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Middletown, Connecticut | Volume CLIII, Issue 2 | Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Since 1868

The Wesleyan Argus

WSA Launches New Student Group Tool

By Miranda Katz
News Editor

The Wesleyan Student Assembly's (WSA) new student group management system went live on Monday, Sept. 2, offering students an array of new tools with which they can manage and grow their student groups. OrgSync, founded in 2007 by students at the University of Texas at Austin, will replace WSA Tools and Applications, the University's former system.

WSA Community Committee (CoCo) Chair Alton Wang '16 explained the impetus behind the decision.

"We felt that it was time that we needed a system that would be easier for students...to use, and to give students more tools with their groups, with the management [and] communication," he said.

Wang added that WSA Tools and Applications presented several problems in part due to the fact that it was created by the University rather than a professional platform.

"I wouldn't call it broken, because it wasn't necessarily, but there were times when we'd have issues with the system," Wang said. "We've had a group…go missing, which we never want, or [other] things like that. Overall, it was in part just the usage and the usability of that system, as well as a desire to give students more

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TRISHA ARORA/ PHOTO EDITOR

Following a busy summer of rebuilding, Long Lane Farm is full of life and ready to welcome new farmers. The farm was forced to remove 18 inches of soil due to pesticides found last winter.

Mulch Ado About Nothing

Long Lane Farm Remediates, Rebuilds, and Reunites

By Rebecca Seidel
Features Editor

Someone who visited Long Lane Farm about half a year ago might have felt like ze was stepping onto the surface of Mars. An unexpected discovery of pesticides last winter compelled the farmers to replace the top 18 inches of soil, leaving the farm bare, rocky, and desolate. Following a bustling few months of intensive remediation, however, the farm is well on its way back to being a place of greenery and growth.

From the Track to the Farm: Remediating the Soil

Things were running smoothly on the farm until last winter, when the State of Connecticut found that Long Lane's soil contained trace elements of illegal pesticides from the practices of its previous owners, the juvenile correctional facility Long Lane School for Girls. This finding triggered a large soil replacement project that entailed rebuilding the farm from scratch.

"The only legal option for the University was to have the first 18 inches of topsoil removed from the whole farm," explained Joshua Krugman '14, who is active on the farm.

This was upsetting news for the Long Lane Collective, the group of students and faculty who keep the farm running.

"The Farm was completely obliterated," wrote Assistant Professor of Anthropology and the Science in Society Program Gillian Goslinga, who is the Long Lane Collective's faculty advisor, in an email to The Argus. "More than 10 years of cultivation and care were wiped out in a just a few weeks."

After removing the contaminated soil, the farmers set out to replace it with soil from Wesleyan's track, which was replaced with Astroturf last year.

"That was good because it was local soil; it didn't have a big carbon footprint," Krugman said. "But it was also not good because it was mostly clay and rocks, not very good soil to be farming with."

The farmers recalled the challenges of working with the new soil,

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Wesleyan Athletes to Watch This Fall

By Josh Cohen
Sports Editor

They walk among us across the campus. They dine in our halls. They study in our lounges. You may distinguish some of them by sight; after all, they are much larger than the average WesKid, a presence at the gym, and a scourge at Usdan.

Worry not, for though they may be huge, they are no different than you or I; they, too, write their Past on Film papers at the last minute, one sentence at a time. In fact, some of them are not so imposing in stature at all. Some blend in like so much vodka in a bucket of jungle juice: unquestionably strong, but indistinguishable if you're not paying close attention. Until you see them in their elements, you may never guess they are some of the best athletes to call themselves Cardinals.

They are the ones who will fight for old Wesleyan on the pitch, in the rivers, and between the hash marks. I can't say whether these are the athletes we need or the athletes we deserve as we quest for New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) dominance; I am no arbiter of justice or virtue. What I can say is that these people are really good at sports, and you should keep an eye out for them when the University gets back in action for the fall season.

Amber Bruckner '14, Field Hockey

The field hockey team is looking to reload after losing much of its offensive punch to graduation. Wesleyan's top three scorers accounted for 54 of field hockey's 93 points last season, and they have all finished their collegiate

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ARYA ALIZADEH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kim Farris '14 will be a force at the net for the volleyball team this season.

Students, Faculty Plan to Further Public Safety Reform

By Tess Morgan
News Editor

After the arrests of two Public Safety (PSafe) officers last May, and in response to student complaints throughout the 2012-13 academic year, the University continues its review and reform of the PSafe office.

In May, two PSafe officers were accused of video taping a student in her residence. This incident, as well an incident involving a former PSafe officer charged with larceny, was covered by The Middletown Patch and The Middletown Press and prompted the blog In The 'Cac to publish an article titled "Wesleyan's Public Safety Nightmare."

"Students are in uproar over the number of P-safe alerts that have been necessitated this year," the article on In The 'Cac read. "It is unfathomable that the very people hired to protect the students are being arrested and accused left and right for abuse, theft, and voyeurism."

April's incident prompted the immediate firing of the two officers involved, Richard Hodge and Michael Anderson. According to an article published by The Middletown Patch, the officers had been watching one female student on campus for over a year. Middletown Police also unearthed crude text messages between the two officers discussing various female students on campus. Anderson, who was charged with dissemination of voyeuristic material, pleaded not guilty in July, while Hodge obtained a court continuance to enter his plea on Sept. 26, weeks after his plea was originally due.

The frequency of incidents on campus and a lack of communication between students and PSafe prompted the Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA) to reintroduce a committee to assess PSafe operations. The current iteration of the group is called the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), comprising both administrators and students. PSAC Chair Scott Elias '14 discussed the committee's role.

"We were making recommendations [for things PSafe] should do, and then they weren't doing them, and then more problems were happening, and so we were making more recommendations," Elias said. "That's sort of why they created the

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The Wesleyan Argus
established in 1868

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The Wesleyan Argus (USPS 674-680) is published by the undergraduates of Wesleyan University. The University does not publish the Argus or influence its content, nor is it responsible for any of the opinions expressed in the Argus.

The Argus is published twice weekly during the school year except in exam periods or recesses. First class postage paid in Middletown, CT 06459.

The Argus welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces that pertain to campus issues, news stories and editorial policy. The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. (Monday, for Tuesday publication, and Thursday, for Friday publication). All submissions should be e-mailed to argus@wesleyan.edu, and should include the author's name and telephone number.

Wespeaks should be no longer than 750 words. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words.

The Argus reserves the right to edit all submissions for spelling, grammar and length as well as withhold Wespeaks that are excessively vulgar or nonsensical. The Wespeak editors will provide titles for all submissions. Due to the volume of mail received, neither publication nor return of submissions are guaranteed.

Editorial offices are located at 45 Broad Street, Middletown. Mail address: The Argus, Box 91657, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06459.

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Corrections: In the August 30 issue, the biographical article on John Wesley inaccurately reported dates of the relocation of Captain Alden Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy. The article originally reported the dates as 1925 and 1929. The Academy was moved in 1825 and 1829. The article also incorrectly used the word "tenant" instead of "tenet."

NEWS

Reform: PSRC Suggests Changes

Continued from front page

Public Safety [Review] Committee because if you have administrators on the committee as opposed to just students, there's more power behind it."

The committee consists of two students, a professor, a Human Resources representative, Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Whaley, and a consultant from The Spelman and Johnson Group, a search firm that assists with filling positions in higher education.

The committee hopes to conclude its search for a new Director of PSafe within the semester; the position was vacated by Dave Meyer, who retired this summer. The position is temporarily being filled by PSafe Interim Director Tony Bostick.

"We've been in consultation with a search consultant company that is reviewing a certain amount of applicants," Elias said. "We [are] looking at the applicants [and] trying to find out which is the most qualified, especially in light of some of the concerns that were raised last year."

Last spring saw the beginning of an external review of PSafe, conducted by Margolis Healey & Associates. According to Whaley, this review is nearly complete.

"We sent an alert to the community last spring when we became aware of the [voyeurism] case," Whaley wrote in an email to The Argus. "That statement indicated that the officers were immediately terminated and that my office had reached out to the student who was impacted."

Whaley explained that he expects to receive the results of the review soon.

The review was partly a result of incidents on campus that brought into question the breadth of PSafe's power. One particularly controversial incident occurred in October 2012, when Paulie Lowther '13 was allegedly assaulted by PSafe officers in the Freeman Athletic Center during Hurricane Sandy. An investigation led by former Vice President for Institutional Partnerships and Chief Diversity Officer Sonia Mañjon and Human Resources found that the officers did not act out of hostility, but the University nonetheless ordered additional training for PSafe officers. Elias explained that this has been taken into account during the search for a new director.

"I want someone who is going to be transparent," he said. "There were issues with whether or not we should be publishing protocols and policies, especially after the incident that happened during Hurricane Sandy. That sort of created this gray area where it was like, 'What can PSafe do and what can't PSafe do?'"

Elias expressed his hopes for the new director and for the reformation of PSafe as a whole.

"Hopefully we'll find someone who can rebuild the relationship between the student body and PSafe," Elias said. "In light of what happened last year between the voyeurism, the alleged racial profiling, and whether or not PSafe is allowed to use force, there's just increasing skepticism in the student body. [It's] not just an image thing, but I think they have to be very proactive in making sure they can restore dignity to their office."

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WSA: OrgSync Offers New Platform

Continued from front page

tools."

The WSA collaborated with the Center for Community Partnership (CCP) and Information Technology Services (ITS) in choosing and launching OrgSync. CCP will use the system to track student volunteer involvement and the names of students working with the Center.

"[We are] really trying to ensure that we're capturing all of the information of our student participants and making sure that we're tracking that information, trying to figure out ways that we could have better communication with them," said CCP Director Catherine Crimmins Lechowicz. "And then also with our student leaders transitioning, making sure that all of the information was transitioned from year to year."

The WSA and CCP were independently searching for a platform such as OrgSync when they realized the similarities in their searches and decided to collaborate.

"Since many of the groups through the Office of Community Service in particular are already student-recognized groups, to us it made sense not to have our student groups have to do two separate things," Lechowicz said. "This would just really make it easier getting recognized by the WSA while also meeting what our hopes were in terms of capturing student participants, the transition process, all of those things."

Other systems considered by the WSA and CCP included NobleHour, a platform intended for community service-related management, and CollegiateLink, a platform similar in many ways to OrgSync. Although OrgSync is slightly more expensive than the other platforms, the WSA ultimately decided that it is the best tool for the University's needs. The WSA is splitting the cost of the software with Information Technology Services (ITS).

"We ultimately chose the one that is more well-rounded, that is better at tools for the students, easier to use for the average user, and something that had more support," Wang said. "[OrgSync] has been around longer, and knows a bit more."

Registration for OrgSync opened on Monday, Sept. 2 for pre-existing groups; registration for new groups will open the week of Monday, Sept. 23. In order to ensure that all students become familiar with the platform, the WSA is requiring all groups—whether or not they have previously been approved by CoCo—to register with OrgSync. Groups must be registered to request funding from the Student Budget Committee (SBC).

In the past, students often experienced delays between requesting funding and receiving money. SBC Chair Nicole Softness '14 explained that while OrgSync will not fundamentally change the process, it should ideally streamline it and allow groups to receive funding more quickly.

"I think it's actually a lot easier to navigate," Softness said. "It's going to be faster. In the old system, it would go through several different systems before getting to the Wesleyan Financial System, so sometimes people would start complaining that it had been weeks and they hadn't gotten their money. That was what the core problems were with the old system, so a lot of that's been automated now, so it should work a lot more efficiently."

Wang added that even groups not looking for SBC funding have a lot to gain from OrgSync.

"We've had a good number of groups any given year that register with CoCo that aren't ever getting SBC funding," Wang said. "Sometimes they want that because they want access to getting an email address or [an email list] or things like that, so they can still register to access all those tools we have on OrgSync."

These range from means of tracking names, emails, and class years, to more complex tools that allow student leaders to turn OrgSync into a home base for their group. Students looking to join a new group can search the system by keyword; group leaders can create calendars and share events on a newsfeed-like interface, and each group will have a page where it can display information, pictures, and even allow members to upload files and fill out forms.

OrgSync can also function as a replacement for email lists such as Lyris.

"Lyris is not the easiest thing for student groups to use," Wang said. "We've already been encouraging student groups within the last year [that] if you want a very strong [email list] replacement, you should go to Google Groups. This is another option student groups can use because everyone's already in the system. You don't have to add anybody, and when you remove someone from your group because they graduate or something, they're gone. You don't have to worry about upkeep."

Lechowicz pointed out the importance of this feature for the CCP, given how many student names the Center tracks. OrgSync, she hopes, will ease the transition process from year to year.

"I'll be able to access that [list of names], rather than having my students email me at the end of every semester," Lechowicz said.

Both the WSA and CCP hope that the transition to OrgSync will prove to be smooth. ITS Director of Administrative Systems Steven Machuga explained that though every new system takes some adjusting, OrgSync does not seem to pose too many difficulties.

"I think this first month is going to be interesting because it's new software, and everyone needs to get trained on the system, get a little more familiar with it," Machuga said. "I think the system is incredibly user-friendly, but there's always a little bit of hiccups at the beginning."

Yet the organizers behind OrgSync are hopeful that once all groups are registered in the system, students will embrace the new platform.

"I think the most difficult part is getting people on there," Wang said. "People in our generation, we go [online], we press a few buttons, and we know how to use everything."

Machuga said that once the system is implemented, it will function not only as an organizational platform, but ideally also as a means of changing the way student groups function at Wesleyan.

"It's a whole new dimension of student life experience," Machuga said. "I think we'll do a better job with it."

University Selected for Statewide Microgrid Program

TRISHA ARORA/PHOTO EDITOR

An expanded microgrid across the state will help to prevent electricity loss such as that feared during snowstorm Nemo.

By Stephanie Ling
Assistant News Editor

In conjunction with Connecticut state officials and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Microgrid Pilot Program, the University has installed new energy-efficient systems that will benefit electricity distribution across campus. A microgrid is a localized system of energy production and distribution intended to create a more manageable, effective, and reliable framework for electricity generation. The microgrid should allow the University to better weather storms that might have previously caused power outages.

A grant provided by Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy's initiative to improve the versatility and efficacy of electricity statewide made the new work possible; the University was selected to receive a grant out of a pool of 36 applicants. The initiative followed the extensive power outages resulting from Tropical Storm Irene and the October 2011 snowstorm. The pilot program was passed under Malloy's storm response bill, Public Act 12-148.

"Microgrids play a major role in our efforts to modernize and harden our infrastructure to withstand severe weather," Malloy said in a press release in July. "These projects will help protect residents and vital public services even when the power goes out, and in doing so allow us to provide critical services during times of emergency."

Nine microgrid projects, including that of the University, were awarded $18 million in total. Malloy's DEEP Microgrid Pilot Program was the primary provider of funds. Installments similar to the University's will take place in Bridgeport, Groton, Storrs, Windham, Fairfield, Hartford, and Woodbridge.

The University's project involves the expansion of its preexisting electrical microgrid. Director of Physical Plant Alan Rubacha, who is managing the design and construction of many of the microgrid projects along with Director of Utilities Management Peter Staye, explained the microgrid's function in an email to The Argus.

"At Wesleyan, we distribute electrical power to most of our core campus buildings, essentially all campus buildings with the exception of wood frame houses," Rubacha wrote. "Our microgrid originates from equipment located at the Vine Street parking lot."

According to Rubacha, the Vine Street equipment receives the majority of electrical power from two primary feeders at 13,200 volts, which is then distributed to other buildings on campus through a network of cables, switches, transformers, manholes, and duct banks.

"The equipment at Vine Street can automatically transfer from one feeder to the other in the event of a utility feeder failure," Rubacha wrote. "We also generate about 80% of our electricity at the central power plant using a 2.4 [megawatt] congregation system and that electricity is fed into the campus loop from a feeder and switch nearby the plant."

The new microgrid installations have created a significantly more dependable energy dispersal system than the University's previous one, according to Rubacha.

"We have a more robust and reliable electrical distribution system [now] than if each building were fed from the utility, and we have the capacity to feed much more of the campus using our cogeneration equipment in the event of a long term utility outage," Rubacha wrote.

If the campus experiences expansive power outages in the future, the University's local microgrid system will be able to provide a stable backup system for electricity. Dat Vu '15 recalled his experience during the 2011 blackout and expressed his excitement for the microgrid's potential.

"The microgrid is a good solution to our school's electricity distribution, especially in emergency situations when the power goes out," Vu said. "I remember how crowded the Nics and Usdan were during the huge snowstorm two years ago, and I had to take freezing cold showers in the Butts because our power was out."

The enhancements to Wesleyan's microgrid also include the expansion of cogeneration capacity at the Freeman Athletic Center.

"We installed a duct bank, cables, and new switching to bring Freeman Athletic Center onto our Vine Street distribution system," Rubacha wrote.

With the support of three electrical vaults, four switches, and thousands of feet of conduit cables, the duct bank stretches from the tennis courts, up Knowles Avenue, and under Cross Street, connecting the Freeman Athletic Center system to the Vine Street system.

"Freeman will benefit from the existing cogeneration system, and Freeman will now offer a good place for additional cogeneration that can be easily fed back to the campus grid," Rubacha wrote. "This will improve safety and business continuity throughout campus."

According to Governor Malloy's press release, he has recommended an additional $30 million in funding for Connecticut's microgrid program for the next two years. There will be additional rounds of funding for projects in the future.

"Under Governor Malloy, Connecticut has become a national leader on energy policy, and our microgrid program is another example of that," DEEP Commissioner Daniel C. Esty said in Malloy's July press release. "By employing microgrids, we will improve public safety and reduce the inconvenience for our residents when any future power outages occur. As we move forward with future rounds of funding, we will continue to shape the program to best fit the needs of Connecticut communities."

Rubacha envisions the microgrid program vastly expanding as more people see the potential advantages of the system.

"As more institutions, businesses, and municipalities learn that a robust electrical microgrid system can reduce the impact of a major outage from a storm event like a hurricane or major snow storm while at the same time potentially saving money by producing electricity for their own use, I see the program growing," Rubacha wrote.

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ARTS

Evan Okun '13 Discusses Back Up, Black Out

By Gwendolyn Rosen
Arts Editor

How does one achieve nirvana? By listening to the intense lyrics and heavy beats of hip-hop, of course. If you're thinking that one has nothing to do with the other, you've clearly never had a conversation with Evan Okun '13. The recent Wes alum is as passionate about Buddhist ideology as he is about killer rhyme schemes.

Back Up, Black Out, Okun's newest album, puts these two seeming opposites together in an intricate examination of one's existence in a world of racism, classism, and any other –ism that you may find in a Sociology class. From lyrics that take you on a walk to the Freeman Athletic Center, to ideas Okun discussed with Associate Professor of Sociology Jonathan Cutler, to the over 20 Wesleyan students and alums who contributed to the album, Back Up, Black Out is dripping with all things Wesleyan.

Okun sat down for a Skype date with The Argus to talk about the album, the good and bad of Wesleyan, and why we all need to black out.

The Argus: Can you tell me about where the album title came from?
Evan Okun: I'm really into Buddhism. [I] took an intro Buddhism class at Wesleyan in my freshman year, and since then I've meditated every day just because there's so much hatred and ignorance in my own mind that I need to constantly unlearn. All the hatred that I find is based on my own insecurities, somehow. Even when I'm not hating someone, this type of ego, this self-protecting narrative that I refer to on the album, it gets in the way of really seeing anybody or seeing things that I love.

The idea of Back Up, Black Out, it comes from the song "The Feature," and that song is all about light. Last year I was studying in SciLi from 4-8 p.m. I sat in the 24 hour room facing Olin. It was a beautiful day, and when I arrived, light from outside flooded my being. I was frozen in awe at how gorgeous a place Wesleyan was. As the sun set, I slowly grew less and less able to see what was outdoors, and instead, all I could see was my reflection in the glass. This prompted thoughts of how attractive I looked. I suddenly realized that this is a perfect way to understand the polluting effect of my ego. My ability to see beauty in life and in others is inversely proportional to the amount of spotlight I throw onto myself. It also depends on how much light there is in front of me—how much love I feel for the room I'm in and for the people I am with. For this reason, the goal of the album is to "Back up, black out, and give the feature some shine."

A: I feel like classism is specifically something that's brought up a lot throughout the album as well.
EO: Yes, one hundred percent. Professor Cutler allowed me directly to write my senior essay [for Sociology] on applying Buddhist theory to issues of race and class on this very interpersonal level, so [I applied it to] this class that I [taught] at the juvenile detention center near Wesleyan. But then it ended up applying to the school system in general. And that's kind of what happened with the album—where the album was about Buddhist ideas of egocentricity, but then I think egocentricity is at root for all societal oppression. You really start to attach and think that you own that which you see near you, but you have no ownership over any of it. So that comes on "The Ripple," which is on the second half of the album as it gets more and more intense.

I'm confronting the mom on the album—who's nothing like my actual mom; my actual mom is beautiful—but I confront her being like "none of what you have is yours." One thing that really bothers me is this idea of the way liberal, progressive institutions can successfully coexist and thrive in an oppressive society, which happens all the time. Wesleyan is included in that. I, myself, and my constant inaction is included in that. If there's no action component, then it's just so painful to see how the talking without any action is pervasive. And so then I'm like, "You think praying for them is enough, Mom? How about you give everything that still isn't yours back?" And then the next verse is ironically how I learned that whole idea at college. I also try to critique academia in there a little bit.

A: That's interesting, especially being a recent Wesleyan alum, that you reflect on your Wesleyan experience both positively and negatively.
EO: Oh yeah, my whole senior essay was about the education system. I got a certificate in education too, and my sister's a teacher. I think about education all the time.

A: Can you tell me a little bit more about the female voice that appears on the album? Is she representing more than just a mom?
EO: That is in no way supposed to represent any human being who I've ever met....In Professor Cutler's class called Paternalism and Social Power, which is mind-blowing, we read something about how in the 1970s there was a counter-culture and it was supposed to be so amazingly progressive at dismantling systems. But then what happened is [that] the bourgeoisie institutions that were in place completely absorbed the counter-culture, and so you had the very successful, peaceful coexistence of progressive ideology and societal oppression. So [the voice] is supposed to represent that era, though she kind of sounds like a 1950s housewife, but [is] in the context of now, where it's like, "I am progressive, but honey, you can't think about that—it's going to get you down." So the voice in your head that says you don't really have to try as hard as you want to.

A: Musically it also worked as a great interlude from one track to another.
EO: One thing about the theme I was talking about, light, is how if you get too much shine on your own ego and you've looked too much at yourself then you'll be distracted. That idea comes from Buddhism, where everything that we are is reflected through us. Any words that I've ever said, I had to have learned it rather than create it myself. I did really subtle things throughout the album where I would use ideas, concepts [from others].

The inclusion of the mom's voice was supposed to be a reflection of Kendrick Lamar's recent album, good kid, m.A.A.d city, which showed a day in his life, and then he was constantly dialoguing with his mother and father. When light's reflected, it comes back exactly how it was shot in. When it's refracted, it goes into the reflected device but then bends and becomes something different. So the whole album is supposed to be something that I've reflected, but then refracted and changed, because [Kendrick's] mom isn't my mom. That's what the first song ["Boom, Bang"] is about.

A: I love the cover art. Who designed that?
EO: The cover art is completely done in pencil, no computer effects at all. This artist named Jordan Boxer does drawings exclusively in pencil, including colored pencil as well. He's friends with Paulie [Lowther '13]. Jordan was meeting up with Paulie and we said "Whaddup," and then Paulie was like, "Yo Evan, this dude's the ill artist." And then he showed me that picture for the album art that he had just finished two days before. Meanwhile I'm thinking that my album is going to be called Back Up, Black Out and it's a picture of a girl backing up. Things are meant to be.

A: Do you think you're going to keep doing music? What's next?
EO: So I'm going to Chicago because I got a grant from Wesleyan to work for a program called Circles and Ciphers. They do restorative justice through hip hop. They work with juvenile inmates, kids in group homes, and local high schools in Chicago, and they approach issues of gang violence, loss in community, and a variety of issues through hip hop. So yes, I'll definitely be doing rap all the time.

A: What a perfect job for you! Do you think you'll put out another album?
EO: With music it's hard, because I envision so many different albums. Right now, at these very preliminary stages, I have a lot written just because I love writing all the time. I think it's going to be an album where it's me, Sam Friedman ['13], and Nate Mondschein ['12]. They'll produce it, and then I'll be rapping on it. I think it's going to be six tracks long, and it should be done by January.

A: Do you have a favorite track?
EO: I really like the fourth track ["Nadie's Faded"]. The fourth track is for people in my neighborhood pretty explicitly. Not that I don't want anyone to vibe with it, but what's cool about putting this album out when I'm from my neighborhood, but putting it out to Wesleyan kids, too, is that I can predict what Wesleyan kids will like and what kids from my hood will like, and often times they won't like the track that the other one likes. I mean, maybe you are fond of the fourth track. But it's just like this battle rap, pretty hood. In my neighborhood, that's their favorite track. I like all the songs, to be honest. I worked so hard on it, and conceptually it's all together.

I really hope this album is one that listeners can vibe with as one entire piece, rather than individual tracks haphazardly thrown together. As people vibe with it, certain tracks will definitely stand out, but I imagine these will change depending on their mood on a given day.

A: If you were going to give advice to someone who just got to Wes who isn't necessarily a major in the arts and wants to do their own project, what would your advice to them be?
EO: My advice would be to ask people what they love to do. That's what I did. Anyone you meet, because you meet so many people as a freshman, and you don't remember their names because you're meeting everybody. What you will remember is their face and what you talk about, if you talk about something substantial.

The second question I would ask after what's your name is "What's something you love to do in the universe?" or "What's something you're so happy exists?" And then they'll be like, "I love a cappella singing." And you'll be like, "Oh, I rap! Wanna jam?" Within like two days I was jamming with multiple people, a bunch of whom were on my first album. Just really collaborating is the way to do it.

You can try to do things alone, but people get bored....I love the album because I love listening to beats made by Wesleyan kids. It's because of Wesleyan that every single track happened. There's a Wesleyan kid directly involved in every single beat on the album. The only one is the middle one, which is the seventh track, which is my sister, but that's because I love her a lot.

A: I love that it's collaborative. I think that's such a huge part of Wesleyan: you don't have to wait—you can do it now. You have the resources; just go.
EO: One thing I would say is that what you love to do outside of the classroom can be brought very easily into the classroom. I wrote final papers on the juvenile detention center, on music therapy. I did an entire class that culminated in my senior recital with a Buddhism professor. It was just me, a Buddhism professor, and a professor in the music department. So I would work on music with the music guy and my ideas of religion and understanding of Buddhism with this Buddhism professor.

All it takes is you wanting to do it, and then they just let it flow. It's incredible.

Back Up, Black Out by E. Oks is now available on SoundCloud and Bandcamp. The album would not have been possible without the following Wesleyan students and alumni:

Sophie Becker '16, Rashad Coleman '15, Sam Friedman '13, Coral Foxworth '15, Marguerite Suozzo-Golé, Cherkira Lashley '15, Paulie Lowther '13, Tory Mathieson '14, Lucas Turner-Ownes '12, Jared Paul '11, Jason Reitman '15, David Stouck '15, and Quasimodal a cappella group.

C/O BANDCAMP.COM

Okun's Back Up, Black Out is a tangible product of Wesleyan student collaboration.

Nine Inch Nails Stay Fresh After Twenty-Five Years

By Dan Fuchs
Arts Editor

Can you believe it's been nearly 25 years since Nine Inch Nails' debut album? Not only does that make me feel incredibly old, but it also speaks to how influential mastermind Trent Reznor's work has become.

A pioneer of industrial rock—named for its heavy, machine-like sounds—Reznor has naturally grown out of his Nine Inch Nails project. He's gone from playing the very first Lollapalooza to scoring David Fincher's last two films and releasing a side project, How To Destroy Angels, with his wife Mariqueen Maandig and creative partner Atticus Ross. The last few albums from Nine Inch Nails, released in 2007 and 2008, spelled out something of a creative lull for the project.

Now, Reznor prepares for the release of the latest Nine Inch Nails album, Hesitation Marks. Here's the question: with this being the first Nine Inch Nails album in over five years, can it retain the same magic that made his work in the 1990s so powerful?

Ultimately, Hesitation Marks doesn't explore entirely new territory for Reznor: it still retains the ominous, synth-heavy sounds of his signature work. But that doesn't mean it lacks originality. Nothing else sounds like Nine Inch Nails, whether it's Reznor's howl or the way he melds electronic and analog instruments together.

Still, it's interesting to see Reznor move into slightly less rage-filled territory—work ranging from his first single, "Head Like a Hole," to his controversial single, "Closer," to his more recent, "The Hand That Feeds," all of which relied on his angry, abrasive prism of reality, whether greed, sexuality, or politics. Here, Reznor is looking back, still with the same sense of ennui, but now with years of experience and maturity in order to not only build a more sophisticated worldview, but also a truly haunting experience.

Even the most traditional of the tracks, album single "Came Back Haunted," is a song about returning to your roots, albeit with some extra emotional weight. "Everything," quite possibly the most radio-friendly track Reznor has ever put out, marks Reznor at his most optimistic, as he repeatedly shouts, "I've survived everything." His signature snarl is here, but it's bookended by verses that have a bubbliness that's never been witnessed from so dark a musician.

But Trent Reznor is not now, nor will he ever be, a happy songwriter. Songs with titles like "All Time Low" and "Various Methods of Escape" certainly don't suggest that. The chip on Reznor's shoulder isn't gone; he's just learned to live with it for twenty-five years. Like he sings on "Various Methods of Escape," he's "gotta let go." On Hesitation Marks, he's closer to being ready to do that.

And where Reznor has thematically moved out of abrasiveness, so has much of his production moved out of the distortion heavy mixing that has characterized Nine Inch Nails for so much of its existence.

Much of Hesitation Marks is dominated by lighter synthesizers and piano; this is no coincidence, seeing as "Social Network" score collaborator Atticus Ross is involved with production. "Find My Way" uses an eerie piano riff as its backbone, building light, electronic production and menacing, industrial percussion around it. "I Would For You" is lead by low-end bass, darting into something surprisingly grandiose as the song moves into its chorus.

Hesitation Marks is an album defined by Reznor's aging: where he was once virulently angry at the world, here he has grown more accepting of his gloom and doom. It's a change that might have some Nine Inch Nails purists doubting the project's future, but how much longer could Trent Reznor have been openly screaming at the world around him before it became derivative and boring?

Hesitation Marks lacks the kind of triumphant tones necessary to be called a "comeback album." But it's still a consistently engaging piece of work that presents Reznor as a strong creative force. Thankfully, even after a quarter of a century, Trent Reznor hasn't lost his step.

Listen: 10 Songs to Help You Survive The Fall 2013 Semester

By Gwendolyn Rosen and Dan Fuchs
Arts Editors

After a weekend full of reuniting with dearly missed friends and celebrating these reunions with a little campus rumpus, it's time to start classes again. We're totally on board with the whole "higher education" thing (is that why we're here?), but getting back into a civilized routine is always difficult after a relaxing summer. It's a weird mixture between being happy to be back and wishing it could be Saturday forever. The Arts section is here to provide you with the perfect playlist to both get you pumped for a new semester and sympathize with your impending exhaustion. Let's get back to school—Wesleyan style.

Vampire Weekend
"Campus"

You may not be feeling the whole going-to-class thing yet, especially if the walk over requires you to run into a few faces you hoped to never see in the daylight. Keep this track buzzing through your headphones while you're avoiding eye contact.

Regina Spektor
"The Calculation"

Calculus involves something having to do with macaroni, right? Regina Spektor sure thinks so. Listen to this song about a much happier equation while you cry trying to remember what a derivative is.

Ra Ra Riot
"Do You Remember"

Do you remember what happened in physics last semester, or the name of the person you were talking to last night? Probably not. Good luck with all that.

Of Monsters and Men
"Six Weeks"

Mark your calendars! Fall Break starts six weeks from Friday. It's never too early to start the countdown for the next time you'll get a full eight hours of sleep.

Beyoncé
"Start Over"

Whether last semester's finals totally killed you or pushed you to social suicide, the new semester is a chance to forget all of that and move on. And while those old, horrible memories will hopefully fade away, Beyoncé is eternal.

Paul Simon
"Rewrite"

No doubt you'll be spending the next few weeks (and the entire semester) furiously rewriting papers, whether you're just starting out in "Ways of Reading" or you're preparing your honors thesis. You're in good company, though: Paul Simon himself is no stranger to revision.

Hospitality
"Friends of Friends"

Hopefully, now that you're back on campus, you're reuniting with old friends, even if you're pining for friends back home. If you're moving into a new place, you're bound to spot some new faces, too.

Elvis Costello & The Attractions
"Chemistry Class"

That 8:30 a.m. chemistry lecture's got you down? Maybe Elvis Costello's anger toward his own kind of chemistry class can help calm your nerves.

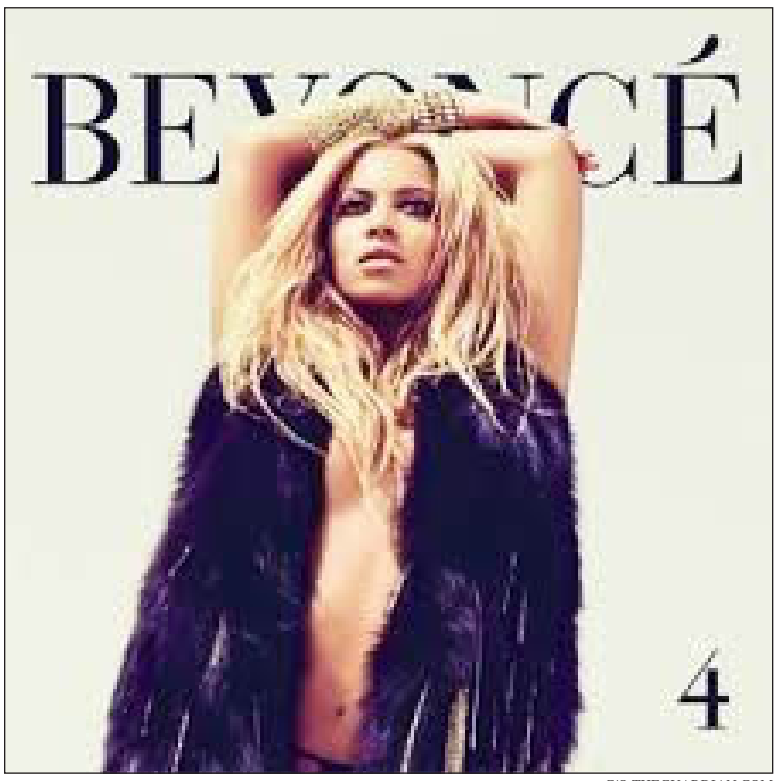
The Walkmen
"No One Ever Sleeps"

Try to tolerate loud roommates and neighbors with this sleepy tune by The Walkmen. Even if they're keeping you up until the wee hours of the morning, this track might just keep you sane.

Asher Roth
"I Love College"

"Do I really have to graduate or can I just stay here for the rest of my life?"

To hear the playlist in full, check out the Argus' brand new Spotify page!



C/O THEGUARDIAN.COM

Beyonce wants you to "Start Over" with our brand new playlist.

Arts Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 3

Second Stage Audition Workshop
4:30-6 p.m. '92 Theater

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress: Auditions
5-8 p.m. Fayerweather Theater Studios

Next to Normal: Auditions
6-8 p.m. East Room

Welcome to the Troll Cave: Auditions
6-9 p.m. Jones Room

Onomatopoeia: Auditions
8-10 p.m. Butt C Lounge

In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play: Auditions
8-10:30 p.m. Fayerweather 106

New Group: Auditions
9:30-11:30 p.m. Usdan 110

Wednesday, Sept. 4

In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play: Auditions
4:15-7 p.m. East Room

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress: Auditions
4:15-7 p.m. Fayerweather Theater Studios

Cardinal Sinners: Auditions
6-8 p.m. WestCo Cafe

Welcome to the Troll Cave: Auditions
6-9 p.m. Jones Room

Mixolydians: Auditions
7-9 p.m. 41 Wyllys Room 113

Onomatopoeia: Auditions
8-10 p.m Butt C Lounge

New Group: Auditions
9:30-11:30 p.m. Usdan 110

Monday, Sept. 8

Slavei: Auditions
4:30-6:30 p.m. Public Affairs Center 001

Antigone: Auditions
6-8 p.m. East Room

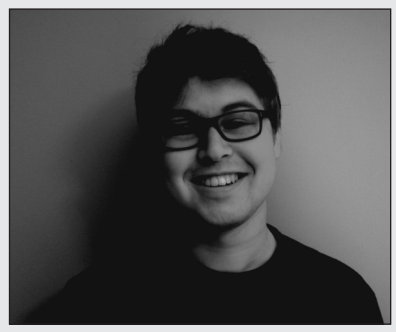
Mixolydians: Auditions
6-8 p.m. 41 Wyllys Room 113

Quasimodal: Auditions
6-8 p.m. Nicolson Lounge

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

The Idiot Box

The Emmy Issue



C/O DAN FUCHS

By Dan Fuchs

Some shows are so eccentric, so surprisingly weird, that they just work. Something about the cast's chemistry, the passionate writing, and the kind of guest stars that they attract are endearing enough that they end up as something truly greater than the sum of their parts.

IFC's "Comedy Bang! Bang!" is one of those shows.

Adapted from the successful and downright hilarious improv podcast of the same name, "Comedy Bang! Bang!" is styled after late night shows old and new, a kind of demented David Letterman. To say that the show, now in its second season, has a formula would be to undersell the show in its entirety, but the spine of the show is this: host and creator Scott Aukerman and his "bandleader," comedian and musician Reggie Watts, sit down with guests, ranging from celebrities to ridiculous characters, played by incredibly talented comedians. They've had everyone from Zoe Saldana to Zach Galifianakis to vampire chef Emiril Lugosi (played by Jason Mantzoukas of "The League").

And from there, everything goes to hell in the best way possible.

Amongst the ridiculous chatter with guests, Aukerman throws side-stories, sketches, and games into the mix. In one episode, a "surprise prize" bit evolves into a Law and Order parody. In another, guests Galifianakis, Danny Mahoney (played by Andrew Daly), and pilot Chet Barnsider (played by Will Forte) play a round of "What's In The Box?" The first answer: a gun.

These games and sketches ultimately show off Aukerman's ridiculous sense of humor, and some of the stronger episodes let the jokes carry throughout the span of the show's 30-minute runtime. In a recent episode, Reggie Watts goes through a "Cop Exchange Program," meaning that the excellently talented John Carroll Lynch (of "Fargo" and "Zodiac" fame) takes over his duties with a dry, deadpan stare. Watts, on the other hand, goes through the trials and tribulations of a cop. It is this kind of comedic freedom that makes "Comedy Bang! Bang!" such a breakout hit and so fresh week to week.

That being said, even the most conventional moments of the show have their merits. Aukerman has a fascinating chemistry with his guests, even when they have their confrontational "stare-offs" (see Season One's Amy Poehler episode for a great example). He has a way of bringing out the inner comedy chops of guests who might not even have a funnybone to begin with—specifically, the Zoe Saldana episode (in part bolstered by Paul F. Tompkin's brilliant Garry Marshall impression) is one of the show's strongest, even though Saldana has a background in drama and action. It is incredible to see the kind of guests that Aukerman can whip into shape, whether more traditional comedy guests like Ed Helms (whose "Sound Effects CD" bit is a gut-buster) or an actress like Anna Kendrick, who doesn't necessarily seem like the perfect fit for the show but shines anyway.

"Comedy Bang! Bang!" is absolutely not for everyone. Multiple attempts to convert my friends to fans of the Aukerman ways have failed miserably, and I'm absolutely sure that they've left wondering about my mental health. Perhaps other venues, like the podcast or upcoming live shows in a city near me, will hook them in the same way the show has me. But it's the kind of show you have to see to believe, and if it's for you, it'll grab you within the first five minutes and never let go.

RECYCLE THIS ARGUS

FEATURES

Uncovering Hidden Gems Around Middletown

By Adam Keller
Features Editor

For all these freshmen on campus without a car, you'll be happy to know that Wesleyan is by no means a suitcase school. Most students don't make weekly visits to Hartford, let alone New York. Heck, it can be hard to muster the energy to walk even a few blocks off campus; in the hot summer, snowy winter, and rainy spring, even a hike to Rite Aid or to one of the restaurants on Main Street can seem like a daunting odyssey.

Nonetheless, a number of spots around Middletown are well worth checking out during the upcoming fall months. This Argus editor has thoughtfully compiled just a few examples of our local scenery, all within walking distance if you're ambitious. (I made the journey to most of these places on foot, so you can too.) Although this is by no means a comprehensive list, I hope it inspires you to embark on your own local adventures.

1. Indian Hill

Just a short walk to the corner of Vine and Washington, Indian Hill is a mainstay for Wesleyan students looking for a beautiful vista. Indian Hill Cemetery is an artfully landscaped area ripe for hiking and exploring. Sunsets seen from the hilltop are particularly incredible. According to its website, Indian Hill is "perhaps the most scenic and tranquil area in Middletown," which, as you're about to discover, may be a bit of a stretch.

2. Pameacha Pond

A short wander down High Street past the Butts, Pameacha Pond is a large lagoon currently too contaminated for any water sports or beach volleyball, but it still catches the eye with plenty of nice local flora and fauna. According to one Hartford Courant column, the pond used to be open to the public with a bathhouse and icehouse before World War II. I wouldn't put this one at the top of my list for local sightseeing, but it might be a nice rest stop on the way to….

3. The Middletown Nature Gardens

A beautiful grove that I have somehow managed to avoid until now, the Middletown Nature Gardens consist of 18 acres of incredible wildlife, with plenty of benches, open fields, and bike pathways. There are tons of beautiful flowers everywhere, and I managed to spot a family of deer inside the gardens, although I wasn't able to capture them on film. According to Wikipedia, a two-century-old sugar maple tree called "The Bee Tree" is located in the middle of the park.

4. Veterans Memorial Park

This amazing crop of land features wooded hiking trails, open plains for picnics, and an outdoor swimming pool. It's under utilized by University students despite the fact that it's just a walk or short drive up Washington Street. A small rock-climbing and play structure toward the front entrance purports to only be for ages 9-12. Child prodigies of the class of 2017, go crazy!

5.Wadsworth Falls

Here's the big one: Wadsworth Falls is a massive state park located in both Middletown and our neighboring Middlefield. You'll barely be able to identify what state you're in once you enter the teeming, lush woods, full of hiking and biking trails, picnic fields, and fishing and swimming areas. The latter include both the Coginchaug River and the famed Wadsworth Pond, which has a gorgeous waterfall that all Wesleyan students must check out before they graduate. (I hear they're making it a distribution requirement.) Also, events like the annual Wadsworth Wedding take place at the Wadsworth Mansion, a beautiful estate located right by Long Lane Farm. If you venture at all off campus during the turning of the leaves, Wadsworth should be your number one destination.

ALL PHOTOS BY ADAM KELLER/ FEATURES EDITOR

Clockwise from top: Wadsworth Mansion hosts a variety of events; Indian Hill offers one of the best sunset views in the area; The Veterans Memorial Park has an outdoor swimming pool; Pameacha Pond is just a few blocks off campus; The Middletown Nature Gardens have an incredible variety of wildlife.

Farm: Working to Grow Community on Long Lane

Continued from the front page

which couldn't replace the nutritional benefits of the soil they had been working with for years.

"The replacement soil from the old athletic field was squeaky clean, but it was also nutrient deficient and primarily clay and completely impacted by the bulldozers," Goslinga wrote. "This is why most of our root vegetables failed despite the long hours the student farmers put in to turn over and aerate the soil before planting in May, and why many seedlings did not blossom into robust plants as they had in the nutrient rich soils of earlier years."

Part of the Long Lane Collective's philosophy is to do everything on the farm by hand, which made the challenge of remediating the soil even more daunting.

"In June, we worked really, really hard, because we don't use any mechanical tools at all. We have one lawnmower, but we barely use it, and that's the one mechanical thing we have," said Rebecca Sokol '15, who is also active on the farm. "So we basically had to till all the fields by hand, using hand tools, and that took a really long time and was very exhausting."

However, the team was able to increase the farm's acreage, doubling its original size.

"So now we're bigger than we've ever been," Sokol said.

Other farmers agreed that rebuilding the farm proved to be a useful experience.

"This year's been really exciting because we've gotten the opportunity to learn how to build a farm from scratch, and from very poor soil conditions," Krugman said.

Goslinga commended the students who helped out with the remediation process for their diligence.

"The students approached each challenge as a learning opportunity, consulting scientific journals and soil and plant scientists, doing Internet research, and talking with organic farmers in their local and regional network of supporters about what to do," she noted. "That's why they are 'scholar-farmers' to me."

Some plants on the farm did not fare so well in light of the soil remediation, but others thrived. There were some surprises along the way, too.

"We basically still have pretty low soil fertility and pretty poor drainage, because clay doesn't drain very well," Krugman said. "That has impeded the growth and flourishing of some of the crops we planted, but we're basically acting as if everything is normal and planting as if we have normal soil, and it just happens that some things do quite well, and we're learning [what those are] as we go. Some of our beans have done really well, our tomatoes have been fantastic, the husk cherries and tomatillos are great, and the peppers are great. There have been some real successes."

At the same time, some of the farm's more marketable crops—ones that the farmers usually sell to Bon Appétit Management Company and at the Middletown Farmer's Market—didn't fare so well.

"Most of our leafy greens, which are usually our bread and butter at the market, were basically a total disaster: kale, collards, bok choi, chard, spinach, lettuce, et cetera," Krugman said. "But it was interesting to see how much we could do with what we had. It took some creativity to have enough for the different people to whom we have obligations—we had to use more little niche crops."

One niche crop that they experimented with this season is quinoa.

"We know the quinoa grain is edible, but it turns out the leaves are also edible," Krugman said. "They have more calcium and iron than spinach."

Summer Farming and the Middletown Food Project

To help out with the remediation process, as well as to facilitate some other ongoing projects at Long Lane Farm, 10 students stayed in Middletown over the summer to continue their work.

"We had 10 farm workers this summer, which is our all time high. We had two juniors, five sophomores, and three freshmen," Krugman said. "There was a pretty good balance of ages—a healthy crop of sophomores, the middle of the bell curve."

Hailey Sowden '15, one of the students who stayed on the farm this summer, noted that it was great to be involved in the process of rebuilding Long Lane.

"It was incredible to see the transformation because in late May and early June, it was just a mud pile," she said. "The whole farm was alternating between being a giant mud flat and then [desert-like], cracked earth, and now it's very green. Knowing that that happened during those three months is incredible."

Among the activities these ten students took on this summer was running the Middletown Food Project, a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that engaged six low-income families from a government-subsidized Middletown neighborhood. The project brought the families and the farmers together for a series of food-related activities and workshops.

"They would come every Saturday with their kids, and we would have a workshop where we would play games with the kids and teach them in a fun way about farming [and] about plants," explained Sokol, who stayed on the farm this summer. "With the adults, we would teach them in a more serious way: we had some cooking seminars with them, and at the end we would give them a bunch of produce to take home, and it was free for them," she added. "It was really, really fun."

Sokol said that, despite some initial concerns she had about the project seeming patronizing, it ultimately didn't feel that way.

"It definitely could have felt like, 'Let us teach you. You don't know,'" Sokol said. "And we didn't want it to be that way, and I was scared that it might have turned out that way. But instead we all just hung out, and we would teach them, and they were really interested."

Sowden noted that the collaborative nature of the Middletown Food Project made it one of her favorite experiences during her summer stay in Middletown.

"The families have been really involved in shaping the project, and it's less of a top-down kind of thing and much more horizontally run—us and the families together," she said.

REBECCA SOKOL/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Middletown Food Project brought children & their families to Long Lane Farm this summer to learn about the crops.

Living and Working Together

The students who stayed to work on the farm this summer also lived together, keeping with the Long Lane Collective's history of engaging in social experiments in addition to its farming endeavors.

"One of the interesting things about the farm besides the fact that we do small-scale ecological agriculture with no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides and also no gas-powered machines [is that] we are undertaking a social experiment of running ourselves as a horizontal collective," Krugman said. "People are sometimes in charge of various parts of the operation, but we make all our decisions by consensus. No one has the final say.

This philosophy fed into their living situation this summer when the students took turns cooking for each other and maintaining their two shared apartments on Lincoln Street.

"That's one of the interesting areas of continuity over the 10-year history of the farm—this shared interest in community life and farm life and how the two can be sort of structured in a different way than they are usually in our culture," Krugman said.

Looking Ahead

Although the farm has come a long way since the spring, it's still going through a long-term recovery process. Still, that isn't stopping the members of the Long Lane Collective from moving ahead. They continue to sell their crops to Bon Appétit, and they keep a table at the Middletown Farmers' Market. They are also in the process of bringing in a new crop of farmers.

"In the fall we recruit new members to the Collective so that one generation of students can pass on the farm to the next," Goslinga wrote. "We're also organizing with the Admissions Office a schedule of tours of the farm for prospective students. This is a generation very interested in the potential of community-based organic farming to address at local and regional levels pressing issues of social justice and the environmental crisis."

CATHERINE WALSH/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

TRISHA ARORA/PHOTO EDITOR

Before (left) and after (right): Long Lane Farm has undergone a huge transformation since its soil was remediated earlier this year.

WesCeleb

Jess Best '14

By Gabe Rosenberg
Assistant Features Editor

Jess Best '14 is an unstoppable force of music at the University. A music major and constant performer, she can be seen in any number of bands at a given time. Her current projects include Sky Bar, a soul band; and King At Bay, an indie folk collaboration with Mel Hsu '13.

Now that she's a senior, however, Best's ambitions are greater than ever. She sat down to talk to The Argus about recording music, the issue of diversity in the Wesleyan music scene, her upcoming thesis performance, and her search for new collaborators in the Class of 2017.

The Argus: Why do you think you're a WesCeleb?
Jess Best: Why am I a WesCeleb? That's funny. Initially when I was asked to be a WesCeleb, I asked myself that same question. I think it's mainly music, just because I will play as much as I can around campus, and so I think that is the biggest contribution I've made to Wesleyan.

A: I know you're in a few bands—I can't keep track of them because they keep changing their names and adding and subtracting members. The last I heard, you were in King At Bay with Mel Hsu '13, and you used to be in a band called Blackbird and the Cherry Tree. What draws you to music, and why are you in so many bands?
JB: I can't say "no." That's something I've learned about myself. If someone's approaching music in a way that feels open and real then I can't say "no" to them, which is why I've been kind of oversubscribed for a while. Also, one of my goals at Wesleyan was to try out every kind of music I could possibly try, and I think that kind of translated into being in a lot of different bands because they all have different sounds.

A: You sing, but what other things do you add to a band?
JB: I play piano, and I write.

A: How long have you been involved in music?
JB: Since I could think, I think. It all started with dance. I was obsessed with dancing when I was little, and that brought me into the arts. Then I started singing, I did a lot of musical theater, and then I started writing. And that, I think, is what brought me to music rather than theater, because I love singing, but I really enjoy writing and singing things that I write, or writing things for other people.

A: How did you get started in the Wesleyan music scene?
JB: Honestly I feel like I have so many people to thank for that, because I came to Wesleyan and it really felt like the people who were here were just interested in creating a collaborative environment and welcoming you with open arms. I put myself out there a little bit, which is scary, and then people were right there for me.

A: Are there any particular instances you can think of when that collaborative attitude really stood out?
JB: I'm in a band [called] Sky Bars also—it's more like a funk/soul/R&B band—and I would say that the evolution of our band is pretty amazing to me, just because it started out [with] a lot of covers, and then I brought a bunch of my songs in and we were doing those, but then it just opened up. We wanted everyone to be involved in that process, so literally everyone in the band was writing and coming up with ideas and contributing, and I feel like that's just been a really cool evolution of a band.

A: Are you still together as a band?
JB: Yeah, we're performing and recording soon.

A: What are you recording, and what's that process like?
JB: We're going to record over Fall Break at my house. I don't have a recording studio, but Jared Paul ['11] set us up. We haven't been together this summer, so we still have to figure out what kind of a set we want for the recording, but we're just going to try to do as many originals [as we can] and just shack up in my house for a few days.

A: What's the intended output?
JB: To be honest, we haven't really talked about it, but I assume we want an album.

A: You've had previous experience with recording with King At Bay. You guys put out an album at the very end of last year. What was that like?
JB: That was probably the smoothest recording process I've ever experienced. Mel and I both had recording experiences that we really learned from. Mark Bennett ['13] and Sam Friedman ['13] are also in the band. Mel and I met up prior to the actual recording process and just nailed down form, nailed down the different parts, and just really had our shit together. And also thanks to Sam and Mark for being troopers and amazing musicians. I think also we had developed our sound enough that we knew what we wanted. And Jared just brought the magic.

A: What's it going to be like this year, now that you're the senior and a lot of your past collaborators are not at Wesleyan anymore?
JB: It's funny, because I met up with King At Bay the day before I came here, and it just kind of hit me that a bunch of my strong musician friends aren't coming back with me. At first I felt pretty sad about it, but I'm actually really psyched to give back in a way. I've had the blessing of being brought into so many projects, so I'm really excited to take on that role.

A: Looking for new collaborators in the Class of 2017?
JB: I would love to meet underclassmen. I feel like it's pretty hard to meet underclassmen, and it's funny you say that, because, coming to Wes this year, that was probably my number one goal. Just to at least meet one person who I can collaborate with or just help in any way, who's into music, because that was so special for me, and to be honest, I don't really feel like I've taken on that role yet.

A: There was a big controversy at the end of last year, where a lot of people were concerned about the lack of leadership or visibility of female musicians and female band leaders, especially in the Wesleyan community. As someone who not only leads bands but works in other people's bands and writes your own music, playing an instrument as well as singing, what do you think is the best thing Wesleyan can do to support more people like you?
JB: It's definitely not a non-problem; it exists. I'm a music major, and the ratio is insane. I'm probably one of a handful of girls in every one of my music classes. I just think it's a really hard issue to tackle because there's been some effort to create all-female bands who have a mission to tackle that. But then, I think, the point becomes the issue, not the music. For me, as a female musician, I just try to work hard all the time and bring out my strengths through my passion and working really hard.

I think that there are a lot of underlying tensions in the music scene here at Wesleyan, just because I think that a lot of females, first of all, feel intimidated by the fact that it's male-dominated. I think that Wesleyan needs to provide more spaces for jamming. It's insane that Wesleyan prides itself on being so filled with music, yet there's one band rehearsal space, and it's booked dawn until dusk, all the time. I think that Wesleyan really needs to invest in creating music spaces where people could just happen upon each other and meet people they wouldn't normally collaborate with so that it makes the entire music scene just more malleable and open and porous.

A: If it were easier to enter the Wesleyan music scene, then would the issues of diversity within it be a lot easier to overcome?
JB: I think if there were creative spaces that were open and accessible, then it would be really different. I have a lot of friends who love to sing but say, "I don't have any musicians who will play with me." That seems like a big issue. Even if it were a facilitated space, if students volunteered to facilitate different pairings of people, that would be so cool. [The] Mash is amazing; I think that's a good step. I understand why there are different bands playing, but I remember last year, it was so cool when the stages weren't booked because people would just get up and do their thing and it wasn't planned—it was impromptu and natural. That seemed like it worked really well.

A: Is it returning this year?
JB: Yeah, it's Friday, on [Sept.] 6. Sky Bar is playing.

A: Will you be having impromptu performances as well?
JB: I hope so! I can't say because hopefully it will be unplanned.

A: As a senior, what else are you doing in your last year here? Are you doing any theses or overall projects or anything to wrap up your time here?
JB: I am doing a recital, actually, this semester, on Nov. 22. I'm really excited about it, because I have never had this time set to create something for the stage, and it can be whatever I want. It's really challenging me in a way that I'm really excited about.

A: Do you have a plan for how you're going to organize it?
JB: Yeah…I mean, no. I am learning a lot about myself. It's interesting, because a big part of the process has been figuring out my approach to the process, and at first I was thinking about how I wanted a theme, it needed to be cohesive, I needed to think of what kind of sound I wanted. And then I realized that I just need to start writing, and thinking about things I have never done before but I have always wanted to do, and then whatever thematic ideas or cohesion will come from that, because that's just how I always work. I'm not the kind of person that can be like, "I'm writing a song now," and then write a song that I really like. A lot of times, it's that same flow where it'll come out and then I think about it. I think that a lot of times, your first idea is the best idea.

A: If your final performance is at the end of this semester, what's after that?
JB: Well, I am not positive, but I'm thinking of graduating this semester but then maybe living in Middletown. I would love to keep recording with different bands, but King At Bay is definitely going to pick up after my recital. We definitely want to do a show at Wesleyan soon, and we are trying to spend this time of not performing just building up our set and writing a lot more material and kind of developing our sound a little more. I would love to get into maybe music production a little more. I brought a little home studio setup to my senior house, and I am excited to dive into that. And just play as much as possible. I think, more than ever, I'm realizing what an amazing musical community we have here, and it's just so rich. I want to take advantage of that.

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FOOD

Insider Secrets: Creating The Best Cookies Ever

By Andrew Ribner
Food Editor

I almost refused to write this article. Once I remembered that wasn't really an option, I thought about changing the topic. Had I overlooked a different recipe that I wanted to share? Was there something new I could try? Could I put a new spin on an old dish in order to effectively avoid running this one? Quite unfortunately, I kept coming back to the fact that I couldn't.

You see, as a food writer, there is a careful balance between wanting to gush about new recipes that may be the best thing I've ever made and wanting to keep them to myself so that no one else can make them. This one fell more toward the latter. I'll happily make these cookies for you in order to show off the recipe, but I'm loath to publish it widely across the campus and on the Internet.

Alas, my tendency toward sharing resulted in me somewhat grudgingly writing this article. Maybe it's the fact that I taught preschool this year and want to set a good example. Maybe it's simply the hope that someone will make these cookies for me in an attempt to impress me. Pro tip: that person would succeed.

This recipe is inspired by the famous cookies from the New York City, Upper West Side-based Levain Bakery on 74 Street, just off Amsterdam. The bakery only offers four kinds of cookies, and it is my life's goal to master each. Right now I'm willing to say I've come close to mastery of this one, and I'm motivated to get started with the next.

Double Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter Cookies
(Adapted from fransfavs.com and knewton.com)

1. Stir together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.

2. In a separate bowl, cream butter with two forks or a mixer.

3. Add the brown and granulated sugars to the butter, then mix. Add vanilla.

4. Beat eggs into the butter mix.

5. Slowly and gently stir in dry ingredients until completely incorporated, then add chocolate and peanut butter chips.

6. Refrigerate dough for at least two hours, or freeze for 30 minutes.

7. Fifteen minutes before baking, preheat oven to 375 degrees.

8. Place sizeable (1/4 cup) chunks of dough on parchment-lined baking sheet and bake 17-18 minutes. It's okay if the tops are a little soft when you take them out; they will firm up!

INGREDIENTS
1 1/2 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1 CUP BREAD FLOUR
1/2 CUP HIGH-QUALITY COCOA POWDER
1/2 TSP. BAKING SODA
1/2 TSP. SALT
1 CUP PACKED BROWN SUGAR
1/4 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR
1 3/4 STICKS (14 TBSP.) UNSALTED BUTTER, COLD, CUT INTO 1/4" CUBES
1 1/4 TSP. VANILLA
1 LARGE EGG + 1 LARGE EGG YOLK
1 CUP PEANUT BUTTER CHIPS
1 CUP CHOCOLATE CHIPS

Pie Crust, Eggs, and Vegetables: The Perfect Meal

By Andrew Ribner
Food Editor

I go through phases of making the same thing. I'll usually change up my recipe repertoire a little bit, but I ultimately make the same dish repeatedly until either I'm tired of it or I've perfected it. Since there's no such thing as perfection in cooking, the former is really the only situation in which I find myself.

During a recent gap between recipe obsessions, I remembered how much I like quiches and tarts. I was vaguely unsure as to the difference and had been referring to them interchangeably until one of my housemates asked me the precise difference between the two. Just so we're clear, both tarts and quiches have pie-like crusts and can be either savory or sweet (though quiches more often tend to be savory). It seems as though the only real difference between the two is that quiches have an egg and milk- (or sometimes cream-) based filling, while tarts can be filled with anything.

I can conclude, therefore, that what I've been making for the most part has been tarts, as I have rarely used milk in the filling. Tarts tend to be a little richer as the filling isn't as diluted, but an egg and milk quiche filling can be quite delicious as well.

This general format of the tart is very versatile, so it can be changed to fit the whims of your stomach or the intended meal. I usually use sweet potato, caramelized onion, and some kind of leafy green, but I've also done it with caramelized onion and bacon (which was delicious). Try different combinations for different occasions.

This recipe looks very complicated, but don't be intimidated! You won't regret the commitment. If you're lacking ingredients, make friends with an upperclassman who has a well-stocked kitchen and promise to pay a tax of at least one slice.

Savory Tart with Sweet Potato, Caramelized Onion, and Kale

1. Mix together flours, powdered sugar, and salt.

2. Cube butter into 1/4 inch (or smaller) pieces and mix into dry ingredients. Mix with two forks, a pastry blender, or a food processor until mixture resembles a coarse meal.

3. Beat egg yolks with cream, then stir into flour mixture until it starts to form a ball.

4. Mold dough into a six-inch disk and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for two hours or freeze for 30 minutes.

5. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

6. Peel and chop sweet potato into 1/4 inch cubes. Toss with olive oil and a pinch of salt, then spread cubes evenly on a small baking tray lined with foil.

7. Place in oven for about 10 minutes, until soft.

8. While potatoes cook, sauté onion for about 2-3 minutes, then add 1/4 cup water and allow the onion to absorb it (this will help soften it!).

9. Add balsamic vinegar and continue sautéing, stirring occasionally, until the balsamic vinegar is fully absorbed as well.

10. In the same pan, lightly sauté leafy greens 2-3 minutes.

11. Combine all ingredients (including eggs and cheese) in a mixing bowl and stir to combine.

12. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

13. Roll dough into a 14 inch round. Fold gently into quarters and transfer to pie tin, unfolding the same way it was folded.

14. Pour filling into prepared piecrust; cook in preheated oven for 30 minutes.

15. If making glaze, simmer balsamic vinegar over low heat until thick.

16. Drizzle glaze over completed tart.

ANDREW RIBNER/FOOD EDITOR

INGREDIENTS
FOR THE CRUST:
3/4 CUP WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR
1/2 CUP ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1/4 CUP POWDERED SUGAR
1 TSP. SALT
1/2 CUP (1 STICK) BUTTER
2 LARGE EGG YOLKS
2 TBSP. HEAVY CREAM

INGREDIENTS
FOR THE FILLING:
1 MEDIUM SWEET POTATO
HANDFUL KALE OR SPINACH
1/4 ONION, CHOPPED
2 TBSP. OLIVE OIL
2 TBSP. BALSAMIC VINEGAR
4 EGGS, LIGHTLY BEATEN
4 OZ. CHEDDAR CHEESE, GRATED
4 OZ. SMOKED GOUDA CHEESE, GRATED

FOR THE GLAZE (OPTIONAL):
3 TBSP. BALSAMIC VINEGAR

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The Best of Wes: The Food

C/O WESLEYAN.EDU

Though lines at Summerfields can reach far out the door, students can skip the line by texting in orders.

By Sydney Lewis and Andrew Ribner
Contributing Writer and Food Editor

Regardless of what you did this summer—whether you were cooking for yourself in a tiny apartment with your first kitchen, or you were eating meals prepared by your parents—you were likely waiting for your first chance to swipe your WesCard at one of the various campus eateries at the University.

Now that you're here, you may find yourself going to Usdan three times a day to celebrate the countless choices it has to offer. While Usdan food is often tasty, there's a chance you may get tired of it if you frequent it too often. Or perhaps you decided to switch to an all-points or fewer-meals plan, and you're worried you'll run out of meals before long. Luckily for you, dining options are plentiful on campus.

Usdan

The general heading of "Usdan" encompasses both the Usdan Marketplace and the Usdan Café. After four years here, I still have a hard time figuring out why each is named as it is. Somewhat counterintuitively to me, the Usdan Marketplace is the upstairs, all-you-can-eat dining hall that most people refer to as the main dining hall on campus. Most students make their way to the Usdan Marketplace for lunch because it's a convenient place to go between classes. There are countless options, including custom-made sandwiches and stir-fry bowls, pasta, pizza, the salad bar, the vegan section, the kosher station, the omnipresent cereal bar, and even a gluten-free station. Whether you've eaten it every day this week or you haven't had it in a few months, Dave's grilled cheese will get you through the roughest day. Weekday breakfast at Usdan is a hidden gem; it's quiet and a good place to do a little bit of work (or socializing) before class.

Different nights at Usdan have different themes at the Mongolian Grill, and people tend to get very cited about them. Monday is Philly cheesesteak night, Thursday is breakfast sandwich night, and Friday is slider night. Tuesday and Wednesday are both stir fry nights, and the spread is much the same as at lunch.

Notably, Usdan is a different scene on weekends. Brunch, served 11-2 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, features custom-made omelets, waffles (with toppings), bagels, and plenty of fresh fruit. (The waffle station is also available to the left of the entrance during other meals.) Usdan brunch is arguably the best way to transition between a night out and an afternoon in the library. Usdan weekend dinners, in contrast, tend to be unimpressive.

If you're on all points or you run out of meals, breakfast at Usdan is 5.50 points (a great deal!), lunch is 7.95 points, dinner is 9.25 points, and brunch is 7.95 points.

At both Usdan and Summerfields, you can pay an extra fee to take your meal to-go, or you can sign up for the Eco-To-Go program. When you sign up, you'll be given a keychain that can be turned in at Usdan or Summerfields in return for a reusable to-go container. Instead of throwing away the container, return it to a bin at either dining hall to be washed and pick up another keychain for next time.

The Usdan Café is the small à la carte dining option downstairs in the University Center. Here, you can grab a quick sandwich, salad, or pre-made sushi among other to-go options. It's also the caffeine stop closest to most classrooms north of Church Street.

Summerfields

Full disclosure: as a non-Butterfields resident, I nearly made it through my entire first semester without visiting Summerfields, which I deeply, deeply regret. If you live in the Butts, you'll soon notice a snaking line of hungry diners spilling out of Summerfields during the meal rush (usually 12-1 for lunch and 6-7 for dinner). Once you make it through the wait, Summerfields is an à la carte dining hall alternative, open for lunch on weekdays and dinner seven days a week.

Here, you can opt for a "bundled" meal, which costs you one meal swipe and includes a side, a dessert, and a beverage, or you can purchase individual items for points. For first-timers: don't throw away your receipt! You'll have to wait to hear your number called to pick up your order. Summerfields also offers you the option of texting in your order and jumping the line when you arrive to pick up. If you're in a hurry, you can pay a fee for a disposable to-go container or you can utilize the Eco To-Go program.

The menu is fairly extensive: besides staples like fries and chicken tenders, Summerfields is famous for a wide variety of salads (including the Caprese and the signature Summerfields Salad) as well as its "taqueria" menu of quesadillas and burritos (both rolled and bowled). Summerfields is usually pretty noisy and therefore less conducive to the whole "working lunch" concept, but the food is great, and it's the only dinner option open until 9 p.m. There's now an additional "Asian" menu and a make-your-own milkshake machine.

WesWings

WesWings is definitely one of the pricier options when you're spending points. Hoever, it's tasty, and the specials are always innovative. WesWings has the feel of a sports bar without the beer. The regular menu includes salads, sandwiches, and wings, and has unique vegan and vegetarian options like falafel and "Seitan-ic Wings," spicy wings made of seitan—a high-protein wheat derivative—rather than chicken.

Personally, I tend to avoid WesWings for all meals except weekend brunch. It's not worth the points, but brunch options are delicious and unique (a particular fried breakfast burrito wrapped in bacon comes to mind). The "Breakfast Pail" and "Hangover Special" are also quite popular after a long night out.

Red and Black Café

Red and Black is another à la carte café option located in the back corner of Broad Street Books. Popular menu items are panini, smoothies, and soups. Be sure to check the specials board, especially for brunch. Red and Black is open weekdays 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (a great brunch option for early weekend risers). During off-hours, it's a cozy, generally quiet place to study over a cup of coffee or a meal.

Star and Crescent

Star and Crescent (S&C), Alpha Delta Phi's non-exclusive eating club, is the closest you can get to a real restaurant atmosphere on campus. The food is incredible, and it's a lovely atmosphere for meals with friends. Unfortunately, S&C is only open for lunch (usually an entrée and dessert) Tuesday through Thursday and dinner (salad, entrée, and dessert) Monday through Thursday, and it's not unusual for the kitchen to run out of popular meals early. If you want to get in on grilled cheese day, your only hope is to be in line at least fifteen minutes early. If you arrive right at noon when lunch begins, you're late.

Most importantly, the first three freshmen in line for every meal at the Star and Crescent eat for free. Three freshmen. Every meal. Totally free. It gets competitive. Non-freshmen, now's the time to regret not knowing about that. If you don't get it for free, it's 9 points for lunch and 11.25 for dinner.

Chique Chaque

Another non-exclusive eating club, Chique Chaque is in Psi Upsilon (Psi U) and is one of the oldest dining options on campus (opened in the 1860s!). Cost is a little cheaper than the S&C—seven points for lunch and 10 points for dinner. Lunch starts at 12 and dinner at six. Chique Chaque is open to all campus and is buffet-style with a single main course and sides. Most students don't consider Chique Chaque an option, but according to the President of Psi U, Luca Ameri '15, the fraternity is attempting to raise the eatery's profile on campus.

Weshop

Weshop, our on-campus grocery store, accepts points and stocks most food and convenience items you might need. Be sure to stock up on cooking essentials, fresh produce, and microwave meals. It's a little overpriced, but it's much less painful when you think of your points as "fake money" and realize you would otherwise be spending cash in a supermarket.

Weshop also has a lunch option for which you may use meals. It includes a packaged sandwich or salad, yogurt, chips, fruit, and a drink. It's a pretty good deal, especially if you have too many meals.

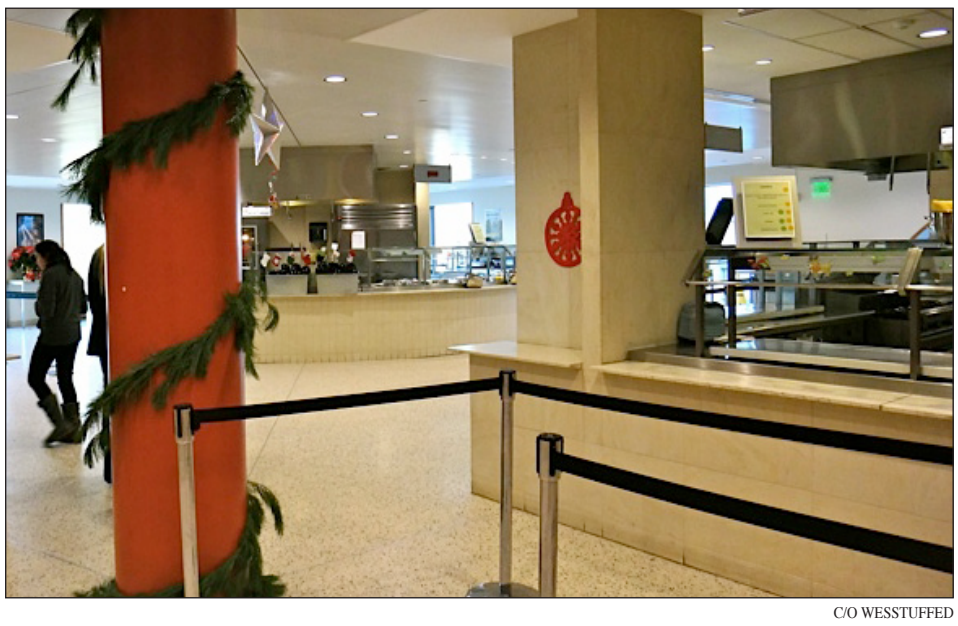
Keep an eye out in the Food section for an exhaustive description of campus food co-ops, coming soon.

C/O WESLEYAN.EDU

The first three freshmen in line for a meal at Alpha Delt's Star and Crescent eat for free.

C/O WIKIPEDIA

Chique Chaque, though rarely frequented by most students, accepts points.



C/O WESSTUFFED

Perfect for picky eaters, Usdan offers the most options of any dining hall.

Help! I Need to Feed Myself!

By Jess Zalph
Food Editor

Basic meals are gold: while Usdan provides a plethora of options, you may find that you get bored of them. At those times, you may decide to venture into your dorm's kitchen. Sure, many of the meals I ate freshman year consisted entirely of spoonfuls of peanut butter, granola bars, or frozen burritos, but that's not necessarily a sustainable lifestyle.

I'm going to give you basic ideas for each meal of the day. They are easy enough to make in a dorm, but good enough that you would want to keep making them even if you found yourself in a luxury kitchen. Also, since they are just baselines, you can doctor or add to each idea in any way that appeals to you.

Breakfast

Scrambled eggs are a staple and can be made easily in 5 to 10 minutes. The only supplies you need are a pan, a bowl, and a fork. The only ingredients you need to make this dish taste good are eggs, water, olive oil, salt, and pepper, but if you want to get fancy, you can add some vegetables, like onions, peppers, or broccoli. Or some cheese. Because everything is better with cheese.

Crack as many eggs as you wish to eat into a bowl, then add your seasoning. For every two eggs, a pinch of salt will suffice. I like a lot of pepper and will happily put in about a quarter teaspoon per two eggs, but if you are wary, you should start with less. You can always add more at the end. Whisk the eggs with the fork, adding splashes of water as you whisk for extra fluffy eggs. Roughly a quarter cup of water should be fine. I have never used milk with eggs, but tradition says this would work as well.

Heat half a tablespoon of olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Pour in the eggs, stirring very occasionally as they begin to solidify, breaking up any lumps that form. At this point, stir pretty much constantly to keep the eggs from sticking. When there is almost no liquid left, they are done. Remove them from the heat.

That's all there is to it, but, as I mentioned, there are ways to dress it up. I always prefer to eat scrambled eggs with bread; toast is even better. Vegetables can be added, sautéed or not, and you can add many other flavorings, such as sweet paprika, mustard powder, dill, or chives.

Lunch

Lunch offers many simple options, but I have to admit that I'm not necessarily the most creative when it comes to making a meal in the middle of a busy day. If I must put together my own lunch instead of buying a meal, it usually consists of some combination of yogurt, carrots and peanut butter, bread, and frozen samosas.

However, let's say you find yourself inspired to make something of your own for lunch, and you're short on time. Hummus comes to mind as a good starting point for this challenge. Don't worry if you don't have a food processor—a makeshift mortar and pestle will work just as well. Drain and rinse one can of chickpeas, and save about one third of the liquid in case the hummus turns out too dry. Mash the chickpeas with a tablespoon of olive oil and a clove of garlic. Salt and pepper to taste. If you have cumin, a perfect spice for additional flavoring, add about half a teaspoon. Lemon juice also makes a great flavor addition. Finally, keep mashing until you've worked up an appetite, and eat your concoction.

This hummus can be eaten with pita or vegetables, or can be the base of a sandwich. The leftovers will keep for several days, meaning you can take a day off from cooking tomorrow.

Dinner

Let's be real—when you're feeling lazy but need to cook for yourself, you want cooking to mean "ramen." There is a midpoint between this definition and "four-course meal," though, and I highly recommend it. I call it: "Creatively Combining Things from Cans and Jars."

My favorite way to do this is to make stew, which is easy to make in a single pot. Drain and rinse a can of chickpeas and pour them into a pot with one cup of your favorite tomato sauce (preferably one without sugar, but those can be hard to come by). Heat the chickpeas and sauce over low heat, stirring occasionally. Cut any vegetables you have into small pieces and add them. Season with pepper and chili flakes. Let the stew cook until it is steadily bubbling. Remove from heat, top it with Parmesan cheese, and devour it. If you eat it straight from the pot, you will have only one dish to clean, and you can go back to your homework only 15-20 minutes after you started cooking. (If you like to cook as an excuse to take long breaks from academic responsibilities, this is the wrong dish.)

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Men's Soccer Presses On Despite Setbacks

By Brett Keating
Assistant Sports Editor

After making the NCAA Division III tournament in three of the past four seasons, the Wesleyan men's soccer team faces some lofty expectations in its 2013 campaign. The team's season was rocked last spring, when a number of team members were caught in an alleged hazing incident. Participants were suspended for at least two games, with some players sitting out as many as six.

Team co-captains Daniel Issroff '15 and Ben Bratt '15 will look to provide leadership for what is likely to be a scrappy opening two games for the Cardinals.

"The team is looking forward to moving on from last year's events and having a successful season on and off the field," Issroff, who was second on the team in points and first in assists last year, said.

He also sees the suspensions as an opportunity for the squad.

"I think the approach that we've chosen to take is to view the situation as positively as possible," Issroff said. "It will give a lot of younger guys a chance to… gain valuable experience. It has put us in a unique position where we will be relying on contributions from just about everyone."

Wesleyan is also looking to fill in for the loss of first-team All-American Rory O'Neill '13 and NESCAC Player of the Year Adam Purdy '13. Issroff noted that he remains hopeful that his team will be able to make up for the loss.

"We have a really nice, deep group of quality goalkeepers, and I anticipate that we'll see one of those guys rise to the challenge of replacing [Purdy]," he said.

The team's opening match against Framingham State on Wednesday, Sept. 4 will be the first game since 2008 without Purdy starting in net.

Competing to inherit Purdy's spot between the posts will be Billy Queen '16 and Emmett McConnell '15, the latter of whom played 11 minutes last season, the former none.

Also on the team is Derek Grammer '17, who stood out from two other freshmen and earned a spot on the varsity squad. McConnell will be suspended for the Framingham State match, leaving Queen and Grammer to compete for the opening day start.

Despite the departures, Issroff is optimistic regarding the team's chances.

"We have a very talented group, and I see no reason why we shouldn't expect to make the NCAA tournament," he said. "That's really key because once you're in the tournament, you never know what can happen."

Issroff noted that the team's spot at the tournament is overdue.

"We haven't really had a deep run into the tournament for a while," he said. "It would be nice if this was the year that that finally happened. We definitely have the ability, and I think it'll just be a matter of everything clicking for us at the right time."

The team certainly has a few games in particular highlighted on its schedule, including back-to-back matchups on Oct. 12 and 17 against Little Three opponents Williams and Amherst, the second of which is a Saturday home match. The majority of their suspended players are expected to return Saturday, Sept. 14 against Wheaton College.

"[People] can expect to see lots of goals from us this year, and I promise we'll try our best to put on a show for all the fans."

2013: Year of Cardinal Football?

By Felipe DaCosta
Assistant Sports Editor

SHANNON WELCH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In addition to the returning all-NESCAC players, Kyle Gibson '15 and the running backs will power the Cardinal offense in 2013.

In their final game of the 2012 season, the Cardinals were set for victory, holding a seven-point margin over their opponents, the Trinity Bantams. Knocking off their undefeated Route 9 rivals would have been a momentum shift for the Cardinals, who had stumbled in the last half of the season and lost two of their last three contests. By collecting its first victory against the Bantams since 2000, the Wesleyan football team could have established itself as one of the premier NESCAC teams to beat in 2013.

However, with just 17 seconds to play, Trinity completed a 78-yard drive down the field for a touchdown, sending the game into overtime. And after recovering a Wesleyan fumble on the team's own five-yard line, Trinity punched in its ticket on an undefeated season on Jackson Field.

As the Cardinals head into a new season, this loss may be an indication of the direction the team is taking. Although last year they were unable to defeat perennial NESCAC leaders like Williams, Amherst, and Trinity, the average margin of defeat in those three matches was a little over eight points. Additionally, the Cardinals' 5-3 record in 2012 was their best in a decade. All this is an indication of immense growth under Head Coach Mike Whalen. Though the squad has not risen to great levels of success just yet, this team has the drive and commitment as well as the talent to break through to that next level of NESCAC play.

The main strength for the Redbirds heading into the 2013 season is their massive depth. Forty-one returning letter-winners have been gearing up for the season with the memory of last year still burning in their minds. Among returnees, seven are all-NESCAC honorees: offensive lineman Jake Sheffer '14, defensive backs Jake Bussani '14 and Donnie Cimino '15, defensive end Nik Powers '15, and wide receiver/tight end Kevin Hughes '14. With this much returning talent on the roster, the Cardinals have one of the deepest and most-skilled rosters in recent memory. After falling short of meeting their goals in 2012, these Cardinals enter the new season with chips on their shoulders.

To accompany the team's impressive experience, Whalen has brought in 23 new recruits to round out the roster. Among them, Devon Carrillo '17 stands out, as he will be tasked with taking charge of the secondary.

"[Carrillo is] one guy that can make a real impact" said John San Filippo '16, a returning linebacker. "He's a free safety, which is a position we graduated two players from last year. He's a phenomenal athlete and has a great work ethic."

The Cardinals will begin their season in historic fashion with the first-ever night game in NESCAC history on Saturday, Sept. 21 at home against the Tufts University Jumbos, rivals from Medford, Mass. After dismantling the Jumbos 35-14 last year, the Cardinals will look to make an example of them again this time around. Starting off the season with such historic overtones bodes well for this Cardinal squad, as their talent sets them apart from teams in years past. However, talent alone will not define this team. Instead, the team's determination and ability to persevere against the stronger sides in the conference will.

Athletes: Standout Cardinals Pave Way for Wes Teams

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careers. Bruckner took just 14 shots on goal last year, but as a captain and the elder stateswoman on the attack, she will be called upon to be much more active now. Looking back, this squad was at its best when it put pressure on the opposing defense; Wesleyan outshot its opponents by nearly 100 shots on the 2012 season.

In order to approach that statistic again, Bruckner's leadership and production will be key, and she knows it.

"I want to compete at my best in both games and practice, and, as a captain, I want to inspire my teammates to play at their very best as well," she said. "If together we accept nothing but our best, I think we will have a very successful season, and maybe I'll be able to end my Wesleyan field hockey career as a NESCAC champion."

Kayla Cloud '14, Women's Crew

Pat Tynan's team made a big leap in his third year as coach, which was also Cloud's third year rowing for Wesleyan. After posting consecutive losing records, women's crew broke out with a 9-3 campaign in 2011-12, placing sixth in New England in the process. On top of that, Cloud received the highest individual honors of any rower when she was named a first-team All-American. But true to her sport and her position as captain, Cloud is focused on her team first.

"I guess like every team we want to win," Cloud said. "And that's really the objective this year, to be as fast and successful as we possibly can and to work harder than anyone else is willing to work both individually and as a group. It's pretty much as simple as that."

Kerry Doyle '14, Women's Soccer

No one is trying to replace Laura Kurash '13. She was a three-time all-NESCAC honoree and finished off her career as conference Player of the Year. Her striking ability powered the Cardinals throughout her time on the pitch, and she will be missed dearly. Fortunately, Doyle is still around to create from the forward position.

Now a senior captain herself, Doyle led Wesleyan with six assists alongside Kurash in 2012-13. That will be a vital contribution going forward; the team's leading scorer may be gone, but it still has the ability to put the ball in position to shoot on goal.

"I'm really excited about how my team is looking this season," Doyle explained. "We definitely have the potential to be quite successful, and I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to contribute to that success. Individually, I just want the last season of my soccer career to be one that I'm proud of. If I were to get all-NESCAC in the process, I wouldn't hate it."

Clare DuBrin '16, Women's Tennis

DuBrin came out of nowhere to become the top-seeded women's singles player last season—and by that, I mean she came from Carnegie Mellon. The transfer was a great acquisition for a Wesleyan team going through growing pains. She notched four wins in singles play and another five as part of the number-one doubles pairing with Genevieve Aniello '13; those nine victories are the most of any returning Cardinal. Now DuBrin is where she belongs and only getting better, giving the Cardinals some strong continuity with her leading the charge.

Kim Farris '14, Volleyball

There's nothing more exciting in volleyball than an emphatic spike, which makes Farris so fun to watch. She is already Wesleyan's returning leader in kills, leading volleyball with 236 in 2012. Her fellow captain Monica Leslie '14 converted her attempts at a higher rate last season, but Farris was the more prolific of the two. Leslie has a two-inch height advantage, which makes it easier for her to be pinpoint accurate with her kills, but Farris' leaping ability gives her the chance to be really great with a bit more consistency.

Yet if Farris has it her way, her game will consist of more than just spikes.

"I really want to improve on diversifying my offense and continuing to improve on my defensive skills," she said. "I think that the team as a whole has a lot of potential, and I hope that we will end up with a winning season."

Kevin Hughes '14, Football

Wesleyan features a run-first offense, but you have to be able to throw in order to maintain some balance. While the Cardinals haven't had a great passing game under coach Mike Whalen, quarterback Jesse Warren '15 will continue to target Hughes. Standing 6'4", 230 pounds, he is officially listed both as wide receiver and tight end, a testament to his blocking ability when Whalen keeps the offense on the ground. But Hughes is also Wesleyan's leading receiver from last season, compiling 419 yards and three touchdowns. If Warren can find him more often in the red zone, Hughes will put up a lot more points as a senior.

Danny Issroff '15, Men's Soccer

Due to a strange imbalance in the roster composition, men's soccer returns only a single senior letter-winner. While Henry Karmin '14 is the oldest Cardinal, more of the offensive burden will fall at Issroff's feet. He finished second on the team last fall with nine points, working primarily to set up the talented Class of 2013 to score. Now much of the established frontline is gone, but as captain, Issroff knows he has to stick to his game and support those still around him.

"The team will look for me to set the tempo in midfield and create goal-scoring opportunities for my teammates," he said. "We have a young team, so naturally a lot of responsibility will fall on my shoulders, but I feel like I'm ready for the challenge."

Stephen Monk '15, Men's Tennis

In an even more severe case, men's tennis has no seniors at all. Back when Jeff Legunn '13 had a stranglehold on the top singles seed, there were questions about who would take over for him when he left. But in a shocking twist, Monk stepped up and usurped Legunn last season, giving Monk some much-needed experience both as a player and as a leader. Considering that his co-captain Sam Rudovsky '16 is even younger, Monk will be essential to his teammates' development.

"I'm incredibly excited for this season," Monk said. "We have a really young, talented team. Because we have no seniors, we're going to have a great opportunity to get to know each other and build chemistry over the next couple years. My only individual goal is to help us achieve our team goals of improving our national ranking and reaching the NCAA tournament."

Noah Solomon '14, Men's Crew

Solomon is a staple in the men's first varsity eight, helping last year's boat row to its best finish at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Regatta since he has been at Wesleyan. However, the eight that raced on Lake Quinsagamond last May has since lost both of its senior captains and its coxswain. Now Solomon is back as a captain himself, and his focus is singularly on the task ahead: the Head of the Charles, the marquee regatta of the fall slate.

"Placing better than our two main rivals, Trinity and Williams, at the Head of the Charles," Solomon replied when asked about his goals for the season. "Along with that, medaling at the Head of the Charles, which would be the first time for the program in many years."