

The Bates Student

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FORUM

Jake Villarreal '17 critiques Chief Oren Lyons' speech to the Bates community.



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ARTS & LEISURE

Brossy de Dios '17 reviews this semester's main stage production, Enjoy.



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SPORTS

Men's Track & Field captures ECAC Championship title.



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Bates students take action during XL pipeline dissent protest in Washington D.C.

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Bates student protesters pose outside the White House. EMMA MARCHETTI '17/COURTESY PHOTO

Bates College joins the Special Olympics

MARY ANNE BODNAR
CO-MANAGING NEWS EDITOR

Bates has been bitten by an Olympic bug. In February the community watched as student Emily Bamford represented Australia on the icy slopes in Sochi, Russia. This month, community members are coming together to work with local Special Olympians on fun sporting events on our very own campus.

Just as the Sochi Olympics were years in the making, Bates' collaboration with Maine's Special Olympics Project Unify became a discussion topic among Kevin McHugh and his colleagues last spring. After a couple of meetings with the Special Olympics organization and Bates community members, Bates applied for a Special Olympics College designation. Upon receiving that, the college then arranged 12 students and staff members to comprise the organizing group.

From its official website, "Special Olympics Project UNIFY" is an education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youths are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity, and advocacy for people with intellectual abilities." The organization holds event worldwide and encourages volunteers from nations around the globe to get involved at an event nearest them.

While the experiences that students gain from getting involved in Special Olympics events on the Bates campus are immersive, the events are about more than just taking a quick step outside the comfort of the Bates bubble. Kevin McHugh wrote; "Special Olympics College is meant to connect the campus community with individuals who have intellectual disabilities to build awareness, to create friendships, to enhance the lives of those with intellectual disabilities and in general, to

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Nathan Diplock '17 arrested in an act of civil disobedience. JENNA POPE/COURTESYPHOTO



Protesters create a human oil spill. EMMA MARCHETTI/COURTESY PHOTO

Club creates MASV culture change by raising awareness

JAKE VILLARREAL
STAFF WRITER

Sexual assault on college campuses is over-frequent and under-reported. Furthermore, rape culture and slut shaming is rampant. The Duke freshman who did porn is shamed for exercising her bodily autonomy, a football player at Notre Dame got away with sexual assault by virtue of his athletic talent, and in Australia a man was acquitted of sexual assault because the woman was wearing skinny jeans. Men Against Sexual Violence, MASV, is a new club at Bates that recognizes, instead of ignores, these dangers of the patriarchal culture that pervades colleges, if not society as a whole, and seeks to do something to address them.

In MASV meetings, where other genders are also welcome to attend, dialogue is facilitated around sexual violence and discrimination. They seek to combat the problems that the 'cult of masculinity' has created, and engage in discussions around gender identity and performance. The reference frame of male college students offers a different voice in the fight for consent and sexual respect. MASV is fully aware of the position and privilege occupied by men on college campuses, and seeks to use that in a positive manner for discourse.



MASV hosts a Date Night in the Benjamin Mays center. TOMMY GRAZIANO/COURTESY PHOTO

MASV has sponsored and put on several events this year, their first full year as a club since being founded last short term. Their most recent event, Date Night, provided a candlelit dinner

for couples who want a classic romantic night out, or a social alternative to the party scene. They held a showing of the movie "Tough Guise", that illustrates the problems with how masculinity is

defined in our society, including emotional unavailability by young men, and why 90% of violence is committed by men. The movie received excellent reviews from the student population at

Bates. MASV plans to do even more in the future. Jackson Katz, the creator of

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Activism or slacktivism?

KRISTEN DOERER
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Does our generation take action anymore? I often wonder whether our Facebook, Twitter, social media posting generation take any action in the issues they believe in, or if they instead simply just click a “Like,” “Follow,” or “Share” button and claim the job done.

This idea is not a new one and has been termed “slacktivism.” Urban Dictionary describes slacktivism as, “The ideology for people who want to appear to be doing something for a particular cause without actually having to do anything.” I can’t help but think that our generation has fallen to these lows.

Activism is defined as “a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue.” This definition can be termed outdated in the social media age of activism. A like, follow, or share surely cannot be deemed “direct vigorous action,” but one can still take a stand on their side of a controversial issue with a like, follow, or share.

I take this critical stance on our social media activism hypocritically. I too like, follow, and share articles and organizations, especially when I’m at a loss of what else I can do to further my stance on an issue. I don’t believe it’s a bad idea to use social media to show support for a particular issue, but I often wonder what it does. Who reads the articles I post? Like-minded people? Do I persuade anyone to take up the issue I am concerned with by posting this article?

I take this position on social media as I look back to what I’d call the activist generation of the 1960s and 1970s. The civil rights movement of the 1960s operated without email, Facebook, twitter, and blogs. Not that it occurred without any media at all. The press, espe-

cially the black press publicized the civil rights movement and spread the wave of resistance, while organizations used pamphlets and flyers to publicize their agenda and their events of resistance. And it was successful—think of the Montgomery bus boycott, the Greensboro sit-in, the Birmingham campaign, and the Mississippi Freedom Summer. While social media proponents claim that social media is revolutionizing activism, it’s easy to look back and see the successes of activism before the Internet.

Activism spread like wildfire in the 1960s and 1970s, and activists took real risks. In the 1960s the Freedom Riders were beaten, churches were bombed, attack dogs were set on children in Birmingham, and lives were lost during the Mississippi Freedom Summer. In 1970, police shot and killed anti-war demonstrators at Kent State and Jackson State. Activism was serious, and activists were willing to take a controversial stand, even if it put them in danger.

While activism has thrived without social media for years, proponents of social media cite how it has furthered movements in recent years, especially the Arab Spring. In December of 2010, police harassed and humiliated Mohamed Buazizi, a twenty-six year old fruit seller, in Tunisia. The police demanded a bribe of Buazizi, which he could not pay, and subsequently, they confiscated his goods. Buazizi complained to the local municipality, but they did nothing. An hour later Buazizi doused himself in gasoline and set himself on fire in front of the local municipality building.

The country was ripe for change—high unemployment, poverty, corruption, and a lack of freedom of speech and political freedoms dominated the country. As a result, when Buazizi’s closest friends took to the streets, they started a popular uprising that lasted for weeks. Social media furthered the popular uprising by spreading news of

Buazizi self-immolation across the Internet and thus across the Middle East and horn of Africa, turning him into a martyr. Mark Pfeifle, *Huffington Post* writer of “Changing the Face(book) of Social Activism,” believes that social media’s sharing of the event “caused an unprecedented wave of civil disobedience, public demonstrations, and strikes across the region.”

Recognizing the publicity of the event on social media, Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and government authorities attempted to control online media. Failing to do so and failing to appease Tunisians, Ben Ali was ousted 28 days later. To Mark Pfeifle, this was a sure sign that social media was “the new soft weapon of democracy.”

I’m not so convinced that social media spread the Arab Spring by itself. People’s personal connection—their personal desire for political freedom and an ability to make a living—to the Tunisian revolution furthered their activism in their own respective countries. Malcolm Gladwell, in his *New Yorker* article “Small Change: Why the revolution will not be tweeted,” stressed the importance not of social media, or ideological fervor, but of strong ties and personal connections to an issue or movement.

As Gladwell writes, “The platforms of social media are built around weak ties.”

My Facebook friends are not all close friends that I keep in contact, and I follow people I don’t know on Twitter. These ties are simply weak. While Gladwell stresses the fact that acquaintances are the most likely to introduce us to new topics, issues, and ideas, he states, “weak ties seldom lead to high-risk activism.”

Social media is clearly effective to activism, but in what way? Gladwell settles this distinction: “Social networks

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A hunger that these Tostitos can’t satisfy

HANNAH ZELTNER
STAFF WRITER

On a rainy or snowy day, there is nothing better than some TV show binge-watching. Of course, the relaxing activity isn’t just weather permitting. You can always binge-watch outside on a beautiful day (particularly here at Bates, because we are outdoorsy). But for us outdoorsy binge-watchers, when does watching a lot of TV become a “binge?”

The word originated in the 1990s beginning with DVD and TV marathons, however it reached an entirely new level when sites like Netflix, HBO Go, Hulu, Amazon Prime, and other video services experimented with original shows (such as *Orange is the new Black*) and critics’ favorites. The Oxford Dictionaries defined binge-watching as “watching multiple episodes of a television program in rapid succession, typically by means of DVDs or digital streaming.” A Harris Interactive poll conducted on behalf of the Netflix company quantified what constitutes a binge, reporting that across demographics, the session average was around 2.3 episodes.

There you go, some interesting facts for you to provide some context. But regardless of how it is defined, you know you have binge-watched when you’ve reached the point of having to remind yourself, “Oh yep. My name’s Hannah. I’m at Bates right now and I’m sitting in my bed.” It’s important to do this frequently as you watch, otherwise you risk the loss of self-identity and awareness.

What makes for bingeable television? If you stream it, we will watch. It constitutes shows that you can watch incessantly without the violent urge to go outside and inhale clean air or see any source of human life other than the digital forms that are talking on your computer screen. These shows, although sometimes evoking some guilt after the first 4 episodes, result in a tantalizing satisfaction of completion. Yet accompanying that satisfaction is the dissatisfaction that you can’t watch all of the episodes all at once and must waste your valuable time consuming them in unhealthy quantities.

Binge-worthy shows cannot simply be watched once, for there is that most accommodating feature on Netflix that plays the following episode for you

automatically. After watching the first few minutes, why stop there? You don’t need to shower anyway, it’s already been three days, so what harm is there waiting another day? You probably should go to dinner and socialize with three-dimensional people. But why do so when you have a bag of Tostitos and your TV show characters that you have seen go through hard times, change and become beautiful people?

There are so many binge-worthy shows out there, such as *Parks and Recreation*, *House of Cards*, *Breaking Bad*, *Scandal*, etc., that I experience a great difficulty in keeping up with lunchtime conversations. It is easy to assume that when one is talking about how Walt is doing with his meth lab and whether his wife Skylar is still with him, that the person speaking has some interesting friends. But in reality, it is so difficult to decipher between reality and fiction when you binge-watch television shows. The shows consume your thoughts. If Jesse Pinkman is having a bad day then I am too.

Is binge-watching healthy? To put things simply: well, no. Of course not, silly! But in college, it’s okay for health

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Industry, spirituality, and the ‘Noble Savage’: A critique of Chief Lyons’ address

JAKE VILLARREAL
STAFF WRITER

I’ve had many people at Bates tell me I’m the first Native American they’ve met. I am only half Apache, have never lived on a reservation, and don’t speak my tribal language. I don’t consider my ethnicity obvious, or my being stereotypical. It upsets me to think, for how many people of the hundreds who gathered in Gomes Chapel last Monday to see the Environmental Stewardship lecture by chief Oren Lyons, of the Onondaga and Seneca Nations, that this was their first experience with a Native American.

Why? Because prior to one’s first encounter with someone of a marginalized demographic, the only information one has about that portion of his or her identity is that which is learned from the media. Because the talk was low on substance, and the substance it had was hollow and misleading. Because the Departments of History and Environmental Studies, The Offices of Equity and Diversity headed by Crystal Williams, the Multifaith Chaplaincy, and every other sponsor of the event gave us a hollow hour-and-a-half of feel-good rhetoric, a quiet rant, a real-life trope, instead of anything resembling an academic presentation, a discussion, or a sermon. I can only imagine what was going through their heads when they selected this speaker. Is his quaintness ‘authentic’? Is poverty porn ‘inspiring’?

I want to talk quickly about two tropes that are associated with Native Americans, why they’re harmful, and why I came out of that talk feeling that Oren Lyons had legitimized them: The ‘Magical Native American’ and the ‘Noble Savage.’ The Magical Native is a device used by Hollywood, comic book writers, etc., where an indigenous character is granted magic, spiritual powers, such as talking to animals, controlling nature, et. al. This is a form of ‘positive’ discrimination, where the token minority is spiritually pure and can do no wrong. The problem is that this allows characters to be portrayed as a stereotype, even if positive, instead of having their culture accurately portrayed or having their character developed, and leads to people essentializing others in the same way in real life.

Oren talked about spirits sending a chief on a spiritual journey, where they learned ‘a lot of things,’ but never discusses what those things are beyond a surface-level, well-known statement that we are destroying the planet. I respect the ontologies that other religions offer, but if the discussion and message is contingent on these spirits existing, that’s just using ‘magic’ in place of substance. It makes the moral high ground of a desire to save the environment contingent on some nebulous spiritual connection. The ‘Noble Savage’ is portrayed as having a higher moral fiber than the norm due to their ethnicity and the trope is driven by the rhetoric of the ‘good old days,’ the assertion that because something is new, it is bad, that because something is old, like an indigenous identity or an ancient stick-game, it is good. This all contributes to the other-ization and fetish-ization of Native Americans in society, and Lyons’ talk was a prime example on how this monologue is spread.

That is, after he finished talking about lacrosse 35 minutes into the speech. He fills the rest of his time with ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if’ sentiments about world leaders holding hands, and ‘Eat your food, there’s a starving child in Africa’ statements used to invoke guilt, but not too much, just enough that we can leave the talk feeling more aware of the suffering in the world we already knew about, and proud of that temporary awareness. He fills his time with rhetoric instead of the real questions worth discussing around this topic. How does environmentalism fit into social justice? How can we continue technological process without sacrificing the health and stability of the Earth? What roles do we, as the environmentally conscious next generation, play in convincing others to act sustainably as well? The last question is critical, and instead of acknowledging Bobcats as environmentally aware, instead of acknowledging the Bates students who were arrested protesting the Keystone XL pipeline last weekend, instead of referencing the Sustainability department that paid for him to have the privilege of speaking here, he says egregiously multiple times that we, the audience, must be surprised to

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CHIEF LYONS

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learn that the world is in danger, that global warming is happening, that some children do not have water to drink.

He only asks one real question, "How do we construct a relationship between 7 billion people and the Earth?" but then proceeds not to answer it. He does say this question is important because the earth will only survive if all of those seven billion people understand the beauty and power in nature, but in the very next sentence he says nature has no mercy. Then why should we be merciful in return? The little substance he does give is problematic. He both laments countries with low life expectancy, and complains about the rise of industry. Industry gave us the vaccine. Demand gave us water purifiers. I may be anti-capitalist, but capitalism gave us condoms, birth control, midwives, anesthesia, and a host of other things that reduce infant mortality rates and increase maternal survival through birth. Industry is critical to development and cannot be painted as a blanket of evil, but Lyons portrayed it as an entity incompatible with social progress and environmental good. I encourage everyone who will one day enter the workforce to consider sustainable harvesting practices, the production of environmental

goods like the solar panel or electric car, and to remember that 'social enterprise' is a thing and not all industry seeks to destroy the environment.

But why do we have this conception of industry as environmentally destructive? Lyons spent 35 minutes talking about games, only to drop it for the rest of the lecture, but I'm going to do the work of tying it back in. We exist in a capitalist system where profit and efficiency are valued over all else, and this includes the environment. Efficiency is the 'goal' and profit is seen as 'winning' because that's where the 'game' places value. It's up to us to redefine success. We might not be able to change the game, but by shifting our values, we can change the rules, and we change who 'wins.' Magic spirits in the trees and warnings from the elders aren't the only reasons to value the environment. The role spirituality plays in the environment is not to be understated, however. When an area, or a thing, is deemed spiritually important, that energy persists in the public consciousness during and beyond its destruction. Often when holy sites are taken over by force, instead of being destroyed, they are reclaimed, since even for those who do not adhere to the religion that made it sacred, religious sites have an intangible value. We may have failed in saving the environment, but we can reclaim what is left as a sacred space. We

ought to give it value on our own terms, because showing the value the environment has to humankind may be our only chance of uniting those seven billion people against its further destruction. Our own Laura Sewall has done scholarly research on ecopsychology, and how a healthy environment positively affects us. Greener communities lead to happier, more social populations and lower crime rates. Global warming is wreaking havoc on biodiversity, including the adorable Japanese Otter which has just been declared extinct. In his myopic reasoning for the environment's importance, Lyons missed a lot of the conversation that is important in discussing why action for the environment is needed so imminently.

At the end of his speech, Lyons says, "I don't know what you expected to hear tonight, but it probably wasn't this." If anyone in the audience was surprised to hear that fracking is destroying the ice caps, that some people use a cup of water to bathe, that our unsustainable industrial practices are mutating the Earth and its climate, let me know, and I will eat my culturally-appropriated, feather-lined hat. Bates faculty and staff, next time you get a Native speaker, make it one who will impress with their academics and charisma, not their ethnicity and anecdotes. First amendment nuts like me, eat your heart out.

BINGE

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to fall by the wayside because it is a peri-

od of self-discovery, right? According to NBC News, "88 percent of Netflix users and 70 percent of Hulu Plus will stream three or more episodes of the same TV show in one day."

That's quite the committed relationship. It's easy to fall in love with TV characters, because they always know what to say.



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Apple's unwavering stance on climate change



AMAR OJHA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the midst of polarized politics, devastating deforestation, and corrupt capitalism, one corporation publicly takes a staunch stance on global warming that may have serious financial repercussions. At the 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, Apple CEO Tim Cook publicly responded to the National Center for Public Policy after it had criticized Apple's decisions to invest in greener energy sources, as it was financially unwise. Upon receiving this criticism, CEO Tim Cook responded by stating that Apple did "a lot of things for reasons besides profit motive. We want to leave the world better than we found it." However, apart from justifying Apple's decision to become more eco-friendly, it is what Cook stated afterwards that caused much controversy. Tim Cook followed his statement by saying, "If you want me to do things only for ROI (return on investment) reasons, you should get out of this stock."

Tim Cook took over this revolutionary company after CEO Steve Jobs passed away in October 2011 from pancreatic cancer. Ever since becoming CEO of Apple, Tim Cook has substantiated his unflinching views on environmental issues, given that 75 percent of energy used to power the company's offices worldwide comes from utilizing solar, wind, and geothermal energy sources. This is a 114 percent increase from Apple's company offices in 2010. Apple facilities in Austin, Elk Grove, Cork and Munich are completely powered by renewable resources.

The company's decision to make such a bold statement comes at a cost, however, it appears that Apple does not fall into the trap that many corporations do in a capitalistic society, in which profits are often valued over people. In a related statement, Cook also stated, "When we work on making devices accessible to the blind, I don't consider bloody ROI (return on investment)." There are a number of corporations that will take staunch stances on various issues such as environmental issues, gun control/regulation, and socioeconomic issues. One of the most prominent

topics in the nation is still that of gay rights. Many companies have publicly expressed their support for gay rights, indifferent to the financial backlash they might face. Such companies include but are not limited to Google, Facebook, Starbucks Coffee, Apple, Ben & Jerry's, and Nike. At the same time however, there are corporations on the complete other end of the spectrum.

One of the most notable examples of anti-gay sentiment emerges from the restaurant fast-food chain Chick-fil-A. Another prominent example involves the Boy Scouts of America taking a controversial stance on gay and atheist members and leaders. While many companies and organizations take a welcoming and tolerant stance on many issues, many other corporations take a more rigid stance on many of these important issues. While private companies retain the right to hold any belief they choose to, any decision will result in a social reaction. The way in which the people of a country respond to such statements reveals much about what the society at that time values and to what extent.

Part of the inherent nature of capitalism is that it is oftentimes considered to provide for financial growth (personal or of a small business), yet at the same time, this accumulation of wealth and the means by which one reaches it can oftentimes exploit the environment and the life that thrives within it. For a multi-billion dollar company to take an uncompromising stance on climate change and the necessity to defend the planet and life, even if that results in the potential loss of millions of dollars, is an important decision. Upon reading such news, readers should not simply take this to mean that Apple acknowledges climate change and wishes to make a difference, but rather that there are companies out there that, despite being in an economically driven society, are willing to put larger issues such as environmental change and the promotion of human rights above making a profit. This notion is perhaps best encompassed in the Native American proverb: *When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then will we realize that one cannot eat money.*

ACTIVISM

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are effective at increasing *participation*—by lessening the level of motivation that participation requires." In other words, one can participate in activism by clicking a follow, like, share button, but they do not have to do anything or sacrifice anything.

A good example of social media that increases participation is the Facebook page Save Darfur Coalition, which has over a million members. They have also only donated an average of nine cents apiece. I understand people who have joined the group are concerned about the genocide in Darfur, but what have they actually done to further a cause?

One thing they have done is furthered awareness. Bethel Kifle '14 states, "I use social media as the first step of engagement. A lot of people are simply unaware of issues around the world—including myself. When people share links about Marissa Alexander in Florida, I learn more about how the criminal justice system operates in Florida. When I share it, I'm implicitly hoping that if someone reads the article and one day becomes the State Attorney

in Florida, they'll have a more informed perspective on how race and gender play a role in judicial sentencing."

(For all of you who don't know, Marissa Alexander is a black woman in Florida who shot a warning shot at her estranged husband, and is now being tried for a second time on three different accounts and could receive up to 60 years in prison. Apparently, stand your ground laws don't apply to her.)

While social media proponents claim that social media is the be-all for activism, I'd disagree. Like Bethel, I'd say that social media is a first step of engagement. By posting, liking, and sharing articles, you are furthering people's awareness on issues, issues they may run into in life.

But don't let yourself stop there and think that one article you posted is making a huge impact—if you care deeply for an issue, find a way to actively, verbally, and strongly take a stance on it and further the issue. It's not always simple or easy—it may mean attending a conference or rally, raising money, writing a proposal, debating with others, or volunteering. But that's at the core of activism. Social media simply aids in the first step of engagement, it's up to you to take the next.

Letters from Abroad: Istanbul, Turkey

BARBARA VANDERBURGH
STAFF WRITER

As a native of Portland, I had never spent more than a few weeks outside of Maine, let alone New England or even the United States, until last year. Except for a two-day trip to Nova Scotia, I had my first experience with international travel when I took Prof. Aslan's Short Term course to Turkey last May.

With a passion so intangible that I still struggle to articulate it without sounding like a total airhead, I can honestly say that there is something about Turkey—in terms of its current political dynamics, its medieval and more recent Ottoman past, its relationship with the EU, its religious history of relative pluralism (and current lack thereof), and its poetry—that I am academically and ceaselessly passionate about. Naturally I decided to test this passion by going back for a full semester.

Living in Turkey, though, is much different than learning about it. In the past two and a half months here, I've been able to steep myself in and away from the stereotypes I came here to dispel. I am typing this now with warm and weird hands after spending a weekend away from my apartment and university at a Turkish bath. It was an experience worth the shouldering of clichés and shelling-out of lira. With my clothing soaked from trekking through a rain-streaked city famous for its preserved Ottoman architecture and Turkish delights, I am finally educated in the language of hostel-hopping. I am making dinner—roasting eggplants—and concurrently writing one paper about



BARBARA VANDERBURGH/THE BATES STUDENT

Central Asian genealogy and another about panel transitions in Calvin and Hobbes—two subjects that I also carry strange passions for and have little access to regularly at Bates.

I've come from a state of less than two million to a city of over 18 million, from a habit of walking to church weekly to getting Pavlovian cravings for lunch after the noon call to prayer. As a queer lady from a hippie's dream city, I've gone from rarely second guessing or worrying about the "passing-ness"

of my outward identity to experiencing moments of pointed unkindness that, while not dangerous, have led to me become more aware that carelessness matters here in a way that it probably matters elsewhere as well.

What I mean is, all of the life-lessons I've gathered here are dually culturally-specific and deriving from a generalness that I could have gotten anywhere. I've never lived in a huge city, but navigating transit could have been learned in suburban Connecticut at rush hour. I've

never experienced homophobia that makes me nervous instead of bored or angry, but I could have experienced that in my first semester on-campus at Bates (but I'm lucky I didn't). I've never surrounded myself in a religious tradition other than my own, but if I tried talking to different people, I'd be life-learning through experience and empathy within an hour.

Still, I am incredibly grateful that my abroad program is allowing me to learn about myself in these ways while

allowing me to learn from a specifically Turkish context, mainly because I am academically enamored with everything Istanbul, from labor intensive language-learning to the implicit politics of facial hair. And don't get me wrong, I'd like to think I'm not fetishizing or being voyeuristic. I'm definitely down to talk about the flaws, misconceptions, and subtexts of the American imaginary. I'm also just down to talk about Turkey's.

Through my semester of fun and challenges, I feel like I've learned how to better walk past not only encyclopedic definitions of a given region's culture, but also past simplistic understandings of any one thing that involves human life (a lifelong learning pursuit for sure). My "Big Deal" about being here is a concept I certainly understood before leaving school, but one that has clearly deepened a lot since leaving.

In the true frenzied spirit of paper-writing the week before finals, I feel that abroad is an intensive, memorable (but also blurred-together) shortcut, allowing for crazy beautiful opportunities normally out of reach. It also lets you pick up human-to-human skills that are so relevant to your regular life that you'll second guess whether or not you left "the bubble" at all. And if you're me, all it will take is a quick jog to Taksim Square (home of the brutal protests last spring but also of wetburgers, street corn, and quality benches to chat on) to remind you that you're somewhere so brand new that when people ask you where in America you're from, you'll be forced to grit your teeth, and—against every impulse you've got—just say "Boston," smile, and leave it at that.

Where is the Bates dating scene?

FIONA FRICK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I recall watching films and TV shows as a young teenager that portray the love lives of college students. I believed that I would find my husband during my four years at college, just as so many of my family and older friends did. After three semesters at two different colleges I have come to find that dating is only practiced by a small percentage of the student population. To play the devil's advocate of Bates' notorious hookup culture, I ask you Batesies and Bobcats, where did the romance go? What happened to the classic dinner and a movie date night? Has this ritual of romance been sworn off until after college?

For many, college becomes four years of "hookups." A time where one can live out newly found freedom after leaving home. No commitment with all the benefits can often be just what the doctor prescribed. It is understandable that students overloaded with academic, extra-curricular, and social stresses need to let loose. With so many attractive people surrounding you in class, at the gym, in Ladd, and in Commons, it is tempting to try them all! Hookups

come along with one big unspoken rule: have fun – but don't expect a relationship. Attachment is the faux pas.

I am certainly not saying that every hookup scenario should be meaningless. Women appreciate the casual no-strings-attached sex as much as the next guy, but eventually a lack of communication and difference in perception predicts an end date. Women often see the potential for a boyfriend/girlfriend status, whereas guys seem to get bored and move on. Too often women are afraid to express their feelings and aspirations in fear of losing the hookup relationship they have. It is better to have some than nothing at all. But is it? If you are waiting around for an 11 pm text on Saturday night or constantly going out of your way to please him, it may be time to reevaluate the situation. What are you hoping to get out of this so-called "relationship?"

The rom-com *He's Just Not That Into You* argues, "if a guy is interested he will make it happen." This reinforces a woman's understanding that men hold all the cards and women have to wait and see which hand they are dealt. Theories such as this one discourage women from pursuing men, in fear of breaking the rules or losing the guy.

Enough is enough because times are changing. If it has become acceptable for women to participate in casual sex, it should also be respected that they have expectations of a hookups and relationships, as well. This whole notion of what is "socially acceptable" needs to be redefined. When will it become acceptable for a woman to ask out a man? Has it already been accepted? After posing this question to some girls on campus I discovered that none had an issue with a girls asking out guys, but felt strongly they would never do it themselves. Perhaps it is a fear of rejection, preference for traditional dating guidelines, or uncertainty of how to begin, but overall there is a peculiar stigma that women seem to associate with asking out a man.

This Friday, March 7th is date night featuring food from DaVinci's. This is the perfect opportunity to make your ongoing hookup something more. Or ask that person in your English class out. There is no better way to get know somebody than eating some delicious garlic knots. Seriously, garlic knots! Ladies, step out of your comfort zone! Ask him out! What's the worst thing that could happen? You guessed it – you miss out on the garlic knots.

READ.THINK.SHARE

The Bates Student

Free falling

JILL VERDE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This article is intended to provide readers with a small piece of advice. Even just saying that strikes me as being silly; my giving "advice." What do I know? Well, this article contains the one very important thing that I *have* managed to gather so far. Unfortunately, this is not to say that I make use of this knowledge very often. With any luck, those of you reading this article will. Here's what I know:

So much of life is consumed with the task of over-thinking. The problem with this is that often, when we get caught up too much inside of our own heads (I love using this phrase, who knows whether it actually makes sense or not), we tend towards inaction. This is unfortunate, because the truth is that things are often scarier in the abstract than they are in reality. My coming to this understanding, of how debilitating the problem of over-thinking can be, about how silly it is to over-think anything, and about how simple the solution to the problem of over-thinking is, was influenced by a movie that I watched over the summer. I am a huge fan of Jennifer Anniston (I mean, come on, what kind of person looks BETTER with age??) so, naturally, when "We're The Millers" came out in theaters, I went to see it. The surprise of a lifetime occurred, however, when this seemingly inane comedy managed to provide me with one solidly important piece of advice: count to three. If you count to three you don't have time to talk yourself out of doing something that you genuinely want to do like, as was the case in the movie, kiss a girl.

Pretty soon after watching the movie, my friends and I went bridge jumping. Now I'm guessing that most of you reading this are just the slightest bit more adventurous than I am—it doesn't

take a whole lot to out-adventure me—so bridge jumping might not strike you as being the craziest thing in the world. Regardless of your personal tendencies, however, this was a huge moment for me. It was a bridge, it was above water, and, eventually, I jumped. The point is, the group I was with almost turned back and went home because the bridge seemed so high and the water looked so very far below. I surprised everyone in the group (or at least this is the conceded manner in which I like to remember the moment—everyone in absolute shock over my uncharacteristic display of courage) when I, the one who had showed the least interest in jumping, announced that I was not going to go home without jumping; that I was going to do it. My friends went so far as to laugh out loud and keep walking back towards the car when I made my announcement. But I was serious. I had set my mind to it. As soon as I stepped over the rail and got to the edge I became incredibly nervous and was very close to backing down and giving up. My heart was racing. But I knew that it was something that I wanted to do; something that I would be proud that I had done; something that would make for a good photo-op; so I counted to three. And jumped. I don't want to ever forget that feeling of free falling. It was a split second of perfect freedom. And I got to experience it all because I was willing to count no further than three.

So please, my faithful (accidental) readers, from now on approach the world with only one motto in mind: count to three. With any luck, counting to three will make it so that fear is no longer a factor in your life—you won't have enough time to be scared—and you will finally build up the courage to kiss that girl.

**Who am I kidding, basically I am recommending that you YOLO, but in a way that sounds just a tiny bit classier.*

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COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

“The wRAp”

SARAH STANLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Welcome to your new weekly update from the Bates College Student Government! BCSG representative Sarah Stanley will inform all students of the latest updates from BCSG through her new column, “The wRAp” (Weekly Representative Assembly Publication).

The weather isn't the only thing that has started to heat up lately. This past week the Bates Student Government (BCSG), also known as the Bates Representative Assembly (RA), has been busy! The RA recently met with members of the Dean of Students Search Committee, approved two new clubs, and passed three club co-sponsorship requests.

This past meeting, members of the Student Government expressed to the Search Committee that students would like the person chosen to fill the Dean of Students position to be approachable, accessible, and truly engaged with the Bates Campus community. Representatives also highlighted that the new Dean should have a willingness to understand and learn about the values and traditions that Batesies' hold dear, as well as provide new perspectives for the student body.

In addition to discussing the qualities that students desire for our new Dean of Students, the RA passed two new clubs. The Spanish Club is a new cultural club on campus! It will provide an opportunity for students to practice their Spanish in a casual setting as well as immerse themselves in different aspects of Spanish culture ranging from food to movies; the second newest official club approved by the RA is a hip hop dance group entitled 2 B.E.A.T.S (To Be Empowered Artists Through Song).

The BCSG also passed co-sponsorship requests from the Bates Musicians Union, J Street, and Yoga Kula. These funds will support the BMU in their upcoming concert on March 14th that will provide a mix of both Bates bands and musicians from other NESCACs. The co-sponsorship fund will also aid J Street in their upcoming event that will bring a speaker to campus who is an expert in Palestinian negotiations, as well as provide support to Yoga Kula in their plan to hold a session with an instructor who is trained in the chakra system and body alignment.

Lastly, the BCSG always welcomes students to come to our meetings held Monday evenings at 7pm in PGILL G65.

Launching of the Student Support Network will provide comfort and stability to Batesies in need

AMELIA OLIVER
STAFF WRITER

About one fourth of college students experience depression at some point within their time at school. While the Bates Health Center offers excellent resources for students who seek help or support, students are sometimes reluctant to seek help because of stigmas associated with going to the Health Center. Like many college students, Hannah Weiss, a junior neuroscience major who aspires to enter the field of clinical psychology, went through a difficult period last year. With the help of her friends and teammates on the rowing team she was able to get through this episode.

“I went through a rough patch last year,” said Hannah. “I was lucky enough to have really supportive friends and teammates to help me through, and I would hate for anyone going through something like that to have to do it alone.” The realization that not everyone has this same type of support network led Hannah to the idea of creating a Student Support Network at Bates—a system where students experiencing a difficult time can talk with trained student-advocates about anything.

To get the idea in motion, Hannah reached out to the Director of the health center, Jessica Mayo, and Cindy Visbaras, the Assistant Director and Health Educator of the Health Center. Mayo and Visbaras were supportive of the idea and eager to get the ball rolling. To start out, Hannah began researching student support groups at other small colleges, the first of which was the program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. As she continued to research she found similar student support systems at other NESCAC schools such as Amherst and Wesleyan.

After this preliminary research,

Hannah began to get a better feel for what the focus of the program would be. “This group is hopefully going to provide more support for students, by students, and help de-stigmatize mental illness on campus,” says Hannah. Students interested in becoming advocates will not be trained as counselors but rather active listeners, not giving advice but providing support and becoming a familiar face, something that for Hannah, made a huge difference.

Originally, Hannah wanted to have at least six students interested in becoming peer advocates. After sending out information to the Bates community, she was pleasantly surprised to find that twenty students were interested in becoming advocates for the network. Connor Bair-Cucchiario, one of the current student-advocates in training said he wanted to become a part of the Student Support Network because, “I really enjoy helping people especially by talking to them one-on-one. Life isn't always easy for people and often even just their knowing that they have someone they can talk to – and one who is a Bates student just like they are – could help them immensely whether they are just having a bad day or they are struggling with some long-term issue.”

These twenty advocates are currently being trained by Mayo and Visbaras at the Health Center. The advocates have to attend three extensive training sessions, each with a different topic of focus. The group has currently completed the first two of the three sessions. The emphasis of the first meeting was to present an overview of the most common psychological issues college students may encounter, anxiety and depression being the most prevalent. The second session was dedicated to active listening and empathy training, particularly exploring how to listen to some-

one without giving advice, one of the primary goals of the Student Support Network. The third and final meeting which will take place next week, will go over setting boundaries and what is and is not the role of the advocates. After the completion of the final session, the Student Support Network will not be associated directly with the Health Center. Student-to-student meetings will not be held at the health center and can take place in any safe space agreed upon by the two students.

Once the Student Support Network is up and running, any student that is going through a difficult time, or is simply having a bad day or week, can email the group at studentsupport@list.bates.edu. Only three of the twenty peer advocates have access to this email account. These three students will read emails and match students with one of the advocates based on a number of appropriate characteristics. Once the student and advocate are paired, they can contact each other directly and move forward from there. At the forefront of these interactions is utmost confidentiality.

The official unveiling of the Student Support Network will be on Wednesday, March 26th, just before the start of exams. The launching of the group will be a campus wide event called “Are you OK Day?” where students check in with one another, asking if they are alright and supporting each other if they are not. Sophie Baron, a senior advocate in training, perhaps captured the purpose of the group best: “I think that once this Network is fully developed and Bates students become comfortable with the idea of meeting with a peer to share personal challenges, this program will offer the student population a great source of stability, comfort, and connection that is unique to a student based group.”

XL PROTEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

JULIA MONGEAU
CO-MANAGING NEWS EDITOR

Eight Bates students, including representatives from Bates Energy Action Movement (BEAM), were part of a national student led protest held in Washington, D.C. March 2nd, a protest which resulted in the arrest of 398 students – including some of the Bates participants. The protest, known as XL Dissent, was an effort to persuade President Obama to reject the proposal for the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline would connect the Alberta Tar Sands refineries and ports in Houston.

Jordan Becker, Ethan Zwirn, Emma Marchetti, Bridget Feldman, Jeremy Mack, Eli Foreman, Nathan Diplock and Owen Hemming made their way to D.C. to participate in this event. Ethan Zwirn '16 represented BEAM at the protest. He outlined the major problems associated with the pipeline, explaining how it would be detrimental to the environment and climate if approved by the federal government. The tar sands themselves contribute to environmental degradation, deforestation and pollution. The pipeline would also expand the tar sands production, allowing for an increase two times the current capacity.

Zwirn also made clear that the argument for the pipeline, which claims that the pipeline will allow for more Canadian and less Middle Eastern oil, cannot hold true. Americans may notice a decrease in global gas prices, but there will still be a demand for oil from the Middle East.

BEAM has made their presence known at Bates, whether when promoting awareness or demanding the college to divest from fossil fuels, for example. This particular movement allowed them to take action at a national level. “While we understand that educating the student body as well as stimulating conversation and debate are important things, taking action is more important. As the climate situation gets scarier with every scientific report, quick and decisive action is increasingly necessary,” says Zwirn.

The protest provided an opportunity for BEAM members like Zwirn, and other environmentally conscious and passionate Batesies to literally take action and be part of a movement that



XL Dissent protesters hold signs outside the White House.
EMMA MARCHETTI/COURTESY PHOTO

could have significant impact on our generation. As a demographic, the youth of America played an important role in putting President Obama in office in the 2012 elections. The protest was thus understood as a social responsibility to convince the President and his administration to carefully consider the repercussions of approving the XL pipeline.

Emma Marchetti '17 recognizes the importance of the American youth's voice. “We believed [President Obama] to start directing the US towards being a leader on climate change. Students leading and participating in the protest hoped to let him know that those that supported him now need his support.”

The Bates protesters convened with thousands of other students at Georgetown University the morning of the protest. From there they marched to the White House, while chanting, holding signs and waving American flags. At the protest, students gave speeches, created a human oil spill, and zip-tied their hands to the White House fence. For this last action, 398 students were arrested - including Bates students Zwirn, Jordan Becker and Nathan Diplock.

Civil disobedience was integral to the protest. Zwirn, Becker and Diplock were arrested and sent to jail in an effort to make “a statement of dedication President Obama can't ignore.” The arrest lasted six hours. However, no charges were made against them. Zwirn insists it was a “memorable and liberating” moment for the students.

“The XL Dissent student and

civil disobedience actions are necessary to push Obama in the right direction—against approval. It is also a bold step forward for youth climate change activism,” adds Zwirn.

Marchetti, like all the other student protesters, wants to get the government's attention, but she also hopes to captivate the attention of the Bates community. She stresses the importance of rallies such as XL Dissent; while many may find them silly or ineffective, she insists they can make a substantial impact. “I think it is most important for my peers to understand that if the Keystone XL pipeline is constructed, we will reach a point where it will no longer be possible to stabilize the earth's climate,” adds Marchetti.

While in the Bates bubble, the effects of climate change may seem like a distant threat, one that will not reach us here at Bates. But Zwirn, Marchetti and the other Bates protesters disproved such beliefs. They hold that the time to act is now, and work towards making a better future for our generations and the ones to come.

Ultimately, President Obama will make the final decision regarding the XL pipeline, but these Bates students now know that they made their voices heard, loud and clear. Reflecting on a memorable experience from the rally, Zwirn sums up the importance of taking action: “At that moment I realized that activism isn't really a choice. It's an obligation.”

OLYMPICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help foster a more accepting and inclusive world.”

Events have already started taking place on the Bates campus. Last week, Bates hosted two basketball games for the Navigators basketball team. There were about twenty Navigators each day, and ten Bates volunteers. The college also held one swim meet this morning (3/12) from 8am-11am, and will hold another one on April 10th.

Bates College hosted a track meet for the Special Olympics last May and hopes to host one again on May 9th. In an announce email sent out last spring regarding the track meet, organizers were looking for fans to cheer on Olympians from the stands, to high-five participants, and to hand out ribbons to the athletes. This year, the organizers are hoping to incorporate education efforts into this event. While it is too crowded at the swim meet to ensure that every individual has enough space to get the most out of the opportunity, the out-

door atmosphere of the track fosters an excellent environment for this incorporation. In addition, Kevin McHugh wrote that in the future the organizers “will explore other unified opportunities in addition to the basketball - perhaps bowling and/or other sports.”

It's impossible to walk across the Bates campus and not sense the athleticism of Bates students. Even if you aren't a student who runs to grab a treadmill at 4pm in Merrill most afternoons, you most likely possess the same Bates spirit that makes you a positive contributor to our kind and vibrant community. Let's face it, no one can survive winters this cold and dark without a determined mindset, positive attitude, and spirit that is always looking to make the most of a situation. The Special Olympics is a perfect way for all Bates community members to connect with, inspire and be inspired by determined athletes. It fosters the sense of place we actively long to strengthen between ourselves and the local community.

Students looking to get involved should contact Kevin McHugh at kmchugh@bates.edu

READ ABOUT IT
THINK ABOUT IT
WRITE ABOUT IT
TALK ABOUT IT

The Bates Student

Bobcats look forward to Gala 2014

HANNAH GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, March 10, the Student Activities Office and the Gala Committee sent out this year's Gala invitation for Saturday, March 22. Students reached into their mailboxes to find out the long-awaited theme that will follow last year's Batesopoly. No theme spoilers here so run over to Chase Hall and check your mailbox!

The Gala Committee, composed of Dean of Student Activities Keith Tannenbaum and student volunteers, began the brainstorming process last semester, analyzing past themes and this year's goals to ensure an entertaining and unique experience. "Small, private, liberal arts colleges, like Bates, love their traditions. Gala is definitely one of the high points of the year," said Tannenbaum.

Gala is a fairly young tradition here at Bates. The first Gala was actually the 1990 Presidential Inaugural Ball for President Donald West Harward. The ball was held in one room in Chase Hall until 1992, where it expanded to two rooms, and in 1995 finally moved to the current Grey Cage/Alumni Gym setup. The large open space is magically decorated with lights dangling from the ceiling, ice sculptures glistening on tables, flowers filling a garden arrangement, creating an atmosphere different from the typical school dance. "Students walk through the doors and their expressions immediately change to one of awe. A room that they are so used to is completely transformed into something really wonderful," said Tannenbaum.

Students mingle with Bates Faculty and their families. Children are running between the tables and dancing to the bands with their Bates big brothers and sisters. Gala is just another example of the close-knit Bates community. Commons workers go above and beyond for the event, providing small plates and hors d'oeuvres that match the theme. Half the fun of Gala is the fantastic food, as many students and faculty can attest. Last year, students feasted on roast beef, smoked salmon, rolls, fruit, and a vast variety of cheese. The chocolate fountain is definitely an annual crowd pleaser, with marshmallows, strawberries, and cake.

Batesians dress to the nines for this coveted event. Suits, dresses, ties, and heels, Bobcats trade their usual fur for some stunning outfits sure to impress. "I think the nicest part about [Gala] is that you get to see everyone looking their best... There's just something special about it," says sophomore Sarah Stanley.

A major part of the Gala celebration is the preparation before hand. Whether it is wine and cheese with friends, or buying the perfect tie, Bobcats dive into the Gala tradition.

Gala is also no small event. Unlike regular one-room school dances, Gala is spread between Alumni Gym and the Gray Cage. The evening begins in the Grey Cage with an opening Bates group. Last year, the Crosstones gave an acapella performance to liven up the room before The Phil Rich Swing Band took over for the dancing music. The Phil Rich Swing Band, a 13-piece group from New England, has been a staple of Gala for the past decade. "I'm excited to dance with my friends! My friend taught me how to swing dance last year, so I'm excited to show her my moves," said sophomore Helen Sudkamp-Walker.

The dancing does not stop in the Grey Cage. Another band is playing in Alumni Gym. Out of popular demand, indie folk band Darlingside will return to claim the stage with original tunes and popular covers like Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark" that shook the floor last year. At least one of the bands is playing music at any given time, so students flow from room to room. So Bobcats, dance until the end of the night, or until your shoes fall off.



Student musical performances set the mood at Date Night.
TOMMY GRAZIANO/COURTESY PHOTO

MASV

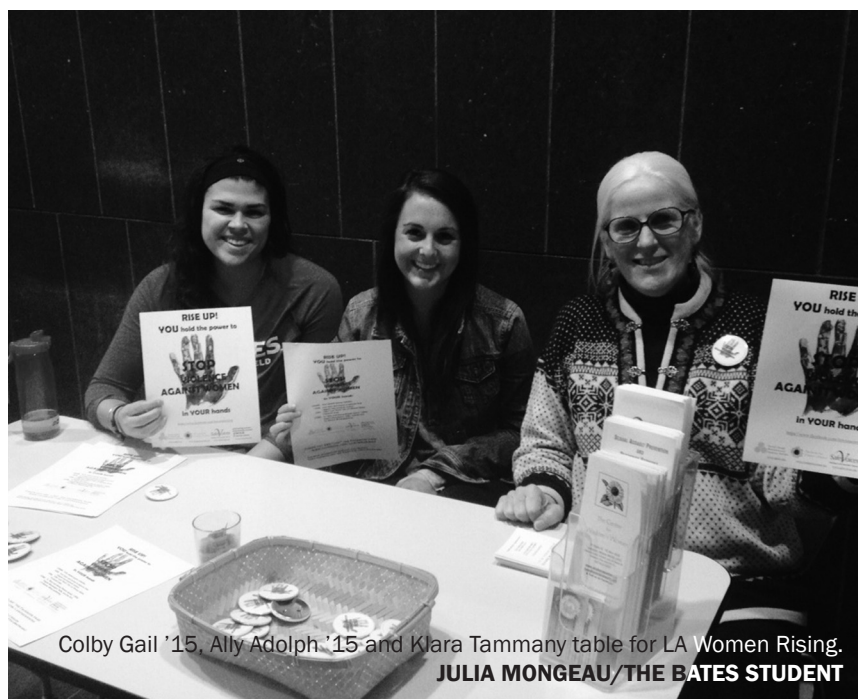
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"Tough Guise," and well-respected psychologist focusing on issues of violence and masculinity, is a hopeful candidate MASV is tapping to give a presentation at orientation for the class of 2018. The MASV Sausage Fest will be a BBQ during short term that functions as both a social event and an outreach event for

students interested in the club. An ideal goal would be an outreach program from athletic teams, with representatives from each team getting involved in MASV and bringing their discussions back to their team and to the school as a whole.

MASV meets every Thursday, at 6:45pm, in upstairs commons, and new members of any gender are allowed to join the discussion.

Women rising at Bates and beyond



Colby Gail '15, Ally Adolph '15 and Klara Tammany table for LA Women Rising.
JULIA MONGEAU/THE BATES STUDENT

SARAH DURGY
STAFF WRITER

Recently, as Batesians have walked to class in PGill, or cut through Commons on their way to the gym, they've likely been confronted with a flyer bearing the image of a purple and blue hand along with the bold words, "Rise up! YOU hold the power to STOP violence against women in YOUR hands." This appeal to students represents a community partnership between a local campaign called LA Women Rising and Bates students, headed by Colby Gail '15 and Ally Adolph '15.

The image of the purple and blue hand is an important symbol of LA Women Rising's mission. Purple is the color for domestic violence and teal represents sexual assault, the two forms of abuse the movement especially strives to raise awareness of and prevent. Together, the two colors "suggest bruises, both those that are visible and those that are on the hearts and souls of survivors," as the program's sponsors put it in a publicized statement.

These sponsors are the executive directors of various agencies, including Safe Voices and YWCA of Central Maine that strive to help people affected by domestic violence. These women know how crucial prevention of these crimes is as they have witnessed the devastating effects first hand. In 2012, for instance, Safe Voices served 6,095 people, providing shelter to 144 clients, and accompanying victims to court over 900 times. The following year, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS) served 447 people in the tri-county area. While it is encouraging to see agencies helping those in need, these high numbers represent a large number of women who are abused and get help, as well as innumerable victims who suffer in silence.

The LA Women Rising movement grew out of last year's international "One Billion" rising project that organized women to come together to raise their voices for change on Valentine's Day. This year, the agencies that sup-

ported this event locally have formed LA Women Rising to attempt to "build an ongoing network of support and advocacy around the issue, and lead people to action steps going forward that will promote long-term change."

So, how does Bates fit into this mission? As part of a Community Studies class, Adolph and Gail were encouraged to "step outside the bubble of academia and understand what it means to learn within a community while also helping the community." The two decided to partner with The Center for Wisdom's Women, one of the agencies that sponsor LA Women Rising. Klara Tammany, founder of Wisdom's Women, has been instrumental in working with Adolph, Gail, and their professor Aimee Bessire to connect Bates with the movement. At Bates, Title IX officer Heather Lindkvist has helped the girls get involved on campus.

As Gail puts it, "since we are in a partnership with a pre-existing campaign, our main goal is to promote what is going on in the community and get Bates involved." Students interested in joining the movement can start by looking LA Women Rising up on Facebook and liking and sharing their page. There, they will also discover upcoming events for the movement. For example, the group encourages attending *The Vagina Monologues* at the First Universalist Church of Auburn on either March 29th or March 30th. In addition, students are welcome to attend the organization's rally "It's No Joke!" on April 1st at 5:30 at the Lewiston Library.

The activity won't be happening solely outside of Bates, though. Last week, Gail, Adolph, and Klara Tammany tabled in Commons, passing out informational brochures and fliers as well as buttons for students to wear. On March 20th, the group will hold a campus campaign outside of Commons where students can pledge to stop violence against women. Gail encourages any interested students to attend the community events, simply raise awareness by wearing a button, or contact her or her partner Ally Adolph with any questions or concerns.

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Bates Ballroom Team: Dancing to success



BATES BALLROOM TEAM/COURTESY PHOTO

HANNA BAYER
STAFF WRITER

The Bates Ballroom Team, established in 1994, has collected a very successful group of dancers and proved to many other colleges that they are highly competitive and capable of dominating the dance floor. The team has competed at Harvard, MIT, College of Holy Cross, Brown University, WPI, and many other colleges in the New England area, often placing in finals. Although the team has become increasingly competitive and very talented, it is important to note that most members enter the team with little to no experience in ballroom dancing. In fact, the team's coach, Lewiston native and Bates alumnus John Blanchette, started dancing late in life. However, he now holds 30 years of performance experi-

ence in addition to the 2nd place title of the 2008 Eastern U.S. and the North American championships. His experience and enthusiasm with newcomers has created a competitive yet friendly environment on the team.

The dance team is very diverse, in both its composition of members and the dances themselves.

Johan Mohtarudin, a sophomore at Bates and a Silver dancer, describes the team as a salad. "[The] team does not have homogeneous people," said Mohtarudin. "There are people with various backgrounds and experiences."

The team has also danced a wide variety of ballroom dances, including the salsa, mambo, hustle, bolero, jive, quickstep, waltz, foxtrot, tango, and more.

Mohtarudin particularly enjoys the waltz and tango, describing the waltz as "light, beautiful, and graceful – I feel

like a snowflake! On the other hand, the tango is more fierce and angry. It allows me to use my emotions."

Not only does the team dance a wide array of different steps, they are successful in them as well. On February 8th, 2014, the team competed at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where five couples placed in finals. Julius Bennett & McKayla Girardin placed 6th in the Newcomer American Waltz, Newcomer American Tango, and the Newcomer American Foxtrot. Sophomores Christopher Pelz & Hyosun Hong placed 5th in the Newcomer American Tango and the Newcomer American Rumba and 4th in the Newcomer American Foxtrot and the Newcomer American Cha Cha. Joanna Moody and Regan Radulski placed 6th in the Bronze International Tango while Johan Mohtarudin and Hilary Gibson placed 5th in the Bronze International Waltz, Bronze Interna-

tional Quickstep, and Bronze American Foxtrot, 6th in the Bronze American Tango, and 7th in the Bronze American Cha Cha. Seniors Andrew Carranco and Rachel Spence placed 3rd in both the Bronze International Waltz and the Bronze International Quickstep. This is a huge success for the team and reflects how its members are very capable in performing well in a wide variety of dances, which is definitely something to be very proud of.

Although the members are all very hardworking, they also take the time to bond as a team outside of practice. They hold socials throughout the year to create a strong sense of unity amongst their members. However, fostering this unity is quite easy with such a positive attitude and friendly persona from the team members. The dancers are very supportive of people who have recently joined or want to join.

Mohtarudin explains, "If you can walk, you can dance. If you give it a try, then you will do it again. It's like cooking- no matter what you're cooking, you're cooking something."

The Ballroom Team is a very impressive team at Bates for their ability to link competitiveness with a friendly, open attitude. Although they take competing very seriously, the team's focus is on clean and fun technique and strong basics. They want everyone to present at their best ability, as a reflection of excellence upon both themselves and the college.

Interested in seeing more of what the Bates Ballroom Team is all about? Then be sure to check out their annual performance at the All-College Gala, taking place Saturday, March 22nd in the Gray Cage. Congratulations to the Ballroom Team for their recent wins and for the success that is yet to come!

VILLAGE CLUB SERIES

Student writers deliver an impressive night of slam poetry at VCS

ANNE STRAND
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Eight Bates writers from various class years stunned a receptive audience at this past Thursday's Village Club Series in the Benjamin Mays Center, where student-poets performed original slam poetry. Organized by senior and co-founder of Bates Authors' Guild Katie Ailes, Thursday was the first VCS to feature slam poetry. "Personally, I love slam because it removes the distance between writer and reader. You are there, a physical body on a stage, getting real-time feedback about your work. It's intimidating as hell, but it's also a huge rush," says Ailes. "It's great hearing the passion in people's performances and knowing how invested they are in their poems."

Themes of social injustice and love served as the common thread throughout many of the performed pieces. Sophomore poet Bridget Feldmann opened the show with an incredible delivery of two memorable poems. Feldmann's first poem touched on issues of white supremacy in modern America in light of recent controversial events such as the death of Trayvon Martin. Feldmann left her audience in contemplation by posing powerful questions such as, "America the beautiful- who are you beautiful for?" To put it simply, the night's opening piece was powerful and important.

Feldmann closed her set with a second poem about the complexities of love, sex, and desperation, opening with the disclaimer, "this one's a little

uncomfortable in its sincerity." Like her first piece, Feldmann prompted her audience to consider inquiries raised through her art, reading, "When's the last time someone touched you other than your body?"

Following Feldmann was member of the senior class Tammy Gonzalez. Gonzalez delivered a poem entitled "The Articulation of a Micro-Aggression." Gonzalez preceded the reading by explaining that the poem came from an incident that occurred while working as a Bates tour guide. After announcing on the tour that she was a first generation American who learned Spanish as a first language, one parent on the tour guide commented, "You are so articulate." Gonzalez presented an animated reading of the poem, in which she responded to the aggression experienced from the women's comment, and like Feldmann, asked her audience to think about implications raised in these kinds of events.

Next up to the mic was senior Thomas Koshy. "I hate Paris," began Koshy. "But not the city." He then explained that he prepared two new poems for the event but lost them on the Paris online filing system. So instead, he chose to uncover and share writing from his earlier days. "I want to open with you guys knowing me," said Koshy. "So this is called 'This is Why I Do It.'" The presentation of the poem achieved its author's intention, as it was brief but heartfelt.

Koshy's second piece entitled "Pickin' Up the Pen" was the night's first rhyming poem. In the middle, Koshy

stopped and addressed the audience. "This is what I mean by young, you know what I mean?" The comment garnered a laugh from his listeners.

Sophomore Jeremy Mack followed Koshy. Mack got a big cheer as he stepped up to the stage and announced that he would be reading two new poems. "This is like a test run." Mack's first poem was a clever, socially relevant, and even comical. Mack's poem outlined social differences observed by comparing Brooklyn to a Cleveland suburb. The poem lamented the racial and religious homogeneity apparent in the new Ohio setting, poking fun at the superficiality in the lives of his peers, reading, "School, mall, home, repeat."

Mack's second poem was equally as compelling. "Yesterday I stood outside for a very long time and wrote this poem," he explained. The poem started as a vivid description of what it feels like to stand, vulnerable and uncomfortable, in the Maine cold and progressed into a rumination on what it must be like to be subjected to harsh winter cold as someone without a home.

Julia Dunn '16 followed Mack and opened with the poem "An Open Letter to Drunk Pizza." Dunn described how her vegan lifestyle is sometimes interrupted by the temptation that is late night pizza. The poem touched upon several different topics, including animal cruelty and the meat market and self consciousness.

It was Dunn's second piece, however, that left a profound and lasting impression on her listeners. Dunn pref-

COMMONS CREATIONS



Chocolate peanut butter fondue. JESSIE JACOBSON/COURTESY PHOTO

Chocolate Peanut Butter Fondue:

Credit to: Emma Reichart and Ellen Southworth

Peanut butter

Chocolate Chips

Butterscotch Chips from the ice cream bar on Mondays

Dipping options- bananas, apples, pretzels or marshmallows

1) Add chocolate chips and peanut butter to a small bowl

2) Melt in the microwave until the chocolate chips are half melted (about a minute to avoid burnt peanut butter)

3) Stir until the mixture is homogeneous

Hot Chai:

Credit to: Rebecca Bassell

1 cinnamon stick tea bag

1 constant comment tea bag

4-5 shots of gingerbread syrup

Milk of choice

1) Steep tea bags in a commons mug 3/5th full of hot water

2) Add syrup

3) Fill rest of the way with milk and stir to perfection

FILM BOARD

The Desolation of Smaug has action, stunning visuals, and, of course, fire breathing dragons

RUSH MILAM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, playing this weekend in Olin 104 for the Bates Filmboard, is the second installment of Peter Jackson's adaptation of JRR Tolkien's novel. It tells of the quest of a ragtag band of companions to reclaim their ancient homeland, which was attacked and stolen by a malicious dragon. The film begins shortly after the conclusion of the previous installment, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, with the titular character Bilbo Baggins, his thirteen dwarvish friends, and the wizard, Gandalf the Grey, attempting to locate refuge from fiendish orcs, or goblins. After finding respite from an unexpected host, the company resumes their route to the Lonely Mountain, encountering many obstacles – from giant spiders, to grotesque orcs, to unstoppable fire breathing dragons.

Despite grossing nearly a billion dollars at the box office, the film is not without its flaws. For starters, the film boasts a lengthy two hour and forty-one minute runtime, much longer than other films in the fantasy adventure genre. Due to its length, the film occasionally feels uneven, with some early scenes feeling, as Bilbo himself would describe, "Like butter scraped over too much bread." Although the plot starts at geriatric pace, the stunning visuals and witty dialogue make up for the first half's pace.

Prior to viewing the film, many moviegoers worried that *The Desolation of Smaug* would suffer from the classic middle chapter problem. However, the reason that the film escapes this cliché is also the reason many critics have chastised it. Under Jackson's direction, the film series has been expanded into three installments; a stark contrast to the three-hundred and ten page source novel. Due to this expansion, the film introduces many characters that were either not present in the source material or were altogether invented for the

film. Legolas the Elf (Orlando Bloom) once again takes up his bow against the forces of evil, despite not taking up even a footnote in the novel. In addition, Legolas is often accompanied by a fellow elf named Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly), who, despite appearances in many scenes, is a creation specifically for the film. However, the list does not stop here. Jackson adds and expands the roles of character after character, from the orc Azog to the wizard Radagast the Brown. These changes have enraged many self-declared Tolkien purists, who claim the new characters and plot lines convolute the original message of the JRR Tolkien's lighthearted novel.

Despite polarization of opinions, one aspect of the film above all others has been universally acclaimed: the depiction of the tyrannical dragon Smaug. Once on screen, this computer-generated creature, voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch, uncontroversially usurps the limelight, providing a terrifying and captivating villain. As with the CGI character Gollum from the previous film, Peter Jackson's special effects team manages to pull off a seamless integration of motion capture and real footage in scenes that never let up in intensity. In addition to striking visuals, Cumberbatch's voice acting is unparalleled, leading Bates Student Lydia Merizon '16 to claim "Smaug is the coolest dragon ever!"

Overall, the *Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* is another wonderfully satisfying entry into Middle Earth. Guided by a wonderful cast, including two-time Oscar nominee Sir Ian McKellen, the film's characters invite viewers to jump headfirst into JRR Tolkien's beloved world. For diehard Tolkien loyalists, you may find the creative liberties of Mr. Jackson's added plot details to be too strong of a departure from the original novel. But for the casual movie fan looking for an entertaining and action-packed spectacle to the student who wishes to watch instead of work on their final paper due tomorrow, *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* is for you.

The Spelling Bee is buzzing with excitement

ASHLEY BRYANT
MANAGING ARTS & LEISURE EDITOR

What happens when you cross a talented cast with witty music and hilarious dialogue? *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, put on by The Robinson Players, the only student-run theater group at Bates, of course!

Before the curtain goes up (metaphorically) this weekend at Gannett Theater, I got to sit down with junior Environmental Studies and Theater double major, Gunnar Manchester, and go behind the scenes of the production of this side-stitching musical.

The Bates Student: Can you give me the basic background/plot of this show?

Manchester: The show is about six very unique kids who are taking part in a spelling bee, and the three adults who oversee the competition. It's kind of like a really funny coming-of-age story with wacky music and crazy characters. It was originally performed as a completely improvised show, which really piqued my interest since I've done a lot of improv in high school as well as with the Strange Bedfellows here at Bates. There is still a large improvisational element remaining in the show, which has a lot to do with the audience participation.

BS: The Rob Players do not usually do a full-length musical until Short

Term. What made you want to take on that challenge this semester?

M: The Rob Players musical in Short Term is performed for local schools, so it's done during the day and not necessarily for Bates students. This will be the first time in a while that a full-length musical will be available for the entire Bates Campus to enjoy. It's definitely been a challenge so far, but this past summer I was doing one-week repertory with a theatre company in Massachusetts, so compared to one week, two months is plenty of time!

BS: Why did you choose this specific show?

M: *Spelling Bee* was a great option because it has an almost even split of girls and boys in the cast, and there was a lot of flexibility in the number of roles we wanted to cast (since it is normally done with 9 actors, and many parts are doubled). We split some of the parts up so we have a cast of eleven, because we saw so much talent in the auditions. This show also has a non-conventional plot and some audience participation, so it offers something that most musicals don't. And, of course, the music is amazing and the whole thing is absolutely hilarious.

BS: What are some challenges you faced as a director in the creation of this show?

2014 Oscars: Ellen for president?

EMILY PINETTE
STAFF WRITER

The 86th Academy Awards, honoring achievements in film, aired live last Sunday from Hollywood, California. In contrast to the somewhat stuffy broadcasts of the past, this year's Oscars were refreshingly lively. After a seven-year hiatus, comedian Ellen DeGeneres returned to host the show for a second time, and she did not disappoint. Says first-year Katie Stevenson, "Can we give Ellen an Oscar for best performance by a host in an awards show?" The Oscars were a memorable evening of sensational red carpet fashion and moving acceptance speeches.

DeGeneres began the festivities by calling out Jennifer Lawrence, whom she referred to as "America's other sweetheart," and reminded us of Lawrence's tumble at last year's show. (Recap: when walking to the stage to accept the Best Actress award, JLaw tripped and did a faceplant on the stairs.) Perhaps Lawrence has an Oscar curse: this year, cameras caught the actress tripping once again, this time over a traffic cone on the red carpet.

Partway through the show, DeGeneres inquired as to whether the crowd was hungry, and suggested that perhaps she should order pizza. To the surprise of those in attendance, a delivery man appeared a short time later with slices for the crowd, while DeGeneres used Pharrell's infamous Grammy's hat to collect money from the audience. You read that correctly: Ellen DeGeneres orchestrated a pizza party at the Academy

Awards. Later, she gathered her A-list friends - Jared Leto, Jennifer Lawrence, Channing Tatum, Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Kevin Spacey, Bradley Cooper, Brad Pitt, Lupita Nyong'o, her brother Peter Nyong'o, and Angelina Jolie - in an Oscar selfie that effectively broke Twitter as the most retweeted tweet of all time. The selfie was taken with a Samsung phone; due to the over three million retweets of the photo, Samsung is donating three million dollars to DeGeneres's charities of choice.

The night's red carpet fashion was breathtaking. Among my favorites were presenters Anne Hathaway, Emma Watson, and Portland, Maine's own Anna Kendrick, all of whom opted for sleeveless black dresses. Much attention has been paid to Hollywood's latest fashion icon, *12 Years a Slave*'s Lupita Nyong'o, who has wowed with her previous dresses at the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards. For the Academy Awards, Nyong'o donned a flowy, pleated Prada gown that had been made especially for her. This dress marked a departure from the more form-fitting dresses Nyong'o has worn in earlier awards shows this season. The actress explained that she chose the light blue color because it reminded her of her home, Nairobi, Kenya.

Nyong'o was recognized for her acting achievements with the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress. She concluded her acceptance speech with this inspirational message: "No matter where you're from, your dreams are valid." First-year Tessa Holtzman was "impressed by Lupita Nyong's eloquence.

M: This is the first full-length show I've directed, my first project being *Tarantino Variations* for the One-Act festival in the fall. The biggest challenge has been pulling all of the pieces together. Musicals often have a lot more elements going into it than a straight-play, and certainly more than a tiny ten-minute one-act. There is a larger cast and production team, and getting each element to fit the vision has been tough.

BS: What's your favorite moment of this show?

M: My favorite moments in the show are the scenes when spellers are eliminated. It's such a goofy-happy show that it would get a little tiresome if it didn't have these very sad moments when a speller's dream is crushed. I think the cast does a great job of capturing that sort of emotional rollercoaster, it makes the characters much more real and less cartoonish.

If you want to spend your weekend with laughs and incredible vocal, then come see, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, this upcoming weekend. Admission is free but donations can be made to benefit Tree Street Youth, an afterschool program in downtown Lewiston. This show is bound to leave you with a happy heart and a tapping foot.

Her dress and speech were amazing, especially for someone so new to the Hollywood scene." Jared Leto picked up the Best Supporting Actor award for his portrayal of an HIV-positive transgender woman in *Dallas Buyers Club*. Leto delivered a tearful speech, thanking his older brother/30 Seconds to Mars bandmate, Shannon, as well as his mother, to whom he said, "I love you, Mom; thank you for teaching me to dream." Best Actress went to Cate Blanchett for *Blue Jasmine*. The Best Actor award went to... not DiCaprio. Despite starring in widely acclaimed roles in twenty-eight films over the past twenty years, Leo has never won an Oscar - what gives, Academy?! Instead, Matthew McConaughey won for *Dallas Buyers Club*.

Gravity picked up seven awards, including Best Visual Effects, Best Cinematography, and Best Director. Fan favorite *Frozen* won Best Animated Feature Film and Best Original Song for "Let It Go," performed by Idina Menzel. (Or, if you're John Travolta, Adele Dazeem.) The biggest award of the night, Best Picture, went to the historical drama *12 Years a Slave*, which also took home Best Writing - Adapted Screenplay.

With that, the 2013-2014 awards season has come to an end. The big winners this year were *American Hustle*, *12 Years a Slave*, and *Gravity*. Thanks to Ellen DeGeneres, this year's Academy Awards caused a social media eruption and reached a fourteen-year ratings high. (Oh, and that pizza delivery guy? He ended up with a \$1,000 tip. #EllenForPrez)

WEEKLY VERSE

If you're a poet and know it, or don't, submit a verse!

Email abryant@bates.edu

TINY DESTRUCTION

By Steph Caplen

I want to make a mark. Scratch
the surface of cream-colored
paper, rip through the pressed pulp –
until it has as many holes as I do.

There's 'joy' to be found in watching this semester's main stage production

TRISTAN BROSSY DE DIOS
ASSISTANT ARTS & LEISURE EDITOR

Tackling the often-confusing labyrinth that is Toshiki Okada's *Enjoy*, Assistant Professor of Theater and director Brooke O'Harra and the ensemble cast of Bates students put on a stunning Main Stage production that resonates with the power of everyday life experiences.

Set in the heart of Tokyo in a comic book café, *Enjoy* might at first appear distant and outlandish, but given time its attractiveness develops. In particular, Okada's message and vision in *Enjoy* reaches its pinnacle when performed by students: the socioeconomic struggles of college students in the 21st century parallels the characters' own lives. Their apprehensions and subconscious fears are many of ours, too, and, seeing these repercussions simultaneously portrayed as comical and serious, strikes a nerve.

Rather than employ a traditional cast of actors, each with their own specific part, the production incorporated different actors playing multiple roles, sometimes switching speaking parts mid-sentence. This theatrical choice, combined with the heavy use of fragmented thought and colloquial interjections like "so", "like", "but", "and", "umm," and others, created puzzling sequences of dialogue, but also managed to instill a sense of realism. Natural human speech in general is never perfect, and Okada's script writing and the actors' dialogue and mannerisms definitely hit that realism factor right on the head.

"Specifically as an actor, I could tell that there were times when the audience was unsure of what was going on. That was fun to play," said first-year and *Enjoy* actor Colby Harrison. "We as the performers know what we are talk-

Readings and thoughts from Maine's own, Kate Christensen

EVAN HANSEN-BUNDY
STAFF WRITER

Muskie 201. In the dimly lit, auratic atmosphere of the high ceilinged second floor of Muskie Archives, Kate Christensen gave several powerful readings of her works. In a compelling and progressive introduction, Jess Anthony brought to light Christensen's many achievements. A steady and unrelenting presence in the room, Christensen read her works with humility and answered questions honestly without effacing her significant achievements.

Born August 22, 1962, Christensen attended Reed College and later, the Iowa Writers Workshop. Writing from an early age, she said that she knew she was going to be a writer from the age of six. Christensen moved to New York at the age of 27 and began her career as a writer. Her first novel, *In the Drink* was published and, since then, Christensen has published five others including *The Great Man*, which won the coveted Pen Faulkner Award in 2008. He articles and essays have appeared in periodicals such as *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the *Oprah Magazine*.

Christensen opened with a gracious acquiescence of the profound introductions and a contest for the audience. She planned to read from four of her most successful works, having the audience guess the unifying theme between all four. The audience could raise their hands between readings and each member had an unlimited number of guesses. She began with *In the Drink*, which she dubbed a "loser lit" novel, where the protagonist has an absolutely miserable situation. The passage she read was dubiously marked by squalor and decay and showed the wasting nature of not only the building in which the protagonist lived, but also the wasting nature of the protagonist herself. She playfully asked at the end of the reading if anybody knew the unifying theme yet.

The second excerpt, from *Jeremy Thrane*, produced a different aura, more of sexuality and the other, much more alive side of New York – the city that most of her novels are set and centered around. Again, she asked if anyone had a guess; no one answered. The third novel, *The Epicure's Lament*, tells of a man smoking himself to death as he navigates his relationship with his ex-wife and his estranged daughter with whom he feels an eerie closeness. As she

finished this third reading Christensen looked up expectantly and scanned the room for guesses. A wary hand wavered into the air and she found it with her sharp bespectacled eyes. "Coffee?" He got it. She handed him the coffee mug prize and continued with her fourth and final reading. In *The Great Man*, she depicts a perverted old man (not dissimilar from Bukowski) who, in fantasizing about a young, Polish woman, sparks an altercation with a man much bigger than himself.

Christensen ended these readings without dissecting of the vast amount of information in which she had drenched the audience. She continued onto Q & A where she fielded questions with intelligence and elegance. She discussed the pros and cons of New York City and spoke about the necessity of both energy and vitality in her writing but also about the necessity of having a special space to write in. When asked about her novels, most of which are written in the 1st person, through from both male and female perspectives, she answered simply, saying "they're all sort of... me." Her most acclaimed work, *The Great Man*, is written in the third person

VCS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

aced the poem by explaining that it was inspired from teaching at an “alternative school” for those who have been identified as “at risk” students. Dunn’s piece was an intricate account of lessons learned from working with these students while reflecting on her relation to one student in particular. The poem weaved in and out a different issues including mentorship and the disapproval of one’s own choices. Dunn’s second performance proved to be one of the most memorable of the entire night.

Nick Muccio ’16 followed Dunn with a theatrical delivery of a piece about working as a camp counselor and observing interactions between children, parents and so forth. It was Muccio’s performance that awed his audience, as he spoke without any paper or notes. Muccio’s piece was well received by his audience, prompting a lot of laughter.

The event’s organizer Katie Ailes closed the night with three powerful poems. Ailes’ first piece is titled “Flesh.” “I don’t try to write angry feminist poetry, but this one came out,” Ailes opened with. The poem shared things experienced from years of formal dance training.

Ailes’ second piece “Dear” came

from Ailes learning some information about her life that changed how she assessed her history. The poem was an imagining of how a meeting with her real father might play out in a café, but ultimately ending with the assertion that such a meeting could never actually occur.

Ailes’ final poem “Snow” provided the perfect ending to a night of tremendous student talent. “Snow” offered a look at all aspects of love, including sex, desperation, and heart break. One of the piece’s most profound components was a likening of holding on to a deteriorating relationship in the way that you roll your tongue over a piece of gum that has lost flavor.

Village Club Series’ first ever slam poetry event proved to be a tremendously successful evening. “The poets tonight were downright fantastic,” says Ailes. “There is so much talent at Bates, and often people have hidden skills; for example, many of the poets tonight weren’t English majors, and do their writing as a side hobby just because they love it.”

Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming slam events at Bates, and if interested, students can sign up for the Bates Authors’ Guild listserve to get information about upcoming poetry and prose events.

CHRISTENSEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and Christensen discussed the scale on which she is able to write when she enters the minds of multiple characters at once. Although the first person is very natural for her, the third person format gives her an objective perspective that allows her a different kind of freedom in her writing.

Christensen answered one of the final questions in a very important way. She was asked about the way in which she writes from the perspective of a man, something she has done in three of her novels. In a very enlightening answer she talked about the freedom she found writing from a male perspective. She said that there were things she was able to say from the perspective of her male characters that she would be unable to otherwise. She moved on speedily but the implications of such an explanation are haunting.

What does it say that a confident secure female author who has had paramount success must use a male character to explore ideas she feels uncomfortable discussing as a woman? In an interesting and informative lecture, highlighted by her great art, this was the most powerful and substantive thread.

ENJOY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ing about, but because how the show is written and how it was choreographed it was hard to communicate that to the audience.”

With minimal scene elements and props, the focus of the play was truly on the actors themselves who provided more than enough entertainment. During certain sequences, some actors would, seemingly for no apparent reason, break into dance, drop to the floor, or otherwise eschew what could easily have become the monotony of one or two actors seemingly addressing the audience for two hours. Most of the play entailed actors looking directly out into the audience, often not acknowledging the existence of the character they were speaking to. But such bizarreness fueled the play’s drive.

The actors, Sam Metzger ’14, Andrew Overbye ’14, Will Dunbar ’15, Allie Freed ’16, Colette Girardin ’16, Sam Myers ’16, Natalie Silver ’16, Colby Harrison ’17, Whitney Lees ’17, and Daniel Peebles ’17, all perfectly captured the post-college strife brought on by the Japan’s 1991 economic crisis. These Batesies did a tremendous job of bringing the ageist and sexist world of *Enjoy* to life.

“The acting in it was really great, especially considering the fact that the actors were not Japanese, but were representing their culture,” said first-year Sara Hoye.

In addition to the bizarre setup of the cast, *Enjoy* made use of intermittent music and dance as transitions, both between acts and characters’ thoughts. Although some of these numbers were definitely over-the-top and ultimately a bit goofy, they reinforced up the comedic value of the play – and by extension, life – ensuring the black comedy of the play was never too powerful.

“The silliness is all a part of the experience. The show is called ‘Enjoy’ so moments like those were bound to come up. It was a good way to have the audience just accept what was happening on stage and just experience the show rather than make them follow a narrative,” said Harrison, who eventually dressed up as a teddy bear for the final act.

Overall, *Enjoy* provided a powerful performance. It brought a new type of theater to Schaeffer stage that was refreshing and tasteful. All members of the production team pulled off a marvel of a show that left the audience with a new perspective for both theater and their own life experiences. *Enjoy* is a show that cannot be missed!

Question on the Quad

What would your ideal housing situation at Bates be?

KELSEY SCHOBER AND TEDDY RUBE
STAFF WRITERS



“A dorm with glass ceilings”
- Reilly Bergin-Pugh ’14



“A houseboat on the puddle. But Sam Myers might kill me because that was his idea.”
-Jonah Greenawalt ’16



“A treehouse on the quad.”
- Katie Stevenson ’17



“I want a blimp.”
- Matt Herbst ’16

ARTS AND MUSIC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 12th - Tuesday, March 18th

Wednesday, March 12	Thursday, March 13	Friday, March 14	Saturday, March 15	Sunday, March 16	Monday, March 17	Tuesday, March 18
<p>“Collage: From Picasso to Facebook”: Lecture by Pavel Zoubok @ 7 pm, Olin 104</p> <p>Pause @ 9 pm, Gomes Chapel</p>	<p>Danú: Traditional Irish Music @ 7:30 pm, Olin 210</p> <p>VCS presents Surprise Performer @ 9 pm, Benjamin Mays Center</p>	<p><i>The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,</i> Bates Filmboard @ 7:30 pm, Olin 104</p> <p><i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee @</i> 7:30 pm, Gannett Theater</p> <p>Ronj Art Gallery Open House @ 7-9 pm</p>	<p><i>The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,</i> Bates Filmboard @ 2 pm & 7:30 pm, Olin 104</p> <p>Bates College Orchestra @ 7:30 pm, Olin 210</p> <p><i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee @</i> 2 pm & 7:30 pm, Gannett Theater</p>	<p><i>The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,</i> Bates Filmboard @ 2 pm & 4:30 pm, Olin 104</p> <p>Cuarteto Quiroga @ 7pm, Olin 210</p> <p><i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee @</i> 7:30 pm, Gannett Theater</p>	<p>Language Arts Live: Poets Brenda Shaughnessy & Craig Teicher @ 6:30 pm, Muskie Archives</p>	<p>Portland Symphony Orchestra KinderKonzert @ 9:30 & 10:30 am, Olin</p>

Stock Up/Stock Down: Spring Sports Edition

KYLE OLEHNIK
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

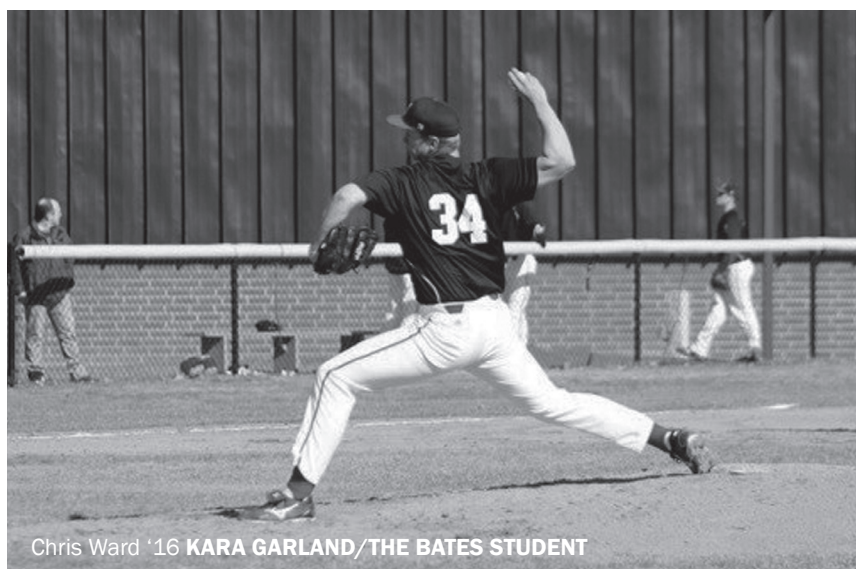
Baseball

Stock Up

A strong mixture of returnees from the lineup and pitching staff highlights the 2014 Bobcat Baseball team. Going 19-17 overall in 2013, the 'Cats return six of their top eight hitters to go along with a senior-laden rotation led by senior Brad Reynolds, who posted a 2.08 ERA over 43.1 innings a year ago. Add Chris Fusco and Dean Bonneau along with young talent such as sophomores Rob DiFranco, Connor Columbo, Chris Ward and Mark Cunningham, and the 'Cats are looking at one of the best team staffs in the NESCAC.

Senior Griff Tewksbury leads the returning group of contributors on offense. Tewksbury, who will man first base, had a .281 average along with a .414 OBP in just 26 games a year ago. Also leading the offensive onslaught will be a pair of All-NESCAC players in junior Mekae Hyde, senior Kevin Davis and rising star Samuel Warren, a sophomore.

To head coach Mike Leonard, who is in his fourth season at the helm of the Bobcats, "we believe we've laid the foundation for a NESCAC Championship program."



Chris Ward '16 KARA GARLAND/THE BATES STUDENT

M Lacrosse

Stock Up

Coming off a season where the 'Cats won their most games since 2006, not much has changed in the program. Across the board, the men's team is talent-laden and filled with depth. This season, Bates returns 16 players who saw action in 12 or more games.

With a pair of 20-goal scorers from a year ago, Bates figures to have one of the better attack duos in the 'CAC; junior Jack Strain and sophomore Jack Allard lead an attack unit that'll have as many as seven men rotating in, something the 14-year head coach must be

salivating over.

The midfield and defensive units Bates will put out on the field on a daily basis is no joke either, as tri-captain tandem Will Gilkeson and Paul Donovan head a midfield unit that looks to be one of the more veteran groups on the team. Finally, the defense and goalkeeper tandem of senior Charlie Kazarian and sophomore Joe Faria look to limit the chances of any opponent that comes into their zone.

Softball

Stock Down

This 2014 campaign looks to be a

rebuilding year for the Bates softball team, led by first year head coach McKell Barnes. Barnes, who served as an assistant coach at Bowdoin prior to her stop in Lewiston, points to her team's attitude and early signs of willingness to partake in a variety of ways to get ready for the season as very encouraging.

Senior Alayna Garbarino and junior Kelsey Freedman, co-captains, look to navigate the young 'Cats squad through a tough NESCAC slate. Junior Molly Brown figures to be the leader of the outfield unit and a key cog for Bates up the middle.

W Lacrosse

Stock Up

A theme of spring sports at Bates has depth. The women's lacrosse team is a testament to that, as they graduated just one player a year ago and will return 11 players who made at least eight starts in 2013. This season's goal for the 'Cats: is to make their sixth consecutive NESCAC appearance and bring home some hardware---a NESCAC championship and even more.

The senior captains in Cat Dioli, Wally Pierce, and Melanie Watson will lead the team throughout a NESCAC schedule that is no easy task. However, from top to bottom, the Bobcats have the formula to achieve something they haven't done for some time.



Alayna Garbarino '14 KARA GARLAND/THE BATES STUDENT

March Madness

NOAH LEVICK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

My favorite part about March Madness is the madness. Watching college "student-athletes" play basketball from noon to midnight is undeniably insane. Yet I take solace in the fact that, while few actually are obsessed enough to watch non-stop basketball for half a day, many others tune in for hours at a time to watch college kids they have absolutely no connection with sprint around a hardwood rectangle. Ultimately, my love for the madness and overall absurdity of March is one of the main reasons why it's my favorite event in all of sports.

The sheer quantity of games in March Madness is astounding, exhilarating, and a tad exhausting. The magnitude of the experience is so uniquely vast that I feel the need to soak it up in its entirety, even if that means watching games on my computer in class while silently cheering. Would my time be better used if I maintained my focus

and commitment to things not involving a round, orange ball? Probably, but I frankly could not envision a March in which my world didn't revolve around frantically and expertly flipping between channels to catch the end of one game while another momentarily takes a deep breath and a commercial break. For me, the only real reason to take a breath during that frenetic first week is to unleash a scream of pure ecstasy (or occasionally an exasperated expletive directed at a bumbling referee.)

One of my favorite elements of my favorite sporting event is the prevalence of exciting upsets. Although it may lead to some matchups between high quality players, I don't think anyone is especially intrigued when a Final Four is comprised exclusively of powerhouses like Kansas and Kentucky. But the inclusion of a plucky mid-major like George Mason or Butler spices up affairs and makes me feel, in the words of Kevin Garnett, that, "Anything is possible!!" Picking a shocking upset enhances the already overflowing joy of seeing a pretentious power like the arrogant Duke Blue Dev-

ils lose. The memory of witnessing 13 seed Morehead State knock off 4 seed Louisville after I had chosen Morehead based on weeks of extensive scouting will never fail to make me maniacally grin. The normally clichéd pundits aren't lying when they say that anything can happen in March. When I had the opportunity to attend first and second round games during the tournament in 2006 in Philadelphia, I almost was in attendance for the thing every sports fan craves- history. As I watched 16 seed Albany surge to a 12-point lead over 1 seed UConn in the 2nd half, I dared to believe that I was about to watch the first 16 over 1 upset ever. Though UConn sadly went on a late run to secure the win, I still believe that one day a 16 seed will beat a 1. In fact, every year I find myself saying "this will be the year." Again, I'm confident that this March the impossible will become possible, and I want to be there to see it. I guess it's true that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

BOBCATS OF THE WEEK

CARA CAPPELLINI '16

On the strength of a five-goal performance in the women's lacrosse team's 12-8 win over Wesleyan, Cappellini earned NESCAC Player of the Week. Her effort led the Bobcats to their first NESCAC win of the season. Coming back from missing the entirety of last season due to injury, Cappellini has already netted nine total goals for the Bobcats.



PHYLLIS GRABER JENSEN/COURTESY PHOTO

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

ERIC WAINMAN '15

Wainman, a part of a Bates squad that secured the ECAC track and field title, set the team record in the heptathlon this weekend with 4,927 and finished second overall at the meet. That score places Wainman 12th in all of Division III. He had especially strong showings in the grueling heptathlon competition in the 60 meter hurdles, in which he finished second, and in the 1,000 meters, where his 2:43.06 time on the day's last event was also good for second place.



COURTESY PHOTO/OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

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Men's & Women's Tennis

Men's & Women's Nordic Skiing

Successful first week-end of competition for Bates Tennis

JOHN NEUFELD
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Men's tennis faced off against Babson in a non conference match. The Bobcat's pounded the visiting Beavers 7-2. Bates held a 2-1 lead after doubles with one doubles team Timmy Berg '14 and Pierre Planche '15 and third doubles Eric Ruta '14 and Chris Ellis '17 getting victories. Second doubles Peter Yanofsky '14 and Ben Bogard '14 lost a close match 6-8.

Bates went 5 and 1 in singles to seal the deal. Junior Pierre Planche, who won his first doubles match and his second singles match, thought the team competed well. "We fought hard across the board, and picked up on a few things that we can work on moving forward." The Bobcats looked to make these improvements in time for their second match of the weekend versus Hamilton.

On Sunday, both the men's and women's teams bested Hamilton in the first NESCAC match of the season. The women's team won 6-3. Senior captain Lucy Brennan said, "The attitude of this team has proven to be incredibly special. Today everyone showed a fighting spirit that put us in positions for success. We believe in each other and are proud of what we can accomplish as a team."

First (Ellie Mandzhukova and Elizabeth Erbaфина) and third doubles (Lucy Brennan and Emma Blakeley) won their matches while second doubles team



Brent Feldman '17 ELLEN FRIEDLANDER/THE BATES STUDENT

Ali Hokusui and Kristen Doerer lost a hard fought match. The Bobcats went 5 and 2 in singles with first singles Mandzhuhova, third singles Doerer, fourth singles Kate Rosenthal, and sixth singles Emma Smith getting wins. Elizabeth Erbaфина and Eleanor Hough lost two close matches at second and fifth singles, respectively. The team faces Colby college next Tuesday.

The men's team swept Hamilton 9-0. The closest Hamilton came to getting a match was against senior captain Timmy Berg at first singles. (6-3, 3-6,

6-2). Eric Ruta, another senior captain commented, "We played with high intensity the whole match. We've got a lot of confidence and momentum going into our match next weekend against MIT." The team's incredible work ethic is paying off; they train at least six days a week. First year Pat Ordway states, "We put the work in, and the success follows. It's a simple formula that pays off." The team will have to use all that hard work against MIT next weekend.

Nordic Skiing finishes strong at Nationals

JAMES KARSTEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Midway Utah, the location of this year's NCAA Nordic and Alpine skiing championships sits at a staggering 5,584 feet above sea level compared to that of our own Lewiston Maine, at a mere 217 feet. However, this drastic change in elevation did not inhibit our determined Nordic Skiers Jordan Buetow '14 and Hallie Grossman '15 as they battled the elements and the competition this past week in their races.

The skiers were able to leave campus early to allow their bodies to become better acclimated to the elevation of the Wasatch mountains in Utah, which paid off for Buetow and Grossman, who stood strong against the best college skiers from around the country. Last Thursday the classic style races took place, where Grossman competed in the women's 5-kilometer race and Buetow raced in the men's 10-Kilometer. Grossman posted the best NCAA Championship finish of her career, finishing the 5K race in 30th place, with a 15:02.5 mark. Buetow finished in 40th for the men's 10K race, breaking 30 minutes with a time of 29:39.7.

The Bobcat racers had a day off while the men's and women's downhill slalom events took place on Friday, but were back on the skis for the final collegiate Nordic races of the season Saturday. Grossman shined in the women's

freestyle 15-Kilometer race, finishing in 25th place, another career best at nationals, with a time of 43:20.8. In the men's 20-Kilometer race, Buetow finished in 37th with a time of 48:11.8.

The impressive racing season by Grossman caught the eye of the EISA (Eastern Intercollegiate Skiing Association), who recently placed her on the women's All-East 2nd team for Nordic skiers. The conclusion of the skiing season marks the end of a stellar career for Buetow, who is graduating from Bates this spring and has gone on to represent this fine institution at the NCAA skiing championships each of the last three years. Grossman likewise has been to nationals the past three years, and will begin her offseason routine to gear up for her final racing season next winter.

For now, the Nordic ski team will slip away from the media spotlight and enter into their offseason, where they will continue the perpetual process of working hard and challenging each other as they build up to next season.

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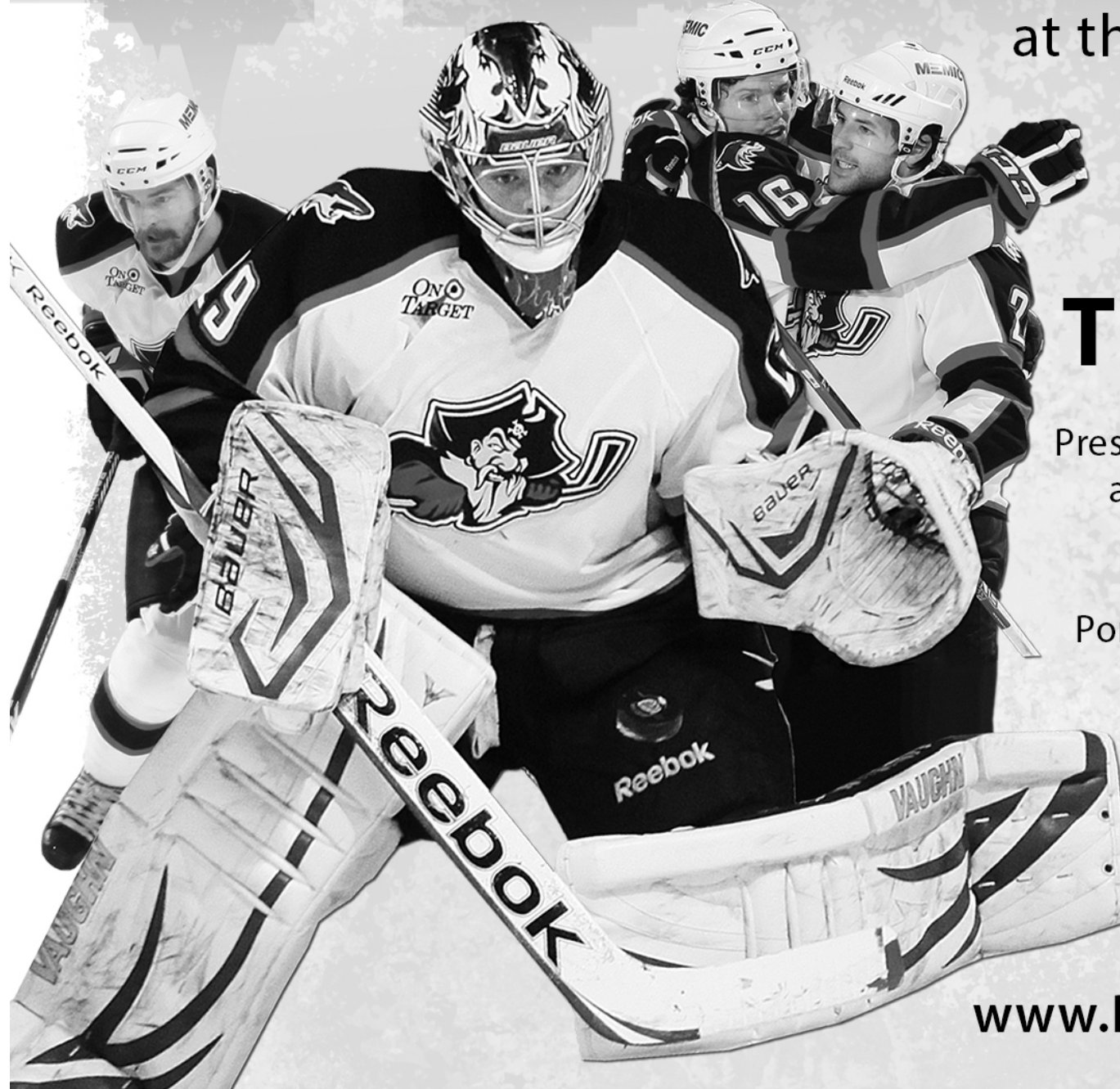
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Women's Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse notches first NESCAC win over Wesleyan

DOUG STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

The Bates women's lacrosse team earned a hard-fought victory in their 12-8 win over the Wesleyan Cardinals. Sophomore midfielder Cara Cappellini had a career day, hanging 5 goals to lead the Bobcats to victory.

The relatively low-scoring first half saw intense back and forth action, as the Cardinals jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead. Cappellini answered with two consecutive goals on assists from senior midfielder and captain Wally Pierce and sophomore Moriah Greenstein, respectively.

Greenstein had a solid game, posting 3 goals and 3 assists, while Pierce added 2 goals and an assist.

Another goal from senior attacker Blair Shrewsbury put the Bobcats on top 3-1, but Wesleyan rattled off three straight goals to take a 4-3 lead into halftime.

Bates seemed to make a collective decision to turn up the heat after the break, as the Bobcats poured in four unanswered goals in a ten-minute span—two each from Cappellini and Pierce—to take a 7-4 lead.

The Bobcats never looked back, as Greenstein tallied three goals while sophomore attacker Kelan McCann notched her only goal. Senior Midfielder Bridget Meedzan played the role of distributor, racking up 4 assists in the second half. "It was an incredible team effort in the second half, we showed selfless play on all sides of the field," noted Meedzan.

The two teams went back and forth



Aly Dowey '15 KARA GARLAND/THE BATES STUDENT

for the remainder of the second half, but Bates' defense, led by senior captains Mel Watson and Cat Dioli, played stellar in front of sophomore goaltender Hannah Jeffrey (8 saves on 16 shots).

"Huge saves by Hannah, and we also had patient and relentless defensive play," added Meedzan, "we dominated the draw controls and had the best fast break execution we've had thus far in

the season. We worked as a stable and composed unit, that is why we were able to walk off the field with a win."

The win improves the Bobcats' conference record to 1-1, and their overall record to 3-1. Bates will next host Babson College on Garcelon Field on Tuesday night before travelling to face a vaunted Trinity team on Saturday in Hartford.

Men's Track & Field

Men's Track and Field takes home ECAC Championship

KYLE OLEHNIK
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

It really has been an incredible year for the Bates Track and Field teams. Throughout their indoor season, both the men and women's teams have had their fair share of record setters and champions. It was no different story this past weekend in the ECAC Championships in Boston as the men won the ECAC Championship while the women set plenty of new records.

Leading the way for the men on the first day of competition was Sean Enos. The junior, who had somewhat been overshadowed by former All-American David Ples before this season, has made a name for himself throughout the indoor season. Friday, he continued his success as he placed first in the shot put with a top effort of 17.12 meters.

Other highlights from the first day of action featured junior Eric Wainman and senior Jarret McKallagat. Wainman, the Glastonbury, Connecticut native, tied for the best mark in pole vault at 1.87 meters, second in shot put and third in the long jump.

For head coach Al Fereshetian, the success at this event was nothing new. "I think it speaks to the both of those elements (quality and depth) of our program. It certainly is a great experiential meet for our younger athletes who get the sense of what high level competition like the NCAA's is like."

The women were no slouches either, and in all four events they competed in on Friday, they set records in, even setting a new record twice on the same day in the 60-meter dash. Sophomore Alexis Dickinson and senior teammates Angeleque Hartt teamed up to set the records with Dickinson breaking her record by .04 seconds and Hartt following suit by lowering the team standard

by .06 seconds.

On the next day of events, the Bobcats didn't let up. Graboys, who is a regular name in The Bates Student, won the 3,000-meter run to help secure the 'Cats atop the leaderboards. Sean Enos again brought the thunder, heaving the shot put a distance 60 feet 11 inches, which was enough for the top spot. Wainman, who seemed to do it all the day before in the heptathlon, scored a career best 4,927 points in the same event, breaking the previous record by 200 points.

The team success in the ECACs was certainly to the delight of coach Fereshetian, who believes that many teams, including his, use this meet in preparation for the NCAAs: "the ECAC Championship is always a very interesting meet," he explained. "Most teams, including ours, use it to tune up for Nationals or to culminate the indoor season."

The women finished off the meet in exciting fashion as well as the 4x200 relay team, who rewrote the team standard. Behind Dickinson, Hartt, sophomore Melanie Ehrenberg and freshman Allison Hill, the runners recorded a new time of 1:44.50, which placed them sixth out of 33 teams and beat the former Bobcat best time of 1:46.71.

Overall between the two teams the 'Cats will have a strong showing at the NCAA Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska with seven attendees in five events.

"We get the chance to compete there and it will be fantastic," coach Fereshetian believes. "This has been a very fun team to work with all year, and going to this meet with this team is not going to be any different. They love to compete, they are talented and they love being together. I think it will be an amazing trip."

Men's Lacrosse

Men's Lacrosse drops to 0-2, but remain hopeful

WILLIAM CLEAVES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After dropping the season opener last weekend at Amherst 17-8, the 'Cats travelled to Middletown, CT. looking to get their first win against No. 9 Wesleyan. Last year, the No. 17 ranked Cardinals traveled to Lewiston and lost to an unranked but talented Bates squad 7-5. With determination to get the first win under their belts, and a confidence from last season's victory, Bates entered Saturday's contest ready for gritty battle with a familiar foe.

The home team jumped out to a 3-0 lead just 5 minutes into the game, and a 6-1 lead with 9 minutes left in the half, but the 'Cats weren't quite ready to call it quits. Sophomore phenom and shift attack-man Jack Allard was able to net two before the half, closing the gap to 6-3 at the break. Chuck Hildebrand kept the train rolling, as the sophomore attacker opened up the second stage with a stinging one past the goalie to pull the Bates within two at 6-4. Wesleyan deposited two more before senior Captain and face off specialist Paul Donovan got his second of the game to bring the score to 8-5 entering the fourth.

A hard-nosed defense led by senior goalie Charlie Kazarian (12 saves) kept the 'Cats in the game, allowing the Cards just two goals in the fourth, but the effort fell short as Bates failed to keep up with a talented Wesleyan team. The 10-6 loss put Bates at 0-2 in NESCAC play and left to gear for a win against Skidmore on Tuesday to avoid dropping to an overall record of 0-3. The Cardinals move to 2-0 in NESCAC and 3-0 overall.

Despite an inauspicious start, sophomore lockdown defender David Cappellini drew on some of the positives from the loss, "We competed for a full 60 minutes. After going down early,

our team continued to battle back." He was complimentary of the leadership of senior captains Donovan, Gilkeson and Kazarian that should help carry the team forward. Cappellini, an integral part of the 'Cats tenacious D, was proud of the unit and remained confident, stating, "We settled in nicely throughout the second half, and we look poised to further improve as a cohesive unit in our coming games."

Allard, who scored two goals Saturday and was one the team's leading

scorers last year, recognized the difficulty the offense had putting the ball in the net, "We just needed to score a few more goals on offense." Nonetheless Allard hasn't lost a bit of belief in their ability, "We have the talent to be one of the best teams in the NESCAC, we just need put everything together." To turn this season around and compete in the NESCAC like the 'Cats did last year, that's exactly what they'll have to do. The Bobcats host Trinity College this Saturday at 1pm.



Mac Jackson '15 KARA GARLAND/THE BATES STUDENT

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Men's Tennis

vs MIT

Friday, 3/14 @ 4:00 pm

Men's Lacrosse

vs Trinity

Saturday, 3/15 @ 1:00 pm

Women's Lacrosse

vs Endicott

Wednesday, 3/19 @ 4:30 pm

Men's Lacrosse

vs Husson

Wednesday, 3/19 @ 7:00 pm