

The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUSES

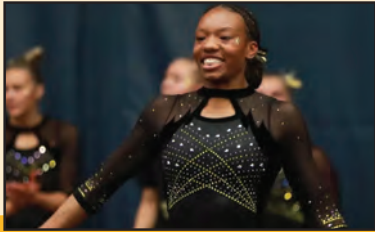
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Jacob Link / Advance-Titan

UWO women's basketball head coach Brad Fischer draws up a play in the second half of Oshkosh's matchup against Smith College at the D-III Final Four in Salem Virginia March 20.

March Madness run falls just short

UWO falls to Smith College 49-47 in first Final Four appearance in 29 years

By Jacob Link
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The UW Oshkosh women's basketball team came within two points of advancing to its first national championship game in 29 years, but the Titans missed a potential game-winning shot at the horn to fall 49-47 to Smith College (Massachusetts) March 20 at the Division III Final Four in Salem, Virginia.

"If we play one more quarter, that score probably changes four more times," UWO head coach Brad Fischer said. "We got to the last two minutes and had to dig it out again. Now that it's happened the exact same way twice [after losing to Smith last year too], it just feels like we're really well matched and it's a chess match back and forth."

The Titans (27-5) trailed by as many as 8 points in the program's first Final Four appearance since UWO won the national cham-

pionship in 1996, but Oshkosh came storming back in the fourth quarter thanks to a 9-point period from sophomore guard Sammi Beyer. Beyer put the Titans in front with a jumper from the elbow with 6:17 remaining in the final quarter and nailed another jumper 20 seconds later to give Oshkosh a 3-point lead.

Smith (31-3) responded with a 7-0 run behind a 3-pointer from Jane Loo and a pair of jumpers from Hannah Martin to claim a 4-point advantage with two minutes to go. Beyer knocked down a 3-pointer to cut the Pioneers' lead down to one, and the two teams traded points with 12 seconds left. UWO sent Martin to the line for two free throws to seal the game for the Pioneers, but Martin went 1-for-2 at the charity stripe to set up a potential game-winning shot to send Oshkosh to the national title game.

UWO inbounded the ball and found the Wisconsin Intercolle-

giate Athletic Conference's top 3-point shooter in Alex Rondorf, but she hurled up a shot that clanged off the front rim as the buzzer sounded to send Smith to the final game of the tournament.

Fischer, in his 13th season at the helm of the Titans, said he felt really good about the 3-point looks the Titans had.

"I would take Alex taking that shot 100 times out of 100, same with Sammi and the two before when Avery was open on her 3-pointer," he said. "We kind of looked at each other like, 'well, they're not letting us get inside, and we've just got to knock one down.' Unfortunately, we didn't knock enough down."

Fischer said that the Titans didn't lose just because of bad shooting.

"We both defended each other hard, and they made an extra shot, and unfortunately for us, that's how last year ended, too," he said. "But there's not a

lot of teams in the country that I would be okay losing to because they are just really well coached and disciplined. They're an East Coast version of us, and that's as much respect as I can give them. I just thought it was a great game, and I'm proud of my team."

Beyer led the Titans with 15 points off 6-for-11 shooting while freshman forward Paige Seckar finished with 10 points on 4-for-8 shooting. All-WIAC Honorable Mention selection Kate Huml scored 8 points for UWO while senior forward Kayce Vaile, a three-time First Team All-WIAC member, scored 2 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Beyer said that her life looked a lot different last year and thanked Fischer for giving her the opportunity to transfer to UWO from D-I St. Thomas University (Minnesota) before the season.

"This group of girls welcomed me with open arms right away,"

she said. "I just couldn't be more grateful to wear Oshkosh across my chest and to play for such a great culture and to have such a great community around me and everything. I feel an immense amount of gratitude and thankfulness that I got to be here and just to have this experience and play alongside the girls and play for an amazing coach and sit right next to me, and that he gave me that opportunity."

Rondorf said that she took pride in her hustle and effort, something that she could control, even when she wasn't connecting from the floor.

"My shots weren't falling today, and I guess I just kind of am able to do whatever I can to help the team," she said. "Whether that's getting a loose ball, sacrificing myself, that's something that I've always tried to bring to the table and do whatever I can to help the team."

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Advance-Titan
The Advance-Titan is looking for writers, as well as photographers, web assistants, ad sale representatives and more. Open to all majors and students on the UW Oshkosh campus.

Air Wisconsin lays off 500 employees

By Isaac Pischer
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The Appleton-based Air Wisconsin is strategically realigning itself to focus on Essential Air Service Program (EAS) markets, expand its charter operations and transition its relationship with American Airlines to a codeshare and interline relationship, from that of a subsidiary carrier. As a result of this announcement, more than 500 employees are being let go by the airline.

In January, the airline filed a layoff notice with the state. The notice says the airline expects to have temporary layoffs for unionized employees and permanent layoffs for management and salaried employees beginning on March 31 or in the two weeks after. The partnership with American Airlines is slated to end on April 3.

An estimated 713 employees are affected, which includes 219 management or salaried employees and 294 union employees. This includes employees at both Milwaukee’s General Mitchell International Airport and Appleton International Airport. An additional 200 employees are affected at both Dayton International Airport and Chicago-O’Hare International Airport.

“At this point, the company is unable to assess the extent of those reductions,” said Tina Vos, vice president of human resources for Air Wisconsin in the termination notice. “The duration of the reduction is unknown and will be dependent on alternative flying opportunities.”

Air Wisconsin has been flying under the American Eagle brand of American Airlines most recently, since 2023, after flying for United Express (United Airlines) starting



Courtesy of Wikimedia Comments

A Bombardier CRJ-200, operated by Air Wisconsin Airlines, sits on the runway. The airlines began operation in 1965 and became an American Eagle affiliate in 2015.

in 2018. The company previously flew under American Airlines from 2015-2018, after American merged with US Airways.

According to Air Wisconsin’s press release, the change allows the airline to focus on federally subsidized EAS routes that deliver vital air connectivity to rural and underserved communities, which provide critical transportation links for communities that might otherwise lack access to air travel. The airline also noted that the current fleet-type, the 50-seat CRJ-200 aircraft, is perfect for the EAS flying, as it typically demands a ‘smaller, efficient aircraft’, which the CRJ is well equipped for the flying that the airline will be performing.

According to data from the Department of Transportation, which

subsidizes the routes, 115 cities across the 48 contiguous states receive EAS services. This includes Eau Claire and Rhinelander in Wisconsin.

“Since that announcement [moving away from American Airlines in January], the company has been working to develop alternative flying opportunities, which it expects to announce in the coming weeks,” Vos wrote in the layoff notice Thursday. “It is likely that the company’s strategy will involve some level of company-wide workforce reductions.”

According to Vos, affected employees had been notified in advance and Air Wisconsin would ensure they are paid all earned wages and benefits at the time of separation.

“This strategic shift underscores

our adaptability and commitment to delivering reliable, customized air travel solutions where they are most needed,” said Robert Binns, President and CEO of Air Wisconsin. “As we diversify into EAS and grow our charter operations, we remain committed to delivering safe, efficient, and quality service to every community and customer we serve.”

According to the company website, the airline serves 53 destinations with nearly 350 flights per day, transporting nearly six million passengers on an annual basis.

Air Wisconsin began operations at its Appleton base in 1965, employing turboprop aircraft. The company pioneered the concept of code sharing with United Airlines in 1985.

UWO reduces salt use to combat pollution

By Josh Lehner
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UW Oshkosh has closed eight outdoor staircases across campus and reduced its salt usage this winter to help combat the effects of salt pollution in its second year partnering with the Wisconsin Salt Wise coalition.

The overuse of salt during the winter season can have negative environmental effects, especially on the nearby Fox River, Chemistry Professor Kevin Crawford said.

“It is well known that salting our roads and sidewalks ends up salting local lakes, rivers and groundwater,” he said. “The spring melt can cause salt levels to be so high in water bodies that fish spawning and growth can be affected. Also, Oshkosh drinking water comes from Lake Winnebago, so we should try to keep excess salt out of it.”

But oversalting also costs people more directly, too, Crawford said.

“It also costs taxpayers (and students and homeowners) money to salt — so using more salt than is needed is just wasting tax/tuition dollars,” he said. “The salt also decreases the life of cars, concrete and other infrastructure since it is corrosive.”

To help combat these factors, UWO has partnered with the Wisconsin Salt Wise for a second winter season, a “coalition of organizations working together to reduce salt pollution in our lakes, streams and drinking water.”

Partnering with Wisconsin Salt Wise required that staff involved in

snow management attend a Wisconsin Salt Wise workshop, which are held across the state in the fall. These workshops help educate attendees on best salting practices.

A February 5 email announcement from Grounds and Auto Supervisor Joshua Ruplinger stated that this partnership will dramatically reduce salt use, which will naturally lessen the financial impact of infrastructure repair costs, as well as reduce the grounds department workload and improve student and staff safety.

“It takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water,” the email stated. “Many residents at UWO and in our great community, however, are unaware of the harmful effects that occur with over-salting.”

Ruplinger said that salter equipment is calibrated according to various data points to ensure optimum salt usage.

“Smart salting isn’t just about the amount of product used,” he said. “Factors such as timing of application, pre-snow event weather, current weather (sunny or cloudy), forecasted weather, pavement temps, etc. are all considered when applying product. Salt spreaders are calibrated every fall before use to ensure we achieve the most efficient rate and use of our product.”

Currently, eight stairways around the Arts and Communication Center, Clow Social Science Center, Polk Library, Pollock House, North Scott Residence Hall, South Scott Residence Hall and two near Horizon Village Residence Hall will



Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

A chain and sign block off the stairway in front of Clow, as well as seven other stairways around campus until April 15.

continue to be closed off until April 15.

Data points on labor and salt use on all the stairs over the past few winter seasons, as well as factors like accessibility, were assessed to determine which stairs to temporarily close.

Ruplinger said ensuring the safety of students, staff and faculty who walk throughout the campus while using less salt is also a priority.

“I believe the level of service we provide to campus for winter maintenance has not been affected,” he said. “We’re collecting the data from all reported slip and falls to pinpoint areas in need of adjustment. Yes, we’re using less salt but with more efficiency and effectiveness.”

Sustainability Director Brad

Spanbauer said that being proactive can help reduce overall salt usage.

As one example, this includes removing snow when it falls and creating a snow map for winter months. That way, students and employees know what areas aren’t going to be plowed or salted and know not to walk on those areas.

“The more we can do to simply not put down much salt, or switch to brine (a mixture of rock salt and water) would be better,” he said. “Once the salt is down and dissolved into water and then our soils, and rivers and lakes — it is there forever. Desalination is extremely energetically expensive and costly in fiscal terms as well. We are very lucky to be on the Fox River on campus, but we must take care of it.”



UWO's Sammi Beyer crosses over to split two Smith College defenders in UWO's 2-point loss to the Pioneers at the Cregger Center in Salem, Virginia, March 20.

Jacob Link / Advance-Titan

Titans: UWO ends season with 27-5 record

From Page 1

Oshkosh finished the contest shooting 34.5% from the field and 9.1% from 3-point range. The Titans, who outscored their opponent 30-20 in the paint, outrebounded the Pioneers 39-30 and forced 11 Smith turnovers.

Martin finished with a game-high 18 points and five rebounds off 6-for-15 shooting for the Pioneers while Loo recorded 13 points and went 3-for-4 from behind the arc. Smith's Virginia Johnson tallied 8 points while Jazmyn Washington had 2 points and eight rebounds.

The Pioneers shot 35.3% from both the floor and from 3-point land and Smith forced 13 UWO turnovers.

Fischer said that he can't remember a time when a team shot less than 10% from behind the arc and came within two points of winning the game.

"We didn't shoot well because Smith is a great defensive team, so that's where this needs to start," he said. "I'm just proud of our team. And if there was ever a way for us to lose, I love losing like this, because it's the Oshkosh way that if you go to 2-for-22 you're going to give yourself a chance to still win the game, and you shouldn't, at

2-for-22, be in the game in the Final Four. But I've got a bunch of fighters that scratch and claw and are willing to defend and willing to get down and dirty."

Smith opened the game with back-to-back baskets from Martin and held onto a 4-point lead until Rondorf hit a 3-pointer to pull UWO within one. The two teams traded baskets for most of the first quarter until Loo converted on a 3-pointer to put the Pioneers on top 11-7. Seckar connected on a jumper in the paint with 90 seconds left, but Johnson responded with a 3-pointer 58 seconds later to give Smith a 14-9 advantage at the break.

Martin began the second quarter with a triple to put the Pioneers up by 8 points, but four UWO free throws cut Oshkosh's deficit to 17-13. Loo drilled another 3-pointer for Smith, but the Titans responded with a layup from Sarah Hardwick and UWO embarked on an 8-0 to take a 21-20 lead. Both teams traded layups with 30 seconds left in the period, and Oshkosh went into half-time leading 23-22.

UWO opened the third quarter on a 5-0 run to build a 6-point lead, but Smith's offense caught fire midway through the period with an 11-4 run to put the Pioneers back up 33-32.

Oshkosh scored the final 4 points of the quarter after Rondorf and Seckar both converted on layups to give the Titans a 3-point advantage going into the final 10 minutes of the game. Smith went on to outscore UWO 16-11 in the final frame to advance to its second-straight national championship game where the Pioneers lost to New York University 77-49.

Fischer said that he didn't think a lot about the Final Four until the team qualified following a 60-53 victory over Baldwin Wallace University (Ohio) in the Elite Eight.

"I remember when I got the job, they wanted us to make the conference tournament and then see if we could win the conference someday and maybe get back to an NCAA tournament for the first time in six or seven years," he said. "So, for me and us going to Sweet 16, I never left seasons going, this wasn't good enough. It wasn't the Final Four. Now that we've been here, I see why it's a big deal for people."

Fischer said he's had a lot of special groups of players, but this season the team was consistent in practices and meetings every single day.

"The amount of practices that I had to raise the level so minimal, because they've set a standard

that they hold themselves to every day," he said. "... I'm getting old, I get tired, but I never got tired this year. And that was their energy every day. It was watching Alex in her seventh year with two feet that don't work well and everything, just getting herself ready to go ... every kid on the roster has their story about why this is a big deal for them. I just love that our team cares so much that they don't need to play to impact our team, and I'm not sure a lot of people have that, so I'm just grateful, and I appreciate what these guys do."

Although UWO didn't advance to the national championship game, Fischer said he can't say enough about the relationship that was developed between the city of Oshkosh and the team.

"Making people care about D-III is not a guarantee," he said. "They can't just flip on ESPN to find you, like people got to make effort to try to find your game and figure out who you play. We had so many people in Oshkosh and Wisconsin that tuned in to see the Titans win 27 times this year. And I'm proud that they changed an already incredible program and turned it into something that has never been."

Sports Column

March Madness has been stale

By Zach Bellin
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March Madness is well underway and history's been made, but in an interesting way. This is the first tournament since 2008 that the four No. 1 seeds have advanced to the Final Four, when North Carolina, Kansas, Memphis and UCLA did it. Also, this is the first time since 2017 that a team seeded 13 or higher didn't win a game in the first round.

One of the five double digit-seeded teams to win in the first round, Colorado State, which was the No. 12 seed in their region, was a betting favorite against fifth-seeded Memphis. Arkansas, which was the highest seed at tenth to make any sort of a run, lost in the Sweet 16 in overtime to third-seeded Texas Tech.

Arkansas is sparking debate because the only "Cinderella story" spent over \$5 million on NIL to build a roster for its newly-hired legendary head coach John Calipari. This was largely funded by John H. Tyson, chairman of Tyson Foods, according to athlonsports.com. So was Arkansas really a Cinderella?

Top-seeded dominance has been rare in recent tournaments. We've seen multiple No. 1 seeds fall in the first round in just the last decade along with other notable upsets by Saint Peters, Oakland, the list goes on and on. This year was different.

Kenpom.com, which is regarded as the best college basketball rankings, had Auburn, Duke, Florida and Houston as the No. 1 seeds. The teams were entering the tournament as the only schools with both offensive and defensive efficiency ranked top 10 in the country. No other school was close.

Thankfully, the tournament has delivered some great games as of late.

Turn to Madness / Page 5

UWO's Francesca Schiro swims at D-III national meet

By Isaac Pischer
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UW Oshkosh Senior Francesca Schiro competed at the NCAA Division III Championship at the Greensboro Aquatic Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 19-22.

Schiro placed 50th in the 50-yard preliminary on March 19th with a time of 24.12 seconds, 30th with a time of 1:52.07 in the preliminary round of the 200-yard freestyle on March 21, in addition to a 51.63 finish in the 100-yard preliminary on March 22.

Schiro was the first swimmer from the UWO women's swimming and diving team to appear at the national championship since Renee Porter in 2005. She qualified in the 100-yard freestyle and added the 50-yard and 200-yard editions of the event as bonus events.

"When I heard that [being the first swimmer since 2005], I was kind of shocked, but just grateful that I can represent UWO this year, since it's been so long," Schiro said.

As the holder of four individual event records for the Titans and a member of five relay records, Schi-

ro set the program 100- and 200-yard freestyle, as well as 200-yard individual medley marks at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship this season on her way to her second league swimmer of the meet award. She also set the 500-yard freestyle school record at the Carthage College Classic in December. Three of UWO's relay records were broken at last year's conference championship in Brown Deer, and the remaining two, the 200-yard freestyle relay and 800-yard freestyle relay, were reset at the 2025 WIAC meet.



Courtesy of Alisha Markely / WIAC
Francesca Schiro stands with her WIAC Swimmer of the Meet trophy.



Courtesy of Breeley Ruble

UWO’s Reanna McGibboney performs a routine on the floor exercise at the NCGA Championship in Saint Peter, Minnesota, March 22 hosted by Gustavus Adolphus College.

UWO places third at NCGA Championship

By Zach Bellin
belliz88@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women’s gymnastics team traveled to Saint Peter, Minnesota, and took third in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Championship March 22 hosted by Gustavus Adolphus College with 193.1, following the champion UW-Lacrosse who scored 194.925 and UW-Whitewater with 194.025. This marks the fourth consecutive top-three finish for the Titans.

On the vault, the Titans tied for second with 48.325 and followed with a third place finish in the uneven bars, scoring 47.725. Its third rotation was in the balance beam, where UWO scored 48.4 and placed fourth. The day ended in the floor exercise, where the Titans placed fifth with 48.65. Titans Mia Lucero and Averie Evans tied for third place in the vault with scores of 9.75. Reanna McGibboney was the next highest scoring Titan with 9.65 and Amaya McConkay followed after scoring 9.6. UWO’s Mia Pas-

sarella and Sam Zeilinger rounded out the event with scores of 9.575 and 9.375, respectively. Lydia Hayden and McGibboney both scored 9.7 in the uneven bars for UWO, enough to place fifth in the event. Evans followed with a score of 9.65 and Zoe Krull scored 9.625. Zeilinger scored 9.05 and McConkay finished with 8.9. Hayden led the way again for the Titans as she scored 9.8 on the balance beam, which put her in a tie for seventh. Delaney Cienkus added 9.775 in her first

event of the day. Emma Steele was the next best Titan with 9.65 and Jay Ratkowski followed her with a score of 9.6. Jurnee Warkentien scored 9.575 and Liz Romano got 8.85. On the floor exercise, Cienkus was the highest placing Titan who tied for ninth with 9.8. Three Titans, Lucero, Warkentien and Ratkowski followed on the leaderboard, each scoring 9.775. McGibboney scored 9.525 after a 0.1 deduction and Aleah Radojevich scored 9.5. Hayden earned two All-Amer-

ican honors due to her performances in the uneven bar and balance beam events. Lucero and Evans both earned the honors in the vault, as well as McGibboney from her performance on the uneven bars. That wraps the 2025 season up for UWO. It ended the season with a 4-1 record, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Champions and third place nationally as its three-year streak of being NCGA Champions came to an end.

Madness: national tournament has been a disapointment

From Page 4

Texas Tech versus Arkansas was a classic, Purdue versus Houston ended with a game winner and the Maryland versus Colorado State game ended with an awesome shot by projected NBA lottery pick Derik Queen, but that’s really it. Only a few memorable moments, and compared to previous years, it’s lackluster. Everyone’s wondering why this skill discrepancy is happening, and most are coming to the conclusion that this is a result of NIL money and the transfer portal. “The NCAA transfer portal opened on Monday for college basketball and there was no shortage of student-athletes looking for a change in scenery,” Austen Bundy, in an article for sportingnews.com, wrote. “In fact, more than 700 players entered the portal on just day one. For context, the NCAA record was 291 set in 2024. In 2023 just 175 entered after 24 hours and that was considered a high amount.” Some players fresh off losses in the tournament have already found

new schools. Donovan Dent, star guard for New Mexico, had transferred to UCLA five days after a loss to Michigan State. Justin Pippen, a guard for Michigan, entered the portal before the team had been eliminated from the tournament according to msn.com. The season wasn’t even over! I personally don’t know why that’s allowed, but it’s getting out of hand. Players and programs are ruining the purpose of transferring and what it means to transfer. It’s become an expectation that mid-majors will be stepping stones for athletes rather than a potential developmental home. The transfer process isn’t unfamiliar, and mid-majors being a stepping stone isn’t either, but the rate at which it’s happening is alarming for the state of college basketball. Before the Sweet 16, Brigham Young University head coach Kevin Young spoke with the media and attributed the school’s donor base as a reason why he came to coach at the school. “I mean, if you can show me a

school whose donor bases don’t deserve credit, I’m all ears,” Young said. “That’s just what it is... So that being said, one of the reasons I wanted to come to BYU was because of the fan base, donor base, base in general.” Money is reaching a point in college sports where it’s not only impacting where the athletes take their talents, but also the coaches. Coaches and players know where the money is, which is Power Five schools that have alumni devoted to seeing these programs succeed athletically. “Kids are smart; they see what’s out there, and they think that they can better their situation by going in the portal and maybe going to a bigger school that can offer more to them,” Young said. Young isn’t wrong; there’s plenty more opportunity for athletes at a Power Five school, but why is it so easy for athletes to move around year after year? The lack of limits on what an athlete can do is why I believe there’s the current skill discrep-



Courtesy of Flickr

Kansas Univeristy warms up before a March Madness game in 2016. ancy. Schools are building loaded rosters with the help of their donors because they can pay them more, simple as that. It’s unreasonable to blame the player for chasing success; what’s not unreasonable is asking for the NCAA to fix it. How are fans supposed to be excited for March Madness when we know how it’s going to turn out? The beauty of the tournament relies on its mystery and oddities. There’s nothing like the three-week period where everything else in sports seems to be shut off, and all the focus is on college basketball playing all day. No one wants to hold back the athletes from making money off their name, image and likeness, we just want college basketball and March Madness to stay exciting.



Scoreboard

Saturday, March 22

Softball (Game 1)

UWO - 8
Amherst College - 5

Softball (Game 2)

UWO - 7
Knox College - 0

Baseball

UWO - 4
Carthage College - 2

Gymnastics

3/6, 193.1 points
at NCGA Championship
at Saint Peter, Minn.

Monday, March 24

Softball (Game 1)

UWO - 3
Luther College - 2
Softball (Game 2)
Manchester University - 2
UWO - 1

Tuesday, March 25

Softball (Game 1)

UWO - 10
Union College - 0
Softball (Game 2)
UWO - 8
Lewis and Clark College - 5

Thursday, March 27

Softball (Game 1)

UWO - 13
Lawrence University - 3
Softball (Game 2)
UWO - 7
Colby College - 0
Baseball (Game 1)
UWO - 4
UWP - 0
Baseball (Game 2)
UWO - 11
UWP - 6

Friday, March 28

Baseball (Game 1)

UWO - 8
UWP - 7
Baseball (Game 2)
UWO - 8
UWP - 4

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 5

Women's Golf

at UW-La Crosse Spring Invitational
Onalaska, Wis. at 10:30 am

Track & Field

at UW-La Crosse Ashton May Invitational at 12 p.m.
La Crosse, Wis.

Softball

vs Carroll University
Oshkosh, Wis.
Game 1 at 12 p.m.
Game 2 at 2 p.m.

Baseball

vs UW La Crosse
Oshkosh, Wis.
Game 1 at 12 p.m.
Game 2 at 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 6

Baseball

vs UW La Crosse
Oshkosh, Wis.
Game 1 at 12 p.m.
Game 2 at 3 p.m.



Courtesy of Matt Milless / d3photography.com

The UWO track and field team poses with the national runners-up trophy at the Golisano Training Center in Rochester, New York.

UWO finishes 2nd at NCAA indoor meet

By Dylan Eckhart
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The UW Oshkosh track and field team gathered multiple All-America honors at the 2025 NCAA Division III Indoor Championship in Rochester, New York on March 15.

The men's team earned 39 points and finished second out of 96 teams. The women's team finished 13th out of 101 teams, earning 15 points.

Joshua Rivers won his second straight long jump title, with a jump of 7.81 meters. Rivers, who holds the Division III record for long jump, also set both the meet and facility records with his performance at the indoor championship.

Gavin Fritsch earned his first All-America First Team honor, placing second in the men's weight throw with a personal best of 20.08 meters.

Davian Willems claimed second in the men's 60 m dash for the second straight year with a time of 6.64 seconds. Londyn Little took eighth in the same event with a time of 6.82 seconds.

Little also set the school record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.46 seconds, matching his performance from the preliminary rounds. Little placed second in the event, and is now a five-time indoor All-American.

Cavan Dobberstein finished fifth in the heptathlon with a total of 5,079 points, bringing home his first All-American honor. Dobber-

stein won the long jump with a distance of 5.89 meters, took fifth in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.45 seconds, and placed eighth in the 1000-meter run with a time of 2:53 seconds. Dobberstein also tied for eighth in the pole vault, and tied for ninth in the shot put with teammate Aden Sears, both earning a distance of 11.89 meters.

The women's team earned two All-America honors with Megan Hunt and Brenna Masloroff.

Masloroff took third in the women's weight throw on Friday with a personal best distance of 18.86 meters. Masloroff wrapped up her indoor career as a four-time All-American, finishing seventh overall in the weight throw, 11th in the shot put, and fifth in the shot put.

Hunt placed third in the long jump with a distance of 5.92 meters, and sixth in the pentathlon with a total of 3,649 points. Hunt reset her own school record in the event and tied her program record in the long jump, with a distance of 5.92 meters.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology won the women's team title with 49 points, and UW-La Crosse won the men's team title with 84 points.

The outdoor season for track and field began March 29th at the Washington University Invitational in St. Louis, Missouri at Francis Olympic Field.

Conference competition for the 2025 outdoor season will begin on Saturday, April 5, at Roger Har- ring Stadium at UW-La Crosse.

Titans go 8-2 at Spring Games in Florida

By Christian Cortez
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The UWO women's softball team participated in the Spring Games in Clermont, Florida at Legends Way Ballpark, where they went 8-2.

On the first day of the event, UWO lost its first game of the season against Ramapo College with a score of 2-1. Ramapo scored its points in the first inning with Ysabellah Otero hitting a single, allowing her teammate Katie Rygiel to score.

Then Ramapo scored again with Otero scoring off of a dropped fly ball towards second base. UWO scored in the third inning after Amanda Martineck scored after a pitching error.

The next game that day was against Coe College with the Titans winning 2-1. UWO scored its points in the first inning with Morgan Rau hitting a double to left center, allowing her sister Sydney Rau to score. Then Abby Garceau hit a single to the right side to let S. Rau score.

In day two of the Spring Games, UWO played Amherst College and Knox College, winning both games 8-5 and 7-0.

Amherst started the game hot with getting 5 points in the first two innings. Then the Titans

responded by scoring 8 points in the third and fourth innings, winning the game.

In the game against Knox College, UWO dominated by not allowing Knox to get a run on the board and winning its third game in the Spring Games.

Day three of the event had UWO playing against Luther College, where they won 3-2 before losing to Manchester University 2-1.

UWO scored both of its runs against Luther in the second inning with Cali Devito hitting a double to left center field, allowing teammates Morgan Miller and Haylie Wittman to score.

Then S. Rau hit a single, allowing Devito to score. In the next game against Manchester, Manchester scored in the third inning with a single down the right field line, letting them score.

UWO responded in the fifth inning with a M. Rau hit allowing Garceau to score. Then Manchester scored in the seventh inning, handing UWO their second loss on the season.

The fourth day had the Titans playing against Union College and Lewis and Clark College.

UWO won both games with scores 10-0 (in 5 innings) and 8-5. The Titans mercy ruled



Courtesy of Terri Cole / UWO Athletics

Haylie Wittman rounds the bases after getting a hit to get on base.

Union College, scoring 5 runs each in the second and fifth innings.

Then in the game against Lewis and Clark College, UWO scored 2 points each in the first, third, sixth and seventh innings.

On the final day of the Spring Games, the Titans faced Lawrence University and Colby College, winning both games 13-3 (6 innings) and 7-0.

UWO dominated the game against Lawrence, scoring 8 points in five innings. Lawrence

then scored 3 runs in the fifth inning.

UWO then scored 5 more points in the sixth inning. Lawrence couldn't close the gap at the bottom of the sixth, ending the game.

The last game against Colby was dominated by UWO. The Titans shut them out, scoring in the first, second and fourth innings.

UWO's next match is a double header against Carroll University at UW-Oshkosh Softball Park.

Liberty Street home complete loss after fire

By Isaac Fischer
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An Oshkosh family is displaced and a person was left hospitalized after a fire ravaged a home on Liberty Street, near the Congress Avenue Fields March 31.

At about 2:20 p.m., Winnebago County Communications Center received a call about a fire at 1313 Liberty Street. Numerous Oshkosh Fire Department and Oshkosh Police Department personnel responded. Upon arrival, heavy smoke and fire were found on the back of the building. The fire quickly spread to the whole of the house and police evacuated neighboring houses. OFD then upgraded the call to a MABAS alarm, through Wisconsin mutual aid agreements, which brought in assistance from other surrounding agencies.

According to OFD, six people live at the Liberty Street home, however five were home at the time. All were evacuated, including two dogs. Two cats also belonged to the home, but they were never located. Gold Cross Ambulance transported one person to the hospital for smoke inhalation, with two additional people being treated on the scene, however, they declined medical treatment. The family is being assisted by the American Red Cross.

The house is considered a total loss by officials, however it remains under investigation.

“The neighborhood is a very old neighborhood in Oshkosh, very old houses, so when they do start on fire, they go pretty quickly,” Oshkosh Fire Public Information Officer John Holland said.

OFD received mutual aid from the town of Oshkosh Fire Department, town of Algoma Fire Department, the Omro Rushford Fire Department, the Fox Crossing Fire Department and Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue. The North Fond du Lac Fire Department assisted in providing emergency medical services in the city, while OFD personnel attended to the fire.

One of the things that we had that kind of made it difficult for us was a lot of — just — stuff in the house. ... And then, it is an older house, so they burn very, very quickly. ... The fire went up, and it just took off.

-John Holland
Oshkosh Fire Department Public Information Officer



DEI defunding effects students

Campus organizations experience defunding, loss of space



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

Bought by the university in 2003, UWO's Women's Center had served women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and other minorities for around 22 years.

By Cassidy Johnson
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Since President Donald Trump's election in mid-January, he has been on a crusade to end Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives under the pretense of protecting civil rights, but many minorities at UW Oshkosh do not feel protected.

On Feb. 18, Trump targeted the education system and gave public universities a two-week deadline to end all DEI initiatives, or risk losing federal funding.

The UW System complied with an 11-6 vote from the Wisconsin Board of Regents in Dec. 2024

This decision has affected UWO students and organizations in many ways, a major one being the sale of the UWO Women's Center building.

"Having to lose our own space has been detrimental," said Abby Laundrie, co-president of Women's Advocacy Council (WAC). "Having our own space to build that community, be able to freely express ourselves without concern and without having to hide ourselves has been probably the biggest impact."

The Women's Center, and other campus organizations that fall under DEI, have been consolidated into what is now the Student Center for Success and Belonging (SCSB).

Selling the Women's Center building has had an impact to current and past students alike.

The previous LGBTQ+ resource center director of 13 years, Liz Cannon, said, "When

the announcement went out that they're selling the building and the centers are gone, I did get previous students reaching out to me, just sort of like, horrified."

After teaching English and Women and Gender studies for six years, Cannon was asked in approximately 2003 to direct the Women's Center by the UWO Gender Equity Council after a survey conducted by the UW System about campus resources for women recommended starting a women's center.

Before that, Cannon taught Women and Gender Studies and English at UWO for 19 years.

"I think all of us in education are worried about the impact this is going to have on the quality of education that is going to be available to students now," Cannon said.

Once located on the southeast corner of campus, UWO sold the Women's Center in late January, citing budget issues and political pressure from Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) to get rid of DEI initiatives and resources.

"Colleges kind of bowing to these anti-DEI demands even before they went into place [and] cutting funding just kind of shows students that they aren't necessarily the university's top priority," said Adrian Hanrahan, a UWO alumnus who interned and worked at the LGBTQ+ Resource Center for two years.

Since selling the space, these organizations have been relocated to The Hub, a new common area located at Reeve 104.

"[The Women's Center] was a place that you knew if you went

there, you belonged," Cannon said. "That physical space is important, and especially for LGBTQ folk, you're not going to get that at The Hub."

While the clubs may still exist, Cannon says that a women's center does not.

"It's The Hub, it's expanded, [but] it's not a women's center," Cannon said. "Eliza's doing a wonderful job of keeping some of the programming going, so they are doing amazing. But there is no women's center, there is no LGBTQ resource center."

Losing the space has also resulted in a lack of physical space as detailed by Laundrie.

"A lot of clubs were put there, so it's all the clubs there, plus the women's center, [that] are all being put into one smaller space in the union," she said. "While sharing a space is not bad, it is a smaller space where there is only one closed-off conference room."

Beyond spacing issues, meeting in a general area like The Hub can also cause confusion.

"A lot of times what happens with The Hub is people are confused cause they have sometimes like three events going on at the same time in that space and no one knows really where we're supposed to meet cause it's just one big kind of general area," Laundrie said.

Not having a physical space also presents a mental and emotional impact.

"Especially for women and people who are apart of the LGBTQ community, it's nice to have your own space where you know you can freely have conversations, and you can be

yourself," Laundrie said.

As an alumnus, executive board member for Helping Others Percieve Equality (HOPE) and intern at the LGBTQ+ center, Burgundy Johnson saw and experienced the effects of the center firsthand.

"A lot of students, myself included, relied on the Women's Center and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center as a place to make friends, to learn more about themselves, about the types of things (particularly sex and gender) that the adults in their lives had failed to teach them," Johnson said.

Johnson said the center played a vital role in her life.

"They became the main places to hang out for me – and in a culture like Wisconsin's, where 'hanging out' as adults usually means 'let's all go to the bar and drink!,' having a hangout space that was not a bar was a huge deal," they said.

Hanrahan also detailed the mental impact these decisions have had on students, saying, "Even in the case where students are going to be able to still access those physical resources, they're gonna have that emotional damage done where they just don't feel as connected to, loyal to and safe at their university," she said. "I think it would kind of benefit the university to think about it from that standpoint as well and think about how that might impact enrollment, degree completion and stuff like that. Not treating their students properly in this way is going to come back to bite them."

Laundrie said, "these short-term fixes look good in

[Leavitt's] eyes because of money, but it does not feel like he is truly listening to the concerns people have been addressing to him," she said. "A lot of the times he will say, 'students will not be affected by this' but students have been greatly affected by some of these big changes he's made, and most students I know are not happy about it."

Beyond losing community and a safe space, removing DEI initiatives also means the loss of support and resources for students.

"Marginalized groups are the most likely to need support through college in every way imaginable, from financial aid to moral support to academic help and more," Johnson said. "By removing DEI programs and initiatives, our educational institutions are turning their back on marginalized students and deeming them unworthy of a little extra help, undeserving of a chance to even the playing field in a society meticulously designed to keep the marginalized suppressed."

These points are important to consider in lieu of the university's budget deficit in recent years, which Chancellor Leavitt has said involves declining retention.

According to Hanover Research, "social connectedness and student involvement are important elements influencing student retention."

At one point, the university understood this idea according to Black Student Union (BSU) President Jade Hibbler.

Turn to DEI / Page 10

Student housing lookbook

Students showcase their living spaces, provide inspiration

By Cassidy Johnson and Suzanne Dawood
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Most college students spend the majority of their time in classes, extracurricular activities, clubs, dining halls, and more in an attempt to succeed at and receive an education, but now we get the chance to see where some students go at the end of the day when their work is all done.

Many buildings are integral to a student’s success in college, but perhaps the most vital in their journey is where they live and rest.

According to The Hippocratic Post and BedHut, having an aesthetically pleasing room can reduce stress and improve mood, sleep quality, focus and motivation.

Many college students, however, are in this unique position where they need a good space more than ever, but lack the funds to create one, or at least so they think.

Hearing from real-life college students both on and off campus, you can see (and hear) what life hacks other students are doing to make the best out of their living situation, and to make their place feel a little more like home.

Madison Wright

First up is Madison Wright, a senior majoring in African American studies who has lived in Fletcher Hall on campus since she was a sophomore.

“I love the amenities here. The huge elevator we have, the ice machine in the basement, the study rooms,” Wright said. “I love the fact that we have a kitchen full-size with fridge, microwave [and] oven on each floor.”

Another reason Wright enjoys Fletcher Hall is because of their modular furniture.

“Since I bought out the whole room, I get to use both sides [of the modular furniture], it’s very easy to unhook and hook stuff to move it, the cubbies, the desk, the bed itself, all you really need is one person [to move it].”

One of the main ways she likes to stay organized is by using the cubbies provided in the modular furniture.

“I love to stay organized with my cubbies. I try to personalize them as much as possible, and so I try to keep a good blend [of items] so I can easily grab and put stuff back.”

Wright also likes to stay organized by adding invisible command hooks to the side of her bed



Photos by Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

Rylee Allen is an Art major living in Horizon Village. She decorated her room with lots of art projects from her classes.

to help keep electronic cords organized, untangled and accessible.

While Wright enjoys how organized her dorm is, she says “My favorite part of my room I [would] have to say is my bed. My bed, like we previously discussed [is] a buy-out, so what I’ve done is combined both [beds], and now it’s a queen-sized bed.”

Beyond the comfort it brings, her bed is also a favorite decoration with what she calls her “rose-and-thorn bungalow”, which is a rose garland from Amazon that she wrapped around her headboard pictured below.

Matching the rose garland on her bed, Wright also has “my cute vase of flowers that I keep by the windowsill” on top of the build-in counters by the window.

Wright has also decorated her dorm with a variety of posters on her wall depicting a variety of important black historical figures alongside inspirational quotes to keep her motivated.

“Since I’m an African-American [studies] minor, I like to keep a little bit of representation, a little bit of quot-age (?) that serves as not only a reminder, but cute decor,” Wright said.

Dylan Ruebl

Dylan Ruebl is a Junior studying Psychology who has been living in a house on Scott Ave for two years that he shares with four other people.

“It can get a little hectic living with a lot of people, but it’s nice being able to just walk a few feet to

talk to someone.”

Ruebl’s favorite part about his dorm is his bed as well, a sentiment he seems to share with some other college students.

However, he says his favorite part overall is “the vibe. The decorations, the way it’s laid out, everything. It makes me feel cozy,” Ruebl said.

One decoration that really helps create this vibe is the vines he has hanging across the north side of his room above his bed.

The vines [are my favorite decoration] because it makes me feel like I’m outdoors and adds a touch of nature and greenery to my room,” Ruebl said.

Perhaps his most meaningful decoration, however, is a nostalgic memento from his sister.

“[It’s] a ‘hear no evil’ monkey I got from my sister for Christmas last year. She got it for me and my high anxiety as a reminder to not listen to what others have to say.”

Rylee Allen

Another student living in the dorms is Rylee Allen, a junior and Art major living in Horizon Village.

“Living on your own in horizon can definitely be very isolating, but it’s really nice to have the extra space,” Allen said.

Allen originally shared a two-bedroom suite with her roommate, but now has the whole place to herself, complete with her own personal living space, one and a half bathrooms, a kitchen, and of course, her bedroom.

“My favorite thing about my room would probably be the ocean vibe, and having the opportunity to decorate the entire room with my style instead of sharing a theme or splitting the space with someone else,” Allen said. “I also really like that others feel welcome and comfortable to visit because of the space and vibe it gives off.”

Allen carries this ocean vibe over to her living room, lining the wall with pieces of her own artwork all with a similar blue theme.

“Once my roommate moved out I just carried the theme all over as much as I could.”

While the ocean vibe may be her favorite part of her space, her favorite decoration is a pink flag that says “University of You Dad” for far more sentimental reasons than you may think.

“My roommate last year and I started having everyone who visits sign it once they’ve been to the room, and the tradition has carried on into this year,” she said. It’s [my] most unique and interactive decoration, which also acts as a guest book of all [of] those we’ve met.”

That isn’t the only sentimental think Allen likes to keep in her space, however.

“I’ve got a lot of random little things that I’d consider sentimental,” she said.

“There’s gifts from my sisters all over, family and friend pictures hung up, jewelry from travel hung up, and other objects for important people, places, and events scattered around.”

Ian Brohem

Ian Brohem, a sophomore studying psychology, shares his ideal lookbook for his home located on John Ave.

Previously living in Fletcher Hall, he decided to move into a house with a few friends for his sophomore year.

“When I got there I just kinda winged it, bought decorations as we went along. I definitely slowly accumulated things.”

With a small space as a dorm, or room, Ian shares his tips on how he keeps his belongings organized.

“I always try to put things away when I’m done with them.” Ian says. “Everything has a place.”

As his room remains mostly clean, he mentions that this allows for him to see one of his favorite pieces in his room, his iconic green fuzzy rug that brings in the color of his room.

“My favorite decoration in my room would probably either be my rug, or PC setup,” he says.

As Ian continues the semester in his home, he shares his excitement to move back into the dorms for his Junior year.

“I got offered a position to be a CA [community assistant] next year, and I do have a plan for that dorm, and trust it’s gonna be amazing.”

Ian mentions that he’s made memories whether living in his home, or his dorm. Memories are made wherever you go, and he says that a home is able to be made anywhere.



Suzanne Dawood / Advance-Titan

DEI: students effected by defunding

From Page 8

“I know when I was a freshman and coming into UWO, they pushed so much to have students join clubs and making sure that we find a place on campus where we feel like we can be ourselves,” Hibbler said. “I just feel like there’s just no way that they can take that away.”

Hanover Research also said, “despite temptations to cut ‘soft activities’ during budgetary cutbacks, it is important that students have a variety of opportunities to engage with peers through campus activities and organizations.”

“[DEI initiatives are] being taken away because there isn’t funding for them, but we’re not going to make up that funding through tuition dollars if no one wants to come to the university because it doesn’t offer the programs they want,” Hanrahan said.

Not having their own space and having a shared one also means no personalization.

“It’s been more word of mouth, nothing super set in stone but we’re not really allowed to decorate the space in a certain way,” Laundrie said.

Some DEI-centered organizations have also heard that they may need to cancel certain events.

“There’s been talks about clubs already, not just ours, but certain events getting cancelled because of not being with the new initiatives that have set into the school,” Laundrie said.

One of the clubs facing this

potential threat is WAC.

“WAC has a plan in April to throw an event called ‘sex toy bingo’, we’ve heard there was a chance we won’t be able to do it because of the DEI stuff,” Laundrie said.

While the government has been pushing out DEI, the students have been pushing back as well.

“Even though there’s a lot of pushback against DEI, students are also fighting against it and working to try and make this a better community,” said Laundrie.

Some things WAC has been doing to push back include planning more political events, working with Planned Parenthood and working on building a community without a space and providing support for those affected.

“I think no matter what happens, I believe that as students on campus, we have more power than we think we do,” said Hibbler. “I just think that there’s no way that they’ll be able to take away safe spaces for students on campus and take away clubs that really make students feel like they have a purpose and like they have a place to be on campus.”

While the school can, indeed, take away these safe spaces, they cannot take away the communities already built, and the impacts these centers have had on students, faculty and alumni alike.

“It’s very very hard to see the work of 13 years basically

gone,” Cannon said.

“The joy is I know that the whole purpose was to connect with students and to help them as they move through, and that that can never go away. The impact it had on students can never go away,” ey said.

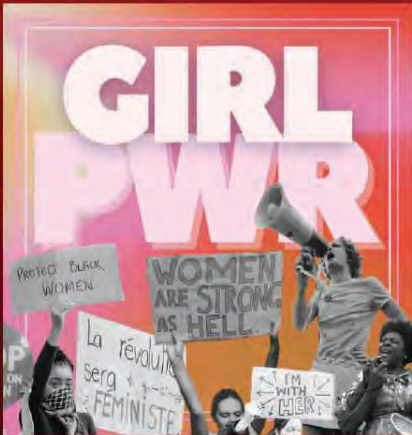
“I just worry about the current students and what’s going to happen.”

Also a retired professor who focused on DEI-centered curriculums, Cannon said, “I think the information we were teaching was so important because we were teaching people to think and to look at things from a whole variety of perspectives,” ey said. “We never were trying to teach people how to think, but just to think. And I think that that is unbelievably important.”

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Girl Power



Respect

Aretha Franklin



Femininomenon

Chappell Roan



Woman

Kesha, The Dap-Kings Horns



Run the World (Girls)

Beyoncé



On my Mama

Victoria Monét

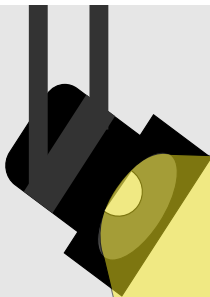


Diva

Beyoncé



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan



STUDENT spotlight

“Skeletons in a Cave”
by Boston Gies
on Spotify

Boston Gies, a student at UWO, has a knack for producing music.

Gies has released many projects, one of them being an album called “Skeletons in a Cave.”

Staff writer Suzanne Dawood took the time to ask Gies a few questions about his album and passion for music.

Q: What’s your major?

A: “My major is music industry, which is audio production and music business.”

Q: How did you create the title Skeletons in a Cave?

A: “I kind of had this vision ‘what if I made weird music about skeletons in a cave?’ it would be so goofy and interesting.”

Q: How would you describe your genre of music?

A: “You can call it down tempo or trip hop. Essentially, that’s kind of slower electronic music that is inspired by hip hop jazz, or techno dub.”

Q: What was your inspiration for this album?

A: “I listen to a lot of music [from] Boards of Canada, but also Tyler The Creator. His music is very scatterbrained. There’s multiple things happening at once, and his bridge’s are different.”

Q: How would you describe the typical work flow when working on your music?

A: “I’m constantly working on music, but it’s all about coming up with a song. Using astronaut sounds, or vocals and adding it to tracks to see if it’s interesting.”

Q: What are the end goals for your music? Do you want to be famous in any sort of way?

I could get famous doing it, I would love that.”

A: “I would love to continue making music. I’m constantly working on [new] music and I do want to release it. And if

You can listen to Gies’ music on Spotify at Botson Gies.



Women in law: disparity or equality?

By Cassidy Adams
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The legal profession has been historically a male-dominated industry with limited accessibility for women. Nowadays, women are given many more opportunities within the profession and are allowed the space to work as attorneys. However, despite the opportunities for women to be involved in law, there are questions as to whether there is real equality, or just a faux sense of it.

While men were involved with law and politics from the beginning, women had many barriers to overcome to gain their involvement.

According to an article from Stanford University, the first woman graduated from law school in 1870, despite the profession being formalized over 100 years earlier.

While women were technically allowed to attend law school, their enrollment didn't start gaining traction until the 1960s-1970s when well-known and top-tier law schools admitted women into their schools. Finally, women were admitted into law school over 200 years from the profession's formal origin, though at very small numbers.

Despite this win, the battle was not over for women in law. Today, when looking at the women's advancements in being involved with law, it is very impressive. Women have made the statistical makeup of the legal profession a lot more equal with their involvement.

When looking at the two law schools in Wisconsin, the statistics show the similarities in enrollment. At Marquette University's Law School 55% of the Fall 2024 entering class is women, making women the majority of the enrolled students. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Law School, in



Courtesy of Flickr

2020, women made up 46% of enrolled students. Men and women are both showing almost equal representation in law schools across Wisconsin and the United States. There are similarities in representation of practicing attorneys. According to the American Bar Association (ABA), "from 1950 to 1970, only 3% of all lawyers were women ... the percentage has edged up gradually since then [with] 41% in 2024." Despite the statistical evidence that there is equal representation of men and women in the legal profession, there are still problems that women face as practicing lawyers. Women in the legal field often deal with sexism. An article from Forbes explains many ex-

amples of sexist challenges that women lawyers face, including, "Female Lawyers Mistaken For Janitors, Administrators Or Court Personnel ... Female Lawyers Penalized For Assertive Behavior Required By The Job ... Female Lawyers More Likely To Be Interrupted ... [and] Female Lawyers Paid Less Than Equally Qualified Colleagues." This type of sexism deliberately limits a woman lawyer's ability to do her job. Many of the actions that women have been penalized for, equate to an ambitious, assertive male lawyer. Some of these actions and attitudes are necessary for success in a court trial, and women are being limited in their ability to perform. Not only are women experi-

encing sexism, but there is also gender bias that they face. Clients may choose not to pursue a woman lawyer due to the Goldilocks Dilemma, as described by the ABA. The ABA describes, "if they conform to the dominant feminine stereotypes — they are often seen as "too soft" to be effective leaders ... if they adopt traditionally masculine behaviors — [they are] seen as "too hard" to be effective leaders." Lastly, women face challenges surrounding motherhood. After becoming mothers, many women are treated differently, including being perceived as more soft. Therefore, women lawyers are penalized for being too dominant and job-focused before motherhood, but the opposite is considered after moth-

erhood. Women truly can't win in this battle. The statistics show that there is equal representation in law schools and in the industry itself. However, if women are unable to perform their jobs correctly due to issues such as sexism, gender bias and inflexibility with motherhood, is the legal profession actually equal, or is there a disparity? While women have made significant progress within the legal profession, sexism and gender bias remain as a barrier. True equality goes beyond the statistics and must take root in the practices and culture of the workplace. Empowering women, as society does to men, removes gendered limitations and can lead to a more progressive and productive profession.

Letters to the editor

Muslim women face prejudices

Those who wear hijab may feel hesitant practicing beliefs in public

By Fateha Khalood

Dear Editor,

Born in the East and raised in the West, I often find myself facing questions about my choice to wear the hijab. Growing up, I loved the concept of the hijab and other aspects of Muslim dressing. However, I often felt as if I had to remove my hijab to be perceived as a strong woman.

Muslim women in the West may feel hesitant or unsafe practicing their beliefs in public due to the fear of being judged. This undermines their identity and

strips them of their autonomy, as societal pressures discourage them from making choices, such as wearing the hijab.

While Muslim women are discouraged and judged for wearing hijab, they are also pressured to align with features and traits associated with non-white ethnicities, framing their natural features as inherently "ugly" before rebranding them as empowering. This creates a disconnect between the goals of feminism and the lived realities of women of color.

It imposes unrealistic expectations on women to conform to specific beauty standards, lead-

ing them to prioritize their appearance over their aspirations. This societal pressure is not only harmful to women's sense of self-worth, but also limits their potential by making them feel that their value is primarily tied to how they look.

What is empowering for one woman in this context can inadvertently harm or marginalize other women. It leads to narrow definitions of empowerment that only encompass some women's experiences. To fix these problems, we need to create more inclusiveness by educating people about women's diverse experiences.

Ed Gein The Stage Musical



Experience the darkly comic and broadly accurate story of the man who inspired Alfred Hitchcock to create Psycho!

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Easter Vigil: April 19, at 8:00 PM
Easter Sunday: April 20, at 9:30 AM

Palm Sunday: The blessing of palms, procession, the reading of the passion gospel, and Eucharist.	Easter Vigil: The lighting of a new fire, the reading of God's saving acts, remembrance of baptism, and the Eucharist.	Easter Sunday: Celebrate the Lord's resurrection with scripture, prayer, music, and Holy Communion!
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For more events: <https://www.oshkosh-episcopal.org/>

Letters to the editor

What happened to our moral compass?

By Donna R. Park

I used to be proud of being a citizen of the United States of America. My parents were part of what has been called the “Greatest Generation.” My dad served in England in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and I was raised to be proud of the many Americans who gave their lives in defense of democracy.

I also was proud that the United States played a major role at the United Nations (UN). At the UN, the US government joined with other nations to help poorer countries combat hunger and disease. That was also part of supporting democracy and, more broadly, supporting human rights.

I know that the US government hasn’t always lived up to its ideals. It has overthrown democratically elected governments and replaced them with authoritarians who promised to be pro-American. But, in many cases, it did the right thing, helping nations and people who were less fortunate. At its best, the

United States had a strong moral compass.

The Trump administration has made it clear that the US government is no longer interested in doing the right thing. Now it is only concerned about “America First,” and it is also a very narrow view of what is good for America.

According to an article by Margaret Besheer, who has long covered the UN for the Voice of America, the US government made it clear during a vote at the UN General Assembly that it will no longer reliably support the UN global sustainable development goals (SDGs). The SDGs, adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, are an urgent call for action by all countries working together to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth while tackling climate change.

On March 4, the US government voted against a resolution titled “International Day of Peaceful Coexistence” that reaffirmed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. US representative Edward Heartney explained that the Presidential election was a

vote by Americans to refocus on US interests stating, “simply put, the globalist endeavors like the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs lost at the ballot box.” The US vote didn’t change the outcome, for the resolution passed 162 to 3, with the US voting “No” along with Israel and Argentina.

But that isn’t all the US government opposed at the UN. Besheer goes on to say, “the General Assembly creates ‘International Days’ to raise awareness of important global issues and promote peace and tolerance. On Tuesday, delegates voted to create an ‘International Day of Hope,’ as well as an ‘International Day for Judicial Well-Being.’”

Washington stood alone, the sole no vote on both. The United States was also the only country to vote against a resolution “Education for Democracy,” which affirms “the right of everyone to education” and highlights “the importance of equal opportunities for young people, including women.” We stand alone in the world, voting against hope, judicial well-being and education for democracy.

Although the General Assembly doesn’t have the ability to create international law, it does have a moral authority, based on its representation of virtually all nations of the world. By contrast, thanks to the new US administration, the United States will no longer help create the world’s moral compass.

And to make matters worse, we might be withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and more international organizations based on recent Executive Orders.

We live on a small planet that is facing multiple global crises including war, pandemics, hunger, poverty, human rights abuses, climate chaos and the threat of nuclear destruction. The United States is not immune to these global crises.

Citizens for Global Solutions advocates that the best way to protect America and the world is to improve the way the world is governed — not turn our back on the world and our allies, not

**Donna R. Park**

throw away our moral compass. CGS works to transform the UN from a loose confederation of nations to a democratic federation of nations based on the rule of law, much the way the United States transitioned to a federation when we created our constitution.

CGS had envisioned that the United States would be a leader in this transformation. But, given recent events, it now looks increasingly like we are going to need to rely on others with a stronger moral compass to lead the way.

Trump returns to power to declare war?

By Kary Love

I almost never agree with Mr. Trump. However, having wasted a life as a lawyer trying to resurrect the Constitution of “limited, specifically enumerated powers” and checks and balances to avoid tyranny, I found myself reading his February 19, 2025, executive order proclaiming that, “ending Federal overreach and restoring the constitutional separation of powers is a priority of my Administration,” with hope and amazement.

The order directs all federal agencies in coordination with the DOGE teams embedded within them to spend the next 60 days combing through their regulations to identify any that may be unconstitutional.

Sadly, the most critical overreach destroying separation of powers was not mentioned. Let me explain.

The authors of the Constitution had lived under the government of England where the King was not only commander in chief of the Armies of the Empire, but could declare war as well. History, a favorite subject of the authors of the Constitution, was studied to see where England and other nations went off the rails and degenerated from legitimate government into tyranny and they found a single error repeated over and over again. What was it?

When one person could declare a war and then become Commander of the Armies to fight the war, in every case that

person often declared a war not because the nation was actually threatened, but because taxes and regulations had become so irritating to the people that they were getting restless and demanding reform and possibly revolution. So the Big Head Man, King, Emperor, Chief, whatever, would drum up a boogie man foreign enemy, use fear to inflame the people and divert their attention from the domestic over taxation and government abuse, and use war to manipulate patriotism to stay in power. This trick had been used over and over in history across the world.

So the Constitution created separation of powers especially in matters of war. The Congress alone can declare war: see: Article I, section 8, clause 11. The authors debated this and concluded history made the people safer if their representatives had to reach a consensus decision that war was necessary and proper. This, it was argued, prevented plunging the nation into an unnecessary war started by some single madman, or a wannabe King, or tyrant seeking to use war to benefit his own power grab as had occurred so many times in history.

Okay, you don’t trust me on this, I understand, because you have grown up in an America where Congress had long ago abandoned its duty to be the sole entity to declare war and instead delegated it to our Nuclear Dictator. Perhaps then you will listen to Abe Lincoln in 1848, responding to a challenge

er claiming the President could declare war without Congress, on the matter:

“The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress, was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons. Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions; and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us. But your view destroys the whole matter, and places our president where kings have always stood.” (–Abraham Lincoln, 1848)

Fear of the USSR (remember them?) overwhelmed Americans and enabled the Congress to give the President the power to declare nuclear war in the 1947 National Security Act. Just one dude, with his “nuclear football,” can launch the entire US nuclear arsenal! Enough bombs to pretty much wipe out humankind, launched in violation of the Constitution. This transformed the President into a Nuclear Dictator.

Rather than renouncing that unconstitutional delegation of power by Congress destroying separation of powers, every President since Harry S. Truman has accepted that violation of the Constitution, or supreme law, they swore to uphold. Accepting this illegal power seems

**Vladyslav Plyaka / Advance-Titan****President Donald Trump speaks at a rally in Green Bay.**

to violate the Presidential oath of office which requires the President to defend the Constitution. Accepting this power pretty much destroyed the heart and soul of the Constitution, and made every subsequent president an outlaw in any rational view.

I call on President Trump to renounce this most odious violation of separation of powers. I urge him to issue an Executive Order to restore the heart and soul of the Constitution. Declare to all the world, only the Congress can declare war and as President bound by his oath before god to defend the Constitution, he repudiates the Nuclear Dictatorship and orders all US military branches to refuse to follow an order to launch nuclear weapons unless Congress has declared war.

And, if the President does not do so, then the Congress,

**Kary Love**

the Courts and the people must strip him of that usurpation. The greatest unconstitutional overreach destroying separation of powers is the Presidential usurpation of the power to declare war. Can we start by reversing that?