



## What Used To Be A Man's World

Chesley Lee is Anoka-Ramsey Community College's first woman general repair worker.

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New volleyball coach brings team to victories after a seasons-long losing streak.

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Construction Piles onto Coon Rapids Campus.

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Photo by Justin Boeke

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**OUR MISSION**

The Campus Eye & The Ink Spot are published by students of the Coon Rapids and Cambridge campuses.

The purpose of The Campus Eye is to provide news from both campuses and views of their students and staff. The newspaper also provides an opportunity for student reporters, photographers and designers to gain experience covering news and producing a newspaper.

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



**Ivan Lopez-Kne**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The landscape of the world is constantly changing before everyone's eyes, with plenty of hardship to come with it. As politics become more divisive, drawing battle lines across the entire world, it can be a relief to see some of the more positive changes happening closer to home.

The role of news organizations is to report the world as it is - every beautiful and horrific part. The Campus Eye is dedicated to making sure students know about their home and are able to keep up with whatever changes start to come their way.

Luckily for Anoka-Ramsey, this semester has been filled with a lot of positive stories for us to focus on. From community building, to building winning teams, building a better vision of equality for our future, or even just physically changing our building.

All walks of life come through Anoka-Ramsey's buildings, and all should feel welcomed. Projects like the mural are designed to get students from all walks of life together, collaborating on art that will define the community of the school, and represent an erasure of the lines that separate some students.

Between the mural and our remodeled library, the physical appearance of the school is going to change a lot, especially in the coming year.

The Campus Eye also discovered changes stemming from years of gender roles. Our work with Chelsy Lee sheds light on how people can break out from traditional

molds and change the perception of what it means to be a woman. While this change is not new, and did not happen overnight, it can still represent the larger feeling of change our campus is going through.

Change is inevitable, and there has been plenty of change for The Campus Eye to cover this year. While there are plenty of details not listed in my letter, all readers are implored to read through the pieces prepared by The Campus Eye staff.

An educated public is critical, especially in times where there can be plenty of misinformation. News organizations are tasked with looking into the changing of the world and making sure the public can understand why they are happening.

The Campus Eye will continue to bring students of Anoka-Ramsey the news of campus, keeping the beautiful and ugly changes in the light.

## State Legislature Decisions Lead to Tuition Increase for Students

Anoka-Ramsey impacted by inadequate investment in higher education.  
Axel Kylander, Staff Writer

Anoka-Ramsey's administration raised tuition by three percent this summer.

This decision came after a lengthy process of analysis, budget consultations, advocacy in the state legislature and an assessment of the projected financial health of the college.

This analysis pointed to a tuition increase to maintain services in the aftermath of inadequate state investment.

In the 2019 legislation ses-

sion, the Minnesota State House and Senate determined a budget for Minnesota through 2021.

The Minnesota State system of colleges and universities requested \$246 million in funding in order to keep tuition flat and maintain services provided to students at public two- and four-year colleges and universities in the state.

The Star Tribune reported that Minnesota State colleges

and universities ended up receiving "roughly a third" of the requested funding. This led to the Board of Trustees, which oversees the entire college system, to vote to allow its schools to increase tuition up to three percent for the current academic year.

"The State didn't do us any favors," Anoka-Ramsey's Vice President of Finance and Administration Don Lewis said.

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# newswire

## What Used to Be a Man's World

Chelsy Lee is Anoka-Ramsey's first woman general repair worker.

Anthony Erickson, Staff Writer

Great individuals are only recognized as such when another person accounts for their actions. When we think of great women in our history, we often think of poets and writers like Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (aka Mary Shelley); civil rights activists like Rosa Parks and actress Katherine Hepburn; scientists like Marie Curie, who helped develop the first X-Ray machines.

But, does anyone think about the achievements

of the blue-collar, common-folk women in our history? Not really, as they are a part of a more esoteric and microcosmic group.

There is still a hushed stigma that a woman can't do everything a man can. However, women are making themselves more prevalent in the "working man's world," much like in the 1940s, while men were at war.

During World War II, Rosie the Riveter was plastered on advertisements

calling upon women to "Do the job HE left behind." Women's presence in the workforce rose nine percent during that era as they began to take up drill presses and started to make homes instead of homemaking.

Chelsy Lee, wife and mother of two girls, started working at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in 2006. At 19, she worked for Taher, a food service company that used to be contracted by the college. Lee is now 32, and the first woman general repair worker ever to work for Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

A typical day for Lee is getting up at 5:30 a.m., getting herself and her girls out by 6:15 a.m., and getting to work by 7:00 a.m. After she arrives at work, she goes through work orders, and emails then work on various projects after that. She gets off work at 3:30 p.m. and picks up her girls. Lee then takes them to horse riding lessons or Girl Scouts. After she makes dinner and lunches for the next day, and tries to get homework done sometime during that process.

"Then it starts all over again," Lee says.

Lee never thought about being a repair worker, though. "I wanted to be-

come a social worker, but when I quit the kitchen, I got hired on as a temp as a janitor. I realized I liked working with my hands and trying to fix stuff."

What is a general repair worker? On this campus, some responsibilities are to run checks on boilers, big air conditioners, and mechanical rooms. "Lots of checks," Lee said, chuckling. She also assists with large repairs such as fixing toilets and sinks, painting walls, changing ceiling tiles and lighting ballasts, a device that regulates the amount of voltage and current to a lamp.

The heating and cooling software is one of the more difficult parts of Lee's workday, "I'm not good with that program. It's a lot of numbers you have to remember. It's something I'm not catching on as fast as I would like to be." Installing emergency lighting ballasts are tricky. An emergency ballast is the same as a regular one but with a backup battery.

"It is a lot of wires in a small space. Some of them are wired differently. And it can take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour to an hour and a half. It all depends on the wiring." Lee lamented.

The requirements for becoming a general repair worker are HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) training and having a boiler's license. No experience is necessary, but it is helpful.

Her work is not only tricky but also dirty. The dirtiest job she performs would make Mike Rowe from Dirty Jobs proud to make an episode about. She has to clean the clay pits in the Visual Arts building annually. "It's slimy. It's stinky. It's like taking a clay bath."

But Lee has a motto that she expresses whenever a job is complicated: "It is what it is."

Lee isn't intimidated by her work's challenges. Lee shrugs and says, "It really hasn't been that hard. I was always a tomboy growing up, so I was around guys more. I've always had more guy friends than girl friends. I've always been more in a man's world."

In her boiler training class, there was a limited amount of other female classmates.

"Zero! I was the only one. So, I felt like I had to prove myself even more," Lee exuberantly said.

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A Rosie the Riveter poster produced by the U.S. government during World War II.



The Amazon forest fire that has been burning for months.  
IMAGE CREDIT Mashable

## The Amazon Rainforest is Burning

In the heart of this dilemma is Brazilian President Bolsonaro, self-nicknamed Captain Chainsaw.

Savanna Rayer, Staff Writer

Do you know who Captain Chainsaw is? The president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, gave himself this nickname as a result of his role in the current fires burning in the Amazon rainforest. This nickname has helped to call into question what the possible motives might be for his support of allowing fires to rage in the Amazon rainforest since late August.

The Amazon rainforest is in South America, with about 60 percent of it located in Brazil and the rest

spanning into eight other countries, including Peru, Ecuador and Guyana.

In total, the rainforest is about 2.1 million square miles. Inside this large piece of land holds many indigenous species and people who use the land for survival.

The fires are alarming to those who depend on the land because typically the Amazon rainforest would not have naturally occurring wildfires due to its high moisture level.

Officials believe the fires were deliberately started but say that it's difficult to determine what or who may have started them and why.

Some speculate that President Bolsonaro started the fires so he could clear land for cattle. Bolsonaro denies that claim and instead believes that nongovernmental organizations are responsible, trying to make him look bad.

Other theories suggest that global corporations like McDonalds and Walmart

are involved.

More locally, Anoka-Ramsey students say they are mostly unaware of the Amazon rainforest fires. Nearly two-thirds of students polled recently said that they consume current events media often, but rarely see updates about the ongoing fires. Anoka-Ramsey geography instructor Amy Lilienfeld helped to clarify the reality of the fires.

The fires are "deliberate burning associated with slash-and-burn agricul-

ture," Lilienfeld said.

This is a process during which vegetation is cleared out by fire and then the layer of ash creates a quality fertilizer for crops.

Lilienfeld explained that this method is commonly used in Mexico and Central America, so it wouldn't be unusual for this to be a possibility in Brazil and that it might not be as harmful as others suggest because "indigenous people need to grow food."

Continued on page 7

## One Community, One Voice

Large scale mural being created, driven by Anoka-Ramsey students

Ivan Lopez-Ken, The Campus Eye editor

A 1,000 foot mural is being designed by the Coon Rapids campus art department and students with guidance from Greta McLain of Good Space Murals. The project was pitched by Rachel Breen, an instructor in the art department, and McLain. The duo say they are trying to help create a larger sense of community at the college through a mural that will represent the backgrounds of everyone attending the school.

“The bigger goal of the project is to start introducing alternative ways for students to get to know each other, and bridge over all of our differences that can be easy to see and focus on. And find ways to actually connect with each other and be stronger for it,” McLain said.

The process will be long, but McLain is making sure that as many students as possible are involved along the way. Student-run workshops are helping to create safe spaces on campus where students can share their stories and find what it is that makes up Anoka-Ramsey’s community.

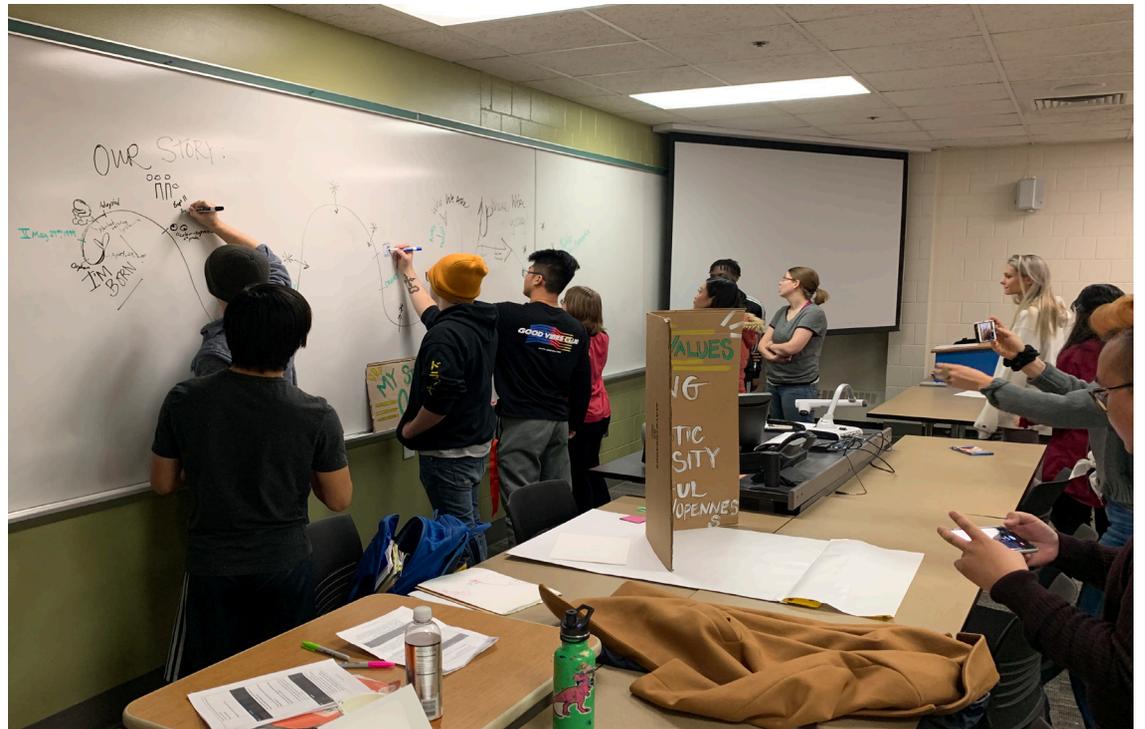
“It’s a great opportunity just for students to work with [McLain], and I needed to

create a way for students to work with her,” Breen said about the workshops. “And it didn’t really make sense for them to be assistants. I really wanted them to participate in helping to run the workshops and helping to lead the painting process. It just kinda evolved in a really organic way.”

All the student leaders have different stories as to how they joined the project. Chii Vue said they were personally asked to be a leader in the project because of their experience and Oksana Swafford thought it would just be a good use of her time. Other students like Kelvin Gbahn had a more unique path to join the project.

“I was in the art department but I was doing my own thing individually and I didn’t know that I could kinda help influence and get involved like that,” Gbahn said. “They kinda asked me to jump in, and it went on from there.”

These students, among others, have been leading their peers in exercises designed to increase comfort levels on campus and help transform the environment on campus. Students were led through exercises to



help them share their life stories. McLain’s goal of helping communities discover their similarities and grow together shows through her desire to get rid of what she calls the “shiny social media life.”

“A lot of students are experiencing challenges, and the campus story of who is here, a lot of people share very similar narratives, like ‘I found a good education, and it’s affordable,’ and ‘I’m the first in my family to go to school!’ But there’s also the challenge of ‘I have three jobs, and I’m super stressed all the time,’ and ‘I’m dealing with depres-

sion,’ or ‘English isn’t my first language,” McLain said. “We live in a day of social media and the shiny social media story is the only one that’s acceptable. And we’re also living in an age of so much depression and loneliness.”

McLain’s Good Space Murals is founded on the principle of using murals to help communities grow together by creating together. Breen has a slightly different view on the project.

“I’m not going to say what it means to the school. I think that’s what we’re doing right now. We’re doing these workshops and reaching out to all the parts of our community to kind of figure out how we understand our sense of community,” Breen said.

Workshops will continue in class through the rest of November and December and the mural painting will begin in March. The tentative unveiling is scheduled for May 7, 2020.

PHOTO BY Ivan Lopez-Kne

# newswire

## Constructive Construction on Campus

The Coon Rapids campus is undergoing construction for a reimagined library.

Karissa Anderson, multimedia staff

The Coon Rapids campus library is getting a 28,000 square foot remodel. On Jan. 13, 2020 a small portion of the Riverside lounge will be open as a temporary library. Students can come to the lounge to check out books. On Aug. 24, 2020 the fully remodeled library will be open for fall semester.

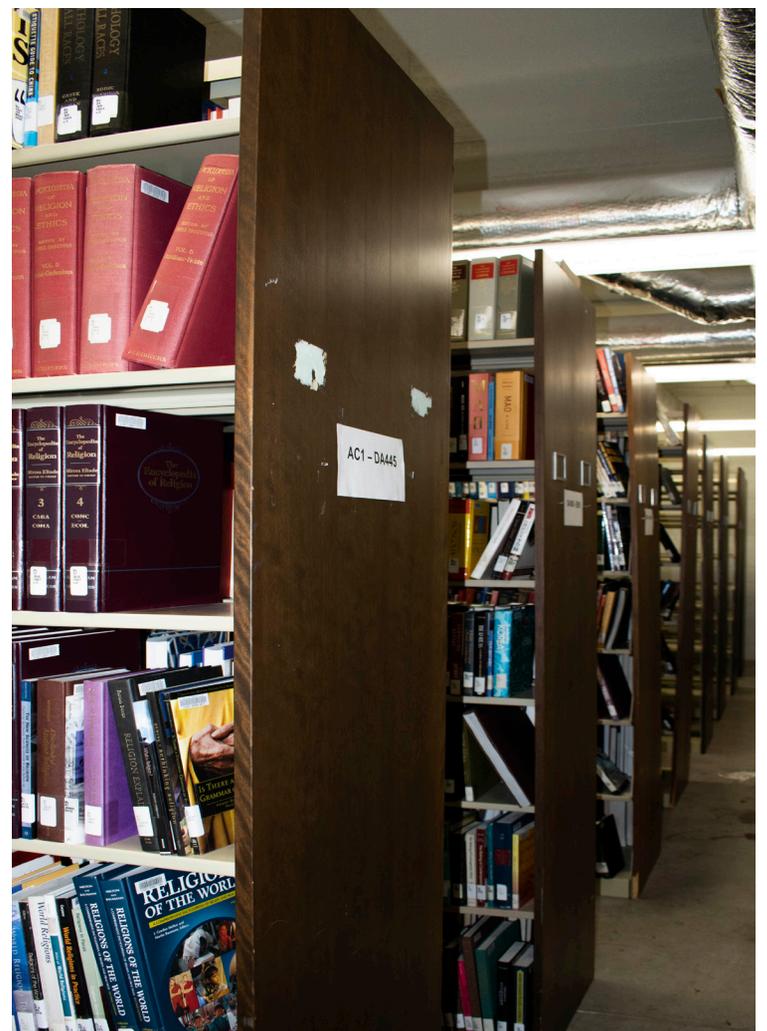
The updated library will be a new experience. There will be more places for students to relax and plug in their computers. There will also be more student study rooms so students can have group study or work on a group project. Al Mamaril, one of the librarians, wants students to know that the library is a student space and the newly designed library will reflect that.



ABOVE: Bookshelves are being removed that previously help multimedia and reference books. Study rooms may be built in these locations.

BOTTOM LEFT: Rows of study desks replaced bookshelves that are now down in a storage area (RIGHT).

PHOTOS BY Karissa Anderson



# newswire

## What Used to Be a Man's World continued from page 3



Chelsy Lee at work at the Coon Rapids campus at Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

Her work doesn't come without risks. In November of 2017, Lee fell down some stairs in B235, a lecture hall, and injured her tailbone.

"When I got to the bottom. I grabbed my radio and phone. Stood up said I was good. I remember trip-

ping twice, then grabbing my coworker's arm."

The next thing she said she remembers is waking up to nursing students looking at her while she regained consciousness.

"I came back to work the next day...I got a donut to sit on," she laughingly said,

"Which I refused to sit on. Because it made the injury worse."

In true Lee fashion, she got back to work the next day.

"Her working as soon as she was cleared by a doctor is why she is so highly regarded and respected as a fellow employee," said Jeff Bradway, coworker, and friend of Lee, in an email.

Lee not only has support from coworkers but also her boss.

"I'm a very protective person and a bit old fashion. I view some of our younger staff as my kids, and it bothers me whenever one of them gets hurt or in any kind of trouble (if this were to occur)," said Director of Facilities Ken Karr, her supervisor, in an email.

Employees of the State of Minnesota accumulate sick time. During the first five years, a general maintenance worker acquires four hours of sick time per pay

period. Lee has been employed by the State for about six years. Yet, she chose to go back to work the next day. How many people are out there that have the opportunity to take time off, but instead come into work the next day?

Aside from work, Lee is pursuing an associate's degree in business administration and has aspirations of obtaining her chief boilers license in a few years. When she is done with college, she wants to keep climbing in facilities.

"I don't really see myself going anywhere. I am a lifer. I will go as far as the college will let me," Lee said.

Her colleagues can attest to Lee's drive.

"Her limitation is only set by her self-assurance or self-doubt. If she can get rid of her own personal self-doubt, there is no limit to what she can do. She is her own barrier to her own limitations," said Building Maintenance Foreman Dave

Madden of Anoka Technical College said.

The definition of pusillanimous means showing a lack of courage or determination; timid. The common slang term for the word is "pussy."

If there is one word that could never be associated with Chelsy Lee, it is both the aforementioned full and slang term of pusillanimous.

One could tell men to ball up and gain some sort of misconceived machismo that often associates with being a man. But when it comes to Lee, not having any kind of male reproductive system and still doing more than what a man does in a man's job, one can only say brass up and gain some guts.

So, brass up gentlemen. The 1940s weren't a fluke. Your careers are endangered by the opposite sex, and they're willing to do the jobs YOU leave behind.

## Amazon Fire continued from page 4

There is not a clear way to stop the fires in Brazil. Bolsonaro says he won't accept money or resources from other countries because Brazil is "not to be colonized," despite the G7's \$20 million aid pledge.

With the fire burning at the rate of about a football field per minute, time is of the essence.

Lilienfeld says that if the fires continue to burn, it

probably won't affect the oxygen in the atmosphere because the rainforest acts as a CO2 sink. Organisms take carbon dioxide from the air to store for photosynthesis and when the plant dies, the carbon dioxide goes into the soil.

The smoke from the fires could cause immense air pollution, which is already damaging life in the area.

According to Lilienfeld,

the biggest threat to the Amazon Rainforest is climate change.

Even with all this information, it's difficult to know what to conclude about the fires burning in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. Perhaps the fires will dissipate soon and maybe even result in some positive benefits for the area.



Indigenous people searching for supplies to help their village. IMAGE CREDIT: Independent

# newswire

## Library Renovation Hits Riverside Lounge



On Nov. 26, a construction worker put the finishing touches on a wall to divide the remaining Riverside Lounge space from the future library space slated to open spring semester.

PHOTOS BY Karissa Anderson



### Tuition Increase continued from page 2

Lewis characterized the “big picture” of the college’s finances as stable and able to maintain its status quo while exploring new options.

This is “a half-step better than staying afloat,” Lewis said.

The day-to-day operating realities of the college pose “much more of a challenge” to Lewis.

The appropriated funds were “not sufficient” to meet the operating costs of the

college, thus shifting more of the college’s expenses onto students, Lewis explained.

Of the 2020 – 2021 academic year, Lewis said that the state’s funding allocation for colleges is likely going to be worse than this year if the legislature does not make an increased investment in higher education.

The Board of Trustees and college administrations will once again have to weigh

the option of increasing tuition, causing what would be, for many students, an

even greater barrier to affording and graduating from college.



The Minnesota State Board of Trustees, who were part of the decision-making process. IMAGE CREDIT Minnesota State

## The Fallout We Wanted

The Outer Worlds is finally here as the spiritual successor to Fallout: New Vegas

Finn Kastner, The Glitch podcast host and staff writer

The Outer Worlds is an open world RPG in an era of RPGs where your choices mean nothing. The Outer Worlds is arguably one of the best RPG games to come out in the past few years. Yes, I know The Witcher 3 is the best, but that was in 2015, so I'm not counting it.

The story of The Outer Worlds is actually really fun. I was engaged in the story from beginning to end, and I can't say that for many games. The story really is in your control (semi-spoilers ahead).

The Outer Worlds even lets you turn-in the mad scientist who saves you at the start of the game. You can do that right off the bat. If you decide to not turn-in the mad scientist, every subsequent place you go becomes your quest to save both the planets and people you meet in the falling apart space of The Outer Worlds. You also save the people on the colony ship you were on before being rescued.

It's clear that Obsidian Entertainment worked hard on this game.

The Outer Worlds, at its core, resembles Fallout: New Vegas also developed by Obsidian Entertainment. Many Outer Worlds systems work similarly to Obsidian's only Fallout title.

There are some differences because The Outer Worlds is a standalone game. For instance, Fallout V.A.T.S. are replaced with a time manipulation ability. It works similarly to the way V.A.T.S work in Fallout 4, but it's way better. Your aiming is normal but time slows down. This allows the player to shoot specific body parts to give the enemy debuffs or to make difficult shots or dodge fast strikes.

The gunplay also feels a bit Fallout-ish, but it's not the worst I've ever played. Some of the guns are satisfying to use and killing people is fun if you have the right damage type.

The movement is also like Fallout. For example, sprinting is disorienting at first but after an hour, no problems.

The choice to not have stamina as a resource was amazing. There were many times where I had to cross a large amount of terrain and unlimited running makes those treks more enjoyable.

Before we explore the characters, let's discuss the companions and abilities. I put these two together because many abilities affect your followers. The companions you can get are really deep and each have long individual quests that

are nearly as long as the main game. Each follower is likeable, unique and helpful.

I chose to try the game without companions the first time, to see how difficult it was, and it was obvious I missed a lot of the game. The game was a little short without them, but I never needed to take a companion. The freedom to do what I wanted really made this game stand out.

Perks are another aspect you can play without, but you will miss out on some options. There are standard health and focus boosts and follower-focused ones.

The stats you pick at the start are permanent but you can increase any skill all the way to 100 if you want. Just like Fallout: New Vegas the speech skills are overpowered. Players can talk their way through the whole game.

I know this because I did it. It was fun to smoothly talk yourself out of every situation and using guns as a last resort.

Lastly, the characters. Every character was enjoyable and I found myself never skipping dialogue because I wanted to hear what everyone had to say.

Many of the named characters have interesting backstories which usually come into play when making big decisions. These decisions always pop up when you start a new area and do things for a faction. These choices do impact the story, and the ending, so you truly feel in control of your character.

Overall this game was really fun to get into and there's a lot of depth. It's definitely worth its price of \$60 (for multiple consoles).

### Gameplay

It's Fallout 76, but the RPG side with way less bugs

### Quests

Fetch quests were so good, I felt like a golden retriever

### Characters

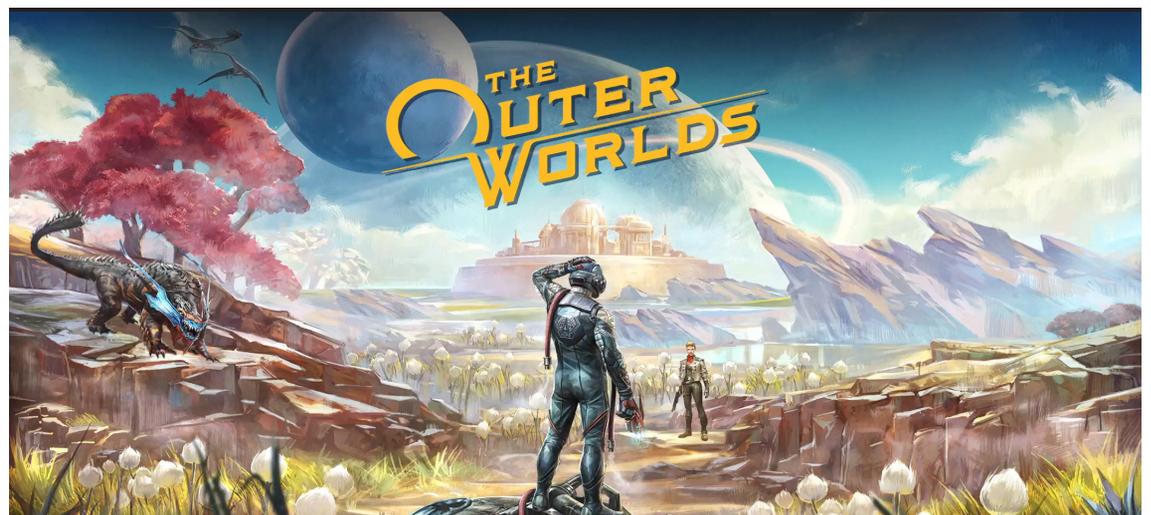
They made me question reality.

### Story

Like a combination of Rick and Morty and The Flash.

### Overall

9.25/10 Han Solo simulator.



# sports

## Gold for the Golden Rams

Golden Rams soccer teams gain regional championships

Evelyn Kastner, The Campus Ear host and staff writer

The men's and women's soccer teams both won their region championship games in their fall 2019 post-seasons.

The women's soccer team had a successful season this year, winning nine out of their 11 games. They tied one game with Rochester Community and Technical College with two overtimes with a final score of 1-1.

The Rams defeated Rochester 1-0 in the Region XIII Tournament Championship Oct. 20 against Rochester.

Lauren Ives scored the winning-goal of the game in the second minute of the game.

Ives was named the 2019 NJCAA Region XIII Most Valuable Player.

The Rams lost to Delta in the district tournament Nov. 3.

The men's soccer team had a very successful season as well, winning nine of their 16 games and one tied game against Madison College with a score of 0-0.

The men's team defeated Riv-erland in the NJCAA Region XIII

men's championship on Oct. 19. The game included two overtimes with a final score 3-2.

The game winning goal was shot in by Nils Gulbranson who also scored the second goal of the game. Gulbranson was named the 2019 NJCAA Region XIII Most Valuable Player.

Lauren Ives moves past Rochester player during their regular season game, held at home on Oct. 2.

PHOTO BY Hanna Schultz



## “We have everything we have because of 2019.”

The volleyball team hadn't won a game in three years. And then Brandon Bader came on as the volleyball coach.

Karissa Anderson, multimedia staff

Brandon Bader is the new women's volleyball coach at Anoka-Ramsey.

Last November, Bader moved to Minnesota and coached the Shakopee Volleyball Association club. One year later, he has his first season coaching volleyball at Anoka-Ramsey over the net. And it was mere months ago he applied for the job.

When Bader applied for the volleyball coach position at Anoka-Ramsey, he had doubts he was qualified enough to be a college coach. Anoka-Ramsey Athletic Director Dave Alto encouraged Bader to apply and, to Bader's surprised, he was hired on.

“Steve the vice president gave me a call and said we would like to hire you as a coach, and I think I remember doing a victory lap around the apartment,” Bader said. “This has been the best thing that has probably happened.”

Bader said he loves the vision and goals the campus has and how interactive and involved Anoka-Ramsey President Kent Hanson is with the professors and students.

“There are some four-year schools that don't have this level of support for their athletics and just their student body as a whole,” Bader said. “They empower people who they hire to make decisions and that's important...I love selling the school to potential athletes because I think we really have that much to offer.”

The athletics department gave him a month to create a team. They gave him a spreadsheet of 100 students and said, “make a team.” Bader knew they weren't going to win a ton of games, because they are a whole new team and hadn't meshed or built chemistry with each other.

But he figured, “new coach, new energy, that alone would

get us to win three or four games,” Bader said.

Bader said his coaching techniques are always changing because the players are always changing. His new challenge is age proximity since he is only four years older than most of his players.

This past season he focused on player intelligence and figuring out how to do stuff on the fly during games.

For next season, he has a white board in his office that is coded and laid out for him to keep track of what positions he has filled.

“The whiteboard is just how I keep track of my roster, recruits and commits. I look at things in a three-year window. The upcoming year has the most [things] as it's how we're aiming to shape our team in the immediate future. 2021 has an ‘early top 15’ and 2022 has an ‘early top 8’ of players we're looking at,” Bader said



over email. He has six players that have verbally committed for next year.

Bader wants the 2019 team to be remembered and get recognized with future players.

“We have everything we have because of 2019, now that we have it, let's make it happen, let's get to work,” Bader said.

During the off-season he is hoping that the team will build chemistry. For the 2020 season, there will be three re-

On Sept. 17 in the Anoka-Ramsey Performance Gym, Marcale Palm reaches up to spike the ball during the game. New volleyball coach Brandon Bader watches on while Marcale Palm spikes the ball.

PHOTO BY Hanna Schultz

turning players and ten new players.

“Next year I am expecting us to be better, I am leaving that open and broad by design, because it's going to be a brand-new team,” Bader said.

## A Look at an Isolated Life

A Review of “History of Wolves” by Emily Fridlund  
Rebekkah Zellman, Contributing writer

The novel “History of Wolves” by Emily Fridlund is a haunting coming-of-age story about teenage Madeline, or Linda as she is often called, living isolated in northern Minnesota.

Linda’s isolation as the final remnant is a central theme throughout the novel. She lives with her parents in an abandoned commune that was once the hub of an idealistic utopia of sorts.

As conflict starts to divide the community, families move away, leaving Linda and her parents to inhabit the remains of their once vibrant community.

Linda is often isolated at school and doesn’t have many friends. She is taken under the wing of a misguided teacher, becoming his sole confidant

when she is an adult.

And then there is the problem of Paul Gardner’s family. After being welcomed into their home and trusted to care for their beloved son, tragedy forces them out of Linda’s life, and she is left once again the remnant.

This novel is Linda’s coming-of-age story. While the timeline does jump from past to present to less distant past and back again, the focus of the story is on the events that took place when Linda was 14 and 15 years old. The events that happen to Linda at this time shape what the reader sees of her in adulthood.

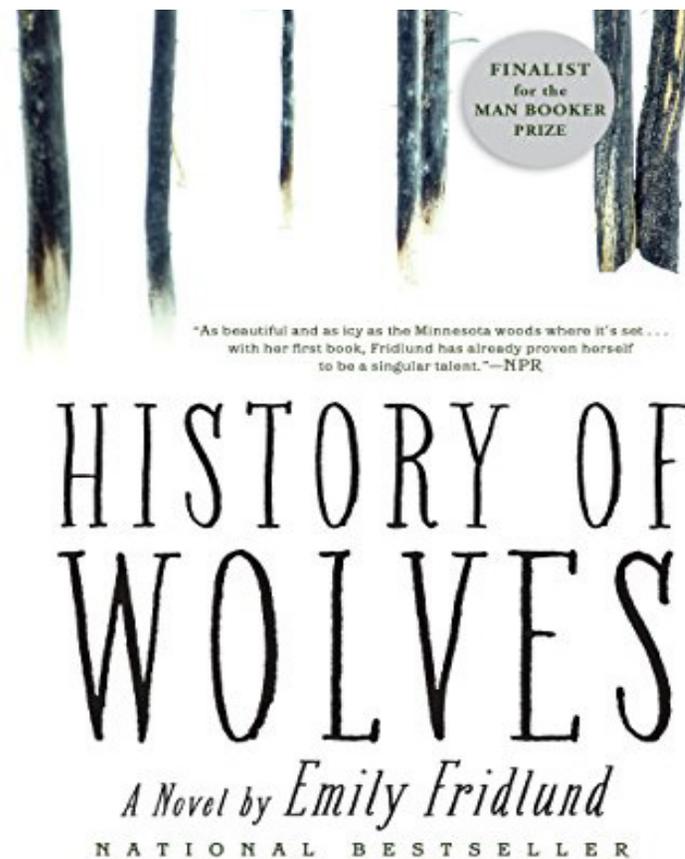
This novel also deals with the alleged sexual misconduct of a teacher in Linda’s school, the victim of this misconduct, and Linda’s involvement in

and awareness of the situation.

The reader also sees Linda develop nurturing and responsibility traits as she becomes a caretaker for Paul.

Her adolescence shows as she loses patience with Paul. But her caring concern also shines through as she starts to pick up on cues that something is not quite right with Paul and his parents.

This novel is perfect for the reader who is content with loose ends. The ending of “History of Wolves” is ambiguous and leaves the reader wanting more. Much in the way that the reader lacks a satisfying “bow” tied up at the end of the story, Linda is left grappling with the events of that spring and summer for the rest of her life.



## Local Author Graces Two Rivers Reading Series’ 20th Anniversary

“History of Wolves” author, Emily Fridlund, visits Coon Rapids campus.

Amanda Finnestad, Contributing writer

I was seated in a crowded theater room, surrounded by students and faculty members, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the esteemed author that was visiting Anoka-Ramsey that day. This event was the 20th anniversary of the Two Rivers Reading Series and there was a very special guest.

The stage lights streamed down, a soft, yellow light illuminating the intimate conversation area where author Emily Fridlund would be

discussing her debut literary fiction novel, “History of Wolves,” with English faculty member Paige Riehl.

Fridlund quietly walked through the room and up the steps to the podium. She humbly spoke of her gratitude upon invitation as a special guest before opening her book to read a passage. Her voice was calm and clear, carrying through the still auditorium. As she closed the passage, it was apparent her words had moved the audi-

ence as they were collectively attentive, waiting to hear more.

Fridlund discussed how her own life experiences are intertwined in “History of Wolves,” originally a short story.

During the audience question and answer segment, one student asked why Fridlund decided to jump around back and forth through time while writing this book, instead of writing it in a “normal fashion like other authors do.”

Fridlund answered candidly, describing writing this book in a non-linear fashion, much like a person would when looking back on something difficult in their life and then moving away from it again.

Another student asked how much research was done and when it was done. Fridlund said that too much research too soon makes the “stitching” too obvious so she likes to research as she goes. Stitching is a writing process

where real-life experiences are intertwined into a fantasy or fiction story.

“How much do we take from the real world and compost it and make it our own?” Fridlund asked back to the audience.

Riehl asked about the meaning of the book’s title. Fridlund uses wolves in the title to evoke hierarchy symbolism.

In Fridlund’s words, the book is “as much about love as it is about death.”

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