

NOAH MERTZ/PHOTO EDITOR

**Students circle up on Foss with RAs and Orientation Leaders as Arrival Day unfolds. Plenty more Foss days lie ahead for the 757 members of the class of 2018.**

## Orientation, Behind the Scenes: Mapping Out 2018’s Arrival

By Jess Zalph  
*Features Editor*

By now, you are certainly starting to know what orientation is like from a student perspective: luggage, smiling, tired muscles, speed friending, occasional speed dating, advice, confusion, excitement and sleep deprivation. There is, however, another side to orientation: a network of over 50 people who have helped run orientation and who have prepared for it over the last five months.

Spearheaded by Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development/New Student Orientation Elisa Cardona and Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development Gretchen LaBonte, the orientation team includes four Orientation Interns

and 30 Orientation Leaders. Many administrators, notably 2018’s class dean Marina Melendez, also played important roles in planning and organizing elements of orientation.

Although problems inevitably arise during such a complicated event, Cardona said the orientation schedule is perfected weeks in advance to make sure new students and families arrive on campus to a stress-free first day.

“We work two weekends in a row, all to make sure that everything for the first year students is ready, even if on the backend there are things we are cleaning up, and families feel welcome when they get here, and they feel like everything is smooth,” Cardona said. She added with a laugh, “Even if in back I’m screaming and freaking out.”

In March, the Orientation Committee began its preparations for

new students. While on maternity leave last semester, Cardona compiled the complete summer mailing booklet, with information about a wide array of campus resources. During June, July, and the first two weeks of August, Cardona, along with LaBonte and the four OIs ordered all the supplies necessary for orientation, edited and revised the orientation handbook (to save paper, only international students received hard copies), reserved spaces for orientation events, planned meals, and organized the training for the OLs.

The OIs have been working since June to plan the events of International Student Orientation (ISO) and New Student Orientation

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## Dear Artsy, How Do I Get Involved With Arts at Wesleyan?

By Gabe Rosenberg, Dan Fuchs and William Donnelly  
*Arts Editors, Assistant Arts Editor*

For incoming freshmen, and for all of the upperclassmen who’ve been around the block a few times, Wesleyan’s expansive arts scene offers community, excitement, entertainment, and even a way of life. Whether you directed the senior musical in high school or just sing in the shower, the school offers more than you can handle, and it can be a little overwhelming to know where to start. The Arts staff gathered together to answer your questions and inquiries about how to approach the arts scene at Wesleyan.

**Dear Artsy,**

I came to this school for one reason and one reason only: To hear some

chill tunes played by chill bands at chill venues, while I’m chilling with my chill crew. Where do I get my chill on?

Signed,  
Chill Homey Is Lacking Live Sounds

**Dear C.H.I.L.L.S.,**

You’re in luck. Wesleyan has an incredibly vibrant and active concert scene, with both national touring acts and our very own collection of first-rate student bands. A normal week on campus has at least one of these concerts a night, Thursday through Saturday, if you know where to look. Eclectic, Psi U, and the WestCo Cafe are the three major venues for national acts such as Titus Andronicus, How to Dress Well, Mac DeMarco, Wye Oak, Mykki Blanco, Lelf, and Danny Brown, with student bands regularly opening the shows. You’ll also find student bands playing in senior

houses or in courtyards outside.

Starting a student band is easy. Just find some friends who can play instruments, more or less, and pick a punny name. Wesleyan also runs various ensembles—orchestra, choir, jazz band—that have corresponding classes, and offers private lessons for pretty much anything. We also have more a cappella groups per capita than is recommended by most health professionals.

Back to shows. Larger acts—like Cam’ron or Christopher Owens—will play in Beckham Hall or Memorial Chapel, which is generally less dance-oriented than a Greek house. If world music and jazz is your jam, the Center for the Arts hosts events pretty much

**ARTSY**, page 5

## Guide to Activism Presents Alternative to Institutional Narrative

By Sofi Goode  
*News Editor*

Prior to the start of the semester, two students published a DisOrientation guide, a 20-page document designed to present a narrative of important school issues to new students. The guide covers a range of topics, from trans\* discrimination to labor issues on campus to divestment. The publication was available for download on the University Organizing Center (UOC) website beginning Thursday, Aug. 21.

Abby Cunniff ’17 spearheaded the project after finding similar guides made by students at universities such

as UC Santa Cruz and Columbia. The publication had three editors—Cunniff, Claire Marshall ’17, and Amy Mattox ’17—as well as numerous contributors from a variety of activism-based student groups at the University.

“This is a way to connect the activist community, make it a little bit more like all of the groups are contributing to something,” Cunniff said. “Our goal is to present an alternative narrative to freshmen based on the experiences of people who have lived in our community....[The institution] can present their version of Wesleyan history, of Wesleyan activism, of what Wesleyan is

**DISORIENTATION**, page 3

## Cardinals to Watch This Fall Season

By Brett Keating  
*Sports Editor*

With the fall sports season approaching, we will quickly learn who are the haves and who are the have-nots of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC). While they, too, crowd the streets of Fountain, waste hours on Netflix, and would never ever swipe right to that Person (unless it’s a Friday night), they also defend the name of the Old Methodists against our bitter rivals across the ’Cac. Here, you will learn more about these protectors of pride, and those you should expect to see in the Argus headlines this fall.

**Men’s Soccer:** The Cardinal footballers lost just two seniors to graduation last spring and are returning three all-NESCAC first-teamers. Eight rising seniors serve as a strong foundation for the squad, having all been a part of the

team’s 2011 Little Three title winners, their first outright win in nearly 20 years. Holding down the defensive unit is Co-Captain Ben Bratt ’15, who anchored the Cards in their eight shutouts last season and was named second-team all-New England. Bratt’s strong ability to disrupt shots in the backfield will prove invaluable in the coming season. Co-Captain and midfielder Daniel Issroff ’15 is looking to make a return in his senior year after missing much of last season with appendicitis. Last season’s anemic offense will surely benefit from Issroff’s deceptive moves through the attack.

**Women’s Soccer:** Coming off a season in which it managed a tie in five of its 10 conference matches, the biggest question mark for the women’s soccer team will be its ability to finish goals. Sarah Sylla ’17 was the only multi-goal

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### Jamba Juice Jamboree



EMMA DAVIS/FOOD EDITOR

**This colorful equipment foretells a new supply of smoothies for students on the go. For more on the addition to the Usdan Cafe, see page 10.**







# DisOrientation: Publication Teaches Freshmen About Activism on Campus

Continued from front page

and will be, but we want to present this other narrative so there's room for you to [realize] not everything the institution says is fact."

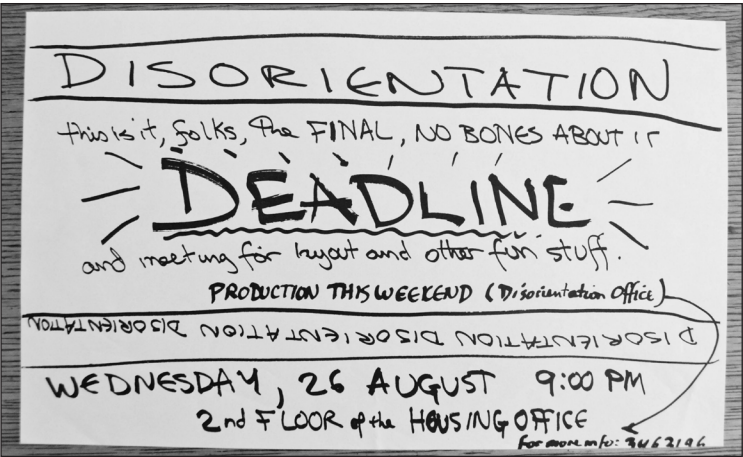
Cunniff said that one of her main goals was to help new students find their way in the activist community and avoid some of the problems she experienced during her first year.

"I struggled so much last year, and I don't want [them] all to struggle," Cunniff said. "I think that if I had figured out how these groups related to each other and had felt like there was a community of people working together, I would have felt a lot more secure and been more effective earlier."

Marshall stressed that although the guide is called DisOrientation and was published shortly before the start of New Student Orientation, it was not written with only the Class of 2018 in mind; rather, it was intended for all students.

"This is a response to what our experience was, and the goal is very much to have something central and consolidated, simplified, so that a new student coming in or a current student that already knows Wesleyan but maybe doesn't often get involved in these ways [has something] to pull it all together," Marshall said. "It's a whole community guide for all of Wesleyan, even extending to all of Middletown. There are lots of relevant things that go beyond incoming freshmen. This is a guide for everybody, by everybody."

The most recent DisOrientation guide before this year's was published at the University 15 years ago. Throughout the University's past, DisOrientation has been produced



**Disorientations of years past: a poster invites students to contribute to the Disorientation guide in The Hermes. Photograph of item held by Wesleyan University, Special Collections and Archives, Middletown CT 06459.**

in a variety of ways, most recently from 1982 to 1999 as the September issue of The Hermes. These editions focused on key issues at the time, such as gay rights, nuclear power, and divestment from South African companies in protest of Apartheid.

Previous DisOrientation guides covered several similar topics as the 2014 guide. The 1989 version discussed sexual assault at fraternities in depth, as does the current guide.

"Though an extremely high percentage of [sexual assaults] occur in fraternity houses or are perpetrated by fraternity members, some have argued that fraternities cannot be blamed for the actions of their individual members," reads the Sept. 1, 1989 edition of The Hermes. "Yet the University, through its support of all-male fraternities (WSA funding), condones acts of harassment and intimidation when committed in the context of a fraternity func-

tion (such as a pledge ritual), and refuses to take effective action to punish offenders after it has been proven that an incident has occurred."

The 2014 guide's passage about sexual assault in regard to Greek life is similar in some respects.

"Over last spring break, President Roth sent out an email announcing the lawsuit against Psi U, and questioning 'what role, if any, residential fraternities will have on our campus in the future,'" the disorientation guide reads. "The revelation that a student had been raped in the Psi U common room in public precipitated a tremendous wave of student outrage."

Cunniff hopes to revive the disorientation tradition and continue producing guides in future years, building on the material from the current document.

"I've been emailing a lot of my professors asking for feedback on how we can improve the guide next year," Cunniff said. "We're definitely not using this as a stopping point.... We're really hoping that we build on this model and continue it next year."

Both Cunniff and Marshall stated that the general reaction to the guide has been positive. However, the editors have been contacted by parties expressing concern about new students feeling alienated by the narrative that the guide presents.

"One of our primary goals is to make it feel more inclusive and really emphasize that it is not only these groups that have set structures and set missions and aren't open to change," Marshall said. "It's people, students, wanting to help and organizing in order to do so. It's really so open to anyone who wants to contribute or has anything to give. We want everyone to feel that it's a fluid space that can be anything. It's only whatever we make it, and it's a product of whoever is involved, and anyone can be involved."

Cunniff further stressed that the guide is an important part of introducing new students to the activist community and is not meant to deter or discourage anyone from participating in any aspect of University life.

"I really love Wesleyan, and obviously I wouldn't have put this much time and effort into [the guide] if I didn't love Wesleyan, and I didn't think that it could be so much better," Cunniff said.

# Administration Discusses Safety in Fraternities



**Fraternities have taken initiative to make their houses safer spaces, but some students on campus say more still needs to be done.**

By Millie Dent  
News Editor

This past spring, the Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA) passed two resolutions, both geared toward eradicating sexual assault in fraternity houses but each with different strategies. On April 21, the assembly passed Resolution B, which calls for the fraternities with houses on campus to become coeducational; on May 3, it then passed Resolution D, recommending increased regulation of Greek life on campus. Since then, members of the University have been evaluating the steps that should be taken moving forward.

Resolution D elaborated upon the suggestions made in B, calling for the creation of an Office of Greek Life, Greek Life Safety Standards, and a Greek Life Judicial Board, which would discipline and police members of Greek organizations in addition to the Student Judicial Board (SJB).

"[The WSA] calls upon the Wesleyan administration to renew program-housing status to any currently housed fraternity that, by the end of Fall 2014, becomes co-educational in constitution and demonstrates a clear and swift plan of action to become substantively in membership and residence, beginning with an initial co-educational pledge class in Spring 2015," Resolution B reads.

At the beginning of the summer, Roth discussed both resolutions with the Board of Trustees. In August, Roth said that after much discussion, the Board asked him to receive more input on the issue before the next meeting in September, at which point a decision will likely be made.

"I've been thinking about it according to two axes," Roth said. "The first has to do with equity and inclusion, and the second has to do with safety and risk. I will be talking to the Board about principles involved in regards to equity and inclusion and then the practicalities of safety and risk."

Roth spoke about the progress the University has made with regard to sexual assault policy following the student uproar in the spring.

"I think we've made real progress

in creating a system where a survivor of a sexual assault will get the support that person needs and also have a process that is respectful and fair to the survivor and fair to whoever is accused, being the perpetrator," Roth said. "I think that awareness that this is something to be reported rather than something to be hidden is really key."

Terence Durkin '16, President of Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE), believes that DKE is becoming better equipped to deal with sexual assault and attempting to become a space where all students on campus feel safe.

"The brothers of DKE are ready to be leaders in creating a safer and more secure campus," Durkin wrote in an email to The Argus. "Regarding the issues of sexual assault and binge drinking, we have taken steps to set up and fund professionally led sexual assault and alcohol abuse awareness programs."

Beta Theta Pi (Beta), too, has made changes for the coming year.

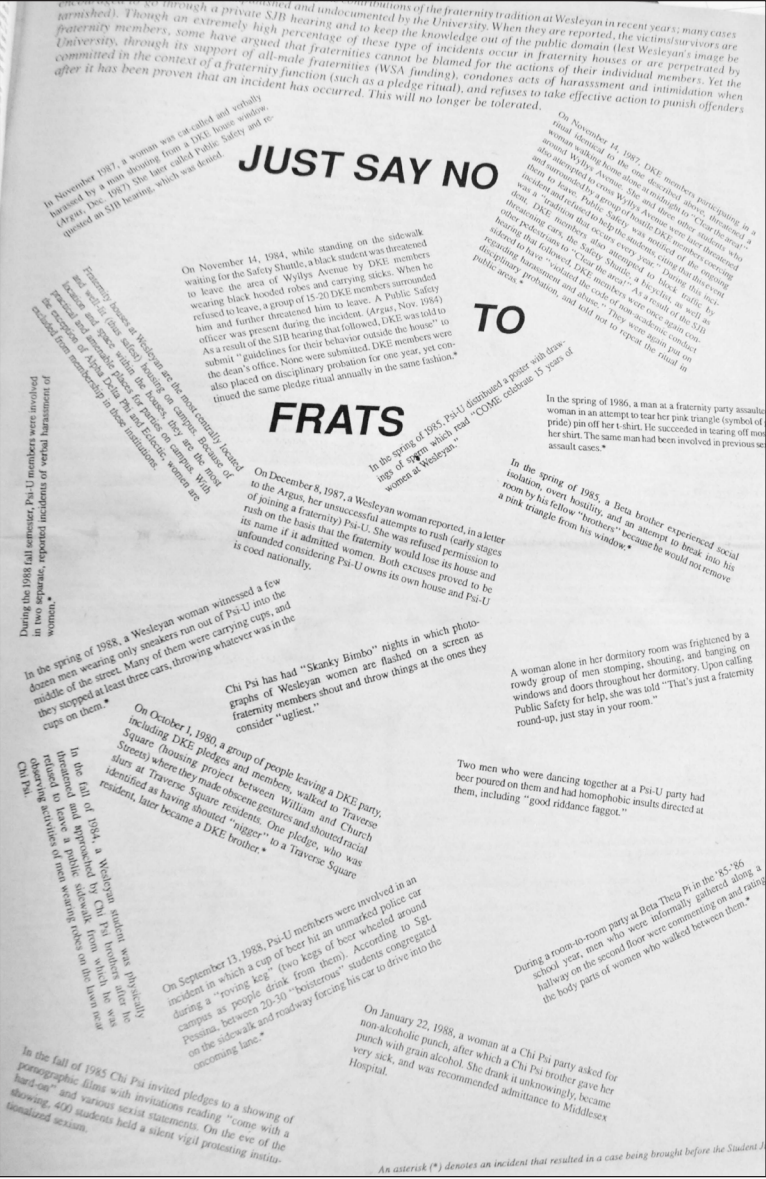
"We plan to have designated sober brothers at every function we hold," Beta president Niall Devaney '16 wrote in an email to The Argus. "These brothers will act as contacts for any visitor who needs help with any situation. Further, last year we began to hire outside security guards who help ensure that not only our house rules are being followed, but that everybody in the space is as safe as possible."

Both Niall and Durkin also mentioned that Greek life housing is now accessible by Public Safety, unlike in the past.

Other fraternities were contacted for comment but did not respond before the publication deadline.

Roth addressed the paradox that reported sexual assaults pose on campus.

"I would much prefer that there were no sexual assaults at Wesleyan, but if there were no reports about sexual assaults, I would really think that we were simply ignoring something that was happening, and so the fact that there are reports gives me courage to think that we have a better chance of eradicating sexual assault because people are willing to deal with it rather than hide it," Roth said.



**A page of the Disorientation Guide in a 1989 edition of The Hermes. Photograph of item held by Wesleyan University, Special Collections and Archives, Middletown CT 06459.**

**"She's basically the Kardashian of Wes 2015."**

## NOMINATE A WESCELEB

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## ARTS

## Arts Staff Album Picks: Songs of the Summer

Where there's a song, there's an opinion, and the summertime is flush with new music—almost too much to digest. The Argus Arts staff got together to discuss which albums caught our ear.

### Brill Bruisers by The New Pornographers

By Gabe Rosenberg

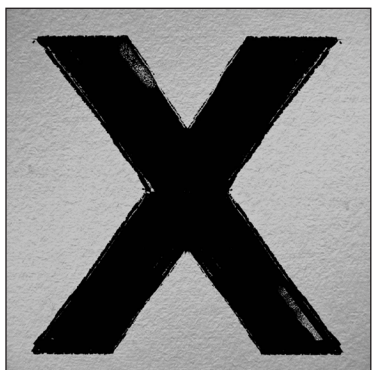


C/O CDN4.PITCHFORK.COM

It's been four long, arduous years since the last New Pornographers release and seven since the last truly great one. The Canadian power-pop supergroup, featuring the talents of Neko Case, Dan Bejar, and AC Newman, is like a high-octane muscle car at its best, and on Brill Bruisers, the group sounds polished and raring to go. After two reserved-ish albums, Brill Bruisers opens right up with a maximalist blast of fuzz guitar, "bah-boh" choruses, and slick hooks. For Pornos veterans, this album will feel like a sister to 2003's Electric Version, and to newcomers, this album will feel like nothing else out there. No band's choruses are louder, melodies catchier, or vocals more powerful. Case, the alt-country siren, leads on the exquisite "Champions of Red Wine" and "Marching Orders," and Bejar's weirdness has never sounded more authoritative and powerful than "War on the East Coast." The slower tunes don't let down, either; vocoder-laced "Backstairs" is one of the most sonically striking songs the Pornos have recorded. After such a terrible drought, our cup now overfloweth.

### X by Ed Sheeran

By Sharifa Lookman



C/O JOSEPVINAIXA.COM

Perhaps out of some love for math, Ed Sheeran titled his latest album X (pronounced "multiply"), the successive album to the 2011 release of + (pronounced "plus"). Either that, or the Brits just love to boast their intelligent handling of all subjects (in an accent, of course). Regardless of any questionable pomp or irrelevance in the title, the album

is true to its name and delivers a rather large and successful product.

This album is a pastiche of musical tastes, illustrating Sheeran's experimentation with his musical identity. It boasts organic and exposed tracks, such as "I'm A Mess" and "Photograph," in which candid lyrics and raw acoustics mingle to create a unique intimacy with the listener. In nearly all of his tracks, Sheeran experiments with a personal approach, creating what appear to be semi-autobiographical narratives. This is seen in the radio hit "Don't," a paranoid ramble on the woes of cheating and lost love. Sheeran takes a more profound approach to personal history in songs such as "Bloodstream" and "Runaway," where stories of addiction and escape are made sharp and palpable. Despite the autobiographical undertones, even if dramatized, Sheeran speaks to issues that are universal. In proving himself an honest lyricist, Sheeran extends his repertoire of musical tools in his effort to portray a wide range of emotions.

Here, Sheeran has stationed himself in a rather precarious place, straddling multiple musical genres. Though somewhat tainted by its pop categorization and followings of tween girls, in this album, Sheeran is a true artist who alters his canvas with a vulnerability and grit that inspires reality.

### Strange Desire by Bleachers

By Gwendolyn Rosen



C/O EARBUDDY.NET

Strange Desire is an exploration of the past, present, and future. In Jack Antonoff's first album as Bleachers, his side project (but not a replacement, thank goodness) to fun., he travels through different eras of both his music career and rock music at large. The album contains plenty of anthem pop songs that echo Antonoff's allegiance to fun. "I Want To Get Better," the first single off the album, has a chant-a-long chorus that makes you feel like you have your hands in the air at a sold-out concert even if you're listening alone with headphones, a feat that captures the essence of Nate Ruess. Similarly, the guitar solo in "Who I Want You to Love" sounds like the sequel to fun.'s "Stars." Antonoff avoids simply continuing his past music endeavors by sprinkling both '80s and more modern electro-pop throughout Strange Desire. "Wake Me" belongs in the sad montage of a Brat Pack movie (in the best way possible). "You're Still a Mystery" has a classic "whoa-oh-oh" chorus and a running beat that also bor-

rows from the in-vogue sounds of the '80s. Strange Desire balances these old-school sounds with futuristic touches, particularly in Grimes' feature in "Take Me Away." Past and future come together seamlessly in "I'm Ready to Move On/Wild Heart Reprise," beginning with Yoko Ono singing a beautifully raw revamp of her song with John Lennon "Listen, The Snow is Falling," and transitioning into a robotic repeat of the album's first track, "Wild Heart."

However, the album truly shines on tracks such as "Like a River Runs," which keeps the euphoric tone of the beginning of the album, but allows Antonoff to get a touch more personal. Each verse seems to bring Antonoff away from the stadium stage and on ground level, as he confides that he is ready for change. (After reading his feature in New York Magazine, this acceptance of growing up carries more weight.) If anything, "Strange Desire" proves that Antonoff should definitely keep trying new things, as long as he promises to reunite with Ruess at the end of the summer.

### 1000 Forms of Fear by Sia

By Ali Jamali



C/O PRETTYMUCHAMAZING.COM

Originality is scarce in today's music industry. Nowadays, there are songwriters who write lyrics like they're merely homework assignments, and there are singers who pay attention to nothing but publicity. Among the few well-known artists who still value originality, Sia Furler stands out as the mastermind behind hits like Rihanna's "Diamonds" and Beyoncé's "Pretty Hurts." Her songs have been sung by entertainers ranging from Christina Aguilera to Celine Dion.

The title of her latest album, 1000 Forms of Fear, is fairly self-explanatory in content. It's a journey into Sia's fear, desperation, and darkness with shades of hope. Sia's not afraid to open up about her feelings, and in fact, the album is an interactive experience for its listeners; it allows you to put on your headphones, close your eyes, and lose yourself in Sia's world. "Chandelier" is the centerpiece of the album, where Sia's vocals are at their best, and it serves as an amazing intro to a dark album with serious content. Songs such as "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Free The Animal" and "Cellophane" are a great showcase of Sia's ability to fit diverse musical genres into a single album.

### Owl John by Scott Hutchison

By Michael Darer



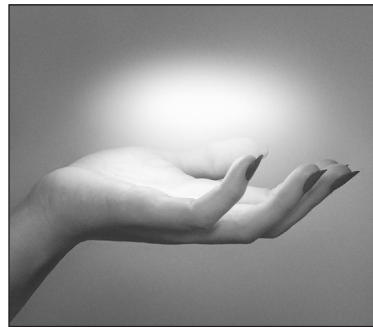
C/O MUSICOMH.COM

Owl John, the first album released by Scott Hutchison (the lead guitarist and songwriter of indie outfit Frightened Rabbit) for his solo project of the same name, came out somewhat quietly at the beginning of August. In many ways, that's befitting the record itself, which is made up of the sort of small, smoldering anthems that have speckled Hutchison's work with Frightened Rabbit. Each track seems to bend under the weight of its subject, and Hutchison's voice, which sounds weary and eroded even during joking mid-show speeches, crackles across the lyrics, which themselves seem to stagger—a sort of harsh, blunt poetry.

While the album is far from perfect—it at times seems both too experimental and too close to what Hutchison does with Frightened Rabbit—the raw emotional honesty and intricate arrangements imbue each song with a sort of sorrowful immediacy. On "Los Angeles, Be Kind," Hutchison brings to life a location that seems both visceral and abstract, spilling admissions and fears that ring true like the few moments of frail honesty that sneak in amongst the ramblings of a drunk trying to appear alright. As a result, even when the album feels derivative of Hutchison's other work, it still manages to feel wholly unique. That's always been his gift with Frightened Rabbit: writing songs that, if sung and played by anyone else, would appear stale, indulgent, or histrionic. But in Hutchison's voice, with his special brand of exultant desperation, the cliché becomes unique and personal and wounding.

### They Want My Soul by Spoon

By Dan Fuchs



C/O NOSGUSTALAMUSICA.COM

It's not fair. It's not fair that, after 20 years making stellar albums, Spoon is still this good. And They Want My Soul isn't just good; it's damn fantastic. Maybe I'm just sick of what seems to be an endless cycle of "buzzbands" and silly genre fads

(I'm sorry, but the word "chillwave" just shouldn't exist). Or maybe I've got a soft spot for the band (hint: I do). But They Want My Soul is rock music at its finest, all attitude and energy. Here, there are no frills. It's just a band at the top of their game making songs that feel of the moment and yet somehow timeless.

There's "Rent I Pay," which begins the album like a starter pistol. "Inside Out" capitalizes on Spoon's introspective side (instrumentally and lyrically) and adds a gorgeous harp solo to bring it all together. "Knock Knock Knock" is a song so infectious-ly cool that it might as well have a cigarette hanging out of its mouth. And then there's "Do You," a song with a pop skeleton but surprisingly dark undertones, lyrically filled with loss and confusion all while channeling a summery melody. It's the best thing Spoon's done since "The Underdog." Everything here came out three weeks ago, but it could have come out in 2004 or 1974 and sounded just as fresh as it does today. "All the sellers and palm readers want my soul," Britt Daniel sings on the album's title track. If this album is any indication, they never even came close to taking it.

### Complete Surrender by Slow Club

By Noah Mertz



C/O THEWILDHONEYPIE.COM

In the midst of the mid-summer heat, folk-pop duo Slow Club released its third studio album, Complete Surrender. Following the example of many of history's greatest albums, Slow Club creates a unique and enveloping sonic aesthetic full of boisterous big-band horn sections, shrill violin accents, and reverb-laden guitar chords straight out of the '70s. The album kicks off with "Tears of Joy," a happy-go-lucky jam, and rolls through the pageantry-filled "Suffering You Suffering Me," the jaunty optimism of "The Pieces," and the supremely catchy and anxiety-ridden synths of title track "Complete Surrender."

They also harken back to their street-performing roots on "Number One" and "Paraguay and Panama" by dropping the drums and relying on Charles Watson's guitar or piano chops, both of their impeccable song writing abilities, and the eerily perfect combination of their voices in harmony. These tracks could both reflect Slow Club's humbler beginnings, but could never fit into either of its prior albums; their slower songs have moved away from sweet odes to young love and have taken on a darker tone of social commentary, lamenting the "TV shows rewarding treachery," and a more cynical view of relationships, as expressed in the hidden final track "Fucking Feelings." If you like groovy disco bass, killer harmony, and heart-wrenching lyrics of love lost, check this album out.

## WASTE NOT!, WESLEYAN'S ANNUAL TAG SALE, IS THIS WEEKEND!

Come by the **TWO locations** to purchase donated items such as microwaves, mini fridges, couches, chairs, tables, kitchen appliances, school supplies, and more!  
At **58 Fountain** there will be larger items such as furniture, and **44 Brainerd** will have more appliances, room furnishings, miscellaneous kitchen supplies, rugs, etc.



# Artsy: Answering Your Questions About the Campus Arts Scene

Continued from front page

weekly at Crowell Concert Hall, the World Music Hall, or the CFA Theater. And, of course, there’s the annual Spring Fling, held right before finals week in May. That’s where we get the big names. We’ve had Big Boi, The Walkmen, The Roots, and, just this past year, Chance the Rapper and tUnE-yArDs. Say you don’t want to sit around and just wait to see if you’re going to be disappointed by the calendars, though. In that case, you can join the Concert Committee, Eclectic, and/or the Spring Fling Committee and start booking shows yourself. Personal request: Future Islands. Make that happen, please.

**Dearest Artsy,**

I am a freshman with great anticipation about attending this prestigious institution. As a potential major in the study of film, my favorite pieces of cinema are “Rashomon,” “Salló,” and “The Hangover: Part 3.” If creation is my desire, in what ways may I make this cinema my verité?

Sincerely,  
Relishing Entertainment  
Experts Love

**Dear R.E.E.L.,**

In terms of watching movies, the first place to go is the Film Series (also known as the Wesleyan Fucking Film Series). Made up of the student Film Board and advised by film-major staff, the series shows a combination of classics, modern blockbusters, and indie and foreign films. This semester’s highlights include “Clueless,” “Obvious Child,” “Jaws,” “Trapped in the Closet,” and “The Truman Show.” And those are just the ones that you might have heard of already. It runs Wednesday through Saturday, and Thursdays and Saturdays are free. There’s no real excuse not to go.

On the production side, there’s always space on senior theses to get involved, whether as a production assistant or as a larger role like cinematographer. If you want to become a film major, one of Wesleyan’s most popular and most world-renowned departments, you should get started now and let the department know you’re interested as soon as possible. In the meantime, before or at the same time you take the official film path classes, you can get involved in student groups and events like the Sophomore Film Collective or Campus MovieFest, making short

films from the bottom-up, on your own or with other students.

**Hi Artsy!**

I’m so so so excited about theater at Wesleyan! I did musicals all through school and just the idea of being on stage here—I can’t even. I want to write and direct and do lighting and sound and make puppets and clean up after the shows and draw on the programs and serve food to the audience and just give everyone hugs! How do I do any or all of these things, Artsy? You’re my new best friend, best friend!

Love and kisses,  
Stage Thespian Always Ready

**Dear S.T.A.R.,**

Where to even start? Second Stage produces, funds, and runs the vast majority of student-run theater. They’re located in the ’92 Theater on College Row. You can be a part of the staff, which means you can help decide what shows go up, but also means you do strike and setup for the productions and make sure everything runs smoothly. You’ll want to contact them to get onto the email list, and they’ll let people know when someone needs, say, a lighting designer for their show. Every semester, there will be more shows than you can attend—this season includes “Godspell,” “Othello,” and a bunch even we’ve never heard of—and auditions will begin getting advertised the first week of classes. Students also write and put up their own plays and musicals, which are performed in the ’92, WestCo Café, or really any venue. Last year, Second Stage put together an interactive theater experience that took up the entire Olin Library. So really, the possibilities are sky-high. If you’re new to theater, which I think you might be, you can also try out for the One Day Plays, which take place every semester. The University, besides running the many classes (fit for beginners and veterans alike) in the Theater Department, puts on its own show every semester. This semester, it’s the Pulitzer and Tony-winning “In the Heights,” written originally here by Lin-Manuel Miranda ’02.

**Hey Artsy,**

I don’t like music or film or theater. I still want to be involved. Will anyone ever love me?

Signed,  
Alternative Activities  
Around Here

**Dear A.A.A.H.,**

You’ve nothing to fear. Wesleyan’s arts scene is as diverse as your voice is loud, and what happens on campus changes semester-to-semester, and even week-to-week. Even if you’re not looking to do, chances are you’ll get caught up in the arts scene somehow. We have an incredible slam poetry team and group, WeSlam, that’s become more and more popular over the last few years. They host competitive slams every month for the first semester of the year to determine who makes the team, and then goes around to compete with other colleges in the spring. Meanwhile, for those who fear or dislike the very idea of judgment, WestCo and other venues host open mics year-round, and WeSlam hosts workshops and fun or themed slams in the spring. Visual and studio arts (as well as out-there performance arts) are also wonderful here. They’re done mostly through the Art Department and the various classes offered every year (chances are, you or someone you know will be sketching a full nude self-portrait for Drawing I soon), but you can see the art shows from students, professors, and professionals in the CFA’s Zilkha Gallery or even in the Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies.

Some of our favorite events on campus are the performances by Wesleyan’s many student comedy groups, ranging from short-form improv to long-form improv to sketch to sketch/a cappella. They perform a lot in the Nics Lounge, but you’ll see them pretty much everywhere, and shows are almost always packed. If you’re brave, like Assistant Arts Editor Billy Donnelly ’15 was his sophomore year, you can catch a 24-hour improv show in the spring. Comedy shows, like concerts, slams, and art shows, will be advertised on Facebook, Wesleyan’s website, Wesleying.org, and in The Argus.

Finally, Wesleyan does a great job bringing in artists, writers, performers, and other people in the arts world (as well as other disciplines) on campus to give talks, book readings, seminars, and even classes. Go hear the people you know, and go hear the people you don’t. Get out of your comfort zone. Try new things. Collaborate with friends; collaborate with strangers. Arts are fun, and arts are easy to try and experience. Arts keep Wesleyan weird, and so can you.

# Center for the Arts Fall Preview

By Dan Fuchs  
*Arts Editor*

Nowhere is Wesleyan’s overwhelming number of activities more apparent than at the Center for the Arts (CFA), which hosts and sponsors events ranging from lectures to full-scale performances. Jazz legends, photographers, dancers: they’ve all stopped by Wesleyan through the CFA. Don’t go through your four years here without taking advantage at least once of what we have to offer. Two years ago, I had the unique opportunity to see legendary photographer Gregory Crewdson deliver what was essentially a career retrospective. I’d never have had the opportunity to see that anywhere else. So here are a few events this semester that you’d be silly to skip out on, as recommended by CFA Director Pamela Tatge and CFA Press and Marketing Manager Andrew Chatfield.

**Planet Hip Hop**

“Planet Hip Hop” is part of the larger Muslim Women’s Voices Series, a collection of events taking place across the entire year that is meant to explore Muslim women’s lives and dispel hurtful stereotypes that have unfortunately become all too prevalent. “Planet Hip Hop” chooses to explore this through music. The day’s events include a number of talks and a collaborative performance from UK-based spoken-word group Poetic Pilgrimage and rappers and songwriters Meryem Saci and Maimouna Youssef.

**A World of Dreams:  
New Paintings by Tula Telfair**

The first in a number of years from Professor of Art Tula Telfair, this painting show specifically designed for the Zilkha Gallery places Telfair’s talent for landscapes on full display. These massive tableaux range from the realistic to the fantastic and are all totally fictional constructions. It’s

a show that will be sure to take advantage of the Zilkha Gallery’s unique space.

**In the Heights**

What more can I possibly say? It’s “In the Heights,” a touching tale of life in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York. Directed by Associate Professor of Theater Claudia Tate and Nascimento and with musical direction from Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music Nadya Potemkina, this is sure to be a highlight of the theater season. And it’s more than just a great show; boasting student involvement on multiple levels and collaboration between the Theater and Music Departments, this is going to be one of the most all-encompassing events of the CFA season. It’s a homecoming of sorts for the musical; the original play (albeit in a much different form) began its run during Lin-Manuel Miranda ’02’s time here at Wesleyan.

# The Idiot Box

## “Bob’s Burgers”



C/O STATIC.TUMBLR.COM

By Dan Fuchs  
*Arts Editor*

I’m about to break one of the rules of the Idiot Box: I’m going to talk about a network show that’s become pretty entrenched for the four years that it’s been on the air.

And you know why? Because “Bob’s Burgers” is my favorite show of all time. I love it more than “The Cosby Show,” or “True Detective,” or “M\*A\*S\*H,” or “The Sopranos.” So get ready. I’m about to get uncomfortably complimentary.

I imagine the pitch for “Bob’s Burgers” was relatively simple because the shell of the show is actually pretty derivative of the past 60 years of television comedy. Bob Belcher (H. Jon Benjamin, the voice of “Archer”) owns a restaurant he runs with his family. He has a wife, Linda (John Roberts), and three children, Tina (Dan Mintz), Gene (Eugene Mirman), and Louise (Kristen Schaal). They struggle to make ends meet and end up on zany adventures. Add or subtract any one element from that structure, and you could make everything from “The Honeymooners” to “Family Guy.” At its base level, it’s hardly a compelling show. And, to a certain extent, the first few episodes, while incredibly funny and well-written, are of a show that’s struggling to find its feet.

But when it found its feet, it became an unstoppable comedy juggernaut. By the end of the first season, these characters are defined not by their archetypes but as clear, complex individuals. In fact, it almost seems like creator Loren Bouchard actively wants to deconstruct the basics of television sitcom writing. Bob is hardly the uber-masculine, overcompensating father of sitcoms past; instead, he’s a shameful, shlubby mess. He’s even got a relatively fluid sexuality (and I don’t just mean men; cooked turkeys, too). Linda, the family matriarch, is not only one of the funniest characters on television, period, but an active part of the family business, often more motivated than Bob. If Bob looks at the glass half-empty, Linda looks at it totally full, and with a song in her heart. She’s much more capable than Bob, even if Bob’s got the culinary talent. There’s a fantastic give-and-take in their relationship, and it’s an absolute pleasure to see these characters weather what life gives them.

Their kids are just as well fleshed out. Tina, the eldest, is an awkward, gawky teenager. But she’s also an incredible optimist, looking at the horrors of pubescent life with a poise that most adults don’t even have. She’s not mired in adolescence; she’s ready for adulthood. Gene, by contrast, is the family jester, an odd, annoying child with a passion for farts and non sequiturs. He’s often confounded by the basics of socialization. And I don’t mean this as a negative; in fact, Gene’s my favorite character. Age him about 11 years and plop him in Middletown and he’s basically me. And then there’s Louise, a precocious elementary-schooler who cooks up insane schemes ranging from sneaking into a museum exhibit to opening an underground casino. The portrayal of children in “Bob’s Burgers” is so refreshing because the writers understand that childhood and adolescence are phases of constant transition. Yes, these characters are funny, but they’re very real to life, experiencing change on a relatively massive scale and looking at it with smiles on their faces.

Lastly, “Bob’s Burgers” makes an effort to make its revolutionary-ness unassuming. It’s an incredibly humble show. And what’s more, it’s incredibly sincere. Yes, there are moments of zany humor, like Tina’s fascination with butts or Bob’s love of turkeys, but there’s also an underlying sense of warmth. These characters care about each other and the world around them; for every moment of off-the-cuff humor, there’s a moment of genuine compassion that makes it all worth it. In the span of one episode, Gene ends up fondling boobs made of sand, Linda ends up in a picket line, and, in one of the show’s most touching moments, it’s revealed that Louise considers Bob her personal hero and wants to grow up to inherit the restaurant. Edgy shows are great, and shows like “It’s Always Sunny In Philadelphia” and “Louie” are some of the finest to ever grace television. But “Bob’s Burgers” is the perfect base to their acid. The optimism that these characters have toward a cruel world never ceases to inspire me (and make me laugh).

It’s shameful that more people aren’t watching “Bob’s Burgers.” But I’ve slowly realized that in every group of friends, there are one or two who rabidly love this show and do whatever they can to get people to watch. I’m that friend, and I’ll be that friend again now. If you’re feeling stressed, down, or lonely, pick up the remote and watch “Bob’s Burgers.” You won’t regret it.



# Look What I Did: I Directed a Musical



C/O ANDREW RIBNER

**Cole Chiumento '14 and Beanie Feldstein '15 starred in the 2013 Second Stage production of "Next to Normal."**

By Sarah Corey  
*Staff Writer*

I never thought I could direct a musical. Watch a musical as an engaged audience member? Sure! Sing along off-key to my classic musical playlist? No problem! But never actually direct one myself. It was a quiet dream I had tucked away in the deep recesses of my mind, and it remained there until the fall of my sophomore year. That was the semester that I spent simultaneously directing one play, stage managing another, and acting in a third, all through Second Stage, the student-run theater group. During a quiet moment at a rehearsal, a good friend and I found a secluded corner of the '92 Theater and shared in the most personal way theatre kids know how: we talked dream shows. We both mentioned the musical "Next to Normal," and of course my instinct was to brush it away, thinking, "Oh, but I could never..."

"Next to Normal" is a contemporary rock musical telling the story of a suburban mother with bipolar disorder and how it affects her family. Not only does it have an intricate score and dauntingly heavy subject matter, but I knew the production would require a great deal of time and attention to fulfill its large scale. I was sure that directing any musical was still just an unattainable fantasy.

But once that "Next to Normal" seed was planted, I couldn't stop it from growing. I couldn't stop thinking about how important the show was, the connection I felt to the story, or the creative ideas I had for bringing it to life at Wesleyan. I also thought about how I was able to handle working on three plays at once, so how much harder could it be to work on one musical? After a few days of mulling it over, I realized that my passion for the show outweighed any concerns over time commitments. With a decidedly "why the fuck not?" attitude, I began work to direct "Next to Normal" in the spring of my sophomore year.

As much as Second Stage offers such a free and fertile creative environment for fostering the most why-the-fuck-not-based ideas of Wesleyan's ambitious artists, the real world is unfortunately not quite as welcoming. In the spring, the joy of having assembled a talented cast and crew for "Next to Normal" was short-lived. The night after our first rehearsal, I learned that we had not received the rights to put it on, and the show would not go up. I was devastated.

If there's anything that a musical about surviving the emotional turmoil of mental illness will teach you, it's

that you can't give up. "Next to Normal" wasn't happening, but that didn't mean that I wouldn't be able to direct during that semester. I regrouped and refocused. I directed the David Ives collection of short plays "All in the Timing," which ended up being one of the most fun shows I've ever worked on. And all the while, I took advantage of the extra time to even more intricately plan a future production of "Next to Normal."

After "All in the Timing," with bated breath and crossed fingers, I once again applied to direct "Next to Normal," this time in the fall of my junior year. Second Stage approved the application, and we ended up with an even better date and venue for the show than we had the first time. That and the amazing experience I had working on the show that fall reaffirmed my belief that the way life plays out is "all in the timing" (pun intended), or at the very least, that things happen the way they are meant to happen.

"Next to Normal" consumed much of that semester. I spent afternoons examining characters with actors and WesWings brunches sketching sets with designers. We stayed up late into the night putting together light plots, perfecting choreography, and fine-tuning songs. I pushed myself in ways I never had before as I learned what it meant to truly commit myself to a project that sparks passion. And I could not be more proud of the end result: a beautifully realized show, thanks to the hard work of an extremely talented team.

In the end, directing a musical was just as hard as I thought it would be. But it was even more gratifying than I ever could have even imagined. Where else but at a place like Wesleyan could I say "why the fuck not?" to directing my dream show and be surrounded by the talent and resources to actually have it come to fruition? The process was by no means perfect; we struggled with exhaustion, creative blocks, rehearsals starting late, budgetary limits, and countless other issues. But we powered through. As I watched the final performance of the show, I thought back to the ideas I had when I had discussed the show with my friend in that same exact space over a year earlier. Here those ideas were, perfectly embodied in front of me, and I knew all that time had been worth it.

# Staff Summer Picks: Movies

The summer blockbuster is a long-standing art form of its own. In 2014, summer hits come in so many different shapes and forms: the small-time liberal indie, the explosives-ridden superhero megolith, the 12-year-long art film. The Argus Arts staff got together to talk about our favorites:

**"Sharknado 2: The Second One"**  
By Gabe Rosenberg



C/O IMAGES.FANDANGO.COM

I watched "Sharknado" and "Sharknado 2: The Second One" one after the other. On a personal level, I couldn't wait longer than a minute to experience again the thrill of watching "Beverly Hills, 90210" star Ian Ziering slice through a shark (from the inside-out) with a chainsaw. The rest of the world had to wait a full year between the surprise hit of the 2013 SyFy original movie—a title bestowed upon only the best of cinema, such as "Big Ass Spider!" and "Chupacabra Vs. The Alamo"—and its almost immediately announced follow-up. In that year, the world changed. The Sharknado threat moved from Los Angeles, shot with 50 percent stock footage, to New York City, shot in brilliant, high-as-a-kite definition. You really feel like you're immersed in a tornado surrounded by hammerheads.

Like any NYC-focused disaster movie, the Statue of Liberty takes a hit, but the finely tuned, perfectly self-aware schlock of the first film does not. "The Second One" is a tour-de-farce of so-bad-it's-good acting, not even slightly realistic visual graphics, and is-that-how-they-think-humans-speak dialogue. The "Sharknado" series knows exactly what it is (a deliciously campy B-movie) and why we watch it (to judge, to laugh, to make fun of). Are you not entertained?

**"Maleficent"**  
By Ali Jamali

Last year, when Disney wooed the world with "Frozen," the eyes were on "Maleficent" as Disney's next fairytale motion picture. "Maleficent" focuses on the origin story of the "Sleeping Beauty" villain and offers an alternate ending to a classic fairytale.

"Maleficent" is visually pleasing, beautifully designed, and has an immaculate soundtrack. Angelina Jolie delivers one of her best performances yet, which breathes new life into a character that I have been craving to know more about ever since I saw the Disney original "Sleeping Beauty" on VHS. However, the movie suffers from a few flaws. First, its focus is almost entirely on Jolie. The script was written specifically for Jolie the actress and therefore showcases her best talents, but not enough time is given to supporting characters. It should also be noted that the scenes feel disconnected at times, and I feel that there could have been room for more plot.

Even considering its shortcomings, however, "Maleficent" is my favorite movie of the summer. It gave closure to one of my childhood wishes, and I owe that to everyone involved in its production.

**"Guardians of the Galaxy"**  
By Dan Fuchs

There were probably better movies this summer than "Guardians of the Galaxy." In the history of cinema, some-

thing like "Boyhood" will end up being remembered more fondly than this. But I dare you to find a blockbuster (and, perhaps, a film) more fun than "Guardians." Yes, it's technically a superhero movie, making it the twenty-first superhero movie in the past four years. And it's based on a property that, before the movie was announced, roughly 10 people (myself included) enjoyed. Everything about "Guardians" screamed failure. Yet somehow, director James Gunn extracted a movie that was simultaneously accessible to new viewers and that stayed true to the original comics' glorious, massive scope.

First and foremost, "Guardians" works so well because it has a sense of humor and joy about itself. Rather than becoming mired in detached sarcasm or gritty darkness, "Guardians" understands the inherent ridiculousness in its premise and goes wild with it. Talking raccoon? Check. Giant floating god-skulls? Check. Humanoid tree with the voice of Vin Diesel? Check. The film is so sincere and bombastic that all its elements must simply be accepted. Nobody stares into the camera shrugging their shoulders. It's pure, unadulterated fun, thanks in part to the strength of the leads. Chris Pratt's goofy charms and Zoe Saldana's steely intensity are on full display here. Bradley Cooper makes a talking raccoon come to life in a way that only Bradley Cooper can. Hell, Vin Diesel repeats three words throughout the entire movie and breathes life into a talking tree. I'm not saying that "Guardians of the Galaxy" will reinvigorate the superhero movie. But it's a hell of a lot of fun, full of weirdness and energy. So it's a good start.

**"X-Men: Days of Future Past"**  
By William Donnelly



C/O TERMINALLY-INCOHERENT.COM

"X-Men: Days of Future Past" begins in a post-apocalyptic wasteland, where humans and mutants alike have been hunted to the brink of extinction by robotic sentinels. It is in this post-apocalypse that the X-Men decide to band together one final time to send Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) back in time with Kitty Pryde's (Ellen Page) time travel powers to prevent Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) from murdering mutant-hating bigot, Bolivar Trask (Peter Dinklage) and stop the sentinels from ever being created. While the convolution of the plot is undeniable, "X-Men: Days of Future Past" is a suitably epic and satisfying seventh entry in the X-Men film series. In spite of Kitty's time travel abilities, it is made clear that Wolverine's trip into the past is a one-time deal, as well as their only shot at stopping the sentinels.

As such, the fate of the world rests on Mystique's decision. Though I enjoy the focus on Mystique, who—like most women in superhero movies—was largely relegated to the sidelines before "X-Men: First Class," I also cannot deny how problematic it is that the film essentially boils her options down to choosing between Xavier's belief in peaceful coexistence and Magneto's desire for a violent mutant uprising. In the end, though, the decision is hers, and the stage is set for Mystique to have her own adventures apart from both men. Hopefully, Fox will follow up on this with an equally satisfying Mystique solo film, as X-Men producer Lauren Shuler Donner has suggested they will.

**"Obvious Child"**  
By Sarah Corey



C/O IA.MEDIA-IMDB.COM

Society's gotten over the whole "women aren't funny" thing, right? If there are any holdouts out there, they need not look any further than the Gillian Robespierre-directed, Jenny Slate-starring romantic comedy "Obvious Child." The film is also a perfect display of women being smart, sensitive, and thoughtful as well. Basically, this film, like other young female-driven projects such as "Girls" and "Frances Ha," reminds us that women make for some of the quirkiest and most nuanced characters. "Child" follows Slate's Donna, a struggling comedian whose one-night stand leaves her with an unwanted pregnancy to terminate and a sweet guy who possibly wants more from the relationship.

One of the most refreshing things about "Child," in addition to the subtle feminism of its interesting female main character, is the fact it still maintains a sweet rom-com heart underneath its crude jokes and overtly liberal ideals. Ultimately, Donna and the other characters are simply looking to find themselves and to be loved—tried-and-true rom-com themes. The combination of an earnest search for love with the sometimes dirty and unpleasant truths of twenty-something life make for a refreshingly honest film. "Child" is playing at the Film Series this semester, and I highly recommend everyone take the time to experience life from Robespierre's funny and sincere perspective.

**"Boyhood"**  
By Noah Mertz

One of the most anticipated films of the summer was Richard Linklater's "Boyhood," a nearly-three-hour tale of a young boy, Mason (Ellar Coltrane) finding his way through the tribulations of youth and young-adulthood in Texas, as well as the turbulent relationship of his parents (Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke). For those who have enjoyed other Linklater films, such as Wesleyan-favorite "Dazed and Confused," "Boyhood" is a rambling pace, amorphous plot, and sweetly nostalgic sense of "good old days" dreaming are at once familiar. He accomplishes this by aiming his lens away from plot twists and major life milestones, such as protagonist Mason's loss of virginity or high school graduation, and instead favoring the "ordinary" moments of life, such as a morning before work or a conversation with dad. This lends the film a "homier" feel and creates a subtler tension that carries the plot forward in an accessible and resonating way.

What sets this film apart is Linklater's unorthodox filming method of shooting a few days a year for twelve years with the same cast. This not only augments his conveying of the transitory nature of time, but it also avoids the traditional pit-fall of unfortunately mismatched younger and older versions of characters that create choppy transitions through the years. There was also a noticeable improvement in the acting as the film progresses. The soundtrack pulls together the most iconic songs of each era, from Coldplay to Britney Spears to Arcade Fire, to serve as guideposts in orienting the audience to the time. The result of these temporal considerations is a leisurely paced, dreamy film weighed down by its thoughtful adherence to the ordinary that offer plenty of room for self-reflection.



# FEATURES

## Orientation: An Insider’s Look at the NSO Powerhouse

Continued from front page

(NSO), and to answer questions from students and parents.

“When new students arrive, and I see the moment they fall in love with Wes, I know that my work was all in good faith,” said OI Aidan Martinez ’17, who had previously mentioned that over the prior three days he had been working nearly 24 hours a day. “I’m so happy to have been one of the moving pieces in the giant machine that is orientation.”

OLs, who guide students during orientation and facilitate events, arrived on campus on August 20 to receive four days of training before international students arrived. Their training included icebreakers and group bonding exercises to create the team dynamic that is important to the orientation atmosphere. They also reviewed conflict management skills and received bystander intervention training and social justice training. Activities included a library scavenger hunt and an off-campus team building retreat with the Peer Advisors and RAs. OLs described the training and the job itself as exhausting and challenging.

“Over the last few days, I’ve barely had enough time to brush my teeth in the morning,” OL Fred Ayres ’17 said.

In spite of this, all interviewed felt that it was worth the effort.

“Now that new students have started arriving, getting to meet them and talk to them has been the reward for our hard work and long hours,” OL Marissa Castrigno ’15 said.

While many of the orientation events are steeped in tradition from years past, such as Feet to the Fire, We Speak We Stand, and the always-popular Bend It at Beckham dance, the committee did not hesitate to make changes or additions where necessary.

“Every seminar and activity is developed...to help [students] become more comfortable at a school

that will remain a part of their lives forever,” OI Olayinka Lawal ’15 said.

One addition that Cardona said she was particularly excited for is Wesleyan Firsts, a breakfast event crafted by Martinez for Wesleyan’s low-income and first-generation students. During this event held on Thursday in Daniel Family Commons, students heard firsthand experiences from upperclassmen and had the opportunity to form a community with each other.

“Hopefully, students who often feel marginalized from the beginning of orientation will feel like they have a pocket of people that they can be comfortable with and be themselves,” Cardona said.

Many members of the orientation staff seemed aware that there are certain groups of students who could potentially feel marginalized or take a longer time to adjust to the Wesleyan climate. Helping international students transition is considered a priority, and the ISO, beginning before all other students arrive, is designed to help those from other countries acclimate to the campus and get a head start on making connections, as explained in the orientation handbook.

“For some incoming students, orientation will be the first time they’ve been on campus and experienced American culture. Helping them to acclimate to such traditions as the Fight Song and Undies at Olin will take time,” Ayres said. “Nonetheless, I’m confident that students are given the experience and knowledge during orientation to prepare for a successful career at Wesleyan.”

Another, often unmentioned, group of students participating in NSO is made up of transfer, exchange, and visiting students. These students have their own advising sessions, dean meetings, and times for socializing and meeting each other.

“For us, the difficulty was jumping into an established class of our peers, trying to find our academic

and social footing while unlearning the ways of our old colleges and acclimating to Wes,” said Castrigno, who transferred to Wesleyan in her sophomore year. “Keep yourself grounded and start small by building a few relationships with new friends and professors. Orientation is a perfect time to establish a small base to help you springboard into life at Wes.”

Starting small seemed to be the advice of many orientation staff members, and the goal of orientation is to facilitate this.

“This is a big, new place for many of the students, so any place we can find to build pockets of small communities that help people feel at home is super important,” Cardona said.

What else should students keep in mind over the next few days? Cardona’s answer was not surprising.

“Engage and fully engage on everything orientation has to offer,” she said. “It’s just five days, and then you never have to see us again . . . Even if it feels corny or even if it feels boring, I promise you there is a big picture.”

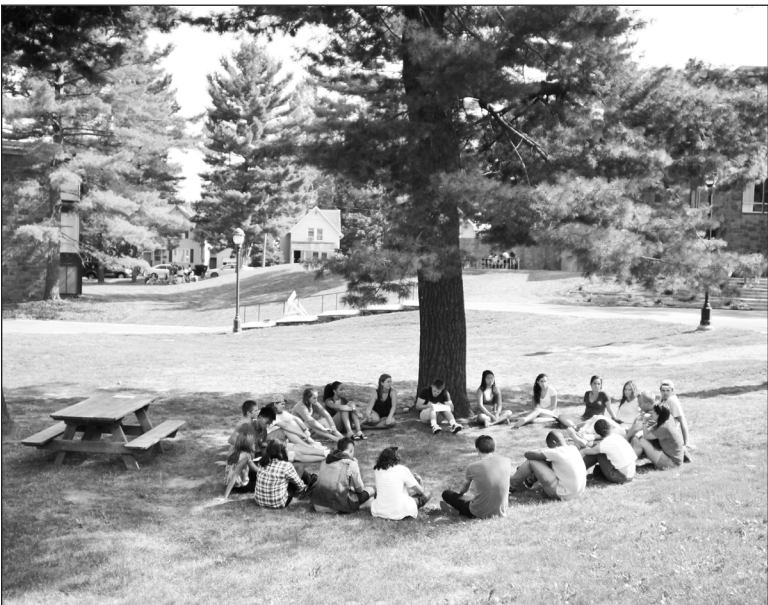
Cardona implores students to continue to ask questions and ask for help beyond orientation and throughout the year and added that Dean Melendez is another wonderful resource for students looking for advice, or just to talk.

“Find those resources. Connect with people,” she said. “Even if you don’t want to talk to someone, then send an email. Find a way to communicate.”

All members of the orientation staff hope their enthusiasm is contagious and that the new students have an experience that they carry with them for their entire duration at Wes.

“I hope they complete orientation with a very strong sense that Wesleyan is their school and that they belong here,” Lawal said.

## Orientation Leaders Welcome Newcomers



NOAH MERTZ/PHOTO EDITOR

Orientation leaders facilitate a discussion with new students outside of the Butterfield dorms.

By Rebecca Brill  
Features Editor

As they expertly answer questions about everything from the NESCAC to Middletown Cash, this year’s International Student Orientation (ISO) and New Student Orientation (NSO) leaders appear to be oracles of Wesleyan. Tell them you’re thinking about joining an a cappella group, and they’ll effortlessly list all 15 options. Ask them how to get to Pine Palace, and they’ll walk you right to the door.

In light of the leaders’ seemingly divine knowledge of life at Wes, one might find it hard to believe that just a couple of years ago (and some just last year), they stood in their freshman disciples’ very shoes. Some orientation leaders (OLs) for the class of 2018 took a break from their hectic schedules to reminisce about their own orientation experiences.

Carolina Elices ’17 enjoyed freshman orientation so much that it inspired her to become an OL this year. As an incoming freshman, she was nervous that Wesleyan veterans like OLs and RAs would seem intimidating and inaccessible. Instead, she was pleasantly surprised by how warm and inviting the orientation atmosphere was. The aspect of orientation she most enjoyed was spending time with the student leaders.

“They felt very approachable to me,” Elices said. “Sometimes, authority figures can seem a little scary and unapproachable, but they weren’t intimidating at all. They were completely happy to answer any questions or anything, and I think they really built a sense of community within our small community.”

Elices wanted to grant the class of 2018 an equally positive experience. This year, she stepped up to the plate and followed the example of last year’s OLs.

“I was like, ‘I want to make sure that next year’s class can have as great of an orientation experience as I have, so I think I want to be an orientation leader,’” she said. “Now that I’m doing it, I’m really glad I made that decision.”

Sonia Max ’17 became an OL this year for many of the same reasons. She enjoyed participating in organized orientation activities last year and was eager to lead this year’s freshman class in similar activities. Max especially connected with the leaders of her small group, who directed fun icebreaker games as well as serious discussions about relevant campus issues.

“I just kind of wanted to give back and try to do that for the new class,” Max said. “I’ve always liked being in positions where I can give people guidance.”

Hazem Fahmy ’17, on the other hand, was miserable during orientation last year, which for him comprised both ISO and NSO. He began his freshman

year bitter that his plans to take a gap year had fallen through, and orientation did little to convince him that his resentment was unwarranted.

“I did not want to be here, and I did not adjust very well,” Fahmy said. “I was very terrified, very nervous. My OLs weren’t very active with me. They weren’t very engaging, and it was just a very, very bad experience.”

Fahmy, who now identifies as “a very hardcore Wes fanboy,” took on the leadership position this year in an attempt to compensate for last year’s orientation. Already, he feels he has redeemed himself from the negative experience by spending quality time with the new students and addressing any concerns they have about beginning college.

“Every day, I’m extremely happy I’m here, and helping others reaching that level and helping them get acquainted with it and to connect with the place as much as I did is definitely a privilege,” Fahmy said. “That’s something that fills me with a lot of happiness.”

For Fahmy, and Bulelani Jili ’16, another OL, the division of the freshmen students into small groups helps tremendously in facilitating bonds, both among new students and between new students and orientation leaders.

“I’ve had great moments and long conversations with [the freshmen] about things or issues that relate to Wesleyan but also just relate to their lives in general,” Jili said.

During NSO, the small orientation groups contain 10 to 20 freshmen each; ISO groups average about five international freshmen. Prior to last year, the small groups were only utilized during ISO, while the freshmen at NSO remained in much larger groups for all of the orientation activities. Last year, NSO used smaller groups for the first time, a change that has been well received by OLs.

Miranda Haymon ’16, who also served as an OL last year, did not recall much about her own freshman OLs. She felt that because her class was not divided into small groups during orientation activities, she did not have much opportunity to connect personally with the leaders. The small group system has allowed her to bond with the new students, something that may have been more challenging for Haymon’s NSO leaders back in 2012.

“What I really like about orientation now, what I think is a good change, is that we’re definitely involved, and the students get to associate their orientation with one or multiple leaders,” she said. “The fact of the matter is that now there’s a personal connection with the orientation leader, which gives you a point person and a person that has insight into the world that is Wesleyan.”



MIRANDA KATZ/EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Right after learning the Fight Song and taking a panoramic class photo, Members of the class of 2018 enjoy a barbecue in the CFA courtyard.



# THE BEGINNING: 2018 ARRIVES



NOAH MERTZ/PHOTO EDITOR

An action-packed move-in day kicked off this year's New Student Orientation. The Argus was on the scene as members of the class of 2018 said goodbye to their families, met their Orientation Leaders, and dug in at a barbecue in the CFA courtyard.



MIRANDA KATZ/EXECUTIVE EDITOR



NOAH MERTZ/PHOTO EDITOR



MIRANDA KATZ/EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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# An Underground Orientation to the Secrets of Wes

By Jess Zalph  
*Features Editor*

As you wander between events bolded in red in your orientation packet, you'll probably start to realize that not all of your questions are answered. Vague rumors still abound, sparked by an overheard conversation in Usdan or an ACB post. Here is a guide that will hopefully answer some of the questions that you didn't want to raise your hand and ask.

**Naked Dorms**

Somehow, one of the few things that friends/family members/vague acquaintances from off-campus have heard about Wesleyan is that there is a so-called "naked dorm." "Is it true?" they will ask in giddy (or appalled) whispers, voices dripping with anticipation (or apprehension).

Technically, it's true enough. WestCo is officially a "clothing optional" dorm for freshmen and sophomores. Granted, most of the time people seem to be clothed, which could be a bit of a letdown if you were expecting the sala-

ciousness hyped up by a 2000 New York Times article titled "Naked Dorm? That Wasn't in the Brochure."

Naked parties, or at the very least parties with patrons dressed in their undergarments, do occur here with reasonable frequency. If that's what floats your boat, keep your ears open for them, especially during inclement weather (blizzards and hurricanes, most notably).

As you may have already discovered by now, Wesleyan is not lacking in nudity. Orientation events attract streakers, as do large numbers of people studying in the library.

**The Cannon**

The Douglas Cannon, an icon of Wesleyan that lurks out of sight, is known for mysteriously disappearing and then reappearing on campus every several years. Its most recent appearance was a brief one in the Zelnick Pavilion in Dec. 2012.

The Douglas Cannon rooted itself in Wesleyan culture in the mid-1800s. Its origins can be traced to Captain Partridge's American Literary, Scientific

and Military Academy, which lived on this campus between 1825 and 1931. Wesleyan eventually used the cannon to celebrate George Washington's birthday, and contests known as "cannon scraps" emerged, with freshmen trying to fire the cannon on this holiday and sophomores trying to prevent them. The cannon-firing practice led to the destruction of library windows in 1869 (the cannon was overpacked).

The scrap contests themselves were perhaps even more entertainingly destructive. According to the Wesleyan Archives, "The most elaborate ones involved over 100 participants and a combination of multiple decoy cannons, kidnappings, signal fires, wire barricades, snow forts, trip wires, electric buzzers, and the Middletown Fire Department, who turned their hoses on the sophomore crowds in 1905." In 1916, the contest was abandoned.

In 1957, the cannon was stolen for the first time, and the tradition of repeated theft and dramatic return has continued through recent years. The cannon has been presented as a prank

gift to both the USSR delegate to the U.N. in 1961 and to President Richard Nixon in 1969, both times needing to be reclaimed by Wesleyan University officials. Postcards from "Doug" suggest that the cannon has also travelled the globe; the worldly cannon was kind enough to grace us with a video chat in late 2011.

**Tunnels**

Ah, the Wesleyan tunnels: home to graffiti galore, weird artifacts both old and new, and intrepid students who seek adventure (or who seek asbestos). There are four sets of tunnels, including maintenance tunnels and tunnels under the CFA, but people most often refer to the ones under the Butts and WestCo. Walks through these tunnels, which are officially off-limits, will reveal philosophical conversations written over the years in spray paint and Sharpie and artwork that ranges from crude to mesmerizing. The WestCo tunnels used to include student dorm rooms, and until the 2012 renovations, the Butterfield laundry and kitchen facilities were underground as well.

The tunnels are still used to some degree as storage by Wesleyan programs, though the functional use of the tunnels seems to be growing increasingly limited. Perhaps consequentially, students' ability to access the underground networks seems to be more limited as well.

**Tour de Franzia**

Tour de Franzia, known as "TDF" or "The Tour," is a Wesleyan tradition that has becoming increasingly controversial in recent years due to administrative crackdowns. The minimum of six judicial points that can be delivered as a result of participation or perceived participation in the costumed, Franzia-drinking scavenger hunt, cemented the Tour's status as WesLore. Its future remains unknown.

Of course, this is not a comprehensive list. For example, you will have to fend for yourselves for information on secret societies, such as Skull and Serpent and the Mystical Seven. The seeds of new "lore" are planted regularly, and they grow slowly.

# How to Make It Through the First Week

By Rebecca Brill  
*Features Editor*

New Student Orientation can feel a little, well, disorienting, even despite the overwhelmingly friendly vibes on campus. Icebreakers, though useful, can get kind of uncomfortable, and remembering all those names is not an easy task. Adapting to life at Wesleyan will take some time, so consider orientation the first step in a gradual adjustment.

Still, The Argus is here to alleviate some of those preliminary jitters. This orientation survival guide will counsel you through those frenzied, flustered first days and help you start your college career off on the right foot.

**Jump in:** First-week anxiety is totally normal, but don't let it paralyze you. During the next few days, take a cue from Bob

Dylan and don't think twice. Not sure if an event is exactly your scene? Go anyway! You might be pleasantly surprised by how much fun you have. Doubts about starting school are pretty standard, but sometimes you have to put them on mute and let the moment seize you. Don't just sip the Wes Kool-Aid; gulp it right down.

**Don't force it:** A big part of orientation is meeting fellow freshmen, and it's definitely important to put yourself out there. That said, orientation is about getting acquainted, and many of the people you meet will be just that: acquaintances. If during your first week you somehow manage to find your other half, more power to you. However, if you don't quite click with your orientation buds, remember that not everyone you hang out with early on has to be your BFFAE. Surround yourself with familiar faces as you navi-

gate social life at Wesleyan and look for a gang that really gets you. But do check in with your first-week friends every now and then!

**Know thy neighbor (but not in a biblical way):** You'll find that many early college friendships are based purely on convenience, and what's more convenient than having a pal who lives next door? Be sure to get to know your hallmates well; this will make late nights super fun and rough weeks much more bearable. While getting friendly with neighbors is great, it should be noted that there are downsides to hallmates getting too friendly. Spontaneous hallcest should generally be avoided, as it can make something as simple as a trip to the bathroom a source of dread. That said, if you do happen to wake up on the wrong side of the hall, don't stress out. Just continue saying "hi" to your too-close-to-

home catch the way you would any other neighbor. Things will go back to normal more quickly than you think.

**Stay in the moment:** Everyone is entitled to a few existential crises over the course of their four years at school, but freshman orientation is not exactly a convenient time to have one. Being away from home and the emotional ups and downs of starting anew might get you thinking about things ("Is my persona just a façade? Did the death of my childhood hamster in fact stunt my psychological growth?"), but it's important to get out of your head while trying to adjust. Get into the Wesleyan groove by attending as many events as possible, even the optional ones. You'll find yourself engaged and energized, not to mention left with little time to brood. There is a time and place for intense ruminations on selfhood; save 'em for a cool,

dreamy night on Foss with people that "are really on your level right now, man."

**Shake it off:** Follow T-Swift's advice this week and let the tough stuff go. There are bound to be awkward, strange, and even mortifying moments as you acclimate to the Wesleyan environment. Don't let these minor obstacles hinder you. It's important to realize that no one is paying nearly as close attention as you think; your fellow frosh are likely too busy trying adapt to college life to notice that you approached the vegan line at Usdan from the wrong side (note: enter from the right) or that you got completely lost navigating the jungle that is the Butts. Soon enough, you'll feel right at home as you learn to distinguish North College from South College and Typhoon from Thai Gardens. For now, get comfortable with being a little uncomfortable.



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FOOD

It's Easy Being Green:  
Dorm Room Smoothies



ERICA DEMICHEL/FOOD EDITOR

Main ingredients for a simple green smoothie.

By Erica DeMichiel  
Food Editor

For newly inaugurated Wesleyan freshmen, the dining options at Usdan and Summerfields are a relief compared to other college cafeterias. Not only do we have selections that look fit for human consumption (unlike the horror stories you may have heard regarding the cuisine at other universities), many would say that the food on campus is actually pretty good. Out of over 2,000 four-year institutions, Wesleyan was even ranked as Civil Eats' 39th best college for food in America in 2014.

We are extremely lucky to have such an incredible dining program at Wesleyan. However, the reality is that we're busy college students who constantly need a source of fuel, but we often don't have the time to sit down to a meal at either of our two campus dining halls.

So, what do you do if you need a quick bite in between classes (or if you have excess meal points to spend)? If you're like me, you'll head over to Weshop ahead of time to pick up some fresh fruits and vegetables and force your friend to make you a kick-ass green smoothie in her brand-new Nutribullet.

Once your fridge is stocked with ingredients, throwing it all in a blender takes only a couple of minutes. Though some might be turned off by the concept of a veggie-based drink, green smoothies are a great way to get the benefits of a full meal when you're especially pressed for time. If you are truly averse to the taste of liquefied vegetables, adding sweet fruits like berries or pineapple can help you make a smoother smoothie transition.

And if you don't have a blender accessible to you, it would be in your best interest to befriend someone who does. Trust me

Dorm Room Smoothie: Green Edition

(recipe by Courtney Laermer '17)

1. Cut avocado in half. Remove pit and skin and place one half in blender.
2. Place kale in blender.
3. Peel banana. Cut in two and place one half in blender.
4. Pour water or almond milk in blender.
5. Place any additional ingredients of your choice in blender.
6. Blend.
7. Consume.
8. Be thankful for all the time (and meal swipes) you will inevitably save. Yes, it's really that easy.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 AVOCADO
- 2 HANDFULS OF KALE (BUY PREVIOUSLY WASHED)
- 1/2 BANANA
- 1/4 CUP WATER
- 2 TBSP. TOMATO JUICE (OPTIONAL)

Jamba Juice Now  
Served in Usdan

By Emma Davis  
Food Editor

This fall, Usdan Café will be introducing a new menu item: Jamba Juice smoothies.

The Jamba Juice machines were installed on Monday of Orientation Week and will be replacing the smoothies the Café has been serving for several years, according to Philip Abraham, Bon Appétit's Director of Operations.

Smoothies will be available in a 16 oz. size for \$3.69. Flavors currently include strawberry, apple, banana, mango, orange, and pineapple, but, says Abraham, students should "watch for menu additions in the coming weeks."

"We are constantly... trying new items," Abraham wrote in an email to The Argus. "[I]f we discover something interesting, we add it."

The Café decided to make the switch to Jamba Juice after a company salesperson visited Bon Appétit's Resident District Manager Michael Strumpf.

After sampling the product as well as [learning about] the company's reputation and their new machines, it [seemed] worth a chance," Abraham wrote.

The first students to test the Jamba smoothies were RAs (Resident

Advisors) and Orientation staff, who received samples earlier this week.

Sofia Taylor '17, House Manager of Full House, was enthusiastic about the new smoothies.

"[The Jamba smoothies] were really good," Taylor said. "I think people are going to be excited, because we were really excited when we got our samples. We were like, 'Oh my god!'"

Taylor considers the Jamba offerings a significant improvement over the Café's previous smoothies, which she found too artificial.

"[The old smoothies] didn't taste like real fruit," Taylor said. "They just kind of [tasted] super sweet and syrupy."

Bulelani Jili '16, an Orientation leader, echoed Taylor's assessment of the Café's earlier smoothies.

"I didn't actually truly enjoy the [old] smoothies," Jili said. "They were good, but I wouldn't think they were good enough for recommendation [to other students]."

Jili hopes the new machines will offer more flavors but is lukewarm in his endorsement of Jamba Juice overall.

"Jamba Juice is okay," Jili said. "It's pretty good most of the time."

As for Abraham, his goal for a student response to the Jamba smoothies is straightforward.

"Hopefully, yum," Abraham wrote.

The Best and Worst Coffee Locations at Wesleyan

By Erica DeMichiel  
Food Editor

Regardless of whether you're a coffee drinker, there's no denying that this caffeinated beverage is the lifeblood of many a college student. Though there are a variety of places on campus to get your caffeine fix, certain locations are superior to others. In an effort to mitigate at least some of the confusion that is characteristic of freshman year, here is a fairly definitive ranking of the coffee spots at Wes.

5. Usdan Café/Marketplace

Both the Marketplace and Café at Usdan offer Pierce Bros coffee, and Usdan Café serves a house blend while the upstairs Marketplace dining hall serves its Marketplace blend. The coffee at these locations

is pretty terrible; I often find that it's either cold when it's supposed to be hot, or it's just not there at all (which is probably better). You might as well make the trek across campus to Pi.

4. Summerfields

In case you didn't already know, Summerfields (or Summies for short) is Wesleyan's second dining hall on campus. Located in the Butts, it serves its own Pierce Bros Summerfields blend in addition to its hazelnut flavor, which are both equally as awful as the coffee at Usdan.

3. Pi Cafe

If you're a math/science nerd, you'll often find yourself heading to classes in Exley Science Center. Located inside Exley and across the street from Weshop, Pi Cafe is eas-

ily the most convenient place to get coffee before or after an NSM lecture. It's also a convenient place to get coffee during one of your lectures if you ever catch yourself snoring and/or drooling all over your notes. And as far as the coffee itself goes, Pi Cafe offers Pierce Bros year-round signature blends like Black Bear (a combination of dark Honduran, medium Sumatra, and dark Nicaraguan coffee) and dark-roast Fogbuster. The café also offers seasonal flavors such as pumpkin spice in the fall and eggnog right before the holidays. Overall, Pi Cafe is one of the more decent places to get caffeinated on campus.

2. Espwesso

Perhaps the most unique coffee spot on campus can be found on the lower level of Allbritton. Espwesso

is a student-run joint with hours that are as crazy as its name, and it currently operates on weeknights between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. The cafe has no faculty supervisor and operates independently of Bon Appétit, so it receives its coffee from a different roaster in Rhode Island called New Harvest.

"We spent a lot of time actually researching which roaster to go with," said Jasmine Masand '15, general manager of Espwesso. "Thinking about coffee and social justice, [New Harvest] goes across the world a couple times a year and works directly with the farmers that they're getting their beans from."

Because the coffee at Espwesso isn't purchased in bulk, the quality of the brew is significantly higher than what you would find at most other campus locations. This might seem

like useless news if you're not a fan of caffeine at night, but don't despair yet. There's talk of extended hours at Espwesso, which would likely have the cafe doing business in the early afternoon in addition to its standard nighttime shift.

1. Red & Black Café

Located inside Broad Street Books, Red & Black Café is the best place for coffee at Wes in terms of overall taste. Though it may seem like a long walk from campus, your reward at the end will be well worth those few extra steps. Offering flavors ranging from French roast to French toast, the coffee is always hot and always reliable. Plus you'll definitely need that extra boost when you have to make your way back up hilly William Street.

Foods They'll Miss from Home: Class of 2018

By Emma Davis  
Food Editor

The Argus spoke with members of the Class of 2018 about the dishes from home they'll miss the most. Judging from the range of cuisines they described, this year's incoming freshmen have as highly diverse tastes as backgrounds.

"Shrimp and grits. It's cornmeal ground up with shrimps in it, and it has different seasonings and stuff in it. It's just like a Southern comfort food kind of thing. It's really comforting."

— Emery Frick '18, Orange Beach, AL

"Carne asada, which is Mexican barbecue. My dad used to be a chef, so he's really good on the grill. It's just this authentic Mexican food, comes straight from Mexico."

— David Lopez-Wade '18, Las Vegas, NV

"We make a pasta dish with prosciutto and peas. It's a typical thing that we make on a weeknight, and it's usually when my dad's in town. So we all eat together."

— Tess Iannarone '18, Bethesda, MD

"Chicken rice. Basically, it's just roasted chicken on top of rice with soy sauce. It's cheap, it's really good, and you can get it basically anywhere."

— Ananya Subrahmanian '18, Singapore

"I love Chinese food, so I'm just going to say dumplings.... [The best thing about them is] the stuffing inside."

— Kush Sharma '18, Hong Kong

"Pizza...chicken-bacon-ranch. Nonna's Pizzeria in town is the place to go. They make it right there in front of you and

throw it in the oven, and five minutes later, good pizza."

— Eric Meyreles '18, Georgetown, NY

"My favorite food is doner kebab. It's a Turkish food. It's layers of lamb and seasoning and fat that you put on a skewer, and it slow-cooks."

— Aaron Kelly-Penso '18, London, England

"Nikujaga. [It contains] potatoes and beef. It's a dish we make with soy sauce and sugar and things like that. It's pretty traditional Japanese [food], like 'Mom's dishes.' Whenever I eat it, it just [reminds me of] my mother's kindness."

— Shizuhua Hatori '18, Ibaraki, Japan

"The roti. It's like an Indian bread... [made out of] butter and flour. I don't really know how they make it, but it tastes good, and after that you dip it

in curry. Back home it costs around 1 ringgit, which is like 30 cents here, so you take two of them, and it keeps you full for the rest of the morning."

— Ming Zhi Gan '18, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

"I love food in my city. [Our most famous dish is] dim sum. You can eat a lot at the same time but not get too stuffed. We go [to restaurants] for breakfast tea, and we eat a lot for a long time. We eat for like two or three hours, sitting there, chatting."

— Ray Miao '18, Guangzhou, China

"We eat beans with everything. It's just like tortillas with beans, whatever. You can eat them with almost anything. They're great."

— Isabella Corletto '18, Guatemala City, Guatemala

"I would count Shanghai as my hometown, [so] I would just say the noodles.

The noodles are pretty rad. They're delicious and salty and heaven."

— Monica Sun '18, New Jersey/Shanghai, China

"I'm going to miss the food truck selection in Brooklyn and in the city, and just being able to walk around and grab cheap food from a variety of places."

— Hailey Broughton-Jones '18, Brooklyn, NY

"Probably macaroni and cheese. It tastes like home."

— Brooklee Hahn '18, Redding, CT

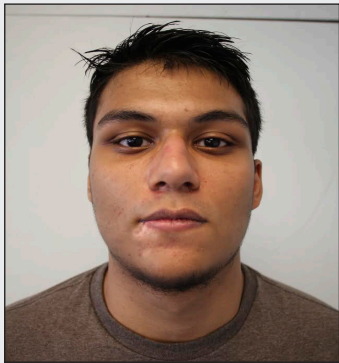
"Chicken kiev. It's basically breaded chicken filled with butter. It's fun because when you stab it with your knife, the butter shoots out, and it's kind of like an explosion. It'd be the last meal of the summer every year [at camp in Wisconsin]."

— Andrew Rachlin '18, Chicago, IL



OPINION

OH MY GHOSH  
#SLACKTIVISM



By Roop Ghosh  
Contributing Writer

In this fast-paced and inter-connected world of ours, news travels fast. Very fast. With constant flurries of tweets, status updates, and uploads, a simple message can go viral, reaching millions of people. We should be proud of this new system of ours, which not only acts as a safeguard to our natural rights as global citizens, but also keeps us informed of the vast ocean of global events. Nevertheless, even with all this information at our fingertips, we still suffer from selective ignorance.

Take the events in Nigeria, for example: almost 300 teenage girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram, a gang of armed Jihadists, on the night of April 14, 2014. It was not until May 3 and 4 that the entire world joined in on the hunt for the terrorist group. This collective effort was not initiated by some collective global crusade backed by a flurry of tweets and status updates. It was initiated by good ol’ non-violent protests. The Internet merely helped the news spread.

I’ll say this: if it were not for the Internet, Kony 2012, Arab Spring, and Kim Kardashian would never have gained the traction necessary to grow into multinational phenomena, but even with random celebrities hopping onto the bandwagon and holding up signs saying “bring our girls back” or “Down with Kony,” what have we accomplished as of yet? Kony is still hiding in some hole in some part of Africa, because we still can’t find him despite it being two years since the release of the infamous video; the Arab Spring fizzled out into either failed attempts at democracy or civil war; and Kim Kardashian—well, she is ironically one of the few still standing.

The problem with the Internet and its speed is not that it brings these terrible issues to light, it’s the fact that it brings them to light and quickly smothers them. Because of the Internet, fifteen minutes of fame becomes five minutes (except for Kim Kardashian: her fifteen minutes turned into seven years and counting), and people are no longer invested in the conflict at hand. People can simply upload a picture of themselves with a hashtag and call it a day. Hands clean, end of problem, when’s dinner? During the late ’60s and early

’70s, Vietnam War protests were infinitely more vivid and powerful. Protests haunted television screens and forced people to sit down and think. When we see P. Diddy in his new sunglasses with a sign that says “#bringourgirls-back,” or the thousand and one “#freePalestine” tweets, sure we think for a minute, but what do we do? Do we email our local congressmen to do something? Do we go around the street to organize support?

At the end of the day, the very fact that we’re doing something, anything, is to be commended. This new method of spreading the news is truly beautiful, and for many, an integral step towards justice (whether or not they get it is another matter). Take for example the Trayvon Martin case and the Occupy Wall Street movement. Politics aside, both situations involved groups of people who used the Internet to promote their ideas of justice, and both would have been severely hampered in their search for justice if it were not for the Internet. But the lack of true power that people have—and their short attention spans—is frustrating. We do something for a little while, get bored with it when we realize nothing is happening, and then we go back whatever it was we were doing before. Not every conflict or situation can be as politically charged as the Trayvon Martin case, and it is sad that not every conflict or situation gets the level of attention that it deserves. Take the conflicts in South Sudan, Darfur, Mexico, Iraq or even the recent butchering of 43 teenage boys by Boko Haram. Where is their movement, or even their hashtag?

We never did find most of the kidnapped girls, and sadly, I doubt we ever will. Those girls will live torturous lives under oppression, and there won’t be any more “#freeourgirls” hashtags, because, you know, that was “so six months ago.”

Rush Limbaugh recently said, “The sad thing here is that the low-information crowd that’s puddling around out there on Twitter is gonna think we’re actually doing something about it.” For once in my life (and probably the only time) I can say that I agree with Mr. Limbaugh. In our pith, we stop feeling emotionally attached to the issue at hand, leaving us liable to get that quick feeling of self-gratification and call it a day. Nothing represents this “slacktivism” trend better than the current Ice Bucket “Challenge,” which I will study in more depth in next week’s issue.

Many would say that the strengths of Twitter-based movements far outweigh the cons, and I wholeheartedly agree. It is great that people are learning about these issues, it is great that people are doing “something” about them, be it as simple as pushing a button. But we ought not think, not for a moment, that pushing a button is enough.



Don’t Get Your Hopes Up:  
College Isn’t That Great

By JENNY DAVIS, OPINION EDITOR

On August 27, 2013, I was a full-on nail-biting, pen-tapping, compulsive-collarbone-scratching, obsessive-outfit-choosing, nervous wreck.

It’s true. I really was scared.

I suppose it was to be expected, this anxiety. It was fairly run-of-the-mill stuff: I was a college freshman, so obviously I worried that everyone would hate me and I’d be a social outcast, confined to a dark and dank dorm room like the Boo Radley of 200 Church; that I’d turn out to be stupid and stare dumbfoundedly at professors’ PowerPoint while my peers nodded along with barely concealed boredom; that I’d get lost trying to find my classes and never arrive at my destination; that my roommate would be an allergy-prone ogre who coughed and hacked all night long.

But underneath all of my anxiety and fear lay the assumption—the unbridled expectation—that my first year of college would be a transformative, awe-inspiring, life-changing, incredible experience.

College, everyone always said, was made for people like me (I always assumed “people like me” meant those who’d worried more about cellular respiration than about alcohol in high school); it was where I would thrive. I’d grow in ways I never could have imagined. I’d make lifelong friends of every creed. I’d understand new universal truths. I might be somewhat cool (though that, admittedly, was hoping for a lot).

Once I arrived on campus, my nerves—being hated, being lost, being stupid, and being stuck with a habitual cougher of a roommate—were easy to quash. I toned down the more unseemly parts of my personality to attract some friends; I studied often and hard so as to keep up with lectures; before the first day of classes, I forced my friend Hadley to walk with me to each of my new classrooms until I got the route down pat; my roommate was a lovely creature with a robust and hearty immune system, prone only to

the occasional sniffle.

The expectations of college greatness, though, proved trickier to reconcile with reality.

My first year of college was decidedly fine. I would give it an A-/B+ (as much as I detest slash grades—I mean, really, just choose one—it feels appropriate in this case). There were the usual struggles and triumphs. I had great professors, joined exciting groups, and met funny people. But I was socially awkward and introverted, said and did dumb things when I did interact with people, and occasionally felt that the work I was doing for my classes was unnecessary.

But this article isn’t about my first year of college itself, and that’s the point; it’s about what I thought it was, and what I thought it should be. Because I’d expected a lot, the objective experience itself became irrelevant.

I had gotten my hopes up. Way up. I had had expectations, so when it was all over—my first year at Wesleyan—I was distressed. Was it good? Maybe, but who even knew anymore, since it had been held to an impossible standard?

It was good, 2013-2014. But it hadn’t been the showstopper of which I’d dreamed. I expected a nine and got a seven, and those two points made all the difference. I perceived it not as what it was, but in relation to what I expected it to be.

Allow me to differentiate between a few words that might have come up for you while reading this article.

You can be optimistic without having expectations. You can look forward to things and maintain hope that they’ll turn out well. But don’t put so much weight on individual experiences, like college; a generally positive outlook on life will serve you well and allow you to take advantage of any opportunities that amble your way.

Strategic pessimism (saying, “I’m going to get a C on this test!!!”) leaves

you momentarily happy with your A or B, but although I confess that I am a tried-and-true strategic pessimist when it comes to mini-experiences (a test, for example), I wouldn’t recommend it when it comes to an experience like college. It’s possible that saying, “College is going to be horrible; I should have worked on a dairy farm in Ireland this semester!!!” will leave you pleasantly surprised, but it can also result in an experience that is, just as you say, horrible. Strategic pessimism is targeted at something about which you’re anxious; it’s not an expectation about an experience.

Expectations are different, too, from goals and aspirations. Personal goals and aspirations are work; they are in your power; you can achieve or not achieve them, and the only thing holding you back from not achieving them is your own inadequacy (although, of course, achieving even personal goals is often hindered by things outside of our control, namely privilege and oppression). But my general guideline is this: instead of having expectations, have goals. Say, “This year, I’m going to devote forty minutes a day to reviewing French verb conjugations.” Or say, “This year, I’m going to ask new friends to lunch in order to expand my social circle.” Goals are timely and measurable.

In fact, goals give you back the autonomy you surrender to expectations.

Expectations give a lot of power to a thing—an experience—and allow that thing to fulfill you or to bore you. Aspirations allow you to focus on the ways that you can fulfill, or find meaning, in any experience in which you find yourself.

Freshmen, I’m not going to give you advice about what specifically to do in your first year at Wesleyan. You’ll figure it out, or maybe you won’t. But the important thing is this: you will be happier, and healthier, if you expect nothing and instead adapt to everything.

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# Alone, Not Lonely: The Perks of Going Solo

By JENN CUMMINGS, OPINION EDITOR

The following is a list of facts I remember about my move-in day freshman year:

I woke up in my nearly empty room after at most two hours of sleep. We packed the teal Buick Le Sabre so densely that its belly nearly dragged on the tar. Although we struggled to find the Nics, I got to my room in the basement before my roommate, who was much less enthusiastic about the whole thing. Walking down Foss, I made eye contact with a beautiful person and informed my mother that I would probably be marrying him. When it was time for my parents to leave, my mom welled up with tears, while Dad played the cool guy. And I spent most of my first night in my room, alone and pretty bummed.

I am not a party person. I have warmed up to them since, but I might never be great at making small talk, especially when the continuation of that conversation depends on my screaming over a pounding bass. Walking into strangers' houses feels intrusive to me, and it took me practically a semester to learn the difference between Pine and Vine. That first night, I needed to wander from house to house for only about an hour before it was time for me to retire to the dungeon. On the walk home, I felt like I had failed, like I wasn't doing the college thing right, and that a life of solitude was all the next four years had in store for me.

Of course, that was not entirely the case.

When people first leave for college, they go with a list of ideals. They expect to meet the coolest new group of friends, to encounter only the most inspiring professors, and to grow into the absolute best versions of themselves. I certainly had a lot of goals.

And while I can honestly say that those things have happened for me, none of them happened right off the bat. If there is one thing college life has taught me, it is how to be comfortably alone.

During the first few weeks of school, I couldn't help fantasizing that every person I chatted with on the pasta line would be my new BFF. But after those initial days, as everyone but me appeared to settle into his own crowd, no one seemed quite as eager to make pals. And what does an anxious, pal-less freshman do for dinner? She orders take-out from Summerfields. A lot.

I do not remember how long it took me to grow tired of burrito bowls and the view from my desk. I do remember that when I finally took the plunge and went to Usdan by myself, I noticed a few things: I was not the only person in the hall partaking in a dinner for one, and all of those who were accompanied by friends did not care that I wasn't. It was liberating. As time went on, I found myself running into people to sit with more and more often, but I also learned to appreciate times when I didn't. Admittedly, I don't think I've ever gotten much work done while eating dinner alone. But it is a nice break from the library, and there is no better time to people-watch.

In college, everyone's schedule is packed. Even after you have made a million friends, your dinner time, gym time, or library time will not always mesh with theirs. At some point, you will need to go it alone, so you might as well make good friends with yourself. It was only when I started spending more time on my own that I really learned to evaluate my own feel-

ings on things; when you spend every minute with others, you are always a bit swayed by their opinions and their plans. There is no better feeling than figuring out what you want to do and doing it for yourself. And, after all, you are here for a liberal education; learning to think on your own is part of the deal.

As far as nightlife goes, it is perfectly okay if the traditional party scene is not your thing. It took a little while, but I found friends who prefer intimate gatherings just as much as I do. And there will be weekends that you need to spend in the library, too. I have spent enough Fridays in Exley to know that, while the walk there may feel like defeat, you will never regret it. It feels great to know that you made the best choice for yourself and stuck to it, even if it meant missing Chana. And besides, there's something cozy about weekends in the fishbowl, barring the occasional snowball thrown at the window.

It took me about a year to feel like I had found a really steady friend group. With the exception of my roommate, I don't really talk to any of the people I spent the first few weeks of school with, and I think most people would tell you the same story. I've realized now that while I was walking around feeling like everyone had everything together within a month of coming to the University and I was the only one feeling lonesome, more people than not were in the same boat as I was. But freshman awkwardness does pass. You do make long-lasting friends and meet really inspirational professors. And when it comes time to be alone, you realize that you are becoming a person you like spending time with.

## FEMME FATTAL

# OUT ON A LIMB



By Isabel Fattal  
*Staff Writer*

I've owned a pair of yoga pants for years, and while they've been plenty useful for hanging around the house, they never performed the function for which they were designed until a few weeks ago, when I found myself agreeing to go to a yoga class while on vacation.

Yoga has never particularly appealed to me; I've always considered myself far too cynical and impatient to spend an hour practicing breathing and mindfulness. My aunt once gave me a book entitled "Yoga at Your Desk" in the hope of encouraging me to at least do a few poses while reading, and even that didn't work. And yet, while leafing through the spa pamphlet in Arizona, my mom mentioned the possibility of our taking a yoga class, and the idea suddenly sounded compelling. Maybe it was the calming energy of all the relaxed people around me at the Sedona spa. Maybe I was just itching for something new. Whatever the reason, I donned my yoga pants and headed for the class feeling moderately excited.

Like the typical New Yorkers that we are, my mom and I were late to our session and arrived frazzled and hurried, which even I knew wasn't the most appropriate pre-yoga mindset. But this didn't seem to faze our calm, smiling instructor, Kim. As she led us to her studio she spoke in soothing tones, just as I had imagined a yoga instructor would, and she listened patiently as I prefaced the session with a description of my utter lack of experience. She told me not to worry, and we began. The hour went by fairly quickly (likely in part because we had arrived fifteen minutes late). I was unfamiliar with most of the poses, and I almost certainly got a few of them wrong, but for the most part, I was a lot more comfortable than I thought I'd be, and there were moments when I found myself truly enjoying it. At least until Kim began to guide us in a meditation, at which point my cynical nature started to kick in. My mind immediately began to wander: "This isn't working. Why isn't this working? Why can't I picture the healing light going through me like she's describing? It's still not working." Five minutes of internal debate later, the

meditation was over, and after a few more poses, our time was up.

Though I didn't leave as a total yoga convert, I felt that I was at least able to get inside the minds of those who do love yoga, even if for only an hour. I began to understand why others enjoyed the experience and all that can be gained from it, even if I personally didn't connect to it as strongly as they did. Although this outcome was all that I'd hoped for out of this particular activity, I started to realize that those aren't the goals with which most of us normally embark on new experiences. When most of us try something new, we do so with the confidence that we will enjoy it wholeheartedly. But that expectation of success can prevent us from ever having truly new experiences.

From the moment we begin our college career, we're told to "try new things." Most of us associate that concept with activities that, while we may not have tried them yet, we are fairly certain we will be somewhat interested in and skilled at. But we often don't factor in those experiences that are so far out of our habitual realms that we cannot even anticipate what they might be like. We usually avoid taking that chance; after all, what's the point when there are so many other opportunities that are guaranteed to be the right fit? But maybe we shouldn't be so quick to shy away from risk-taking. These four years are possibly the only time in our lives when we find ourselves in a safe, supportive environment where we are encouraged to try our hand at whatever piques our curiosity with very few consequences of failure.

I wish I'd realized this more fully as a freshman; if I had, my eyes would have been opened to many more opportunities that I might've thought were closed to me because they didn't precisely fit my personality or my interests.

So, freshmen, as you begin to explore the array of incredible possibilities available to you here, don't be afraid to extend a bit past your vision of what "someone like you" would or should do in college. Take an astronomy course even if you don't know the first thing about stars and planets. If the table for the poetry magazine at the activity fair looks interesting but the voice in your head says, "That's not me," consider taking that as your cue to sign up. There is very little to lose. In the best-case scenario, you will inadvertently stumble upon a magical new world that turns out to be just what you were looking for. In the worst-case scenario, you'll try something once and realize that you never want to do it again, but even so, you'll leave with just a bit more experience and perspective under your belt than you would have had you never stepped into the metaphorical yoga studio.



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# SPORTS

## Watch: Team Members Show Promise for Upcoming Season



C/O SHANNON WELCH

Expectations are high for Jake Roberts '17 and the men's tennis team.

Continued from front page

scorer on the Cards, who were last in the NESCAC with 12 goals in 15 games. Sylla and her fellow attackers will have to come up big for the team if they hope to overcome the perennial powerhouses of the 'Cac. The team will rely heavily on its defensive core of Co-Captains Hannah Stone '15, Brynn Hansson '15, and Katy Hardt '15, along with goalkeeper Jess Tollman '15. Tollman finished fourth in the conference in goals against average and save percentage last year, and eyes will be on her to continue her dominance in the clutch.

**Football:** Expectations couldn't be higher for the football team, which should be looking to avenge the bitter end to its 2013 campaign, when it lost its final game of the season against Route Nine Rival Trinity College. Wes hasn't defeated the Bantams since 2000 and will surely have to do so if it expects to win its first-ever all-out NESCAC championship, after having shared the title with Amherst and Middlebury last season. The team is returning four all-NESCAC first-teamers and three second-teamers. Reigning conference-leader in rushing yards LaDarius Drew '15 will be chasing history early in the season. Drew is 347 yards and four touchdowns away from setting new Wesleyan career records and is looking to secure his place as perhaps the greatest offensive back in Cardinal history. On the defensive side, captain and defensive back Donnie Cimino '15 has high hopes for a strong season anchoring the Cardinal backfield. He is a pre-season all-American after leading the squad last year with 27 solo tackles.

**Field Hockey:** The field hockey team has much to be excited about this fall, after nearly shocking top-seeded Amherst in the opening round of last year's playoffs. They finished 4-6 in NESCAC play last year, but will look to further improve their standing in the most competitive field hockey conference in Division III. Netminder Sarah Grundy '16 started all 15 of the Cards' games last year and was third in the 'Cac with a .786 save percentage. She and the

scrappy Wes defense will have to maintain a strong performance if the Cards hope to pursue a playoff run: the team was ninth in the conference in goals scored last year and graduated their two top scorers. Offensive production will have to come from somewhere if this team is to find success.

**Men's XC:** The men's cross-country team is returning its entire team from last fall, which surely bodes well for their odds of improving on a weak 2013 campaign. During the outdoor track season last spring, a couple runners stood out as candidates to lead this fall's team to success: Juniors Taylor Titcomb and Keith Conway ran the 5000m in 15:00.25 and 15:22.98, respectively on the track. Evan Bieder '15 also threw up a 15:10.89 in that event, as he looks to maintain his strong showings from last year.

**Women's XC:** With just one senior anchoring the women's cross-country team, the runners hope to improve after last year's rebuilding season. They will expect consistent performances from Caroline Elmendorf '17 and Molly Schassberger '17, who both found success in the track seasons last year. Elmendorf ran an 18:24.51 in the indoor five kilometer, and threw up a 4:57.79 in the 1500m during the outdoor track season. Schassberger ran 18:43.29 and 38:35.12 in the five and 10Ks last spring.

**Men's Crew:** The male rowers have some big seats to fill in their Varsity Eight, having lost three all-NESCAC athletes. Returning first-boaters Chris Nanda '16 and Collin Mattox '17 will anchor a young 1V team this fall, as it rows through the fall in big races at the Head of the Charles and Head of the Fish. The most crucial determining factors for the team will be building chemistry through the season, and young athletes will surely have a chance to contribute on the grandest of stages this fall.

**Women's Crew:** Coming off a fifth-place finish at Nationals last spring, the women's crew hopes to

make another strong impact on its NESCAC competition this fall. Having lost four members from their 1V, which finished third in Division III, the Cards will look to their fifth-placing 2V crew for reinforcements. Emma Koramshahi '16 and Annie Dade '16 are the eldest returning 1V rowers, but will likely be joined by upperclassmen from the strong 2V squad.

**Women's Tennis:** An influx of young talent will determine the fate of the women's tennis team, which finished seventh in the NESCAC last year, one spot out of the conference tournament. Coach Mike Fried took a very active role in recruiting last year, and his incoming class was ranked by Tennis Recruiting Network as the third-best in the nation. Olivia Koh '17 will be a force for the Cards, perhaps looking to jump up in the lineup after a strong 2013-14 campaign at first doubles/third singles.

**Men's Tennis:** Much like the women's squad, the men's tennis team will benefit from a nationally recognized recruiting class. Coach Fried brought in four blue-chip prospects this year, the second-rated group in America in a concerted effort to reclaim a playoff spot after falling one victory short last year. Top singles players Jake Roberts '17 and Michael Liu '17 will both return after each playing better than .500 against the top players in the NESCAC.

**Volleyball:** Following an 8-15 finish last season, the volleyball squad hopes to make significant improvements this fall with six freshmen arriving to compete for spots. Many of the newcomers are over six feet tall, and hope to reshape a core that the team lost to graduation last year. Three 2014 graduates accounted for 75 percent of the team's kills last season, and the Cards will need to find a way to replace that offense. Co-Captain Claire Larson '15 will be entering her fourth year as the team's setter and is surrounded by solid group of veterans in hitters Abigail Southam '16 and Sara Warnock '15. Libero Rachel Savage '17 will also be back, having led the team in digs last season.

## Whalen Previews 2014-15 Athletics

By Felipe DaCosta  
Assistant Sports Editor

Since returning to his alma mater to coach football in 2010, Mike Whalen has had a sizable impact on the progress of Wesleyan Athletics both on and off the field. Along with serving as the head coach of the football team, Whalen oversees all Wesleyan sports as Athletic Director. A week before the Cardinals 2014-15 sports campaign begins, the Argus sat down with Coach Whalen to discuss what's on tap this year for our student-athletes.

**The Argus:** What was your overall take on how the athletic year played out in 2013-14? What do you draw as some of the year's highlights?

**Mike Whalen:** I think what we're striving to do is improving the overall athletic program. I think for the most part we've been doing that. Several different programs are at different levels, and what makes it extremely challenging is just how competitive the NESCAC is. The first thing that we talk about as a department is to be realistic and to set realistic goals. I think our goal for every program is to have a winning season.

Certainly we feel it's really important to compete within the Little Three and compete for a NESCAC championship. And for all of the sports other than football that can qualify for NCAAs, we'd love to see our student-athletes and teams compete at that level.

**A:** Across all sports, what major changes do you see occurring in the upcoming year?

**MW:** One program we actually started last year that we're carrying on again is our department recruiting weekend during the weekend of September 27. A lot of our coaches are trying to bring in top prospects that they're recruiting to come to our campus and meet our student athletes. We're also going to incorporate two panel discussions: one made up of our current student athletes and the other made up of members of our athletic advisory council that will talk about the alumni perspective of Wesleyan and our athletic mentoring program and things that would be beneficial should student athletes choose to come to Wesleyan.

**A:** How successful do you think this program was last year?

**MW:** Last fall, we did it for our first game against Tufts, the night game last year. It was kind of something we threw together right at the end of the summer, so not every team was really in a position to take advantage of it. But a lot of teams did, and it was really well received, and we actually had some really good results and [have] a lot of kids on our campus now who visited that weekend. We're looking to expand it a little bit and get the word out to our coaches so they can get the word out to student athletes. What I'm hearing from the coaches is that it's going to be a much bigger group coming to campus this year.

**A:** You mentioned last year's night football game, the first ever in NESCAC history. Will there be any other sorts of bold innovations you plan on undertaking

this year?  
**MW:** Not that I'm aware of, off the top of my head. We actually tried to get another night football game, but unfortunately the schedule didn't work out. The potential opponents we invited to play us at home in a night game said they didn't want to do that. But, I think overall what we're striving to do is to start the year off strong and position ourselves so that our fall teams can create excitement and buzz for our winter teams and our winter teams do the same for our spring teams.

**A:** Are there any major personnel changes for any sports this year?

**MW:** Really the only change is that our women's lacrosse coach, Amanda Belichick, went from interim to our full-time women's lacrosse coach. That was the only real opening that we had. We did a search, and we felt very good that Amanda was the right person for the job, so we hired her in a permanent capacity. Fortunately, we didn't have any other changes.

That's not saying there won't be any this year; every year is a new year. We're always bringing new assistants on board as our intern program has been enabling us to bring some excellent young coaches onto our staff and enabling them to work with our student athletes. We do have a number of those folks who are new and on board. One real advantage we expect for the interns is that by coaching at a Division III school like Wesleyan, they're going to have a real opportunity to coach. Whereas at the Division I level, you do very little coaching; you do a lot of gopher work. Our reputation for what our intern program can do for young coaches is growing, so that's exciting.

**A:** Since you took over as Athletic Director in 2011, what has been the most significant change to Wes Athletics that you've noted during your tenure?

**MW:** Our goal has been to raise the overall profile of the athletic [program.] And that's a process; it's definitely not going to happen overnight. We have some successful teams, and we'd like to get more. I think that progress has been steady and that our coaches and student-athletes are getting a better understanding of what it takes to compete at the highest levels within our league.

I think it's something that takes a few years to build in certain sports. For instance, Mike Fried took over our tennis programs in 2012, which were really at the bottom of the NESCAC. Mike comes in, and he brings in a recruiting class that has an amazing impact and takes us from being at the bottom of the NESCAC to having a chance to qualify for the NESCAC tournament, which means you're in the top half. That's a huge jump in such a short time. For tennis, and most of our sports, you make the first step to get in the top half of the league, but then to take that next step is even more challenging because when you're saying getting into the very top of the NESCAC you're actually saying getting into the top of the national rankings.

That's what the challenge is, and I certainly have faith [in] our coaches. But you have to approach the building of a program as a process. One talented recruiting class is not going to be enough to build a NESCAC championship. You have to compete at that level for a number of years and bring in high quality student-athletes who can elevate your program over time.



# Ballplayers Compete in Cape League

By Grant Lounsbury  
*Staff Writer*

On May 31, 13 days after the Wesleyan baseball team's historic season came to an end, Nick Cooney '15, Gavin Pittore '16, and 78 other collegiate baseball players arrived at Spillane Field in Wareham, Mass. to fight for roster spots on one of the ten teams that make up the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League (CCBL). The CCBL, in its 130-year history, has had over one thousand players go on to have Major League Baseball careers. In the 2013 baseball season, there were 256 former CCBL players playing on major-league teams.

"The tryout was in the form of a simulated game, with a different pitcher throwing every inning," Cooney said. "Gavin threw before me—and threw extremely well—and as soon as he walked off the field two or three teams approached him about signing a contract, which both excited and motivated me. I pitched about a half hour later and was happy with how I pitched, and when I was changing out of my cleats, a few teams approached me."

Cooney received an offer from the Falmouth Commodores while Pittore, after initially being brought on as a temporary player (typically in the league until the College World Series concludes) was ultimately given a full-time roster spot with the Harwich Mariners.

"Gavin and I were very excited to come off of the field with contracts, as we were two of just four players signed at the tryout out of 80 players," Cooney said.

Once Cooney and Pittore were brought on as full-time players for their respective teams, they met their host families, who volunteer to provide room and board for the CCBL players during the summer. The family Cooney stayed with was in their 14th year of hosting CCBL players.

"After being taken on as a full-time guy, I moved into a permanent house with a husband and wife about three minutes from the field," Pittore said. "I expected to be there for about a week and be released. It had been my dream to just wear a Cape uniform and be a part of a game, so even if I stayed for a day, I would have been content."

The CCBL season runs from June 11 through August 13, with 44 regular-season games and a postseason that consists of three best-of-three series for the league championship. Cooney and Pittore started their days off by working at baseball camps for kids ranging from ages of five to 14 held at their respective teams' home facilities. Before lunch, most players would head to the gym or batting cages to lift weights and take batting practice.

Cooney, who set a new single-season strikeout record at Wes by punching out 87 batters last season, went 1-0 in his two starts for the Commodores. In his 12 appearances for the team, Cooney put up the team's fifth-best batting average against and had an ERA of 4.26. With a regular season record of 26-17-1 and 53 points, the Commodores finished second in the West Division behind the Bourne Braves. After the Commodores dispatched the Hyannis Harbor Hawks in the first round, followed by the Cotuit Kettleers for the West Division, they faced the East Division winners, the Yarmouth-Dennis (Y-D) Red Sox, in the Championship series, which Y-D ultimately won.

"It was a very surreal experience playing with and against some players who will surely be first-round draft picks come the next draft in June, but I was surprised at how grounded they all were," Cooney said. "Everyone on my team was very outgoing and friendly to every player on the team, which I think is a credit to our coach and a big reason we were so successful."

Cooney added that when he was on the mound, he made sure not to get distracted by his opponents' MLB prospects. "When I was on the mound, I ap-

proached every hitter with the same mentality and respected them but never acted star struck," he said. "[I] attacked them in what I thought was the best way to get them out. All in all, I learned a lot from the players just by sitting and picking their brains and by watching some of the great things that they were able to do on the diamond."

Pittore, who led the Cardinals last season with seven wins, went 1-1 in 8 appearances for the Mariners and posted an ERA of 6.09.

The Mariners finished the regular season first in the East Division with a record of 26-16-2 giving them 54 points. In the semifinals, the Mariners were also defeated by Y-D, who shut out Harwich 2-0 in the rubber game of the series.

"The level of talent was the best part," Pittore said. "Facing guys on a daily basis that are going to be first-round picks and occasionally getting to pitch against them was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I had a lot of those guys on my team, who I got to learn from, and I believe it has really helped me grow as a player."

The two players surely gained exposure to the possibility of one day playing in the MLB alongside fellow CCBL Alumni, such as the New York Yankees center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury, Boston Red Sox MVP-winner Dustin Pedroia, and San Francisco Giants pitcher and two-time Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum.

"I would say my current goal is to win a national championship at Wesleyan," Pittore said. "I'm going to be at Wes for four years and win as many games as possible, and if I get the opportunity to play after school it would be a dream."

"On a personal level, I was very happy with the exposure that I received and the number of resources that I gained from this summer," Cooney said. "I have always said that I will play baseball until someone rips the jersey from my back, and I do not know what my future in baseball will be, but I am very excited for this upcoming spring and the baseball program at Wesleyan, as we have a great team of hard-working and selfless players."

When the Cardinals return to Andrus Field next Spring for the 2015 season, Cooney and Pittore will team up again with players like Guy Davidson '16 and Donnie Cimino '15, both of whom also spent some time in the CCBL, to defend their NESCAC title.

"I took a lot away from the day-to-day routines of the guys on my team," Pittore said. "These guys are future big leaguers, and if a little DIII guy like me can copy some of their routines and get myself better, I'm definitely going to do that."

Not only did these four athletes represent Wes well; they also represented the NESCAC, since they were the only players from the conference to play in the CCBL.

"I think that playing in the Cape Cod League gave the Wesleyan baseball program great exposure, as we had four players in the league at the beginning of the season, which is more players than even many large DI programs have in the league," Cooney commented. "It speaks volumes about our program and the type of talent that we have, and that we are able to hold our own against many well-respected top college players."

Both Cooney and Pittore said they will never forget the opportunities they had this past summer. They didn't worry about their individual stats and just went out, had fun, and played ball.

"I learned that in any team sport, it is far easier to achieve both individual and collective success if the individual stops worrying about their own performance and instead focuses more on how they can best help the team win games," Cooney said. "If individuals are putting the team first, the individual achievements will fall into place."

# Women's Crew Tops Off 2014 Campaign with Nationals Trip

By Daniel Kim  
*Staff Writer*

It was a warm morning in Indiana, just hinting at the upcoming summer heat. At 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 30, three boats lined up at the start of the 2000-meter Eagle Creek Park racing course in Indianapolis. As the flag went down, the oars went into the water, and the NCAA DIII Women's Rowing Championships had begun.

Upon receiving their third invite ever to the NAAs, the Cardinals traveled to Indianapolis to compete in the Championships against the nation's best. This year, Wesleyan sent two eight-rower boats, having last been invited to the NAAs in 2001.

Over that weekend in May, both Red and Black boats achieved great success, battling their ways into respective Grand Final races. The first varsity (1V) finished fifth overall out of eight teams. The boat held coxswain Brianne Wiemann '15, Ava Miller-Lewis '17, Remy Johnson '16, Captain Kayla Cloud '14, Emma Koramshahi '16, Annie Dade '16, Captain Clare Doyle '14, Emilie Johnson '13, and Hannah Korevaar '14.

The second varsity (2V) finished in third place, behind Bates and Trinity. The boat held coxswain Ari Rudess '15, Avery Mushinski '15, Emilie Sinkler '14, Emma Buford '16, Emma Halter '17, Hannah Brigham '17, Lucy Finn '14, Eva Frieden '15, and Ellen Paik '16.

"Every time we got on the water we knew we were racing the best teams in the country," said Head Coach Patrick Tynan in an email. "We were one of those teams but there were no easy races. We used

every racing opportunity as a chance to further identify our strengths and adjust our race plan accordingly."

After placing third in its initial heat with a time of 6:51.523, the 1V went on to secure second place in the repechage that followed. (A repechage is a race that allows losing teams of a heat to earn a spot in the finals).

"[W]e needed top two to go to the Grand Final and were fortunate enough to get that done," Tynan said. "The [tensest] moment, for the coaches anyway, was the repechage. Williams Smith was moving well and leading the field for a good part of the race. Luckily, the finish line is at the end of the race and we were able to get past them."

Wesleyan finished that race in 6:58.911, five seconds ahead of third-place Williams Smith and less than a second behind Washington College. Having secured a top-two spot, the 1V moved on to the Grand Final to race against Trinity, Bates, Williams, Wellesley, and Washington College.

"The highest-energy [race] was the Grand Final," Tynan said. "It was our goal to get there and it was an awesome feeling lining up and competing to see who is the best in the country."

After two thousand meters of hard rowing, Wesleyan beat Washington College for fifth place by a three-second margin, finishing in 7:22.676.

The 2V started off its successful weekend with a 7:13.465 finish time in its initial heat, placing second behind Trinity. The Cardinals then moved on to win first place decisively in their repechage race, finishing in 7:02.737. The closest boat was Williams' 2V, three and a half seconds behind. It was Wesleyan's fourth consecutive victory over the Ephs this season, and that streak continued into the Grand Final in which Wesleyan was pitted against Bates, Trinity, and Williams.

The boat finished in 7:33.416, four seconds behind second-place Trinity. The Cardinals were ahead of the Ephs by over four seconds, marking Wesleyan's fifth straight win over its Little Three rival.

"The 2V was an extremely consistent crew so it was less adjusting and more maintaining speed and performance as the Championships progressed," Tynan said. "They really didn't have many ups and downs and did a good job of managing emotions throughout the racing. We had a number of freshmen in this crew, so the future is bright. They had some outstanding role models to row with."

Wesleyan ended the weekend with 26 team points, finishing in fifth place, just two points behind Wellesley's 28. Trinity won the team crown with 40 points while Bates and Williams tied for second at 33 points each.

In addition to a fifth-place prize, individual members of Wesleyan's 1V crew received noteworthy awards. Wiemann received the NCAA's Elite 89 Award, which recognizes the student athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average who has reached the finals in the division of his sport.

Captains Cloud and Doyle respectively received First-Team All-NESCAC and Second-Team All-NESCAC recognition, distinguishing their accomplishments among NESCAC rowers at the end of a phenomenal season.

"[W]hat worked for this team is that we had great upperclass leadership," Tynan said. "They loved to compete and there was a strong sense of community on the team. We had 20 athletes who did not travel to Indianapolis and they played a huge part in the success of the team this year by pushing the 1V and 2V athletes while developing themselves."

# Bridging the Athlete-Techie Divide: A Guide to Wes Sports

By Brett Keating  
*Sports Editor*

Finding one's niche in regards to athletics at Wesleyan can be difficult, especially for those who precariously straddle the line between, shall we say, one side of the dining room and the other. We're surrounded by a lexicon in which there is a big difference between capital-A Athletes and athletic people, and we endlessly appropriate and re-appropriate the word "Techie," which is the Helen of Troy of Wesleyan jargon.

For clarification's sake, a brief history of the "Techie" battle: Traditional NESCAC athletic rivals Williams and Amherst deemed Dear Old Wesleyan "WesTech," implying that our varsity teams' abilities were comparable to those one would find at a technical school. After recent successes by our football, soccer, and baseball teams, the athletes in the two frats on either end of High Street claimed the word from our purple peers of the Little Three, appropriating it to then describe only the non-athlete Wesleyan population. "Techie" currently seems to belong to non-athletes, though, who have reclaimed it as a point of pride.

It can be easy to fall into the trap of being identified as either an Athlete or a Techie. However, for those of us who refuse to identify

as one or the other, which I encourage every student to do, there are plenty of athletic resources.

In terms of viewing, there are constantly varsity events happening, so be sure to attend and support your capital-A Athlete friends. Wesleyan students never have to pay to attend sports events, and the Cardinal Faithful show strongly at most home games and events, from soccer in the CFA to football on Andrus, and from volleyball in Silloway to the Wesleyan-hosted crew regatta downtown. In all of these places, the fight song has been known to break out and inspire our athletes in even the most dire of situations.

For little-a athletes, there are plenty of opportunities at the club, intramural, and even academic level. Wesleyan's club rugby, Frisbee, and volleyball teams welcome all genders and skill levels. Wesleyan even boasts water polo, sailing, equestrian, and fencing club teams for those looking to continue the sports they learned in California and/or their New England prep school. They are competitive in the best way, with a coach or team captain leading the team against other schools around New England and the country.

For those who aren't able to commit to a varsity team but are looking to continue their glory days as former high school athletes, intramural athletics pave the path to stardom. Most intramural sports play in three dif-

ferent leagues, in ascending levels of competition from C (the Just-Trying-to-Have-Fun crowd) to A (with participants who have played the sport before, and might be good enough to play varsity but "Just Don't Want To").

All students may also take classes in the athletic department, since all head coaches are also professors in the department. They teach courses ranging from tennis and golf classes to weight training, swimming classes, hiking, and even yoga. All of these courses are available via WesMaps.

Athletics are fun. They are an important way to bond with new people, to be healthy, and to avoid the WesWings 50. But regardless of what level one involves himself in, it is crucial for all Wesleyan students to reconsider the divide that allegedly exists between athletes and non-athletes, and to recognize how ludicrous it is to separate ourselves on these bases. The divide surely exists, but it's also completely ridiculous that it does. The best athletic advice I can give you is to pursue your interests, regardless of what your friends or teammates tell you to do. Refuse to sit on "your side" of Usdan. Attend a Second Stage show and a soccer game in the same day. Write for both the Sports and Arts sections of The Argus (we promise, we will let you and love you.)

This divide is silly. Play sports, watch sports, make friends with Athletes, athletes, and Techies, and help fix this nonsense.



W E S L E Y A N

the ampersand



Officers Jeff and Bob are herer to protect you from heartbreak and spare you from hurt feelings. If you are concerned about the safety of your heart please call the Office of Unexpected Romance at ext. 2388

Fall Style Tips: How to Look Chill

Let's be honest: dressing for success (read: getting laid) can be tricky at Wesleyan, since our students don't fit into boxes! Do you want to give off an edgy, feminist vibe that also says, *Don't worry, I'm straight?* Are you a DKE bro who wants all the biddies but is still *kind* of into that hipster girl you see snorting probiotics on her way from Fisk to Usdan? Wes may be "Diversity University," but here are 3 foolproof fashion tricks anyone can follow to look chill as fuck and get laid on the reg:

1. It's 2014, so don't settle for just one income bracket! Try pairing a ripped, hand-me-down sweatshirt with J Brand cigarette jeans, brand-new Nike sneakers, and a subtle oil smudge on your mysterious-looking face. This trick prevents people from asking your stance on need-blind admissions, thus minimizing distractions and maximizing boning potential.
2. Girls: ditch the bra. Guys: ditch the boxers. Genderfluid, agender, or genderqueer? Try ditching the socks. It's hard to
- look DTF if your fun parts aren't flowing in the breeze.
3. Show up to class looking like you just rolled out of bed 30 seconds ago. This technique suggests you got laid last night, had a fun time, and are looking for a fresh, juicy sack-buddy for tonight. Bonus points for 1 or 2 (but not more — that's tacky) faint hickeys.

Use these helpful hints to get the most (sex) out of your orientation week and beyond. It's going to be a great four years!

Choose The Right Lamp For Your Dorm Room



Plug in this lamp for a good time. When a special someone is visiting your room, you want a soft wash of light to flatter your best features. The **HappyLight Delux Mood Lamp** will put *you* in the mood.



Stressed out? Turn on this soothing beam to calm down and regain your own natural glow. The rays of the **ReLaux Calming Lamp** will recharge your frazzled mind.



Focus up and get to business with the **Werkl Desk Lamp**. This energizing light will provide the stimulation you need to get through your toughest all-nighters with poise. Say goodbye to coffee and that cocaine you did every once in a while, only when you really needed it, it wasn't a big deal.



Putting on your makeup in the morning and can't bare the sight of your truly hideous face? The **MakeUOver Lamp** is just dim enough for you to apply cosmetics with ease without having to come to terms with your face.

How to Secure Your Position as Alpha Roommate

Having a freshman year roommate is a quintessential part of the college experience. It's so nice to have someone to go to meals with, commiserate with, and, of course, to **completely dominate and control**. Here's how to turn your roommate into your underling.

- Keep your eyes on the prize.** You are a fierce lion staring into the eyes of your feeble prey. Would a lion break eye contact? **NO**. And *neither should you*. Breaking eye contact is a **clear sign of weakness**. Do not let your prey become the predator.
- Transcend bodily functions.** Living with a roommate keeps your body in a constant state of fight-or-flight. As the alpha, you must *always* choose "fight." This includes fighting the urge to sneeze in front of your roommate. This will give

the illusion that you are more evolved than they are.

- Be bigger; be better.** Always be sure that you are looking down on your roommate when you speak to her. Stand on your desk if you have to — the greater the vertical distance between you two, **the better**. This distance will increase over time as the subordinate roommate sinks lower into submission with each conversation.
- Mark your territory.** This **classic tip** comes from our canine brethren. Don't wait until your roommate has covered the space in her scent. Urinate in each corner of the room to ensure your spot as top dog.

Follow these tips and by the end of the semester your entire floor will be doing your bidding!

POINT OF VIEW

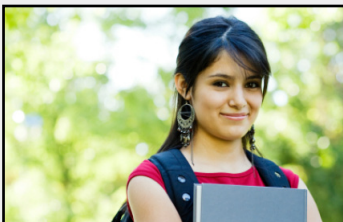
Where are you from?



Matthew Stern, 2018  
"New Bedford, CT."



Nicole Li, 2018  
"Phoenix, AZ."



Melissa Cruz, 2018  
"Quonset, RI."

Butt Naked at Bennett

Join your fellow members of the class of 2018 in yet another great orientation tradition: Butt Naked at Bennett! After Bend it at Beckham, toss your inhibitions (and your hallmate's dress!) even further down the drain, and come on down to the freshman dorm Bennett (formerly known as Fauver) for a night of naked dancing! The party isn't mandatory (and neither are Gen Eds — seriously!) but the nudity is (yes, even you, nerds who are planning on completing Gen Eds)! "Butt Naked at Bennett" is open to all freshmen, but not to transfer students (gross!) or newly accepted grad students (too nerdy!). The doors open when "Bend It" ends, and the party will continue until 5am, at which time the staff will do

a systems test of the fire sprinklers. Keep in mind: there is a rainstorm forecasted! You can't bring a raincoat, because raincoats are clothing and therefore prohibited, but just keep it in mind. Also, the event will be inside.

Students who are worried about "baring it all" should keep in mind that the rest of their class will be in the same boat. What a great way to bond! Even the P-safe officers chaperoning the event will be in the nude (thank goodness!).

Make sure to check out this doozy of an orientation event if you're looking to validate everything your parents' friends have been saying to you all summer. Yes, Clara-With-The-Weird-Hair, Wesleyan certainly is "pretty out-there"

The Ampersand is a humor page. Sam Raby, Emilie Pass, Sarah Esocoff, Ian McCarthy, Katie Darr, Editors; Emma Singer, Queen of Layout.

Unexpected Romance Image, Emma Singer; Alpha, Katie Darr; POV, Sarah Esocoff; Butt Naked, Nico "The Hedge" Hartman; THE Lamp, Emilie Pass; Chill Look, Chloe Jones.

Write for the Ampersand! E-mail wesleyanampersand@gmail.com.



W E S L E Y A N

MORE INSIDE!!

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amper sand



Summer Movies You May Have Missed

**Let's be Mops**  
This laugh-out-loud dramedy follows two twenty-somethings who, floundering for identity, decide to pose as mops. Will these guys manage to “clean up” their image? Maybe, but not before some sticky twists and turns.

a no-nonsense restaurant owner, this feel-good movie explores the drama inherent to taking a date to an Indian restaurant. A young chef must walk his lady the 100 feet back to her apartment without passing gas...Can it be done?

**A Most Wanted Van**  
This sharply crafted drama tells the story of a used car salesman searching for the perfect vehicle through a tangle of lies. Audiences can look forward to exquisite performances from actors and cars alike.

**Dawn of the Planet of The Crepes**  
In this apocalyptic action film, audiences are faced with a question: What would happen if the French finally succeeded in overthrowing the Earth? Most of the film's budget went towards the stunning graphics and it shows: the crepes seem to leap off the screen.

**If I Gay**  
Based on the best-selling book by Gay Forman, this poignant movie provides a glimpse into the life of a Portland teenager struggling with her sexuality. She has to make a heart-wrenching choice between staying with her boyfriend, Adam, or eloping to New York City with a new flame, Julia.

**The Splurge: Anarchy**  
For best friends Laura and Ashley, there's only one reason to wake up in the morning: new clothes! These two are chock full of snarky zingers as they hit the racks, but when Laura gets banned from Nordstrom for an exfoliating mask the store manager thought was blackface, things take a turn for the serious. Rooney Mara stars alongside John Krasinski in drag.

**The Hundred-Fart Journey**  
Starring Smellen Mirren as

When I Was Your Age

A recent graduate remembers her freshman year orientation:

The term “Feet to the Fire” stems from my orientation — we were forced to walk across hot coals in order to determine which among us were witches.

When we took our group photo on the first day, some people ran from one edge of the group to the other while the photo was taken, so they would appear twice! Haha! The discipline of photography has advanced so much.

My FYI course was about how to correctly tie bonnets

(BONN201). The knots I learned became useful in the spring, when we had to use ropes to secure our covered wagons from the Wasps.

We didn't so much have “Peer Advisors” as we had a “Group of Veiled Elders.”

Roommate agreement contracts took the form of blood oaths. Boy was it an effective method... for spreading blood disease! We will never know how many perished.

During my Orientation, it was called FAUVER, not BENNET, so don't even think about calling it Bennet!!!

Check it out, Froshies! The first two words you see in the box below will DEFINE your freshman year experience. Let destiny decide your future...

K	Y	K	G	L	B	T	W	B	O	G	M
N	R	V	O	P	H	E	R	P	E	S	Q
U	H	O	O	O	V	L	E	W	Q	Z	X
I	E	N	N	W	Q	X	Z	O	P	K	R
S	R	K	L	B	D	C	R	H	E	S	S
O	P	U	F	K	C	I	V	M	G	L	B
K	E	I	B	T	J	V	K	G	H	F	J
J	S	T	R	W	V	K	I	Y	N	K	I
E	H	Y	F	N	O	N	O	N	Y	J	K

Student Refuses to Make Small Talk During Orientation Week

**MIDDLETOWN, CT-** It was confirmed yesterday that Tommy Nickels '18 was the first incoming student in Wesleyan's history to eschew conventional icebreakers during his freshman orientation week. Refusing to ask such questions as, "Where are you from?" and "What classes are you taking?" Nickels, 18, told baffled reporters that he wished to skip the "vapid" small talk and "get right to the good stuff" in order to show students that he is

a unique and delightfully zany individual. "This first week is so hard. I just don't have the energy to engage in cheap talk that gets me nowhere," he said, leaning dispassionately against the door jam of his room in WestCo. "So instead I'm gonna do what no one's done before and forge my own path, you know? Really just be me." Nickels told reporters that when he's asked a question like, "Where are you from?" he typically

answers in a fashion that shows his fellow first years that he is a worldly and contemplative person. "Yeah I usually just say something along the lines of, 'I'm from everywhere, dude, like the stars, and, like, the dust of the earth, and every living thing that grows and lives and laughs and loves, you know? Like, it's a journey. Isn't it?" At press time Nickels was seen choosing where on Foss to eat his WesShop sandwich alone.

←

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&

Wesleyan Ampersand @WesA... 19h

@CarterBays NEVER FORGET YOUR ROOTS \*\*\*&&&&&\*\*\*

Carter Bays @CarterBays

@WesAmpersand Of course I haven't forgotten! BTW if you find a 17 year old joint in the Ampersand desk, that's mine. Please send it to me.

8/12/13, 12:18 AM

Before Carter Bays created

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER,

he edited the WESLEYAN

AMPERSAND!

Come to the Ampersand's first meeting!

Thursday, September 4

4:30

Allbritton 004

The Ampersand is a humor page. Sam Raby, Emilie Pass, Sarah Esocoff, Ian McCarthy, Katie Darr, Editors; Emma Singer, Queen of Layout.

Roth Reynolds Image, Emma Singer; Summer Movie Review, Rachel Earnhardt; When I Was Your Age, Keelin "What Does the Q Stand For?" Ryan; No Small Talk, Nick "Holden" Martino; Herpes is Inevitable, Sam Raby and Sarah Esocoff.

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