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THE WESLEYAN ARGUS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 VOLUME CLIV, ISSUE 6 WESLEYANARGUS.COM

WSA, Whaley to Adapt Appeals Process

By Jenny Davis
Assistant Opinion Editor

Last semester, President Michael Roth deliberated over roughly 40 appeals to decisions made by the Student Judicial Board (SJB), the Honor Board, and the sexual assault board. Effective next year, however, Roth will no longer preside over those cases. He has tasked the Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA), the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), and Vice President for Student Affairs Dean Michael Whaley with establishing a new appeals process.

It is a change that WSA President Nicole Updegrove '14 and SAC Chair Kate Cullen '16 are eager to implement.

"President Roth doesn't always seem accessible if you're a student in crisis," Updegrove said. "Judicially, he's also far removed from students and professors."

As the system functions now, when a student appeals a decision, Roth receives a file on his desk with the recording, hearing, and written appeal from the original case. He then chooses to accept the appeal, deny it, or call for a rehearing.

Whaley explained that the sudden interest in changing the process stems from concerns surrounding compliance with Title IX, the section of the 1972 Education Amendments that protects against discrimination based on sex in judicial hearings.

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Code Compliance Board Takes Shape

By Courtney Laermer
Staff Writer

Campus labor activists affiliated with the United Student Labor Action Coalition (USLAC) met last week with Associate Vice President for Facilities Joyce Topshe in an effort to come to agreement over a reconstitution of the Code Compliance Board. This meeting was part of an ongoing dialogue between USLAC and the Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA) following the passage of the USLAC-sponsored WSA resolution regarding labor standards. The Code Compliance Board will function as a University committee responsible for evaluating labor standards.

In 2000, members of USLAC submitted a proposal to then-President Douglas Bennet with requests they felt were pertinent to a responsible Code of Conduct. Citing a commitment to the rights and dignity of all employees at the University, these students argued for total compensation, additional benefits, collective bargaining, unionization, and freedom of association. The proposal also covered conditions of the job, types of labor permitted, and protection of workers when the University changed contractors, as well as enforcement and monitoring. Though a board was formed in Sept. 2000 to oversee compliance with these conditions, it has not functioned in recent years.

David Whitney '16, a member of USLAC, described the makeup of the new Code Compliance Board.

"The new Board will consist of two students involved with labor activism, a WSA member, two faculty members, and…three administra-

USLAC, page 3

Summ-thing More

MARIA GONZALEZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A seemingly limited Summerfields menu can be creatively altered to offer more choices. See page 13 for more.

CHONG GU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Times Bones," the newest work from the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, was performed at the CFA Theater on Friday and Saturday nights.

Back To First Position

"Times Bones" Draws From 40 Years of Dance Performances

By William Donnelly
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, the Dance Department welcomed the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company to the Center for the Arts (CFA) Theater for the New England premiere of the company's original work, "Times Bones." Highly regarded in the San Francisco area, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company has been performing for the past four decades. Jenkins herself is a celebrated choreographer, having been granted residency at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy in 2013. At the center of Jenkins' renown is her innovative, collaborative choreographic process. Rather than dictating all of the movements of a particular piece to her dancers, Jenkins opts to have a more democratic creative process.

"I come into the dance studio with these people, and we function with a great amount of integrity and collaboration, especially when we're doing these sort of cross-cultural experiences: you encounter one another with a great deal of honesty and generosity and truthfulness," said Megan Wright, one of the Company's dancers. "And that's the place your creativity comes from, as opposed to the top-down approach of someone with a big ego standing at the head of the room…. That's not exactly her working model."

Collaboration was critical to the production of "Times Bones," which is intended as a celebration of the company's 40 years of performance. This time around, Jenkins' collaborative process was not limited to the company's current dancers working with each other, but also included them working with the company's 40 years' worth of past performances.

"Margie looked back over the 40 years of video-taped performances—there were some 68 performances over the course of the company's history that have been filmed—and looked for ideas or images or fragments that seemed interesting to revisit, and then the current crop of dancers took those ideas and altered them or tailored them to fit ourselves and strung them together into a semblance of a whole that we could perform," Wright said.

However, the Company's history was not the only source of inspiration for "Times Bones."

"Margie was thinking a lot about the myth of Osiris…the

DANCE, page 6

Men's Squash Finishes 19th Nationally at CSA Tournament

By Felipe DaCosta
Assistant Sports Editor

After falling prey to an overpowering St. Lawrence squad to end the regular season, the men's squash team was faced with the task of mentally recuperating while fending off trophy-hungry programs in this weekend's national championships hosted at Harvard University.

The team is the second-seeded squad in the highly contentious "C" division. In their quest for championship hardware, the Cards were stopped short in the semifinals by a vengeful Brown squad and ended up settling for third place in their division. With their 3rd place finish, the Cards will finish the season ranked 19th nationally.

The opening round's contest with the Colby Camels was business as usual for the Birds as they picked up their third win of the season over their seventh-seeded opponents. The Cardinals cruised to their second 9-0 shutout victory over the Mules in 2014 with decisive 3-0 set wins from number one John Steele '14, number two Guy Davidson '16, number four Daniel Sneed '15, and number 9 Alexander Kamisher '17. Although the impressive final score did not come as a surprise for the team, reversing their most recent match may have been just what the Cardinals needed to boost themselves up for further tournament play.

"We weren't too worried about Colby, as we had handled them well in the past few weeks [9-0 and 7-2], but we couldn't look past that first match," commented Captain Ethan Moritz '16 in an email to The Argus. "We played well on Friday and came away with another 9-0 win, which was a solid statement at nationals. We knew past that match anyone we played would be very tough competition."

Following Colby, the Cardinals would square against the third-seeded squad from Brown, which was evidently still sore from the 5-4 loss the team suffered the last time both squads met in December. Sadly, this time around, the Cardinals were not able to conjure the same streak-busting magic they used to upend their evenly-matched opponents; they fell by a similar 5-4 score line.

Despite a strong showing from the bottom half of the latter where number seven Chris Hart '17, number eight

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Earth House concert drops pants

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See who made the cut(e)

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Team defends home turf

The Wesleyan Argus
established in 1868

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Thank you to our generous donors:
Alice and Colby Andrus
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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 Wespeaks that pertain to campus issues, news stories, and editorial policy. Wespeaks should be no longer than 750 words. The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. (Monday, for Tuesday publication, and Thursday, for Friday publication). All Wespeaks should be submitted through the Argus website and should include the author's name and telephone number.

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WESPEAKS

In Response to the recent article, "On Black History Month": The Show Must Go On.

After reading the recently posted Wesleying article, "On Black History Month" I stopped to take some time to reflect upon a wide array of issues, not only those that were addressed in the article, but also those that surrounded when, how, and why it was posted in this fashion. I must begin by saying that I hold respect for both authors of the article, and that I have worked with both of them throughout my time as a student leader at Wesleyan. With that said, I feel that the writers have taken a misguided approach to understanding both the larger concept of Black History Month, as well as the real issues that student leaders are facing at Wesleyan.

During my first two years of Wesleyan I served on the Board of Ujamaa, the very student group that the authors chose to target in their article. Since my time on the Ujamaa Board, I have since become a chair of the Invisible Men organization. I believe that although the writers sought to take the leaders of Ujamaa to task, they have in fact targeted the methodology of many student groups both within and outside of the student of color community. Their article suggests that student leaders of our time are no longer concerned with building community, supporting our collective membership, and fostering productive dialogue around issues that are important to our communities. This is simply untrue.

The assumption that as a student leader, the Collective, in accordance to the organization's mission, isn't the top priority is very presumptuous. Using Invisible Men as an example, every semester we begin with a social, community-building event called Get Fresh. These events are always by far the most attended by our collective members. Although this event is largely social, we do try to set goals for the semester and revisit the group's mission when necessary. With such a strong collective start to the semester, we assume that the energy will continue into the first month. However, just a few weeks later when we hold our first few collective meetings to discuss the direction of the group or to talk about possible future events, no one shows up. Not only does no one show up, no one bothers to send an email offering up suggestions. As leaders, there is only so much outreach that can be done. Even when email, Facebook, and other social media sources fail, we turn to face-to-face interaction, and we see the same result.

Now this is not to say that the collective is completely inactive. There are often a handful of students who consistently support events and show up to meetings. To those people we are always grateful. What those in leadership positions try to do is maximize the time and effort of those that DO show up. There are many students within our community RIGHT NOW who are ready to be proactive, efficient, and effective. However, it appears as though the writers of the previous article would like for us to literally stop progressing until everyone is in the room. Realistically, we will never have everyone in the room; and for most groups, that isn't the goal.

The authors make the claim that Black History Month is no longer reflective of the entire student of color community. The question that they seem to avoid is how exactly they expect for a month that doesn't receive support from the entire community to be reflective of the entire community. When groups hold collective meetings with attendance rates of less than 10 people at any given meeting (more commonly closer to 2-4 collective members), how can the leaders hope to garner an understanding of what the "collective" would like to see in events? This issue extends further when we think about the lack of responsiveness of said collective members to outreach.

I believe that the authors are speaking to issues faced by most, if not all, affinity groups of our time. We are currently suffering from community wide problems regarding how people self-identify. We are also encountering a growing group of students with an aversion to leadership. We see this both in the reluctance from students across class years to take new leadership positions, but also in current leaders receiving much more pushback for their community-driven efforts. Now, while I fully support movements that attempt to be non-hierarchal and promote activity throughout a group, we must remember the system that we are working within. As student groups, we work within a system that requires at least moderate group structure (you can't even register a student group without identifying two representatives), advanced planning, and outcome-oriented event structure.

I do not defend Ujamaa for not consulting the Collective on what the theme for the month should be or for what events should be sponsored. I do, though, think that we must identify all the stakeholders in this issue and hold everyone accountable. If the authors of this article felt so strongly about what they wanted Black History Month to encompass, why didn't they approach the Board last semester? Why didn't they email the board (or the Collective) with theme or event ideas, or simply put pressure on the Board to organize a Collective meeting? I think that we must all recognize our agency in these issues. Student groups are board-centric because we allow them to be board-centric; because quite simply, there are only a handful of people who actually want to put in the work to make an event, or an affinity month, come into fruition. However, when it's time to critique and say what went wrong, everyone wants to join the party.

I also feel that the argument brought forth in the previous article makes its largest assumption in suggesting that if SOC groups were to suddenly stop holding events, that people would care! The idea that people who have never been personally invested in Black History Month, its legacy, or the events that are held during February would suddenly be in an uproar if things came to a halt, falls fairly flat to me.

In the grand scheme of things, Black History Month represents something larger than Wesleyan and the many communities within it. Using a lens that focuses only on student activism on our campus, or the lack thereof, we miss the bigger issues. Should we work to make sure groups that primarily consist of students of color are represented throughout the year? Yes. Should we work to build some sense of camaraderie within a student of color community that is becoming increasingly diverse (although not necessarily increasing in SIZE or becoming more EQUITABLE)? Yes. Should we question the tradition of jam-packing our affinity months with events without consideration from members of the communities we want to represent? Yes.

Should we stop the show because we don't have 100% participation from all members within the loosely defined student of color community? Not at all. Despite whatever problems may exist within this university, we cannot possibly believe that stopping the show will be the ultimate solution. We have a complex problem that we must acknowledge. I believe that when we finally do, we will realize that we must also offer a complex set of solutions, and we must all be willing to hold ourselves accountable to see them through.

Jalen Alexander is a member of the class of 2014.

Open Letter to President Roth

Dear Valentine,

The Substance of President Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation ("Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed…'") fails to appear in yours. But, hey, it isn't every Hobbit on High who can honestly claim to be substance-free. You deem the Founders' Touchstone untouchable, easily less pronounceable than supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

Alas, your reluctance to declare the Substance of Thanksgiving calls to mind the pot calling the kettle black. You cluck: "The newspapers have squeezed out even more substance to make room for advertising..." And what, pray tell, was YOUR blog doing? "…the Wesleyan Fund is conducting a one-day campaign to support our alma mater through contributions. Your gift through the Fund, no matter how small, helps the university with its current needs, including financial aid."

You oblige the students to gift the Fund, as "…we (should) turn our attention away from buying stuff we may not need…" "We"? Where's YOUR kick-off gift? You say my request is unusual? It is, but no more unusual than yours. Before your formative era (the Sixties and Seventies) hit the fan, Old Wes obliged the students to work to the max in a wholly monastic enclave set in a rundown, backwater town that barely forbore the gown. We house-boys on High (a dozen lettered Greeks) competed scholastically, high-grade competition paying off in high-grade earnings AFTER graduation, when Old Grads would plow back bumper-year earnings into improving Alma Mater's unlittered – repeat: unlittered – estate. Your putting the harvest season ahead of the growing season is something new in the art of cultivation.

Regarding what you call "the stuff we may not need" – the hot and cold confections, the soundtracks, whatever, – one soundtrack this verbally guarded schoolyard's children do NOT need is a Chief Diversity Officer, a schoolyard scold employed by the schoolyard bully. You urge the students to cheer the new scold's arrival. I, for one, shall forgive them if they don't, for they had no say in the purchase they'll be paying for. It wouldn't cost you a penny to call it "social justice," and if you get caught with your hand in their pocket, like Barry the Fleecer and Document-shredder, you probably will.

You wish to move on? Dear Valentine, your wish is my command.

Ere you'd beaten the substantive stuffing out of the holy day of Thanksgiving, last September the very threshold of Olin was the recipient of a basting, courtesy of hollerfest MASH. That unlicensed assault-weapon's evident mission: to drive every thought of grave skullduggery out of circulation one whole week after classes began. Argus arts editor Gwendolyn Rosen conveys the scene: "I began my Mash experience in SciLi, begrudgingly trying to do some of my homework before all of the fun started. My concentration broke once I saw from the Fishbowl that President Michael Roth was rocking out with Smokin' Lillies in front of Olin. If the president is enjoying the sunshine, there is no better sign that you should abandon your reading to join the music." No better sign, that sign you stuck on the lawn in front of Olin.

And you would make your MASH a yearly affair. Must make a note of that: an annual mosh top-billing Mike the Rock, the lyricist whose compositions are stuck in the key of I ("I recently reviewed…" "I read…" "I met…" "I viewed…" "I spoke…" "And then I wrote…"). The student body's mental circuits need another circuit-breaker as badly as you need another I-key.

And speaking of beating and basting, you have not yet begun to fight. Soon you'll be deleting from its lovely setting Art History's bibliotheque. It had too much piquant charm to survive your envy-driven pique. Your wrecking ball would have trashed Shanklin, had the Market's crash not erased the funds to replace it with a fitting companion to Exley, the campus's ugliest structure till Patricelli Pavilion hove into view and staved off a later bid for that honor by Bennet Hall.

The students call the Pavilion "the gas station" – an inspired call. I call it President Douglas J. "Bigfoot" Bennet's trademark tread-mark stomped on the chiseled face of Brownstone Row. Doug's idolatrous Board of Philistines ("What do WE know?"), in panic mode – a prankster had hidden their rubber stamp – until they found it, gave their ritual blessing to record fundraiser Bennet's project, into the bargain sacrificing (yea, burning up) Art History's faculty ("What do THEY know?"), aghast at Bigfoot's foot on the gas.

And now it's deconstructionist Roth's turn. Will he complete Old Wes's effacement within his tenure's remaining six years? ("And in the seventh year Roth rested.") Michael, first make certain Thanksgiving had been completely effaced. Yes, you'd managed to park that holy day's Inspiration in the trash (and that's no ordinary, fixable parking ticket), but more could be done.

Begin with a killer sound bite. The Mayflower could be rechristened La fleur du mal (don't mention it), but even you would rue the day – the day your fellow apaches pour over the left bank onto La rue de la paix in war paint. You'd greet them, ejaculating "Frere Jacques, La fleur du mal est formiDABle!" They'd heave a despairing sigh: "Another transatlantic expatriot, carried away by the clime, succumbs to Seine-stroke."

Michael, you need to get out of the Seine and give nativism a chance. Do me the favor of showing that blooming import the compost heap, and I'll reciprocate: I'll feed your scrawny Thanksgiving turkey's lede a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious sound bite. Hark! the summary wintry remark of a wretchedly tribal apache, the first to have sighted the Pilgrims disembarking: "Palefaces. There goes the neighborhood."

Martin Benjamin is a member of the class of 1957.

NEWS

Appeals: SJB and Honors Board Process to Change

Continued from front page

"There have been a lot of appeals recently of very serious cases, and there have also been some suggestions from consultants looking at our compliance with Title IX," Whaley said. "It's a convergence of a number of things that has [Roth] thinking he should get out of that business."

Whaley explained that the new appeals process will include a number of opinions; he has suggested small faculty teams of two or three, including himself, to review the cases and come to decisions. The SAC, too, is determined to provide appeals cases with a wide range of viewpoints.

"The SAC recommends that it's a five-member board," Cullen said. "We currently believe that [Whaley] should always be on the board, along with professors and faculty members."

For sexual assault cases, which are currently judged by administrators only, the SAC has discussed, but not come to a conclusion, regarding whether or not it recommends that students serve on the board. Among the options for board members in these appeals cases are Whaley, randomly or strategically selected professors, and student members approved by those involved in the case.

"Some people thought it would be better to have the student perspective, but at the same time, it's a big bearing for a student to hold and hear so much about the case," Cullen said. "There's also the issue of confidentiality. We're still trying to figure out what we think about that."

Whaley, though, is firm in his belief that students should not be involved in sexual assault cases at the hearing or the appeals process; he explained that removing students from the process years ago resulted in an increase in the number of sexual assaults reported.

"Wesleyan changed its practice at request of students to take students out of the process," he said. "Students felt it was such a small campus that having students involved would have a chilling effect on people reporting it. [Sexual assault] is underreported on campus, but numbers of reports have been coming up since we've changed that process. I don't think it would be appropriate to insert students back into that process now."

The SAC is also considering allowing the student requesting the appeal to choose from a pool of faculty members. Students might also be given the opportunity to request that certain professors not hear their case.

From here, the SAC will begin to formalize more of the many options it has already generated. It will also narrow down recommendations for Whaley, who hopes to have a final plan to submit to Roth before spring break.

Cullen stressed the importance of student opinion in the adaptation of the appeals process.

"We're looking for ideas from everyone around campus," she said. "We want to make sure that there's a student voice that's really strong."

According to Cullen and Updegrove, empowering students is the crux of their passion for the project.

"I hope that students will feel the process is more fair," Updegrove said. "Having students and faculty members on the board means that they'll be heard by members of the community who understand student life a little more, or recognize more flaws in the initial trial by the SJB, Honor Board, or the assault board. It's an imperfect process, and I hope students feel that they're being better represented."

Cullen agreed that she anticipates better and fairer representation for students attempting appeals.

"There will be more transparency," she said. "Students should know what they're up against."

Whaley does not find the current system unfair; he stressed the fact that once the SBJ or the Honor Board finds a student to be in violation, Roth cannot change the ruling, he can only modify it. However, he, too, recognizes a need for transparency, especially because many students make unsuccessful appeals to contest their guilt.

"We need to look for ways to be clearer with students about this point and be upfront about that fact from the beginning," Whaley said.

Task Force to Create Gender Resource Center

By Michelle Li
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, the Gender Resource Center Task Force met to discuss the implementation of a center solely for issues regarding women and gender identity as related to experiences on campus. Headed by Lily Kong '16 and Nina Gurak '16, the task force is seeking to create a space similar to women's centers at other institutions.

"I see this as potentially an answer to the large portion of male-dominated spaces on campus, such as frats," Gurak said. "I'm also looking forward to having a space to talk about what it means to be a woman."

Additionally, the creation of a resource center aims to provide groups with opportunities for coordination. Kong recognized that although many student groups organize around women's issues, there is currently no central space for groups to meet and work together at the intersection of their interests.

"Growing up I [had] a lot of informational resources about women's issues," Kong said. "I see this potential gender resource center as an institutionalized space for us to have meetings. Instead of this one group having this event…our women's center [will host] this for everybody."

Attendees of the Task Force meeting represented a variety of other student groups, including the Wesleyan Student Assembly, Students for Consent and Communication, and the Rho Epsilon Pi sorority (Rho Ep).

"I feel there's a lot of overlap between the kinds of things that Rho Ep and Womanist House and WoCoHo [Women of Color House] plan, both for themselves and for the greater Wesleyan community," said Rosy Capron '14. "It's surprisingly difficult to coordinate those events. I sort of see this as an opportunity to make cosponsoring a lot easier, also to just have more frequent communication."

Currently, the Task Force is in the process of researching women's centers at other institutions as well as engaging in community outreach to determine how such a center could be integrated into campus to fit the specific needs of the University community.

"Something we've struggled with is [wanting] to include as many perspectives as possible, from different groups on campus that might be interested—making it accessible," Gurak said. "We did a lot of one-on-one talk with a lot of group leaders. We talked to a lot of trans* folks to talk about how that space would be inclusive to them."

The Task Force intends to maximize inclusivity by opening the Gender Resource Center to female-identifying, gender-non-conforming, and allied individuals.

"I think with organizing around any social justice issue it is integral to incorporate multiple levels of individual identity," Gurak wrote in an email to The Argus. "We understand that having a center to just focus on gender is one very specific part of identity that may exclude people who bring perspectives of their experiences with gender intersecting with other facets of their identity. So it is vital that the center reflect the diverse experiences of the people it serves."

Women's centers have twice been established at the University, in the 1980s and early 2000s.

"We actually have a lot of cool stuff left over from the old centers, such as a quilt from a quilting bee in the 80s," Gurak stated. "We also have a whole lot of feminist literature, but it's dated."

Gurak attributed the lack of longevity from the two previous women's centers to their failure to provide adequate social space for their members. At the meeting, the Task Force generated ideas to ensure the creation of a permanent center, including utilizing paid student staff members and interns, reaching out to alumni, and acquiring a designated space for students to organize and meet.

"We would have a schedule that would go up every week," Kong said. "Groups would email us and tell us that they want to meet. Otherwise, it would be an open space."

The Task Force is open to students who want to get involved and join its endeavors. Capron noted a lack of opportunities for women of various class years and backgrounds to interact outside of sports teams.

"I think in college cultures, there's weird relations among women of different class years," Capron said. "Whether it's a fresh meat attitude about freshmen or that SWUG—senior washed up girl—thing about seniors…. I'd love events that get more women to meet each other in a non-sexualized context."

The task force indicated that "Gender Resource Center" is a working title, and encouraged the brainstorming of name proposals. Ideas generated included "Women's Center," "Women's Gender Center," "Women and Sexuality Center," and "G-spot."

USLAC: Students Debate Code Compliance Board

Continued from front page

C/O MICHAEL WHALEY

USLAC members are working with Dean Michael Whaley to create a Code of Compliance Board.

tors including Joyce Topshe herself," Whitney wrote in an email to The Argus.

Students involved with this new resolution hope that the new board will revise and update the previous document.

Whitney explained that at the time of the original document, the custodial staff was not subcontracted; instead, the University employed this staff directly. Currently, the custodial staff is subcontracted by Sun Services.

"Technically the custodians are not covered by [the Board]," Whitney wrote. "This is sort of a ridiculous legality that is in place to protect the University from being sued and such, while making it difficult to enforce an ethical standard for labor practices that the University has defined."

Susannah Greenblatt '16, another USLAC member, noted concerns that administrators have articulated.

"Administrators voiced concerns that if they were to meet with workers on such a board to discuss working conditions at Wesleyan, they could legally be considered 'co-employers,'" Greenblatt wrote in an email to The Argus. "This status of 'co-employer' means that even without any direct exchange of money, if Wesleyan acts like an employer by hearing complaints, the University could potentially be sued by a worker in the case of an accident. The pin-balling of legal responsibility that comes with subcontracting is exactly counter to this project's mission."

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Meerts was one administrator involved in fighting for the reestablishment of the Code Compliance Board.

"I think that we as an institution have an obligation to see that all employees, whether employed directly by the university or by subcontractors, are being treated according to all legal requirements [and] safety requirements as, say, defined by [the Occupational Safety and Health Administration]," Meerts was quoted as saying in the Nov. 21 issue of The Argus. "...[T]he university can optionally implement certain policies and practices […] that go beyond those legal requirements, such as paying all workers a living wage as defined by the institution. There may be other things that could come out of the conversations with the code compliance board that may make sense for the university to implement."

Students highlighted specific concerns regarding the rights of the custodial staff that have recently circulated.

"Last week several custodians approached USLAC members to tell us that they had been informed by their immediate managers they were no longer allowed to take ESL classes during the work week," Whitney wrote. "This is specifically guaranteed in their contract with Sun [Services]. We told Joyce this, she got in touch with somebody at Sun, and that upper level Sun manager returned her email with a reassurance that the custodians at Wesleyan had absolutely not been informed ESL classes were no longer available to them."

Ari Ebstein '16, another member of the USLAC, explained further concerns with this specific circumstance.

"This is a new development no one is even talking about and seems to just have been casually pushed through by an email between Sun Services manager Scott Weintraub and…Topshe, with no debate, intervention, or consultation of contract or, in my opinion, more importantly, no consultation of precedent," Ebstein said.

It is this kind of issue that student activists hope can be addressed by re-implementation of the Board.

Another issue the Board might take on is that of custodial responsibility for program houses. Recently, students have brought up the idea that program house residents should clean their own houses instead of relying on custodial workers. Residential Life is said to be opposed to the idea, concerned that students and parents will protest. The WSA plans to discuss the idea at a future meeting.

Students in USLAC are also hoping to alleviate the stress of the University pushing part-time custodians to work long hours. According to the activists, several part-time custodians are suffering a cycle of being laid off by Sun Services, rehired in a few months, and eventually laid off again, in order to ensure that they never receive full-time status. With full-time status, these staff members would receive full benefits and higher pay.

"The lines of communication are so convoluted it [is] almost impossible for administrators at Wes to know what's really going on on the ground," Whitney wrote.

While some students are hopeful about the Board's potential to make change, other students expressed more skeptical opinions.

"I am not hopeful for this board, to be completely honest," Ebstein said. "I see it as just another bureaucratic committee into whose machinations it will be very difficult to translate… especially because Wesleyan has adopted an incredibly legalistic approach to the entire thing by refusing to allow workers representation on the Board. I go along with this because it hurts too much to do nothing."

Ebstein added that it took a while to get the Board itself up and running.

"All these things happen incredibly quickly," he said. "Daily, larger workloads are being normalized, new, more insidious forms of discipline are solidifying, and workers continue to lack effective representation in the backrooms of neoliberal power. This Board is a form of co-optation of popular disgust that will likely change nothing. I have incredibly low expectations. Real change will have to be won through social struggle."

USLAC hopes to continue to assist in protecting and extending the rights of employees. The group will be hosting public panels and open mics for workers at the University to inform the community of their problems throughout the coming semester.

"We will invite every worker, every manager from each of the subcontractors, every student, faculty member, and administrator, including whoever serves on the board, to come engage in a dialogue on how our community functions and how it doesn't," Greenblatt wrote. "We hope that the Board will translate the concerns and ideas and spirit of these meetings into direct actions."

Students Create New WeSNL Sketch Comedy Group

By Mary Chalino
Contributing Writer

Auditions for WeSNL, the University's newest sketch comedy group, were held on Saturday, Feb. 7 to search for interested students with a great sense of humor. The group's aim is to put a new twist on the television show "Saturday Night Live," and to combine its premise with University events. WeSNL plans to release a video segment each week to display campus-related news and sketches on its upcoming YouTube channel.

Peter Cornillie '15, one of the creators of the group, explained the need for the group on campus and where the idea for the group originated.

"So last year at the end of spring semester, someone put around flyers for WeSNL," Cornillie said. "[It was] not my idea. I emailed them and said that there are people who want to do this. Fall semester comes around [and] I email them again, but they don't email back. So I said 'fuck them,' I'm going to make this happen. So I see this as a guardian angel who comes down, gives us an idea, and disappears."

According to Cornillie, the members of WeSNL are what will make it successful.

Charles Martin '16, a student from Australia, aims to bring a different comedic twist to the group.

"I hope to add accent and sketches written from a foreign perspective that would give a much more global appeal to our group," Martin said.

The greatest appeal of WeSNL is the opportunity for a variety of talents and passions to shine. Auditions were held for actors, scriptwriters, and filmmakers. Peter Hazel '16 attended auditions in the hopes of getting back into acting.

"I acted for four years of high school," Hazel said. "I'm a spring transfer from the University of Virginia, [and] actually, I did not act there; this is the first time I've been acting in a very long time."

WeSNL is hoping to set itself apart from the many other comedy groups at the University by playing on overlap from the television show that shares its name.

Adi Slepack '16 talked about her managing role in creating the group.

"I take part in writing and producing sketches and would say I've also taken on somewhat of an organizational role," Slepack wrote in an email to The Argus. "I designed the posters, have been encouraging stricter scheduling, and helped organize/run auditions."

Slepack spoke about how thrilled she was to have the opportunity to make her comedic writing available to the public.

"I'm most excited about making some really awesome web content!" Slepack wrote. "Until three weeks ago, I had never had a sketch that I've written become a real, acted out thing, and that felt pretty cool. I'm also excited to make some new friends and have a collaborative community to work with."

Slepack mentioned a few details of the first comedy sketch, something students should definitely take a look at.

"It's about how awkward the obligatory 'How was your break?' conversation can be," Slepack said. "It gets kind of goofy."

Students Arrested on Drug Charges, Sparking Discussion

By Nathaniel Warner
Contributing Writer

Shane Jenkins '16 and Matthew Polacek '16 were arrested by the Middletown Police Department (MPD) on Feb. 8 at approximately 5:52 p.m. and stand accused of possession of less than four ounces of marijuana with intent to sell. Jenkins was also charged with possession of marijuana paraphernalia and Polacek with the use of drug paraphernalia. Both students were released on $5,000 non-surety bonds and allowed to return to campus.

"[Wesleyan Public Safety] transferred the items to [MPD] which included various bags of a leafy green substance which Officers suspected to be marijuana, 1 bong with hoses and marijuana residue, 2 grinders with marijuana residue on them, a box of ziploc bags which officers suspected were used to package narcotics for sales, various containers which had the odor of marijuana in them, packages of rolling papers, and a miscellaneous piece of narcotics equipment," the police report reads.

According to the report, Jenkins and Polacek initially denied having any drugs or drug-related materials in the room, but later consented to a search of the room, during which officers found another bag of the leafy green substance and a second bong with hoses. This green substance later tested positive for marijuana and totaled 2.2 ounces.

However, Polacek contended this police report, which was cited by the Middletown Press on Feb. 11.

"There are various inaccurate statements in that article," Polacek wrote in an email to The Argus, but declined to elaborate further.

The report explains that Public Safety (PSafe) was contacted by Christopher Caines '16, the Residential Advisor (RA) on duty at the time, due to a strong smell coming from the room and a large number of students entering and exiting the room. According to the report, Caines explained that following an incident during which Polacek and Jenkins were accused of stealing shampoo from another student, other residents began noticing the high volume of traffic through the room.

Caines declined to comment. Additionally, Associate Dean of Students Scott Backer, Dean for the Class of 2016 David Phillips, and Interim Director of Public Safety Tony Bostick declined to comment, citing lack of knowledge and confidentiality.

Students for a Sensible Drug Policy Co-President Andrew Olson '16 finds this silence worrisome and expressed concerns over an unclear and inconsistent policy regarding when MPD ought to be involved in an incident.

"What troubled me about this case, mostly, as a member of this community, was the fact that this seemed like an almost arbitrary turn of events…that it started with some intra-hall tiff and then this can spiral suddenly into a situation where people are potentially being put in prison," Olson said.

Olson also pointed to the Student Handbook and Code of Non-Academic Conduct as conduits for this inconsistency; neither details when a violation merits MPD involvement, and the word "police" only appears once outside the section on sexual assault.

"[The University prohibits the] possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of illegal drugs or controlled substances by any member of the Wesleyan community," reads the Code of Non-Academic Conduct under section 13A. "This includes the misuse or abuse of any medications prescribed by a physician to another individual. Students should be advised that university personnel may confiscate drug paraphernalia (including bongs, water pipes, etc.). Such items will be tested for drug residue and the owner held responsible for a drug policy violation if appropriate."

Olson finds this explanation ambiguous and believes that it creates a divisive relationship between students and administrators.

"It's very troubling that it seems to be totally up to the individual [PSafe] Officers and RAs' discretion as to how far they want to take it up the food chain," Olson said. "I think this leads to an issue of potential discrimination because we don't have a standard to which we're holding everyone and a procedure that we can have equally and fairly applied to everyone."

A number of other students appear to agree with Olson. A report posted by Wesleying on Feb. 12 received 33 comments as of Feb. 17, in which some commenters questioned the decision to involve the MPD and cited numerous instances wherein drug dealers on campus were caught, but the matters were handled internally.

According to MPD Lieutenant Heather Desmond, PSafe is expected to report all crimes on campus to the MPD.

"If [PSafe] believes that a crime has been or is being committed they will call us," Desmond wrote in an email to The Argus. "They do not have powers of arrest[…]. We wouldn't know when they handle things internally[…]. Wesleyan calls us just like anyone else would when a crime is being committed."

Jenkins and Polacek appeared together in municipal court on Friday, Feb. 14 and had their SJB hearing on Monday, Feb. 17. They now await their verdicts.

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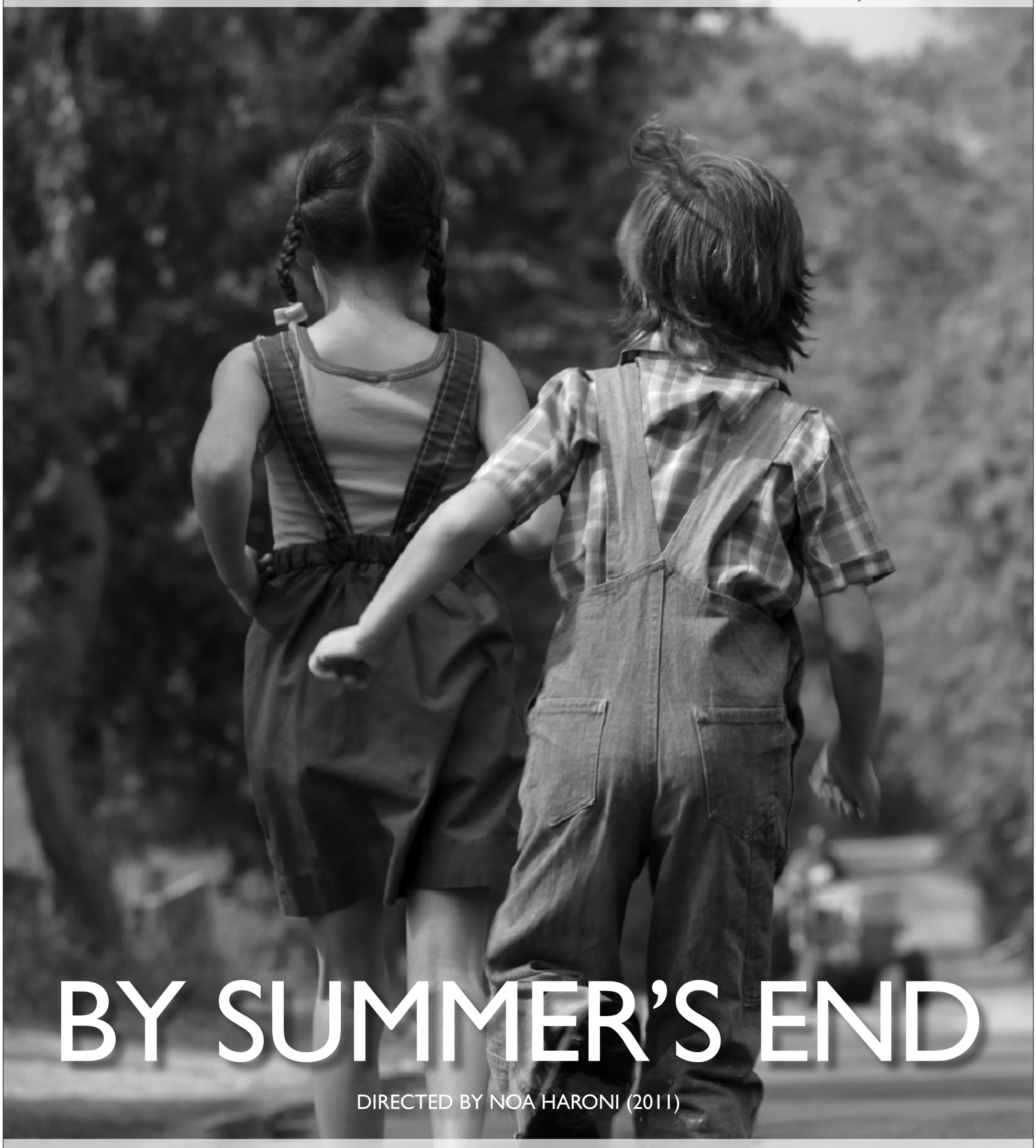

BY SUMMER'S END

DIRECTED BY NOA HARONI (2011)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 8 P.M.

GOLDSMITH FAMILY CINEMA
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In the summer of 1978, in the midst of Camp David peace negotiations, Michal has to meet a personal challenge: to teach her seven-year-old Maya to read and write before the end of the summer. The summer is full of surprises for Michal's family. Her missing father returns after 20 years, and she and her sister must deal with a painful past.

SPEAKER: LAURA BLUM
Film Critic

SPONSORED BY JEWISH AND ISRAEL STUDIES AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE FILM STUDIES DEPARTMENT

ARTS

Dance: Jenkins Company Leaps Through Its History

Continued from front page

Egyptian myth, with the scattered bones of the god, and you need to regather all of the bones, in order to sort of bury him and then allow him to be reincarnated," Wright said. "That was part of the source material for this idea of, 'How do you revisit all of these elements of your past and make them cohesive?'"

Based on the performance this Saturday, the company's history, the myth of Osiris, and even the concept of collaboration all figured heavily into the performance's themes. "Times Bones" began with a prologue, which was performed on and around the large entrance ramp at the center of the CFA Theater. Throughout the prologue, Jenkins read off the names of the people she had previously collaborated with and the dates and names of the company's previous performances, all while the dancers performed around her.

Though I have to admit that the ramp was an interesting venue for the prologue—and the symbolism of starting a performance at the actual entrance to the space is fascinating—I also have to question the ultimate benefit of its usage. Because there is no seating around the ramp, the audience had to crowd around its edges. I was able to get some glimpses of the prologue, but I wasn't able to see the majority of it, and I know of other members of the audience who were unable to see the prologue at all. Fortunately, there were no similar obstacles for the remainder of the performance.

For the main performance of "Times Bones," the dancers were found on either the main stage or a series of small platforms directly in front of it. Collective movement was a staple of the production; for instance, it began with a trio of dancers on the rightmost platform who, through teamwork, gradually made their way to the leftmost platform.

Other forms of collaborative movement were present throughout the piece. Dancers frequently moved together as if sharing a single body in unique and innovative ways. For instance, there was one dancer who would frequently walk while carrying another dancer who made slow, fluid motions with her arms and legs. At other points in the production, the majority of the dancers would move in unison while one or two others were out of sync with the rest of the group. There was even one part of the performance where video recordings of past performances were superimposed over the dancers onstage, whose movements imitated those in the recordings.

Throughout the performance, recordings of a booming voice making cryptic, mysterious statements were played along with or in place of the soundtrack, emphasizing the performance's more mythic origins. The piece ended with one dancer standing on the leftmost platform to the stage, writing the "story" of the performance in the air and signifying that the aspects of Jenkins' past choreography—stand-ins for the bones of the Egyptian god Osiris—were finally collected, allowing for the story to truly begin. Though I understood the significance of this from reading the program and interviewing one of the Company's dancers, I questioned whether the rest of the audience was able to comprehend its meaning, given that the performance itself gave no indication of "bones" or rebirth.

However, as Wright suggested at the end of our interview, perhaps this wasn't the point of the performance.

"I think [her choreographic process is] what makes her a really fascinating choreographer and director," Wright said. "She's not only interested in the final product, but she's interested in every aspect of the process, and how her process is going to influence the participants within it and not just the final observers. And she does always talk about how the audience is the final participant, the final theatrical element within a work."

Perhaps Jenkins' work is a true collaboration, one that is only complete with the audience's interpretation of its events, regardless of what that interpretation may be or how accurate it is to Jenkins' intention.

Grand Cousin Looks to Future

By Meg de Recat
Staff Writer

Looking ahead as a band, Grand Cousin sees more than just graduation. Formed during the first week of freshman year, this trio, consisting of Evan Low '14, Robby Caplan '14, and Henry Hall '14, has developed and transformed into a Wesleyan music staple. Now, venturing through their final stretch as college students, they are not planning to end their musical association with their Wesleyan careers. Rather, they plan on taking their upbeat, make-you-chair-dance, make-you-actually-dance, sing-along music beyond our humble campus.

Over this past winter break, the trio recorded its first, self-titled EP in New York at John Kilgore Sound and Recording. This new EP includes five new songs; the band is planning a regional tour after graduation to further promote the new music.

"I think [the songs] are more sophisticated, and I think that there is definitely evidence of our evolution as a band," Caplan said of the EP after playing another successful show at Psi Upsilon (Psi U) this past Saturday night. "I think that the songs are fuller, the compositions are more sophisticated as well, and that you can hear us making music more collaboratively. There's more synergy."

Grand Cousin has been venturing into New York City more and more since its first show in October at Arlene's Grocery, one of the band's favorite venues, yet the members refuse to admit to a preference between playing shows at Wesleyan or in the city.

"Wesleyan has been the crucible, and Wesleyan certainly made us to a certain extent," Caplan said. "It's still the most influential measurement of our music, and how people might respond to it."

The level of support on campus, Hall said, is unbeatable.

"We're so lucky to have so many people who support us on campus, and we want to give them cool fun shows," Hall said. "It's always really awesome when a bunch of people come to the shows—we're like 'Thank you, Michael Roth.'"

Grand Cousin's performance at Psi U this weekend was evidence of this outlook, because while the crowd was smaller than those that the band typically draws, the energy remained as high as usual. There could be 100 or 10 people at a Grand Cousin performance: no matter the number, those people would be dancing and singing along to the band's songs.

This happy, enthusiastic atmosphere is what Low, Caplan, and Hall hope to bring with them during their upcoming regional tour. Grand Cousin's ultimate goal is to culminate the adventure at Bonnaroo, the music festival in Tennessee, where they may or may not be playing.

With those high hopes in mind, the band is also filming a promotional video for the EP. Filmed by Jack Coyne '13 and Sidney Schleiff '14, this video will incorporate clips from Grand Cousin's show at Psi U and interviews with each of the band members.

"I think it's going to capture where we are now, which is in anticipation [of] the release of new music," Caplan said.

For the immediate future—as in, the last couple of months before graduation—Grand Cousin is going to be playing at Spike Hill in Brooklyn on Feb. 26, at Arlene's Grocery in New York City on March 26, and hopes to be be scheduling a show at Beta for next month.

"Look for Grand Cousin at Beta, Grand Cousin in Matt Gross's room, and Grand Cousin in Alex Rowland's Copenhagen," Hall joked.

No matter where they are, the music is sure to be energizing, exciting, and full of impossibly high falsetto and fun beats to which you won't be able to resist dancing.

RECYCLE THIS ARGUS

Kholodenko Shares Musical Wisdom in Master Class

By Noah Mertz
Assistant Photo Editor

This past Friday, Wesleyan had the honor of hosting world-class, Moscow-Conservatory-trained Ukrainian pianist Vadym Kholodenko for a performance in Crowell Concert Hall. Already highly accomplished at the age of 27, Kholodenko is in the midst of a United States tour following his first-place finish in the Van Cliburn Piano Competition this past November. A variety of students and residents from the surrounding area filled every seat in Crowell. To introduce the concert, Artist-in-Residence and University Organist Ronald Ebrecht spoke about the history of music at Wesleyan. Kholodenko then took the stage, beginning his concert with Nikolai Medtner's "Forgotten Melodies, Op. 38." This eclectic collection of short pieces drew on many of the structures common to the modern era, but mixed them with progressive explorations and syncopation that bordered on ragtime. Kholodenko slowed down with his next selection, Johannes Brahms' "Four Ballades, Op. 10," featuring an intensely beautiful traveling melody over powerful octaves in the left hand. After a brief intermission, Kholodenko returned to the piano to finish his performance with a collection of short, rocking Chopin Mazurkas ("Op. 63 No. 1 in B major," "Op. 30 No. 2 in B minor," "Four Mazurkas Op. 41," and "Three Mazurkas Op. 50") and finally "Scherzo No. 4 Op. 54 in E Major."

On Thursday, the day before his performance, Kholodenko hosted a master class in Crowell. In this class, several pianists performed their pieces in a workshop for Kholodenko, who critiqued each player individually. Senior Mary Barrett '14 played Brahms' "Intermezzo, Op. 76, in B Flat Major." I participated as well, playing Brahms' "Rhapsody in G minor." A younger local pianist also joined the group.

Prior to the master class, I had the opportunity to interview Kholodenko over the phone about his pianistic preferences, his other interests, and his recent ascent to stardom.

The Argus: How did you get into piano, and for how long have you been playing?
Vadym Kholodenko: I started at age six because my mom, she brought me to visit a special musical school in Kiev. And then I entered the Moscow Conservatory at age 18 and graduated in May 2013. At the Moscow Conservatory, I studied with the same teacher, Viera Gormostawa, for eight years.

A: Performance is a huge part of your life. How do you prepare for a concert?
VK: I feel that it is very special to be prepared. The day of the performance, I try to rest more and be very fresh. You know, just, good food is very important. Salad because I don't want to be too full.

A: Do you feel nervous?
VK: Of course, every time. It's like an additional round of competition. Now it's my duty to play every time on a certain level. Of course the audience has high expectations and of course I have to fulfill them.

A: What do you like most about performing?
VK: You know, I like to be on stage really. It's really interesting. It was what I'm afraid most of and what I love most. I would like to be on stage and probably at a certain point to teach. I [already] help my teacher with students.

A: Is this your first master class?
VK: No, actually I have done 10 or 15. Sometimes when I play in Europe or Russia, the organizers ask me to do this. I love to inspire students, it's really a miracle for me.

A: What is your favorite era/composer to play?
VK: It's really hard to me, I honestly like from very ancient times to rock and electronic. I feel more comfortable with Russian music, but I don't know, one of my favorites is the Goldberg Variations by Bach. It's really hard to say who is [my] favorite composer.

A: You recently took first prize at the Van Cliburn international piano competition. What was that experience like? What was the process?
VK: It's like being onstage. It's the most amazing experience because I got a prize. On the other hand, it's not a pleasant experience. Everything was organized perfectly, but as a competition it's not very pleasant. Each round I slept badly, there's a lot of pressure. But, again, I got this prize, and of course I'm very proud to be one of the Van Cliburn winners.

We first applied online, there were close to 200 applications. Then they chose 154 live auditions around the world, and then they chose 30 competitors for the final rounds in Texas. It stands on the same level as the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow.

A: I also understand you have played some chamber music. Do you prefer playing solo, with a chamber, or with an orchestra?
VK: I'd love to play, but now most of my concerts are recitals. I really miss chamber music, which I played before a lot. In my opinion, the best works are written for chamber music. Like Mozart and Beethoven. Mozart's string quintet in G minor is my favorite music of all time. It's already like Schubert or Schumann, it's really [a] forecasting of future music.

NOAH MERTZ/ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

A: When you aren't playing or listening to classical music, to what are you listening?
VK: Right now, I'm very into old electronic music like [Gentle Giant] and Silver Apples. They are really cool. I love all rock music like Radiohead. [The King of Limbs] was a revelation for me. Just a few months ago I discovered it.

A: What do you like to do other than playing piano?
VK: I like to read books. You know, usually something practical, books about economy or history or philosophy, just to proceed self-education. Very rarely it's fiction.

A: What do you find more difficult: learning the notes of a piece or perfecting your approach?
VK: Probably most difficult is that I don't have enough time to open a true meaning. At first approach we can examine maybe five percent of what's really in there. Just an example, last year I did an interesting project, I played all Beethoven Sonatas. I was like, I want to play this in 10 years, but I feel I can't open more than 15 percent. My only goal is to bring to the audience what I feel is the truth in what I'm playing. Playing music consumes almost all your time.

A: How did you end up at Wesleyan for this performance?
VK: You know it was on my list of concerts. Honestly I don't know what to expect. It doesn't matter where I play, I prepare the same way, big school or small school.

A: How long do you want to continue as a professional pianist?
VK: As long as my health allows me to. I really hope for it to be a long [time].

THE CINEFILES

By Andreas Streuli and Lillian Holman
Film Board Representatives

We're entering the second-to-last week of this calendar. My god, how did time go by so fast! Don't worry about it too much; there's an outstanding selection of movies this week. As the semester heats up and the snow keeps on falling, what better way to relax and stay warm than by attending a great movie with friends at the Film Series? The Goldsmith isn't that far. Seriously though, you can all make it if you put your mind to it. This is has to be of the best weeks on the calendar, and you're not going want to miss any of it. Truly, we have something for everyone, and the films this week will carry you through many different worlds, issues, and universal truths. It will be a whirlwind, but it's totally worth it.

BOYZ N THE HOOD
1991. USA. Dir: John Singleton. With Cuba Gooding Jr., Ice Cube. 112 min.
Wednesday, Feb. 19. 8 p.m. $5.

"Boyz n the Hood" is another incredible film in our Black Directors series. John Singleton was the first black director and the youngest director nominated for an Oscar. If you thought "Citizen Kane" was impressive, Singleton made "Boyz n the Hood" at an age two years younger than Orson Welles. As with most fine films, though, the awards are nothing compared to its rich legacy. Twenty years later, the issues portrayed in "Boyz n the Hood" are still sadly contemporary. How does one come of age in a world surrounded by poverty and racism? Singleton wrote the film and based it primarily on his own life struggling to grow up in South Central Los Angeles. The film was so personal that when the studio tried to replace him, he adamantly refused. The world benefits from his refusal, as he guides an incredible cast through a very particular world, yet with the characters dealing with universal and timeless issues about choosing the right path, even when that path is hard to find.

BY SUMMER'S END
2011. USA. Dir: Noa Aharoni. With Michal Varshai. 95 min.
Thursday, Feb. 20. 8 p.m. Free.

A small but beautiful addition to our Israeli Film Series, "By Summer's End" is both a historical timepiece and an enriching family drama. It centers on one mother's attempt to help her daughter learn to read over one summer, but as with most simple beginnings, the task begins to mean so much more. It becomes especially powerful as it takes place when Israel struggles in its final month before the Camp David Peace Accords. Come root for this lovely family as they deal with their own past and present in the face of a much larger historical moment. As per usual on Thursdays this month, this screening is made even more exciting by the fact that we have a speaker, film critic Laura Blum, coming to put the film in context. Her presence will add to what should already be a wonderful evening.

RUSHMORE
1998. USA. Dir: Wes Anderson. With Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray. 93 min.
Friday, Feb. 21. 8 p.m. $5.

"What's the secret, Max?"

"The secret, I don't know…I guess you just have to find something you love to do and then…do it for the rest of your life. For me, it's going to Rushmore."

Meet Max Fischer: an oddball, extracurricular-loving student at Rushmore Academy who falls deeply in love with Rosemary Cross, a first grade teacher, while simultaneously developing an unusual friendship with depressed industrialist Herman Blume, unforgettably portrayed by Bill Murray. Despite being on the verge of flunking out, Max decides to build an elaborate aquarium on the school grounds, which gets him expelled and placed into a public school. Heartbroken, Max sets out to win the affections of Rosemary only to face stiff competition from his pal-turned-rival Herman. It was with "Rushmore" that the template for what a Wes Anderson movie looks and feels like truly solidified. The result is a deeply felt coming-of-age ode to passion, love, ambition, and friendship, featuring an unforgettable soundtrack. You will most certainly laugh, but underneath its puppet-like surface, Anderson's characters are rooted in inconspicuously profound circumstances. If you have not yet seen it, this is as good a chance as you'll ever get!

L'AVVENTURA
1960. Italy. Dir: Michelangelo Antonioni. With Monica Vitti. 143 min.
Saturday, Feb. 22. 8 p.m. Free.

Booed during its release at the Cannes Film Festival in 1960 (despite winning the Jury Prize), Antonioni's existential masterpiece went on to be ranked the second greatest film of all time in the 1962 Sight and Sound poll. The reason? It essentially sought to redefine the language of cinema, foregrounding mood, theme, and character development above story. The narrative itself is very thin: a woman mysteriously vanishes during a boating trip off the coast of Sicily, prompting her lover and best friend to search for her. As they drift and wander hopelessly, sexual tension and themes of alienation abound in evolving undercurrents; so much is happening when "nothing happens." It stands as a piercingly critical statement on "modernity and its discontents," and will be presented on a beautiful, 35mm print. Seriously, don't miss it.

Panty Punk Shocks and Delights at Earth House

By Charles Martin
Staff Writer

I had a mate visiting from Sydney over the weekend, and when he asked me what the plan was for Saturday night, he did a bit of a double take when I told him we'd be going to a punk show in which everyone would strip down to hir underwear. Now, I'll admit even I had a few reservations. The whole premise of the show put this image in my mind of trudging through the snow, only to have to deal with the tedium of taking off all my layers, then being greeted by a sweaty, claustrophobically packed room; after all, over 250 people had said on Facebook that they would be attending. Fortunately, the night did not at all fit my low expectations.

We arrived just in time to catch the final song by Murdertones, a duo comprised of the brothers Angus and Luke MacDonald ('16 and '17, respectively) playing punk covers of Beatles songs. Sure enough, there wasn't a single shirt or pair of pants visible within the entire crowd. Honestly, it was incredible how comfortable the crowd actually seemed to be with the lack of clothing. People were still dancing and moshing just like you'd expect from any punk show.

"I felt like it ended up just being an incredibly safe environment for people to feel comfortable in their own skin," Angus MacDonald later told me.

Up next came the all-girls group Faceplant, consisting of Amy Mattox '17 and Blaise Bayno-Krebs '16 on vocals, Ann Surber '16 on guitar, Isadora Spillman-Schappell '17 on drums, Molly Hastings '17 on keyboard, Sophie Chabon '17 on bass, and Ella Weisser '17 as the tambourine player/hypewoman. As soon as they walked onstage, it became apparent that the group was willing to go all out for the show's theme; some members even opted for strategically placed tape in lieu of actual underwear. They had an unrelentingly frantic and energetic sound that had the whole audience going into a frenzy for their entire bit. This was when one of the best features of Earth House became obvious. In spite of the intense rumble that broke out, the room never felt stuffy or grossly humid. With all the cold air coming in from outside, combined with the lack of clothing in the room, everything actually remained pleasantly cool, making it an overall more enjoyable place to get rowdy and physical.

When Faceplant wrapped up, the final act of the night came onto the stage: Sodomized By Angels, the all-senior band consisting of Tennessee Mowrey '14 on bass, Sam Levin '14 on guitar, and Jordan Gaynes '14 on drums. The group had one of the most playful attitudes of the night, performing incredibly funny songs, most of which have titles probably not suitable for printing in this publication. One highlight of the sheer insanity of the group's set was when a guest member of the band, George Gore '14, sporting a black gown, goggles, and a bear beanie, came on to sing a song by the name of "Painal Catillion," which, as Mowrey later assured me, is actually a cover of a Beatles song.

As it turns out, the idea for the show's scantily clad theme actually originated from Sodomized By Angels themselves, who have a record of playing in their underwear in every one of their shows so far.

"Tennessee asked us if we would want to play a show in our underwear with the other silly punk bands that we were familiar with, and we were like, 'Why wouldn't we want to take off our clothes in front of other people?'" Gaynes said.

"I think [stripping to your underwear] was almost a sign of commitment and dedication," Levin continued.

One of the most surprising aspects of the night was how comfortable everything was, despite the potentially intimidating nature of the theme. Part of this comfort simply came down to the resonating tone of the night's music. Every band that played managed to retain an incredibly playful mood, even when their music got fairly hardcore and angry. There was an overpowering sense that every band playing that night was just having a blast doing so. This was reinforced when, as a final act, all three groups came together to sing their rendition of "I Want You To Want Me" by Cheap Trick.

"[It was] very impromptu; we put it together right before the show, and it was supposed to be a big jumping funfest, which it was," Mowrey said. "It was a very nice capstone to the show."

Ultimately, the most important part was just how comfortable the audience became; as an onlooker, you almost forgot that you and everyone else around you were in nothing but your tighty whities. I have to admit that I was actually having so much fun, diving into the mosh pit and even attempting to crowd surf at one point, I almost forgot about the foreign friend I'd just dragged into a room of semi-naked strangers. Fortunately, he seemed mostly unfazed. Granted, what he was seeing was probably a glimpse into pure, unfiltered, Wesleyan weirdness, but any trepidation that this might have brought was outweighed by how much fun everyone was having. All in all, the night was a chance for Wesleyan to release its angrier punk side while showing a little skin, a better combination than I ever though possible.

Look What I Did: Acted in "The Vagina Monologues"

By Alyssa Domino
Contributing Writer

I first encountered "The Vagina Monologues" in the summer of 2012. I don't recall how I got my hands on the script, but it inspired me. I highlighted, underlined, and filled the white space with the many questions it evoked: is it wrong and a product of the patriarchy that I sincerely prefer to have almost no body hair? Can a vagina actually "flood"? What does my "uninhibited militant bisexual moan" sound like?

I was shy about my curiosity, so I never showed anyone the book or voiced my questions. This changed when I joined the cast of "The Vagina Monologues" here at Wesleyan.

After we were cast, we memorized our monologues over winter break and had about three one-on-one rehearsals with our directors (Jessica Carlson '16, Simone Hyman '15, and Mariana Quinn-Makwaia '14) before tech week. Our first rehearsal as a full cast was only five days before opening night.

The show sold out all three nights, and an extra 5 to 15 seats were added each night to accommodate the enthusiastic audience. After seeing the show, one of my friends commented that it made her want to have really hot, feminist sex. I'd say that the writer of the show, Eve Ensler, would be pretty pleased by that.

The show's format allowed us all to listen to each other's monologues. The directors chose to give it a family-room feel by setting the stage with couches, stools, and rugs that we would lounge on while listening to our fellow cast members perform. Some of the monologues were more interactive and called for the participation of those onstage. For example, when Avigayl Sharp '17 performed "The Woman Who Loved To Make Vaginas Happy" and talked about how much she loved to make women moan, we moaned with her. On a more somber note, when Chloe Rinehart '14 performed "What If I Told You I Didn't Have a Vagina," describing the rape of a Congolese woman, she had the other girls on stage stand with her in solidarity.

There was a drastic difference between watching each other rehearsing for the first time and seeing the monologues truly come to life in front of the audience, who responded differently each night. Sophie Becker '16's recitation of "Because He Liked To Look At it" absolutely lit up with an audience to receive it; she, like all of us, fed off viewers' energy to intensify her performance. The monologues thus became dialogues, with the audience laughing, crying, and gasping in turn. Dominique Cameron-Rouge '16's monologue, "Cunt," went so far as to break the fourth wall, beginning in the audience and ending by encouraging viewers to join the cast in a chant.

Our onstage camaraderie was only intensified offstage. At the first cast meeting, a dinner, it was already clear that the cast was made up of a group of really wonderful people, the kind who are comfortable discussing Kegels over a bowl of pasta. We would begin every rehearsal by sharing a high-of-the-day, and these chats would continue backstage where there would be a heart-to-heart happening five feet from an embarrassing sex story. The atmosphere allowed us to let loose and click with each another in a way that usually takes months for a group to do.

Participating in "The Vagina Monologues" gave me the chance to experience what it's really about. When I initially read the script in its book form, I was curious about what I read, but was too shy to explore that curiosity by talking to other people about it. Through performing it at Wes, I inadvertently answered many of the questions I had scribbled in the margins. Once I entered the very open environment of the cast, I felt comfortable voicing these questions for the first time and found that other people shared a lot of similarly guarded thoughts.

This experience allowed me to see that Eve Ensler's mission was to help viewers and participants alike feel more at home with something that is so beautiful. Once we love our bodies, I learned, we can take the next steps forward toward equality and justice.

SEXY SINGLES AND CUTE COUPLES

ALL PHOTOS BY EMMA DAVIS AND NOAH MERTZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

In honor of Valentine's Day weekend, The Argus presents Wesleyan's sexiest singles and cutest couples, as nominated by you!

SINGLES

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

IF I KNEW THAT, I'D BE DOING IT ALL DAY, EVERY DAY. I DON'T KNOW, THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION! I'M FRIENDLY, I THINK PEOPLE LIKE THAT.

WHO SHOULD CALL YOU?

PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTERESTING SKILLS. LIKE, AMATEUR BALLOON ANIMALISTS, SAILORS, PEOPLE WITH INTERESTING BOOK COLLECTIONS. GEMSTONE COLLECTORS.

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

PROBABLY MY HAIR. IT'S VERY SOFT. I GET A LOT OF COMPLIMENTS ON MY HAIR. PEOPLE LIKE TO TOUCH MY HAIR. IT'S KIND OF WEIRD. AND BEING BROWN, I GUESS. BROWN IS GOOD.

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

IT MUST BE SOMETHING ABOUT MY WHOLE DEMEANOR, THE WAY I CARRY MYSELF, THE MYSTERY.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I'M FROM THE BAHAMAS. THEY LIKE TO MIX BERMUDA WITH THE BAHAMAS, SO IT'S LIKE, "YOU'VE GOT THAT WHOLE ISLAND THING GOING."

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

I I DON'T KNOW, MY SYMMETRICAL FACIAL STRUCTURE, MAYBE? DON'T KNOW...A NICE... FACE?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

I DON'T KNOW...A NICE...FACE?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR LOVE?

I'LL DO EVERYTHING THAT MEAT LOAF WILL DO. I ALSO WILL NOT DO THE THINGS THAT MEAT LOAF WON'T DO.

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

I WOULD SAY MY CALVES AND MY LOVE FOR SCIENCE. THOSE TWO THINGS, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER.

ARE YOU A SCIENCE MAJOR?

YEAH, MB&B. IT'S SEXY TO SOME PEOPLE, IT'S NOT SO SEXY TO OTHERS. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THOSE OTHER PEOPLE.

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

LISTENING.

WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO PICK-UP LINE?

"HELLO."

WHAT DO YOU DO ON CAMPUS?

I WORK FOR THE HERMES AS CO-EDITOR AND I'M ALWAYS IN JUDD. I PLAY A LOT OF BOARD GAMES.

WHAT MAKES YOU SEXY?

IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY MY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AWKWARDNESS.

WHERE WOULD YOU TAKE SOMEONE ON YOUR FIRST DATE?

TO WILLY WONKA'S FACTORY.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST PICKUP LINE?

HONESTLY, "YOU LOOK FAMILIAR." I LIE AND TELL THEM THEY LOOK FAMILIAR. IT WORKS ALMOST EVERY TIME. ONE TIME, A GUY WAS LIKE, "I DON'T KNOW YOU. IF YOU WANT MY NUMBER, JUST ASK." BUT HE ACTUALLY DID LOOK FAMILIAR THAT TIME.

COUPLES

HOW DID YOU GUYS MEET?

SM: WELL, WE LIVE IN THE SAME DORM, A FLOOR APART, BUT WE REALLY GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER THROUGH GOING TO MEDITATION TOGETHER AT BUDDHIST HOUSE.
TA: SHE INVITED ME TO MEDITATION.

WHEN WAS THAT?

SM: THAT WAS IN SEPTEMBER, BUT WE DIDN'T START DATING UNTIL OCTOBER.

DID YOU GUYS JUST DECIDE TO START DATING?

SM: IT WAS RIGHT AFTER FALL BREAK WHEN WE STARTED DATING AND I HAD BEEN AWAY FOR A WEEK IN D.C. WE HAD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS BY THAT TIME. I MISSED TALKING TO HIM AND I REALIZED THAT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT I WANTED TO BE MORE THAN FRIENDS ABOUT. ACTUALLY, WE FIRST BECAME REALLY GOOD FRIENDS THE DAY AFTER HIS BIRTHDAY. HIS BIRTHDAY IS ON THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER, AND THAT'S THE SAME BIRTHDAY AS ANOTHER GIRL IN OUR DORM. SHE HAD THE CAKE AND EVERYTHING, BUT TAIGA DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING, SO THE NEXT DAY WE WENT OUT AND WE WENT FOR A CUPCAKE AT THE CUPCAKE STORE THAT JUST CLOSED ON MAIN STREET. THAT'S WHEN WE STARTED TALKING MORE.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS LIKE TO DO TOGETHER?

SM: WE LIKE TO EAT AT THE TIBETAN KITCHEN. OVER THANKSGIVING BREAK, WE WENT TO NEW YORK TOGETHER AND HAD A LITTLE ADVENTURE. WE SAW "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA," WHICH WAS FUN. IN THE FALL, IT'S REALLY NICE JUST TO SIT OUTSIDE AND RELAX TOGETHER. WHAT'S NICE IS THAT WE CAN JUST RELAX TOGETHER. IT'S NOT ALWAYS SO MUCH SPOKEN. IT'S VERY INTUITIVE.

SOME OF THAT MUST ARISE FROM THE MEDITATION.

SM: IT'S THE SAME FOCUS, THE WORDLESS ASPECT OF THINGS AS OPPOSED TO HAVING TO ARTICULATE EVERYTHING AND INTELLECTUALIZE EVERYTHING. IT'S MORE INTUITIVE.

DO YOU GUYS HAVE A COUPLE NAME?

SM: THERE'S TWO POSSIBILITIES HERE. THE ONE THAT PEOPLE USE IS TIRI. THERE'S TIRI OR SAIGA, BUT THEY SAY TIRI.

HOW DID YOU GUYS MEET?

MH: WE LIVED ON THE SAME HALL FRESHMAN YEAR, AND I MET HIM THE FIRST NIGHT OF "GOING OUT," I GUESS. HE WAS IN, I CAME BACK IN, AND I WAS REALLY TIRED AND I WAS JUST WALKING IN THE HALLWAY AND MY ROOMMATE WAS WITH ME, AND STUART ASKED ME IF I WANTED A HUG. AND THAT'S HOW I MET HIM.
SP: HUGS RULE.
MH: IT TOOK A WHILE AFTER THAT. WE'RE COMING UP ON THREE YEARS.

WHEN DID YOU GET TOGETHER?

MH: FEBRUARY 17. THAT WAS LATER, AND WE WERE FRIENDS AT FIRST, AND THEN MORE AND THEN LESS AND THEN MORE AND THEN LESS AND THEN DATING.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS LIKE TO DO ON DATES?

MH: WE GO ICE SKATING. STUART'S TRYING TO TEACH ME, BECAUSE STUART CAN ACTUALLY ICE SKATE.
SP: I'M TRYING TO GET HER INTO WINTER SPORTS.
MH: I REALLY DON'T LIKE WINTER SPORTS 'CAUSE I DON'T LIKE BEING COLD.
SP: WE DON'T REALLY GO ON DATES, BECAUSE IT'S WESLEYAN. DATING'S NOT REALLY A THING. WE JUST SPEND A LOT OF TIME CHILLING, WATCHING THINGS ON NETFLIX.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?

SP: WE DON'T WATCH AS MANY MOVIES AS WE WATCH TV SHOWS.
MH: RIGHT NOW WE WATCH PARKS AND REC, WHICH HAS BEEN AWESOME.
SP: WE ALSO GOT INTO EDDIE MURPHY.
MH: WE ALSO WATCHED A LOT OF EDDIE MURPHY STAND-UP RIGHT BEFORE WE STARTED DATING.
OH, ALSO, WE LIKE GOING TO THE ZOO A LOT. WE ALWAYS GO TO THE ZOO, THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO. AND I WATCHED STAR WARS WITH HIM. HE WAS HAPPY ABOUT THAT.
SP: YOU HAVE MORE STAR WARS TO WATCH.
MH: I PLAYED HALO WITH HIM.
SP: SHE PLAYS VIDEO GAMES. BEST GIRLFRIEND EVER.

HOW LONG AGO DID YOU GUYS MEET?

RM: NOVEMBER 1.
BD: WELL, THAT'S NOT WHEN WE MET. WE MET THE WEEK BEFORE AT THE STUDENT CLUB FAIR.

DID YOU SPEAK TO EACH OTHER WHEN YOU MET?

BD: I WAS AT THE STUDENTS FOR CONSENT AND COMMUNICATION TABLE, AND RICK CAME OVER AND HE SIGNED UP. I WAS LIKE, "DO YOU WANT A CONDOM OR A BLOW POP?" BECAUSE THOSE WERE THE THINGS THAT WE HAD, AND HE WAS LIKE, "A BLOW POP," BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO INDICATE THAT HE WAS GETTING ANY ACTION.
RM: I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I SIGNED UP FOR IT JUST BECAUSE OF YOU. I'M ALL FOR STUDENTS FOR CONSENT AND COMMUNICATION. BUT ALSO, THERE WAS A VERY ATTRACTIVE RED-HAIRED BOY WEARING A BAT-GIRL CROP TOP AT THE TABLE.

WHICH OF YOU WOULD WIN IN A FIGHT?

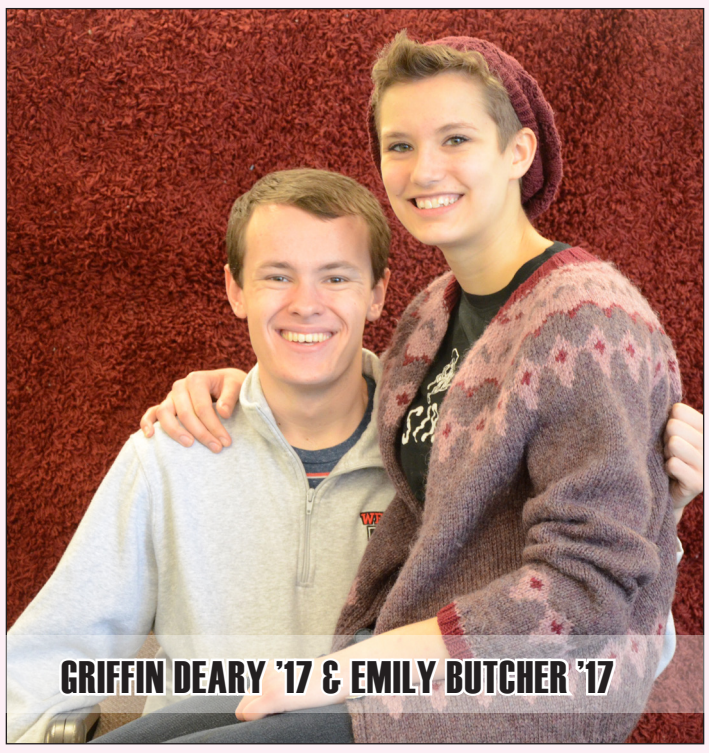
RM: HE HAS A BLACK BELT BUT NO UPPER BODY STRENGTH.
BD: IT COULD GO EITHER WAY. HE BEATS ME IN ARM WRESTLING, SO I GUESS HE WOULD WIN. I DON'T LIKE TO THINK THAT WE WOULD EVER FIGHT, THOUGH.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUR RAPIDLY CHANGING HAIR COLORS?

RM: THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM, WE HAD THE SAME HAIR.
BD: WE BOTH HAD PINK HAIR.
RM: IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL. I WAS SO SELF-CONSCIOUS BECAUSE WE BOTH HAD PINK HAIR. I WAS LIKE, "OH GOD, HE'S GOING TO THINK I'M COPYING HIM. HE'S NOT GOING TO LIKE ME." SO I DYED MY HAIR BLUE

NOW, YOU HAVE DIFFERENT HAIR.

BD: I DYED MY HAIR A NORMAL SHADE WHEN I VISITED HIM IN HAWAII BECAUSE HIS PARENTS GOT ANNOYED WHEN HE DYED HIS HAIR PINK. SO I WANTED TO HAVE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION. I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO DYE IT BACK THIS SEMESTER FOR INTERNSHIP INTERVIEWS AND EVERYTHING ANYWAY, SO I FIGURED, "WHY NOT GET IT OVER WITH?"
RM: MY HAIR CHANGES, BUT MY LOVE FOR YOU REMAINS THE SAME.



HOW DID YOU MEET?

GD: ROLLER DISCO.
EB: IT WAS AN ORIENTATION EVENT, ROLLER SKATING IN FAYERWEATHER. WE WERE JUST REALLY GOOD FRIENDS FOR, LIKE, A MONTH AFTER THAT.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR DATES?

GD: CLIMB TREES, GO TO RESTAURANTS IN TOWN. LOTS OF MOVIES.
EB: PIRATING TELEVISION.
GD: THERE'S THAT.

WHAT'S THE BEST MOVIE YOU'VE WATCHED TOGETHER?

GD: THE LEGO MOVIE'S UP THERE.

DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE NAME:

GD: THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CALLS US "GREMLIN." I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS HAVE IN COMMON?

EB: WE'RE BOTH REALLY NERDY.
GD: WE'RE BOTH BAD AT SMALL TALK.

FEATURES

I Saw You on Tinder: Exploring the New Craze

By Rebecca Seidel
Features Editor

I will always remember the night it started. It was last Sunday, around 1 a.m., and I was sitting at a poorly-lit desk in the main reading room of Olin. I had just downed a large coffee from Espwesso, and I had every intention of channeling my near-lethal energy levels into my 150-page reading for the following morning. Instead, I took out my phone and made a Tinder account.

If you don't know what Tinder is, I will now quote from its website in order to make you feel like a total loser for not knowing: "Tinder is how people meet. It's like real life, but better."

Where have you BEEN?

Basically, Tinder is a matchmaking app. You set up a profile that includes a picture of yourself along with your interests, drawn from your Facebook account. Then, you check off the gender(s) in which you are interested. Not reductive or normative at all. Tinder uses this information, as well as your geographic location, to find people in the area who fit your criteria.

I had seen other people use Tinder before, so I already knew the basics: the app presents you with a photo of someone, along with their first name and age. If you like what you see, you swipe the photo to the right and a fun green stamp that says "LIKED" pops up on the screen. If you're not into it, swipe left, and an even more satisfying stamp that says "NOPE" appears in red.

So there I was at Olin, hunched over my phone and contemplating the new world of romantic prospects that had just opened up to me. I examined the first few people carefully. All of them were a flat-out NOPE, but I felt weird about swiping them to the left and out of my sight forever.

Soon, though, I got into a groove. There was something liberating in these moments of split-second rejection. Left, left, left. I was barely even looking at the faces of the people I was rejecting. What was I really looking for, anyway? What was I hoping to find? I felt like that cat on YouTube: "Nonononononono!"

But then, suddenly, it all came to a halt. The screen went white, and all that was left was a circular thumbnail of my profile picture, underneath which read the words:

"There's no one new around you."

This was the most profoundly depressing sentence I had read in a long time.

I decided to take a break from my rejection spree. I still had an entire book to read for class, and I had flipped through more photos than pages. The caffeine was wearing off and Olin was about to close; I had obviously timed my priorities perfectly.

I didn't revisit Tinder until later that night, when I was back in my room. At that point, I was feeling a little more magnanimous, so I even swiped right a few times. Almost every time I did this, a congratulatory notice popped up immediately: "It's a match!" I guess I'm pretty cool. And good-looking. It's no big deal.

A few interesting conversations arose out of these matches. These interactions ranged from pleasant to mildly creepy, but there was one common thread: most of them began with the other person complimenting my music taste. I had a really great discussion with one guy about songwriting, and with another gentleman about Debussy. A trend was emerging: the only people I was talking to were musicians. I found these select few people endearing—that's why I kept up the conversations—but I could tell that most of them were probably unbelievably awkward in person. My Tinder life was shaping up to be eerily similar to my real life.

After flipping through stranger after stranger, I found myself in an unexpected situation: I had stumbled upon the face of a fellow Wesleyan student. A face I recognized. It was the face of someone with whom I had—how shall we say this?—a history.

If you're in need of a Social Sciences GenEd, check out WesMaps for President Michael Roth's brand-new course: The Past on Tinder.

After my freshman year stopped flashing before my eyes, I resumed swiping. Tinder was growing on me. It was kind of cool to be able to have conversations with these random people and to catch these minute glimpses into their lives, with the option of cutting off contact at any time.

I should probably explain my motives for joining Tinder: I had none. If I wanted to let fate spark a new romance in my life, as Tinder claims to do, then I'd have more of a success rate if I hopped onto The Ride at 2 a.m. What we really need is The Ride's GPS tracker to also include photos of every person on board. Nobody attractive in the vicinity? Just shout "NOPE" at the driver, watch him make a left turn, and wait for the next van to come around.

How to Date Yourself: A Guide to Self-Seduction

By Rebecca Brill
Assistant Features Editor

You've already discussed your majors, summer plans, and opinions on postmodern literature. There is a long pause while you try to come up with less controversial conversation topics. You start to ask how many siblings your date has. At the same time, your date starts to speak. "Sorry, you go first," you say. "No, go ahead," your date says. This goes on until eventually, you're both too flustered to say anything at all. You sit in silence, avoiding eye contact. You study your silverware. Your date admires the parking lot view. "Lovely," you manage. Finally, your appetizers are served.

Let's be real: the worst part about dating is interacting with your date. If you struck out this Valentine's Day, next time just skip the whole human contact thing (so cliché!) and do something special for the one you truly love. Follow The Argus's guide to solitary courting and make yourself yours in no time.

1. Get to know yourself better. Chances are you already know what classes you're taking and what your stance is on gender-neutral bathrooms. So skip the standard date night questions and take this opportunity to delve deep into your psyche. Take a Myers-Briggs test and find out your personality type, or try out OkCupid's "Which Freudian Stage Are You" quiz and reevaluate your childhood according to your results. Remember, there's no such thing as over-thinking when you're thinking for two. But if you dig up anything questionable, brush it under the rug. You are, after all, building a real relationship here.

2. Grab some grub. The most annoying part about restaurant dates is the self-restraint they entail. Maybe you've learned the hard way that pad thai just wasn't designed for sharing, and gloppy Indian food is best consumed in solitude. This February, ride solo to a Middletown eatery of your choice and greedily devour the sweet taste of freedom. Away from the judgmental gaze of your suitors, every pizza is a personal pizza and third helpings of froyo are totally fair game. It's Only Natural for you to polish off all the hummus, and Cold Stone's "Gotta Have It" size should be taken no way other than literally. Gluttony is a social construct and you consider every bite a statement of opposition.

3. Do something wacky. Now that you're taking the unconventional route, you might as well take it all the way. Be your own most interesting person and veer away from the standard dinner-and-a-movie model. Try reenacting the "Blow" video at the Middletown Roller Skating Rink. You'll get the best of both worlds by playing the parts of both Beyoncé and Solange. If Queen B doesn't do it for you, kick it over at the now-abandoned Connecticut Asylum for the Insane over on Silver Street, where some of the very first lobotomies took place. If you dare, conduct a séance in the cemetery of unmarked graves. Dates with pulses are way overrated. Make the dead your valentine.

4. Take your breath away. Life is no rom-com, but face it: V-Day is probably the closest yours will ever come to resembling one. Be your own Manic Pixie Dream Girl/Guy/Person and do something outlandish to express your affection. Perform a grand romantic gesture for yourself based on your hobbies or interests. Do you collect trolls? Bulk order them on Amazon and cover your bed with them. Bonus points for blindfolding yourself to maintain the element of surprise. Remember, there's no such thing as taking this too far. Think of yourself as all eight couples of the 2010 ensemble comedy "Valentine's Day" rolled into one infinitely amorous human being.

5. Commemorate your date. Every good date is an affair to remember, so make some memorabilia of your solitary outing. Upload a Facebook album of selfies and name it after an inside joke from the date. If you'd rather keep your special time private, take some artful polaroids and put them in a scrapbook. Maybe write some autobiographical sonnets. No good romantic comedy is complete without a montage, so pay tribute to your big date by setting it to an appropriate song. Options include Beyoncé's "Me, Myself, and I," "I'm Single" by Lil' Wayne, and Jason Derulo's "Ridin' Solo," but you can make any love song work by replacing "you" with first-person pronouns in GarageBand. Roll the montage somewhere cozy and bask in the glory of solitude. If hell is other people, then heaven is yourself.

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OPINION

Have a Heart: Why Feb. 14 Is the Best Day of the Year

By Jenny Davis, Assistant Opinion Editor

In the Valentine's Day installment of The Princess Diaries books (my ultimate guides to life and love), Princess Mia Thermopolis of Genovia is determined to get her boyfriend, Michael, into the Valentine's Day spirit.

Michael's problem is twofold: first, he's too smart for his own good; and second, he's far from the hopeless romantic that Mia needs in a mate. (Actually, Michael's problem is threefold—the third problem being his pre-Mia relationship with Judith Gershner, notable for cloning a fruit fly—but that's besides the point.)

Mia wants a present, preferably edible (chocolate) or wearable (jewelry), but most of all she wants Michael to confess his undying love for her. The only problem is that Michael is staunchly opposed to the commercialization of love; he even has the nerve to call it a Hallmark holiday, a "crass commercial ritual" stripped of meaning.

Mia's outrage at the suggestion that they opt out of observing the holiday is touching.

"Opt out?" she asks her diary. "Opt out of Cupids holding 'Be Mine' banners and 'I choo-choo-choose you' train engine valentines and heart-shaped boxes of chocolate with gooey unidentifiable things in the middle and little candy hearts that taste like chalk but say stuff like 'U R Hot' on them? Is EVERYONE insane?"

I'm with Mia. What's wrong with having one day in the year to indulge on sweets, on trinkets, on cutesy sayings? Are we so mature that we can't reserve this day for sweaty palms and chocolate?

Let me back up. Valentine's Day is my favorite holiday, by far. It has all other major holidays beat: stores, aside from Chinese restaurants, are open (as amazing as Chinese restaurants are, Christmas is still a loser); it doesn't come with all the pressure of yearlong resolutions; there are no white dresses destined to be muddied; there are no rituals or fasting; risen bread is totally an option.

And then there's the pink. Don't get me started on the pink.

Pink is obviously the best color in the world for many reasons. It's the color of dogs' and bunnies' noses, as well as newborn mammals of other species. It's also the stage name of Alecia Beth Moore.

Finally, pink is made up of a combination of red and purple light, two colors located on opposite ends of the visible spectrum. If pink didn't seem like the union of star-crossed lovers before, Michael Moyer's Scientific American article called "Stop This Absurd War on the Color Pink" (really, stop it) proves that it is: "The laws of the universe have conspired against pink lasers."

Pink has clearly beaten all odds—it practically has its own holiday, for Pete's sake—and it deserves to be celebrated.

And then there's the issue broached by Michael Moskowitz, of Princess Diaries lore: Valentine's Day is a commercial holiday. This is true.

But is any holiday not commercial, at this point? Christmas certainly is, and so are Easter, the Fourth of July, and Halloween. (So are birthdays, for that matter.) But that doesn't mean we don't celebrate them. Isn't celebrating Valentine's Day the way we do nowadays better than how the Romans spent Feb. 14 (namely, by sacrificing animals and then whipping women with the animals' hides in an effort to boost fertility)? It was one William Shakespeare who romanticized the day. (Shakespeare also invented a whole host of things, namely the words "throw up" and "rant," and even if you do both of those things, Valentine's Day appears to be here to stay.)

Perhaps Rutgers anthropologist Helen Fisher best addresses the point of Valentine's Day being a commercial holiday.

"This isn't a command performance," she said. "If people didn't want to buy Hallmark cards, they would not be bought, and Hallmark would go out of business."

We're afraid of wanting to want things. It's okay to want things.

Actually; it's more than okay to want things, in fact, it's exhilarating, the act of wanting, even if it's entirely fruitless.

In elementary school, Valentine's Day was a day of intense anticipation and delicious anxiety. Into this one day was funneled an entire year's worth of giddiness; I lay awake on Feb. 13, wondering if the apple of my eye (my desk mate, who often comforted me when I sobbed over multiplication with a reassuring, "You're good at geography!") would slip a note into my desk pleading, "Be mine!"

The day of, I combed through my valentines meticulously, discarding all of the hollow, barely-personalized, store-bought cards, separating the chocolate from the cardboard, and saving the handmade letters. Ah, the handmade cards. I must slip in here the detail that I made cards by hand every year from kindergarten to sixth grade; it took me hours to master the perfect language in cards to my crushes (I could never be too outright; I had to maintain an air of mystery while also making known my appreciation).

It didn't matter that there was no secret admirer lurking behind a potted fern. It was invigorating to feel alive, to wonder if love was really in the air, to sit among the pink boxes and piles of valentines and wring my hands and dream up possibilities. What might have been was so thrilling to contemplate that it didn't make any difference that it never was.

This Valentine's Day, I'll be choosing among the copious articles of pink clothing in my closet and eating all of the chocolate I can get my hands on. It might make me a sucker, but hey, at least I'm not whipping anybody with animal carcasses.

Davis is a member of the class of 2017.

The Case Against Death for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev

By Gabe Lipton Galbraith, Contributing Writer

It isn't often that we openly cheer the prospect of someone's death. Yet recent news that Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev will face the death penalty in his upcoming trial was met with relief, excitement, and even open jubilation. The overwhelming sentiment seems to be that Tsarnaev deserves to die for the crimes that he has committed. Such feelings are understandable; Tsarnaev is responsible for acts of terror that killed three people, including an eight-year-old boy, and wounded numerous others.

Yet I was shocked to hear of the Justice Department's willingness to take such drastic actions in a case that has the ability to shape public sentiment about the continued use of the death penalty in the United States. Since its reinstatement in 1976, the death penalty has become more obviously a failed experiment.

Problems of inadequate representation for capital defendants, racial biases among juries, and a growing number of exonerations from DNA evidence have brought to light the inadequacies of the system we rely on to determine questions of life and death. In an era where the acceptability of the death penalty is waning, the decision to seek a death sentence in the Tsarnaev case sets a dangerous precedent and allows for the continuation of death penalty practices in a nation where its use seems increasingly antiquated, ineffective, and problematic.

Let's face facts. According to the Death Penalty Info Center, a site devoted to death penalty information, the United States is the only Western nation that continues to utilize the death penalty and carry out executions. Other nations continuing to do so include Pakistan, Iran, and China, where citizens can be put to death for anything from minor drug offenses to blasphemy. These are nations, we should remember, whose governments the U.S. often chides for restricting individual freedoms and maintaining control over their citizens through centralized force. If the U.S. is to be judged by the company that it keeps, it isn't doing too well.

However, the use of the death penalty is in decline in the U.S. Limits on the the ability of states to procure the drugs that are used in executions have severely curtailed the number of people who have been executed across the nation and even convinced some states to get rid of the death penalty altogether. Maryland, Connecticut, and New Mexico all decided to get rid of their death penalty statutes (in 2013, 2012, and 2009 respectively) in large part due to an inability to guarantee that executions could be performed in a "non-cruel" manner, given their lack of execution drugs.

As Jeffrey Toobin of The New Yorker notes in his article "Cruel and Unusual," many states have now switched from a three-drug cocktail to a single-drug cocktail, or even turned to "compounding pharmacies" (underground drug manufacturers unregulated by the FDA) in order to continue executions. While fewer states are putting people to death, the executions that are still taking place are increasingly grotesque. As Ed Pilkington of The Guardian notes, the execution of Ohioan Mark McGuire last month with a previously untested two-drug cocktail took almost half an hour and left him "gasping for air for up to 14 minutes."

So, there now exists a small minority of states and counties in the U.S. that carry out a majority of the nation's executions. Harris County, where Houston is located, executed more people between 1979 and 2003 than all other U.S. states (excluding Texas) combined. This is a startling fact, as there certainly isn't a higher prevalence of heinous crime in Harris County than in the rest of the U.S. combined. And it seems to problematize the argument that the death penalty is reserved for only certain extraordinary circumstances. This notion is incorrect; in fact, most of the time it is being applied in a highly arbitrary manner.

Now let's turn back to Tsarnaev and my confusion over the Justice Department's recent decision. Is it trying to placate angry Bostonians? Well, as it turns out, according to a Boston Globe poll, only 33 percent of Massachusetts residents support a death sentence for Dzhokhar. Is it taking the stance that all terrorists deserve to be put to death? Keep in mind that Dzhokhar was 19 at the time of the bombing—only one year older then the Supreme Court mandated age of eligibility for a death sentence—and was led on by what seems to have been a vindictive and controlling older brother. If this is the case where the feds have decided to take a stand on terrorism, what does it mean for the prosecution of juveniles across the nation?

While the Justice Department's decision to seek death in the case of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev lacks logic, the most deleterious result of this conclusion is that it lends credibility to a failed and unpopular national policy. Is anyone else outraged? I hope so.

Lipton is a member of the class of 2016.

STUDENT-RUN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
(Sponsored by the Counseling and Psychological Service)

Meets: Weekly
Wednesdays

Time: 7:30

Location: Solarium
(Room 201)
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Intended to create a network of support for those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

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For more information, please contact:
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mmlinsky@wesleyan.edu

Avoid Valentine's, Keep the Gifts

By Jess Zalph, Opinion Editor

I once tried to give a slightly squished Ferrero Rocher as a "casual" Valentine's Day present. It was rejected. Needless to say, having lived through that shining moment, I am now something of an expert on the subject of gift giving. And with this wisdom, I say keep the gift giving, but forget the holiday.

The process of giving and receiving gifts, though generally accepted as enjoyable, is often brushed off as a waste of time and money, especially on college campuses. Interactions of all kinds are streamlined by social media and sheer proximity; thus, friendships and relationships can be maintained with minimal effort. People hardly need to make plans—they have dining hall friends, dorm friends, and library friends, all of whom appear with hardly the need for a text. In this environment, it's easy to fall into a "why bother" mindset.

Gift giving is a basic human instinct and one that shouldn't be brushed off as "meaningless, socially constructed drivel," as I have often heard it described. From an early age and without prompting, children give gifts to the people for whom they care, whether it's a drawing, a cookie, or a stick that they found in the park. Many psychologists argue that there is social value to gift giving, saying that it can serve to demonstrate interest and strengthen bonds.

Present swapping is a valuable routine. Ideally, it is a positive experience for the giver, who gets to spend time exploring the other person's personality and anticipating making that person happy. A job well done will of course be a positive experience for the receiver, who gets something enjoyable and gets to bask in the notion that someone cared enough to pick out a good gift.

This isn't to say that the selection process cannot be downright painful at times. The Google searches "What to get my girlfriend for Valentine's Day" and "What to get my boyfriend for Valentine's Day" yield a combined total of 83,100,000 results. Even if you spent the time perusing each of those articles, my guess is you could easily walk away without a satisfactory answer to that question.

So what should you do? Should you buy a tasty-singing-charity-unicorn candygram from one of the many Usdan sales? Should you adopt a Wesleyan attitude of aloofness and irony and buy that three-foot-tall teddy bear from Rite Aid? Should you decide that irony is passé and buy an engagement ring for your significant other (or that random girl you've been eyeing in class)?

Honestly, as much as I value gifts, I think Valentine's Day should not be celebrated on its own terms. For a day, Feb. 14 turns relationships from unique to generic. All of a sudden, you're not John and Janie, but rather just another couple celebrating the way the calendar (and Hallmark) tells you to. One of the best parts of present getting is the surprise, a factor that is entirely eliminated with a holiday that mandates shopping. Add that to the pain it may cause people who are not in relationships but wish to be, throw in a little sexism with differing present expectations for men and women, and you've got yourself one hell of a holiday.

I stand firmly behind the notion that with presents, it's the thought that counts, and the problem with Valentine's Day is that it often removes the thought. Sure, jewelry, chocolate, and flowers can all be great gifts. But if my significant other told me, "Hey, if you don't buy me some chocolate for Valentine's Day, I'm going to break up with you and burn all of your clothes," and then I bought them chocolate, I really wouldn't except them to be bowled over with happiness. It was sort of the obvious choice.

Instead of making Valentine's Day the foundation of your relationship, focus on finding other excuses to give gifts of all kinds. The gift of Indian food leftovers to your friend slaving away in the 24-hour study room. The gift of a $1.3 million gilded roll of toilet paper, if that's what they're into (and you have the resources). The gift of attention. Whatever you choose, just make sure it comes from your now-candy-encrusted heart, and not from the demands of the calendar.

Zalph is a member of the class of 2016.

Education as a Journey, Not a Destination

By Isabel Fattal, Staff Writer

This semester, in one of my most enthralling courses, I am learning the art of questioning. The course is RELI286: The Examined Life: Religion and Philosophy on the Art of Living. True to its title, we spend our class time examining absolutely everything, attempting to reach beyond preconceived notions and to uncover the true meanings of words as weighty and ambiguous as "happiness," "goodness," and "the self."

I have always been an avid believer in asking questions. But this semester, I have even begun to question the questions. I am venturing to ask such terrifying questions as, why ask? Why learn? No word, no idea is impenetrable to this line of questioning.

For those of you to whom this sounds like the clear path to a massive headache, I understand. I do not expect everyone to share my deep love for philosophy. But the skepticism that I have developed as a result of studying philosophy in many ways mimics the doubt that plagues most of us in daily life. Each of us confronts this fear of the unknown in a different place. It might be the midterm to which you just couldn't remember the answers, a conversation with a peer who holds so much knowledge on a topic about which you know so little, the rows of books in the stacks of Olin or on your course syllabus whose words you have yet to devour. The fear of the unknown strikes us all at some point, but perhaps "fear" is the wrong word for encounters with the unfamiliar. Perhaps the unknown is actually an invigorating opportunity for growth.

Most of us understand this basic concept, especially those of us here at a liberal arts institution, committing ourselves to the expansion of our horizons and the acquiring of new knowledge. We have been taught from youth that there is nothing to fear in the unknown, despite how frightening the abyss may appear.

Yet not fearing the unknown and truly embracing the unknown are two entirely different ideas. Leaping the gap from toleration to excited invitation of the unfamiliar into our lives requires risking something that can often seem so important: our pride. True intellectual curiosity can only manifest itself after we have given up a bit of our confidence—just enough to say, "I don't understand this." We become brave enough to ask the question and to accept our true status as "ignorant" about a certain topic, and through this we open ourselves up willingly and completely to the unknown.

The University is an extremely collaborative environment; students genuinely want to learn from one another and to enrich themselves by exploring new, diverse areas of knowledge. But even under the best of circumstances it can still be so easy to shy away from all that causes us uncertainty. When we hear about that upcoming lecture on contemporary poetry or digital media, it can be so instinctive to say to ourselves, "That's not my thing." It comes naturally to us to confine ourselves within the areas of our own expertise, or where we feel that this expertise is gradually developing. This is not to say that we all must become well-versed in every topic in existence; rather, we must not let the fear of possibly being the least-informed person in the room prevent us from trying something unfamiliar and leaving just a bit less ignorant than we were when we arrived.

Realizing the acceptability of ignorance is important, but viewing this ignorance as a precursor to progress is more crucial still. We should not hide from the unknown, but at the same time we cannot permanently accept it. Looking up at my bookshelf and realizing just how many words I have yet to deposit into my personal storage of knowledge, how many ideas I have yet to think through, I feel small and scared. This immensity can be paralyzing. It can be enough to make me wonder if it's all worth it, if the understanding that I might gain this week or this year even matters in comparison to the knowledge of others or to every aspect of the world around me that can be known.

Yet I know that I must reach up to the shelf, pick up a book, and start from the first page. As I begin, I am aware of all of the other words that I am not reading at that moment, all of the other pieces of knowledge and understanding that I might never internalize. But instead of drowning in the immensity of knowledge, I try to remind myself of the excitement of that fact. It reminds me of how many of these exhilarating moments are still ahead of me, the moments in which new comprehension dawns, new questions arise, or a phrase in a book sparks a feeling like no other.

I don't know all of the answers. I doubt that I will by the end of this semester. I doubt that I ever will. But the excitement of the possibilities that the journey of discovery might yield is enough fuel to keep me moving forward.

Fattal is a member of the class of 2017.

Michael Sam and Defining Distractions

By Josh Cohen, Opinion Editor

"Some people actually just couldn't believe I was actually gay," Michael Sam told The New York Times. "But I never had a problem with my teammates. Some of my coaches were worried, but there was never an issue."

Michael Sam is a 6'2", 255-pound defensive end from the University of Missouri, though he might be moved to outside linebacker in the pros. He is also the first openly gay NFL draft prospect; he is projected to be selected as early as the third round, making him very likely to be the first openly gay player in league history.

While no one's sexual orientation should be national news in 2014, Sam's announcement still should be. This moment may have been inevitable, but it is vital we give it the attention and the celebration it warrants now that it has arrived.

Jason Collins came out last April, but he has not since signed with an NBA team. Robbie Rogers became the first openly gay player in MLS (Major League Soccer) history a month later. So it was only a matter of time before Michael Sam came along, but even so, he's out in America's most popular, most macho sport. It could not matter less that he's a gay man, but it still means a ton that he's a gay football player.

But he's not a gay NFL player yet, which makes what happens next for Sam so confusing and potentially problematic.

Sam is a decent prospect, but not much more than that; his short-term future on an NFL team is likely as a situational pass rusher and as a special teamer. A lot of that has to do with his physical makeup: a good but not great athlete who would seem gargantuan walking down the street, Sam is actually a bit shorter and possibly even a few pounds lighter than most teams would like an edge rusher to be. So if he starts slipping in the draft, NFL general managers will be able to point to legitimate gripes they have with him as a player, though those might not be the reasons why those GMs spurn him.

Shortly after Sam's announcement hit the press, Sports Illustrated and Monday Morning Quarterback articles cited general managers, scouts, and other front office personnel expressing concerns, under protection of anonymity, that a gay player would be a distraction and a detriment to stability in the locker room. Those football men predict that, despite Sam's stellar work on the field and as a leader of the Missouri Tigers, his draft stock will fall because he has opened up about his sexuality.

Readers summarily denounced those articles for perpetuating dated, ignorant perspectives on Sam's announcement, thereby fueling backlash through the media without exposing any of the speakers to take responsibility for their words. Then again, the anonymous sources spoke honestly on the record precisely because they knew the vitriol their statements would incite. It shouldn't surprise anyone, with the prevalence of certain gay slurs in professional sports locker rooms, that there might be friction when integrating an openly gay player into an NFL environment with at least some level of institutionalized homophobia. But for a front office member to raise his doubts with his name and face attached to the statement would be to actively seek to be a pariah. At least now we know if NFL front offices pass over Sam on draft day, his playing ability won't be the whole story.

Even so, given his mid-round grade right now, it would be a shock if Sam slips all the way past the seventh round and goes undrafted; a draft slide might knock a few dollars off his first contract, but he's all but guaranteed to join an NFL team this May. Once there, it won't matter whether he was picked first or last, only how he performs on the field and conducts himself off it.

From everything Sam has said and done, he will not make himself bigger than the team; people in his camp have said that, at least for the next year, he will not seek to be an activist for LGBTQ causes, but focus on being a good player and teammate. Sam won't force his sexuality upon the men around him, meaning his personal life will only become an issue if someone else makes it one. Yes, the NFL's code of professionalism has been marred by bigotry before: just look at Richie Incognito's bullying of Jonathan Martin, which caused Martin to leave the Miami Dolphins midway through the 2013 season. But even in that scenario, the oppressor created the distraction, not the oppressed. To say Sam will be a distraction highlights only his differences at the expense of what makes him the same as everyone else in the NFL: his athleticism, his work ethic, his dedication to his team and the game.

Sam came out to his college teammates prior to the 2013 season, and they rallied around him—not necessarily because all of the hundred-plus men were comfortable with his sexuality, but because they respected and appreciated him as a player and as a person. After going 5-7 the year before, the Tigers finished 2013 with a 12-2 record, while Sam led the Southeastern Conference with 11.5 sacks en route to being named SEC Defensive Player of the Year. Sam's honesty did not divide the team because his truth was one of unity. Within the confines of the locker room, Sam led the men around him just as he had before, and if they had any problem with who he loves, that was their personal business just as Sam's sexuality was his. Love will not cause a distraction; only hatred that rises to oppose it can. Sam's road to a professional football career will not be without uncommon difficulties, but to blame the gay man for the homophobia he will face is to disrespect his openness and to restrict the NFL's progress toward tolerance.

Cohen is a member of the class of 2014.

WRITE FOR OPINION!

Contact jcohen07@wes!

FOOD

WesStuffed: A Look at the Farms Behind Cheese Co-Op

By Becca Brand
WesStuffed Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again: the wind is a-howlin', the noses are a-snifflin', and Punxsutawney Phil predicted yet another six weeks of winter (but really, we all saw that coming). Thankfully, the Cheese Co-Op, which recently merged with the Local Co-Op, is back and ready to comfort us during these long, cold months. What better time than now to curl up with your favorite book (or a class reading), a glass of something red, and a box of Ritz crackers that you entirely intend to finish? The only justification you need is that you're smothering each salty, processed bite with the taste of a much classier, cheesy spread.

A share in the Cheese Co-Op is a total of 100 points, but you can split your share with up to two other people and pay only 33. If you are experienced with the Cheese Co-Op, then you know that this relatively low price is well worth the quick and easy pickup of artisanal cheeses. But did you know about the local farms that produce them?

The Wesleyan Cheese Co-Op has developed strong working relationships with a few farms in the Connecticut and Massachusetts areas. Its committee communicates with representatives from each farm, figuring out budgets so that dairy devotees may enjoy the fruit of their cows', sheeps', and goats' labor. Cato Corner Farm and Beltane Farm are the two main farms with which the Co-Op has worked; they have provided the bulk of the deliveries for as long as I have been at Wesleyan.

Cato Corner Farm, located in Colchester, Conn. just east of Middletown, produces cow's milk cheese.

"Cato Corner Farm is a small family farm in Colchester, Connecticut, where the mother-son team of Elizabeth and Mark raises 40 free-range Jersey cows without the use of hormones or subtherapeutic antibiotics," the farm's website reads. "From our cows' raw milk, we hand make a dozen styles of aged farmhouse cheese ranging from mild and milky to runny and pungent to sharp and firm."

Cato Corner Farm's cheeses have won numerous awards, both in-state and nationally. Cato provides Wesleyan with a range of cheeses, from sharper hard cheeses to crumbly blue cheeses, all of which are phenomenal. Its Womanchego—a feminist spin on the classic Spanish cheese—has nothing to do with gender, but is absolutely delicious.

Located in Lebanon, Conn., Beltane Farm makes its cheese from goat's milk. Its claim to fame is its tangy chèvre, or goat cheese, that can be purchased with multiple spice options, including "Herbs de Provence" and "Black Pepper."

"Beltane Farm makes a variety of artisanal, farmstead goat milk cheese on our farm in Lebanon, Connecticut," the farm's website reads. "Although our award-winning fresh Chevre is our most popular cheese, we also make a number of fine French style ripened cheeses as well as Feta. Our Oberhasli, La Mancha and Saanen goats are milked twice daily and provide the milk for our cheese."

Paul Trubey, the Beltane representative, informed me that because the farm's goats don't start kidding until the end of February, their batches of cheese won't be coming until the latter half of the semester.

The Cheese Co-Op, like all of the co-ops on campus, is a truly wonderful opportunity to both cook with high-quality ingredients and develop working relationships with people and communities in nearby towns. Being situated in central Connecticut certainly has its snowy drawbacks, but opportunities such as these remind us that in our industrialized world, we can bond over organic foods and sustainable agriculture.

Roasted Garlic and Onion

By Jess Zalph
Food Editor

To many, onions are the black sheep of the vegetable world. The complaints launched against them make them sound like archetypal school bullies. They smell bad. They make people cry. They taste funny (as would, I imagine, any irritable school bully out of whom you happened to take a bite).

However, they say love is blind, and I am entirely blind to these so-called faults. Onions, to me, smell wonderful, especially when they are sautéing in a little olive oil over medium heat with a healthy heaping of sweet paprika. I also think they taste delicious. Sure, your basic red onions might be a little bitter when raw, but they would be sorely missed in any tomato sauces, soups, or stir-fries that shunned their presence. Have any Vidalias on hand? I'll happily eat those small, sugary onions raw and plain, à la "Shrek" or "Holes."

These recipes (one for roasted onion and one for roasted garlic, another pungent vegetable in the "Allium" family) come from a cookbook called "The Onion Harvest Cookbook," gifted to me by an equally passionate onion lover. Roasting onion and garlic makes both of these characteristically sharp flavors sweet and soft. These recipes are also the best type for a busy chef: they require little preparation, and once you put them in the oven you can forget about them for the better part of an hour.

And when onions make me cry? I say they're tears of joy.

Roasted Garlic
(Adapted from "The Onion Harvest Cookbook")

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Prepare the head of garlic. First, chop off the base of the garlic, exposing the cloves. Then, remove most of the outer layers of paper, leaving one or two in order to hold the head together.
3. Place the head of garlic in a cupcake tin, with the exposed base on top. Drizzle the exposed cloves with olive oil and salt, letting the oil seep into the cloves.
4. Place garlic in the oven, and let it roast for 30-35 minutes or until the cloves are brown and soft.
5. Let the garlic cool, and break into cloves, leaving the skin of the individual cloves intact. Squeeze garlic from the paper onto crackers or straight into your mouth. If desired, top with lemon, vinegar, or herbs.

Roasted Shallots with Herb Dressing
(Adapted from "The Onion Harvest Cookbook")

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Remove both end of the shallots, and make a deep crosscut in the root end. Place the shallots in a casserole dish. (Note: Surprising as it seems, the peel should remain on the shallots to lock in the flavor.)
3. To prepare the dressing, remove the herbs from their stems and blend them with the oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper for about five seconds until the ingredients are combined.
4. Add the dressing to the shallots in the casserole dish, turning the shallots to ensure they are completely coated. Cover the dish (tinfoil will do) and roast for 40 minutes or until the shallots are soft and easily pierced. Serve.

INGREDIENTS
1 HEAD GARLIC
2 TBSP. EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
1/4 TSP. SALT

INGREDIENTS
8 LARGE SHALLOTS
1 4-INCH SPRIG OF FRESH ROSEMARY
2 4-INCH SPRIGS OF FRESH THYME
1/3 CUP EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
1/3 CUP WATER
1/4 CUP BALSAMIC VINEGAR
1 TSP. SEA SALT
1/2 TSP. BLACK PEPPER

Atmospheric, but Unappetizing: Valentine's Dinner at the DFC

By Eden Jablon
Staff Writer

On Feb. 14, 77 Wesleyan students made an unusual choice for Valentine's Day dinner by eating at the Daniel Family Commons (DFC), located on the third floor of Usdan. For 13 points and a meal swipe ($22.25 in total value), students were served a prix fixe meal designed by Bon Appétit's executive and sous chefs.

"The menu sounded delectable, and it seemed like a convenient, relaxed way to spend the holiday," said Nora Canby '17. "The ability to use a meal swipe as part of the payment was definitely a bonus."

Bon Appétit began promoting the dinner during Wesleyan's winter session, allowing students to make reservations up until 3 p.m. on Feb. 13. Promotions included signs on the cash registers at the Usdan Marketplace and in Summerfields. Bon Appétit also asked students to "like" Wesleyan Dining by Bon Appétit on Facebook for a chance to win a complimentary dinner, which was awarded to Kathryn Chen '17 on Feb. 10.

Given that it was the seventh annual DFC Valentine's Day, Bon Appétit management had the event's organization down pat. Students, who were given a choice between a 5:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. sitting, were promptly seated at beautifully dressed tables. Throughout the meal, waiters were attentive and helpful.

"We were just flowing," said Robert Ramos '16, who worked as a server at the event. "It felt like we hit a rhythm and kept with it. All of the customers were really patient and joked with us a lot, which kept our spirits up."

The diners, who were primarily underclassmen, maintained their conversations at a respectful volume, contributing to the calm atmosphere. The candles, flowers, and red napkins all enhanced the ambiance.

However, the most important element of a successful dinner is not the ambiance, but the food. According to a wide range of attendees, the quality of the food was sadly lacking.

The first course was an artisan cheese platter and charcuterie for two with house-baked crostini, white bean and herbed hummus, and fig chutney. While the chutney was met with extremely positive feedback, the cheeses were consistently condemned as bland and semi-soft. According to one anonymous student, the charcuterie appeared to be two-day old salami straight off the sale rack. The dip received mixed reviews spanning from "great" to "it made me want to shoot myself."

For the second course, students picked from the following three options: pan-seared filet of beef with pink peppercorn demi-glaze, mashed potatoes, and a medley of grilled vegetables; pan-seared tuna with creamy polenta, broccoli rabe, and onion marmalade; and Tuscan vegetable ragout over herb polenta cakes. The beef filet and vegetable ragout received mediocre reviews, and the tuna was universally panned.

"I ordered the 'seared' tuna, which turned out to be extremely well-done, tough, and tasteless," Canby said. "It was served with a side of cold, congealed polenta and some sort of green vegetable, which was very dark in color and gross."

The third course was a field green salad with julienned carrots, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, dried cranberries, gorgonzola cheese, and champagne vinaigrette. The quality of the vegetables was good, but the salad appeared to be missing dressing.

"[The salad] was just like a worse version of something you'd make at Usdan," said Walker Reiss '17.

Students finished with either a strawberry and fair-trade chocolate bread pudding with a Wild Turkey caramel sauce or a dark chocolate mousse with raspberries and vanilla whipped topping. Both desserts were praised for their texture, but most students did not think the last course redeemed the rest of the meal. As a true acknowledgement of the event's gustatory lack, cashiers allowed students coming from the DFC into the Usdan Marketplace without swiping their cards.

Ultimately, to the dismay of many students who had banked on a heart- and stomach-warming Valentine's Day meal, attending the DFC's event did not meet their expectations.

Adding Flair to Your Summerfields Experience

By Erica DeMichiel
Assistant Food Editor

One of the most common complaints I hear about Summerfields is its lack of variety. Yet while the menu may seem limited compared to the buffet at Usdan, there are plenty of ways to keep your Summies dining experience exciting and nutritious. Most of the dishes available can be manipulated to individual preferences, though the fixed menu hanging above the dining area might make it appear otherwise.

Whether you're gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian, or simply looking to make healthier choices, it's easy to find a plate at Summies that can be tailored to your personal needs. After many rounds of experimentation, I've unearthed three of my favorite dishes based off of predetermined menu items.

The Burrito Bowl

It took me a full semester of tossing the tortilla shells of my taco salads to realize that its lower-calorie, gluten-free alternative can be just as satisfying and far less wasteful.

The burrito bowl is the closest thing to Chipotle you can get on campus. Served in a white, egg-shaped dish, the main ingredients are culled from the taquería portion of the Summies menu (the Mexican-style toppings are listed to the left of the register).

In a moment of spontaneity, I decided to switch up my usual order of the chicken burrito bowl by substituting pulled pork for poultry. Garnished with salsa verde, chipotle pesto, and a scoop of guacamole, the slightly smoky result was surprisingly delicious.

For an extra kick, squirt on some Sriracha sauce; for an even spicier taste, cherry peppers pack a powerful punch. A few squeezes of lime juice, available at the back of the dining hall, add a hint of acidity and create just the right level of sweetness. For those avoiding meat and looking for a protein source, tofu can be provided upon request.

The Healthier Chopped Salad

Whenever I stop at Summies for an early-afternoon bite to eat, the chopped salad seems to be one of the most popular lunchtime options. In the midst of a health kick, I was eager to see if I could add grilled chicken to my meal instead of the standard crispy chicken. My order was processed, but after hearing my number called, I noticed that my meal lacked chicken entirely, and even the feta cheese had somehow failed to make an appearance.

A few days later, I decided to try my luck with a text order; I figured that putting my specific request in writing would increase the chances of my order coming out correct. Sure enough, my plan was successful, and I enjoyed a healthier, gluten-free version of the well-liked dish. A sprinkling of scallions, a squeeze of lime juice, and a splash of balsamic vinegar make the salad even more flavorful. It is best enjoyed in a to-go container, which makes tossing more efficient.

Hold the Rice

Ever stuttered while choosing a side dish? I always wonder whether or not it's worth it to fork over an extra dollar in exchange for a healthier side that I may not even feel like eating once it's in front of me.

One evening, I wanted to see if I could change up one of the carb-heavy sides. I noticed the rice and beans, and I decided to ask if the dish could be prepared with only black beans. I received an affirmative response and thus found a way to load up on protein while significantly lowering my carb intake. With a little bit of salt and a dash of hot sauce, you've got a satisfying side that will keep you full throughout your busy day.

SPORTS

Women's Puck Earns Fourth Shutout of Season

By Michael Sheldon
Staff Writer

The women's hockey team split its annual two-game series with the Colby Mules this past weekend, notching its fourth shutout win of the season when it beat Colby in the second game. The series split came on the heels of a historic weekend, when the Cardinals defeated Hamilton twice to clinch their first playoff spot in 10 years.

In the first meeting on Friday, Feb. 14, play opened with a tough, defensive tone as the teams traded shots at an even pace and each goalie recorded save after save. It was all defense on both sides for the first two periods, and when the buzzer sounded prior to the second intermission the score was 0-0.

That wasn't for a lack of shooting, though, as both teams had their fair share of good looks all game. It was all about which defense would let one slip through first. As fate would have it, the Cardinals were the ones who did.

"Nothing really went wrong on Friday," Jess Brennan '17 wrote in an email to The Argus. "We came out with good energy and excitement especially after last weekend. We just didn't get the bounces we needed."

Rather, the bounces began to favor the Mules, and Colby eked out its first goal just two minutes into the third period. The Mules scored again later in the game, but they didn't have to. The Cardinals, despite outshooting Colby 31-28, did not score at all.

"We simply were unable to find the back of the net," Captain Sydney Morgan '14 wrote in an email to The Argus. "Colby, then still playing [to] secure their playoff spot, came out knowing how much they needed a win."

The Cardinals had a chance to redeem themselves in the rematch on Saturday, Feb. 15. Once again, things played out in a physical, defensive battle. The Cardinals were actually outshot heavily this time around by a margin of 36-19. But netminder Corinne Rivard '16 kept Wesleyan in the game with excellent play, turning away shot after shot. Rivard didn't allow a single goal all game, registering the Cardinals' fourth shutout on the season.

"No question we couldn't have done it without [Rivard]'s amazing play between the pipes," Brennan wrote. "She's a very hard worker on and off the ice and really deserved the shutout and the [win]."

Wesleyan's deciding goal came in the opening minutes of the second period, when Abigail Rutt '17 scored off an assist from fellow freshman Brennan. The assist was a milestone for Brennan: it was her 19th point of the season, which makes her the highest-scoring Cardinal in a single season since 2004.

"Though Jess [Brennan] is a freshman, she came into the program and made an impact from the start," Morgan wrote. "She shows up ready to play every day. The freshman class in general has really stepped it up and have been paramount to our success."

The Cardinal defense held out the rest of the way, and Wesleyan left the ice with a 1-0 victory to offset their loss from the day before. Overall, the weekend moved the Cardinals to a NESCAC record of 5-6-3. This is significant because it places them in a three-way tie for fourth place along with Bowdoin and Trinity. If they can go 2-0 or 1-0-1 in their final season series against Trinity this coming weekend, the Cardinals will enter the playoffs with the fourth seed. This would grant them a home playoff game, something the women's hockey team has never had in its history.

"More than just securing a playoff game on home ice, clinching the fourth seed means a lot to our program," Morgan wrote. "While securing a playoff berth for the first time in ten years is a huge deal, getting the fourth seed really makes a statement that Wesleyan is a competitive team that should be taken seriously."

The Cardinals will look to take a step toward that fourth seed when they take the ice for the second-to-last time in the regular season against Trinity on Friday, Feb. 21.

COREY SOBOTKA/PHOTO EDITOR

Cara Jankowski '15 and the women's hockey team eked out enough offense to beat Hamilton 1-0 on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S SQUASH

Wesleyan	9
Colby	0

MEN'S SQUASH

Wesleyan	4
Brown	5

MEN'S SQUASH

Wesleyan	6
George Washington	3

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wesleyan	63
Hamilton	60

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wesleyan	70
Williams	87

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Wesleyan	0
Colby	2

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Wesleyan	1
Colby	0

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Wesleyan	5
Amherst	2

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Wesleyan	3
Bowdoin	4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wesleyan	43
Hamilton	60

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wesleyan	71
Williams	76

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Men's Hoops Ninth in 'CAC

By Asher Young
Staff Writer

The men's basketball season came to an end this past weekend when the Cardinals fell just a tiebreaker short of the eighth and final spot in the NESCAC playoffs. After beating Hamilton 63-60 in an exciting win on Friday, Feb. 14, the Cards fell to Little Three rival Williams 87-70 the next day.

Wesleyan came out hot against Hamilton, hitting 7 of its first 9 shots of the game to jump out to a 21-9 lead just over five minutes into the first half. The Cardinals were a perfect 4-4 from beyond the arc during the run as the game's leading scorer BJ Davis '16 hit 3 straight from beyond the arc on his way to a 19-point night.

Although Wesleyan led for the majority of the game, the Continentals were able to keep within striking distance, not allowing a lead greater than 12 at any point to the Cardinals. Hamilton began to mount a comeback in the second half, tying the game at 50 with just over seven minutes to go in regulation.

The Cardinals quickly responded, as baskets from Joseph Kuo '17, Rashid Epps '16, and Davis put Wesleyan back up by seven with four minutes to go. However, after two minutes of scoreless basketball, Hamilton scored on three possessions in a row to take a one-point lead with just 47 seconds to go.

After a Wesleyan timeout, Jack Mackey '16 made a perfect pass from the top of the key to Epps under the basket, where Epps put his team back up with just 23 seconds to go. Hamilton missed a potential game-winning shot with seven seconds left, and Joe Edmonds '16 came down with the rebound before hitting two free throws to ice the game.

Edmonds said that right after winning Friday's game, he and his teammates were under the impression their team had just clinched a playoff spot.

"When you look at [the win] in context on Friday night, after we thought we were in the tournament, it was obviously a big win," Edmonds said. "It's still nice to build off of it going into next year, knowing that we've beaten Hamilton, the sixth seed. It's different; when you look at it in context on Friday when you think you've clinched, [the win] is a lot nicer than finding out two days later that it didn't mean as much."

The Cardinals faced off against Williams on Saturday afternoon with a chance to push themselves ahead of Tufts and Colby in the NESCAC standings. Earlier this year, the Ephs had defeated Wesleyan in Williamstown 91-74.

Although the two teams began the game trading blows to a 22-22 tie with just less than six minutes left in the first half, Williams began to pull away and opened up a double-digit lead by halftime. Though the Cardinals cut the lead down to 10 multiple times in the second half, they were unable to complete a comeback as the season came to a close.

"Offensively, I thought we played well," Edmonds said. "Their zone defense didn't give us much trouble, but Williams just outscores people. It's not that they have anyone more talented, but their style of play is centered on scoring the ball. You really have to put up a fight defensively to beat them."

Harry Rafferty '17 noted that the game was representative of the season as a whole.

"I think that game sums up a lot of what our season was like," he said. "[Williams] had a lot of timely offensive rebounds in that game, and a lot of times this season it felt like it was an untimely offensive rebound, an untimely turnover, or an untimely foul. We've played in a lot of close games this year that haven't gone our way."

The Cardinals finished the season 11-13 overall with a 4-6 in-conference record, which was the same NESCAC record as the seventh and eighth seeds, Tufts and Colby, respectively. The victory against Hamilton guaranteed that Wesleyan would have the same, if not better, in-conference record as Tufts and Colby. However, the first tiebreak criteria were the head-to-head results during the regular season; though Wesleyan beat Tufts, the Cards lost to Colby, who in turn lost to Tufts on Friday night. Because the three teams went 1-1 against each other, a second tiebreaker was needed.

"Since each team posted four conference wins, results against the league's top four teams were compared," the official NESCAC website reported in its seeding release on Sunday night. "Colby and Tufts each went 1-3, while Wesleyan was 0-4, eliminating the Cardinals from contention."

Even though Wesleyan did not make the playoffs this year, Rafferty proposed that this year represented a year of growth for the Cardinals. Heading into this season, Wesleyan had lost its top 3 scorers from last year; 10 of the 15 Cardinals on this year's roster were underclassmen.

"I think if I had to put this season into one word, I'd say 'growth,'" Rafferty said. "We had such a young team, with so many guys who had little to no college basketball experience, that we had to learn a lot and learn on the fly. Along with growth, I'd say optimistic. I think we have so much talent and so much heart on this team."

Edmonds agreed with his teammate's assessment and is ready to take the court with more experience when the men's basketball team kicks off the 2014-15 season.

"On paper we're young," Edmonds said. "But at the same time, I think we're all battle-tested more than the Amherst and Williams underclassmen who didn't play at all this year. I think that sets us up nicely to have a few years to put it all together."

Wrestling Wins Twice at Silloway

By Tobias Thor Lichtenstein
Staff Writer

The wrestling season is coming to a close, and teams are attempting to gain momentum going into the postseason. Therefore, it's no surprise that coming into the weekend, the wrestlers all knew that this home dual meet would be one of their most important matches.

"It's obviously important to defend our home turf, but the most important thing for us was making sure that we had a solid performance before Northeast Regionals," said Robert Rosenberg '17. "I think it's safe to say that we were successful in that regard."

The wrestlers were able to go 2-1 in their only home meet as they battled against Johnson & Wales, Hunter College, and SUNY Oswego. Several members of Wesleyan's squad had outstanding outings, and the overall effort of the team was evident; the Cardinals came out with a winning record in every weight class except for 125.

"Our team performed really well," said Captain Ryan Sblendorio '15. "We've been facing a lot of tough competition, but this is exactly what we need going into the end of the season."

The teams that showed up to Silloway Gymnasium on Sunday, Feb. 16 certainly came to compete; Oswego and Hunter both put up quite the fight, and Johnson & Wales is ranked 16th in the nation.

"Our team is very bottom-heavy, as we have a good amount of freshmen and sophomores," said James Hamilton '16. "But guys are really starting to come into their own, and are winning close matches. This kind of preparation will really matter once we get to Nationals."

Despite giving up a forfeit at the 125-pound weight class, Wesleyan wrestled tough against Johnson & Wales. Taran Carr '16 started things off with a tightly contested match that he ended up losing by one point; Sblendorio was able to get six points for the Cardinals after an injury default. However, Johnson & Wales was able to recover shortly after, and ended up beating the Cardinals 30-15. Oswego and Hunter were up next, and Wesleyan's grapplers were able to capture victories with scores of 26-15 and 38-9, respectively.

Seniors Alex Cannon, Troy Sampson and Nick Truer were all honored in a ceremony prior to the meet, and Cannon went on to win his only match of the day in a dominating performance.

"Alex Cannon won the most improved wrestler during his time on the team and is always working hard," said Head Wrestling Coach Drew Black. "He's a class act."

Overall, the majority of Wesleyan's starting lineup is sitting at just over .500, and spirits remain optimistic for the upcoming regional tournament, as well as the New England Wrestling Association Futures tournament this Sunday, Feb. 23.

"The Futures tournament is important, as it trains our younger and less-experienced wrestlers for bigger things in the future," Black said. "Most of our guys who do well in that tournament go on to bigger and better things in the future."

The Cardinals will have the privilege of hosting the Northeast Regional Championship in the Bacon Field House in two weeks, and it seems that Wesleyan is peaking at exactly the right time.

Men's Puck Splits Maine Trip

By Gili Lipman
Assistant Sports Editor

With two wins last weekend, the men's hockey team would have had a stellar chance to take control of the fourth and final spot for a playoff game on home ice. Instead, after a weekend of tough, hard-fought hockey, the Cardinals are still in need of a win (or a Hamilton loss) in their final two games in order to lock up the final overall playoff seed. The team started the weekend off strong, defeating the Mules in Waterville by a score of 5-2.

"I thought we played well," said Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach Chris Potter. "We came out at Colby and had a great first period on the road."

After the opening period, the Cardinals were leading 1-0 on a rebound that was put in by Brad Improta '14 off a wraparound attempt by Captain Keith Buehler '14. Despite trailing in the game, the Mules dominated play for the first half of the second period and eventually scored an equalizer. Colby's control faltered after the team failed to convert on a power play midway through the period.

"We had to kill a five-on-three in the second period, and after that, we had the three goals in under a minute," Potter said. "That flurry of goals really started with our line of Vorel ['17], Oujevolk ['17], and Collins ['14], who had a great shift prior to the three goals. Four to one to start the period and we scored a power play goal, which took the wind out of their sails."

Each of the three goals was scored by different lines, as Buehler, James Kline '17, and Terence Durkin '16 all scored within a minute of each other. After Durkin put in a one-timer from the right wing circle off assists from Jaren Taenaka '16 and Cole Morrissette '17, the Colby goalie was pulled. Buehler would later add a second goal on the evening, going short side over the right blocker on the power play.

"I think we have always had confidence that we can score," Potter said. "Having the balance of a good offense and being able to play defense is the trick for us. Good structure will create offense, and our skill will take over."

Unfortunately for the Cardinals, they failed in phase two of their road trip to Maine, losing to Bowdoin in overtime by a score of 4-3. It's the second time this season that Wesleyan has held a two-goal advantage over the Polar Bears, but still managed to lose the game.

"That is my one concern with a young team," Potter said. "I want to let them play, but there needs to be a better understanding of what it takes to win and how to play in the key moments of the game. We are getting better, but there is room for improvement."

After allowing a goal in the opening minutes of the game, Wesleyan came back with two goals of its own, scored by Buehler and Robby Harbison '17, the first of his career. Just four minutes into the second period, Wesleyan would take a commanding 3-1 lead after Taenaka scored off an assist from Durkin. After this goal, Bowdoin would have the last laugh, scoring the final three times in the game. The deciding goal came with just 15 seconds left in overtime, when Matt Sullivan put the puck past Dawson Sprigings '17 to give Bowdoin the victory.

When asked about possible future playoff games, Potter declined to look past next week's matchups against Trinity.

"Well, we are not in the playoffs today, and there is still lots of work to do," Potter said. "Right now, we are focused on Trinity and improving on our last weekend."

Despite the potentially demoralizing loss to Bowdoin, the Cardinals will have to have a short-term memory, because if they don't take care of business against Trinity, they could be sitting on the sidelines come playoff time.

"I think our confidence is good," Potter said. "Two points on the Maine trip is always good. We had a goal to improve on our record the first time through the league (2-6) and we went 4-3-1 with two overtime losses with only our travel partner games left."

Fighting for its playoff spot, the team will be back in action in Hartford on Friday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. against Trinity. Both teams will travel back to Middletown for a 3 p.m. game the next day. The Redbirds will have to stay levelheaded and play to their strengths if they want to come out victorious against the conference's top team.

"First, we want to play with the confidence we have developed over the past two weeks and try to improve on our play in a tight game whether we are behind or we are up," Potter said. "Secondly, we have to be aware of some of their guys. I am not sure if they are all on one line, but they have a few guys who are having monster years offensively, and it's no surprise that they are in first going into the last weekend. I think both teams have a lot to play for. They are playing for league championship, and we still need another win to control our playoff spot."

Squash: Wins Over Colby, GW

Continued from front page

Zander Nassikas '14 and number nine Alexander Kamisher '17 their opponents, it seemed as if it was just simply bad luck that got in the way of the Cardinals' title hopes.

"Losing to Brown was really tough," Hart said. "We had beaten them 5-4 earlier in the year, so we knew it would be really close this time. We lost some close matches, because, honestly I just don't think the ball rolled our way in this one. It could have been won by either team, and it's a shame we couldn't pull it out. What was missing this time was the fact that we just didn't win the close ones."

Ending up in the match for third place against the squad from George Washington University, the Cardinals were resolute in their efforts to end their season with a victory. The Birds dispatched their D.C.-dwelling opponents by a 6-3 score. Newcomer Hart capped off his freshman season with another 3-0 win, reaching the 20-win mark for the season and setting a new Cardinals record to the delight of his captains.

"Chris Hart should be noted, as he had an incredible record this year, and was a very solid number 8 and 7 throughout the season," Moritz said. "He could always be counted on to win his match."

However, a young squash player wise beyond his freshman status, Hart recognizes that individual wins alone do not necessarily make for a complete season.

"I don't have much to say about breaking the record for most wins," Hart said. "I was made aware of the fact that I was close a week before the national tournament, so it had never really been a priority for me. I just wanted to help the team win no matter what it took. Obviously I am very happy, but it really wasn't my main focus, and I would rather focus on the team success rather than my individual success."

In addition to Hart's record-breaking play, the Cardinals were greatly aided in their last match of the season by the final performance from their captain and four-year number one John Steele.

"John Steele's performance against GW was outstanding, coming from 2-1 down to win in a very tight five-game match to complete his amazing four-year career here at Wesleyan in which he played number one in every one of his matches and came through in the clutch numerous times with impressive and dominant wins at number one, as one of the best players in the NESCAC," said Moritz.

The Cardinals' three senior captains, Steele, Moritz and Nassikas leave behind infinitely more than their already impressive 15-8 record suggests. Under their leadership the Cardinals managed to immediately incorporate and utilize their youth to cement a solid foundation for the years to come.

Women's Hoops Loses Two in Final Weekend

By Toby Rosen
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team lost for its fourth straight time in its season-worst game on Friday, Feb. 14, falling feebly to Hamilton (11-12, 4-6 NESCAC) 60-43 at Silloway Gymnasium. The Cardinals won the opening tip and started the game on a 6-0 run. Everything was ostensibly going Wesleyan's way until the Continentals started shooting three-pointers and decided they weren't going to miss.

The Cardinals' Achilles' heel all season long has been defending the three, and this game was no different. Hamilton drained its first three attempts from long range and didn't slow down. Of the Continentals' first 19 points, 18 came via the three-ball. After having the lead for the first eight minutes of the game, the Cardinals relinquished it at the 11:52 mark in the first half. They never led again.

At the hands of the Hamilton defense, the Cardinals rushed their shots and struggled to get enough open looks. One key to the Cards' first-half struggles was a scoring drought that took 8:29 off the clock, ending on a jumper by Cherkira Lashley '15 at the 6:46 mark to cut the deficit to 19-13. Wesleyan failed to bring the score any closer for the rest of the contest. Behind a stunning barrage of eight three-pointers in the first half, the Continentals cruised to a 31-22 halftime lead.

The Cardinals did not fare any better in the second half. Hamilton opened the half on a 14-5 run, swelling its lead to 45-27 at the 16:11 mark. Wesleyan pulled within one at the 4:08 mark after a couple of free throws by Captain Jenna Klaes '14, but the Cards couldn't find the momentum to complete a comeback.

Wesleyan scored its second-lowest number of points of the season and allowed 11 three-pointers, tying with us season worst. Captain KellyAnn Rooney '14 paced the Cardinal offense with a modest 11 points. Brenna Diggins '17 corralled a team-high eight rebounds, while Klaes added four steals.

Head Women's Basketball Coach Kate Mullen gave credit to Hamilton, but also seemed frustrated with her team's effort after the loss.

"Hamilton responded to our good start," Mullen said. "Hamilton was playing up to the team that played Amherst so tough and Tufts so tough. I think Hamilton came in realizing that they had to bring their A-game to beat us and we certainly did not. We had a week with some distractions and it certainly showed tonight on the court. I don't think we showed our usual characteristic fight. I don't think we responded enough in a timely way, and we didn't get enough plays from our usual playmakers."

The losing streak did not end for the Cardinals (12-11, 3-7 NESCAC) in their regular-season finale at home on Saturday, Feb. 15 against Williams (20-4, 6-4 NESCAC). Wesleyan took the 15th-ranked Ephs to the brink, but ultimately came up just short, losing 76-71 in overtime.

Despite adding to their loss column, the Cardinals showed better energy and resiliency than in their game against Hamilton, overcoming an early 10-2 deficit and then some, taking a 31-22 lead to the locker room at halftime.

Williams came out firing to start the second half, going on a 9-0 run to tie the score 31-31 at the 17:18 mark. After this, neither team could establish control; there were six lead changes in the second half. Rooney came through with a clutch basket with 29 seconds remaining to tie the score 63-63. Neither team scored again before regulation drew to a close and the game went into overtime. After a dagger three by Williams with 12 seconds left in OT, a costly turnover by the Cardinals, and a pair of game-sealing free throws by the Ephs, Wesleyan was left with its fifth-straight loss.

It was Rooney's final career home game, and she played like it, scoring a career-high-tying 22 points to go along with a career-best 8 rebounds. Lashley added 11 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double.

The Ephs committed a lot of petty larceny, coming up with 16 steals—the most against the Cardinals all season. Wesleyan also allowed a season-high 76 points on 72 field goal attempts.

The eighth-seeded Cardinals head into their first-round NESCAC tournament matchup at top-ranked Tufts (23-1, 10-0 NESCAC) on Saturday, Feb. 22 as huge underdogs. What can the Cards do to pull the upset and end their losing streak? Coach Mullen thinks it starts with focus.

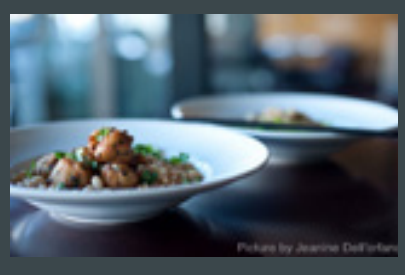
"Focus on the possession in front of them," Mullen said. "Five people, whether it's the offensive possession or defensive possession. And also understanding that it's not going to be the seniors doing it all, that we need five people, whoever is out on the court, doing their part."

COREY SOBOTKA/PHOTO EDITOR

Jenna Klaes '14 nabbed four steals against Hamilton, but her defense wasn't enough for women's basketball to come up with a win.

Mecca of Vegetarian Cooking

We extended our menu, more than 17 vegan and vegetarian friendly dishes.



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