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The Bates Student

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WEDNESDAY May 13, 2015

Vol. 144, Issue. 20

Lewiston, Maine

Forum

Are eviction notices good?

J Street U and Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine discuss the recent notices posted on dorm room doors

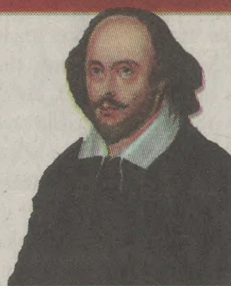


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ARTS & LEISURE

Shakespeare hits the Puddle

Twelfth Night will be performed at Kegwin Amphitheater on May 23rd and 24th



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SPORTS

Men's lacrosse finishes off stellar season

Bates wins its first ever NCAA Tournament game against Keene State before falling to Tufts in the Sweet Sixteen



See Page 8

Freddie Gray remembered: Solidarity March at Bates

80 marchers protested the recent police brutality in Baltimore

BRIDGET RUFF
STAFF WRITER

On April 12th, Freddie Gray was arrested by the Baltimore Police for allegedly possessing an illegal switchblade. A week later, Gray died of a spinal cord injury that occurred while he was being transported in a police van. In the days and weeks after, the city of Baltimore reacted with protests, one of which turned violent.

At Bates, first-year Rachel Chappell, a Baltimore native, felt distraught over the events and helped to organize the march on campus. Chappell was unable to show her support in Baltimore as she had returned to Bates before the protests began in earnest. She organized the Solidarity March.

"I thought that it would be a great idea to show my support while I was up here, and I wanted to be able to give others the opportunity to show their support as well because I imagine that some people wanted to show solidarity with Baltimore and Ferguson and other Black Lives Matter movements," Chappell said.

It all started after Chappell posted on Facebook about her frustration and need for action. First-year Yara Abdelhady immediately responded that she would help organize any sort of event Chappell wanted. Although Abdelhady calls Egypt home, she felt frustrated with the systematic discrimination of

the American legal system. The two created an event on Facebook and on Bates Today for others who shared their frustration. Of the 100 people who responded, 80 participated.

Chappell's frustration cumulated on May 1st when she led 80 people in a march around the Bates campus. The participants—all dressed in black—chanted together. Chappell yelled, "Tell me what democracy looks like!" While the rest of the participants responded, "This is what democracy looks like!" This slogan represented the march's goal of peaceful civil protest and free speech as outlined in the First Amendment.

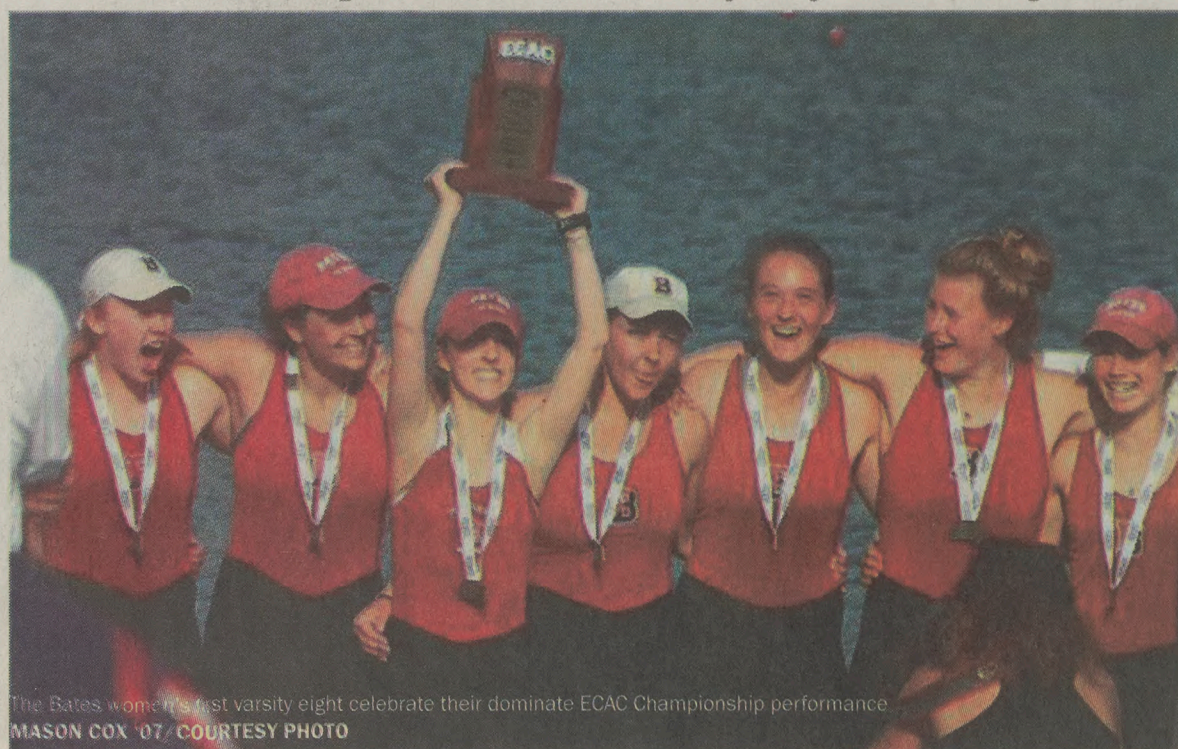
Another chant, "No justice, no peace, no racist police," protested the larger systematic violence of the legal system. Finally, "All night. All day. Justice for Freddie Gray" called for the arrest and conviction of the six police officers involved in Freddie Gray's death. Students, faculty and community members of various ethnicities and backgrounds marched.

Chappell and Abdelhady decided that they wanted to show the community what was happening outside of the "Bates Bubble." But they also wanted to show the people of Lewiston the issues they cared about. The two eventually decided to lead the march around the Puddle, several academic buildings,

See SOLIDARITY, PAGE 4

Bates crew conquers New England and ECAC Rowing Championships

Both the men's and women's varsity eight boats are New England and NESAC champions, women seeded first for NCAA regatta



The Bates women's first varsity eight celebrate their dominate ECAC Championship performance
MASON COX '07, COURTESY PHOTO

NOAH LEVICK
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

Though they may not compete under the spotlights in front of hundreds of fans at Alumni Gym or Garcelon Field, Bates rowing has been quietly dominating on the water. In the wake of the team's historically excellent performances at the New England and ECAC Rowing Championships, a national

championship is not an unreasonable prospect at the NCAA Division III Championships on May 29th and 30th in Sacramento, California.

The Bates women's team has solidified the number one spot in the nation on the strength of their recent successes. At the New England Championships on May 2nd, Bates swept the first, second, and third varsity eight grand finals, the team's best showing ever at New

England's. In the first varsity eight final, Bates' time of 6:57.656 beat both Trinity and Williams, who were ranked first and second in the nation respectively at the time.

The first varsity eight boat for the Bobcat men matched their women counterparts, winning the varsity eight grand final for the first time in Bates history. Their final time of 6:14.338 was

See CREW, PAGE 8

Nepali students respond to earthquake

Shah, Syangtan, and Khadka speak about the earthquake's impact, over \$8,000 raised by Batesies

SAM HIGGINS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on April 15th caused more than 8,000 deaths and set back Nepal's economy by approximately 20 years. The earthquake's epicenter was near Kathmandu, the capital and largest city.

A 7.3 aftershock quake hit Nepal Tuesday morning.

According to the U.S. Embassy website, the United States has pledged to donate \$27 million to support humanitarian relief activities in Nepal.

The Dharahara tower, the oldest and one of the most significant cultural heritage sites of Nepal, was completely destroyed. Many palaces, temples, and other heritage sites were destroyed as well.

Nepali students at Bates include senior Adnan Shah, junior Sonish Pant, sophomore Aashu Jha, and first-years Deeping Syangtan and Pratap Khadka. Shah, Syangtan, and Khadka have lived in Kathmandu for most of their lives.

"My house is fine; the wall behind it is not," said Khadka. "The destruction that the earthquake caused was very random; some very old houses (like

my previous employer's) are fine, while newer modern buildings have turned to nothing but rubble. Lots of aid will be needed to rebuild Kathmandu."

"After this disaster, people are trying to get back to the normal way of life. It's going to be very difficult—economically and socially," Shah said.

After the earthquake, Shah, Syangtan and Khadka have frequently communicated with their family and friends via Facebook, Skype, phone or Viber. Their families keep them updated on the recurring aftershocks that afflict the country.

"This past week there was another

minor shock. It wasn't put in the media, but I got to know that from my mother," Shah said.

Khadka recalled when he first found out about the earthquake: "I woke up on the last day of April break with twenty two messages from my friends and family on my phone and many missed calls. The world had found out about it so much earlier than I did. Thank God that I read a message from my brother first saying that everyone was fine and did not have to deal with the apprehension of finding out if they were ok or not."

Syangtan did not hear back from his family until two days after the earthquake.

"I thought the earthquake was small since we have frequent small earthquakes," he recalled. "However, one of my friends at Bates called me at 3:00 A.M. asking if my family was okay. Then I realized the earthquake was really massive and [caused] huge destruction in Nepal... That period was so scary. I wanted to get information about my family. I felt so sad for not being with my family."

After the earthquake, the Nepali students hosted a vigil to raise awareness about Nepal and the damage the earthquake caused.

"The vigil was a very good gesture from the Chaplain's office. It brought together people who wanted to help and support us," Shah said.

At the vigil Khadka talked about his friend who died in the earthquake, Syangtan gave an overview of the history and culture of Nepal, and Shah shared his response to the earthquake.

The Nepali students later organized

a fundraiser, which so far has raised \$8,000 from online donations. Their goal is to hit \$10,000.

"For me, being far away from home, knowing I might have been able to help them physically—I was feeling guilty. I tried to get over that feeling, and I used that motive for the fundraiser," Shah said.

The fundraiser, which started on the Bates Facebook class pages, received support from friends, professors and student clubs such as Sangai Asia and Bates Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine. Shah's friends organized a pay-per-view showing of a boxing fight in the Benjamin Mays Center, and AA-SIA and Bates Democrats coordinated a bubble tea fundraiser to help the Nepali students reach their goal.

Furthermore, Shah said that Bates students can show their support for Nepal by "Spreading the word; raising awareness. Ask people to donate."

"As a collection of drops of water can for an ocean, a single contribution from a person can help impact many lives in Nepal. So I would encourage everyone at Bates to support the fundraiser in any way possible. Nepal and [the] Nepalese need support to overcome this situation," Syangtan said.

1 dollar is worth 100 Nepali rupees, which is enough to buy a full meal for an earthquake victim.

The fundraiser can be found at this webpage: <https://www.mercycorps.org/people/bobcats/NepalEarthquake-0>.

See our website for a first-hand account of the earthquake by Max Silverman, who was studying abroad during the disaster.

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Bernie Sanders can stir the political pot

AMAR OJHA
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

On April 12th, Hillary Clinton posted an official video announcing her presidential campaign to the delight of millions nationwide. Political gurus marveled at the early polls, with Hillary holding a clear majority, robustly supported by the vast majority of Democratic voters. With no other significant threats in her sight, Hillary seemed to be the likely Democratic Party's nomination in 2016.

This all changed when the 73-year-old Democratic Socialist Senator Bernie Sanders officially announced his presidential campaign

on April 20th. Bernie has earned a reputation in Congress for being the longest-serving Independent in U.S. Congressional history. While there had been talk of the senator from Vermont running for President, it seemed highly unlikely that he had any chance of gaining any serious attention, never mind winning the 2016 Presidential Election. If Sanders were to run, the common fear arose that this left-leaning Independent would steal votes that would otherwise be going to the Democratic Party, or in other words, to Hillary Clinton.

Sanders surprised many when he stated that was going to be running under the Democratic Party, given that one does not technically

have to be registered with a particular party to run under that party's ticket for nomination. His choice to run as a Democrat, he explained, is based on his desire to appear in the debates that will be nationally televised. And the only way he would be able to appear in these debates is if one is running for the Democratic or Republican Party.

One of Sanders's most passionate positions is against income inequality in the United States, something that he believes arises largely as a result of the large concentrations of wealth held by the wealthiest of the country.

Sanders explains, "99% of all new income is going to the top 1%." This might be one of the most

important distinguishing factors between him and Hillary. He has mentioned, time and time again, that the largest reason he was weary of running was because he wouldn't be able to raise nearly as much money as Hillary would, given her ties with the 1% that Sanders so passionately bashes.

Pointing out the state of the nation, one in which a few key players on Wall Street dictate the winners of any given election, Sanders has called for a grassroots movement featuring local communities coming together to keep money out of politics. Even the bottom of his campaign site proudly boasts, "Paid for by Bernie 2016 (Not the Billionaires)."

Sanders has promised to never accept any corporate money or super-PAC funds, yet still was able to raise over \$1.5-million within 24 hours of announcing his campaign from donors, thereby exceeding the amounts raised by GOP candidates Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Rand Paul in their first day of running.

Receiving national attention for his speech in 2010 on the Senate floor lasting over eight hours, Sanders declared, "Enough is enough! How many homes can you own?" This episode cast the Senator into the spotlight as a champion for ending economic disparities, eventually leading to him gaining the support of an entire movement. For the first time, Occupy Wall Street has chosen to officially endorse a presidential candidate publicly.

While even Sanders enthusiasts are skeptical of his realistic chances of ever becoming President of the United States, he will serve as an important leftist voice during the upcoming election, one in which he will be able to argue on behalf of those who do want a drastic change. If anything, Sanders will force Hillary to address topics that may even push her platform more to the left, ranging from her decision to support the Iraq War compared to his staunch opposition as well as to her ties with Wall Street.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, Hillary and other candidates will need to prepare to face a candidate who isn't afraid to blatantly state his views and call out politicians for their transgressions.

Passionate about all things, Sanders explains how he doesn't participate in personal attacks, stating, "I've never run a negative ad in my life... I hate and detest these 30-second, ugly negative ads."

Sanders is not going to be playing the games classically associated with campaign season. He is in it to win it. And as the Twitter hashtag has begun to promote, it is time for the other presidential candidates to prepare themselves to "Feel the Bern."

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BRING A FRIEND!

Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine statement on eviction notices

ASHLEEN O'BRIEN
NEWS PHOTO EDITOR

Last night, around 500 students at Bates received mock eviction notices posted on their doors. We, the Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine, joined other university campus movements and participated in distributing these notices to raise awareness of the regular practice of home eviction as a part of Israel's policy of ethnic cleansing and settlement expansion in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The purpose of this action was to raise awareness of the reality that affects hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. While the response that students may have experienced pales in comparison to the experiences of Palestinians, our goal is to

compel students to think empathetically about the violence that we are complicit in as Americans and as students at an academic institution invested in the state of Israel.

We want this to be a part of a larger conversation about political apathy and the myth of neutrality at Bates and elsewhere, especially with regards to Israel and Palestine, but not excluding other resistance movements across the world. We hope you will join us for an open and critical discussion about home demolition and the egregious colonial exploitation of Palestinian bodies and land. We also encourage you to start conversations about Palestine that venture outside of conventional Western narratives.

Think before you party, themes can hurt

CORA HIRSCHFIELD
MALCOLM DELPECHE
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Organizing and attending parties is one of the main ways people socialize at any college. It's how we bond with friends, meet new people, and strengthen our sense of community on campus. But when we are partying and simultaneously making fun of a certain demographic we do not identify with, it becomes classism, racism, and ethnocentrism, and it's not cool.

Over the past couple of months, we have seen and heard about theme parties on- and off-campus that make fun of and misrepresent certain marginalized groups of people. On more than one occasion there have been social gatherings involving a "white trash" theme. We understand that the intentions of a "white trash" theme party are not meant to be offensive. Dressing up in clothes we don't typically wear is fun because it's exciting to do something different. Plus, when planning outfits together it creates camaraderie and a chance for new friendships to be made.

We don't want to rain on anyone's parade. We too have participated in theme parties that may have misrepresented and mocked groups of marginalized people in the past. All we want to do is start a conversation. Let's take a minute to really think about the implications of parties that clearly mock people who have been subject to generational poverty and degradation in America. What is being said when predominantly middle to upper class students wear jorts, trucker hats, and wife-beaters? What does "white trash" even mean? Who is "white trash"? And more importantly, why do we think it's funny to dress up like "white trash"?

For the most part, "white trash" is not a term we would use to label Bates students. And for the most part, we think we can all agree it's a term that labels a group of people struggling to overcome poverty who are probably unable to attend academic institutions like Bates. Do we need to remind you of our through-

the-roof tuition?

By dressing up in costumes portraying this specific demographic of marginalized Americans, we are perpetuating widespread stereotypes of poor, uneducated whites. These stereotypes further alienate poor whites from middle-class whites. In doing so we are creating distinct class identities, rather than one unified American national identity. The term "white trash," like all the costumes that go along with it, separates a population who physically, emotionally, or economically fail to measure up to standards of the middle class. When middle- to upper-class students, which is predominantly what the Bates student body is comprised of, dress up as "white trash," we are distinguishing ourselves and proudly saying, "we are not 'white trash.'" When we dress up in these costumes, we are having fun at the expense of the people we are ridiculing; we are taking pleasure in thinking we're superior to poor working class whites.

As Bates students, we have a responsibility to carry out the Bates mission to "engage the transformative power of our differences, cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action." By organizing "white trash" parties and furthering these misrepresentations, we aren't cultivating civic action—we're destroying it.

As students attending a progressive liberal arts college, we need to embrace and respect the differences of all human beings. Instead of dressing up as marginalized groups of people for fun, we need to question our actions and the ways in which we are partying. We aren't saying we should stop having theme parties. Theme parties are great. But there are countless themes that don't make fun of other people's circumstances. Let's think about themes for social gatherings that don't isolate and make fun of marginalized groups of people. Let's have these conversations and talk about how we can promote the understanding of all different races, religions, ethnicities, and socio-economic classes.

Constructive action, concrete change: J Street U takes on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

EZRA OLIFF-LIBERMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last week, students across campus awoke to find mock eviction notices taped to their doors, which members of Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine (SPJP) had posted the night before. These notices ordered students to "vacate the premises," as their dorms were "scheduled for demolition," a comparison to similar practices used by the Israeli government in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. SPJP notes that these "forced evictions are devastating," as are many other daily realities for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

J Street U agrees that these practices are violent, immoral, and horrifying, and we agree that the occupation must end. However, we do not believe that mock evictions, or similar antagonistic actions, move us toward this goal. In fact, these actions serve to further polarize students and further entrench an increasingly one-sided and hostile situation. It is vitally important to confront and think deeply about these controversial issues, but not in such a way that inhibits critical thinking. Now more than ever, dialogue and constructive, meaningful action are absolutely crucial.

J Street U at Bates seeks to move

beyond the typically polarized discourse that so often plagues conversations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are a group of students from all walks of life who are as equally committed to ending Israeli occupation as we are to ensuring Israel's existence as a Jewish and Democratic state. We believe that the only just way to ensure dignity and security for both Israelis and Palestinians is the creation of an independent state of Palestine alongside Israel. As one of over sixty J Street U campus chapters across the country, a national student movement actively working for American support for a negotiated two-state solution, we educate, advocate, and take action for freedom, justice, and peace.


Unfortunately, conversations at Bates about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are rarely two-sided. Op-eds are written, flyers are posted, and people yell back and forth, forcing students to choose sides. The lack of nuance surrounding this issue is astonishing, especially at Bates, an institution that claims to value diversity of thought and intellectualism. It's about time this campus moved past the status quo of two sides volleying back and forth with one another. It's about time we all reminded ourselves that we don't want to just talk about the conflict, we want to end it. J Street U students recognize this, and stand firmly as

pro-Israel, pro-Palestine, and most importantly, pro-peace.

Tired of so much antagonistic rhetoric, we are choosing to take concrete action and support activism of individuals on the ground in the region. Starting this Short Term and continuing into next fall, J Street U at Bates will be collaborating with EcoPeace Middle East, a grassroots organization jointly run by Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian environmental activists. We hope to raise at least \$1,000 to benefit communities in the Gaza Strip, desperately in need of clean water in the wake of last summer's war.

Working closely with BEAM and the Environmental Coalition, we also hope to educate ourselves and the broader Bates community about the complex interaction between environmental issues and political conflict.

Now, we recognize that this small initiative will not end the conflict, but we see it as an important way to support everyday people whose lives and homes have been destroyed by this conflict. Rather than polarize a campus with inflammatory actions that have no clear impact on the ground, J Street U is taking a concrete step toward cleaner water, increased dialogue and communication across borders, and ultimately a safer and more peaceful future. Join us.





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
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The Bates Student

BEAM states racial justice is environmental justice

JORDAN BECKER, ZSOFIA DUARTE,
AND JENNIFER ROSENFELD
BEAM MEMBERS

This year, more Bates students have become politically conscious and environmentally active than in the last four. The Bates Energy Action Movement (BEAM) sent the most students of any Maine college to the first Maine Students for Climate Justice (MSCJ) rally in Augusta last month. Similarly, over seventy Bates students made the long drive to New York City to attend the People's Climate March in September.

This high level of students taking environmental action is without precedent in our years at Bates. Many students have realized that they are capable of significant political action, and that the capacity for social change is in their hands. These students have not looked to any higher power for change. Rather, they have gone to the streets to demand it.

The environmental movement at Bates is not alone in its growth. The protests surrounding police brutality on the national level have sparked responses on campus. Last week, we are proud to note, over one hundred Bates students marched all over campus chanting "Black Lives Matter," "This Is What Democracy Looks Like," and "No Justice, No Peace. No Racist Police." We, the members of BEAM, have never before observed a more unified group of stu-

dents taking collective political action on campus, and we find a certain kind of solace and hope in this solidarity.

We see an obvious connection between the environmental and the Black Lives Matter movements, but so far, we have not been able to effectively portray this connection on campus. At the MSCJ rally in Augusta, the organizers attempted to make this association clear by inviting speakers from the Portland Congress of Racial Equality, which organizes anti-racism actions in Portland and by having the attendees chant "Black Lives Matter" while they marched.

We were concerned to find that some Bates students in attendance were not only ignorant of the connection and surprised by the direction of the rally, but were also explicitly and actively opposed to this direction. Perhaps BEAM did not make clear the intersection between racial and environmental issues before, so, moving forward, we want to make it explicit: it is impossible to separate environmental justice from racial justice—both movements are, in fact, one and the same.

From a philosophical perspective, racial oppression and environmental destruction stem from a similar principle: colonialism. Colonialism and the imperial urge make false distinctions to justify exploitation, separating alike the civilized person from the savage, as well as civilization itself from "the wild." The same impulse that would drive a "civi-

lized" man to attempt to tame a "savage" man would also encourage civilization itself to attempt to tame nature.

These attempts at taming have nevertheless failed. They have only served to engender the brutal system of racism that has destroyed and is continuing to destroy the lives of black Americans and the brutal system of environmental exploitation that has destroyed and is currently destroying the planet.

When one looks upon another person as subservient and as an object because of their race and exploits them, this is a clear injustice; this is the cause of racist brutality. Similarly, when one looks upon the planet as an object that is totally subservient, waiting to be dominated by the powerful, this is the same form of injustice. Thus, the root cause of racist brutality is also the root cause of environmental degradation.

But the definite connection between environmental injustice and racial inequality is not purely a philosophical matter. Rather, it is a material and concrete problem, manifested in every city in America. It is poor communities, especially of color, that have had to face the brunt of environmental crises. Poor communities are often industrial communities, and because of this, they have faced health issues from pollution.

In Baltimore, a black infant is *nine times* more likely to die before the age of one than a white infant, according to the Johns Hopkins Health Institute. Similarly, African-Americans in Baltimore

have the highest rate of death from cancer than other racial group. The correlation between race and environmental vulnerability is environmental racism: a system that further oppresses racial minorities by polluting and destroying the environment in which they live.

The aforementioned philosophical and material intersection calls for a redefinition of *the environment*. *The environment* is not solely the wild parts of nature: the forests, lakes, and mountains. *The environment* is much more than that; it is, quite simply, everywhere on Earth in which we all live. The streets of Lewiston—especially the dirtiest, most impoverished, and dilapidated—are just as much a part of Maine's environment as the peaks of the Appalachian trail.

Consequently, we all must realize that all social issues are environmental issues. Poverty is an environmental issue. Income inequality is an environmental issue. Racism and police brutality are also environmental issues. After all, if police brutality makes one afraid to leave his or her very house, to move about freely in his or her own neighborhood, is this not itself an issue of the environment? To only attempt to protect an abstract sense of "nature," and to ignore the need to protect one's own neighborhood, is to fail to practice a responsible environmental ethic.

Environmentalism is ultimately and entirely about trying to find a just, peaceful, and sustainable way to live on

and with planet Earth as a whole; therefore, to act as if a gritty street is any less part of the planet than the ocean or the forests is to delude oneself. Environmentalism should be about respecting not only the remote, pristine, adored environment - but also the immediate, industrialized, and overlooked environment.

This new understanding of what constitutes the environment shows how the environment becomes a host for socially engrained structures of oppression and control regarding gender, race, and class and how these associations shape power relations and unequal control and access to resources.

In totality, BEAM would like to assert the intersection between environmental and social issues. At this time, when the majority of Bates students are capitalizing on collective power, the potential force of future political action on campus is substantial. Unification of all campus-recognized, socio-political issues would allow for Bates to create a stronger network of aware and engaged students with the potential to enact serious change.

Lastly, BEAM would like to note that while the intersection of the environmental and the Black Lives Matter movements can appear obscure and intimidating at first, recognizing and acting upon the aforementioned connection could be a catalyzing force for successful change.

Short Term abroad in Hungary and Ethiopia

Nate Stephenson and Gina Ciobanu share their unique experiences

SAM HIGGINS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

First-year Nate Stephenson on the Budapest, Hungary trip:

Right now, we're in Budapest, the capital, but last week, we visited Prague for a few days in the Czech Republic, which was a really cool place. We're in a big hotel here, and we stayed in a smaller bed and breakfast type place in Prague.

We've been learning about the history of Central Europe (mostly having to do with the Cold War era and communism), and we're looking at how that history expresses itself in the local cinema and theater. We've been reading about the history, reading and seeing a lot of plays, and watching a lot of films, but also we've visited [some] historical sites, like the former headquarters of the secret police of the various regimes that used to control Hungary.

It's really been incredible to see how communism, [a concept so foreign to] people our age in the United States, has had a lasting impact on the society here today. Anyone here will tell you "Hungarians don't forget," and that's really become evident to me.

The hardest part for me has been operating relatively independently in a country where I know only the most basic words in the native language, but even that's not so bad. For the most part, people here speak English, so it hasn't been too hard of a time.

We've seen some really incredible performances here, which I've absolutely loved, and one weekend a bunch of us went to the Budapest Zoo [to] feed camels, which was pretty fun too.

The biggest difference [between Budapest and America], I would say, is the way people treat you. It's likely that this is because we're Americans in Europe, but when you go to restaurants, the servers don't act as friendly as they do in the United States, even though (unlike many European countries) Hungary does have a tipping culture. That's not to say that we've only met unfriendly people, but people are definitely much more distant at first than they are in the U.S.

Sophomore Gina Ciobanu on the Addis Ababa, Ethiopia trip:

I am in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (the capital). Fifteen other students [and I] are staying at Mr. Martin's Cozy Place. It's a big [guest] house with a lot of rooms, and a family lives here and looks after the house, but it's built to accommodate thirty people.

Our group is split between two sites, the Horn of Africa and the Somali Youth Literacy Center. These are two Somali schools in Ethiopia, and we are working as English teachers and teacher aides in classrooms. Most of the

students we are working with want to move to a Western country, so they are intent on learning English. We are all working with different levels of English proficiency and different ages, but most of us are teaching basic grammar and common vocabulary words. Yesterday we taught a group of students the song "head-shoulders-knees-and-toes." Another day we taught informal phrases like "it's raining cats and dogs" and "jump on the bandwagon." The students are so excited to learn and have been very receptive of [us], appreciating our American accents.

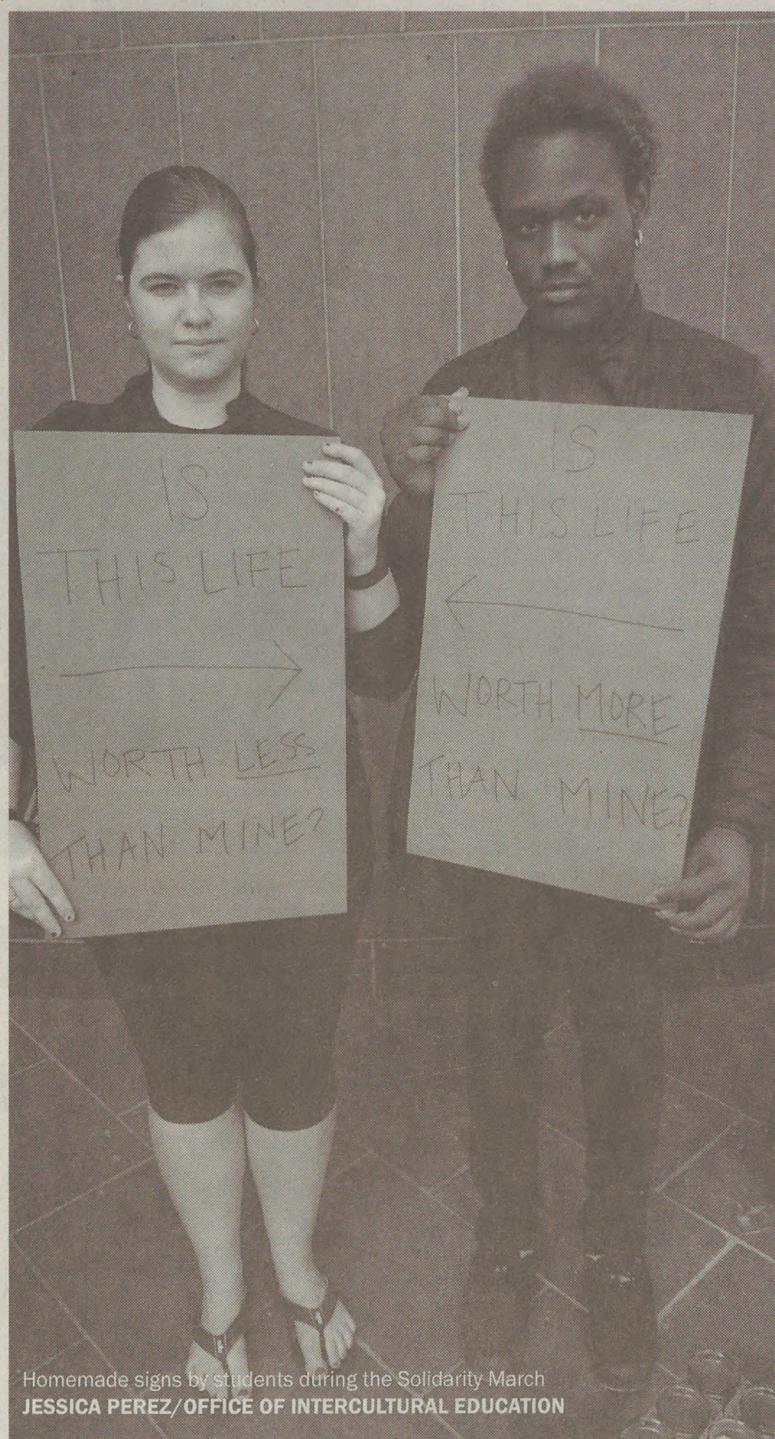
My biggest take-away of this trip so far is that I am so incredibly blessed in the U.S. Every day we pass by countless homeless people and young children begging for money. It breaks my heart to see so many people struggling. There are also so many comforts that we are used to that aren't a norm here. The power and wifi will often go out for a couple of hours, or the water will get shut off for a night, and people don't think twice about it. Another big take-away I have is how excited the Somali students have been to learn and how thankful they are for everything they have.

The hardest part of the trip has been standing out in Ethiopia. For the first time in my life, I am a part of the minority group, and people take notice of that. Wherever we go, people will look at us or at times call out to us, saying things like "America" or "USA." It is challenging being in a city environment and being guarded about where your money and phone are. It is different than the Bates environment, but I suppose similar to a city environment anywhere else.

The most fun thing we have done has been hiking Mount Entoto as a group. There is an absolutely incredible view of Addis and the country at the top, and there is a marketplace that sells hand crafted scarves, baskets and other handmade goods.

The culture and dress is much more conservative, with Muslim women completely covered up wearing hijabs, floor length skirts, and with arms covered. Even those who aren't Muslim [dress] very conservatively. I have also noticed that women are viewed as second-class citizens in some instances. We walked into a restaurant that was segregated with the men in the common room and women in small back rooms.

Also, there is not much money in the schools, and many schools are getting by with the bare minimum. All they have are desks and one whiteboard at the front of the room.



SOLIDARITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and along the streets bordering campus. They ended in front of Commons with a vigil.

The vigil served to remind the community of the people who have died and continue to suffer due to racial injustice.

"It's not just Freddie Gray who passed away. People are suffering as they are living as well," Chappell said. The participants stood outside Commons with hand-made signs while holding candles. The signs—made individually by each participant—sport quotes, sayings, and original ideas. After the vigil ended, the signs were left at the entrance of Commons to remind students of the injustices against minorities in America. The goal was to disrupt people from their normal routine and make them think, if only for a second.

In the weeks following Freddie Gray's death, the initially peaceful protests became increasingly violent in the City of Baltimore. Small amounts of property destruction, mostly aimed at police equipment, occurred near downtown on April 25th, and the violence escalated on April 27th when stores were looted and set on fire in West Baltimore.

Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan declared a state of emergency in the city and called in the National Guard. Earlier in the day on May 1, charges were filed against the six officers involved in Gray's death. The officer driving the van, Caesar Goodson, was charged with second-degree depraved-heart murder. The other five officers were charged with various crimes, among them manslaughter and illegal arrest.

Preview: *Pirates of Penzance* is full of pizzaz

HALLEY POSNER
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

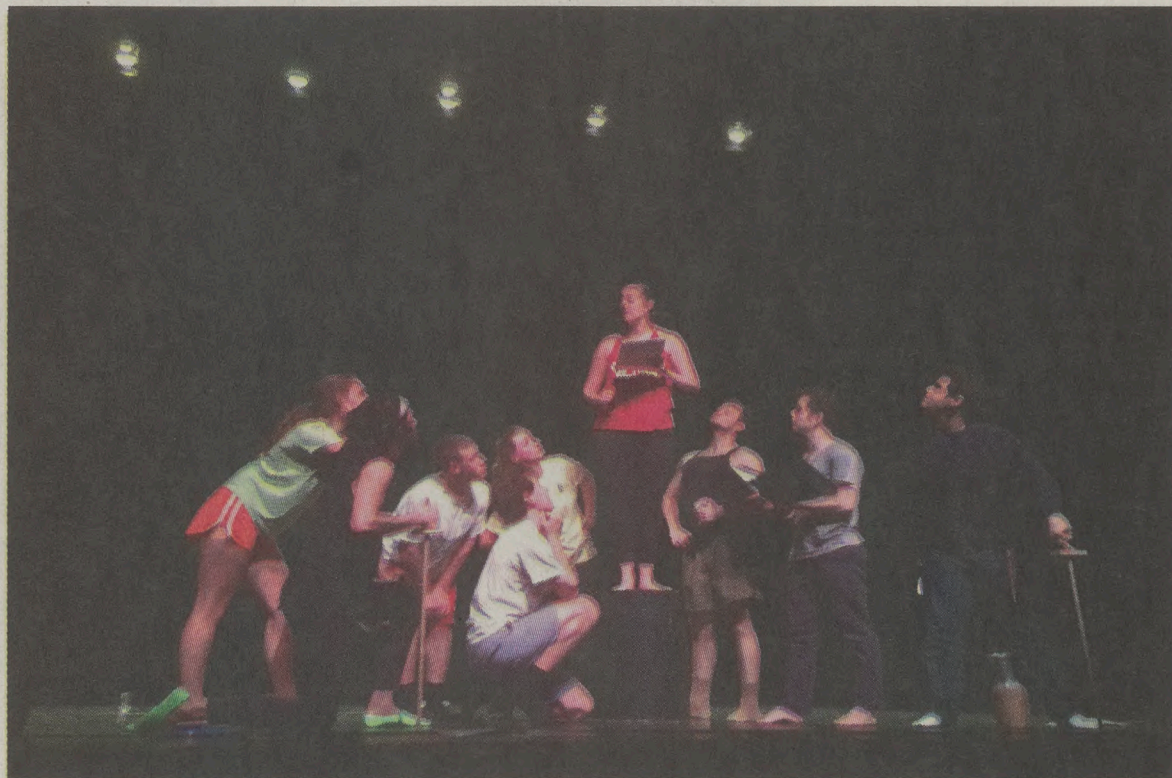
For the Robinson Players, Short Term means putting on the musical for the annual Stages for All Ages production, where they perform for students from Lewiston elementary schools. This year, the musical *Pirates of Penzance* is directed by seniors Max Pendergast and Shana Wallace, and with humorous characters, catchy music, and engaging choreography, this performance is sure to be a hit.

The audience meets the musical's protagonist, Frederick, who also happens to be a pirate, on his twenty-first birthday when he thinks he has finished his apprenticeship to the pirates. The adventure begins when Frederick is told that he is not quite free yet, as his birthday falls on the leap-year date of February 29th and the pirates classify him as a boy of five years old. The plot continues to unfold through complications that arise from forbidden love and, of course, police and pirate clashes.

The production consists of twenty-two cast members and a nine-person production crew under the direction of Pendergast and Wallace. Pendergast remarks that she "recalls as a freshman how inclusive [Stages for All Ages] was to underclassmen and people from all across Bates."

One of the best aspects about this program is that younger Bates students use this time during Short Term as a gateway into theater at Bates.

Furthermore, since the cast is



Cast members of *Pirates of Penzance* pose onstage as they prepare to visit Lewiston elementary schools

TAYLOR BLACKBURN/THE BATES STUDENT

performing the musical for four elementary schools in the Lewiston school district, Pendergast remarked, "The musical is a great way to expose kids to art and to connect Bates with the local community." Instead of creating an Ivory Tower-like experience for Bates students, the Robinson Players exemplify how our community reaches out to the public in order to fully experience new environments while also educating others.

Stage Manager sophomore Sara

Hoye comments on the precision that goes on backstage in order to complement the onstage action. She noted, "The entire job is about timing everything so perfectly that nobody notices the job." In any production, the people whom the audience does not see are pivotal in making a show run smoothly.

And what would a piece of musical theater be without a talented musical director? Fortunately, sophomore Madeline McLean manages to seamlessly teach the musical

numbers to the cast while having them sound like they have been practicing for months rather than weeks. McLean said that she "chose this year to be musical director because [she has] never really been on that side of a musical." One of the best aspects of a production during Short Term is that it allows for people to switch up their normally stagnant roles and try something new.

With singing there comes dancing, and senior Tomisha Edwards is choreographing the production

along with her assistant choreographer, first-year Riley Hopkins. Normally, first-years are the proverbial low-man on the totem pole, but this stereotype is not true for *Pirates*. Instead, Hopkins says, "As a senior, Tomisha has taken me under her wing and is being an extremely thorough teacher." The seniors want to impart as much wisdom on their younger counterparts so that the Robinson Players' work remains exceptional.

The show would not be complete (nor as exciting to watch) without some amazing actors to bring the characters to life. Senior Nick Auer, who plays the swashbuckling pirate Frederick, says, "Not only do we want the show to be fun for Bates students to preform and put together, but it is also a show that is specifically for elementary school students." *Pirates of Penzance* is an entertaining, wholesomely funny script, but the actors' job is to ensure the humor is evident throughout the show.

"Theater is all about putting yourself out there and having a great time, which can all be done through acting," first-year Sarah Curtis, who plays one of the many maidens, said. From the rehearsals, it is clear that the cast and crew want to share their love of the arts with the audience, which in turn makes for a more dynamic musical.

Pirates of Penzance will be performed for the Lewiston elementary schools from May 21st to May 23rd, but there will also be an enhanced version of the show for the Bates community on May 23rd.

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* to be performed on the Puddle



Shakespeare by the Puddle rehearses for their upcoming performance

TAYLOR BLACKBURN/THE BATES STUDENT

REBECCA SNOW
STAFF WRITER

In just two weeks, members of the Robinson Players will be performing Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the Keigwin Amphitheater, continuing the annual tradition of "Shakespeare on the Puddle." The cast, directed by sophomore Sam James, includes first-year Hope French, sophomore Michaela Britt, seniors John Goodman and Ciaran Walsh, and several others.

As students, we have all read and perhaps performed Shakespeare's classics such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*, but this will be different. As opposed to a typical theater setting indoors, the performance in the amphitheater allows for a unique experience. Actor Ciaran Walsh says that the performance is hopefully supposed to leave the audience with a "new and rejuvenated love for Shakespeare." This stylistic choice is, according to Walsh "a great nod to the way Shakespeare's plays were originally performed." The relaxed atmosphere of the outdoor setting will surely attract students, but it also is a beautiful way to memorialize the greatest writer of all time.

For those who need to refresh their Shakespeare knowledge, and for those who are more familiar with *She's the Man* than with the original play, *Twelfth Night* tells the story of a young woman named Viola, whose ship was destroyed during a storm off the coast of Illyria and who consequently loses her twin brother, Sebastian. In an attempt to protect herself, Viola disguises herself as a boy and calls herself Cesario. She then becomes a servant for the Duke of Illyria, Orsino, who is madly in love with a woman named Olivia. Viola acts as Orsino's wing-woman (or, in this case, man) as she delivers Orsino's love letters to Olivia.

As you can imagine, this play is full of adventure. Walsh plays Sebastian, Viola's seemingly "lost" twin brother; but in a surprising turn of events, Sebastian turns out to be alive. Walsh describes his character as someone who is "often left trying to make sense of miscommunications that have been thrust upon him. As a result he deals with a wide range of situations, making him a very fun character to play."

This will undoubtedly be a night to remember as we watch the various trials and tribulations of the characters. Walsh urges us to "Come out and enjoy some Shakespeare!"

What's better than hanging by the puddle during Short Term with some extra entertainment?

Twelfth Night will be showing on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday May 24; both performances will be at 2:00 P.M.

Alabama Shakes: Sound and Color

JOHN RICATTO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Alabama Shakes exploded in 2013 with their debut album *Boys and Girls*, employing a sound heavily influenced by southern rock groups such as Clarence Clearwater Revival and the Allman Brothers Band.

Gritty and hard rocking, the band's music stood in stark contrast with the Mumford-and-Sons-style folk revivalism that was beginning to dominate alternative music. Led by singer Brittney Murphey's rough, soulful singing, the band received three Grammy nominations that year, including one for Best New Artist.

With such a successful formula, it would have been very easy for the group to make their second album in a similar vein as their first, and keep their sound within the confines of southern rock. However, instead of taking this easy route, Alabama Shakes have decided to move out of the shadow of their influences and broaden their musical palate.

Their second album, *Sound and Color*, blends elements of funk, soul, and heavy blues into an exhilarating psychedelic atmosphere. Through curiosity and experimentation, the band went from being a group of masterful southern rock imitators to one of expansive creativity. From wide and varied influences, Alabama Shakes created a sound indebted to

the past, yet thoroughly modern.

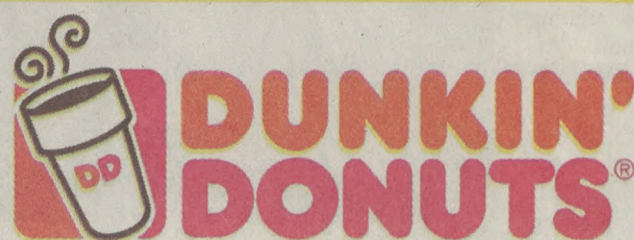
One prime example of this ability to fuse together disparate musical elements is the album's second track "Don't Wanna Fight." The song's verses have a scrappy, down-home groove reminiscent of Dr. John's New Orleans R&B. However, the song's style changes seamlessly during the chorus, with Brittney Murphey employing a sweet falsetto over the songs main refrain. Backed by funky, disco-influenced guitar, the music has sound not far off from that of Michael Jackson and Prince.

The song "Future People" pushes the sound of 60s soul to its limits with buzzing synthesizers and hypnotic melodies. "Gimme All Your Love" moves constantly between slow balladry and all out distorted psychedelic instrumentation. The band shows immense prowess in their ability to navigate different musical terrain so seamlessly.

While many of the album's songs are more experimental, many of its best moments are its most simple and traditional. Tracks such as "This Feeling" and "Miss You" stay squarely in the tradition of singers such as Sam Cooke and Otis Redding. Singer Brittney Murphey, like these greats, uses her voice effectively to evoke weariness and heartbreak, singing with a timeless emotional resonance. The stripped back and minimal production of these tracks

See ALABAMA, PAGE 6

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6 Arts & Leisure

The Alumni Dance Show: An ode to Marcy Plavin

RILEY HOPKINS
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Hours of rehearsal, tears of happiness, and reminiscent rendezvous were rampant at the Bates Alumni Dance Reunion on the weekend of May 1st through 3rd.

This event marked the 46th anniversary of the Bates Dance Department by the iconic Marcy Plavin. Plavin served as the dance director at Bates until her retirement in 2003 when Carol Dilley, the current director, took over.

The reunion (occurring only every five years) not only served as a reconnection for dance alumni, but it was also comprised of dance pieces and other special events honoring Plavin's remarkable achievements at Bates and the lives she changed along the way. All of the returning alumni agree that Plavin holds a permanent place in their hearts as she passionately instilled lifelong lessons and friendships in and out of the dance studios.

"I really can't put into words what Marcy Plavin has meant to me and to Bates Dance," Sarah-belle Marsh '05 said. "I can quote my own mother though. In all my major life decisions she has asked, 'Well, what does Marcy think? Life is easier when you just do what Marcy says,' and like Marcy, my mother is never wrong."

The weekend began with rehearsals for a piece featuring current Bates students as well as alumnae Marsh and Laura Medina '02, choreographed by Lynda Plavin, Marcy's daughter.

Medina moved to New York City right after graduating, where she took dance classes before getting her masters degree in religious studies and gender from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She now lives in South Portland, Maine and owns her own Roling practice and teaches yoga. In 2013, she married a fellow Batesie, also a member of the class of 2005.

Prior to the alumni reunion, Medina was in contact with Dilley about bringing a dance piece she made as a senior and creating cast of half current and half graduated Batesies.

"We thought it would be nice to have a piece showing a continuing thread of new and old," Medina said. "However, that particular piece is a beast and there was no way to get it together in time." However, being in Plavin's piece with current students was a perfect alternative.

After working with the current Bates students, she said, "I LOVED dancing and performing with the

current students. Walking back into the studio felt like nothing had changed, that space is home to me, and all the faces in there are my dearest friends, whether I have met them or not. The current students are an amazing bunch of young dancers and I feel so privileged to have been able to get to dance with them."

Sam Thomas '15 was also part of the cast for this particular piece.

"I was really interested in this show because I knew that so many past Bates dancers would be coming back to campus to take part in the same program that has welcomed me at Bates," she claimed. "I knew that there would be so many different types of Batesies in one space that had something in common and that my turn to join the outside world as one of them is just around the corner."

Reconnecting with fellow Bates alums for this heart-tugging event always creates a warm environment in the studios and on the stage that spreads into the entire Bates community.

"Reuniting with my college dancers is always the highlight of my year," Medina said. "This is the second reunion I have been to and they are truly heart-filling. It never ceases to amaze me how we can come back together like no time has passed. We create dances like we have always done. We dance like we have always done. And we hug, a lot. Creating art with someone builds a bond that is unlike any other friendship, and being able to step back into the creative process is a wonderful gift that only Bates College can give."

Although Thomas is not yet an alumna, she still had much to say about reunion.

"The Alumni Reunion this year confirmed everything that I knew about dancing at Bates: it is the most wonderful community and shared space to be a part of," she exclaimed. "When taking a class with Dante Brown this semester, I learned one of the most important lessons about the dance community I had become a part of. He told us that the space we had entered was to be a positive one, where we encourage our fellow artists and cheer them on in energy, spirit, and movement; in that one moment Dante had inspired me to be the best version of myself and to smile while doing it. This idea of positivity and support stuck with me as I realized the Bates dance community was all of that. I was walking in the footsteps of so many dancers before me who came back for reunion to relish in the same moments that I have found so special here."

Mumford and Sons, minus the banjo



Mumford and Sons embrace an arena rock vibe TAYLOR BLACKBURN/THE BATES STUDENT

MATTHEW WINTER
STAFF WRITER

It's all the rage these days for musicians to change genres and make a big deal out of it. First, you have Taylor Swift making her own not-so-huge change from country to pop, and now you have Mumford and Sons making their surprisingly not-so-huge change from banjo-filled folk to arena-sized rock.

Ever since Mumford and Sons declared they were getting rid of the banjo for their third album there has been much hoopla surrounding the change. At first it does sound odd that *Wilder Minds* would be banjo-free, given how successful the banjo made the band.

Their first album, *Sigh No More*, went on to sell three million copies; their second, *Babel*, won Album of the Year at the Grammys. Granted, *Babel* was basically *Sigh No More: The Sequel*, but that did not stop people from buying the album and creating stars out of Mumford and Sons. Yet instead of making a trilogy, the band decided to go in a new direction with *Wilder Minds*, which resulted in varying opinions.

The banjo sounds from the first two albums were very distinct when the albums came out, immediately setting Mumford and Sons apart from the pack. Soon after, other bands began to see the success of Mumford and Sons and tried to replicate their sounds in order to further their own personal musical

victories. Thus, Mumford and Sons became the leader of a folk revival, which spread from bands like Of Monsters and Men to dance musicians such as Avicii. So Mumford and Sons abandoned the sound that made them famous for what they thought would be fresh, new music.

Though this is not to say that the album *Wilder Minds* is bad, it just does not have the same novelty feeling as the first two albums. However, Marcus Mumford's voice still has the same mixture of grit heart and the instrumentation is phenomenal as always. Even the structure of the songs is similar to previous albums.

The great thing about Mumford and Sons' songs is how they build over the course of three or four minutes from Mumford singing in a soft voice with a few backing instruments to hearing him sing his heart out with the full band at its loudest. "Believe" begins as a quiet and tranquil track about uncertainty in relationships then builds to a larger-than-life Coldplay-esque finale. "Thompson Square Park" uses an energetic guitar solo to end the song on a high note (figuratively, not literally).

Interestingly enough, the content of the songs also changed from the previous two albums. While old songs such as "I Will Wait" showed the hopeful nature of relationships, the songs on *Wilder Mind* show the other side of relationships: heartbreak.

"Wilder Mind" describes the ending of a relationship that was

once thought to last forever while "Just Smoke" follows the point of view of two people as they prepare to break up with each other. "Broad Shouldered Beasts" is a little more hopeful as a couple senses a potential breakup but still keeps the optimism of survival. The closing song, "Hot Gates," is influenced by the entrance to Hades and the battle between Sparta and Persia that took place there, which Mumford uses as he sings to a suicidal friend of his.

Aside from the dark nature of most of the songs, there is also the odd setting of New York City in most of them. Many tracks throughout the album refer to specific locations in the city, most blatantly "Thompson Square Park."

The songs provide an interesting insight into relationships, including both the hope and resignation one has. The banjos are missed in *Wilder Mind*, but luckily the album still provides an enjoyable listen.

ALABAMA

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allow for Murphey's astounding vocal talented to be on full display.

Lyricaly, the album draws from Brittney Murphey's own personal troubles. The lyrics often deal with issues surrounding romantic relationships and are often vividly detailed. "Miss You" deals with the loss of a dearly held romantic partner, with Murphey singing about how she will miss her departing lover's "Mickey Mouse tattoo" and after he "leaves in his Honda Accord."

"Don't Wanna Fight" explores the emotional exhaustion of arguing with someone you care about. "Attacking, defending," Murphey sings on the track "until there is nothing worth winning." Such themes of love and loss are typical of the kind of blues and soul music that Alabama Shakes creates. However, the authenticity and raw emotion in Murphey's delivery make it seem as though these struggles are being explored through music for the first time.

In the midst of dark and emotional subject matter are moments of loose and spontaneous fun. The track "The Greatest," one of the album's stand-outs, is an uncut garage rock track. With distorted punk



Alabama Shakes continues their eclectic sound on their second album, *Sound and Color* TAYLOR BLACKBURN/THE BATES STUDENT

rock guitars, and long impromptu jams, the song has the energy of a live performance. The song, which feels as though it was recorded in one take, is an enjoyable break from the album's more serious moments.

Alabama Shakes has managed to draw upon at the music of the

20th century while still creating something strikingly original. At a time when bands seem content to simply imitate their influences instead of pushing their music forward, the music of Alabama Shakes is remarkably refreshing. With elements of southern rock, blues, soul,

psychedelic rock, and even elements of electronic music seemingly coalesced into catchy and intriguing songs, "Sound and Color" is a must-listen.

While by no means a musical game changer or an instant classic, the album presents Alabama Shakes

as a musical force to be recognized. Hopefully it serves as an inspiration to other modern groups inspired by the past, and encourages them to be more daring and courageous in their musical choices.



Sophomore Ryan McCarthy slides safely into home during Bates' game against Amherst in the NESCAC tournament
KIM LLOYD/BATES COLLEGE

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

home runs to pace the offense.

"We always talk about one hit at a time and passing the torch on to the next guy, and it was awesome to see how the hits became contagious for the whole team as each guy stepped in and did his job to put a crooked number up on the board," said Jackson, who ignited the rally with a leadoff double.

Later that afternoon, Bates matched up with Amherst, who had lost to Wesleyan in Game 2 of the Saturday tripleheader. Amherst held on for a 6-5 victory despite another homer from Berry, eliminating Bates from the tournament and ending their season.

The Bobcats finished 17-20 overall and secured third place in the NESCAC tournament. This success is a reflection of the turnaround Coach Mike Leonard has achieved with the program.

"Ever since [Coach Leonard]

came to Bates, he has given 110% into everything he does to turn our baseball program into the best that it can be, and I believe he has been very successful," Jackson said. "In five years being here, he has already made Bates baseball history by leading our team to its first two NESCAC Championship tournament appearances in back-to-back years."

Bates has a solid core of pitching returning for next season, although the team will have to replace Pajka, Berry, and a bevy of other seniors from the lineup.

CREW

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comfortably ahead of Boston College in second place (6:17.008). They qualified for the grand final by defeating NESCAC rivals Trinity (who crossed the finish line at 6:12.384) in the first heat, posting an impressive time of 6:10.564.

Stakes were even higher for Sunday's ECAC Championships in Worcester, Massachusetts. At ECACs, the varsity eight grand final also counts for the NESCAC Championship, as the highest finishing NESCAC team takes the title. Automatic qualification for NAAs is also on the line.

Despite being beaten by Michigan and Hobart, the men's varsity eight took home the bronze with

a 6:28.404 time in the grand final. Crucially, fellow NESCAC competitors Williams and Wesleyan came behind the Bobcats, in fourth and sixth respectively. Bates' NESCAC championship snapped Williams' streak of six consecutive conference titles, and is the first NESCAC championship for any Bates men's team in three years. The first varsity eight boat was comprised of freshmen Rod Pratt and Daniel Sparks, sophomores Erik Divan and William Lehrer, juniors Welles Mathison, James Naso, and Marit Wetstein (cox), and seniors Matthew Silverman and Nicholas Flynn.

On the women's side, the ceaseless dominance continued. As they had done a week earlier, the first, second, and third varsity eight teams triumphed, winning both the ECAC and NESCAC titles.

This is the second straight year that the top three Bates women's boats have accomplished this incredible feat, meaning that the Bobcats have again earned the right to travel to the NCAA championships. The first varsity eight boat will include sophomores Kate Traquina (cox) and Elise Emil, juniors Emma Taylor, Emilie Muller, and Alison Simmons, and seniors Rebecca O'Neill, Mallory Ward, Jenna Armstrong, and Eliza Barkan.

Bates head coach Peter Steenstra was named ECAC Coach of the Year in both women's and men's rowing, a tremendous honor that highlights just how much Bates crew has achieved so far. They'll be searching for even more in Sacramento on the national stage.

Bates sports: A year in review

The past year has been one of the best in the history of Bates athletics

WILL CLEAVES
STAFF WRITER

From the waters of the Androscoggin to the turf of Garcelon, the slopes of Sunday River and the baseball diamond at Leahey Field, it's safe to say that it was a great year to be a Bobcat. Bates had one of the most successful years for athletics in school history. The 'Cats remained at the forefront of competition through all three seasons, claiming national championship titles, dethroning powerhouses, and raising standards for athletic achievement. All the while, the Bobcat faithful never lacked a team to cheer for or a big game to attend.

The fall proved an exciting season on Garcelon for the football team. Matt Cannone, the senior quarterback for Bates, reflected on a fall campaign that brought another CBB football title to Lewiston, as the team finished at a strong 4-4.

"We developed toughness on the field that was instrumental in preparing for each and every game," Cannone said.

It certainly showed, and a dynamic Bates offense hung at least 30 points on opponents on three separate occasions. Their season was highlighted by their victories over both Colby and Bowdoin, defeating the Mules in overtime and clinching the CBB title in Brunswick in a defensive battle.

Both the soccer teams struggled this year, winning five games combined in the conference between the men's and women's programs. But there appears hope for the coming years, as the women won the most games in a season since 2006 (seven), and the men will be glad to have sophomore phenom and All-Conference selection Peabo Knoth back in the fall next year. Peabo was the first Bates sophomore to earn All-NESCAC honors since 2008.

The men's cross country team

enjoyed success this fall, as has been the tradition. The men placed eighth at the NCCAA regionals, making this their fifth year in a row finishing eighth or better. The women's team also performed well at regionals, finishing tenth, which stands as the third year in a row they have recorded a top ten finish.

As the campus grew colder with the coming winter, the men's basketball team was just starting to heat up. The Bobcats made old Alumni Gym a dreaded place for opponents, as Bates remained undefeated at home for 12 straight games until hosting in the NESCAC playoffs against a tough Wesleyan team. Not only did Bates finish with an impressive 19-5 regular season record, but their play was also deemed worthy of a first ever NCAA tournament bid. But this team wouldn't settle for a bid, they were after more. Bates won their first two games, making a run that was nothing short of epic to the Sweet Sixteen.

Senior captain Cam Kaubris relayed the basketball team's mantra, calling this season, "the year of the bull." Kaubris explained that the team's focus this year was on "ownership, responsibility, focus, and loyalty. As seniors, we wanted to create a culture that highlighted these characteristics."

It appears this mantra was exactly what the team needed. When you combine the ability of senior All-Conference point guard Graham Safford with sophomore twins Marcus and Malcolm Delpheche down in the post, junior Mike Boornazian's clutch fourth quarter play, and senior Bill Selmon's ability to wreak havoc on defense, you're left with a team that has ample talent. They just had to show the horns.

While the basketball team was capturing the hearts of Batesies, junior squash player Ahmed Abdel Khalek was putting together perhaps the greatest season by a Bates athlete ever. He captured the Col-

lege Squash Association National Championship, overcoming a two-set deficit in the final and entering the pantheon of Bates athletic legends. He was undefeated this year, with a staggering record of 25-0, extending his winning streak to 42 matches dating back to his freshman year. Khalek found himself in *Sports Illustrated* in a section called "Faces in the Crowd," the first Bobcat featured since track and field star David Pless in 2013.

Reflecting on the season, Khalek remarked, "If you just remember how it feels after you lose, then you'll do everything you can to get out as a winner." Just because he always wins doesn't mean Khalek forgets the constant possibility of defeat.

As if the winter season didn't have enough fireworks, the spring teams brought more flare to an already great year. The only thing that could possibly rival men's basketball's Sweet Sixteen appearance would be another NCAA tournament run. After a tough start to the season, the men's lacrosse team found themselves among a select group, receiving their first ever NCAA bid and getting the opportunity to host the opener on a hot night underneath the lights for nearly 1,400 fans. Bates rolled to victory over Keene State, the peak of a season in which the Bobcats won six straight NESCAC contests, dethroning number one nationally ranked, defending national champions Tufts in Medford and toppling Middlebury, who had never before lost to Bates.

"This season was almost everything we had hoped for," senior Conor Henrie said. "Hopefully the bar has been raised for future teams."

The baseball team made the NESCAC playoffs in consecutive years for the first time in program history. Needing a sweep over Trinity to grab the last spot, the Bobcats came through in the clutch. Bates

World Wrestling Exploitation

MACKLIN STERN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is tough business being a fan of the WWE, or World Wrestling Entertainment. Most people see professional wrestling as a "fake sport" that displays hyper-masculinity and ultra-sexualized female figures. It promotes violence as a way to settle disputes—a detrimental message for young consumers. It is seen as a product that must be enjoyed only by the uneducated, those who do not grasp its backwardness.

This negative perception of the WWE has caused me to become a closeted fan since fifth grade. On several occasions, I've tried to forsake my love for the WWE by mocking its over-the-top, melodramatic ridiculousness. I realized that the harder I resisted it, the more I needed the WWE in my life. Its content was too gripping. The balance of soap-opera-like storylines, acrobatics, technical wrestling, and larger-than-life personalities fills me with a transcendental excitement I simply cannot let go.

Over the years, my obsession with the WWE has evolved. Not only do I continue to tune in to its flagship show, "WWE Raw," every Monday night, but I have also become totally fascinated by the industry. How does one get into the business of professional wrestling? Why has it gained such global popularity and contempt?

Questions relating to worker rights and labor laws have most recently piqued my interest. Fervent criticisms of the company by former WWE wrestlers require us to bring issues like employee mistreatment to the forefront. Does the WWE exploit the entertainers it employs? Examining the wrestlers' status as independent contractors rather than as employees is key to understanding the immense (and unjust) control the WWE is able to maintain over its talent.

WWE Raw is the longest running episodic series in the history of television. It has aired every single Monday night since its inception in January 1993. Like a travelling circus, the WWE moves from city to city each week—and sometimes, even country to country—where its performers (a.k.a. "Superstars") are able to showcase their unique in-ring abilities. Live events, which are televised four times per week, occur daily. The Superstars are expected to work at least 300 days a year, most of which are away from home. For how much they travel over the course of a year, it would make sense if the company provided transportation. Most Superstars, however, must drive themselves to the different arenas across the country and pay for food and gas along the way. Because the company defines its workers as independent contractors rather than employees, the WWE sheds many responsibilities of a typical employer. The WWE is not required to cover their workers' transportation, food, lodging, and training expenses, nor are they forced to provide various forms of insurance (i.e. health care, social security, and unemployment). For all intents and purposes, WWE superstars are self-reliant.

The lack of support WWE offers its performers is astonishing, especially given their physically taxing line of work, but we must remember that independent contractors are technically their own bosses. As such, they must access essential resources themselves. Hollywood actors, professional athletes engaging in individual sports (such as golf, tennis, and boxing), and artists are all examples of independent contractors. They are freelancers who sell their services to anyone that wishes to hire them. Independ-

dent contractors are not confined to specific working hours, wages, or locations, which in theory allows for freedom and mobility.

While it seems as if WWE performers would have a degree of power and agency as self-employers, the WWE has established an employer-worker relationship that places much of the authority in the company's hands. When WWE CEO Vince McMahon purchased World Championship Wrestling in 2001, he monopolized the "sports entertainment" industry. The WWE became the promotion that every aspiring wrestler hoped to reach one day. Thousands of talented individuals strive for an opportunity to be a part of the wrestling juggernaut.

Realizing the expendability of its performers, the WWE has created an extremely competitive environment. Performers work tirelessly, often when they are "off the clock," to get closer to achieving superstardom. Electing to miss work due to illnesses, injury, fatigue, or other prior engagements jeopardizes a worker's standing. His or her spot in a match will be given to the next able person. The cutthroat workplace, where no one's position is protected, incentivizes performers to always show up for work regardless of their physical or mental states.

Furthermore, the WWE has been known to punish its workers. Complaining on Twitter about not getting enough opportunities to wrestle, "botching" moves, (failing to execute moves properly in the ring), or upsetting the company's higher-ups often leads to punishment. The WWE will punish their superstars by having them lose several matches in a row or by removing them from television. Punished workers are restricted from engaging in high profile, high paying matches. The WWE can sabotage a worker's career at any given moment, whether it is truly warranted or not.

Recently, one of the most talented WWE superstars named Dolph Ziggler was punished for booking a stand-up comedy gig because he did not inform the company of his plans. As a result, WWE had Ziggler lose his Intercontinental Championship, a prestigious belt in the WWE. Clearly, the WWE neither supports nor respects the "extracurricular" endeavors of their independently contracted superstars. Instead, the company carefully monitors and controls the actions of its workers, both in the ring and outside of it.

By attempting to control what services are performed, as well as how they are executed, the WWE treats its workers like employees rather than independent contractors. Creative license and the freedom to pursue other professional opportunities, rights that come with being an independent contractor, are denied by the WWE.

Wouldn't it make more sense for the WWE to consider its workers as employees rather than independent contractors? You'd think so. Billionaire CEO Vince McMahon chooses to treat his workers as independent contractors so that he doesn't have to provide them with any employee benefits or compensation. The label "independent contractor" has been put into place as a way for McMahon to exploit his workers. Any form of resistance is unwise since it's always met with punishment. Past unionization attempts have failed, in large part due to workers' fears of opposing WWE management. Superstars are merely spokes on a wheel, and replacement parts are readily available. As ex-WWE star and former Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura stated, "you're a piece of meat" as a WWE worker. Whoever is unhappy with the status quo must either suck it up or find a new job.

fell to Wesleyan and Amherst in the double elimination tournament, but had an impressive win over Tufts.

Throughout the last couple of seasons, the rowing program at Bates has enjoyed consistent success. The spring of 2015 has been no different, as both the men's and the women's teams captured first place at the New England Championships. This podium is a familiar spot for the Bates women, as they stood in the same place a year ago, but the men enjoyed first place in this regatta for the first time in program

history. The women now stand as the top team in Division III and are primed to make another run at the national championship.

Batesies will be sure to keep their eyes on these two teams as they move forward, for it appears that Bates athletics still has some more in store. From the new success stories to the old reliable teams and players, this school has been filled with an energy that has sent shock waves through the NESCAC and the nation. Be proud Bates, the 'Cats showed their claws this year.

Men's Lacrosse

Lacrosse team reaches NCAA Tournament Sweet Sixteen

Bates beats Keene State 16-11 in front of loud home crowd in first NCAA tournament appearance



Senior Tucker White (left) and junior Matt Proto (right) chase a ground ball
JOSHUA KUCKENS/BATES COLLEGE

GERALD NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The men's lacrosse team must have been watching the men's basketball team closely this winter. For the first time ever, the men's lacrosse squad got a bid for the NCAA tournament, and they made the most out of the opportunity. The Bobcats would go on to defeat Keene State 16-11 in a high-intensity first round NCAA tournament matchup.

A roaring crowd came out for Bates' first-ever home playoff game on Garcelon Field. Keene State came out of the gates swinging, taking an early 4-1 lead in the first quarter, with the Owls' Tyler McKelvie scoring three times. However, two goals by sophomore Charlie Fay and one goal by sophomore Kyle Weber cut the deficit, as the score was 6-3 in favor of the Owls after the first.

Bates would answer back with four straight goals in the second

period by senior Jack Strain, sophomores Scott Baber and Andrew Melvin, and junior Jack Allard. The Owls would finally answer to tie the game at 7-7 at the end of the second quarter.

As the back and forth between the teams continued, Keene State started the second half with a 2-0 run to gain a 9-7 lead, but Bates responded to their run with four straight goals to make it 11-9 at the end of the third quarter. Bates then owned the fourth quarter, outscoring the Owls five to two with goals from seniors Conor Henrie and Reed Lewallen along with Allard.

The Bobcats definitely did not let down their fans in their first NCAA bid. They won the ground-ball battle, taking 40 compared to Keene State's 27, and fired 46 shots on goal, 11 more than the Owls.

Bates moved on to face familiar NESCAC rival Tufts in the Sweet Sixteen on Saturday at Bello Field. They were looking for another upset

after defeating Tufts 12-8 on April 7 to end the Jumbos' 24-game winning streak.

Bates began strong, taking a 2-1 lead after the first quarter with goals by Allard and Fay. Melvin had to be taken off the field after a hit left him with a concussion, which proved to be a major blow to the team. But first-year Clarke Jones stepped up in Melvin's place and scored the first goal of the second quarter for Bates. Tufts maintained a high tempo pace and scored six goals in the second quarter, with Zach Richman notching two of those goals. Fay closed the gap on Tufts with a late goal in the second period to cut the deficit to 7-5.

Tufts opened up the second half with a goal to make it 8-5, but Bates replied with back-to-back goals by Weber and freshman Max Breschi. The Jumbos then came out swinging in the fourth, scoring less than two minutes into the quarter and adding four more before Strain scored a consolation goal with a little over four minutes left in the game to make the final score 13-8.

Though the Sweet Sixteen loss was tough for Bates, the team capped off a great and somewhat unexpected campaign this season. Putting up their best season in 28 years and hosting an NCAA tournament game on Garcelon for the first time ever is nothing short of tremendous.

Fay and Allard, both All-NESCAC selections, return next year to lead what should be a solid group.

After an excellent season for Coach Lasagna and his team, Bates men's lacrosse has put the NESCAC and the rest of Division III on notice for next year.

Baseball

Baseball finishes 3rd in NESCAC

The Bobcats ended the season strong, qualifying for the NESCAC tournament for a second consecutive season

JAMO KARSTEN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In the NESCAC, and Maine in particular, it always takes a little more time than usual for the baseball season to get into full swing. For the Bates baseball team, it was no different this year, as they capped an up-and-down season with some thrilling baseball before ultimately falling short of a NESCAC Championship on Saturday.

The excitement began in the final NESCAC series of the year for the Bobcats, who were forced into heroics by the looming threat of elimination from postseason play. The boys of summer needed to sweep their three-game set against the Trinity Bantams in order to secure a spot in the four-team NESCAC tournament. Both Bates and Trinity were 4-5 in conference play entering the series, and both were still competing with Colby and Bowdoin for the second spot in the East division behind Tufts.

The Bobcats took Game 1 by a 6-4 score at Leahey Field, spurred on by a grand slam from senior Nate Pajka in the first inning and a gritty outing from ace Connor Colombo, a junior. The next day, Bates had a clear and simple task before them: sweep the doubleheader and qualify for the NESCAC tournament. The pressure was intense, but the Bobcats stood tall and grinded out a long afternoon of baseball that resulted in two clutch victories to secure their spot in the playoffs, and in thrilling fashion no less. The first game of the day featured another stellar pitching performance from first-year Connor Speed and a clutch walk-off RBI from senior Sam Berry to secure the 3-2 victory. In a seven-inning Game 2, Pajka homered again in the first inning, a two-run bomb that would give senior starter Will Levangie all

the run support he needed. Levangie tossed a complete game shutout, leading the Bobcats to a 3-0 victory, a series sweep, and a birth in the playoffs. The Bobcats issued zero walks and had 17 strikeouts on the afternoon. The recipe for success in baseball at any level never changes, and the Bobcats showed that against Trinity. *Just throw strikes.*

"It just seemed like the odds were against us, but each guy on the team bought into the fact that we could sweep Trinity and prove everyone else wrong," first baseman Rockwell Jackson said. "As a senior, I could not have imagined a better way to play my last home games. The series really showed the toughness of our team and how each and every guy never gave up."

The playoff-clinching sweep presented the Bobcats with a tall task, a first-round matchup in the double-elimination NESCAC tournament with the undefeated Wesleyan Cardinals from the West division. Bates' bats fell silent in the opening game of the tournament Friday, as Wesleyan ace Nick Cooney, who was 7-1 during the regular season, had a solid performance to lead the Cardinals to a 4-2 victory. Bates threatened a few times late in the game, but left the bases loaded in the seventh and eighth innings, and left two runners on in the ninth. Colombo had another solid outing, but he gave up runs in each of the first three innings that put the Bobcats in an early hole they couldn't climb out from.

The following morning, Bates jumped out to an 8-0 lead against division foe Tufts in their first elimination game of the tournament, and held on for an 8-7 victory. Speed turned in another stellar performance on the mound, and Berry and junior Sam Warren each had

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