

Cardinal Spirit



LIANNE YUN/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Middletown and campus communities came together for a festival during the Homecoming games against Amherst College. For more on this story, turn to page 3.

In Homecoming Upset, Men's Soccer Ends Amherst's Streak

By Daniel Kim
Staff Writer

In yet another game filled with the suspense and drama that has come to characterize this year's season, the men's soccer team triumphed over the previously undefeated Lord Jeffs, two goals to one, in overtime. The 10-0-2 overall, 6-0-2 in-conference Amherst squad came to Wes on Saturday, Oct. 18 to face the Cardinals in a high-stakes, high-attendance Homecoming match.

"This was the biggest game of my life so far," said Matt Lynch '15. "Amherst had a 37-win, consecutive, unbeaten streak in the conference, three whole seasons without losing a game in the NESCAC. [They had] all these great statistics on their part. It was more motivation for us to play as

well as we should have."

A slew of other factors brought the game's brew to a boil. In addition to pitting Wesleyan against the Goliath that was Amherst, Saturday's match against the Little Three rival held the Cardinals' position in the NESCAC tournament at stake. The weekend's crowd of alumni added to this all-or-nothing attitude.

"It being Homecoming, the mentality was that a win would revitalize our season [and] revitalize our chances in the playoffs," said Adam Cowie-Haskell '18. "Offensively, we knew that once we got an opportunity, we had to finish. Against a team like Amherst, those are extremely important opportunities that we're going to get. So it was all-in, or nothing."

The Cardinals' choice was clear. In the first period, Wesleyan matched

Amherst in total shots, five each. Defensively, the back line and veteran goalkeeper Emmett McConnell '15 kept it tight and didn't allow any shots into the net. The Lord Jeffs did the same, however, leaving both teams scoreless into the half.

"Emmett came up really big in both the first half and the second half, keeping us in the game," Lynch said. "We knew [after the half] it was time for us to score. We needed that goal to keep us going forward, to better our chances of winning. Coming into the second half, we knew we had to get things on frame, we knew we had to test the keeper, and we did just that."

Indeed, after a silent first period, Lynch stepped up to fire a shot

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For the Record: WESU Record Fair Will Offer a Wide Selection

By Max Lee
Staff Writer

Shelves of thousands upon thousands of LPs, categorized by genre in Sharpie and colored paper, cover the walls of WESU's office from floor to ceiling. Some of these records, from the '40s, are nearly as old as the radio station itself, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Others have been purchased in the past year.

WESU has turntables in each of its two broadcasting studios, and, according to WESU General Manager Benjamin Michael, the records filling the shelves of the office continue to be played to this day.

"[It's not as if] the majority of DJs at WESU are playing vinyl," Michael said. "But it's a substantial portion of our staff."

Since records are such a large aspect of WESU, past and present,

it seems fitting that WESU hosts the Community Record Fair once a semester. The latest iteration of this biannual sale is occurring this Sunday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Beckham Hall.

Between one and two dozen vendors will be at the fair, primarily to sell LPs, but some vendors will also sell CDs. Two of the more prominent vendors are Redscroll Records, from Wallingford, Conn., and Trash American Style from Danbury, Conn.

Gallery Supervisor of the Davison Art Center Lee Berman, a WESU staff member, cofounded the Community Record Fair in 2009 with Brian Frenette, a former WESU staff member. Berman currently helps organize the event. He said that although most of the vendors are from the area, some past vendors haven't even come from Connecticut.

"Some of the vendors we've had

come from as far away as Maine [and] New York," Berman said.

The record fair strives to draw in a mixture of community members and students as customers.

"It's usually a great mix of students and people from the community," Michael said. "I grew up [in Middletown], so I recognize people from the community who come in year after year at this point."

Berman said that though the event primarily focuses on selling music, it is not limited to record sales.

"We've had other people in the past come and sell T-shirts or memorabilia," Berman said, "And then some other things, too—books, DVDs."

Michael said that the radio station itself will have a booth at

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Pro-Fraternity Actions Escalate During Homecoming

By Courtney Laermer
Assistant News Editor

Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) alumni and undergraduate fraternity brothers organized various demonstrations during Homecoming this past weekend to counter the University's new coeducation policy, including hanging pro-fraternity banners and distributing fliers around campus.

Various DKE undergraduates and alumni have expressed disappointment at the new requirement that all residential fraternities become coeducational. After sending letters to the administration expressing disapproval, a group of alumni joined forces and cre-

ated a flier titled "Frats Not Fiction."

"The recent decision to require women to become full members of Wesleyan's fraternities, which is strenuously opposed by generations of supportive alumni, active volunteers, donors and committed trustees, is based on numerous false premises," the flier reads.

Following that statement, a variety of "facts" are provided, such as the idea that a fraternity is at least as safe as a dorm, that the University will lose social space if the fraternities have to close, and that eliminating fraternities

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"Blow" Confronts Power, Flips Genders

By Hazem Fahmy
Staff Writer

While the Wesleyan arts scene is no stranger to feminist works that creatively tackle contemporary issues of women's rights and the patriarchy, "Blow," which premieres this weekend in the Allbritton Penthouse, is set to kick things up a notch with its unique take on a tale of sexual assault. Written by Raechel Rosen '15 and directed by Alexandra Stovicek '17, the play aims to confront societal discourse on sexual assault by flipping the genders, and the power dynamic, upside down.

The script for "Blow" originated as an assignment of Rosen's in a playwriting class last semester. Because she originally went into the class with the intention of working on an opera, which she is setting up next spring, Rosen did not initially expect to make it very far with her new script.

"I really wasn't expecting to take playwriting seriously," she said. "It came out of me real quick, like a little baby, 'cause it was kind of inside me for a while."

After finishing it, she decided to

submit it to Any Stage, Second Stage's platform for play development that aims, along with other goals such as workshopping, to assist playwrights who do not seek to pursue full-length productions. In search of a director, Rosen reached out to a friend familiar with the feminist theater scene on campus, who then recommended Stovicek.

"I read it, and after talking to her for 30 minutes I was sold, and within the next week we had a team," Stovicek said.

"Blow" follows a group of girls and one boy at a sleepover smoking weed, taking whiskey shots, and listening to Beyoncé. As they become more "crossfaded," the fun atmosphere descends to become sexually charged and hostile toward the boy.

The play has attracted attention for its somewhat comic take on an extremely difficult issue. Rosen explained that the point of "Blow" is to mix the comedic and silly with the uncomfortable and disturbing.

"It's definitely a tragic comedy," Rosen said. "We're looking at sexual

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LEX SPIRITES/PHOTO EDITOR

A group of 15-year-olds at a sleepover descend into hostility and sexual assault in the student-written play "Blow."

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WESPEAKS

To Wesleyan Students and Alumni

By JACON MAYER

I initially wrote this letter to class of 2014 on their graduation day, but never managed to publish it. Perhaps it is for the best: graduation is a special day, a day to bask in your accomplishment, to sit in the sun, nurse your crushing hangover, and silently curse the Taiko drums. Perhaps it is better suited for the falling leaves and crisp, serious air, for a new semester and a new class at Wes.

It's not a happy letter, but nor is it one of blame; this one's on all of us. The pride that filled me on graduation day lingered for several years — I had a bumper sticker, a hoody, the usual things. Sadly, that pride was for a place that no longer exists. It was for a school that admitted students based on merit, not their parents' bank account. As you all know, beginning with the class of 2017, now sophomores, Wesleyan began considering ability to pay as a criterion for admission. Rejected applicants, unable to meet the hefty price tag of a Wesleyan education, are now left to wonder whether they were insufficiently talented or insufficiently wealthy. Admitted students can now reasonably question whether they truly earned their spot.

A Pernicious Narrative

I am constantly surprised by the number of Wes alumni who take this monumental change to University policy as a matter of course. "We couldn't afford it," they tell me, invoking a fuzzy math, shocking in its ignorance. President Roth, who revoked need-blind admissions for transfer and international students the year I graduated, has managed to spread this narrative even as he publicly acknowledges its fiction. He does this by putting "need-blind" in scare quotes, glibly promising a commitment to economic diversity by shunning "admission criteria that correlate with wealth" (as if only SATs correlate with wealth—never mind that wealth itself is now a criterion), and reiterating the school's commitment to "meet full need," which is sort of a sick joke, if it can decide that the needy aren't admitted at all.

As he couches the discussion of need-blind admissions in the jargon of financial stability, he intentionally conflates the two, perpetuating this desired fiction. How easily we submit to the technocrats! It's logistics, you see. We just can't afford it anymore.

Let me be clear: a need-blind admissions policy is not something that costs money. The school's financial aid budget, now bolstered by the hugely successful

This is Why campaign, is what it is; it's capped, both bureaucratically and literally — which means that eliminating NB moves Wesleyan no closer to "sustainable affordability," (whatever that means). Need-blind admissions are not financial aid. But the narrative is persistent: a seemingly simple explanation that perhaps does not sit well with many alumni, but at least pays due diligence to the realist roots of their neoliberalism. The alumni responded to the elimination of NB with a huge outpouring of financial support.

Let us begin this new academic year by acknowledging the "can't afford it" narrative for the red herring it is, and discussing instead the merits of NB, the challenges of offering financial aid, and the future of Wesleyan.

De Jure v. De Facto

It would be silly to deny that Wesleyan and its peer institutions have long been stomping grounds for the rich. As the sixth most expensive school in the country, at \$60,214 per year for 2013–2014, a year of Wesleyan costs 1.2 years of median U.S. household income. The poverty line for a family of four is \$23,850; one Wesleyan education, theoretically, can support a family for 10 years.

Something as expensive as Wesleyan will always divide the haves and the have-nots. The spate of recent philosophizing on the value of college is unlikely to do much to reign in the bubble, if indeed it is a true bubble. College tuition has risen 400% relative to inflation in the last thirty years, yet it seems unlikely the top tier will ever pop: the 1% and the .01% will always be willing to pay for their children to join the club.

It's an old question, then: what's in a name? Wes may have had NB admissions, but it was and has always been a haven of the wealthy. The truly poor never apply: college, if it's in the cards, is an evening or at least a local proceeding. And middle-income students are rare as well: one can only take so much crippling debt. What's really changed?

Yet need-aware admissions are morally repugnant. Wesleyan is de facto a place of privilege — but in making it de jure as well, President Roth has trampled on the ideals so often taught, learned and lived at Wesleyan. His decision says: Wesleyan is not a place for poor people, nor should it be.

Put simply: I don't think it's a very good idea for an incoming freshman to take on \$200k of debt to attend Wesleyan, but I'm damn sure I want them to have

the option.

Names Matter

A perverse pleasure of being a Wesleyan alum: lots of people have never heard of it. Among those who have (read: rich, college-educated), Wes connotes lots of positive things. But with the many people who don't know it, you can avoid the inverse judgment, often a set of pejorative assumptions about the crass decadence of expensive schooling, some of which are perfectly reasonable. It's always a pleasure to watch a friend of mine squirm when people ask her where she went to college (she has the grace to be slightly embarrassed by her Harvard degree). The power of a name is one of the most ancient epistemological questions; in the modern era, it often manifests as the power of a brand.

If you're reading this, you're a student, an alum, a parent, a pre-frosh. I don't need to explain why names matter. Your encounters with academia have, at a bare minimum, convinced you that language has power. Language has power. Language has power.

It matters that we no longer bear a NB label. We are now explicitly legitimizing the status quo. Elite colleges are one tool that the elite use to solidify and pass down their status — and we're OK with that. Don't worry though, we're still committed to providing as much financial aid as possible: such is the duty of the liberal elite.

Poor students considering an application to Wes: feel condescended to yet? You should. Deltas and Epsilons need not apply.

More Than Just Language

Beginning last September, the character of Wesleyan began to change. Before, we were a community of the wealthy; now it is a community of everyone-knows-everyone-else-is-wealthy. It's not a trivial difference. The arms race between elite colleges for flashy new buildings and athletic centers will continue, even as higher education in the U.S. becomes more and more of a sellers' market. Slowly but surely, financial aid at Wes will decrease as the administration puts pressure on admissions to help them meet their bottom line. Diversity — not of color, or origin, or ethnicity, but of life experience — will diminish even further, and the rich students of Wesleyan will continue to live and breathe in the same bubble of wealth that they have known for their entire lives. The culture of service that imbued Wes when I was there (class of 2015 included,

I hope) will fade, perhaps is already fading, and will be replaced by the charity-as-liberal-guilt-assuager, which even now rings sickeningly in Wesleyan's FA policy.

What did Wesleyan gain with this decision? That's hard to say. The best answer, I think, is the luxury to plan the financial aid budget, its expenditures and investments, over a longer arc. A long timeframe for financial planning is certainly a worthwhile goal, and it is one that is achievable within the context of NB admissions. As the FA budget is capped each year, the FA office should have no problem investing the \$300+ million raised by This is Why to provide a stable aid budget, with plenty of safety margin for off-years. No excuse remains for the continued abrogation of NB.

What Now?

It's difficult to retain the noble idealism of college. Real life intrudes, with bills and crazy bosses, mice and landlords and uncertainty. Lots of uncertainty. The ills of the world are legend and manifest, and it's easy to feel powerless.

Here's what I propose: let someone, perhaps an aspiring lawyer, found The Ethical Wesleyan Fund. A trust, it will hold alumni donations in escrow until Roth reinstates NB admissions, and then require a commitment from the school to spend the money on financial aid and to maintain NB (it should be noted here that donations to the Wesleyan Fund or the This is Why campaign bear no such restrictions). How big would such a fund need to grow before Roth decides the costs outweigh the benefits?

If you have the funds, and are thinking fondly of the amazing students who were sitting next to you on graduation day, give to the Ethical Wesleyan Fund. But don't give straight to Wesleyan, because your donation will support an institution that no longer aspires to be available to everyone. It never was for everyone, but the aspiration helped define who we were and where we wanted to go. It bred a generation of socially concerned business leaders, artists, activists. The lofty ideals that we screamed from Foss Hill and whispered in Olin shall carry the bitter taste of hypocrisy unless we use what little power we have, amplified together, to right this wrong and pay forward the Wesleyan experience to those who have earned it, not those who pay cash.

Jacon Mayer is a member of the Class of 2010.

This is Why: Rho Epsilon Pi

By MARGAUX BUEHL

When I started my freshman year at Wesleyan University, I immediately noticed that despite the ample discussions on gender and social institutions, equality was not the reality. It is clear that men are in power here at Wesleyan; they own beautiful, historic mansions and are thus able to control a large portion of the social scene because of their allocation of physical spaces and resources from the affluent organizations to which they belong. However, women have no formally established social space created for and overseen by women on campus. I automatically recognized my diminished place as a woman in the social hierarchy at Wesleyan and my complete inability to control it, or feel like I have a right to be where I am: in an institution historically inhabited and still dominated by only men. The lack of female energy, community, and support at Wesleyan shocked me after going to a similarly progressive co-educational high school where women were highly respected and valued. Beginning my freshman year at Wesleyan,

I felt like I did not have a place to speak as a woman, much less as an active and potentially influential female member of our community. I had few other women to look up to or ask advice about my classes, going abroad, residential life, and other critical areas that bolster a Wesleyan student's success inside and outside the classroom. In my search to meet more female friends and have social opportunities with women, I chose to attend a rush event for the only sorority, and the only social organization by women and for women of all backgrounds at Wesleyan.

When I joined Rho Epsilon Pi, I immediately felt like I had a place to belong, a sisterhood, where I was appreciated and my intellectual contributions were valued. Moreover, I met a diverse range of women — across grades, sports, races, socio-economic classes, academic and personal interests—who have created a unique community of love, support, and encouragement for the betterment of myself and my community. Above all, I learned that I could have a voice as a woman at Wesleyan and that, through the opportunities Rho

Epsilon Pi presented to me — the individuals in it, and also the institution — I could make my ideas a reality and effect change.

Because I joined Rho Epsilon Pi, I became involved in organizing philanthropic events like fundraising for Relay for Life, attending alcohol and sexual assault bystander intervention training, Take Back the Night, the Wesleyan Women's Conference, and the vigil for the Board of Trustees in honor of the 100 freshmen sexually assaulted in their first two months at Wesleyan, to mention a few of the opportunities Rho Epsilon Pi has presented to me. Now, I am the Scholarship Chair with a seat on our General Board. The overwhelming majority of what I am proud to have accomplished over the last two years happened because of my involvement in Rho Epsilon Pi and how the organization and women in it influenced me and raised my awareness. Because of my sorority, I know how to reserve spaces, plan and organize events, and more importantly, to seek out resources, information, and support from this incredible community of care. The opportunities provided by this

organization are indispensable and undervalued in a school where male-dominated organizations and spaces — from the new turf football field to fraternity houses — permeate the campus and only one, marginalized sorority exists.

From my first rush event, and many times since then, I regarded becoming a member of Rho Epsilon Pi as the best decision I made at Wesleyan University. I also maintain that joining at the beginning of my freshman year was integral to my success as a student because I entered a social scene that aligned with my values of friendship, community service, and social justice. I cannot express how much I value and appreciate Rho Epsilon Pi and our founding mothers for fighting to create this organization so that I could reap the same unending benefits my male counterparts and peer athletes are entitled to; to name a few examples: an alumni network that I can actually reach, friends across class years, and help balancing my

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NEWS

Coed: Fraternity Brothers Protest University Policy

Continued from front page

would diminish diversity on campus.

“This weekend we started by having our alumni get together and create a list, ‘Frats Not Fiction,’” said President of DKE Terence Durkin ’16. “It was kind of corny, but it had facts. It laid out the facts to inform the general public, the undergrads, and others at the school—especially on alumni weekend—of the fact that fraternities are not more prone to sexual assault statistically.”

Furthermore, there were two large banners tacked onto the front of the DKE residential house. These banners bore the spray-painted phrases “Facts Not Fiction” and “276 High Street: DKE Owned/Operated For 147 Years...And Counting.”

In addition to the signs and fliers, a small plane flew over the football field during the simultaneous football and soccer games, carrying a banner that read “Wes Picks Our Bros? Fascism. Look it up.”

“It seems clear that some DKE students and alumni are unhappy with the decision [to become coeducation-all],” wrote Vice President of Student Affairs Michael Whaley in an email to The Argus. “I note that their editorial claims that they are unable to coeducate because DKE national does not permit this. While understanding the difficulty and resistance with making changes in a long-standing organization, Alpha Delt provides a Wesleyan-specific example of making this kind of change as their national also forbade coeducation when our chapter decided

to move in that direction.”

Durkin explained that he feels that by enforcing coeducational policy, the University is disregarding key problems that should be addressed on campus.

“The first problem that we talked about last spring was sexual assault, and then also binge drinking,” Durkin said. “Those definitely are real problems on campus, and unfortunately those problems kind of got pushed aside. Now it’s turned into a gender equality and social space issue. We don’t think that coeducation will solve the binge drinking or sexual assault problem.”

He spoke about the various seminars that alumni from DKE, Beta Theta Pi (Beta) and Psi Upsilon (Psi U) organized this year as a step toward combating these issues.

“[DKE, Psi U, and Beta alums] had organized a binge drinking seminar [in September] and a sexual assault prevention seminar a few weeks ago,” Durkin said. “We have been holding these seminars to help prevent binge drinking and sexual assault and real problems, so it’s just frustrating when these efforts are being made and administration comes after us and tries to eliminate us altogether.”

University President Michael Roth reflected on last weekend’s activist movements.

“I’m hopeful that now that the DKE brothers have expressed themselves that we can work together to make coeducation a reality,” Roth said. “I think they’re still trying to figure out their own views on the subject.

They have another month or so, and I’m hopeful that they can see the benefits of a coeducational environment that still provides autonomy and community but doesn’t discriminate against women.”

As for future plans, the brothers and alumni are unsure of their next action.

“We’re just hopeful to just get the information and the facts out there and hope that people support our cause in this decision,” Durkin said. “At this point, it’s kind of tough to have a dialogue [with the administration] when we’re in such disagreement. So it’s been a limited conversation, but we’re hoping that going forward we can have some sort of compromise.”

Whaley said that he hopes to see DKE successfully become co-educational.

“I [am] hopeful that DKE can learn from their playbook and move forward in a more inclusive fashion,” Whaley wrote. “Alpha Delt alumni have offered to be a resource in this regard.”

Durkin said that with the provided three-year time frame, the brothers and administrators still have time to reach a compromise.

“We’ll see if any conversation leads to any changes in that decision,” Durkin said. “As of now, we are just playing the waiting game and hoping we can garner support with alumni and undergrads and all around, and hopefully we can change the administration’s decision.”

Middletown Day Fosters Community Relations

By Sofi Goode
News Editor

The University welcomed the Middletown community onto campus for the second annual Middletown Day on Saturday, Oct. 18. This year, Middletown Day was planned to coincide with the University’s Homecoming football game.

The event included carnival activities and free entrance to the football game. Additionally, the Middletown High School Marching Band performed during halftime.

The Planning Committee was composed of various University faculty from Human Resources, Alumni and Parent Relations, and the Center for Community Partnerships.

Assistant Football Coach Jeff McDonald, who represented the athletics department on the committee, spoke to the role of local students in building the relationship with Middletown. The University football team currently has three local players: linebacker and wildcat quarterback Devon Carrillo ’17, wide receiver Kristopher Luster ’17, and linebacker Alec Corazzini ’16.

“While not part of the committee, I spoke with all three of them informally to get their thoughts on how to best engage the community and asked for their help in promoting the event,” McDonald wrote in an email to The Argus.

McDonald further emphasized the impact that local students, particularly athletes, can have on relations with the Middletown community.

“There is no doubt in my mind that having local student-athletes on

our roster definitely makes the community feel more connected to our team and the University,” McDonald wrote. “Since Devon, Alec and Kris have been with us, there have been a number of times that people have stopped me to ask specifically how they are doing. Recruiting wise, Coach Whalen has made it a big priority for us to not get so caught up recruiting nationally that we overlook qualified student-athletes here in Middletown and Connecticut as a whole.”

Middletown Day was designed to bring Middletown community members onto the University campus and to make the campus feel more open. In an email to The Argus, Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chair of the Middletown Day Planning Committee John Meerts explained the role of a community day in achieving this goal.

“Of course Wesleyan is part of the Middletown community and we do a lot in the community already through volunteer work, service learning and the like,” Meerts wrote. “But we don’t really have much of an opportunity to interact with the citizens of Middletown on the campus proper. I think that having citizens feel welcome on campus, not just for Middletown day but in general, even for a stroll or attending events, would help bridge and improve town gown relations.”

University President Michael Roth agreed and elaborated on the intended effects of Middletown Day.

“I am hopeful that Middletown Day will be a symbol of the openness of the campus to members of the Middletown community and that we

warmly welcome folks from town on our campus as part of the process of more reciprocity between the campus and the city,” Roth said. “Middletown is a great place to go to school, it’s a great place to live, and I think as we find more ways to cooperate and share resources, it’s good for everybody.”

Meerts explained why the event was held during Homecoming, as opposed to being held along with the first home football game as it was last year.

“We thought that having a campus with lots of people in attendance would provide for a nice atmosphere,” Meerts wrote in an email to The Argus. “Ideally we would have had the event much like last year, with a combined family/homecoming weekend and with the students being here as well.”

According to Roth, fall break and Homecoming coincided this year due to calendar restrictions. By tradition, Homecoming football games are against either Amherst College or Williams College, and fall break is restricted by a variety of holidays.

Roth stated that fall break and Homecoming will coincide again in 2016, adding that the University is looking for a solution to avoid this conflict.

“We could play Homecoming against Hamilton, but a lot of alumni and perhaps some students also would find that kind of [disappointing],” Roth said. “Not that Hamilton’s bad, it’s that we have this tradition of playing the Little Three.”

University Students Attend Poets Forum

By Adam Jacobs and Morgan Hill
Contributing Writers

The University sponsored 10 students to attend the third and final day of the Poets Forum on Saturday, Oct. 18, hosted by the Academy of American Poets at The Auditorium building of The New School in Manhattan.

The Academy, celebrating its 80th anniversary, was founded by Marie Bullock, a Parisian-born American and graduate student of the University of Paris. According to its website, the Academy strives to support all American poets during their careers and to foster the appreciation of contemporary poetry.

The Chancellors Conversations on Saturday, each around 50 minutes in length, featured 12 of the 15 poets on the Academy’s Board of Chancellors. The Chancellors, according to the Academy’s website, advocate for the Academy and serve as liaisons of poetry on a global scale.

The 10 students in attendance were sponsored by the English and Writing Departments. Kate Gibbel ’15 spearheaded the organization of the trip with the help of English Department Chair Professor Sean McCann, Director of Writing Programs Anne Greene, Administrative Assistant for the English Department Liz Tinker, and Administrative Assistant for the Writing Program Sharon Washburn. The Programs Assistant for the Academy of American Poets Patricia Guzman was also involved in the process.

The day began with the first Chancellor Conversation, “A Recent Discovery.” Alberto Rios, the inaugural poet laureate of Arizona; Arthur Sze, the inaugural poet laureate of Santa Fe; and poet Jane Hirshfield each presented the work of an exceptional poet that they had recently read.

The second conversation, “The Art of Revision,” featured poet Naomi Shihab Nye, poet laureate of California Juan Felipe Herrera, and Brown University Professor C.D. Wright, who is currently teaching three master classes at Wesleyan through the Shapiro Creative Writing Center.

Wright insisted that a writer’s resistance to inhibition is paramount to works of poetic intention, but that the use of restraint and selective inhibitors is vital to revision. Nye shared the ABCs of editing: attention, being, and cutting.

During the panel, Herrera spoke about revising and outlined his 10 points of poetry.

“If you revise a poem enough times, you have a whole book,” Herrera said. “Just write one poem, revise it 50 or 60 times, and you’re ready to publish.”

Herrera elaborated on the importance of revision.

“A poem likes heat,” Herrera said. “Get rid of the beginning, get rid of the end, and see what you’ve got.”

Susannah Betts ’15 explained that the second conversation was her favorite panel at the forum.

“The panel talk on revision generated a lot of different conceptions of writing and revision of poetry: revision as writing a new poem with every draft, or revision as ‘tweezering’ out what isn’t working, or revision as a result of being within the poem, or revision involving a new poem subsuming an old poem,” Betts said.

The Forum continued with a conversation on “Translation” featuring Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan Khaled Mattawa, poet Marilyn Hacker, and Sze. Mattawa translates between Arabic and English; Hacker translates between French and English; and Sze translates between Chinese and English. The conversation revolved around the

complexities of their intercultural translation projects.

The penultimate conversation, entitled “Poets Writing Prose,” featured the Henry G. Lee Professor of English at Pomona College Claudia Rankine, Professor of English at Wayne State University and the University of Houston Edward Hirsch, and Professor of English at University of Pennsylvania Toi Derricotte. Rankine read from a notebook in which she had written her response to the question, “Why Prose?”

“I am not a fiction writer,” Rankine said. “I am accumulating toward a statement...a linear pressure I want you to understand.... It remains open in crucial ways.”

“A huge take-away for me is something C.D. Wright said, which is that the more you write, the more you become aware of your own creative process.... The conference left me inspired to write on a more regular basis.”—Feinman

The final conversation, between Distinguished Writer at Rutgers University Mark Doty and Hirsch, was on “Ekphrastic Poetry.” Defining ekphrastic poetry as the poetic description of a work of art, both writers agreed that ekphrastic poetry that just tells stories of the characters in the painting is less valuable than ekphrastic poetry that uses the painting on behalf of something else. As an example, Doty brought up “Musée des Beaux Arts” by W.H. Auden, an ekphrastic poem on the paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Hirsch analyzed the poem before he read it aloud.

“[The poem] doesn’t set out to talk about the Bruegel,” Hirsch said. “It sets out to talk about suffering. And the subject is suffering. The Bruegel becomes the instance for him to illustrate what he wants to say about suffering. Even though the Bruegel probably...triggered the poem.”

Carly Feinman ’16 stated that her poetry has been shaped by C.D. Wright and Juan Felipe Herrera. She emphasized that an alignment with her specific academic endeavors and a general love of poetry inspired her to attend the forum.

“A huge takeaway for me is something C.D. Wright said, which is that the more you write, the more you become aware of your own creative process,” Feinman said. “The conference left me inspired to write on a more regular basis.”

Three students attended the closing for the Poets Forum in the evening. This final event featured Assistant Professor of English at the University of San Diego Jericho Brown, Assistant Professor of Poetry at Columbia University Dorothea Lasky, and Distinguished Professor of English at Queens College/CUNY Kamiko Hahn. Each poet read from his recent works.

Several of the Chancellors’ books can be found at Broad Street Books.

University Signs Memorandum With Middletown to Collaborate on Sexual Assault Investigations

By Sofi Goode
News Editor

The University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the City of Middletown on Wednesday, Oct. 15. University President Michael Roth, Middletown Mayor Dan Drew, and Chief State's Attorney for Middlesex County Peter McShane signed this MoU, the first between an institution of higher learning and a city government in the state of Connecticut.

The MoU will primarily affect the Department of Public Safety (PSafe) and the Office of Equity and Inclusion, which will be working closely with the Special Victims Unit of the Middletown Police Department (MPD) on Title IX training and investigations.

According to Vice President for Equity and Inclusion and Title IX Officer Antonio Farias, the Violence Against Women Act requires universities to sign an MoU with the local government. However, Farias stressed that the University began this process before it was mandatory and included the State's Attorney on the agreement, which is not required by law.

"We jumped the gun," Farias said. "The whole purpose in terms of Wesleyan leading the way is that we want to really lean hard forward on this. We want to be

transparent...and we don't want to sort of wait for everybody else and see where the rest of the herd goes."

The MoU is intended to make both the reporting and investigation processes easier to navigate and less traumatic for survivors. Farias stressed that constant communication is the most important aspect of this cooperation.

"One of the big things that we're pushing with Title IX is communication, communication, communication," Farias said. "You can never have enough, but you have to do it also in a way that makes sense. Part of it is also breaking some perceptions. It's breaking some perceptions with our students that Middletown Police doesn't potentially understand them. It's also scary. If you've gone through a traumatizing experience, even though they're literally three blocks down the road, it's a long road psychologically to leave your campus where you feel, in some ways, safe, and now potentially is unsafe; the last thing you necessarily want to do is walk into a police department."

Since the MoU signing, McShane attended a University-hosted Title IX training, and Farias met with members of the MPD for another training session in Hartford. Farias stated that these training exercises will allow the University and the MPD to help guide students through the simultaneous investigations.

"The cotraining that we do is going to be critical because that reinforces the trust and now we can speak the same language," Farias said. "When a student goes down there and files a police claim, [the MPD] can also speak about the Wesleyan system.... They can speak our language and we can do the same thing.... The whole framework is about becoming trauma-informed and how we lower the trauma level."

Director of Public Safety Scott Rohde asserted that these aligned processes may mean that victims only have to provide information once for both investigations.

"What that means for that victim is that potentially that could happen simultaneously instead of having to go through two separate interviews," Rohde said. "What we're really saying is we're going to try to understand each other's processes better. Likewise, the city is saying that if they're doing some training for their investigators related to things that may fall in this category, we will be invited to observe and participate in part of that."

He also emphasized the necessity of understanding both University policy and criminal processes to make sure that neither interferes with the other.

"Sharing of timelines is critically important," Rohde said. "In student affairs cases, deadlines and appeals times are all

critical and what we don't want is that we are interfering with a victim's right to have a criminal prosecution."

Farias elaborated on how this interference can happen, and that open lines of communication are necessary to avoid it.

"We could actually taint the process, and that's where the level of communication has to be really transparent and fast," Farias said. "Title IX tells us that we're not supposed to just wait around for the police investigation to finish, but at the same time we are supposed to be in constant contact so that when they give us the green light to talk to the witnesses, we need to know when that is a go because otherwise we're stepping on their toes and potentially ruining an investigation."

Through a sharing of processes, training, and information, the MoU will aim to make the process of reporting and investigating sexual assault incidents less traumatic for victims and smoother for the University and MPD.

"I think the bottom line is that it makes investigations better, more thorough, more complete and hopefully relieves a layer of stress from a reporting victim," Rohde said.

The University also hopes to sign MoUs with the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, the Women and Family Center, and the Middletown Unified School District.

Farias spoke about the necessity of involving these groups in training so that the University and its affiliates have a coordinated response to incidents.

"We're talking about centralizing efforts and also sharing resources," Farias said. "Nobody's got enough resources. The fact that Wesleyan is bringing trainers here, there's no reason for us to charge the K-12 system. It makes no sense. There's no reason for us to charge the police department; it makes no sense. We're a community. We're looking at the Middletown umbrella and if we can share resources, let's do it, so that we don't become that isolated hill and it's only our problem, because we know it's not only our problem."

Farias further emphasized that the University intends to continue making connections and confronting sexual assault as a community issue.

"What we really want to do is model Wesleyan as this place that really looks at [the prevention of] sexual violence as a community effort, and by community I'm talking about the Middletown community as opposed to just the Wesleyan community," Farias said. "Wherever the University is, there's a surrounding town, there are surrounding people. But everyone is so focused on the students because they're fearful of litigation that they're forgetting that there's a community that needs their help."



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FEATURES

The Remote Vote: Absentee, But Not Absentminded

By Taylor Leet-Otley
Staff Writer

At the dawn of a fresh round of elections, many Wesleyan students are gearing up for the polls, as are hoards of college students across the country.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, college-educated young people were among the most well-represented in the 2012 elections. College students flocked to the polls en masse, favoring Barack Obama by a 23-point margin.

However, polls by the Pew Research Center after the 2012 presidential election suggested that fewer young voters registered for that election than for the previous one in 2008, down 11 points from 66 to 55 percent.

Many speculated that this was partially due to diminished enthusiasm compared to the 2008 campaign, while others pointed to a slew of controversial voter ID and early registration laws that had been implemented in many states in the months leading up to the 2012 election.

Nevertheless, young people traditionally show a lower turnout than their older counterparts regardless of the election, and their overall numbers in non-presidential elections have historically been much lower than in presidential elections.

With elections approaching on Nov. 4, political outlets are abuzz with information about upcoming congressional, senatorial, and gubernatorial elections, including 435 seats for the biannual House election, 36 Senate seats, including 3 up for special election; and 36 governors' offices.

Among these is the race between current Democratic Governor of Connecticut Dannel Malloy and the Republican nominee Tom Foley, who lost to Malloy by a narrow margin in the 2010 gubernatorial election. Malloy visited campus in early June to commemorate the opening of Wesleyan's new auxiliary power micro-grid, which received state funding as part of an ongoing energy project in Connecticut.

For those hoping to vote in the election, voting laws in Connecticut

have become a focus of controversy in recent months. Connecticut voter laws are relatively strict compared to those in other New England states, forbidding absentee voting without an approved excuse.

Veronica Birdsall '15, a resident of Litchfield, Conn., is currently registered to vote with her home address.

"Honestly, they don't really follow up on whether your excuse is legit," Birdsall said. "Honestly [I am registered in Litchfield] mostly because I had already registered there in high school and didn't feel like going through the process of changing it."

Birdsall also spoke in support of a referendum on the ballot in the upcoming election to ease some of Connecticut's early voting restrictions.

"[It's] not too bad since I had an excuse," she said. "I couldn't come home on Election Day due to lack of transportation.... But on the ballot is an Amendment to the Connecticut constitution to implement no-excuse absentee voting! So I voted for that."

Earl Lin '15 of New Haven, Conn. is also registered to vote in his home district.

"I've been registered at my home address in New Haven since I turned 18 and became eligible to vote," he said. "Since it's only about half an hour away and I wanted to continue voting in municipal primarily, mayoral, [and] aldermanic elections at home, it seemed most convenient and to make the most sense to keep my registration in New Haven."

However, in the past, he has chosen to vote absentee.

"I did vote absentee for at least one election, but since one of the reasons for requesting an absentee ballot is that one is absent from town during an election, it was pretty straightforward to request a ballot," Lin said. "I actually didn't realize no-excuse voting was something some states do. I think it would be better if Connecticut offered early voting, though, as absentee ballots are sometimes not even counted unless the election is close. Regardless of its impact on the election, it's nice to know that your vote has actually been counted."

In 2012, Connecticut legislators approved a law legalizing online vot-

ing in the state. The online voter registration form is run by the Office of the Secretary of the State, and voters can use the website to register anew, as well as register with a change of address. The site closed on Thursday, Oct. 22 and will remain closed until election day.

For students coming from other states, however, there is also the consideration of whether to register in their home states or in Connecticut.

Andreas Streuli '15 has voted in his home state of California for previous elections.

"I voted in 2012 out of state," he said. "San Mateo County constantly sends me materials. I think I may be registered in Connecticut now because I keep getting called for jury duty."

Streuli listed among his reasons for voting out of state a feeling that his vote would go further in California, which receives 55 electoral votes in presidential elections compared with Connecticut's 7.

"I'm afraid my reason for registering to vote in California was just because it holds quite a bit more influence than Connecticut," Streuli said.

Matthew Conley '15 of New York, another state that tends to vote consistently Democratic in elections, echoed Streuli's sentiments.

"I'm from New York, so I'm voting between two very blue states," Conley said. "So where I register to vote in any given race depends on who has a more competitive congressional or senatorial race in a given cycle."

Conley also expressed interest in out-of-state voting due to differences in state politics.

"I volunteered for a state Senate campaign the summer between my freshman and sophomore years," he said. "Honestly, state legislature is where important decisions are made, and state legislature in New York is weird because it's much more heavily Republican than the state as a whole in national elections."

For students considering voting in Connecticut who have yet to register, forms can still be returned in person at the Registrar's office by Oct. 28. Additionally, vans will be running between Usdan and local polling centers on Nov. 4 for students voting in local elections.

I'M FIRST

TALKING ABOUT CLASS ISSUES

By Aidan Martinez
Contributing Writer

I love Wesleyan. It is safe to say that this school has amplified my voice and given me a purpose. However, for too long, issues of low-income and first-generation (first-gen) students have been swept under the rug. The administration has tried to remedy the issues these students face, but they have been approached in a rigid and non-engaging way. When I stepped on campus last year, I was tasked with forming a community among first-gen/low-income students, something that I thought would be easy. However, I quickly learned that a place as open as Wesleyan had a very different tone when it came to discussing issues of class.

"I'm first" is a phrase I like to use to empower first-gen/low-income students. My parents did not graduate from college at a young age and our income situation isn't the best (although it is improving). I expected to arrive at Wes and be welcomed with open arms among peers with similar stories, but once I started talking about my situation, it always seemed like I was hushed. "Okay," I thought, "maybe I should stop talking about this." So I did, wrongly so, and gave up on my goal of uniting an underprivileged community at Wes.

Second semester of my first year swung around, and I happened to walk by one of my friends, who was crying. I approached her and asked what had been going on, and she revealed that her family had been experiencing rough economic times. We spoke for quite a while and I asked what the University was doing to help her. I looked at her, dumbfounded, when she said, "Nothing," so casually. Her answer infuriated me. How many students before her had gone through the same problems she was dealing with? Why has no one fixed it? Very modestly, she admitted to picking up more hours at work to make ends meet, even though it was going to be tough making the time in her schedule.

Students who struggle financially here are superhumans. We work (some of us more than the 20-hour-a-week maximum), we go to classes, we study, and we participate in cocurricular activities. Well, you would think that's all we did; even I did. I thought that was just how life was supposed to be, but something is terribly wrong. The University applies a "one-size-fits-all" mentality to aid when that's obviously not the case. Many of our peers are working on campus in order to help themselves and their family back home. Many people have to take

out loans just to pay for health insurance, something so many of us take for granted. Some students have even managed to waive their health insurance altogether because it costs too much and they "don't get sick often." I get it, the University is not in the best financial situation, but how can the Office of Admission and the administration have the audacity to encourage first-gen/low-income individuals to attend Wes if they cannot support them once these students get here?

I hear story after story similar to my friend's, and I listen in awe. Many of the people I go to school with are dealing with so much more than I could ever handle. Some are thriving, which is great, but so many are not. Even if just one student is struggling, we as a community should be concerned and do something to remedy the situation.

"Wow, your story is great," I would say. "Have you talked to so-and-so before? They have some similar struggles."

"No, I had no idea they were first-gen/low income."

What? I would then push a little bit harder, trying to get to the bottom of why these students wouldn't talk about their situation. From all the anecdotal evidence I've collected, a lot of students feel like their stories would be an unnecessary burden on their friends.

It's hard to have these conversations, but it's necessary that we do. Too many people I know have gone over their budget just to keep up with their friends and not seem like a downer, but it can be fixed. Many people I know feel completely fine slowing down and changing their habits if it makes someone feel more welcome. Too many people I know want to talk about class, and race, and gender, et cetera, but they've never been approached about it. We should talk about class, but there is hardly any support.

The burden of making Wes more inclusive should not be on the shoulders of first-gen/low-income students, but on the minds and the agendas of members of the administration. These issues need to be institutionalized so that we have a consistent effort to make everyone feel at home here at Wes.

I wrote this column to be a forum for first-gen/low-income students to share their stories (anonymously, too, if they so wish). It's time that we start talking about things that make us uncomfortable, because you learn the most when you are uncomfortable. Come on, this is Wes; we should be ready for this.

If you have a story you would like to share, please reach out to me at ajmartinez@wesleyan.edu.

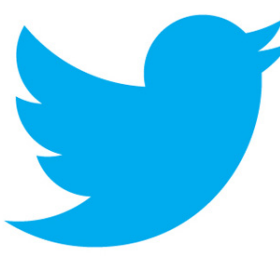
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WesCeleb: CAMILLE CASARENO

By Sadie Renjilian
Staff Writer

Camille Casareno, Wesleyan senior, female gamer, doula, chef, and tour guide extraordinaire, is pretty frank about why she's a WesCeleb. "I mentioned to [a] couple of my friends that one of my life-long dreams was to be a WesCeleb," she said at the start of our interview. One of those friends or, Casareno suggested, perhaps a first-year from one of her tour groups over the past two years finally nominated this superstar for celebrity status.

The Argus: What makes you a WesCeleb?

Camille Casareno: I feel like half the freshman class knows me.

A: So freshmen you give tours to disproportionately come to Wesleyan?

CC: Yeah, actually. I've had at least 15 freshmen come up to me over the last year or so and be like, "You were my tour guide!" And I'm like, "Yeah, I was, wasn't I?"

A: Do the other tour guides have a similar success rate, or are you the most successful?

CC: I think I've been the one who's been more vocal about it. I like to brag to people, at least [to] the other tour guides.

A: Other than being a tour guide, what else do you do at Wesleyan?

CC: I'm the coordinator of Clinic Escorts. We go to a clinic in Bridgeport. We send out one group of students three times a week, and we help women come into the clinic when there are protestors around. We just try to be a good support for people coming into the clinic. There are no security guards in the parking lot, so it can be a little scary. Other than that, I'm an abortion doula in New Haven, and I'm physically helping out the physicians and nurses during the procedure, which is a pretty intense thing to do, but I'm pretty involved in reproductive justice here.

A: Cool. And you also started WesWIG?

CC: I did. It is a new, female-minded gaming group. Its longer name is Wesleyan Women in Gaming. My goal is to get people who have played video games, mainly females, who may not have grown up with older brothers or may not have a lot of friends playing games with them, because it's kind of hard to find other girlfriends, or just friends in general, to play video games with. At least it was for me, so that's why I started it.

A: So do you play together in a room? Or do just your avatars play together?

CC: We like to do gatherings, so we tend to meet at my house or my co-founder Katie's LoRise. We bring our consoles together, mainly PCs and DSs, and we'll play together and chat. Sometimes we'll play on the same thing; Katie has an Xbox so we'll play together on that. We'll also get together and talk about social issues in the gaming industry right now. It's sort of half social and the other half is political-minded discussion.

A: And you're also Internet-famous for a blog?

CC: I don't know about Internet-famous, per se, but yes, I started a cooking blog. It's called 303Wash; everyone should go visit it at 303Wash.com. But I founded it with one of my housemates who I've been living with since junior year. We wanted to have a place where we could document our food adventures and cooking as a college student. It's harder as a college student to feed yourself really well when you're not only short on money, but you also don't have a lot of time. I think this is a good medium for us to be like,

"Hey, we're broke on time and money, but we're still eating pretty well." I think my mom would be proud.

A: What's your favorite thing you've made for the website?

CC: Oh man, I don't know. One of my favorite things I've made for the site is actually my favorite recipe for cookies: it's brown butter coffee chocolate chip cookies.

A: Yum.

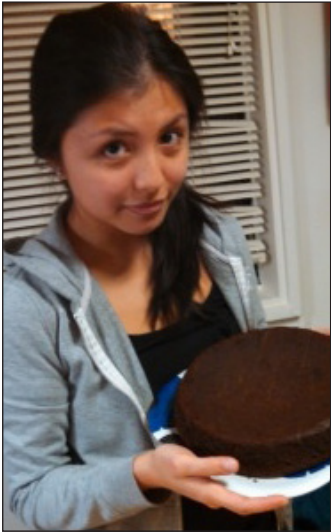
CC: I know! It's actually pretty easy. You just have to brown the butter—you cook it on the pot for like ten minutes until you start to smell it—and then you just do a simple chocolate chip cookie recipe, and you add a splash of coffee to it.

A: Like, liquid coffee?

CC: Yeah, old coffee from your breakfast or whatever. You let it sit in your fridge for a couple hours and then you just bake it like regular cookies. They smell amazing and they're so good.

A: Do you have any WesCeleb words of wisdom for the student body?

CC: Oh my gosh. I always like to tell people to try something new—even something you're not very comfortable with. Get a friend to do it with you, of course. Mine was definitely Drawing 1 when I was a freshman. I drew in high school, you know, everyone does something kind of artsy, but I didn't know how to draw mechanically well or anything graded. But I had a really good experience. The first day of class you draw naked people, and I was like, "Wow, I thought I'd see vases." Definitely a big plunge. But it helped me get out socially because if I can draw naked men, I can talk to a couple people at Usdan.



C/O FACEBOOK

WESU: Radio Station to Host Fair with Good Track Record

Continued from front page

the event.

"We'll be selling a lot of the music that we haven't added to our collection, a lot of the promotional music that gets sent to us," Michael said. "We receive probably anywhere between 100 and 300 CDs a month to review and add to our collection. But we don't add all of it...so we usually save [the CDs we don't add], and we bring it out at the record fair and we sell our CDs for, like, \$1 apiece."

Michael added that the station will sell vinyl records as well.

"A lot of those are donations we receive over the years," he said.

David Whitney '16, the Events Coordinator of WESU, said that the radio station's booth will also feature WESU merchandise.

"We have a new shirt for our 75th anniversary, and everybody thinks it's super hot and keeps asking me where they can buy it," Whitney said. "Well, they can buy it at the record fair."

Whitney added that community DJs will be spinning records at the event.

"Some of the biggest community DJs at WESU are going to be spinning music live throughout the event," Whitney said. "I'm kind of bummed that no students volunteered to do that because I think that would be cool—to me, that's a place to improve, because it's all community DJs who are doing it—but it's kind of hard to actually spin live and not be intimidated by that."

In addition, Berman noted that there will be tables set up for the Friends of the Russell Library and the Buttonwood Tree. Unlike the tables for record vendors, these tables will be free of cost to the organizations.

"We try and bring other people, other community organizations, just

to show that we're all in this together and to hopefully help them out as well," Berman said.

In many ways, the record fair reflects WESU as an organization. According to Whitney, a large portion of staff members at WESU are not students. The focus of WESU therefore lies in the mix of students and community members.

Whitney finds that the record fair's emphasis on being a community event is one of its greatest assets.

"I think the record fair is cool because WESU as an organization is a surprisingly big point of contact between Wesleyan University and the students here—who spend all of their time on campus—and community members and the broader Connecticut community," Whitney said. "So I think [the record fair] is a space like the station itself, where students and community members can get equally comfortable and can be interacting with one another."



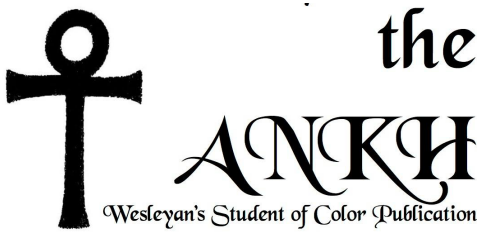
C/O WESUFM.ORG

Customers peruse the stock at the Spring 2013 WESU Record Fair. The next fair is this Sunday, Oct. 26.

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ARTS

The Idiot Box
Six Feet Under

By Will McGhee
Contributing Writer

Let's talk about death. When thinking about HBO in the early 2000s, most people would conjure up images of "The Sopranos" or "The Wire." There's certainly a reason for that. But a third, just as meritorious show often gets left by the wayside.

"Six Feet Under" ran from 2001 to 2005. It follows the Fishers, a dysfunctional family that runs a funeral home, and the life and death that surround them. The brainchild of Alan Ball, the show emerged immediately after the 1999 film "American Beauty," which he scripted, and runs in a similar vein.

"Six Feet Under" is a drama, but it's also a comedy. It's dark, but it's also earnest. It's immensely surreal and yet has some of the most realistic depictions of human nature on television. It's a show that follows its characters as they attempt to cope with broken things: families, relationships, and themselves.

But most importantly, the show is about death, and no show approaches the subject like "Six Feet Under" does. In the pilot, when the mother, Ruth Fisher (Francis Conroy), hears of the death of her husband over the kitchen telephone, she pauses and then utters an inhuman wail, throwing anything she can find before collapsing on the floor. Her son walks in, and she delivers the character- and show-establishing line, "Your father is dead, and my pot roast is ruined." It's ridiculous and yet horrifyingly natural.

Each episode frames itself by opening with a death before fading to white and beginning the plot of the episode. Sometimes the death is tragic, sometimes it is funny, and sometimes it is both. But it is always thematically relevant. And then the Fishers must deal with the funeral as they deal with themselves. A core part of the show is how people cope with the loss of a loved one; it's less concerned with the dead and more with how the living react to the dead.

And the show is also about life, as it needs to be. Neither death nor life can be fully understood without understanding the other. The series effectively lays out its thesis near the end of the first season with a quick exchange:

"Why do people have to die?"
"To make life important."

And "Six Feet Under" earns that somewhat corny line. Amongst the loss, heart-wrenching breakups, and general emotional trauma, the show's characters come to terms with what gives their lives meaning. And the important thing to note is that the show never tells us what to think of life or how to cope with death. It merely presents a story and allows us to make of it what we will.

"Six Feet Under" would be nothing without its cast. Peter Krause plays the closest thing to a lead in the ensemble show, Nate Fisher, who constantly battles his many inner demons. Michael C. Hall, of "Dexter" fame, plays his brother, David, one of the strongest examples of a well-rounded gay character on television. Lauren Ambrose plays the teenager of the family, constantly lost amidst her lack of solid ground and her rotation of poor relationships. Frances Conroy's portrayal of Ruth is par-

ticularly unique. She takes a neurotic, overprotective role and finds a way for us all to see our own mother within her. Lili Taylor and James Cromwell ("Babe," "The Artist") take up principle roles later on and are beautiful additions.

But perhaps the true star of "Six Feet Under" is Rachel Griffiths's character, Brenda. She offers the outside perspective on the family as Nate's mysterious love interest, and Griffiths deserves multiple Emmy's, despite winning none. She is able to balance emotional distance and intimacy in a way that should not be possible and is able to tune it toward whoever is in a particular scene. Griffiths, like many of her costars and the show itself, is successful because she is a master of balance.

The cast plays extremely well off of each other. Some of the show's best sequences arrive when several characters sit down together for an awkward family dinner. As each member of the cast grows in wildly different ways, their interactions become more meaningful and complex.

And then there's everyone else in this world. Recurring guest stars Jeremy Sisto ("Clueless"), Patricia Clarkson, Rainn Wilson ("The Office"), and Kathy Bates ("Misery") deliver an intense breadth of talent to the show, and those are just the ones you may have heard of. Richard Jenkins, above all others, deserves a shout-out. He occasionally returns as the ghost of Nathaniel Fisher. Jenkins is often a delight, but what makes him fantastic here is that he and the other ghosts in "Six Feet Under" are within the characters' heads. He plays subtly different Nathaniels depending on which cast member he's interacting with. His performance draws insight into what the other character wants, needs, or fears.

That's not to say everyone in the cast is perfect. Keith (Michael St. Patrick) and Rico (Freddy Rodriguez) are regulars for the show's full run. They're meant to

give outsider perspective on the family but don't accomplish that task as effectively as Brenda does. Sadly, the show takes a slight turn for the worse when these characters receive more attention.

But "Six Feet Under" can correct its course. In season four, the show seems to really want to bring all of its characters to their lowest point. Season five compensates for this by reaching the show's pinnacle, with the final few episodes proving brutally cathartic. The series finale is considered one of the best in television history, and for good reason: the final 10 minutes alone come as close to perfection as I can conceive.

"Six Feet Under" is one of the few influential television shows of the previous decades that realized it could be shot like a movie. Alan Ball clearly learned a few things while working on Sam Mendes' "American Beauty" set. The way the directors approach scenes (and especially how they play with space within the Fisher household) has left a mark on the shows that followed. The show's soundtrack, by composer Richard Marvin, is just as critical, creating elegant disquiet with just a piano. And Alan Ball wields montages (set to everything from Buddhist chants to Sia's "Breathe Me") in a fashion yet to be rivaled.

"Six Feet Under" is not an easy show to watch. It's brutal, and it jumps rope with your emotions. It will go into a horrifying dream sequence only to startle you by smashing back to reality. The show is haunting, it is traumatizing, and it is far from perfect. But it is a show that affects its audience far more than most. There is absolutely nothing like it, before or since. It is the beauty, irony, and horror of morbidity all rolled into one. And it should not stay buried.



HBO's "Six Feet Under" poignantly chronicles a family's experience with life, death, and how each must be understood with the other.

Screenwriter's Lounge Incubates Student Work

By Danielle Cohen
Contributing Writer

A girl wakes up and goes through her normal routine. Everything is as expected, except, between each moment, she makes a note of what she's done. As she goes about her day, she occasionally stops, appearing clueless, having no explanation of how she arrived in her current place. Why does she need to take these notes? How is she unaware of what has been happening to her?

Celeste Barnaby '18 asks those questions in the form of a screenplay, which she brought to be read aloud at the second meeting of the Screenwriters' Lounge. Every two weeks in the Shapiro Creative Writing Center, a group of about 15 students meets to critique a play, hear a guest speaker, or participate in a screenwriting workshop. A new program in close connection with the Wesleyan Film Project, the Lounge provides a communal environment for screenwriters on campus to discuss, share, and critique each other's work.

The project is spearheaded by Joseph Eusebio '17, who wanted to establish a regular gathering place for students interested in screenwriting.

"It's an idea I've had for a while," Eusebio said. "I know there are a lot of people interested in screenwriting and a lot of people who have left Wesleyan and become screenwriters, but there was no real gathering place."

The Lounge is linked to another student filmmaking group, the Wesleyan Filmmaking Project, which works to provide students on campus with the resources to produce their own films. Although the idea for the Lounge came first, the Filmmaking Project began earlier, through meetings over the summer of an advising committee of about seven students. The Filmmaking Project, currently managed by Jacob Sussman '17, has received \$3,600 worth of camera equipment from the Student Budget Committee.

"[The Wesleyan Film Project will act as] an on-campus hub for film production to connect students with each other and with gear," Eusebio said.

The project boasts about 150 students, a Facebook page, and a website in progress that will, ideally, include a list of students who are interested in screenwriting and their specific interests. Eusebio referred to Second Stage as the model for the project.

The Screenwriters' Lounge's main link to the Filmmaking Project is that it encourages submissions to the Project and edits and reworks in-progress submissions. At the beginning of the academic year, the Film Project had only received about seven submissions, so the advising committee thought a place where screenplays could be produced and critiqued

would boost the number of students writing.

In a typical meeting of the Screenwriters' Lounge, a student whose piece is being produced for the Wesleyan Film Project will bring in their writing, which is read out loud in the style of a traditional table read and then critiqued by other participants at the Lounge. Members offer a large spectrum of critique, and occasionally one will disagree with another and spark a discussion of the efficacy of a certain method or strategy.

Barnaby had emailed her work to the Film Project and was subsequently contacted by Eusebio requesting that she bring the script to the next session at the Lounge. She had the chance for her script, chronicling a stretch of time in the life of a girl who loses chunks of her memory, to be read in a relaxed setting with snacks and casual conversation.

"It's very cool to be around creative people who care about what I'm writing," Barnaby said.

Through a conversation with her mother, the girl in Barnaby's screenplay reveals that her condition is getting worse. While she is dating a boy, the gaps in her memory grow larger, and she is forced to record all of their dates in her notebook, leading to a terrible—and forgotten—fight that threatens their relationship.

For the second half of the session, the Lounge heard from senior creative writing fellow Amanda Distler '15, who has worked for Martin Scorsese. In addition to discussing her previous jobs and how she handled each one, she took questions from attendees and gave some advice on getting jobs in screenwriting and tackling the process of screenwriting itself.

Eusebio projects that future meetings will have a similar structure, focusing on a specific script but also including more workshop-style sessions to simply encourage students to write, something that can prove difficult to do during the busy school year. Lounge meetings will also include watching, reading, critiquing, and studying past senior theses that Eusebio and Sussman will select, along with exercises using scenes from popular movies and TV shows.

Eusebio said he hopes to conduct a 24-hour screenwriting contest, during which contestants write in the Shapiro Writing Center for 24 hours and then submit the scripts to be read. The script the members like the most will then be put into production, complete with a full team, gear, and its own budget.

Tricia Merlino '18, who attended the Screenwriters' Lounge for the first time earlier this week, felt inspired by the session and considered submitting her own work to be critiqued.

"Critiquing someone else's work gave me ideas for my own work and how to improve it as well as generate new ideas," Merlino said.

Feel passionate about campus issues?
Submit a Wespeak.

PROFESSOR'S PLAYLIST

By Aaron Stagoff-Belfort
Staff Writer

As a Visiting Assistant Professor of African American Studies, David Swiderski has expressed his passion for and extensive knowledge of music by teaching classes such as “Ebony Tower” and “I Strike The Empire Back: Black Youth Culture in The Neoliberal Age.” Swiderski has been an avid music fan since he was a teenager, when a record club membership offered by Columbia Records allowed him to build a collection rooted in alternative rock and grunge’s signature “Seattle sound.” He turned to the blues in high school when he picked up the guitar. Swiderski’s musical upbringing, along with his studies in African American music, has informed his significant technical and historical music expertise. The Argus asked him for his personal playlist, and what he provided ranges from the blues, funk, and jazz to soul, folk, and politically inspired hip-hop.

Little Walter, “Roller Coaster”

“Little Walter is a harmonica virtuoso who played a lot with Muddy Waters. ‘Roller Coaster’ is not typical blues harmonica; it’s this totally liberated expression. My jaw just dropped listening to it. How you could have in your mind to play what he played is the astonishing part.”

Charles Mingus, “Hog Callin’ Blues”

“Mingus has a manic energy in his music. I love the way he incorporates this range of sonic impulses from the whistles and screeches of horns to more melodic instrumentation.”

Herbie Hancock, “Fat Mama”

“This begins Hancock’s exploration of soul and funk by drawing those into the world of jazz. The link with the Mingus piece is this amazing tenor saxophone, which is way down in the lower registers of the tenor. It’s this totally funky groove to start the song off and he’s playing a Fender Rhodes on top of that, which gives the song a great pulse of energy. It’s a much rounder sonic experience than the Mingus piece, which has a lot more jagged edges and discord.”

Booker T. & the M.G.’s, “Time is Tight”

“I was doing my dissertation re-



C/O DAVID SWIDERSKI

Visiting Assistant Professor of African-American Studies David Swiderski gave the Argus a diverse playlist with everything from Nina Simone to Guns N’ Roses.

search on Cleveland and found this Jules Dawson movie, “Up Tight,” about the neighborhood I was studying. It’s about the Black Nationalist struggle in the ’60s, and Booker T. & the M.G.’s wrote this song for its soundtrack. It’s a bit somber but very lovely; I like the R&B sound. The organs, guitar, and the horns section combine to create music that generally appeals to me.”

Guns N’ Roses, “Paradise City”

“This song and Slash got me interested in playing the guitar. I must have been in fifth or sixth grade, and they made a big impression. It’s one of those rock anthems from the ’80s that’s a guilty pleasure or like musical candy. I still listen to it sometimes. I drove my wife crazy; we were driving to New York, and it came on, and we had been in a traffic jam getting stressed out, so I just turned it up and made us listen to it at full volume. We were in a much better mood after that.”

The Coup, “Pick A Bigger Weapon”

“I’m especially drawn to conscious rap. Rap music as it evolves has a question of whether or not it has a higher purpose. Is it just for party music or is there something impactful you can say about the world? This late ’90s Oakland group promotes explicitly radical politics. When

I’m feeling frustrated at the state of the world, I put on this track and let them vocalize what I’m feeling.”

Nina Simone, “Since I Fell For You”

“A beautiful love song. For quieter moments and more mellow moods, I go with her.”

Mahalia Jackson, “Take My Hand, Precious Lord”

“Again, just beautiful to listen to. “Take My Hand” is easy on the ears and soothing to the soul. It’s like medicine.”

Ani DiFranco, “Shy”

“An amazing musician with politics heavily interwoven into her music. She takes apart the folk genre and re-arranges it in a way that is brand new and totally compelling. Her vocal range is staggering on ‘Shy,’ which is the first DiFranco song I ever listened to. I had never heard music like this before.”

Rachmaninoff, “Vocalise”

“I’ve recently found that Bobby McFerrin’s version of ‘Vocalise’ is perhaps the perfect lullaby in that it is pleasant for parents and soothing for babies (at least mine).”

Blow: Play Furthers Campus Assault Conversation

Continued from front page

assault through the lens of 15-year-old little privileged girls, so we’re taking a real sexual assault that happened, guy on girl, and flipping it around. There are a lot of jokes playing on how guys talk about girls sexually versus the way that girls talk about guys.”

Stovicek added that much in the script purposefully defies gender expectations.

“The first act feels like 15-year-old ‘Grease’ to me, if [it] was in Manhattan in this generation,” Stovicek said. “Some of the lines are intentionally more masculine, [which] in that context seem more silly and out of character.”

While “Blow” aims to address general and, to a fair degree, universal issues of sexual assault discourse, it focuses particularly on the culture of upper-class Manhattan prep school life and the stark contrast between the maturity of males and females. Both Rosen and Stovicek said they have a personal connection to, and numerous issues with, this environment, since they both attended similar prep schools.

“This play is about the boys I’d hang out with from my old school when I switched to public school,” Rosen said.

Both writer and director said they were sure to approach their subject with care, paying close attention to the value and effect of the play’s gender-swapping mechanism.

“I didn’t have hesitancy with reverse gendering because I think it’s really important to show how that illuminates gender and sexual assault in a new way,” Stovicek

said. “We’re showing a new side of it that is still relevant and realistic based on the female perspective.”

Swapping genders allows Rosen and Stovicek to reveal cultural absurdities.

“This is absolutely not about male sexual assault [nor] how it happens,” Rosen said. “This assault of girls on a boy is so unrealistic in its current form because we’re exploring the power dynamics that don’t really exist. Not only does it show how ridiculous some of the things guys say about girls [are], but it really shows the huge power difference between guys and girls in these situations.”

For these reasons, both Rosen and Stovicek said that the show is meant to be more of a catalyst for dialogue than a standard play. Therefore, they will host and facilitate a talkback session following each performance in order to stir up productive conversations with the audience, ensuring that people don’t leave the show without the opportunity to discuss and work through their own opinions.

“It’s more of a feminist performance art piece than a theater piece,” Rosen said.

Running Thursday, Oct. 23 through Saturday, Oct. 25 in the top floor of Allbritton, “Blow” is expected to inject even more life and dialogue into the campus’ arts and feminist scenes.

“Even if you don’t consider yourself a feminist, or the word feminist makes you extraordinarily uncomfortable, I really hope you come out to this,” Rosen said. “The experience depends on people of all different backgrounds.”



LEX SPIRITES/PHOTO EDITOR

From left to right: Raechel Rosen ’15, Kathleen Radigan ’17, and Jessica Wachtler ’18 play fifteen-year-old prep school girls in this weekend’s production of “Blow.”

“The ABCs of Death 2” Brings Alphabetical Thrills

By Charles Martin
Staff Writer

Two years ago, Tim League, the founder of Austin’s cult film festival Fantastic Fest, and Ant Thompson, a New Zealand-based film producer, created an odd and ambitious project: an alphabetic horror anthology consisting of 26 parts, each from a different up-and-coming horror director. The result was “The ABCs of Death”, an interesting experiment that spanned continents and subgenres. Like many subpar anthologies, it had its memorable moments, yet ultimately came off as uneven and tonally jarring, constantly unsure how to straddle the lines of comedy, drama, and shock.

Now, the two producers are at it again with their aptly titled follow up, “The ABCs of Death 2.”

Much like its predecessor, “The ABCs of Death 2” is a hodgepodge of different storytelling visions. The styles range from found-footage to claymation, and the subject matters include killer bugs, carnivorous hamburgers, and bath-salt crazed cannibals. However, unlike the original, this installment holds a strong sense of structure and progression. All the

shorts are linked with a maniacally dark sense of humor, and there’s a clear sense that the grizzly impact and darker themes increase the further one gets into the collection.

The opening installment, “A is for Amateur”—the title of which concludes the narrative like a punchline—depicts a hit man trying to pull off the perfect assassination, only to realize that climbing through an air vent is far less practical and much more dangerous than it might seem. This is then followed by “B is for Badger,” which, as the name might suggest, is just a long setup for a nature documentarian (played by Julian Barratt of “The Mighty Boosh”) being eaten by mutated badgers. While these first two segments are certainly violent and morbid, they actually focus more on very dark slapstick humor than outright horror. It’s not until the bizarre installment, “D is for Deloused,” that the segments aim to be genuinely unsettling, culminating with the intensely disturbing conclusion “Z is for Zygote.”

A primary challenge for these directors is to prevent the two-hour-long collection of five-minute vignettes from becoming stale. Their solution is to deliver one sucker punch

after another. It’s genuinely astonishing to watch how some of these directors construct a story within their time constraint. Probably the most memorable short is “S is for Split,” in which a husband talks to his wife over the phone, only for a masked killer to break into the house. The entire segment is done in split screen, first showing the husband attempting to reach the police as the wife attempts to hide, then adding a third segment into the frame to show the killer pursuing his victim. It’s an interesting tool that pays off with a masterful twist at the end.

A lot of these shorts do feel like shorter components of a much larger story, which can either be a benefit or a detriment. The “O” short introduces a genuinely fascinating premise and tells a concise story within what seems like a much larger world. In it, zombies have been cured of their affliction only to hold trials for the people who tried to shoot them in the head while they were in a less civilized state. Others, such as “L is for Legacy,” which deals with a botched tribal ritual summoning a strange demonic possum, tackle promising ideas but feel like they are cut short far too early.

It’s also worth a warning that as the film approaches its final stretch, its idea of a climax involves entering some very dark territories. The “X” and “Z” segments are particularly unsettling, crossing into gruesome vistas that some viewers might genuinely find problematic. It’s difficult to talk about the premises of these, but rest assured, you won’t be forgetting them for a while afterward.

The funny thing about the way “The ABCs of Death” films are structured, however, is that it’s actually not completely necessary to make it all the way to the end. Because of the movie’s length and the way it constantly throws so much at the viewer, this is something that might actually be preferable to watch in smaller increments. An inherent problem of the movie that’s also shared by previous horror anthologies, such as “V/H/S” and “Trick R Treat,” is that with so many short and shocking segments drenching the screen with monsters and gore, it’s easy to either get overwhelmed or just downright fatigued.

That’s why, rather than trying to tackle this all at once, I’d recommend watching these segments in bite-sized portions in the lead-up to Halloween. That way it’ll be easier to really ap-

preciate the ways these different directors are trying to bring innovation to the horror genre. If nothing else, the constant barrage of grizzly laughs and creative scares should manage to bring on the spooky seasonal spirit.



C/O COLLIDER.COM

“The ABCs of Death 2” brings together 26 directors to make unique horror shorts based on the letters of the alphabet.

SPORTS IN REVIEW

Football: Wesleyan football's undefeated streak came to a shattering end this weekend with a homecoming loss to Amherst, 33-30. The Cards lost in overtime, allowing their Little Three rivals to notch a game-winning field goal from 35-yards out. Jesse Warren '15 and receiver Jay Fabien '15 connected for two touchdowns. Moving to 4-1 on the season, Wes will look to get back on track against Bowdoin at home next weekend.

Men's Soccer: It was a storybook ending for men's soccer this weekend as the Cards downed their rivals from Amherst, 2-1. In overtime, striker Adam Cowie-Haskell '18 notched his second game-winning goal of the season when he slotted a beautifully timed volley into the back of the Amherst net. With the win, the Cards break up the Lord Jeffs' 37-game in-conference winning streak. More importantly, the Redbirds have earned a share of the Little Three title for the first time since 2012.



SPORTS

Football Falls Short in Overtime Against Amherst

By Gili Lipman
Assistant Sports Editor

This wasn't how the story was supposed to be written. The football team was going to win back-to-back Little Three titles and avenge last season's loss to Trinity on its way to an undefeated season and an outright conference title. Unfortunately, the game is not played on paper, and a dandy contest it was.

With rain pouring throughout the afternoon, the Cardinals and Lord Jeffs battled it out at Corwin Stadium for Homecoming Weekend. The Birds snapped a 10-year losing streak to Amherst last season, 20-14, but could not win two in a row against the Lord Jeffs; they have failed to accomplish this since 1992-1993. Amherst continued its undefeated campaign (5-0), while spoiling Wesleyan's (4-1). The game ended in thrilling fashion, with Amherst closing out the game in overtime on a field goal to give them a three-point edge, 33-30.

The Cardinals started off strong, forcing Amherst to punt on its opening drive. Wes commenced its offensive drive with the Wildcat formation, led by Devon Carrillo '17. A 15-yard face mask infraction and a 15-yard personal foul aided the Birds' drive. Kyle Gibson '15 found the end zone on a two-yard run; he kept his legs moving forward and scored on a second effort. The possession lasted nine plays and went for 80 yards in 4:58. Ike Fuchs '17 added the extra point to give the

home team a 7-0 lead with 7:25 remaining in the first quarter.

On Amherst's following possession, Dee Simons '15 was able to get pressure on the quarterback, forcing an incompletion and a punt. Wesleyan was set to get the ball, backed up in its own zone at the 14-yard line, but was pushed even farther back after a 10-yard holding penalty. Following the call, Carrillo ran left on a sweep play and seemed to injure his ankle. The sophomore, a feature on all three units, did not return to the contest. The Cards did not do much more on this drive, and a weak punt gave the Lord Jeffs the ball at the Wesleyan 24-yard line.

On the first play of the possession, the Amherst running back took the handoff left and scampered towards the goal line for a 24-yard score. Following the extra point, the score was all knotted up. The Cardinals looked strong at the start of their next drive. Quarterback Jesse Warren '15 had pressure in his face, but was able to find Captain Jordan Fabien '15 on a 14-yard completion. The possession did not do much more, due to a costly 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Warren was forced to run in a third-and-long situation after seeing tight coverage in the secondary, but came up just a yard short of the first-down marker.

The Birds punted back to the Lord Jeffs, but on their first play, a halfback option toss, Rob Manning '16 ran back with no opponents in sight and intercepted the pass. Wesleyan couldn't capitalize on

the turnover, failing to convert a fourth-and-23 at the Amherst 29-yard line. Not wanting to call on the field-goal unit, Warren threw up a pass to the end zone that was almost hauled in by Fabien for the miracle score. After the disappointing drive, Wesleyan's defense would hold again, and a punt return from Captain Donnie Cimino '15 gave the offense the ball near midfield.

Lou Stevens '17 had his best game of the season and carried the team on this drive. He rushed for 24 yards on four carries, including a 14-yard touchdown scurry, where he burst through the hole, ran right, and was tackled as he crossed the goal line. The drive also consisted of a one-handed catch from wide-out Josh Hurwitz '15 and a quarterback sneak from Warren on a fourth-and-one. Fuchs' extra-point attempt was blocked and Wes was up 13-7. This point became a factor in the closing stages of the fourth quarter.

Amherst threatened on its next drive, moving 58 yards to the Wesleyan 15-yard line. An incomplete pass on third-and-short forced the Lord Jeffs to take the three points with 23 seconds left in the half, closing the gap to three.

Wes received the ball at the start of the third quarter and the offense trotted onto the field at their own 20-yard line. The first play saw Warren complete a 42-yard pass to Hurwitz, who broke a tackle and ran down the sideline. Unfortunately, the Cardinals had to settle for a 30-yard field goal from Fuchs, increasing their lead to six.

Amherst came out in the second half as a much-improved team, as seen on its first offensive possession. The quarterback drove his unit 85 yards for the touchdown in 11 plays, taking 4:03 off the clock. The touchdown came on a five-yard run from Amherst's star running back and gave the away team a one-point lead.

The Cardinals responded with a touchdown of their own, traveling 75 yards in 10 plays. The drive lasted 4:48 and finished on a 20-yard toss from Warren to Fabien. Warren converted on third-and-long twice, first finding tight end Neil O'Connor '17 on a 15-yard completion, and then connecting with Captain Jon Day '15 for 13 yards to give the offense a first-and-goal opportunity. Following the extra point, Wesleyan took a 23-17 lead.

Amherst tacked on a field goal at the end of the third quarter from 30 yards out on its next drive to cut the Cardinals' lead to 23-20.

Wes started out the final quarter on a poor note when Warren threw his first interception of the season after a miscommunication with tight end Ben Kurtz '17. Amherst took advantage of this pricey mistake in just six plays; the running back found the end zone for the third time in the game. A successful extra point gave Amherst a four-point advantage. The Cardinals and Lord Jeff traded punts, following a penalty that negated a huge run. Wes had the ball at its own 32-yard line with only four minutes remaining.

The opening play was a beauty; Warren threw a bomb to Fabien along the Wesleyan sideline, and Fabien caught the pass in stride, stutter stepping to evade two defenders and coasting into the end zone. Following the extra point, Wesleyan regained a three-point edge.

After a failed drive, Amherst punted back to Wesleyan with 2:22 remaining, but Wesleyan could not milk the clock, only using up 47 seconds before having to punt back to the Lord Jeffs. Amherst took advantage of receiving the ball at midfield and hit a 41-yard field goal to even the score with only 23 seconds left.

NCAA overtime rules dictate that each team will get one possession starting at the opponent's 30-yard line, and after that, if the score is still even, the process will be repeated. Wesleyan got the ball first and was soon faced with a fourth and one at the three-yard line. Feeling the pressure to score a touchdown, they went for it with a run but were given an unfavorable spot, short of the distance needed. Amherst received the ball, only needing a field goal to win. After three plays, the kicker marched onto the field and knocked in a 35-yard field goal to give Amherst the 33-30 triumph.

Hopeful to still win a share of the NESCAC title, Wesleyan will try to rebound this Saturday, Oct. 25 at home against Bowdoin. The Birds beat the Polar Bears last season, 34-14.

Soccer: Cardinals Take Down Lord Jeffs

Continued from front page

into the back of the net with a perfect assist from Omar Bravo '15. A veteran striker, Lynch notched his third score of the season in the 64th minute of the game.

"Nick Jackson [18] had the ball in the midfield," Lynch said. "He passed it out wide to Omar, who hit a first-time cross—which was quite honestly the most beautiful pass I've gotten all season—and I finished it on top of the twelve-yard line. The goalie didn't even move because it was so quick."

And the crowd went wild. "Immediately, there was a sense of happiness and excitement within the team," Lynch said. "But at the same rate, we knew we still had to play even harder than we were before. Teams have a general tendency to slack off as soon as they score, and people say the most vulnerable time in a game is right after the other team scores."

Lynch's fear was realized less than ten minutes after he scored. Overwhelming Wesleyan in total shots during the second period by a 10-3 differential, Amherst replied to Lynch's goal in kind and tied the game at one apiece in the 73rd minute. Despite Amherst's offensive onslaught, McConnell kept the game tied with five saves in that period alone, sending the match into overtime.

"The mentality was that we've worked this hard; we're not going to lose that game," Cowie-Haskell said.

And the first-year made sure of

it, stepping up to secure a Wesleyan win. Less than five minutes in, Cowie-Haskell took the only shot of overtime—the shot that ended the game.

"It was on a long throw-in, which is ironic because Amherst's game plan is [to] just throw the ball into the box," he said. "It was one of their players that flicked it on over my head. I saw the ball going up and over, and after looking at the video, I know that the defender didn't expect my first touch. That touch took it back the other way where I was able to swing my right foot around and hit it like a volley into the net. The goalie didn't even move. The goalie did not move for either of our goals. He's an all-American goalie."

Cowie-Haskell earned his second NESCAC Player of the Week award for netting yet another game-winning goal; the previous one came in the first week of the season against Eastern Connecticut State University. This was his first score of the season.

Winning is always great. Ending a team's 37-game win streak, though, is priceless. Especially when that team is Amherst. Saturday's win propelled the Cards' record to 7-3-2 overall and 5-2 in the 'Cac, poising Wesleyan to take second place in the conference. After the game, players celebrated over fall break, on or off campus, and took a well-earned rest.

The team's hiatus, however, was short-lived: three important conference games continue through this week and into the next. Wednesday's

match hosting Trinity was postponed to Thursday night due to inclement weather. On Saturday, Oct. 25, the Cards are headed to Vermont to face Middlebury. The team will conclude its regular season at home against Conn. College next Wednesday, Oct. 29. Despite the weekend's awesome victory, the team is looking ahead rather than lingering behind.

"Looking forward, we really need to get off that [Amherst] game," Lynch said. "That can't be the high of our season; it has to just be one landmark of our season. So when we're playing against Trinity [on Thursday], it's really important that all the players on the team realize that there are still three more games left in the season, with opportunities for tournaments after that."

Lynch added that the team is striving to win all three of its upcoming games.

"That'll hopefully give us a home game for the first round of [NESCAC] playoffs," he said. "That's really what we want. We've been doing a great job of securing our possibility of getting into the tournament, now it's just [about] getting a little ahead in the conference."

Cowie-Haskell added that the team is riding on its momentum from the win against Amherst.

"It's a big game," he said. "If we win out the season, [these] last three games, we get second place in the NESCAC, and that would be huge. We're going to be playing hard."

Crew Competes in HOOCR in Boston

By Ashley Suan
Contributing Writer

Over the fall break, members of both the men's and women's crew teams headed to Boston, Mass., to compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta (HOOCR).

"The Head of the Charles marks the height of fall racing," said Ava Miller-Lewis '17.

The HOOCR, which began in 1965, is one of the world's largest two-day regattas, attracting people from all over the world to come watch and compete.

The men's team had a total of three boats racing. The men's Club Four boat had a solid performance, placing 17th out of 52. While in the past the Cards have not typically raced in this event, their successful finish in the top half of competitors guarantees them a place in the club four for next year's HOOCR.

"In the Collegiate Four, the results were about on par with how the [team] has done in the past," said Captain Ethan Currie '15.

The boat started with a bow number of 14 and placed 20th out of 44. Since they also finished in the top half, the team will have a place in this race next year as well.

The final men's boat racing was in the Collegiate Eight. Last year the Cards took 5th place, earning them the bow number of five for this year. This year, however, the boat only came in 20th out of 44.

"We had one of our better pieces, but we were fairly disappointed to find out we got 20th place, especially having done so well last year," Currie said.

Regardless, the boat still pre-qualified for next year.

Despite this disheartening finish, the team walked away from the HOOCR with an understanding of the hard work they will need to put in to succeed in the future.

"This is a good starting point for the winter season, showing us the task that lays ahead and informing the new guys the level of competition we race at," said Captain Ben Record '15.

In addition, the men's team is still having issues with injuries, which they hope to overcome before the spring season starts.

"Because of some injuries in my boat, we only had about three practices with the actual lineup for our race," said Teddy Shadek '18, who rowed in the men's club four. "Hopefully by the spring everyone will be a lot more settled, and each boat will be much more prepared to compete."

The women's team only brought one boat to the regatta, racing in the women's Collegiate Eight. The women's boat actually did as expected. With a bow number of 13, the boat placed 13th out of 30. This qualifies them for the event next year.

This coming Saturday, both the men's and women's teams will head to Saratoga, N.Y., to compete in the Head of the Fish, before heading indoors for the winter to prepare for the spring season.

Volleyball Splits Weekend Matches Against Rivals

By Illan Ireland
Staff Writer

After three straight losses to NESCAC opponents, the volleyball team needed victories against conference rivals Hamilton and Middlebury in order to extend its season past the final home match on Oct. 31. The team accomplished half the task, defeating Hamilton in a nail-biting five-setter Friday evening before falling to a tough Middlebury squad the following day.

“The win over Hamilton was a great victory, and especially exciting since we defeated them in five sets,” said Rachel Savage ’17.

The first set against Hamilton started out dead even, with steady defense and opportunistic kills by both teams leveling the score at nine. A strong serving run propelled the Continentals to a 19-14 lead, and Hamilton was able to take the set 25-22 despite a furious Cardinal comeback. Wesleyan responded in

the second set, rallying behind spectacular kills from first-year duo Tyla Taylor ’18 and Sarah Swenson ’18 to take a commanding 18-11 lead.

The Continentals made a strong push to remain in the set at 19-18, but the Cardinals would not be denied, capturing six of the following seven points to even the set score at one apiece.

Wesleyan trailed for the majority of the third set due to costly hitting errors and solid net play from the Continentals, but critical kills from Taylor were enough to even the score at 19. The two teams then traded points to make the score 23-22 in favor of the Cardinals, and two straight kills from Taylor paved the way to a Wesleyan victory.

Hamilton came out with guns blazing in the fourth set, leading by as much as 12-4 before the Cardinals were able to regain their composure and get within one point at 19-18. A Continental hitting error leveled the score at 21, and timely kills by both sides tied

the set 24-24. A costly service error by Wesleyan gave Hamilton a set point, and a Continental kill made the final set score 26-24.

The Cardinals showed why they remained unbeaten in decisive sets this season, jumping to a 5-3 lead before a five-point run by the Continentals made the score 8-5 when the two teams switched sides. Wesleyan rallied following the respite, capturing seven of the next eight points to take a 12-9 lead. Hamilton was able to get within one at 13-12, but two well-placed kills by Taylor gave the Cardinals their fifth five-set victory this season.

Taylor set the tone for the Wesleyan attack with a match-high 19 kills, while Swenson was a close second with 18. Setter Claire Larson ’15 posted a whopping 57 assists for the match, and libero Rachel Savage ’17 paced the Cardinal defense with seven blocks. Wesleyan is now 22-4 all-time versus Hamilton with their last loss against the Continentals

taking place all the way back in October of 2000.

Wesleyan’s impressive execution and clutch offensive play carried over into the first of Saturday’s matchups against Middlebury, as the Cardinals took an early nine-point lead and never looked back, taking the set 25-16. The Panthers regrouped in the second set, matching Wesleyan’s offense stride for stride and evening the score at 19 apiece before running away with the set 25-18. The Panthers proved themselves to be a playoff-caliber team in the following two sets, dominating in all areas of the court and capitalizing on Wesleyan errors to capture the sets 25-16 and 25-15 respectively.

“The loss against Middlebury was especially tough,” Savage said. “The fact that we beat them in the first set proved that we could’ve won the match, but unfortunately the pieces didn’t come together.”

Once again, Taylor led Wesleyan’s offensive effort with 17

kills, and Swenson contributed 13. Larson posted 37 assists and Savage added 20 digs. Lewis compiled six more impressive blocks. The team’s last triumph over Middlebury took place last season at the Wesleyan quad.

Despite Wesleyan’s victory against Hamilton, a Continentals win over Trinity on Saturday dashed the Cardinals’ hopes of a NESCAC tournament appearance since the team can now not place higher than ninth in its conference.

The Cardinals were adamant about ending their season on a high note, however.

“We have two weeks left in season, and hopefully we can end with some wins,” Savage said. “I especially hope to end with a victory against Bates.”

The squad will put a 10-9 record to the test with matches against Smith College and Wheaton College at the Hall of Fame Classic in Massachusetts this coming weekend.

Field Hockey Remains Positive Through Tough Results

By Grant Lounsbury
Staff Writer

Over fall break, the field hockey team stayed on campus to host three games in a span of six days at Smith Field.

On Oct. 16, the Cardinals faced off against out of conference foe UMass Dartmouth. The Corsairs took a 1-0 lead off a penalty corner within the first 10 minutes of the contest, but the Cards were able to fight back. Captain Hannah Plappert ’16 was awarded a penalty stroke in the 50th minute of play, which she slotted in the lower right-hand corner of the goal to tie the game at 1-1. At the end of regulation the score was still tied, so the teams headed into seven-on-seven overtime. Although the Cardinals had fought their way back into the game, the Corsairs dominated the overtime session. Six minutes into OT, the Corsairs ended the game on their third penalty corner of the extra period when their shot was re-directed past goalie Claire Edelman ’17, who was making her first start in net for the Cardinals. The Cards are now 0-3 in OT games this season, all losses coming by a score of 2-1 in favor of the opposition.

After the heartbreaking loss to the Corsairs, the Cardinals only had one day off to reset and prepare for Little Three rival and seventh-ranked Amherst on Homecoming. The Cardinals hoped to snap an 11-game losing streak to the Lady Jeffs but got off to a bad start on Saturday. Within the first 30 minutes of the game, the Lord Jeffs jumped out to a 4-0 lead over the Cardinals and outshot the Birds 15-3. Despite their first half woes, the Cardinals returned fire in the second half. The Cardinals held the Lady Jeffs to only 1 shot, while taking 10 of their own. Although the Cardinals had numerous opportunities in the second 35 minutes of the game, they were unable to convert, and the halftime score of 4-0 held as the final.

With the loss against Amherst marking their fourth loss in a row, the Cardinals looked to stop the bleeding and get back in the win column. That would not be an easy task as they prepared to face 11th-ranked Trinity on Tuesday night at

Smith Field. Unlike the previous two games, the Cardinals were on the scoreboard first. After playing defensively for the opening minutes of the game, the home team worked quickly on offense and was awarded its first penalty corner five-and-a-half minutes into the contest. The Cardinals found themselves with the early 1-0 lead after Lauren Yue ’17 inbounded the ball to Vanessa Block ’15. Block then passed the ball over to Plappert, who found the back of the net. Fifteen minutes later, the Cards saw their lead vanish during a quick counter attack when a Bantam dissected the Cardinals’ defense and shot the ball past Edelman. With the score knotted at one, Wes responded quickly. Three minutes later, Block and Yue were at it again. Block dribbled the ball off the restart, drawing two Bantams. She then slotted a centering pass to Yue, who fired a shot passed the netminder just inside the left post. Once again the Cards found themselves on top, but this lead would not hold. With less than five minutes remaining in the opening half, the Bantams converted off a broken-up corner that sent the game into halftime tied at two goals apiece.

“I think the last few games, especially the second half against Amherst and this game [against Trinity], we were playing the way we wanted to play; we were playing as a team and had great connecting balls,” Plappert said. “It’s what we practice and what we know, and it works. We just want to continue to play this way, and we think it’s going to be successful.”

On paper, it appears the Bantams, who outshot the Cards 9-5, had dominated the first half. But on the turf, the Cardinals controlled the pace of play and set the tone early. The Cards opened the second half of play intent on maintaining the same level of intensity, but the Bantams had thoughts of their own. They came out firing and never looked back. Fortynine seconds after the restart, the Bantams caught the Cardinals off guard and took the lead for the first time on the evening, never to relinquish it. Over the next 34 minutes the Bantams would add another five goals, capping a 7-0 run.

“I am going to give credit to Trinity,” said Captain Anna Howard ’15. “They stepped it up [in the second half]. There are some things you can’t stop, and so I give credit to them. I think, though, we kept going after it and didn’t lose hope in anything.”

Although the Bantams dominated the stat sheet and the scoreboard in the second half, the Cardinals never capitulated, fought hard for every ball, and contested every shot.

“Even though they got some good goals in the second half, we are walking away from this game proud of how we did,” Plappert said.

“Regardless of how we did,” Howard added.

“I think the difference in the second half was that Trinity stepped it up to a notch that they weren’t playing at in the first half, but we did a great job of responding and keeping up with them: It’s just [that] they got a couple of good goals,” Plappert continued.

The Cardinals have now lost five in a row, which has not occurred since the 2008 season. On the season, the Cardinals are 3-10 with a 2-6 NESCAC record. The Cards currently sit tied with Hamilton for the eight seed in the NESCAC tournament with two games to go. On Saturday, Oct. 25th, the Cardinals head up to Vermont to take on Middlebury, which sits atop the NESCAC standings and is ranked third in the NCAA DIII.

“I think we are going to keep working on our give-and-goes and support on the field, and just keep working with that because that’s our game and that’s where we are the strongest,” Howard said on preparing to play the Panthers.

Although the Cardinals are the clear underdogs heading into Saturday’s game, they seem to be putting the final pieces of the puzzle together, which could just lead to what might be one of the biggest upsets in the team’s history.

“I think that the past couple of days we have been doing a great job of being really positive and playing as a team,” Plappert commented after the 8-2 Trinity loss. “The past couple of games we have figured out our mental game, so we just want to keep that in the right place.”

Women’s Soccer Unlucky Over Break

By Andrew Jacobs
Staff Writer

The women’s soccer team lost a pair of hard-fought games over fall break. On Homecoming Saturday, the team battled Amherst. Although they played an even game for the first 75 minutes, the away squad broke the scoreless tie in the 76th minute when Amherst’s Rachael Abernethy was able to find the back of the net. Abernethy netted another goal in the 84th minute to ensure Amherst’s victory over the Cardinals. Jessica Tollman ’15 made four saves, keeping it a close game throughout despite Amherst’s 15-9 advantage in shots. The Cardinals played an encouraging second half: Even though they allowed two goals, they outshot the Lady Jeffs 6-3 after halftime.

Following Homecoming Weekend, the Cardinals hosted NESCAC rival Trinity on Tuesday. In another tough 2-0 loss, the team once again put forth a great effort well past halftime. However, Trinity was able to strike in the 72nd minute, as well as the 83rd, with Nicole Stauffer making both goals. Tollman once again played an outstanding game in net, turning away nine shots by the Bantams. The two losses over the past week drop the Cardinals’ record to 1-10-2 on the season.

Head Coach Eva Meredith, now in her 11th season in this position, saw some encouraging signs from her squad.

“We stuck to our game plan of playing compact and linking units together better than in previous games,” Meredith said. “We defended really well. Unfortunately, we continue to struggle to capitalize on opportunities.”

Meredith also reflected on her goaltender’s outstanding play. “Jessica Tollman has had some very high-level performances throughout the season, keeping us alive in close games,” Meredith said. “She has played at the top of her game, which has helped when the team is not finding the net on the other end.”

Meredith also commented on one of her team’s overall strengths:

chemistry both on and off the field. However, she added that this chemistry still needs to manifest itself more strongly.

“We need to be more demanding of each other on the field both in practice and in games, and still know that we will stay best of friends off the field,” Meredith said.

In order to win the remaining few games on the schedule, the Cardinals must be consistent and stay cool under pressure, according to Meredith.

“[We must] put in 100% effort and avoid making costly mistakes at crucial times in the game,” Meredith said. “We have to believe that we can win a couple of these final games and that it will be enough to get us into the playoffs. [There is] still much to play for.”

Although it has been an up-and-down season for the team, Meredith is glad that some of her younger players have been able to see the field and gain some experience.

“[The younger players] now have some experience playing in a very tough league and knowing what it feels like to not get out on top in these games,” Meredith said. “Hopefully it will spark the desire to want to train harder, play over the summer and do better next year as [upperclassmen].”

Overall, Meredith acknowledged that is has been a tough season. However, there are some positive signs to take away from the year the Birds have had.

“We have had a tremendous amount of injuries, which takes away the day-to-day and week-to-week consistency that you need,” Meredith said. “The back four has changed from game to game due to injuries. As a coach, and a team, you need stability in the back, which we have not had. We knew scoring would be a challenge since we lost our natural forwards from last year. Scoring goals is trained from an early age and hard to teach. We’ve competed as hard as we can under the circumstances. We have a larger senior class and hopefully we can win a couple of the remaining games for them.”

The team finishes up the season with two games in the coming week. They will travel to Middlebury on Saturday before closing out the regular season at home against Conn College on Tuesday.

FOOD

Foodies Take on Fall Break

From exotic Korean delicacies to the simplest of culinary pleasures, this section's very own Emma Davis and Nicole Boyd share their fall break food adventures in the New York area. Whether they were whipping up original recipes, eating at a friend's house, or dining out, the two writers experienced no shortage of gustatory diversity over the course of their few days off.

Fall Break: A Time of Food Appreciation

By Nicole Boyd
Staff Writer

I have always had a great appreciation for food and flavor. No matter the circumstances, I'm always game to drop what I'm doing to experience the latest culinary trend. On any given day back home, I can often be found watching the Food Network, skimming through my mother's extensive collection of recipe books and culinary magazines, or spontaneously whipping up a batch of brownies. College, however, seems to have encouraged the impossible: it has caused my love of food to grow even stronger. I came to this realization rather recently, while staying at my friend's house during fall break.

I have certainly not starved at Wesleyan. After all, especially compared to other college food, Wes dining provides students with some pretty high-quality meal selections. However, my college eating experiences have not replaced (or diminished my craving for) the comfort of home cooking by any means. Thus, spending a few days living and eating with my friend's family gave me a powerful sense of relief. Of all the meals I enjoyed there, one in particular stands out in my mind.

Upon my arrival on Sunday night, I was greeted by a wonderful smell. Using my nose as a guide, I eventually discovered that the source was a fireside Korean barbecue featuring flavors foreign to my college-dining-accustomed palate. The meal started off with a blackfish that had been caught fresh that morning and broiled to perfection shortly before my arrival. Next, I filled my plate with tender sirloin steak tips, barbecued beef, an assortment of grilled fruits and vegetables, and lastly, a spicy kimchi casserole. The feast was then topped off with an array of quintessential fall desserts. Alongside rich French vanilla ice, we munched on fluffy apple cider donuts, apple pie, and warm apple rolls that my friend's neighbor made with hand-picked fruit.

From this banquet, I emerged elated and slightly sedated, as evidenced by the subsequent food coma. It was in this state that I realized my time at Wesleyan had transformed me as a foodie. Though my time at school has not deprived me of any culinary necessities, it has distanced me from the comfort of home cooking. Through this isolation, I have come to regard food not just with an appreciation, but rather with a passionate sense of adventure.

Fall Break: A Food Frenzy

By Emma Davis
Food Editor

Mochi Mishaps

Since my parents were flying in from California to visit campus for a day, I decided to make them my college specialty: butter mochi.

Although mochi is somewhat of an unusual dessert, I figured it'd be a breeze to make in the well-stocked Full House kitchen on a Friday night. After all, the first time I made mochi, I was in a friend's apartment in New York and didn't even have the option of going grocery shopping. Aside from the rice flour, coconut milk, and evaporated milk



EMMA DAVIS/FOOD EDITOR

Jap chae is one of the Korean dishes foodie Emma Davis '17 tried at Han Bat Restuarant over fall break.

I'd packed myself, I was at the mercy of her kitchen cabinets. Fortunately for my host, my maple-syrup-for-sugar substitution was a success, but it easily could have been a gloopy disaster.

As for the second time, I was making dessert for the first Full House communal dinner and wanted to make my contribution as memorable as possible. Instead of using a nine-by-nine pan to create a flat, golden cake, I poured the batter over raspberries and Nutella nested in the cups of mini-muffin pans. The resulting mochi were adorably bite-sized, and they disappeared in a pinch as soon as I set them down on the table outside.

This time around, I repeated the filling idea but used frozen raspberries instead of fresh ones since they were out of season. Everything was going smoothly until I realized that, because I had doubled the recipe, my mixing bowl was barely big enough to hold all of the batter. I was so busy being cautious not to make a mess as I stirred that I completely forgot to add the eggs and vanilla. It was only as I poured the batter over the clumps of raspberry that I discovered the unopened carton of eggs still in its plastic bag next to the counter and the vanilla still sitting on the shelf.

Thankfully (for the sake of my reputation as a chef), you could hardly tell that something so crucial was missing from the final product. The mochi was as sweet and chewy as ever, and aside from its astonishing density—one small bag of cakes weighed at least a pound or two—its appeal was intact.

In the future, I'll be sure to do a better job of laying out my ingredients. Oh, and I'll find a larger mixing bowl!

Dinner in K-Town

After my parents arrived on campus and stopped by my shift at Red & Black Café, we drove into New York City for the weekend.

Since we were staying near Korea Town, or K-Town for short, a family friend we were meeting for dinner recommended we try one of the restaurants there. We ended up at a place called Han Bat on West 35th St. where we ordered mandu (small, potsticker-shaped vegetable dumplings), pajun (fried onion cake with chunks of seafood), jap chae (vermicelli-like sweet potato noodles with bell pepper and pork), short ribs, and bul go ki (loosely ground beef with grilled onions). We were also treated to an array of appetizers, including kimchi and seasoned green beans with dipping sauce on the side.

My favorite dish was the bul go ki, which was sweet and tender enough to melt in your mouth. The mandu were a close second, but having been broiled instead of fried at my mother's insistence, they lacked a satisfying crunch to offset the softness of the filling. Another highlight was the pajun, which, despite containing some alarmingly large pieces of tentacle, was tasty and well-textured overall.

In general, however, the dishes were on the bland side; the dominant note of the jap chae, for example, was the sweet potato noodles. Also, the short ribs were disappointingly fatty and often more bone than meat.

While I'd love to give Korean food a second try, I think I'd pass on another dinner at Han Bat. The meal was served promptly and was definitely fresh, but the menu was more limited and the dishes less flavorful than I had expected.

Unfortunately, dessert, which we bought from a bakery called Tous Les Jours on West 32nd St., was similarly underwhelming. Although the décor and name suggested a strong French influence, the pastry selection was clearly geared toward a Korean clientele. We picked up a slice of chocolate pound cake, a mini-white bean bun, a mini-mochi, and two tiny pastries topped with white frosting and a single grape. The pound cake was so dry that I was glad to be sharing it with several people. The white bean bun and mochi were excellent, albeit comfort food.

Nonetheless, as with Han Bat, I think the bakery's offerings were probably a lesser version rather than a representative sample of Korean food. Hopefully, I'll be able to convince my Korean friends to cook for me and show me how delicious Korean cuisine should really be.

The Grand Central Sprint

On Tuesday afternoon, I caught the subway to Grand Central Station and joined the group of Wes students waiting for the bus back to campus.

Having skipped lunch aside from a bubble tea a few hours earlier, I decided to dash back into the train station to grab a bite to eat. The nearest shop turned out to be the Grand Central Market, a maze of overpriced "stalls" that seemed to sell everything, aside from baked goods, in bulk.

In fact, not a single shop even offered prepackaged sandwiches, so I took a classically Parisian approach and bought a baguette, a box of raspberries, and a package of raw string beans. To satisfy my ever-present craving for sweets, I added a chocolate-chip cookie.

I had hoped that one of the delis would have pats of butter on hand to supplement the baguette, but each cashier merely regarded me with confusion and pointed me toward the next stall. Eventually, I gave up on the free butter idea and found some goat cheese to buy, but by that point I was too short on time to stand in line for another item.

As the bus pulled out of Manhattan, I snacked on handfuls of green beans and baguette and adorned my fingers with raspberries. Although it wasn't the sophisticated New York meal I'd anticipated as a farewell, it was fresh and simple, and it reminded me that sometimes the basics are really the best.

Chia Seeds for All Your Needs

By Isabelle Csete
Staff Writer

If you're obsessed with modern-day superfoods then you need look no further than chia seeds.

These seeds grow primarily in South America and come from the *Salvia hispanica* plant, a plant in the same family as mint. These tiny black seeds, once a staple food of the Aztec and Mayan diets, are nutrient-packed, non-GMO, and naturally gluten-free. A one-ounce serving of chia seeds, which is two tablespoons or about as big as your thumb, contains 11 grams of fiber, 4 grams of protein, 5 grams of omega-3 fatty acids (essential fatty acids for your body), 4 grams of healthy fat, zinc, magnesium, and much more. Even more impressively, one tablespoon of chia seeds has more calcium than a glass of milk and more omega-3 fatty acids than a piece of salmon.

The best part about chia seeds, however, is that they are incredibly easy to incorporate into your diet. Although they may taste rather bland when raw, they can be cooked in a variety of ways. Here are two of my favorite recipes, which are not only simple to whip up (especially in a dorm kitchen), but also unbelievably yummy.

The first recipe is a coconut chia seed pudding, which you can adapt in several ways. I modified it by combining the pudding with a little bit of agave, mango, and mint, but you can experiment with different toppings.

Coconut Chia Seed Pudding

Directions

1. Add cinnamon to coconut milk in a bowl.
2. Pour mixture into a mason jar, bowl, or leftover container with a lid.
3. Add chia seeds to pudding mixture and shake container vigorously.
4. If making Modification/Topping 2, stir cocoa into the mixture.
5. Cover container and place into fridge for at least 2 hours or overnight and take out when you are ready to enjoy. Don't forget to serve your chia pudding with the topping combination of your choice.

INGREDIENTS

PUDDING:
2 CUPS COCONUT MILK (FULL FAT WORKS BEST)
1/3 CUP CHIA SEEDS
1 1/2 TBSP. SWEETENER OF CHOICE (RAW HONEY, MAPLE SYRUP, ETC.)
1/3 TSP. GROUND CINNAMON

MODIFICATION/TOPPING 1:
1 RIPE MANGO (PEELED AND CUBED/SLICED)
1 HANDFUL FRESH MINT (MINCED)
1 PINCH CHIA SEEDS
1 PINCH SESAME SEEDS
1 TSP. SWEETENER OF CHOICE (RAW HONEY, MAPLE SYRUP, ETC.), OR TO TASTE

MODIFICATION/TOPPING 2:
2 TBSP. CACAO OR COCOA
1 CUP DICED STRAWBERRIES
1 CUP BLUEBERRIES
1 TSP. SWEETENER OF CHOICE (RAW HONEY, MAPLE SYRUP, ETC.), OR TO TASTE

Dairy-Free Pumpkin Blondies

Directions

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Place all dry ingredients into a bowl and whisk together.
3. If you can, puree the plantain or mash it extremely well. Add mashed/pureed plantain to dry ingredients bowl.
4. Stir mixture until ingredients are well-incorporated.
5. Add can of pumpkin puree and coconut oil.
6. Lightly oil a 9 x 9 cookie pan and pour batter into the bottom of the pan. Bake in oven and, after about 20 minutes, take them out and enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

1 MEDIUM RIPE PLANTAIN, PEELED
1 CUP (8 OZ.) PUMPKIN
2 TBSP. CHIA SEEDS
1/2 TSP. BAKING SODA
1 TSP. BAKING POWDER
1 1/4 TSP. CINNAMON
1/8 TSP. CLOVES
1/4 TSP. GROUND GINGER
1/4 TSP. NUTMEG
1/4 CUP (1 1/4 OZ.) COCONUT SUGAR
2 TBSP. (1 OZ.) COCONUT OIL



ISABEL CSETE/STAFF WRITER

This easy-to-make chia seed pudding can be easily modified by using a variety of fruits and toppings.

No-Bake Dessert: Spice It Up With Pumpkin Pie Truffles

By Nicole Boyd
Staff Writer

I’m going to let you in on a rather dark secret: I am, quite shamelessly, an autumn-aholic. Yes, it’s true. I am addicted to anything and everything having to do with fall. Aside from being the season of my birth month, autumn brings with it beautiful scenery, apple picking, hayrides, pumpkin patches, Halloween spirit, and countless other simple joys. However, of all these wonderful festivities and amusements, nothing brings me greater happiness than fall flavors. Upon noticing even the slightest change in leaf color, I, like many other people with my Long Island upbringing, begin to crave apple, cinnamon, squash, sweet potato, and, above all, pumpkin.

I decided to whip up a batch of pumpkin pie truffles to sate this desire. Inspired by classic pumpkin pie, these treats are essentially the bite-sized, dorm-friendly equivalent of one of my favorite autumn desserts. Composed of pumpkin, gingersnaps, cream cheese, and sugar (not to mention a generous coating of dark chocolate), the truffles require only six ingredients that can easily be found at Weshop. Though the freezing process is rather lengthy, most of the preparation can be completed quickly.

So, if you’re feeling the fall spirit as much as I am, embrace the season! Do yourself a favor: jump in a pile of leaves, carve a jack-o-lantern, and, to top it all off, make these truffles. Your inner autumn-aholic will thank you.

Directions

1. Combine the pumpkin puree, cinnamon (or pumpkin pie spice), gingersnap crumbs, cream cheese, and powdered sugar in a bowl. Mix ingredients well.
2. Put the mixture into the freezer for approximately 30 minutes to harden slightly. Then, remove from freezer and scoop into 1-inch balls. For the “perfect” truffle, form each scoop slightly in the palm of your hand.
3. Place the balls on a parchment-lined cookie sheet and put them back to harden in the freezer for another 30-60 minutes.
4. Place chocolate in microwave until fully melted.
5. Using a fork, dip truffles into mixture to coat fully. To remove excess chocolate, tap balls on edge of bowl and slide back onto the cookie sheet.
6. Continue until all truffles have been coated completely and decorate with leftover chocolate, a dusting of spice, or any other way you wish.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 CUP PUMPKIN PUREE
- 1 1/2 CUP GINGERSNAP CRUMBS
- 1 TSP. CINNAMON (OR PUMPKIN PIE SPICE)
- 1 8 OZ. PACKAGE CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED
- 7 TBSP. POWDERED SUGAR
- 1 10 OZ. PACKAGE DARK CHOCOLATE CHIPS, FOR DIPPING

World Food Day Strives To Eradicate Global Hunger

By Erica DeMichiel
Food Editor

Last Thursday, Oct. 16 marked the 35th annual World Food Day, an international day of action combatting hunger across the globe. In addition to calling attention to issues surrounding hunger, this year’s World Food Day celebrated the 69th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a United Nations (UN) agency that aims to reduce hunger in developed and developing countries. While more than 805 million people live with hunger on a daily basis, the organization has become more and more determined to get that number to zero within our generation.

Among the many charitable events that took place worldwide last week were food drives, soup kitchen services, and hunger walks. Each year, FAO selects an overarching theme for World Food Day; since 2014 is the International Year of Family Farming, the organization chose this year to promote the importance of family farms in ending the fight against hunger.

“Many global food systems rely on the production of healthy food for local and regional markets grown by family farmers,” said Assistant Professor of History Laura Ann Twagira, who has done research in the FAO archives in Rome. “In fact, Americans are turning more and more to locally sourced food for similar reasons: locally grown food from small scale farms is healthy for people and the environment.”

According to the World Food Day USA website, 98 percent of farms worldwide are family-owned.

However, it is often the case that the farmers who produce food for the consumer market are actually hungry themselves. A major reason for this discrepancy is that family farmers face a lack of policy support, which makes it increasingly difficult for these individuals to finance their agricultural endeavors.

The FAO official website reports that approximately five million children under the age of five die each year due to health complications associated with a lack of essential nutrients. This sobering fact not only brings attention to the grave consequences of hunger, but it also unveils the importance of making healthy foods available to those in need.

“As a historian, I have researched a series of widespread droughts that occurred in West Africa in the 1970s and 1980s, causing hunger,” Twagira said. “International food donations helped to alleviate some of the consequences, but the food shortages still led to malnutrition. It is not simply a matter of having food; it is important to have healthy food that people want to eat.”

Twagira then addressed the significance of the people’s power in supervising their own food systems and directing them as they see fit.

“If you think about the issue this way, it is really a question of food sovereignty: having control over your own food supply,” Twagira said. “Programs that provide emergency food supplies are increasingly recognizing this issue and switching from donations of food grown in home countries that must then be shipped globally to sending financial aid for the purchase of food closer to the affected regions. I see this

as a promising trend.”

In the meantime, the UN is certainly making progress toward the goal of eradicating world hunger. According to the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, the probability of a child dying of malnutrition before the age of five has, in fact, been cut in half within the past 20 years. In addition, a report from the UN Millennium Development Goals declares that extreme poverty worldwide has also been halved in the years since 1990, a feat accomplished five years prior to the original 2015 target.

Twagira stressed the importance of recognizing local food distribution issues, taking steps toward decreasing the presence of “food deserts” where healthful options are not readily accessible and becoming involved in community efforts to mitigate these problems.

“Many people are not able to purchase healthy food in food deserts and even in other neighborhoods,” Twagira said. “Right here in Middletown, the Amazing Grace Food Pantry provides food to people in need.”

Though having a global view of hunger is crucial in understanding the gravity of the issue, local activism is one of the easiest ways to make a difference.

“When we think of global food concerns, we ought to include the United States in the same conversation and look for solutions close to home,” Twagira said. “Right on campus, Long Lane Farm produces vegetables that are sold in a local farmers’ market. Getting involved with either Amazing Grace or Long Lane is a great way to get involved locally.”



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OPINION



On Empathy And Ebola

By JENNY DAVIS, OPINION EDITOR

Pretty soon, robots could be doing humans' dirty work. On Wednesday, the New York Times announced that the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, alongside a team of scientists, will work to develop robots to perform tasks relating to containing Ebola: spraying decontaminants on items infected with bodily fluids, receiving information from health care personnel in Ebola-ravaged countries, administering medicine to those with the disease, and even disposing of dead bodies. Right now, the robots are struggling to recognize transparent glass objects and use their robotic arms to drive vehicles.

It's a genius idea to use robots to contain infectious disease. I am not opposed to the scientists' work, which will undoubtedly save lives. But despite the brilliance of using robots to prevent the spread of Ebola, it's uncomfortable for me to think about a robot dealing with disease, something that already takes away so much of our humanity.

"One of the first things I heard from medical responders is that one of the bottlenecks is handling bodies," Robin Murphy, a professor of computer science and engineering at Texas A&M, is quoted as saying in the Times article. The article notes that families often struggle with the idea that a loved one's body is being handled by a machine.

Disease has an uncanny way of dispersing people, inspiring an impulse to keep our distance. And though medical professionals should take every precaution to avoid contracting and spreading Ebola, when meditating on how the average person responds to disease, I've stumbled across the obvious: We want to stay really, really far away from infection.

I found that out the hard way when I battled a case of head lice in my senior year of high school. At fault was an infected hat in a store in Williamstown, Massachusetts (that godforsaken town!). It's unbearably uncool to have head lice when you're 17 years old and applying to college. Lice goes out of fashion in seventh grade, when someone in your class comes down with the parasite and your teacher reassures the entire class that lice like clean, rather than dirty, hair. By the time you're 17, the lice checks stop—but the lice don't.

I was diagnosed in math class, by a classmate who was an expert lice-hunter. She delivered the verdict and I screamed and fled, leaving calculus papers strewn in my wake. My mother rushed home from work and combed through my hair with a nitpicker. (Puns ensued.) We dumped every piece of clothing I'd worn in the past five days into the laundry. I ran a vacuum cleaner frantically over my floor to ensure that I'd sucked up each pesky louse. Vegan that I try to be, I had always proclaimed that if I ever got head lice, I'd set the lice free in my backyard rather than kill them with chemicals, but as quickly as you can say "Nix," I went back on my word and wished every single one of them dead.

The worst part of the whole thing, though, was going to school the next day. A school official pulled me into her office to make sure that I wasn't still contagious. My classmates stared at me and my messy hair (my mother

had chopped off large chunks of it with scissors to make her nitpicking easier) with undisguised horror. They crowded away from me, giving me a table to myself, and pulled the sleeves of their sweaters over their hands whenever they had to come near me. They kept a safe 40-foot distance. The only person who stood by me was my friend Amari, who had just had her hair braided in cornrows and who assured me that she was immune to lice. (If you ever want people to stay away from you, tell them you have lice. I announced to a crowded elevator of obnoxious middle school girls that I had lice; they panicked as though there were a fire and stampeded out, leaving me in blissful, albeit itchy, solitude.)

Disease drives us into panic mode in a way that other disasters—earthquakes, hurricanes, even mass shootings—simply do not. Tornadoes evoke our utmost sympathy, we rally around each other in tragedies like the Sandy Hook massacre - but the moment a pathogen enters the equation we scatter. We want nothing to do with those who are infected. Disease is, well, contagious. Diseases like Ebola demand quarantine, not thousands of bedside visitors. Our desire to not catch a disease overpowers our desire to be compassionate and empathetic. Obviously my experience with lice does not begin to compare with the experience of someone who has a life-threatening and often incurable disease, but it did teach me something about the way that people respond to the contagious: They respond from 40 feet away, in hazmat suits and masks.

Before the current outbreak of Ebola, there were plenty of other diseases, and other people who kept their distance. The Bubonic Plague, for example, which ravaged Europe from 1346 to 1353, prompted widespread persecution of various minorities, including beggars, lepers, Jews, and Gypsies. So desperate were the Europeans to find a cause for their anguish that they exterminated the Jews of Mainz and Cologne. People turned on each other because they didn't know that Venetian rats were responsible for their anguish, and because they were afraid.

In this day and age, we're slightly more compassionate toward the diseased. We're still afraid, though. We still monitor flights from West Africa, cover Ebola on the news twenty-four hours a day, become obsessed with the most recent statistics. We attack government officials and demand that flights be cancelled. We're allowed to be concerned for our own and others' safety, but there comes a point at which our concern, and our obsession with keeping the disease and the diseased at bay, becomes unkind—inhuman. There is nothing wrong with our impulse to stay Ebola-free. But there comes a point at which our obsessed concern would be more sensitively manifested as warm and human empathy rather than paranoia. There are people who are suffering in unimaginable ways. Our chances of contracting Ebola are slim at worst. So why don't we cancel our orders of hazmat suits and exercise some compassion?

Davis is a member of the class of 2017.

SEXED AND PERPLEXED

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX



By Talia Baurer
Staff Writer

"But it's not sexy if we talk about it."

Humans are special. We build cities, make art, stand erect (excuse the pun). But if there's one area in which humans are not special, it's sex—right? All sorts of animals have sex!

Obviously all sorts of animals have sex, and in all sorts of awesome ways; just ask anyone who has taken Biology of Sex. But human sex is different in several ways, one of which is completely essential. Humans have language: the language to talk about the sex we're having.

Everything I have written about in these columns, everything I will write in future columns, and every sex question anyone has ever asked me, comes back to communication in some way. Yet people are often concerned that talking about sex will take the fun out of it. As someone who talks about sex more than probably any other topic, I assure you that I still think sex is very sexy. Whether I have scared away some near-strangers with my lack of regard for social norms is another story. I'm not saying that talking about sex is always easy; if it were, I wouldn't be writing this.

Good communication happens before, during, and after sex. By "before," I don't mean two minutes before, when you're already in your bed and half-undressed. I'm talking about communication in a nonsexual setting. This is obviously primarily applicable for consistent or repeated sexual partners, although you can pull this off before your first or only sexual encounter with someone, and I offer you the highest of fives for doing so.

Before sex, you can communicate about what you want and need from the sex you're having—things that turn you on and off, needs, desires, limits, fantasies, and how you are going to enact them. And just because the conversation is not happening in a sexual setting does not mean you can't be sexy about it. A well-timed "How do you feel about tying me up later?" text message can work nicely—or else a note slipped across the table at dinner, or across the desk in class.

Conversely, if sexy talk is difficult for you, this is the perfect opportunity to bring up your

needs in a matter-of-fact way without feeling like you're being all business in the bedroom (although that can be fun too). If you talk to your friends about sex, you can ease in by replicating the tone and ease of those conversations when you bring it up with your partner. Bring it up during dinner, doing laundry together, or to make that third-wheeling friend uncomfortable enough to leave. And again, writing things down can be an incredible tool and can help you to think about what you want to share before the conversation even happens. Yes/no/maybe lists are useful, especially for those of us who struggle to put things into words or to come up with new ideas (Scarleteen and Becca Brewer each have comprehensive lists, but you can find others or create your own). Also check out Reid Mihalko's difficult conversation formula to help you figure out how to say or write what you want to share.

For those who worry that this will take all of the mystery away, it's true that mystery and surprises can be fun. But some things simply cannot be left to mystery. Surprising your partner by waiting in their bed covered in chocolate syrup, only to find out that they are deathly allergic to chocolate, is not fun. Introducing your favorite toy during sexual play and then discovering that your partner is uncomfortable using sex toys with other people is not fun. It is also not fun to be the partner in either of those scenarios, or in the dozens of others I can present to you if you're unconvinced. Plus, how are you going to successfully enact your threesome, or your role-play fantasy, or your kidnapping fantasy, or your submission fantasy, without talking about it beforehand? You can't.

If the concept of communication before sex was hard for you to wrap your head around, hopefully communication during sex is more familiar. A lot of people communicate primarily physically during sex, and while physical communication can be very useful, words are a whole lot clearer. Shifting your body around until someone hits the right spot is less straightforward than telling them where you want them to touch you. Dirty talk is an endlessly useful tool here, if all parties are okay with it. If you feel embarrassed or awkward dirty talking, try practicing in front of the mirror while you're home alone. My guess is that your mirror has seen and heard weirder things from you in the past.

Safe words or safe gestures can also be a helpful way of communicating during sex, although these do need to be discussed beforehand. They are popular for scenarios in which "no" does not actually mean "no," but they can also be useful for maintaining clarity if you have trouble talking about sex in a direct manner. The red/yellow/green system works well, in which "red" means stop, "yellow" means slow down or pause, and "green" means go or keep

going.

You've probably heard of affirmative consent, or "yes means yes," by now; part of what that means is that you don't just keep going until you hear a "no," but rather you ask for a "yes" (and the same applies to your partners). It means your sex will not only be consensual, but also that you can feel secure in your partners' enthusiasm and that you won't be relying on some fictional natural progression of sex acts, like the one put forth by the baseball model (see Al Vernacchio's fabulous TED talk for a new metaphor for sex).

After sex, processing is important. This is somewhat intuitive because in real sexual scenarios, every single thing you do will not be discussed beforehand or during. Afterward is a great time to say "I liked it when you dug your nails into my back" or "I didn't love this one word that you used during dirty talk." It's also a great time to revisit things you talked about beforehand: What worked well? What went wrong? What made this part so good, or this part so unsuccessful? You can talk immediately after, or at another point in a nonsexual setting.

The thing about communication is that we're already doing it. As humans, our ability to communicate our needs and feelings and questions is one of the most valuable tools we have, and we use it constantly in different ways. Many of us recognize the necessity, in any type of sexual or romantic relationship, of addressing what the nature of the relationship is. Think of this in the same way—and maybe even incorporate it into the same conversations. Most importantly, be honest with your partners, and believe what they are telling you as well. Without communication, at best we don't get to explore all of our desires and needs, and we have some mediocre sex. At worst, we participate in the destructive, pervasive epidemic of sexual assault and rape culture.

My mother used to tell me that if you can't talk about something, you shouldn't be doing it. This wasn't just about sex, but I cannot think of any category to which it applies better. Sure, it's not always easy to talk about sex directly. We've been taught not to have these conversations, and we have inherited many complex taboos surrounding them. Transcending those taboos is difficult and often uncomfortable. It's also mandatory. So far in this column, I've written about things that are important or necessary for good or better sex. Communication is necessary for good sex; it is also necessary in order to have any sex at all.

Baurer is a member of the class of 2015.

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A Matter of Course: Defending Theory

By Isabel Fattal, Staff Writer

I have always enjoyed living in the world of theory. I love thinking about abstract philosophical concepts, speculating about the big ideas, and taking theory-focused classes at Wesleyan has only strengthened my fascination with this world of thought. Until this past week, I had never given much thought to why it is that I love studying theory, beyond the fact that it has always been my natural area of interest. But after stumbling across a debate from this past summer that calls into question the value of theory, I was forced to think more deeply about my own reasoning.

This past August, Elizabeth Segan, a former professor of feminist theory, argued in *The New Republic* that the emphasis on theory in the women’s studies program at Berkeley has hindered the curriculum from being relevant to students and thereby encouraging student activism. By relating feminist theory back to practical, real life issues, Segan argues, professors can ensure that students apply their knowledge to solving the tangible issues of today’s world. About a month later, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* published a rebuttal by feminist scholar Julia H. Chang that came to the defense of theory. Chang argues that both the personal and the theoretical are necessary for feminist activism; by studying theory, students can gain context and inspiration for their activism.

What struck me about both sides of this argument is the instinctive unification of theory with practice. Both authors seem to judge the relevance of theory solely by its relation to practical activism. Chang addresses this explicitly, preceding her argument with the phrase, “Theory need not be an end in itself.” After reading these articles, I began to evaluate more carefully why I so enjoy learning theory. But I soon realized that my answer wasn’t hard to find: I enjoy it for its own sake, not in relation to any separate impact that it might have on my life. I started to wonder: Was this the right mindset? Must we view theory solely in relation to how it affects practice, or can there be some sort of intrinsic value to studying abstract concepts? In my experience taking theory-based courses

here at Wesleyan, I have found that the study of theory is in fact practically relevant, but this need not be in a way that directly relates to activism. These sorts of courses, more than any others that I have taken thus far, have enhanced my ability to think critically, to articulate my thoughts, and to work through complex arguments. These skills are certainly valuable, both to students hoping to enter the world of activism and to those who do not; the ability to communicate coherently and to think through complicated issues is essential for any life path.

In this way, theory courses are not useless. But why are we always searching for the “usefulness” of theory, whatever this usefulness may be? Thinking about theory solely in terms of its utility seems a slippery slope that can lead to the erosion of the value of theory in and of itself. For many students, learning about feminist theory, for example, can serve as a path toward familiarizing oneself with the history of world issues and tracing the path of ideas that has led us to where we are today. These students might not plan to utilize this knowledge through activism or any other practical form of application, but studying theory has made them more informed and knowledgeable members of the world. This seems just as worthy a goal.

By imbuing the study of theory with opportunities for relevance and practical application, though, as the authors of both articles on feminist theory recommend, we do a disservice to theory itself and to what it represents. By subordinating the study of texts and of theory to discussions of contemporary issues, we lose the opportunity to encounter the difficult argument, or the argument that might be a bit dense or a bit irrelevant to our own time period. It is this encounter with the foreign, the complex, even the boring that provides us with our context for understanding the world. Studying the opinions of others and exploring the thoughts of others on issues that we care about is the foundation that we need for any future engagement with society, be it through activism or through any other means.

This issue of theory versus practice

raises the question of why we are really here at college. We all hope that our time here at Wesleyan will lead us to become better members of our society and of the world. But what exactly does this mean? Does this imply becoming an activist? This is certainly one path, but it seems that there are also other ways to establish our place as human beings in the greater world, one of which is the simple act of learning for its own sake, of participating in the age-old quest to find meaning through knowledge and understanding, and to work collaboratively to think about what our society should look like and why it should look this way. Hopefully these theoretical discussions will extend beyond the bounds of the classroom in some way, be it through political activism or a shift in personal character. But neither of these paths is superior to the other. And, most importantly, theory is not devoid of meaning without any of these long-term results. The very act of learning and taking in new knowledge changes us; it is an experience of personal and mental growth, and this experience is immensely valuable no matter where it leads.

The incorporation of more applicable, modern day situations into discussions of theory is certainly a useful tool for making education engaging and relevant. But this shift should not be so far extended that theory classes become solely focused on current activism or issues of daily life. In the ever-changing world of activism and political life, what has stayed constant is the journey towards knowledge for its own sake, learning simply to obtain a well-rounded foundation for understanding the world. Where we plan to take this knowledge is another story, but in all our concern about this next step, let us not forget to value that first step: that of learning itself. Before we know it, college will be behind us, and the real world will be waiting. This might be the only chance we have to spend some time living in the abstract world of our own minds; it’s time for us to appreciate it.

Fattal is a member of the class of 2017.

Wespeak, Continued from page 2

academics, personal life, and extracurricular engagements. I feel profoundly grateful for having the privilege of community that my female counterparts just five years ago were deprived of while men at Wesleyan benefitted from the empowering opportunities Greek organizations create. I revel in having a safe, friendly institution controlled by women that has made me a better person and introduced me to incredible women while providing me with an environment I can positively engage in and thrive.

While I was initially shocked by the negative views of Rho Epsilon Pi as a sorority, I soon realized these sentiments came from a lack of understanding and judgment based solely on insidiously sexist stereotypes. I find the backlash against Rho Epsilon Pi, both from the student body and administration during our organization’s founding and continuing to this day, problematic because of how “sorority girl” comments, even at Wesleyan, imply a dismissive and condescending perception of social groups of women. Rho Epsilon Pi has never been exclusive, never discriminated along racial or socioeconomic boundaries (we have relatively low fees compared to other Greek organizations along with financial aid options), has never been charged with sexual misconduct or for hosting dangerous, uncontrolled parties, and has never forced any member to drink or partake in humiliating or harmful behavior. In fact, despite be-

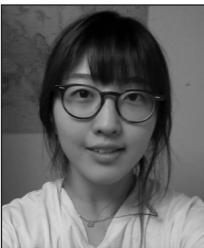
ing a new organization with no financial or networking support from a nationally affiliated sisterhood, we consistently raise the most money for the American Cancer Society every year at Relay for Life, work to plan and promote Take Back the Night, and co-organize alcohol and sexual assault bystander intervention training along with film screenings such as *The Invisible War* and *After Tiller*, to name just a few of our sponsored events. Through our actions and community, we aim to “redefine sorority.” Furthermore, “the mission of Rho Epsilon Pi is to cultivate the creativity, knowledge, and spiritual illumination of its members through a perpetual bond of friendship and sisterly affection to develop strong, passionate women with a commitment to leadership, moral integrity, and community service for the betterment of the individual and the world.” I simply do not understand how anyone could view this as having a negative impact on our campus.

Rho Epsilon Pi’s role as both a Greek organization and a women’s support network, which helps to advocate for and provide safe spaces for our members and other female survivors of sexual assault, is an incredibly unique situation that is often unrecognized and certainly underutilized by the administration and student body. Considering our involvement in both sides of the campus climate discussion, I find it exceedingly frustrating and belittling that the only all-encompassing female organization, and also the only all-female Greek institution, on campus has been disregarded in discussions that affect us as both Greek members and as people who have been

personally affected by sexual violence.

As an individual empowered by my sorority to speak up for what I believe is right, and not as a voice representing Rho Ep collectively, I perceive forcing men to accept women into their homes as a mere continuation of the responsibility placed on women to change rape culture. We need more social spaces for and controlled by women—a sorority house, for instance—and a gender resource center to balance out the gendered-property power dynamic at Wesleyan. Let us create more safe spaces where all genders feel comfortable, unintimidated, and as if they have a right to be there and stand up for themselves. Changes like these would enable equal amounts of gendered spaces that empower women without encroaching on men’s equal right to a brotherhood, and would additionally balance a male-dominated social scene and hook-up culture that is evidently unsafe and oppressive for everyone.

I believe we need more realistic alcohol education, training about bystander intervention and consent—how to express it, recognize it, and eliminate nonconsensual behavior, and discussions on the dynamics of a hook-up culture so closely intertwined with drinking and anonymity. These should be done in-person during orientation with mandatory attendance verified by registering names or WesIds for all freshmen classes. Students who choose not to attend should not be able to



Forgetting How To Be Real

By Haenah Kwon, Staff Writer

When I went back home to Korea this summer, I got a chance to see one of my favorite Korean talk shows live in the studio. The show took place on a pink sparkly set, with around 15 pretty girls dolled up in their flowery dresses on the right side and a famous host suited up in black on the other. The host, a handsome man sporting a perfect smile, led a witty discussion about traditional Korean food while the girls participated the discussion with cute remarks and giggles. I had never been inside a studio before, so my eyes were busy studying everything in the room: the dazzling celebrities, the lavish film equipment, and the accomplished staff moving busily to make sure that the show was going well.

But my excitement soon wore off when I realized that the recording was to go on for at least five more hours. As minutes passed by, I noticed how tired I—and everyone else in the room, including the celebrities—was becoming. But interestingly enough, the camera screens did not seem to capture the bags under the eyes of the host and the girls, even though these bags were definitely visible in real life. Was it the effect of the camera or the screen? I couldn’t tell. When it was finally time for a break, the host’s bright smile faded as he quickly escaped the room to smoke. The girls, who were holding their perfect posture for too long, began to massage each other to save themselves from backaches and shoulder cramps. As they stretched in pain, I noticed the tags dangling from the back of their fancy dresses, which were to be returned to the clothing companies when the show ended. After a few more minutes, the show continued, and everyone on the stage was smiling again.

That’s when I realized something important: This was just a show. And these people in the show were real, just like we, who watch them on TV, are also real. The only difference was that the people on the screen were flat. Seeing how much they could be literally and figuratively made one-dimensional by the television, I soon lost interest and left the room, a bit disgusted.

Summer ended quickly, and I was soon back at school for my second year at the University. I did not realize that the show I saw would have any relevance to my college life until I decided to go out to a party. There, I had a conversation with a random girl I had just met. Actually, I had known her before I met her because I saw her all the time: she was often on top of my Facebook newsfeed, tagged in every other picture of my college acquaintances. Because I felt so awkward and inferior next to her, social goddess that she was, I was pressured to think of different ways to keep up a nice conversation with her. Eventually, when I ran out of clever questions and topics, I asked how her college life was going so far. Contrary to what I expected, she answered very solemnly, “To be honest, pretty horrible.” She explained

that her life has been very lonely even when she is surrounded by many people, that she has not a single true friend even in the midst of having so many.

And out of some weird coincidence, I met two other people on the same week who seemed to share a similar story as the girl. All of these kids were looking for one true friend despite their popularity.

What could this mean? These were all people often brought up in conversation, admired and idolized with remarks such as, “Oh, he’s so cool,” and “I want to be like her.” I surely have participated in this admiration before. These were people who get one hundred “likes” on Facebook the minute after they post something, making my own seldom-liked statuses seem a bit miserable.

The show I saw this summer goes on even outside studio sets and TV screens; even at Wesleyan, the television effect haunts and pressures all of us to put on a show. We’re not all celebrities, but the internet pressures us to have a screen persona that is similarly flat. We Instagram every piece of food we consume, Snapchat pictures of every weekend in our sexy suits and dresses, and tweet every moment of our “fun” college lives as if to prove to the world that we do have friends and are having fun.

I am not saying that we need to stop caring about how we look to others and cut ourselves from all social media; as much as it is great to share joy off- and online, this fad of sharing and bolstering a public persona seems to have reached a point of obsession. Can we please enjoy a funny or special moment without calculating how many upvotes sharing said moment would get on Yik Yak?

In addition, the pressure to update ourselves constantly to the rest of the world can shift our focus from developing deep connections to developing wide and shallow ones instead. As a result, so many of us want someone to talk to at 1:00 a.m. on a random Thursday about something (that is, something too unimpressive to be posted online), scroll through our phone contacts, and end up turning the screen off with a sigh. And so many of us have a plethora of people who walk by us as we wait in the Usdan pasta line and yell, “Hey, how are you doing? I miss you so much. Let’s get dinner sometime—I’ll text you!” but we get no message, especially on the days we really need it.

As much as it is exciting to be liked by thousands of people who watch you as if you are a T.V. celebrity, at the end of the day, what we really need is a single person who likes our raw, unflattened selves. We need one person who sees us in all of our dimensions, who sees everything that we do not share with our thousands of online admirers. Thankfully, we have the choice to turn off the invisible cameras recording us nonstop anytime. Why don’t we save ourselves some backaches and fake smiles and take a break from our 24-hour show?

Kwon is a member of the class of 2017.

enroll online in the university, preventing them from negatively impacting our community. My involvement with Rho Epsilon Pi has encouraged me to attend these seminars, and I strongly believe they should be made mandatory to all students, not just Greek members. In instances of sexual assault, Wesleyan should move to an investigator model where evidence is reviewed within two weeks without a hearing, limiting time to prevent perpetrators from committing another assault. This policy is one that our Title IX student representatives are working towards implicating that I fully support. Rather than encouraging women into historically male spaces where the burden of change lies with an already marginalized group to amend fraternity attitudes and behavior, the changes outlined above directly address a culture that exists throughout and beyond our campus (not just in fraternities), where victim-blaming

and rape culture are the norm, not the exception, and therefore rarely challenged in many of the social spaces on campus.

Rho Ep has made me conscientious, involved, and above all passionate, while supporting me with the tools I need to get involved and succeed at Wesleyan. To take this incredible opportunity away from incoming freshmen fills me with despair. I know I would have had a much less positive experience socially, intellectually, and extra-curricularly during my first year if I had not met the amazing members of Rho Epsilon Pi, learned and lived our mission, and participated in such a uniquely empowering and accepting community of love that all genders should be able to have access to on a campus that values equality and progress to the degree Wesleyan claims.

W E S L E Y A N & the amper HIGH

Ye Olde Prom

In the year of our Lord 1349 of the Reign of Class President Roger fitz Roger, of the Plantagenets, he did throw the most large & beneficial party for the students of the realm. There was punch & ham & grapes from Northumbria & fine dancers. A great table was set & the hall was cleared for festivities. This did serve the student body well, as the spirits of all did suffer from recent misfortune.

There had fell across the student body a sickening wind from the East, the land of barbarians and philanderers. As the King’s magicians tell us, the Alignment of Venus and Jupiter assured this Wind to carry a Disease most foul upon us, which caused boils of the skin and the ejection of all bodily biles. The plague’s grim progress did serve to expire many of our classmates, along with the Servants, the Sheep-herders, Farm-tillers, Knight and Noble alike, Tyle-makers, horse-husbands and all manner of dirt-folk. Alone the heathens are untouched. With their magicks and the blood of our infants, they have devised ways to unleash this death upon us, while keeping themselves clean. But enough about politic! It is a time for felicitations and merry-making! The Prom of Saturnalia, held after the homecoming joust,

was set to be the greatest in all the dynasty.

And ho! How the students did dance. In our wondrous society there did exist briefly a fourth group — not only those who work, those who pray and those who fight — but those who dance! Those who did not dance were those who did succumb to the plague, and were asked to leave the dance to find the nearest mass grave. There was a great clamour in the hall from the bells of the Orientals who providest the music, and also from the clinking of the students’ belts of chastity as they did collide upon the dancing floor. In order to assure there be no sinful meeting of flesh, there were Italian Vespers who did with whips assure only the purest of youthful enjoyment.

The feast continued into the night and all did drink to the honor of the bishop and to the blood spilled from the Cross. And yet the wine had a bad effect on those present, and the town fool did see fit to serve his Ass some of the drink. And the mad Ass kicked out a support from the building, which, in the third hour, did fall and cover all those in attendance in tonnes of stone and wood. Despite the tragedy and loss, it was still a more enjoyable prom than the one in the Bretons.

Revised SAT to Include Section on Sex

On Tuesday, the College Board announced plans for a revised SAT Exam comprised solely of questions about sexual intercourse. This new exam, designed to weed out students the Board deems “flagrantly unprepared” for college life, will test students’ understanding of sex.

“It is silly that America’s colleges still think something like Mathematics is a necessary skill for admission,” College Board President David Coleman said in a press release last week. “In truth, the only equation college students use regularly is the one involving penises and/or vaginas, among other things.”

Some sample questions from the new SAT have been released on the College Board website. One question depicts an array of different genitalia, and asks students to identify certain parts, such as the “G Spot” or “Left Ball.” Another question displays various screenshots of text messages and

asks students to rank each one on a scale from “Platonic AF” to “Finna Fuck Real Bad.” A sample essay question requires students to “Narrate a porn video between Abe Lincoln and 3 sexy Munchkins from the Wizard of Oz.”

“It’s time we started being honest with ourselves. People aren’t spending 50,000 dollars a year to get an academic education anymore; students go to college to chase poontang, smash pissers, butter their muffins, and do the horizontal mambo as often as they possibly can,” says Coleman, “Let’s raise the next generation of Americans right.”



Did you luck out and land a total hottie for a lab partner? Experiment with these lines and you’ll be sure to spark a reaction.

- You’re hotter than this Bunsen burner.
- Your pH must be a 2 because you’re far from basic.
- I’d be lying if I told you this lab report is the only thing that’s hard .
- “Au” girl, I think you’re golden.
- I’d spill chemicals on you just so I could watch you use the emergency shower.
- This class isn’t the only chemistry we have together.
- Lab partners? I wish we were life partners.

Why It’s O.K. to Bring Your Cousin To Prom

So you didn’t get asked to prom. Don’t worry! Neither did Jennifer Lawrence, Michelle Obama, and even Michael Roth! But now your mom is suggesting that you bring your cousin Benji, and you refuse to do it because that would be social suicide. Wrong! Far from making you the laughing stock of the frof team, bringing Cousin Benji is perfectly acceptable option. Prom does not have to be about romance. While everyone else is making out on the dance floor, you and Benji can reminisce about that time he was in the second grade play and played a tree and your mom dragged you to the performance and you slept through it. At the end of the night, when all your friends go to a motel with their dates to lose their virginities, you and Benji can just go back to your aunt’s house. That’ll be fun. So go to prom! Get all dressed up like everyone else! But don’t dance *too* closely—things will get weird if you give Cousin Benji a boner.



Amper High Institutes New Puritan-Inspired Dress Code

Following controversy surrounding dress code for female students, Amper High administration has instituted a new policy inspired by our Puritan forefathers. The hope is that this policy will eliminate confusion about what constitutes appropriate school attire, as well as instill a healthy fear of God into the hearts of our students.

The oft-disputed “fingertip” rule— stating that a student’s skirt or shorts must land below her finger tips— has been abolished and replaced with the “5-layer rule”. This means that all females must wear at least five layers of clothing at all times. These layers should be comprised of stockings, a chemise, a bodice, a skirt, and an outer gown. The outer gown may be black, brown, gray, or another earth tone of the student’s choosing. And before

you ask, no, a petticoat is not mandatory, just highly recommended. Female students must also wear a head coif so no student me be driven to temptation by the sinful allure of the scalp.

Under the previous dress code policy, disagreement would often arise about the specific point at which clothing becomes too revealing, and whether it was reasonable to deem one student’s appearance a “distraction” to others. Mandating females to cover their bodies completely has proved an effective solution to this problem, as there is no longer anything to be distracted by (save, perhaps, the occasional wandering ankle). Some students have complained that this new attire is inappropriate for certain school-related tasks such as sitting in a desk and participating in gym class. The administration, however, affirms

that it is perfect for the most necessary activities, such as menial farm labor and praying. So far, there have only been three instances of heat stroke.

Proper punishment for dress code infringement has also been addressed. Any student found in infraction of the dress code will be sent to spend two hours in the “Shame Box,” a 2x2 wooden room with nothing in it but a rickety stool and a copy of the Holy Bible.

In response to allegations of double standard, Amper High administration has announced its plans to reform male dress code as well. Starting next month, all male students will be asked to keep their genitals contained within their trousers, and to have a maximum of one testicle tattoo visible at any given time.

The Ampersand is a humor page. Sam Raby, Emilie Pass, Sarah Esocoff, Ian McCarthy, Katie Darr, Editors; Emma Singer, Queen of Layout; Caroline Liu, Layout Fairy Princess
Ye Olde Prom, Nico Hartman; Revised SAT, Sam Raby; Pick-up Lines, Katie Darr; Cousin Prom, Melissa Mischell; Puritan Dress Code, Celeste Barnaby.