating in intramural sports. The idea was that the complex would allow an active campus all year round, regardless of weather.

The initial project cost \$7.2 million and was funded completely through student segregated fees and funds from reserves and bonds. This project had been approved before Leavitt took over as the chancellor. To this day, the bubble costs students around \$8 a semester regardless of if they use it or don't.

On the third floor of Dempsey Hall, Leavitt and the university spokesperson, Alex Hummel, sat behind a heavy wooden conference table. The room was modern compared to the marble halls and carved wooden walls of the old campus building.

Hummel asked around if anyone else wanted coffee or water as he waited for the machine to heat up. Leavitt looked exhaust-

ed, but the school year had only just begun. He wore a gray suit jacket with a UWO athletics polo underneath. Hummel was dressed in khaki slacks and a plaid button down shirt tucked into a leather belt.

Leavitt tried to seem ready for any question that might be thrown his way, but his eyes gave away the weariness. Hummel looked ready to jump into the conversation at any moment – a rather rehearsed routine the two of them have performed often.

"Some issues had started to materialize pretty quickly after we built it," Leavitt said.

The bubble was meant to go up in the winter months and come down during the spring and summer. That way, students could enjoy the Osceola Street field that had been built across from the facility when the weather permitted it.

"The numbers that were originally projected for the cost of that made certain assumptions," Leavitt said. "... that simply didn't pan out."

After the first year, they realized it cost almost \$500,000 to put it up and take it down. The student fees allocated towards that process weren't nearly enough to cover it, so then institutional money was needed.

Administration decided to keep the bubble up and running year round and athletics swooped in on an opportunity to use the complex for more indoor practices.

# YOUR VOTE MATTERS!



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PAID FOR BY THE WISCO PROJECT

# Pub crawl: Parties get out of control

## From Page 1

Last spring, a 20-year-old man was arrested by OPD after firing 16 shots outside near campus April 13 during Pub Crawl. Nobody was injured, and the shooter was taken into custody for first degree recklessly endangering safety, felon in possession of a firearm, felony bail jumping, possession of THC second offense and possession of MDMA, second offense.

The Oshkosh Police reported that they responded to over 50 calls last weekend that were directly attributed to Pub Crawl, with 27 of which were ordinance calls.

“The ordinance calls ranged from noise and underage drinking to public urination,” OPD Crime Analyst Melody Bragdon said in an email. “This number is also an approximate count as some calls may have just not had enough information to be connected to Pub Crawl. For example, there were multiple other warnings and contacts of people driving down streets the wrong way in this area at this time, but without indication they were involved in Pub Crawl, they can’t be included in the count.”

During Pub Crawl, OPD received three calls for noise complaints, two drug-related calls,



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan

**Oshkosh Police Department officers investigate a party on Amherst Avenue during the spring edition of Pub Crawl.**

two calls for an OWI, two calls for trespassing, two calls for damage to property, one call about a suspicious person and one call for a weapons complaint.

Dreger said that she had a fun Pub Crawl, despite the stab-

bing, but too many random people came to her day party (also known as a darty) and started causing trouble.

“They puked on my roommate’s new car, broke our chairs and broke other things,” Dreger said. “Going to the bars and

having a darty with friends and neighbors we knew was a great time. I will be attending [Pub Crawl] in the spring. Hopefully, people can be respectful and just have fun like the event is intended to be.”

# Bubble: Leavitt pauses plans to raze dome

## From Page 1

“The bubble is really important for the football team in the winter months,” Mathieu said. “It’s really important for those months where it’s too cold or too rainy or too snowy outside.”

Mathieu said that football uses the bubble three or four times a week during the winter months, but softball, baseball, club sports and others use it too.

“It’s not just a winter thing,” Mathieu said. “We use it for camps throughout the summer ... it’s just really nice to have a dry space that is sheltered from the elements.”

The true problem is not how much the bubble is getting used. It’s used by physical education classes, sports teams and even community members. The issue is just how much it costs to keep that bubble from popping.

The air pressure inside has to be just right to keep the bubble standing. When entering the airlock, an obvious pressure change occurs. Sound becomes distorted – like hearing someone talk while you’re underwater.

In the winter, it requires snow removal so the sides don’t get too heavy. It has to be heated to a consistent 55 degrees so snow melts off the top, but it’s not cooled in the summer. The utilities bills have racked up higher and higher.

Once upon a time, the UW system paid each of the system campuses utility bills, but four years ago that changed. Now, that cost comes directly from a utilities budget within each university. If the university spends under that allocated budget, the system pays them out, but if the budget

goes over, the university pays the system the remaining balance.

That change, plus inflation, made UWO’s utility bills skyrocket. Leavitt and last year’s Oshkosh Student Government decided that they wanted to lower utilities as another expense to help close the budget deficit. The bubble is not conducive to that plan.

On top of all of this, in a meeting Leavitt had with Naser, he told her that the bubble just didn’t make sense for UWO.

“He said that keeping the bubble up doesn’t align with our values of putting academics before athletics,” Naser said, glancing at Mathieu and letting out a huff. “But, in all truth, that’s not true at all because the phys ed department uses that, the kinesiology department uses that, a lot of different labs will even use that area ...”

She said that he used the expenses to explain that the money from the bubble was needed to help restructure the academic departments.

“I think another point that kind of goes unnoticed is student employment,” Mathieu added. “Someone has to be at the bubble, so that supplies a student who may not have another opportunity to work somewhere else ... to be able to make some sort of money to pay for college ...”

Ciambrone loves her job. It allows her to pick up extra hours when the Student Rec and Wellness Center doesn’t have any.

“I would be [sad],” Caimbrone said when she reflected on what would happen if the bubble’s gone.



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

**Construction crews install the \$7.2 million Student Rec Plex dome in 2018 on Osceola Street.**

Besides the job opportunities, Mathieu called the bubble a mood booster – a place for all sorts of communities around campus and the surrounding community to come together and, well, play. Naser seemed to agree.

Naser and Mathieu said initially, they felt like the students, specifically student athletes, were not involved in the decision to take down the bubble.

When Leavitt decided to keep it for this academic year, he also put together a task force to guarantee each group on campus would be represented in the decision making process.

Naser, who’s petition has reached 2,970 signatures as of Oct. 15, felt better knowing that coaches and students were going to be more involved in the process going forward.

“At least [it’s] kind of nice to know that we have another chance to say this is important,” Naser said.

“I think that it’s just a little bit

of a shock to even think about it being gone,” Mathieu said.

Leavitt said that the administration understood they had made a mistake when students began speaking out. It was obvious they were lacking student voices in the decisions being made.

Everyone decided to take what Leavitt called a “collective pause.”

Everyone stands at a stalemate. There doesn’t seem to be an easy solution to the bubble’s money and resource-sucking issues.

Ciambrone placed her elbows on the desk in front of her and shifted in the desk chair. She placed her hand under her chin as she pondered an alternative. The figure \$100,000 bounced around in her head.

“Hmm,” she said. “I don’t know what an alternative would be.”

For now, it will remain standing while the university decides if it’ll burst.

## The Advance-Titan

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Correction Policy

The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to [atitan@uwosh.edu](mailto:atitan@uwosh.edu).

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# Students voice political opinions

By Aubrie Selsmeyer  
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As the Nov. 5 presidential election approaches, students are preparing to voice their political opinions at the polls. A group of UWO students were asked a few questions about the most important matters that will be reflected in the candidate they vote for, why young peoples' votes matter and what it means to be a member of their political party. More student responses can be read on the Advance-Titan website.

Background image courtesy of Wikimedia



Female, she/her  
Liberal

**What issues are most important to you that will be reflected in the candidate(s) you vote for?**

For myself, the most important issues that I'm voting for are lowering the cost of housing, protecting people's freedom to choose what they do with their own bodies and bringing peace to those suffering in Gaza. I plan to vote for Harris in November, and her policies align deeply with the issues I care about. Harris has stated that she plans to protect renters and first-time home buyers by keeping prices low and providing financial aid to those who need it. Obviously, when Roe v. Wade was overturned, abortion laws were left to the states, and while that could be seen as a positive in some eyes, it didn't work out that way. Many people have lost access to the reproductive healthcare they desperately seek, and Harris' plans to protect these freedoms as best she can. As for Gaza, I don't feel that [Harris'] policies will bring the outcomes that many young voters are hoping for, but I feel she will have the best policies between the two main presidential candidates. I don't agree with her policies towards Gaza and Israel fully, and in an ideal world, things would turn out differently, but hopefully with Harris in office we can work towards a more ideal world.

**What difference will young peoples' votes make in this election?**

Young voters have carried elections in our country and in Wisconsin especially. Looking at the midterm election in 2022, young voters certainly played a large part. I think a lot of young voters, or at least the ones I meet and connect with, are fed up with how things have been running in our country and they are ready for change. I see a lot of passion in the young voters I meet, and I can see that they are ready to help make change possible.

**From your point of view, what does it mean to be a liberal?**

To me, being "liberal" means loving everyone. I grew up in a very conservative, very religious small town. I was always told to "love my neighbor," but when I started actually applying that logic and asking questions, I was called "radical." To me, being liberal means actually loving my neighbor and treating people how I would want to be treated. It means standing up for everyone, no matter who they are or what background they come from. It means putting policies in place that protect everyone. It means ensuring that everyone has an equal chance at succeeding in life. It means protecting freedoms that actually make America the "Land of the Free."

Male, he/him  
Liberal

**What issues are most important to you that will be reflected in the candidate(s) you vote for?**

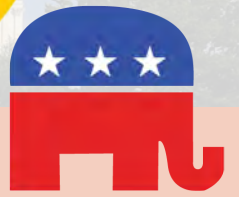
The most important issues to me are climate change and LGBTQ+ and women's rights. Climate change is our most pressing issue if we want to have a safe, livable earth. I think Hurricane Helene put into perspective just how severe our climate change crisis is, but we should have never gotten to a point where a hurricane is able to destroy entire communities in North Carolina. If our climate change crisis continues, we will have much bigger issues. Women's and LGBTQ+ rights are also important to me. I want to vote for a candidate who advocates not just for abortion rights, but also birth control and other healthcare and laws that revolve around women. I also want to vote for someone who will help increase accessibility for gender-affirming care and physical/mental health services for LGBTQ+ people.

**What difference will young people's votes make in this election?**

Young people's votes are the most important thing in this election, if not every election. Young people are the voters who will have to live the longest with the results from an election and have the most on the line. It is every citizen's right to vote, and I believe that everyone should vote, no matter who they are voting for. However, it is so important that young people get to the polls and cast their vote. This is not only to show support for their candidates of choice, but it also shows the right to vote is a right that people utilize and want.

**From your point of view, what does it mean to be a liberal?**

From my point of view, being a liberal means that I am open to hearing all perspectives. I am a part of College Democrats, but personally, I do not identify fully with Democrats. I do lean very left, but I don't have views that 100% align with any political party. I think being open to all ideas and perspectives and at the very least, hearing them out and understanding them, is an important part of being a liberal. Despite often having conflicting beliefs, I enjoy hearing from conservatives and why they have the values they do. Civil discussion is an important part of politics, and I value hearing perspectives from all sides. To me, an openness to listen and discussion is the most important part of being a liberal, and it is the core of liberalism.



Female, she/her  
Conservative

**What issues are most important to you that will be reflected in the candidate(s) you vote for?**

Some of the key stances on issues I look for when deciding which candidates to vote for are that they are pro-life, defend our Constitution and all of its amendments and have strong economic policies.

I think pro-life policies are critical for protecting the rights of the unborn in our society and that it is our moral duty as humans to protect the lives of the defenseless. I look for a candidate [who] supports Roe v. Wade being overturned, believes life starts at conception and affirms that all humans have the right to life.

I also look for a candidate that strongly defends the Constitution and the amendments, including the freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the right to bear arms. I think it is very important that a candidate is committed to protecting all citizens' fundamental freedoms and rights listed in our Constitution. I do not agree with the government being able to deprive citizens of their rights and look for a candidate that is committed to upholding our Constitution and protecting all of the rights outlined by it.

I think inflation is a really significant issue right now in our country that impacts everyone. The current administration has had weak economic policies that have left Americans watching the costs of groceries, gas and everything else skyrocket. When looking at candidates, I favor individuals who have strong economic policies that will get our country's economy back on track, support less government involvement in our economy and advocate cutting needless government spending.

**What difference will young peoples' votes make in this election?**

I think that this November it will be critical for young people to vote and make their voice heard. There are so many resources and people willing to help educate young people on how they can vote! Even though the process of either registering to vote or casting your ballot at the polls may seem confusing, intimidating, a mixture of both or something else, I think it is so important that each and every American fulfills their civic duty and vote. In other places in the world today people don't get the same privilege to vote. Even throughout our own country's history, certain groups had to fight for the right to vote. I think as young Americans, we should appreciate being able to participate in elections and having the power to decide who we want to represent us in our government, especially when we have the power to impact this upcoming election significantly.

Young people make up a significant portion of the voting population and will be a decisive factor in the outcome of the election, especially in swing states such as Wisconsin. In these swing states, every single vote matters, which is why young people need to register and vote this fall. Our votes as young Americans matter more now than ever, and the candidates we elect this November will shape the future of our country. The outcome of this election will define our country for the years to come. I think it is so important that young people realize we have the power to vote and shape the future of our country in the way we want to see. The people we elect this November will help shape the future policies we may want to see or address key issues that we care about.

**From your point of view, what does it mean to be a conservative?**

Being a conservative for me means supporting traditional values, protecting our individual freedoms and advocating for limited government. I look for candidates who support protecting traditional family values, such as the nuclear family and traditional marriage values, who support protecting individual religious beliefs and practices, as well as those who support individual responsibility in our society. I support candidates who prioritize individual choice, personal freedom and protecting our individual civil liberties like free speech. Lastly, I also support candidates who want limited government, especially candidates who are advocates for federalism and giving powers back to the states. I think that the current federal government has too much power, and I support candidates that want to give that power back to the people in the states where it belongs.

Male, he/him  
Conservative

**What issues are most important to you that will be reflected in the candidate(s) you vote for?**

My top priorities for this upcoming election are strengthening our economy, protecting our southern border and fixing our current housing crisis. To start with the economy, I believe that my Republican candidates will do their best to spur the economy by giving tax cuts to incentivize big business into investing and creating more jobs, along with imposing higher tariffs on foreign countries especially China where we have been losing out on billions of dollars for decades. Next, protecting our southern border is not only one of my top priorities, but almost everyone's top priority or at least on their radar. I believe that my candidates will help fight this crisis by cracking down on illegal immigration and strengthening our border wall by building much more of it and having more agents stationed along side of it. By doing this, Republicans will stop the flow of dangerous drugs into our communities that have already taken so many innocent lives and limit trafficking that has dehumanized so many innocent women and children. Lastly, we need to fix our current housing crisis, which has skyrocketed tremendously over the last decade, largely out-pacing current inflation rates and ballooning mortgage rates.



Photo illustration by Kelly Hueckman

# Oshkosh does the ‘Time Warp’

## Time Theater hosts ‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’

By Taycee Zach  
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“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” approaches its 50th anniversary. Its themes of sexuality, rebellion and self-expression remain relevant today, even in a small community like Oshkosh.

The film adaptation of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” made its U.S. debut in September 1975, and while initially a box office bomb, midnight screenings became popular amongst alternative, LGBTQ+ and sex-positive communities as a form of self-expression.

The Time Community Theater hosts yearly screenings of the cult classic, bringing in everyone from teenagers who heard about the musical’s legacy from TikTok to people who have been screaming “Dammit Janet!” for decades.

Since 2010, local mail carrier Eric England, 37, takes on the persona of Dick T. Flemming, the event’s fiery host who gets the crowd howling with laughter.

“I used to do a lot of improv and stand-up,” England said. “I used to be cooler going onstage,

but now I’m rusty and as much as I love hosting ‘Rocky Horror,’ I’m exhausted and happy when it’s over.”

England’s history with the cult classic began not at the Time Community Theater, but at the Oriental in Milwaukee where he lost his “virginity” and became cemented in the culture created by the midnight screenings.

“The joke when I was growing up was if you saw it for the first time on VH1 instead of in the theater, that was the saddest possible thing that could happen to you,” England said.

“I was one of those people, so my friends and I decided to check out an actual showing for ourselves, which made me fall absolutely in love.”

After attending his first event, England was drawn to the inclusivity of the fans, who encourage everyone to be their truest selves.

“I’ve never experienced any sort of judgment or gatekeeping at any ‘Rocky Horror’ show,” England said. “It’s a rare situation in itself to feel safe hanging out in your underwear in front of complete strangers, and to not have to think about it at all while

you’re there is a very freeing experience.”

For England, he sees “Rocky Horror” screenings as an escape from societal expectations, as well as a way for people to connect with others without feeling out of place.

“I think people are worried about a lot of things, and one of those things is looking or feeling stupid,” England said.

“But with ‘Rocky Horror,’ you’re never going to look stupid if you dance or shout all these obscenities. Sometimes, you just have to get out of your own head, let go, and have fun because seeing ‘Rocky Horror Picture Show’ is the perfect time to not care.”

While the interactive elements of the film may seem peculiar, most theaters host a pre-show consisting of costume contests and sexually provocative games, a notable activity being willing participants moaning their father’s name like an animal of the audience’s choosing.

Once the movie begins, audience members begin shouting callouts to the screen, dancing to musical numbers and throwing various items like toast, rice and

rolls of toilet paper during specific scenes.

England said that while newcomers may be nervous regarding these activities, it is all in good fun, and the unique experience adds a different element to the film that is unable to be captured from an at-home viewing.

“Attending a screening is a double-edged sword in the sense that it is the best and worst possible way to consume the film,” England said.

“If you’re a first timer going in completely blind, seeing it in the theater with people shouting at the screen and throwing pieces of toast will throw you for a loop. The plot of the movie barely matters as much as the culture, so while you may be overwhelmed, it’s the perfect way to view it.”

Rebecca Schmidt, 22, has attended the Time’s “Rocky Horror” screenings twice, and said that audience participation is required to get the full experience, no matter how nerve-racking the experience may initially seem.

“Even if you’re nervous, you can’t just sit there or else it’s not fun,” Schmidt said. “It’s a mixed

bag of people – some may not know anything, and some may be rapid-fire spit-balling every call-out without looking at the sheet they’re given at the start of the show. Regardless of your ‘status’ in the community, the enthusiasm is so infectious.”

Shanielle Hardin, a student at UWO, joined in on the festivities for the first time this year with their father, who used to attend midnight showings in his youth and wanted to pass down the tradition to his child.

Hardin said that while the event itself was out of their comfort zone as an introvert, it made for a unique experience with a community they were pleasantly surprised to witness.

“Typical theater etiquette is to be quiet and not sing along,” Hardin said. “But in that theater, you’re encouraged to be as obnoxious and rowdy as you see fit. It is a very open, inclusive event, and even though I didn’t know anyone there besides my dad, it felt like a big group of friends that have known each other for years.”

Turn to *Rocky* / Page 6

# Two Brothers stands strong after 34 years

Josh Lehner  
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“How is everything so far?” a waitress asks two customers, one with a plate of turkey and gravy, and the other with a gyro and french fries.

The guests signal their approval, and the waitress at Two Brothers Family Restaurant in Oshkosh makes her way to another table, cheerily gossiping with the satisfied guests.

Chatter from the tables of regulars fills the restaurant all the way

up to the wine red rafters, which sport various model airplanes. Potted plants line the walls just below each booth’s windows, while photos and posters liven the yellowish cream walls.

A life-size poster from the 2002 film “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” hangs next to the payment counter, and vintage soda bottles line the island behind the bar, where a couple of employees roll silverware as the end of the night approaches.

From the hole in the wall diner, to the community breakfast spot and the Sunday after church go-

to, local, family-owned businesses have played a quintessential role in the American story. But this staple of American cuisine is struggling to stay afloat.

An October 2020 article by the Food Institute highlighted the downfall of the family-owned restaurants — and the continued growth of fast food chains.

Written during the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, the article said that while chains like Chipotle, Papa Johns, and McDonald’s saw strong growth, nearly three-quarters of the 22,000

restaurants that closed between March 1 and Sept. 10, 2020 were businesses with five or less locations.

Bona fide restaurants aren’t the only businesses taking a hit too, the article said. “The number of coffee shops in the U.S. is shrinking for the first time in nine years as sales decrease. This is aiding coffee-serving chains such as Starbucks, Dunkin’ and McDonald’s.”

Two Brothers has stood the test of time since 1990. Owned and run by brothers John and Louis Giannopoulos, the restaurant oozes

through the veins of every member of the Giannopoulos family.

Louis, 54, saw his father and uncles working in factory jobs and car shops in Greece; starting a restaurant never crossed his mind. This changed, however, when he moved to the United States.

“I started out in Chicago working at two different restaurants and really enjoyed it,” he said. “After I saved up enough money with my father and brother, we decided to move up to Oshkosh and open Two Brothers.”

Turn to *Brothers* / Page 7



Courtesy of UWO Theater Department

The UW Oshkosh theater had rehearsals on Oct. 13 for their rendition of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time,” which premieres on Oct. 25.

# UWO theater opens fall play

By Angela Satterlee  
sattea08@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh Theatre Department is putting together their Fall 2024 play, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time,” based on the novel by Mark Haddon, and adapted by Simon Stephens.

The show will be running from Oct. 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the Theatre Arts Center.

The play focuses on a 15-year-old who is on the autism spectrum, is exceptional at mathe-

matics, but struggles to interpret and interact with appropriate social skills in everyday life. This person has never ventured alone beyond the end of the neighborhood road, is extremely uncomfortable being touched and distrusts strangers.

It takes place seven minutes after midnight, and the teen stands beside a neighbor’s dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork.

The main character is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and carefully records each fact

of the crime in a journal. This detective work takes this neurodivergent teen and the audience on a thrilling journey that turns the world upside down.

The play leaves audiences asking, what is a “normal” person and how are people treated if they are perceived as not being “normal?”

The director of the play, Jane Purse-Wiendhoeft, said that the play celebrates differences, and UWO has a wonderful cast to portray this.

“The play touches on the many aspects of how we treat

each other in spite of our differences,” she said. “It has been a learning journey for everyone in the cast. The students are amazing in how they interpret this difficult story. The lead is freshman Matt Ogan, and he has been adding more and more interesting aspects to the character at every rehearsal!”

Purse-Wiendhoeft said that the Friday and Saturday performances will have post-show discussions regarding the autism spectrum and neurodivergent people’s experiences.

“Tom Fischer will be leading

the Friday night discussion and Stacey Skoning will be leading the Saturday night discussion,” she said. “They are professors in the College of Education and Human Services.”

This play does have some troubling interactions between the characters including swearing and yelling, so the recommended age range for attendance is 13 years or older.

Tickets can be purchased online at [uwosh.edu/theatre](http://uwosh.edu/theatre).

# Rocky: Cult classic remains relevant 50 years later

From page 5

Hardin said that while the event is welcoming toward all walks of life, it tends to closely resonate more so with people who are a part of the communities that essentially ignited the culture.

“It is such a big movie for so many different people, whether they be in the queer, BDSM, theater or alt communities,” Hardin said.

“With ‘Rocky Horror,’ it’s one of those things where unless you really feel like a part of any of those communities, you’re not just going to go to a screening. It’s weird, it’s strange, and that can turn a lot of people away.”

England and Schmidt said that while the musical’s themes of sexuality and identity are vital to its legacy, an important aspect is its soundtrack, as O’Brien’s intention was to pay tribute to 1950s B-grade sci-fi through ‘70s glam rock.

“Like movies today, they were trying to hit that nostalgia button to draw in audiences like cats to catnip,” England said.

“It’s got a thumping soundtrack full of music like the stuff you’ll hear on a mix radio

station, and still today it’s different from anything else you will ever hear yet it feels so familiar. It was very risqué for 1975 and was very boundary pushing overall,” Schmidt also said.

“But the fact that it’s a musical adds this layer that sets it apart from other movies. It’s like if you combined ‘Pink Flamingos’ and ‘Hairspray.’”

Recent articles have appeared online sparking debates on whether the film is problematic with its portrayal of the transgender community, with actor Tim Curry arguing on X that “it was bold, brave and brilliant for its time” despite its casting of cisgender actors to play trans roles.

Regardless of the sudden backlash, Schmidt believes that the musical’s adaptable themes both onscreen and onstage have helped it remain relevant for almost 50 years, despite some of its early pitfalls.

“Originally we had Tim Curry, a cisgender man, as Frank-N-Furter,” Schmidt said.

“Eventually, they did a live television remake with a trans actress a few years ago, and now

there are many stage productions with trans cast members. So, it’s nice that they can take elements without taking away overarching themes like sexuality, gender, and acceptance.”

“Watching it as a teenager is nothing different than how I view it now,” England also said. “But there’s a lot of inappropriate content you could look at from a darker angle and pick it apart from a modern lens. But ‘Rocky Horror’s’ intention is to be freeing, and it’s not looking down on anyone, which I think helps its case quite a bit.”

However, Schmidt believes that while ‘Rocky Horror’s’ themes still hold up today, O’Brien’s musical does not carry the same weight of controversy it once did, citing growing support towards the communities that have embraced it.

“Times were different back then,” Schmidt said. “So for something like that to come out now and still be seen as ‘out there,’ there would have to be something really shocking in our current social climate, because we’re seeing more representation mainly with the queer community, which is always



Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan

The Time Community Theater, a volunteer-based, non-profit theater is located at 445 N Main St. in Oshkosh. They hosted their annual showing of “Rocky Horror Picture Show” Sept. 21.

good, but it creates less of a chance for something groundbreaking to be released.”

Despite the criticism, England believes that the true strength of O’Brien’s horror-sexual satire is that it pushes audiences to question societal norms and learn the value of self-acceptance.

“The staying power for people is that it’s validating,” England

said. “People tend to view this movie as an awakening, steering them away from a heteronormative worldview and opening them up to new possibilities. I think these things work in tandem and it will keep making this movie important for a very long time.”

# Brothers: *Keeping family culture*

From page 5

Owning and running a restaurant became a passion for him when he began to build a community.

“It always brings me joy to see so many familiar faces walk in our door every day,” he said.

The mantra of the restaurant is relationships. Virtually every family member has worked for the restaurant at some point in their life.

One of Louis’ sons, Alexandros Giannopoulos, said that he was around 10 years old when he began working for his dad and uncle.

Now 20 years old, he said that he has built a community with the patrons he often sees.

“I’ve had the same people over the last, I’d say, almost 15 years ask me about school and sports,” he said. “I even have some ongoing bets with these guys about the Packers winning and losing. It lets me build a little fun community that I can engage [with]. I think this aids in our success, that the family gets involved with their customers.” The small-town bars, sit-down restaurants and newspaper-and-coffee diners can be the strings that tie together communities. This is what Doug Mack argued in his 2021 piece for The Counter.

“The laid-back cafes, coffee shops, diners, barbecue joints,

pizzerias and pupuserias that dot every neighborhood and town ... they’re the quintessential American restaurants, doing the unsung work of knitting together the social fabric, one meal or cup of coffee at a time,” Mack wrote.

When these restaurants go under — a trend exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent economic conditions — those pockets of community bonding become dispersed. And Two Brothers, which has won the “Best of Winnebago County Best Breakfast” every year between 2011 and 2019, is a dining staple for many Oshkosh residents.

Alexandros said he plans to eventually take over the restaurant, and aims to maintain a sense of community and the presence of his family.

“The biggest way I can do this is just by being there,” he said. “I’ve met a lot of business owners that don’t show their faces that don’t show the work ethic. That’s what I want to do. I want to show my face. I want people to know me and I want to show my employees that I will do this and work with them. They are not alone.”

This mentality is what Louis said has allowed the business to be successful for over three decades. Some of his employees have been with him for 10



years, a handful for over 20 and one that is going on her 32nd year at Two Brothers.

The kids aren’t the only family members helping at the restaurant, though. Louis’ mom, Anna Giannopoulos, still helps out. She can’t go to the restaurant as much as she used to due to doctor’s orders.

However, when she does go in, she makes the pies and cheesecakes that line the front counter, the soups, dressings and sauces, such as the tartar, tzatziki and shrimp sauces. Like everyone in the Giannopoulos family, Two Brothers has defined who she is.

“[Two Brothers] has helped me acclimate to America,” she said. “When I came here my English was very bad and I was very shy. But the restaurant lets me meet a lot of people and

work on my social skills with them. From when we opened, I remember a lot of the faces that came in and they still come in there since day one.”

The connection to Oshkosh is even in the restaurant’s decor. In a corner of the restaurant hang about a dozen photos of historical planes from Oshkosh’s yearly Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture show. One photo shows a plane from D-Day, which came to AirVenture in 2003, while another shows planes from World War II and the Korean War, which visited in 2002.

Alexandros said a lot of recurring patrons visit during the annual July show, which has fostered a sense of community.

“I can’t tell you how many people that I get to see every year over [AirVenture]; they

have been coming into the restaurant for almost 20 years,” he said. “They have literally seen me age every single year, and for that single week that they’re in town I get to see and hear the new stories that they bring and the places they’ve been to. And that’s so exciting.”

Louis said that this sense of community will be Two Brothers’ legacy.

“Two brothers has never been just the business,” he said. “Yes it is the way I make my living, but it’s also the spot I get to take my family when they visit me over the holidays. It’s the spot where I get to see my kids before they go to school, it’s a spot where I get to see familiar faces every single day. It is also a spot where I get to see new faces and meet new people and hear their stories.”

**SATURDAY'S**  
**Homecoming festivities**

- Continental Breakfast**  
9-11 a.m.  
The Hub
- Titan Tailgate Celebration**  
10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Reeve Union
- Titan's March**  
12:15 p.m.  
North on Josslyn Street
- UWO vs UW-Platteville**  
1:30 p.m.  
J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium
- Post-game celebration**  
After the game  
Fox River Brewing Co. Tap Room



## Scoreboard

### Friday, Oct. 11

#### Women's Tennis

UWO - 7

UW-Stevens Point - 2

#### Women's Volleyball

UWO - 3

Wheaton College (Ill.) - 0

### Saturday, Oct. 12

#### Women's Volleyball

UWO - 3

Augustana College (Ill.) - 0

#### Men's Cross Country

UWO - 2nd of 11, (79 points)

#### Women's Cross Country

UWO - 2nd of 10, (48 points)

#### Football

UWO - 34

UW- La Crosse - 33

#### Men's Swimming

UW-Eau Claire - 184

UWO - 50

#### Women's Swimming

UW-Eau Claire -166

UWO - 77

#### Women's Soccer

UWO - 3

UW- Stout - 2

### Wednesday, Oct. 16

#### Women's Volleyball

UW- La Crosse -

UWO- (Past publication time)

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, Oct. 19

#### Women's Cross Country

at Connecticut College

Waterford, Conn. at 9:30 a.m.

#### Men's Cross Country

at Augustana College (Ill.)

Rock Island, Ill. at 11:45 a.m.

#### Women's Tennis

vs. UW-Whitewater at 1 p.m.

#### Men's Swimming

at Wisconsin Showcase

Brown Deer, Wisc. at 1 p.m.

#### Women's Swimming

at Wisconsin Showcase

Brown Deer, Wisc. at 1 p.m.

#### Football

vs. UW-Platteville at 1:30 p.m.

#### Women's Volleyball

vs. Elmhurst University (Ill.)

Elmhurst, Ill. at 3 p.m.

#### Women's Soccer

vs. UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 23

#### Women's Soccer

at UW-Stevens Point

Stevens Point, Wisc. 7 p.m.



Courtesy of Doug Sasse / D3photography.com

UWO's Jose Muñoz-Dominguez deflects an Eagle pass during the second quarter of the game on Oct. 12 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium

# UWO football upsets UW-La Crosse

By Nolan Andler  
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The UW Oshkosh football team returned home to J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium last Saturday for their second clash versus a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponent. The Titans, who were ranked No. 20 in the D3football.com top 25 poll before the game, faced off against the UW-La Crosse Eagles, then ranked No.12. UWO not only was trying to break a two-game skid in the 2024 season, but they were also trying to break a four-game skid against the Eagles.

The game started out well for the Titans as just like last week, UWO marched down the field and scored a touchdown to open the game. Despite starting the game with a scare by fumbling the opening kickoff, nearly losing their possession. The Titans put together a long drive that lasted nearly five minutes and ended it with a 13-yard touchdown rush by quarterback Cole Warren. The touchdown came after a play where Warren converted a fourth-and-10 with an 11 yard scramble run.

However, the Eagles responded quickly. On their first drive UWL tied the game at 7-7. The Titans' next drive foreshadowed how the first half was going to go for them. It started with wide receiver Londyn Little dropping the kickoff but recovering it. The Titans found themselves at second-and-29 after an intentional grounding penalty and a holding penalty given to UWO. The rough start to the drive, a deficit too insurmountable to overcome for the Titans.

When UWL got the ball back, it looked like the Titans had them stopped, but on fourth-and-two at the UWO 20-yard line, The Eagles completed a short pass from quarterback Kyle Haas, which bounced off the hands of a Titan defender to Zackary Watson. The Eagles were able to take advantage of the

huge gift and scored the go-ahead touchdown with a three-yard run from Haas to go up 14-7.

Chaos ensued for both teams on the Titans immediate drive. When the Eagles held UWO to a three-and-out deep in Titan territory, UWO punter Walleye Ratliff not only fumbled the ball, but got sacked in the endzone after he recovered it, resulting in a safety and a 16-7 UW-La Crosse lead. UWL added onto the Titans misfortunes by scoring another touchdown on their ensuing drive to make it 23-7.

Although the Titans were held scoreless on their immediate drive, they got the benefit of a special teams error this time by UWL. Titan Kenny Satori recovered the muffed punt, which bounced off the leg of an Eagle punt returner. The Titans took advantage of this, scoring their second touchdown of the day thanks to a 26-yard touchdown pass from Warren to Trae Tetzlaff to make it 23-14. The Eagles were able to get another touchdown to regain their 16 point lead at 30-14 to end the half.

Despite the rough first half, the Titans didn't give up on the game and each other. "You looked to your left and right in the locker room, and everyone had each other's backs. No one was really pouting," Tetzlaff said. That mindset showed in the second half for the Titans, UWL started the second half on offense and the Titans held the Eagles to a field goal on the opening drive to make it 33-14.

UWO responded with their first drive of the second half. They marched down the field and got a touchdown to make it 33-20 Eagles. The Titans failed on the two-point conversion, but they still put themselves in a position where the game was still very well alive.

On the Eagles' first drive of the fourth quarter, it looked like UWL was getting close to scoring a touchdown and putting the game away. On third-and-eight at the UWO 41-yard line, linebacker

Connor Lund intercepted a pass from Haas and set up the Titans with new life again. UWO took advantage of that opportunity and put together a long solid drive. The Titans got all the way down to the UWL 28-yard line, but a pair of penalties set the Titans back to a fourth-and-20 situation with the game on the line.

Just like when the Titans converted a fourth- and-10 back in the first quarter, this one was no problem for them as Warren found running back Justice Lovelace for a 28-yard first down conversion. UWO was then able to punch it in with a four-yard touchdown catch from Dan Fynaardt to give the Titans their lowest deficit of the game at 27-33.

With 6:19 left to go in the game, the Titans defense was tasked with keeping the Eagles off the scoreboard and giving the offense one last chance to win it. That is exactly what the defense did, UWO held the Eagles to a three and out and the UWL drive only lasted 1:11.

The Titan offense had 4:08 to march down and get the lead. Just like the defense, the offense lived up to their challenge. The Titans marched down the field and bled much of the clock as they could. They were also met with more challenges as on second-and-10 on the UWL 22, it looked like Warren found Fynaardt for a first down conversion only for it to get called back from a questionable holding call on the Titans. Another false start set the Titans back more and it looked like the Titans were in trouble. That was until fourth-and-4 at the UWL 16 with the game on the line. Warren found Tetzlaff in the endzone for the go ahead touchdown to make it 34-33 Titans.

For the first time since the start of the game, the Titans were in control of the game. The defense was once again assigned to simply keep the Eagles off the scoreboard for the last 1:01. UWO had UWL

backed up on a fourth-and-10 on the Eagle 37-yard line. Only for UWL to convert it with a deep 21-yard pass. UWL found themselves in field goal territory for their kicker Michael Stack who was one of the nations best kickers in DIII last season.

It was looking like the Titans comeback was gonna be for nothing. On his second field goal attempt, Stack's kick went wide to the left and the Titans survived for the 34-33 win. The game was not only the Titans' third win of the season, it was also their third ranked win of the season. With the win, UWO snapped a four-game losing streak to UWL dating back to 2018.

"We've been in so many games where we've lost to them by one possession, so it feels great," Tetzlaff said. "It was awesome to see the seniors happy."

Coach Peter Jennings knows that not only with the conference the Titans play in, but with the schedule they currently have in 2024, the opportunities are massive for this season as well as future seasons

"We've had six games dating back to last year that have been a springboard for this season," he said. "We've had four ranked wins going back to the River Falls game last season, but it is always about the next week. We have to always improve ourselves for the next challenge."

The Titans will have another test this week. No.6 nationally-ranked UW-Platteville, who not only beat the Titans 22-7 last season, but is undefeated and coming off of back-to-back top five wins (then No. 3 UWL on Oct. 5 and No. 4 UW-River Falls on Oct. 12) will be coming to Titan Stadium. The Titans game versus the Pioneers will be part of the 2024 Homecoming week for UWO.

Kickoff on Saturday will be at 1:30 p.m. at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.





Courtesy of Steve Fromell / UWO Athletics

UWO's Anika Roush (6) celebrates with her teammates after scoring the first goal of the match versus UW-Whitewater for UWO on Oct. 9 at J.J. Keller field at Titan Stadium

## Soccer splits conference matches

By Zach Bellin  
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The UW Oshkosh women's soccer team faced off against two Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponents last week, splitting the two matches.

In matchup one of the week, the Titans (2-9-2, 1-2-0 WIAC) dropped a hard fought battle 4-3 against UW-Whitewater (5-5-4, 1-0-1 WIAC) Oct. 9 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

The first half of the game was all offense with five goals being scored. Defender Belle Blauert

got the scoring going for the Warhawks as she found the back of the net from an assist by Juliana Madonia in the 14th minute. Forward Maya Rebic and midfielder Emily Thill tacked on two more goals to give the Warhawks a 3-0 lead before the 30th minute of the game.

UWO's Maris Heun was able to end the Warhawks scoring streak by scoring off of passes from forward Lauren Janssens and forward Nadia Epshteyn at the 30th minute. Forward Anika Roush found the back of the net for the first time all season from a pass by Heun in the 38th min-

ute to make the score 3-2.

Blauert broke the 26-minute scoring silence with her second goal of the game in the 63rd minute off an assist by forward Jasmine Wilson. Epshteyn scored the final goal of the game at the 76th minute mark as the Titans fell short in their venture to find two more goals to tie the game.

The Titans then traveled to Menominee, Oct. 12 to take on UW-Stout at Nelson Field.

UWO was able to pick up its second win of the season as they prevailed 3-2 over the Blue Devils (0-9-2, 0-3-0 WIAC), ending

a four game losing streak.

Forward Anna Odisho scored in the opening minute of the game for the Blue Devils from an assist by midfielder Lauren Chukel. The Titans responded quickly as forward Greta Steines assisted forward Gabby Born for her first of two consecutive goals in the game.

Heun then assisted Born as she found the back of the net, giving the Titans the lead in the 18th minute.

Action picked up in the 61st minute of the game when Oshkosh defender Ryley Meenk was given a yellow card, which gave

Odisho a penalty kick that led to the Blue Devils tying the game 2-2. Off the bench, midfielder Brynn Higgins scored her first goal of the season and the goal that ended up notching the win for the Titans in the 77th minute.

UWO will return home for its fourth consecutive WIAC battle against the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds (4-6-4, 0-0-3 WIAC) Sat, Oct. 19 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium for Play For a Cause Night. The game will take place at 7 p.m.

## UWO swim opens season against Blugolds

By Jacob Link  
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The UW Oshkosh men's and women's swimming and diving teams claimed four event winners, but both fell to UW-Eau Claire in a home dual meet at Albee Hall Oct. 12.

The Blugolds, the defending men's and women's Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions, outscored Oshkosh in the women's event 166-77 and outscored the Titans' men's side 184-50.

The Titans were led by junior Maya Indiraraj, who won both the 1-meter and 3-meter women's diving events with scores of 195.6 and 206.75, respectively.

UWO senior Francesca Schiro won the women's 100-yard freestyle with a time of 54.45 seconds and took third in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing in 1:59.21 seconds.

Oshkosh sophomore Sienna Della-Peruta won the women's 100-yard backstroke in 1:02.46 while freshman Rowan Sinclair claimed third place in the event with a time of 1:04.3.

The Titan women's swim

team finished the day with nine top three finishes, including sophomore Bee Ecklund taking third place in the 1,000-yard freestyle in 12:07.92 while senior Cadence Showalter placed third in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:21.34.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Schiro, Showalter, Sinclair and freshman Kori Burnett placed third in the event with a time of 1:43.97.

The men's team, which had seven top three finishes in the meet, were led by junior Damen Seremet, who finished second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.24 seconds and placed third in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:01.93.

In the men's diving events, Jacob Gordon finished second in the 1-meter dive with a score of 203.75 and placed second in the 3-meter dive with a score of 154.9. Glen Cole claimed third in both the 1-meter and 3-meter dive with scores of 184.9 and 147.7, respectively.

Sophomore Elias Landolt took third in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 11:19.76 while fellow sophomore Luke Giles finished third in the 200-



Courtesy of Steve Fromell / UWO Athletics

UWO's Maya Indiraraj competes in a diving event against UW-Eau Claire on Oct. 12 at Albee Hall. She placed first in the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events with scores of 195.6 and 206.75, respectively.

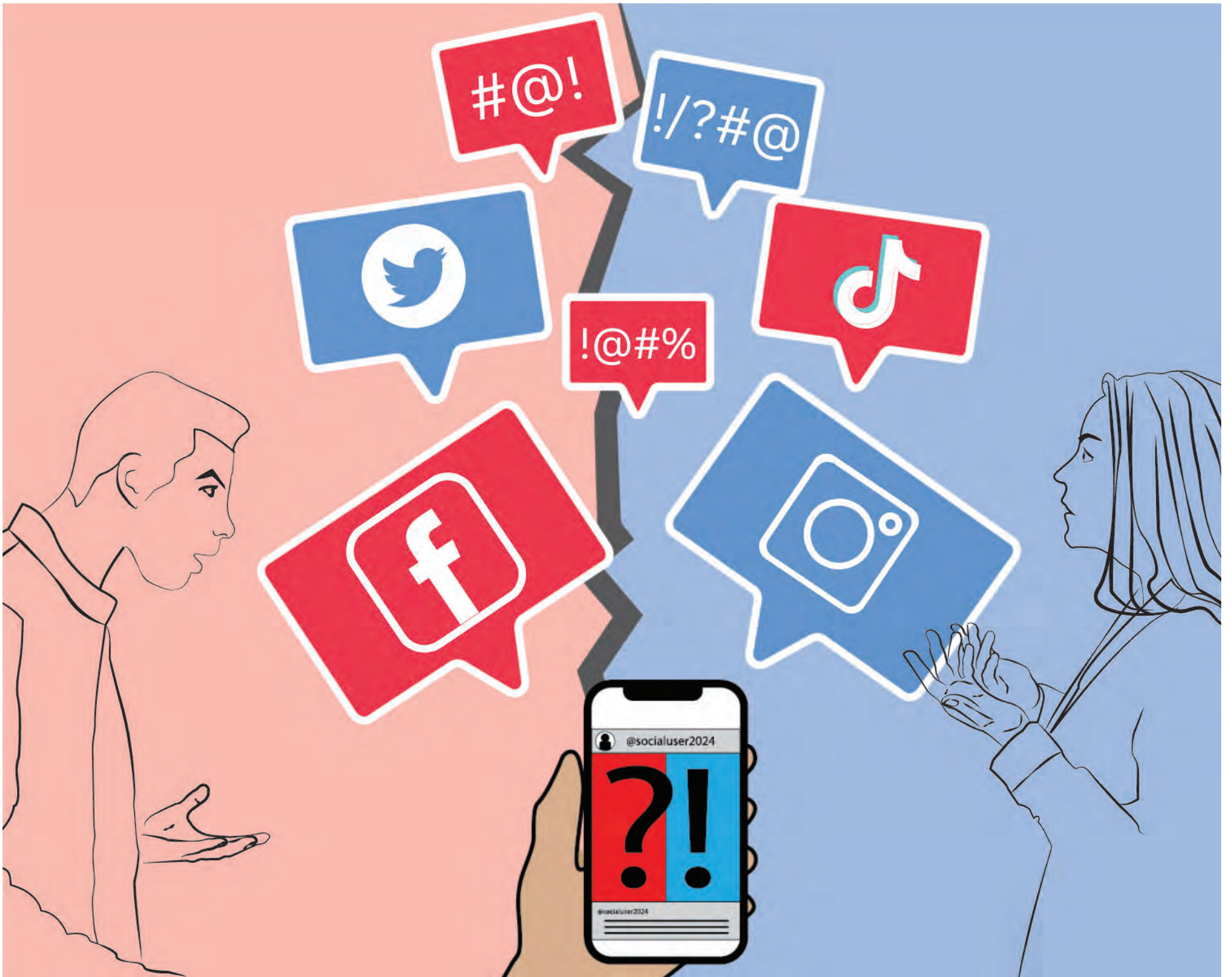
yard individual medley with a time of 2:08.03.

In the men's 200-yard freestyle relay, the UWO team of Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez,

Ben Knoeck, Drew Davis and Seremet took third in 1:31.52.

The Titans will travel to Brown Deer Oct. 19 to compete in the Wisconsin Showcase In-

vite hosted by UW-Milwaukee at the Schroeder Aquatic Center at 1 p.m.



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan

Algorithms play an integral but often-overlooked role in both our internet usage as well as our subconscious construction of opinions and ideologies, which can often keep our beliefs and perspectives static as we are continuously fed content we already agree with.

# How our algorithms divide us

## *Democrats and Republicans more alike than expected*

By Cassidy Johnson  
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America's political landscape has become increasingly divisive, especially in recent years as a result of our social media and search engine algorithms.

We haven't been this divided as a country since the 1850s, and while it certainly isn't as bad as it was in the 19th century, the divisiveness we are experiencing today is still problematic and scary.

Less than a century ago, our political landscape looked much different. Democrats and Republicans had a lot more in common, so much so that the American Political Science Association saw this as a problem and called for political parties to be more distinguishable for voters.

To achieve this, the APSA created a report on political parties in 1950 called "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System," which called for parties to

be stronger, "more tightly organized," more differentiated — therefore, more divided.

Since then, we have seen more and more division in each presidential election. While this may have seemed like a good thing at first, over the decades it has proven to be the opposite.

Democrats and Republicans have become so divided that we can hardly agree on the same issues. Politics has become a kitchen table talk taboo, and has ruined and prevented relationships between friends and family. Since when did we put so much weight on our political ideologies? Since when did they become more important than our interpersonal relationships? My hunch is this 1950 report.

Unfortunately, all of this has been made worse as a result of algorithms. Whether we'd like to admit it or not, a lot of us get our news from social media, which is highly filtered by our personal algorithms. Even if you don't, these algorithms still exist

on search engines via 'cookies.'

Cookies are data collected by your web browser based on previous internet activity in order to give users a more personalized browsing experience. This means the content you view is tailored to your unique interests and biases so that you're more likely to click on content, and therefore more likely to use their site.

While this sounds like a good thing, and certainly can be helpful for those online shopping endeavors, these algorithms ultimately keep us stuck. We only see what we want to see, and we only see content that we already agree with, fueling the divisiveness even more.

This is not only harming our country, but us as individuals. This sort of ideology directly opposes the liberal education we go to college for, which preaches open-mindedness, critical thinking, humanity, connection and truth-seeking.

As William Cronon says in

'Only Connect,' his essay describing somebody with a liberal education, "they respect rigor not so much for its own sake but as a way of seeking truth." We seem to be concerned not with the truth, but instead with being right.

We need to prioritize the truth over our egos, and this can be done when we prioritize human connection and instill empathy, open-mindedness and critical thinking. As Martha Nussbaum says in her essay, "The Liberal Arts Are Not Elitist," "...we seem to be forgetting about the soul. About what it is for thought to open out of the soul and connect a person to world in a rich, subtle and complicated manner."

Truth be told, Republicans and Democrats aren't that different. We all have great joys and great hurts, successes and failures, loved ones and enemies. In a political sense, we have the same end goal — for this country to succeed, taxes to decrease and to have a reliable leader.

We are all human beings with valid feelings and idiosyncratic perspectives, and we must come together to find a solution that fits the majority. We cannot do this unless we come together.

This divisiveness is incredibly harmful for our political landscape, and our overall well-being as a country. As Abraham Lincoln said in his famous "A House Divided" speech, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." While we definitely shouldn't go back to the political climate of the 1850s, this statement still rings true 166 years later.

Our algorithms may make this difficult, but all you need to do is stop scrolling your usual feed and start searching for differing views and opinion.

We must stay vigilant and utilize our liberal education, and stop relying on our For You pages for information.



Advance-Titan File Photo

A great way to de-stress and make friends, UW Oshkosh students gather into a huddle before their intramural flag football game during Homecoming last year.

# Join UW O intramural sports

By Nolan Swenson  
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Every fall semester at UW Oshkosh, a variety of intramurals are offered for students to enjoy; 6's volleyball, football, 7-7 soccer and basketball open to all, regardless of experience.

For freshmen roommates Ryan Saranzak and Tanner Thompson, both have said it has given them an opportunity to get involved on campus and have fun while participating in three intramural sports.

When the roommates arrived, Saranzak said they intended to

stick together but through new friendships they found themselves on more teams.

"We were talking about intramurals between me and tanner," he said. "As our group grew out, we started looking into other intramurals."

Saranzak originally had no intent of being a three-sport intramural athlete, but through making connections to other students, he found an interest in their sports.

"I met Alan [a teammate] in Titan Underground and he loved volleyball," Saranzak said. "He got me into the volleyball in-

tramurals. Originally, we had planned on football and basketball, so we ended up doing all three ... we have a diverse group of athletes and since we were close we might as well play all."

Despite the three-sport workload, Thompson said that the teams are manageable and have helped him transition into college.

"Before I came to Oshkosh, I've always been in sports and it was easy to join," Thompson said. "Now its light and fun, you don't have to practice all the time and its a good time. I

probably spend six hours a week at most."

Thompson said that intramurals aren't just a good outlet for past-athletes, they are also accommodating to students who want try new sports to stay active and that he plans to continue his involvement.

"I've been up against teams that seem like they haven't played that much," he said. "They go out there, try their best and have fun. I'd say to try it and have fun. I plan to keep playing, its good to get out, get exercise and have fun."

Saranzak said that he encour-

ages everyone to join intramural sports as its a great way to make connections and enjoy sports in a low-pressure environment.

"Get involved, we've met a lot of people through our intramurals," Saranzak said. "It's a great way to meet new people and play the sports you love. There's no pressure to be at any level, you just go and play their sport."

You can find the intramural schedule at UW-Oshkosh's website under the Student Rec & Wellness Center page.

# Trump is ruining his re-election chances

By Cassidy Johnson  
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Some common themes in Donald Trump's presidential campaigns include rage-baiting, his infamous MAGA ideology and, seemingly, self-sabotage.

Just last year, he attempted to sue "the media" after investigative journalist Bob Woodward interviewed and published Trump's words, a far cry for somebody who not only agreed to be interviewed by a renowned journalist, but also somebody who has been a part of 85 lawsuits involving branding and trademark infringement.

Trump's crusade on Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter) that eventually ended in his removal from the apps last year is also an example of Trump's inadvertent self-sabotage.

As someone who doesn't support Trump, this is awesome. As an American citizen, however, it is beyond embarrassing.

This year hasn't been much different. Trump is still self-sabotaging, this time at a higher frequency with even more embarrassing implications.

Just this past weekend, Trump held a rally in Coachella Valley, California and abandoned hundreds of his supporters in the scorching desert.

According to NewsWeek, the temperature reached over 100 degrees and was so hot that some supporters even reportedly collapsed from the heat during the rally.

This was apparently the result of poor transportation logistics, something that definitely should've been worked out, especially since Coachella Valley

is a desert in the middle of nowhere.

Left without transportation, many supporters had no choice but to walk the two-hour stretch to civilization, likely without food, water or shelter from the heat. It seems as though Trump is more concerned about using his supporters than actually caring about them.

Equally embarrassing but even more mortifying, Trump also falsely promoted a fake Taylor Swift endorsement on X, reposting an AI-generated photos of women with shirts donning "Swifties for Trump" despite the fact Swift has publicly criticized him in the past.

As if it couldn't get any worse, he even went on to create and sell a "Trump Era Shirt" on his campaign website. He basically just slapped his face on top of

Swift's famous Eras Tour merch despite Swift endorsing his opponent Vice President Kamala Harris two days earlier.

Moving past mortifying and straight to terrifying, Trump also reportedly said that democrats were the "enemy from within" and that they should be removed by military force, stating "We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think, and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by [the] National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military." Talk about the enemy within.

The scariest part is that he didn't even say we *could* remove them by military force, but that we *should*. This type of thinking is a direct threat to our people and to democracy; the very foundation of our country.

He has threatened our de-

mocracy before with his not-so-peaceful transfer of power that incited a violent riot against The White House last election, and I don't think we should give him the power and a stage to do it a third time.

He spread this violent rhetoric without even being president; I don't want to know what would happen if he was president. While I don't think he can single-handedly disarm democracy, anybody who is a threat to democracy should not be running.

I hope these events, among many others unmentioned in this story, are eye-opening to Republicans and Trump supporters and will cause them to rethink their vote. Simultaneously, I selfishly want him to keep ruining his chances and making a fool out of himself.

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