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The Bates Student

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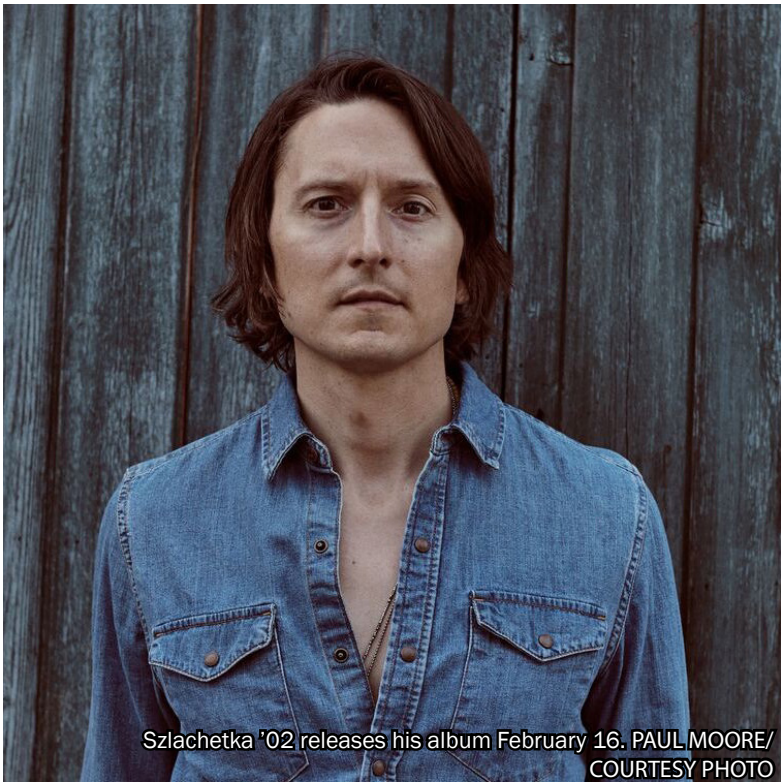
Szlachetka '02 and Posner '18 Discuss Music and Life

HALLEY POSNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
TORY DOBBIN
MANAGING ARTS EDITOR

This week, Editor-in-Chief Halley Posner '18 had the opportunity to interview Matthew Szlachetka '02, known as the musical artist Szlachetka (pronounced SLA-HET-KA), about his upcoming album and journey in the music industry. Szlachetka also spoke with *The Bates Student* about his future plans and outlook on music in today's society. Here is an abridged transcript of that conversation that has been edited for clarity:

The Bates Student (BS): What have you been up to for the past few years?

Szlachetka (S): I've pretty much been on the road nonstop, lots and lots of tour dates. I also relocated to Nashville last March from LA. I was going to Nashville for a lot of meetings, shows, and writing sessions, and I found Nashville was a much better fit. Plus, between the friends and colleagues I was making and meeting there, I felt a really welcoming and warm reception. I'm really happy with the decision and was able to form this really great team around me for the album coming out February 16. So it's been a really good life and career decision.



Szlachetka '02 releases his album February 16. PAUL MOORE/COURTESY PHOTO

BS: Speaking of your new album, what has been your inspiration for it and what has helped you create it?

S: That album to me is really getting back to that whole "road" thing- those were songs that were written from experiences and stories from the road, and between things I observed, friendships that were

made, relationships that were had, other observations that I've taken note of, both from a self-reflective standpoint and a social observation standpoint. I summed it all up into 11 songs. At the end of the day you try to make them cohesive so that it tells a story, and so that it's not a situation where every song is out of

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Inside Sports:

Winter Athletes Brave Frigid Temps



The swimming and diving team feels effects from cold temperatures. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT

VANESSA PAOLELLA
STAFF WRITER

While training over winter break can be arduous at the best of times for Bates athletes, this year was especially harsh due to the bitter cold and treacherous weather that persisted in the latter half of the break. With temperatures consistently dropping into the single digits, often in addition to frigid wind chill and periodic snow, many teams had to adjust their schedules and adapt to the weather in order to train.

Predictably, some teams were affected by the weather more than others. Sports which necessitate outdoor activity, such as alpine skiing, nordic skiing, and the runners of the track team, felt the effect of the cold while training the most. Yet, perhaps surprising to some, indoor sports like basketball, squash, and swimming and diving also had their own problems during this time, from minor inconveniences to uncomfortable training conditions.

As the temperatures fell, many of Bates' athletes piled on the layers to stay warm and protect against

frostbite before heading outside for practice.

While members of the track and field team were not on campus during break, athletes were expected to train on their own. For the runners of the team, this often meant going outside. However, while some runners have the ability to run inside, skiers, with no other option, practiced outside each day, doing their best to stay warm.

"I think that as a team we are all used to fairly cold temperatures, but the -5 to -15 temperatures and the -30 wind chill we had to ski through was hard," says women's alpine ski captain Sierra Ryder '18. "To cope, many of us were wearing many more layers than normal... [and] a few of us put tape on our faces to prevent frostbite while skiing down as well."

Captain Brielle Antonelli '18 also added that many of the skiers took short breaks in the lodge between runs to warm up, even using hair dryers to warm their frozen toes. At one point, the wind and cold were so bad that some of the ski lifts had to be closed.

See WINTER SPORTS, PAGE 4

Dr. Na'ilah Suad Nasir Delivers MLK Keynote Speech



Keynote speech discusses how the classroom can be a site of change. PHYLLIS GRABER JENSEN/BATES COLLEGE

CHRISTINA PERRONE
MANAGING NEWS EDITOR

On Monday, January 15 Bates College invited Dr. Na'ilah Suad Nasir, President of the Spencer Foundation, to give the Bates MLK Day Keynote Address, "The Education Imperative: Dreaming a New Public Education Dream."

In the beginning of her speech, Dr. Nasir discussed this year's theme of "Power, Politics, and Privilege: Resistance to and through Education," stating that, "this theme captures a core conundrum of education that can be a site of social reproduction and a site of resistance. It is a place where power, politics, and privilege play out in and are reified, and is a key site of political struggle."

In organizing her speech, she addressed four pressing challenges for the education system and how they might be handled. Her first pressing challenge was what she called "Disinvestment in Education as a Public Good." In this portion of the talk she stated the ways in which society has shifted its collective opinion on the public education system, from being a public good to being a private good that can be exploited by families to achieve access to resources and wealth.

According to Dr. Nasir, "This shift is not unrelated to the con-

tinuing privatization of public schools, the rise of charter schools, and the massive push for accountability as measured by standardized test scores. Because the accountability movement shifted the lens away from more nuanced and deep measures of learning, to more superficial ones. It also commodified learning by grading schools, creating the context by which the public came to see schools as a resource to be mined for personal gain."

Part of the efficacy of Dr. Nasir's talk was incorporating how Dr. King would have dealt with the current state of our educational system. In her speech, she revived Dr. King's vision of an integrated education system and its central aim of healing a society torn by racism and segregation.

"[The integration movement] was about the kind of society we'd have if black children and white children attended school together," said Dr. Nasir, "The hope was that the proximity would create a society where the next generation didn't ascribe to the racist ideals and beliefs as their parents. The challenge of course, was the way in which integration was enacted, because the first thing that happened after Brown v. Board of Education was enacted...was that all of the black teachers were fired." Not only did

this destabilize the socio-economic mobility of African Americans, but it heavily impeded the quest of truly healing society as a whole.

Another pressing challenge that Dr. Nasir identified in her speech is the resegregation of schools. In her own words, "The resegregation of schools is deeply troubling, not so much because of the symbolic investments in integration, but because segregation gives rise to funding and other resource differentials." She traced this phenomenon of an increasing shift towards resegregation in schools to residential segregation and the policies and practices made to ensure that African Americans were denied resources like the G.I. Bill and F.A.J. loans to buy homes in affluent neighborhoods and school districts.

Dr. Nasir spent the third portion of her speech analyzing the devastating consequences of school discipline and the school-to-prison pipeline. She gave the statistic, "Black students are suspended and expelled at three times the rate of white students. They make up 16 percent of school enrollment but account for 32 percent of suspensions and 34 percent of expulsions. Black students are arrested more and are referred to law enforcement more."

See KEYNOTE, PAGE 4

Inside Forum:

C.T.E. and Cutoff Dates: Inside the NFL Settlement

SARAH MCCARTHY
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Imagine this: your loved one experiences a rapid mental and physical decline, raking up doctors bills and draining family funds, and suffers an untimely death, which allows doctors to make a groundbreaking discovery, but you are forced to deliver pizzas to make ends meet. This is the story of Garrett Webster, the son of former Steelers' center Mike Webster. Mike Webster passed away in 2002 at the age of fifty after playing seventeen years in the National Football League (NFL).

After his death, Webster became the first player to be diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (C.T.E.). While Webster's diagnosis has led to settlements between the NFL and many former players and their families, provisions and cut-off dates built into the settlement agreement have barred the Webster family from receiving compensation.

The official settlement agreement bars any family members of former players who died before January 1, 2006, from filing lawsuits against the league. During the agreement, the NFL pushed strongly for a cutoff date to prevent claims from families of long dead ex-players. Christopher Seeger, a co-lead coun-

sel for the former players, noted that while many players were opposed to a cutoff date, ultimately they needed a settlement to pass in order to aid players with their medical bills and ensure security for the families of deceased players.

The cutoff date does not apply to players who suffered from diseases covered in the settlement such as Parkinson's and ALS. For families like the Websters, this is devastating as their husband/father's diagnosis came posthumously, but his deterioration was taxing both financially and emotionally. Although the settlement itself limits claims from the families of players who died before 2006, the judge presiding over the case left a legal loophole through which these families can have their voices heard. Families can file suits against the League so long as they can prove they have a right to a legal case under their state's statute of limitations.

While, at the end of the day, the NFL is a for-profit business seeking to protect its own assets, there should be some moral obligation to players like Mike Webster who contributed so much to the success of franchises and the league as a whole.

See C.T.E. , PAGE 6

KEYNOTE

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To end her speech, Dr. Nasir talked about the importance of creating a loving environment in the classroom, stating that it is “important because students cannot learn where they are not loved.” Creating a loving atmosphere in the education system leads to a broader message that came across in Dr. Nasir’s speech: cultivating change from a place of hope and vision. She appealed for us to be visionaries, “to think together about what we can create, not simply about what needs

to be dismantled.”

In other words, the key to solving the pressing challenges we face in improving the education system as well as society as a whole is excavating and healing.” As Dr. Nasir said, “From the inner elements of patriarchy, racism, militarism, and white supremacy that we have taken in and we have to find ways to make this research impactful, to reach and influence policy makers and practitioners so that policy and practice are determined in relation to evidence.”

Speakers, Performers, and Protests Policy Sparks Controversy

HALLEY POSNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Monday, December 11, 2017 Nick Dressler, Assistant Director of Campus Life, sent out an email to Bates students informing them of a new policy regarding practices relating to speakers, performers, and protests. This document outlines suggested measures that student clubs and organizations could take when bringing in outside sources to Bates or staging a protest.

The policy was constructed by a Faculty learning community group and had members such as: Carl Steidel, Senior Associate Dean of Students, Gwen Lexow, Title IX Officer, John Baughman, Associate Professor of Politics, Amy Douglass, Psychology Department Chair, and others.

Associate Dean of Faculty, Margaret Imber, explains, “One of the things that Bates didn’t have (and which many of our peer institutions do) is a statement of principles on free speech that introduces the policy statement. The participants in the learning community have been reading recent scholarship on free speech (*Free Speech on Campus, Safe Spaces, Brave Places*). We’ve also held open meetings (salons) where we have workshoped scenarios about campus-free controversies to get the perspectives of a wider range of members of the community. We’re holding such a workshop on MLK day as well.”

Some lines of the policy can come across harshly. For example, the policy states, “The college reserves the right to deny permission to invite speakers or performers whose history or purposes have demonstrated that they would likely constitute a material threat to campus safety or security.”

When asked to explain this in laymen’s terms, Kim Trauceniek, Associate Dean of Students for Campus Life, elaborated that the statement is “not meant to be restrictive, but it’s meant to be in there to say if something rose to the level of where there’s been harm, we want to have a conversation about that and make sure it’s a good fit for the college, and we actually have the resources to support a speaker that could potentially be divisive or cause harm.”

Regarding protests, according to Trauceniek and Dressler, the policy is meant to be suggestive, rather than compulsory. Dressler clarifies that “The language was drafted in the way it was in order to enable gray areas. So ‘ordinarily acceptable,’ for exam-

ple, means that there are places that are ordinarily host to these things. Are there places that aren’t ordinarily host to these things, that people can have these things? Yeah, absolutely. It’s meant to be suggestive in terms of resources and support rather than restrictive.”

For clarification, Trauceniek and Dressler wanted to stress that students are not required to give notice prior to a protest happening.

The extra degrees of clarifications from the administration help shed light on the nature of the policy. However, there was a lack of input from students on the initial draft of the new statement that left some feeling cast aside.

The sophomore assembly in Bates College Student Government (BCSG) says “We feel blindsided by the new policy addressing speakers, performers, and protests on Bates College campus specifically for the absence of student participation in drafting the policy. We also recognize concerns of censorship and hope that the college takes action to address these concerns immediately, as they affect how we feel as students in a supposed collaborative residential community.”

To some, it felt as though the Office of Student Life introduced the policy to the BCSG in a top-down fashion rather than by using an integrated approach. But not everyone feels the same way as the sophomore class representatives.

Andrea Russo ’19 is a member of the junior class assembly of BCSG and notes that “a handful of students are disgruntled by the new policy, but the purpose of its implementation is to further embrace Bates’ culture of respect for others with varying opinions. Bates is offering a platform for individuals who are invited to speak and believes that they have the right to voice their full opinion. Other clauses that some students are disgruntled about are ‘recommended’ and not required...”

There are a plethora of understandings and feelings surrounding the new policy. Maybe it is due to the nature in which the policy was initially released, or maybe it is due to the heightened emotions in a time where the First Amendment continuously comes under fire.

Imber states, “I... hope that we can come up with an understanding of ourselves of a community engaged in the exchange and debate of ideas. Participation in that community requires both that individual members can speak freely, and that our speech acknowledges the dignity of our peers.”

Foreign Language Spotlight: Lera Fedorova



Russian TA, Lera Fedorova discusses her life in America. JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT

MADLINE POLKINGHORN
STAFF WRITER

The foreign language teaching assistants (TAs) at Bates offer students the tremendous opportunity to engage with members of the cultures they seek to explore in higher education. The TAs are able to ease our foreign language experience of its daunting “foreignness” by providing Bates students with a chance to interact with a language and its cultural implications beyond verb conjugations and imperfect tenses. This week, I spoke with my own foreign language TA, Lera Fedorova, from the Russian Department for an interview. Lera hails from the small Russian city of Oryol, not far from the nation’s capital, Moscow. She is perhaps somewhat reserved and unassuming at first, but boasts a massive linguistic knowledge of Russian, German, and English and currently is in the process of learning French at Bates.

Madeline Polkinghorn (MP): Hi Lera! What made you interested in teaching Russian in America, and at Bates in particular?

Lera Fedorova (LF): Well, I studied teaching English [at university], so I was just interested in foreign language, and then I got the op-

portunity to teach at Bates, because we have some kind of cooperation with my university in Russia and Bates. TAs from my university have been coming to Bates for the last twenty years... I’ve just always been interested in languages.

MP: How long have you been teaching at Bates?

LF: It’s my second year in America and at Bates!

MP: How has your experience both in America and at Bates been so far?

LF: So far it’s been really great - I’ve been enjoying my time here at Bates and in the U.S. I’ve traveled a bit around the U.S., mostly the main cities, like New York, Washington D.C., Miami, and Detroit.

MP: What was your favorite place you visited in America?

LF: I really loved New York. I liked Brighton Beach [a neighborhood in Brooklyn known for its large population of Russian immigrants and culture]. I both hated it and loved it... I loved the beach, but it was very depressing. It feels like you’re going back to Soviet Union times. What my city used to look like fifteen years ago is what Brighton Beach looks like now.

MP: Are there any substantial differences between the American and Russian education system that

you’ve noticed?

LF: It’s totally different. In Russia, when you go to university... you’re assigned the subjects you have to take. So you have to choose your major and apply to this position, and then you study according to this schedule that the university makes for you. The teaching style is also different. Here, it’s more inclusive and more personal. In Russia, you have to work hard to make a good impression.

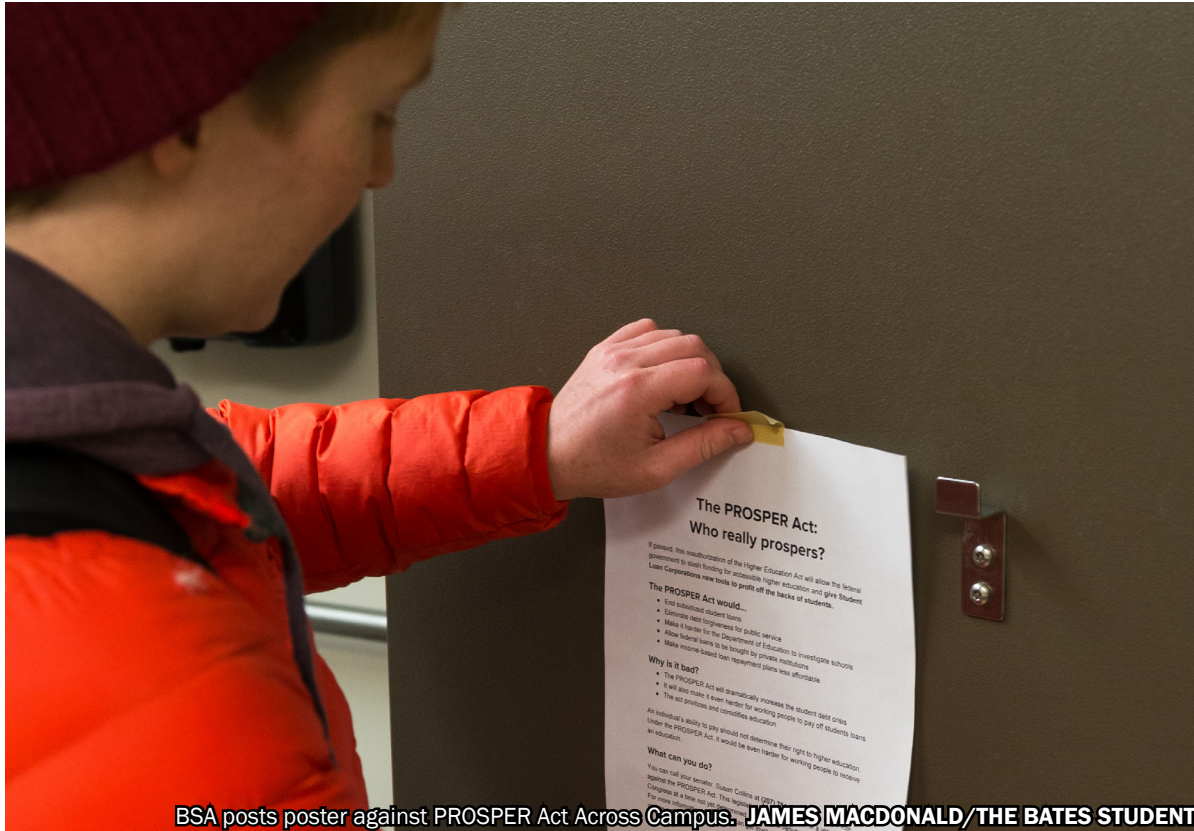
MP: What’s been your favorite part of working at Bates?

LF: I’ve been really impressed with all the facilities provided for teaching and all the equipment that you have. In every room, there are computers, there are screens, projectors. It’s much easier. At my university, there are only two rooms in the English department with a projector and you have to bring your own laptop when you want to use it.

MP: When you finish your education in Russia, would you ever consider moving back to America?

LF: Only if there’s a good job for me, because I am not one of those people who wanted to blindly move to America. I see no sense in just coming here to live in bad conditions, in bad work, just to survive. But if there is a good opportunity for me, why not?

BSA Strikes Against PROSPER Act



BSA posts poster against PROSPER Act Across Campus. JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT

MORGAN BAXTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform, or PROSPER Act, was introduced into the House of Representatives on December 1, 2017. It effectively revises and reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965, most recently reauthorized in 2008. Introduced by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC 5th District), the bill makes a variety of changes to the way the federal government will support students of higher education. The Higher Education Act has been amended and reauthorized several times in the past, most famously in 1972 when Title IX was passed into law.

The bill states in its description that it was written to “support students in completing an affordable postsecondary education that will prepare them to enter the workforce with the skills they need for lifelong success.” However, media outlets and Bates students have expressed their doubts about several of the bill’s pro-

visions. For example, it consolidates Stafford and PLUS loans into a new Federal ONE loan. Furthermore, all Federal ONE loans are unsubsidized by the government. The bill also eliminates all federal grant programs, except for the Pell Grant. It also allows the privatization of management of this debt, something that has some students worried.

Furthermore, the bill would eliminate a program called Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), where student loans can be forgiven through working full time for a qualifying public service employer. Loans taken out until 2019 would be eligible to participate in this program, but PSLF will be eliminated alongside the Stafford and PLUS loans in that same year. Where this bill would not affect the status of loans for any student currently in college, class years soon will no longer be eligible for subsidized loans or for PSLF. These proposals represent a significant change to the way the federal government provides financial assistance to college students. Where spokespeople for the bill say it will streamline the process to re-

ceive financial aid and simplify a currently complex system, critics express concerns that the bill could make it easier for private entities to capitalize on student debt.

I spoke with Maddy Smith ’20 and Will Hibbits ’21, who were organizing a campaign to lobby Susan Collins to vote against the bill if it passes in the House and moves to the Senate.

Smith described how they’re passionate about the bill “because it affects so many students at Bates.” “This will affect working people and their children the most,” Smith said “the student debt crisis is already a major issue for our generation, and it’s about to get a whole lot worse.” Hibbits expressed his concern that “if we get rid of subsidized student loans, then working young people won’t have the ability to attend institutions such as Bates College.”

The bill was ordered to be amended on December 13, 2017, and has yet to reappear in the house. Contact Maddy Smith at msmith3@bates.edu for more information on how you can get involved, or call Susan Collins at 207-784-6969.

READ.THINK.SHARE.

The Bates Student

The Dharma Society Retreats to Shortridge

MATTHEW BODWELL
STAFF WRITER

In my nearly four years here at Bates, I have found that spending time off-campus is crucial to making the most out of the college experience. It's always healthy to burst out



Caleb Perlman '19
Christina Perrone/THE BATES STUDENT

of our whole being from the feet to the face. This made me especially present and helped me drive away lingering dwellings on homework and other concerns at Bates. After this sit, we suited up and headed to Popham Beach, which is only a quick drive from Shortridge.

of the "Bates Bubble" from time to time, as some students will volunteer in the Lewiston/Auburn area, some ski the slopes of Maine and New Hampshire, some go to the movies in Auburn, and others attend concerts in Portland. I had the pleasure this past weekend of getting off-campus by joining a retreat to Shortridge with the Bates Dharma Society. For



Sydney Anderson '20
Christina Perrone/THE BATES STUDENT

We walked along the sand, chatted, and felt the water and wind. While walking along the beach on the way back to our cars, we practiced a walking meditation, trying to pay particular attention to our sensual experiences at the winter beach. For Abe Brownell '20, co-president

those who do not know, the Coastal Center at Shortridge (referred to as Shortridge) is a Bates-owned property in Phippsburg, Maine utilized for field research, meetings, conferences, and retreats.

This retreat focused on practicing meditation and mindfulness, and was strategically timed at the beginning of the semester to set



Ceri Kurtz '19
Christina Perrone/THE BATES STUDENT

of the Bates Dharma Society, this was one of his favorite moments from the retreat.

"I enjoyed going to the beach, because the sand was so beautiful that it made you think really hard," said Brownell. We did indeed notice on the way back, through paying at-

a calmer tone as we head into the heart of second semester and the Maine winter. As we arrived Friday night, we each claimed a bed for sleeping before engaging in our first 20 minute meditation sit of the retreat. After a delicious dinner (a special thanks to the Commons dining staff), we meditated once more for twenty minutes and talked into the



Abe Brownell '20
Christina Perrone/THE BATES STUDENT

tention to the present moment, that our feet were sinking into the sand in ways we had not noticed before the walking meditation.

After the time at the beach, we returned to Shortridge for an afternoon of various activities. These included eating lunch, reading, jour-

nal, listening to music, walking up the hill behind the house, and looking out over Meetinghouse Pond, and more meditation sits. One of the final meditation sits was particularly memorable, as one student, who had not slept well the night before, began to snore, prompting

night about a range of topics including philosophy, religion, the upcoming semester, and about a time we felt grateful.



John Ricatto '18
Christina Perrone/THE BATES STUDENT

ning, listening to music, walking up the hill behind the house, and looking out over Meetinghouse Pond, and more meditation sits. One of the final meditation sits was particularly memorable, as one student, who had not slept well the night before, began to snore, prompting



Dharma Society spends weekend at Shortridge for their retreat. CHRISTINA PERRONE/THE BATES STUDENT

everyone to break their meditation and burst out laughing. As it started to get dark, we finished meditating, packed up our things, cleaned up the house, and headed back to Bates.

When asked about her experience attending her second Bates Dharma Society retreat at Short-

ridge, Christina Perrone '20 remarked, "The retreat was wonderful with all the different personalities and ways of meditating. It's always fun to just be at Shortridge. There's like a calmness to it that's really special."

Similarly, co-president Caleb

Perlman '19 left the retreat feeling it had been a positive and meaningful experience. "This retreat was special," said Perlman, "because it offered me an opportunity to be part of a community of individuals exploring the depths of their minds and the depths of their sensory experience. It was re-

laxing in that it unlinked my mind from several irrational and uncomfortable thought patterns that can't be dealt with in a single meditation in the Gomes Chapel."

To hear about more experiences from this past weekend at Shortridge and take part in a future retreat,

come join a daily Dharma Society meditation sit at 5:45 p.m. in the Peter J. Gomes Chapel. No prior meditation experience is necessary, and all are welcome.



Free Speech Panel Discusses New Policy Implimentation

Matt Morris
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As a part of Bates College's Martin Luther King Jr. Day programming, students, staff and members of the community gathered in Pettengill Hall to discuss some of the issues surrounding free speech on college campuses. Ultimately, the intended goal of the meeting was to provide feedback on a "Free Speech Statement of Principles" for the school that will be released in the near future.

The event opened with comments from a panel of faculty members from a variety of departments, lead by Associate Dean of Faculty Margaret Imber. From there, students broke up into small groups to discuss four different free speech-

related scenarios and to decide how the planned statement of principles might apply to each one.

According to the panel members, the idea to craft a Statement of Principles came after watching several colleges that have had free speech-related issues, often with planned speakers and student responses to those speakers, draft statements of their own.

While the faculty noted that Bates has not had a similar controversy in recent years, the administration felt that it should create a statement that could be applied to any similar situations, rather than being "reactionary." According to Nathan Faries, an Asian Studies and Chinese professor who was a member of the panel, releasing a statement was a way for Bates to stake its claim on a national issue.

"We want to be a part of this discussion," said Faries.

Most members of the audience who commented agreed in the importance of drafting a Statement of Principles. According to Morgan Baxter '20, an attendant of the event, the idea of a Statement sent a clear message on how Bates wanted its community to engage.

"Bates wants to build pen discourse built on mutual respect. That was my takeaway," said Baxter.

While many students appreciated the idea of a written position, some didn't feel that the sentiments expressed in the words matched the administration's actions.

One student, Maddy Smith '20, felt that the school's policy on protests, which states that protesters who disrupt class time can be punished and that protesters should co-

ordinate their demonstrations with the school and limit them to certain locations, limited free speech. Smith ended her statement to the panel by connecting the importance of protest to the work of Martin Luther King Jr.

"All these events for MLK Day are the result of activism," concluded Smith.

While Imber agreed with Smith's general sentiment, she noted that that it would be difficult for the school to endorse activities that broke up the educational process, as that was something the school valued as much as protest.

Imber also noted that protest could be very effective when breaking the rules because it created "spectacle."

Following the discussion of protests, the audience was broken

into small groups to discuss four hypothetical scenarios involving free speech on a college campus. The scenarios ranged in content from a controversy surrounding a professor's Twitter account to students who refused to do certain class assignments due to religious beliefs. After about twenty minutes the audience reconvened as one group to discuss their takeaways.

The Free Speech Panel was a part of a larger set of programming sponsored by the school for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Programming began with a morning keynote address by Dr. Na'ilah Suad Nasir and continued throughout the day.

#MeToo and #Oprah2020

BRIDGET RUFF
STAFF WRITER

At this year's Golden Globes, Oprah Winfrey gave a resounding speech to a room of Hollywood stars in black. In her speech, Oprah described watching Sidney Portier's 1964 Oscar for Best Actor and his later 1982 Cecil B. DeMille Award. As she accepted the same award, Oprah recalled the struggles of her mother and others, whose names will not be remembered despite their extreme sacrifices, before finally urging an end to the sexist culture of sexual assault and harassment. She ended the speech with a final call for a new era for women within American society. "So I want all the girls watching here, now, to know that a new day is on the horizon! And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'Me too' again."

The speech itself is magnificent and inspiring. Aside from her incredible stage presence and poise, Oprah's delivery from beginning to end was matched by equally compelling prose. Yet, the response to Oprah's speech has resulted in calls for a 2020 presidential run. While it might be the perfect movie ending to her life, it is far from realistic and represents an inherently problematic turn in American

politics. Despite the fact that Trump has yet to launch a nuclear war head, he is still enormously unqualified to be president. As politically inexperienced reality star billionaires, Trump and Oprah have the same resume. While Oprah's speaking skills are significantly better than Donald Trump's (and I, for one, would love if Trump could speak even half as eloquently), a good speech does not a presidential candidate make.

The calls for a President Winfrey point out two main issues with our current political situation: a normalization of unqualified and incapable presidential candidates and a lack of desire or hope for those opposed to Trump and other Republicans to mobilize for the upcoming midterm elections. In order to survive the duration of Trump's presidency as unscathed as possible, the American populous must do as much as possible to demand more and more often from their political leaders at all levels. Calling another TV outsider to run for president in three years effectively ignores the enormous chance to challenge Trump's presidency this year.

Yet, while Oprah herself has openly rejected calls for her to run for president in the past, citing a lack of qualifications, the star does possess a myriad of qualities that I, for one, would love in a president of the United States. Her charisma outshines every currently active politician today, her speaking ability is nothing short of spectacular, and she appeals to Americans on both

sides of the political divide. Her speech inspired hope and made millions of Americans want to join her quest. Despite making the perfect TV President, Oprah should not run for office.

Why, you ask? Simply put, in any other year with any other President in office, Oprah might well be good enough. Given the chance, it's entirely possible that she would succeed in being an excellent president. But, Oprah simply has no political experience. Today, Oprah has no policy record, no experience with Washington or foreign governments, no military experience, and no insider connections. If she were only missing a few of these, that would be perfectly acceptable. But to follow Donald Trump, we need a president like no other. And without any of the needed experience, Oprah will not be that person.

Yet, the upcoming midterm elections do present Oprah with a way to gain the needed experience to be president. In November, 34 Senators will be up for election, along with all members of the House, 36 governors, and thousands of state and local positions. Oprah could run for one of those in order to gain experience, should she desire a future presidential run. More importantly, though, the midterm elections represent a time for change in political trajectory. With such a change, it will become all the more possible for a presidential challenger to win the 2020 election—but one with the experience needed to back up their charisma.

Defend the Right to Protest at Bates!

WILL HIBBITTS
STAFF WRITER

What would the world be like if student protests never happened? What would the sixties be if students weren't out protesting the Vietnam War? Or if students didn't fight for their right to free speech at Berkeley? We would most certainly be living in a different world. We might still have segregation. We might not have Title IX. We wouldn't have the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department (the product of a Lane Hall sit-in in 1997).

The positive changes that these movements produce mark the importance and efficacy of student activism and reveal it to be a driver of social change. Because of this, schools and colleges have a special duty to ensure that their students retain their right to protest, but Bates has not lived up to this responsibility.

Bates touts itself as a college founded by activists, but it recently laid the foundation to suppress its own. During finals week, when students were working tirelessly on their academics, an email was sent out to the student body by the Assistant Director of Campus Life, Nick Dressler. Within the email was a link to the Bates policy on Speakers, Performers, and Protests. It shouldn't take long for a reader to realize that Bates's policy on protests is extremely flawed. The vague language of the policy can easily be interpreted in a way that curtails the right to student protest.

The most broadly worded portion of the policy is the section that limits our right to protest the most. The policy states that, "The public expression of views and opinions may not prevent, unduly obstruct, or interfere with the normal operations of the college." This may sound ostensibly reasonable, but this gives the Bates administration carte blanche to shut down any effective protest it wants to. Let's examine what may be included under the umbrella of interfering with college operations: chanting, protesting while classes are going on (effectively barring all

daytime and afternoon protests), and even protesting the Board of Trustees (can't interfere with the College's business activities!). In addition to that, the rules also specify that approval must be received from the administration before using amplification equipment. So megaphones, a symbol of resistance, are effectively prohibited as well.

What makes this situation even more lamentable is that these rules surfaced a month before we dedicate a day of classes to one of the most famous protesters in U.S. history, Martin Luther King Jr. never stood idly by and protested in silence. He was arrested 29 times while fighting for civil rights. How can Bates College exalt the legacy of this man when they themselves restrict our right to protest? This was a man who disrupted the status quo to empower his people and create positive change.

We know that this policy limits the right to free speech. But whose speech does it curtail the most? To answer that question, we can ask who benefits from student protests? Working-class students, female students, students of color, queer students, trans students, etc. From this, we can see that this policy limits the rights of especially vulnerable populations of students. How ironic can it be that a college that was founded by abolitionists can now silence the voices of those it sought to help?

It is saddening to see a college, supposedly founded upon a vision of change and justice, curtail a fundamental right crucial to pursuit of change. While some may say that this college is the property of the administration, and they have a right to regulate behavior as they please, that isn't the most important consideration.

Rather, it is this: We, the students, adopted Bates College as our home. Therefore, we should have a right to protest where we live and work every single day of the academic year. To the student body: now is the perfect time to assert loudly that we have a right to protest, and that it must be recognized! To the Bates administration: We have taken notice.

Caste-Based Discrimination in India

AYESHA SHARMA
MANAGING FORUM EDITOR

There is a long history of caste hierarchies and discrimination in India and surrounding South Asian countries. A new article in *Al Jazeera* reports "Concerns over 'illegal' detention of Indian Dalits." This detention occurred after the mass protests of the Dalit community to a January 1 attack on Dalits during the 200th-anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Bhima-Koregaon.

The Battle of Bhima-Koregaon was in 1818 and involved lower-castes Dalits "siding with British colonial forces to defeat upper-caste rulers." In my understanding, these sorts of social divisions amongst Indians often benefited British colonial forces. They would use divisions amongst Indians to their advantage. They also would align with particular Indian tribal leaders and pit them against neighboring leaders to advance their interests.

However, to Dalits past and present, this alignment was favorable because it worked in their interests to protect them from oppressive upper-caste rulers. During their protests of the attack at their anniversary celebrations, Indian media reports claim that police in Maharashtra state arrested 43 people, including three minors, on

Wednesday, January 10. However, the leaders of Dalit organizations reported otherwise. They told *Al Jazeera* that the figure of those who had been arrested actually exceeded 100, "with 16 children among those detained." This sort of inconsistency in the narrative is unsurprising from my understanding of caste politics in India. The state does not properly bolster Dalit interests in the country, with there being numerous testaments to this neglectful trend.

Prakash Ambedkar, a Dalit icon, activist, and architect of the Indian constitution, vocalized his fear that Dalits are being "illegally detained" in Maharashtra.

He told *Al Jazeera* that this "combing operation" by the state police is not allowed under the law. It could be said that Ambedkar got his political activism partially from his father, Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, who inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement that engaged discrimination against Dalits. (As an aside, B.R. Ambedkar also once wrote a letter to prominent Black intellectual and activist W.E.B. Du Bois commenting on the similarity that he observed between the position of Dalits, or Untouchables, in India and Black people in the U.S. Du Bois actually responded to his letter stating that he held every sympathy toward Dalits in India).

Ambedkar's stand with the

Dalits who were illegally detained was a stand against their detention, but also their attack by right-wing groups during their celebrations. Police have claimed that two right-wing leaders were responsible for the attacks: Milind Ekbote and Sambhaji Bhide. According to *Al Jazeera*, Bhide is "close to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a former member of the Hindu supremacist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh." Following the attack and the ensuing protests, a number of Dalits are in hiding in fear that the police might arrest them.

Although caste-based discrimination was outlawed by parliament in 1955, many Dalits still claim social discrimination in India and elsewhere. Dalit lawyers are doing what they can to counter the injustice done by the police and state.

Kishor Walunj, a Dalit lawyer at Bombay High Court, argues to *Al Jazeera* that "this is a planned attack by RSS and Brahmanical [upper-caste] forces." Ashok Kamble, chief of the Maharashtra unit of the Dalit outfit claim that the "right-wing leaders who instigated the violence have got police protection." Caste-based discrimination, while de jure outlawed, continues on de facto in the state and in less explicit ways in policy as well.

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The Bates Student

Olympic Games Provide Potential for Gold Metal Diplomatic Talks

HALLEY POSNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Olympic Games are more than mere sporting events. Sure, countries from around the world send their best athletes to compete and, hopefully, bring home the gold. But the Olympics also offer a space for diplomacy outside of the conventional realm of political talk.

This year, the twenty-third Winter Games are being held in PyeongCheng, South Korea, just fifty miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Unsurprisingly, media outlets have been bursting at the proverbial seams with talk of North Korea's involvement in the Games.

Having this reclusive country compete in the Olympics is not as unusual as people might think. According to *The Washington Post*, North Korea has sent a delegation to every Summer Games (save for two it boycotted) since 1972, with a surprisingly successful record. However, North Korea has been less active in the Winter Games. But, this year, two figure skaters named Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik qualified to compete.

Bring up North Korea in a room of five people, and I'm sure you will get at least ten opinions on the matter. But it seems to me that people are constantly reacting, with few diplomatic talks including the reclusive country in question. That is not to say the United States or South Korea are completely at

fault for not engaging in these talks; they have tried many times and have been met with an unresponsive North Korea.

I think these Olympic Games can change that, or at least be a step in the right direction. There is positive news of openness that may have gotten lost in the news cycle. Some examples of this include: North Korea reopened their border hotline with the South and officials from both Koreas engaged in a face-to-face meeting. I'm not trying to say that North Korea is not dangerous or should not be taken seriously as a threat. But in order to get everyone to a safer and more stable place, I think having dialogue that includes all concerned parties actually sitting at the same table is a huge step in the right direction.

In addition to having countries and representatives in the same place, the Olympics offer a reprieve from reality. Anxieties that govern our daily lives do not have to be as tense during those few short weeks of the Games.

At the 2016 Rio Olympics, two gymnasts, Lee Eun-jun and Hong Un Jong, of South and North Korea respectively, stopped to take a selfie. These two girls would have never met outside the walls of the gymnastic stadium and have probably heard damning propaganda about each other's home. But, inside the walls of a gym where all that mattered were numbers on a scoreboard, they were allowed just to be girls who happened to share a love for the same sport.

Now, there is talk of North and South Koreans sharing a four-man bobsled that would be one of the forerunning sleds sent down the chute to test conditions before the races. On the major scale of geopolitics and nuclear weapons, a bobsled seems insignificant. But the symbol of two differing nations peacefully sharing the same space sends a powerful message of cooperation to the world.

Can we expect to see more similar encounters in the future? Will there be formalized talks that take place on the sidelines of events? At a time when everyone is concerned with the size of a button attached to a nuclear warhead, the world needs a chance to take a breath. I don't think it can be stressed enough: talking and diplomacy pave the way for a better world. Without understanding the other side of the equation, no real or lasting solutions can be reached.

In ancient times, the Olympics were so important that historians used to measure time in Olympiads, the four-year cycle of the games. Moreover, the Games were seen as Pan-Hellenic, belonging to all of Greece. The modern Olympic Games are modeled on such a tradition; we all belong to the same world and should share the same desire for a good life. American, South Korean, North Korean, in the end it makes very little difference. Having our athletes compete along side each other is a reminder that the world is capable of coming together.

Dear Sustainable Abigail

ECOREPS

Dear Sustainable Abigail,
I've always admired commons for their commitment to sustainability--with the mug club, the local food, and the various waste bins. However, I've also always wondered what happens with the liquid waste? Especially now that we have the separate spot at the dish return to pour our liquids down, I'm just wondering where all that goes?
-Lingering Questions about Liquids

Dear Lingering Questions about Liquids,
Great question, the chute down which our leftover liquids go is a pretty mysterious place. I'm really glad that you brought this question up, because it actually brings up a lot of important points. But, first, to answer your question: all of the liquids that are poured out in commons into the liquid waste place simply go into a bucket and then get dumped down the drain. Unfortunately, while our food waste can be repurposed for the pig farmer's use, liquids are a whole other issue. They are simply not useful for Bates's purposes nor for the farmers purposes; thus, every cup of water, juice, soda, coffee, etc. poured down the liquid waste chute is just that: waste. Which brings me to the first important point that this question raises: a necessary awareness of how much liquid we are taking versus how much we are actually drinking. You may have noticed the increase in size of the plastic cups, part of the initiative to rid Commons of paper cups last year, and thought "wow look how much orange juice I can drink now!" While this is true, there is a lot of space for orange juice, the worry with the larger cups is all of that extra orange juice that never makes it

into your stomach. Liquid waste is a significant issue at Bates, and just as it is important to only take as much food as you are going to eat, it is important to only take as much liquid as you are going to drink, especially because any leftover will go down the drain. The second point that I wanted to briefly touch on was that of the other waste receptacles that we have throughout campus, with spots for recycling, compost, landfill waste, and of course, liquid waste. While this liquid waste is similarly wasted in that it gets poured down the drain, it is still important to separate any liquids into it because if any liquids end up in the recycling section of the waste receptacle, then that entire batch of recycling gets compromised. Liquids can damage paper fibers thus compromising their ability to be reused (check out this link for more tips about recycling right! <http://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/tips-to-recycle-right>). So, first, try not to waste liquid products and take only what you are going to drink; however, if you must waste them, put them in the proper location so as not to harm other important waste processes. Thanks for writing, write again soon!
-Sustainable Abigail

Who is Sustainable Abigail? She is a sustainability advocate at your service! If you're worried about recycling, have ideas about addressing food waste, or concerns about your role promoting sustainability on campus, Abigail is a great resource to turn to. Whatever your sustainable inquiries may be, Abigail is ready to address them all! Simply write to her by either filling out the google form found in Bates Today or by writing your concern on a piece of paper and placing it into her question envelope in Commons. Any question is valid and appreciated and will stay anonymous, so don't hesitate to ask!

BatesRates

▲	Krispy Kreme now open in Auburn
	Delicious donuts are only a five minute car ride away.
▼	Winter Break is over
	Wait, we can't sleep until noon anymore?
▲ ▼	Snow!
	Good for skiing, bad for those of us with poor centers of gravity.
▲	MLK Day
	Cool workshops and nice to have a day off of classes.
▲ ▼	Olympics are less than a month away
	Impressive sporting events, but who knows what our "stable genius" president will say.
▲	Malcolm Hill appointed as new Dean of Faculty
	Potential for new ideas at Bates.
▼	Add/Drop deadline is coming up
	No more shopping for classes.

The Trump-Bannon Feud Becomes the Battleground for the Republican Party

NICK MORGOSHIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On July 31, 2017, John F. Kelly replaced Reince Priebus as the White House Chief of Staff. In the days that followed, Kelly ushered in the Administration's first major leadership reshuffle. Estranged Republicans, disenchanted with the trajectory of the party under Trump, were simmering with hope yet again. Some found reason for optimism in the removal of Bannon. Others – even those of us who have followed Trump long enough to know the President's flamboyance and impulsiveness were too great for any one person to tame – looked to Kelly to bring cold and rigor to the Oval Office.

Trump will be Trump but perhaps, our naive reasoning had it, new cabinet members would manage to brew a conservative antidote to the populo-nationalist fantasia taking over the GOP.

Today, the specter of Bannon continues to haunt Trump's presidency. So what that the insurgent political operative has been out for close to six months and that Trump blissfully assures that he "lost his mind" and "has nothing to do with me or my presidency"? Trump's actions, endorsements, and statements are indistinguishable from the Bannon playbook – the ultimate testament that their recent feud is rooted in self-aggrandizing personalities rather than ideologies.

In the U.S. Senate special election in Alabama in 2017, Trump briefly had Luther Strange's back in the primary before shifting his support to Roy Moore in the general

election. Judge Moore, a Bannon favorite and an omnipresent name in Breitbart editorials, established himself as an unabashed critic of the political class. Moore has repeatedly made inflammatory statements antithetical to the core national, conservative, and human decency ideals.

In his infamous interview with *The Guardian* that likely had President Reagan spinning in his grave, Moore contended that the declaration about the Soviet Union being "the focus of evil in the modern world" can be applied to the US for "promoting a lot of bad things in the world" – an addendum to his statements that "homosexuality should probably be illegal"; "Muslims cannot hold office in the United States"; and "9/11 might have happened because we distanced ourselves from God." The toxic attacks put aside, Moore has been accused of sexual harassment by multiple women – allegations that Trump, unlike many of his fellow Republicans, was much too willing to overlook.

Not only did Trump officially endorse Moore, but he was generous enough to record robocalls enticing Alabamians to cast their vote for the judge. At the time of the election, Trump and Bannon no longer worked together; yet the two, it seems, did not fall far from the same ideological tree. To Trump – just as to Bannon – the fact that Moore was riding the same tide of firebrand populism that had brought them to power in 2016 mattered more than the candidate's record and fitness for office.

The president's recent "shithole countries" remark at a White

House meeting with lawmakers also reeks of Bannonomism. Instead of approaching the all-important immigration question with tact and grace, Trump combined his usual vitriol with Bannon's fierce anti-immigrant sentiment to spew out the generalized, highly insensitive, and offensive comment. There is a distinction between proposing to cut immigration levels and transition to a more merit-based system – the issue most of we Republicans feel strongly about – and denigrating a whole group of countries because of their unfortunate geopolitical fate and economic standing.

Underlying the carelessness of Trump's statement is another Bannonian belief that how other countries feel about the United States is unimportant. So what if small, poor, and less powerful states are offended? And offended they are – Botswana, for example, summoned the U.S. ambassador to express its dismay at the comments made by the leader of the free world.

The Trump-Bannon thinking contrasts sharply with the mainstream conservative view that if our country is to remain the world superpower – one that enemies fear, allies respect, and freedom-loving people look up to as the greatest source of hope and inspiration – we should act prudently and diplomatically.

The Trump-Bannon feud is by no means an ideological disagreement over the future of our party – the party of Lincoln and Reagan. We are witnessing a standoff between the two men with the same ideology whose groundless ambition and self-serving desires outpace each other.

C.T.E.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Additionally, the league vehemently denied connections between football and head injury, especially the role head injuries or concussions played in the development of neurological disorders. As much as the NFL wants to look after itself, the wrongdoing is clear and has had dramatic impacts on the lives of former players and their families. The NFL, as an employer, should consider adding loopholes or creating a new settlement to aid families of players who were posthumously diagnosed with basic things such as covering or reimbursing the families for head injury related medical bills or a small amount of money just to allow

them to remain afloat. Perhaps the franchises themselves should take some responsibility and offer to aid widows and children of players who dedicated so many years of their lives to a particular organization.

All parties involved in the covering up and denial of the connection between football and degenerative neurological disorders should meet with and listen to the families of former players in order to understand the suffering they have undergone. And also to realize that most people are not looking to make a fortune from this settlement but are rather searching for stability and security amidst a great time of personal and financial uncertainty.

READ.THINK.SHARE.

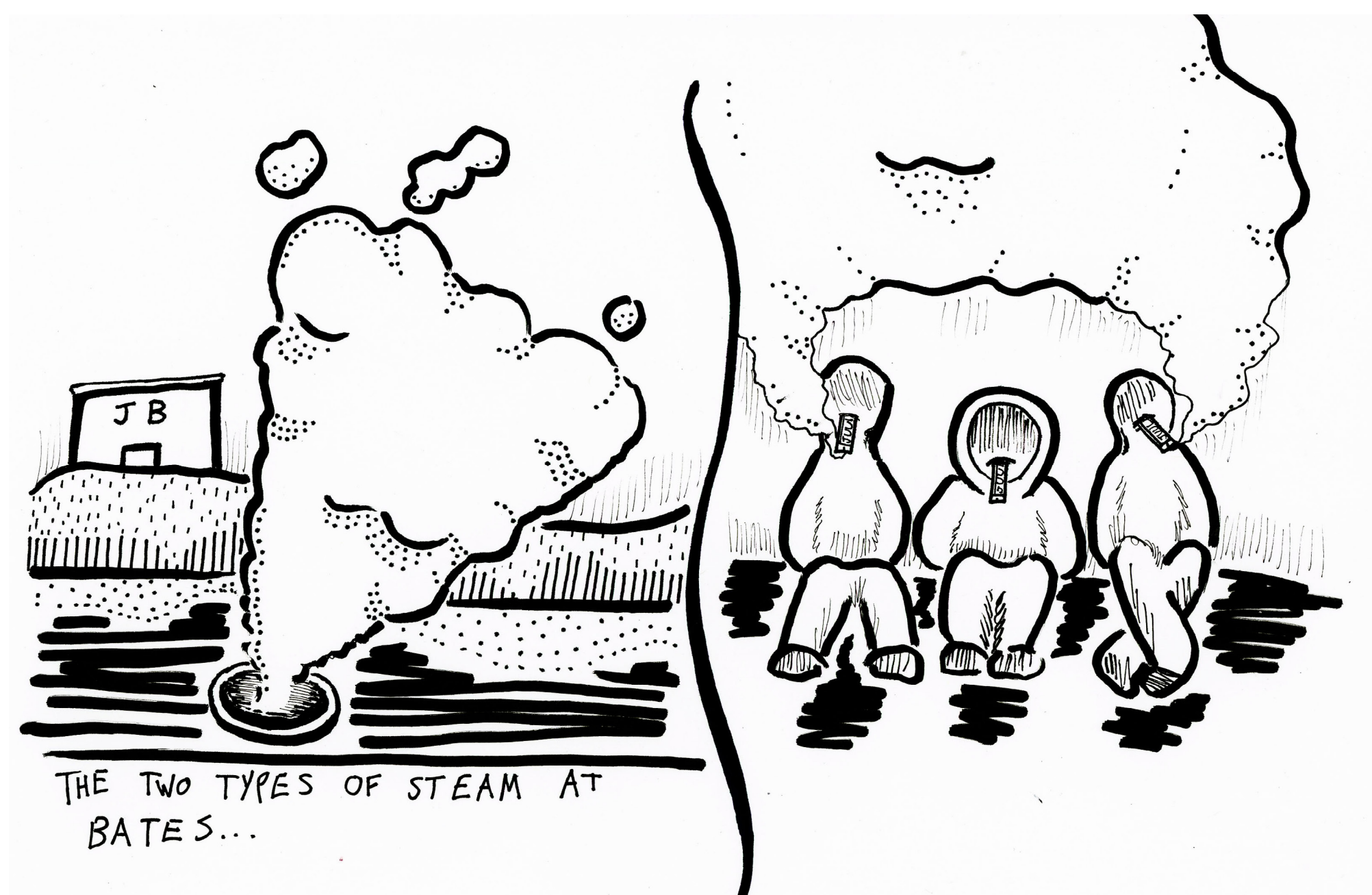
The Bates Student

Comic Corner

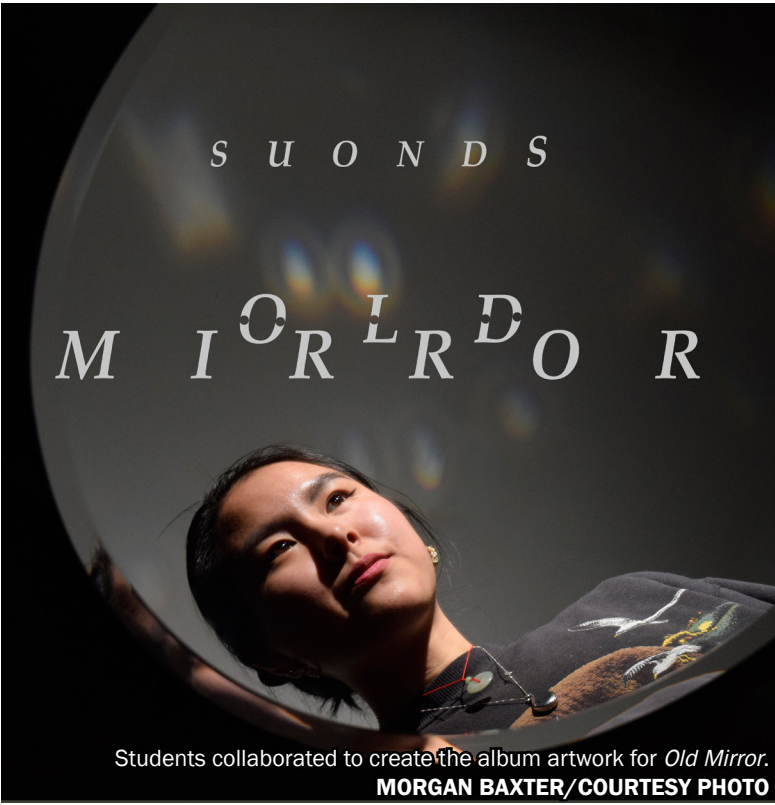
MATT MORRIS
ASSISTANT NEWS MANAGER

Submit your comics to be considered for our Comic Corner feature!

Email as JPEG image to hposner@bates.edu or jhua@bates.edu



Suonds Releases First EP: Old Mirror



MORGAN BAXTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“I try to make music that sounds the way I feel,” Abraham Brownell ’20 says, as he leans back in his chair, “I think any kind of art is an expression of who you take yourself to be, and what you value.” We’re sitting in Pierce House, on Frye Street, and Brownell is wearing a black t-shirt, grey sweatpants, and a minimalist watch. The date is January 11, 2018, and Brownell’s musical duo released their first EP the day before. Mira Li, the female vocalist on many of the songs, is a friend from high school currently attending Wellesley College. Brownell told me how she is featured on many of his unreleased songs, and he how he couldn’t ask for a more talented or passionate vocalist. The name of the duo is Suonds, “pronounced kinda like swans,” he explained, and the name of the EP is *Old Mirror*. He sets me up in the seat where he does his production, in front of two large black speakers.

I listened to the entire EP, and among the five songs, no song is what I thought it would be. There were twists everywhere, at every turn, explorations of what the sound could become. Brownell seems to let songs take him where they want to go, rather than controlling them and forcing them to sound a certain way. “Pacify” is spacious, and twinkles with beautiful piano, juxtaposed with a frenetic percussion line during the break. “Buzz Buzz” sounds more intimate; you can hear Emilio Valadez ’18 smile as he delivers his viscous rap, and the subtle 8-bit sounds contrast perfectly with the fluidity of the rest of the song. “The Stranger” is airy, and Brownell’s artful mastering of this track pulls you into the slow orbit of this song. In “Old Mirror,” Anas Reda ’20’s deep voice interacts with the brooding, polyrhythmic hip-hop beat that Brownell crafted, while David Zhang ’19’s beautiful violin flows alongside piano reminiscent of Kanye West’s *Runaway*. Finally, “Too Much Fun” is open, as vocal harmonization and warm synths ask, “Is that fear or longing in the dim-lit mirror?”

After listening to the EP all the way through, I asked Brownell a series of questions about the music. He told me that “Buzz Buzz” was originally a piece for Valadez’s Short Term class. He admitted that it was a lot of fun to record, since “I had Emilio freestyling, and playing keys in that interlude section and had Matt Bodwell ’18 on guitar and Julie Self ’18 on backup vocals and bass.”

Brownell went on to tell me about his creative process, describing how he listens to snippets of his instrumentals while walking around campus. He says, “I have a lot of faith in what the subconscious mind does for music making. It’s about letting sounds percolate, and give a little bit with other sonic ideas kicking around in my head, and then, when I sit back down at the computer in front of my monitors, I just know what to do.” One of the astounding things about this EP was the sheer amount of time that was spent creating it. “There are days where I spent 10 to 12 hours working on part of a song, and then did

See SUONDS, PAGE 9



Abraham Brownell '20 sits in his room/studio. CHRISTINA PERRONE/THE BATES STUDENT



Morgan Baxter '20 interviews Brownell. CHRISTINA PERRONE/THE BATES STUDENT

SZLACHETKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BS: So you’ve had a lot successes and rise to popularity the past few years. How do you stay grounded?

S: At the end of the day, I was fortunate enough to figure out a way to make a living out of playing music full-time, and if for some reason, something horrible were to happen and I couldn’t play anymore, I would still listen every day. I love it, and it consumes my life. At the end of the day, I’m still a geek with music. I love the whole musicology of digging deep to find out where a source initially came from, and that’s everything for me. I guess if you get into music for the right reasons, as cliché as that sounds, it’s easy to stay grounded. I feel super fortunate that people in *Rolling Stone Magazine* are taking note of what I’m doing now, and it’s incredibly rewarding, and I feel honored to be in that mix... I’m still not 100 percent satisfied with where I’m at in my career, and I’m still shooting to get to a place where I can take a band with me every time I go on the road; when I can be way more selective with how I go on the road, when, where I go. For me, when I’m playing really nice theaters, I will be more content. But I’m always trying to write the best song I can, whenever I sit down with another writer or artist. That will never change- I will always try to beat what I’ve done. Never being complacent with where I’m at: that will help to keep me grounded.

BS: As you know and see every



A promotional photo for Szlachetka’s new album *Heart of my Hometown*. PAUL MOORE/COURTESY PHOTO

day, music is incredibly powerful. What do you think is the role of music, and, specifically, your music, in contemporary American society?

S: For me, music is about consciousness and keeping an open heart, an open mind, an open perspective, especially these days. Getting back to one of the main themes of the album, one thing that I really took away from all of it was that playing in all these little towns across the U.S., all different states, red and blue, they’re all the same. I feel like yes, these days, there is division out there, but there is a lot less division than the media is making this coun-

try out to have right now. I think the problem is that people aren’t leaving their towns and aren’t going to see what other states or cities are like, so they’re formulating ideas in their head based on what they’re told, not personal experience. I have friends in all states in all different political parties, and at the end of the day, we all want the same thing, and I think that’s what music does for me. It just keeps an open perspective.

BS: Wow! Thank you for speaking with me; it was great hearing from you.

S: Thank you!

Pedro O’Haras: A Tale

NICOLAS LEMUS
STAFF WRITER

Wintercold in predatory descent upon Lewiston, ME. Hamfisted polar swell haranguing upon the city with apish destruction and clear-black freeze seizing the roads. Sliding down Main Street goes a dented Volkswagen the color of sharkskin, carrying myself and three of my closest friends (Jack, Zack, and Abby), freshly returned to campus, each of us squealing with hunger. The Volkswagen speeding, hangs a sharp roger, back wheels skidding on the ice, into the parking lot of one local Pedro O’Hara’s, Home of L-A’s One and Only Authentic American-Mexican-Irish Dining Experience. We four escape the VW and rush for the door, swing in, stomp the slush from the grooves in our boots, and make our presence known. Table for four? “Yessiree,” says the waitress, dressed in sweats, and corrals us into the O’Hara half of Pedro O’Hara’s: a pubbish place, walls metaled by novelty license plates, sporty decor and memorabilia adorning here and there, TVs buzzing the game at full volume, and a great big bar at nucleus; many lads and lassies circling it. Our waitress seats us into a corner of this space and asks us, “Can I start you guys off with anything?” And we say (executively, hungry), “Yes, Miss Maytruh Dee, how ’bout some nachos for a band of famished youth?” And she runs off with the

order. From our corner, we can observe the scenery of the pub. Many dudes fixing their attentions to the Titans-Chiefs game (yelling, slamming hands, coaching the little figures in the TV screens), couples and gangs chatting, most of the in-pub population somewhere between easy breezy buzzed and blasted despite it being only 7:15. One man approaches (correction: teeters and dodders towards, his recent drinks blushing in his cheeks and blood, a general stink of no-good about him) two ladies seated at a table, splitting nachos, and asks, “Eshcuse me, pahdon me, could I haavve a nasho please?” And the ladies, politely, hand him a nacho and he takes it and eats it and thanks them with great compassion, and then attempts to begin conversation, and everybody privy to this exchange freezes and doesn’t at all know what to do. He stays there, besieging these women, with measly, and not at all charming, chit-chat for a long amount of time. Our waitress returns with our own nachos and glasses of water, which bounce and ripple in the overblown bass of the pub’s speakers. The nachos, though hot and cheesy and fine enough for some hungry bodies, were too few chip, too much olive, and certainly not meal enough for my party. Perusing the menu, one notices that it

See PEDRO, PAGE 9

Black Mirror Underwhelms with New Season

ARIEL ABONIZIO
ASSISTANT ARTS AND LEISURE
EDITOR

I have been a fan of *Black Mirror* since it was released in 2011. I was attracted to the prospect of having a sci-fi TV show that is not in the distance, but a viable, potential future. In previous seasons, *Black Mirror* did an impressive job in scripting believable and emotionally-charged scenarios that lie in the margins of our techno-culture. I was always particularly fascinated with Black Mirror's capacity to imagine a "what if" question and take it to its limits. Dealing with larger issues of memory, identity, consciousness, and virtuality, *Black Mirror* is a source of refined terror, entertainment, and contemporary fiction. While the show is still remarkable and worth watching, the new season was disappointing to me. The acting and production are still spot on, but the writing was a step down; new episodes reenact ideas from past episodes and extensively play with bleak cinematic clichés.

If we look at digital technologies today, it becomes clear why *Black Mirror* is critically suspenseful. Research in virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and bio-nanotechnology

are on track to change how many of us understand our lives. However, as the tracks of progress seem everyday more elusive, the word 'change' cannot be seen as a synonym for improvement.

Mimicking the unpredictability of contemporary technology and politics, *Black Mirror* shows a world that has the potential to be disembodied, dominated by robots, judgmental, fluid, and disconnected. That is a crucial element of *Black Mirror*, running throughout all of its seasons. But there was something more that made it special and engaging: the characters were believable enough to have me imagining my own life in a few years or decades. The show is particularly good at demonstrating how technology may soon impact how we date, investigate crimes, or engage in leisure activities.

Season Four still has the signatures of *Black Mirror*: technological distress, excellent production, and good acting. However, only a couple of episodes really stand out. The characters have appeared to me less and less believable. In a few of the episodes from the new season, such as "Crocodile" and "Metalhead," the characters struggle with underwhelming emotional clichés that made me question the technological

anxiety that makes *Black Mirror* so conceptually interesting. The fake characters have me craving previous seasons' episodes ("San Junipero" and "Be Right Back" come to mind). Even though Charlie Brooker wrote all the episodes, the excessive drama of Season Four radically changes how the show looks, and a few critics have started wondering if this may be the beginning of the end for the show.

Luckily, "USS Callister" and "Hang the DJ" still portray the refined moral dilemmas that emerge along with technology. Maddy Smith '20 mentioned "Hang the DJ" as one of the episodes from this season that marked them. "I really liked the plot in this one. It's hard to tell if the characters are going along or rebelling against the system," Smith told me.

Sydney Anderson '20 said that there was a good balance between uplifting and catastrophic episodes for the new season. "It was also cool how the new episodes referenced past seasons," Anderson pointed out.

Black Mirror is a show worth watching. The new season is overly dramatic, but still entertaining and engaging, especially for people who are thrilled but frightened by the future of technology.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi Gives Way to a New Age

BRIA RIGGS
STAFF WRITER

Warning: Spoilers

The second installment of the latest *Star Wars* trilogy and the eighth film of the franchise came to the big screen over the holidays, ending a two year gap since audiences saw their new favorite characters come to life, as well as the return of the original *Star Wars* iconic trio in *The Force Awakens*. But unlike its predecessor, *The Last Jedi* deviates from the typical plots of the earlier trilogies from the franchise. While *The Force Awakens*, no matter how highly anticipated and well-reviewed, closely followed the plot of *A New Hope*, *The Last Jedi* introduces audiences to a new storyline in the *Star Wars* universe.

With Rian Johnson acting as the new director and screenplay writer, *The Last Jedi* picks up within days of where *The Force Awakens* left off. The galaxy is under the tight grip of General Snoke of the First Order, and the rebellion is in trouble. And while this newest installment largely maintains the classic good versus evil framework, with the introduction of characters such as Kylo Ren, the movie also introduces more complex relationships and dynamics between the rebel forces and the First Order. Such dynamics leave audience members questioning their own alliances, as well as what these complex relationships, notably between Rey and Kylo Ren, might mean for the fate of the *Star Wars* universe when the final installment of the trilogy is released in 2019. It is already clear that Episode IX will almost certainly deviate even further from the *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*.

Fans already have taken note of the distinct differences between *The Last Jedi* and all seven films that preceded it. The film has embodied more common themes found throughout many modern large-scale action-adventure movies.

Most notably, this film took on a different style of the humor that doesn't seem to fit with the *Star Wars* aesthetic. The Marvel-esque jokes and sense-of-humor in the film don't sit well with fans of the original films. With the usual banter between Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia Organa, that was always a delight to original fans,

missing, Johnson has compensated with the type of humor that a view would expect to see in films such as *Guardians of the Galaxy* and all of the *Iron Man* films. But while such a tactic has not set well with older fans, this is likely a strategic business move, as the films look to the newest generation of fans; those who are much less familiar with the dynamics of the original films.

Of course, this film, and *Star Wars* in general, cannot be discussed without a fair mention of the original characters that revealed themselves to audiences over 40 years ago. The return of original characters, most notably Luke Skywalker and Leia Organa, as well as the droid team of C-3PO and R2-D2, keeps *The Last Jedi* grounded in first six movies.

But the death of Han Solo in *The Force Awakens* creates a certain pining and nostalgia in *The Last Jedi*. The energy of Harrison Ford, who played Han Solo from the onset of the franchise in 1977 with *A New Hope* to his last breath in *The Force Awakens*, is missing from this film. And while new characters that fans quickly came to love, like Finn, Rey, Poe Dameron, and, of course, BB-8, fill the story with their own fast-flying high-energy and emotionally-charged performances, there is still a feeling of nostalgia that can't be filled by these new characters.

In a franchise that is so highly regarded and deeply loved by its fan base, some characters cannot be replaced. Of course, the return of Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker and Carrie Fisher as Leia Organa maintains much of the original *Star Wars* feel, but their returns were not met with one hundred percent ratings from fans and viewers. Additionally, the passing of Carrie Fisher in 2016 as well as Luke Skywalker's on-screen death further complicates the dynamics between the original films and the new trilogy.

It seems that the transition period between the original *Star Wars* universe and the new trilogy has come to a close. The three hallmark characters of Skywalker, Solo, and Princess Leia have moved on. Now, film makers will be challenged with relying on the new characters for the finale of this new trilogy. Where this will lead the galaxy, fans can't quite predict.

The Crown: Love, Lust, and Tainted Happiness

RILEY HOPKINS
STAFF WRITER

No spoilers here, I promise, but *The Crown* has brilliantly transformed the history of the most powerful monarchy in the world into entertainment. The Netflix original released its second season in December with promises of heightened drama surrounding the Royal Family from the beginning of Queen Elizabeth II's reign in 1953 until now. In addition to the elegant costumes and stunning filmography, the show accurately depicts historical figures and events within the walls of the Buckingham Palace; education through entertainment, if you will.

When watching the show, I often forgot that the characters and scandals were not fictional. The real Queen Elizabeth II actually faced the political and marital obstacles dramatized in the series, which makes *The Crown* that much more compelling. It makes me wonder if Her Majesty approves of this exploitation of her early personal life or finds it to be an inaccurate representation.

One of the most salient themes throughout the show is the unhappiness associated with being a member of the Royal Family. It is revealed that Queen Elizabeth II, portrayed by Claire Foy, dreaded being forced into her coronation after the sudden death of her father, King George VI. Foy is a master of subtle emoting.

She expresses constant sadness in her eyes at just the right intensity in the scenes where The Queen's royal status is emphasized, drawing a tight connection between royalty and sorrow. It is evident from the beginning of season one that the Royal Family resents being gifted with the divine rights of the monarchy.

Unsurprisingly, the most dramatized aspect of the Royal Family's history is the lust and love between the characters. Season two starts off with the prospect of Prince Philip's infidelity. The marriage between The Queen and Prince Philip has been illustrated as tainted since season one when Philip throws a tantrum about bowing down to his wife at her coronation. He is constantly brushing her off and upset about walking behind her wherever they go. In season two, he is sent off on a six-month tour and rumors of a love affair bubble to the surface, thrusting a wedge in his marriage to The Queen. Their relationship remains tense throughout the show, with glimpses of true affection for each other. Again, the sadness and inauthenticity that lie on the throne are unexpected, yet enthralling. Not all that glitters is gold, I guess.

Princess Margaret, The Queen's sister, has quite the rebellious and atypical personality for a member of the Royal Family. To me, she is the most fascinating character because she has been screwed over by the rules of the monarchy more than anyone, especially when it comes to

her love life. She knows she will never be the sovereign, so she is always bitter about abiding to the societal expectations of a princess. She gets drunk until the late morning hours, sleeps until noon every day, and is unapologetic about expressing her sexuality - quite the opposite from her sister.

In season one, Margaret falls in love with a man she knows she cannot marry, yet requests permission to do so from The Queen anyway, only to be swiftly disregarded. Her heart breaks man after man and she spirals into her own inescapable hell, all because of the rules of her role. However, she clearly enjoys her title, privileges, and rank far more than her sister. She is defiant, yet a prisoner of the throne who indulges in the palace parties. Her romantic status is jolted in season two when she meets a photographer and eventually marries him but is blind to his secret, active sex life outside of their relationship. Princess Margaret demands our sympathy and is the perfect tool for entertainment.

Season three is sure to deliver just as much drama as the first two seasons. It will take place two decades after the end of season two, so the cast will be completely different in order to accurately represent the aging of the characters. Rumor has it that Helena Bonham Carter (Belatrix Lestrage, anyone?) will be playing Princess Margaret. If that's not enough to draw you in, I don't know what is.

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What Are the Golden Globes?

MATTHEW WINTER
STAFF WRITER

No one knows the point of the Golden Globes. Being a Golden Globe winner just does not have the same ring as being an Oscar winner or Emmy winner. In the grand scheme of award shows, the Golden Globes are the “kickoff event,” where the movie winners become “Oscar frontrunners” and TV winners (sometimes) get a slight boost in their prestige and ratings. Besides being the first awards show of the year, the Globes really do not exist beyond NBC giving one of their network’s stars (e.g. Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Jimmy Fallon, Seth Meyers and, annoyingly, Ricky Gervais) a chance to promote their shows through a biting monologue. There are not even any musical performances or skits!

Since the Globes award both movies and TV shows, the three-hour telecast is a sequence of two actors making an awkward joke or two before presenting the award, then the recipient makes the classic award show acceptance speech before get-

ting cut off by the house band.

Despite the lack of need for the Golden Globes, they end up being a weird but entertaining awards show. Instead of taking place in a theater, the nominees sit at tables with their cast members and crew and the presence of alcohol leads to a more lighthearted environment. It also leads to moments like Jack Nicholson admitting to being on Valium during his acceptance speech one year or Renée Zellweger missing her name being called because she was in the bathroom.

Yet, since the Globes are the first awards show of the year, the host and attendees get the first chance to comment on everything currently happening. Last year, the Globes were the first major awards show since Trump’s election, and this year, the Globes were the first major awards show to be able to comment on Hollywood post-Weinstein. Almost everyone spoke out against sexual harassment in one way or another. Everyone wore all black with “Times Up” pins on their clothes. Eight actresses brought activists as their guests to the show. Seth Meyers opened the show by welcoming the

“ladies and remaining gentlemen.” He proceeded to skewer Harvey Weinstein (“He’ll be back in 20 years when he’s the first person ever booed in the In Memoriam”), Woody Allen and Kevin Spacey. Natalie Portman presented the nominees for Best Director but not before calling them the “all-male nominees.” Laura Dern, Nicole Kidman, Elisabeth Moss, and Reese Witherspoon all spoke about ending sexual assault and harassment in Hollywood while empowering women to speak up. Oprah Winfrey gave an inspiring speech while accepting the Cecil B. DeMille lifetime achievement award and, either accidentally or slyly on purpose, launched her 2020 presidential campaign.

Nonetheless, the Golden Globes are an awards show, so the winners are worth mentioning. *Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri* was the night’s big winner, taking home four awards. One of the weirdest parts of the Golden Globes is the splitting of movies into two categories, drama and comedy/musicals. While, in theory, this is a great way to shine the light on more movies, the movies that end up in the com-

edy/musical category sometimes are a stretch. The nominees for Best Comedy/Musical this year were *The Disaster Artist*, *Get Out*, *Lady Bird* (the winner), *The Greatest Showman*, and *I, Tonya*. *Baby Driver* was also considered a comedy. While those movies had funny moments in them, *Lady Bird* was rarely described as a ‘comedy.’ Last year, *Moonlight* won best drama and *La La Land* won best comedy/musical and we all know how that played out at the Oscars, so look out for *Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri* v. *Lady Bird* to be the story going into the Oscars. Unfortunately, *Call Me by Your Name* was shut out, but there is still time for the Oscars to fix that.

On the TV side, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *The Marvelous Ms. Maisel*, and *Big Little Lies* were the big winners, with each of them winning awards for best show in their respective drama while also picking up wins for their actresses and actors.

While there was no epic Best Picture mix-up to end the show, the Golden Globes still kept its reputation as being the weird and early awards show no one needed, but people still watched.

PEDRO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

is halved into Pedro’s (Mexican fare) and O’Hara’s (Irish fixings) and that the restaurant does not serve some sort of freakish Mexican-Irish fusion cuisine in the vein of Guinness-soaked chimichangas or corned beef burritos. We order and wait and watch our surroundings degrade before us. Another man has joined in bothering the two women at the table. The waitress dances poorly with a patron. A skunk-drunk customer drops it low and fails to return to standing position. There is suddenly yelling irrelevant to the game, which is in favor of the Titans. Who knew such chaos wrought in L-A? Our orders arrive and in general, across the table, they’re fine, a solid six-out-taten. My Reuben sandwich is sort of limp and soggy, like a sock out of the wash, but certainly tasty. Abby’s shepherd’s pie is mostly cheese. Jack’s chimichanga will return to destroy him. Zack finishes his tuna melt and pushes away his plate with a shrug. We leave as soon as we can.

SUONDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

that for several days in a row for one song, and then threw the song out,” he described.

As I finished the interview, we did some back-of-the-envelope math to calculate that Brownell likely spent over 1,400 hours on the five songs on the EP alone. However, that fact doesn’t seem to daunt him: “I can’t express enough how worthwhile it is to pour your heart into something, and to have a work. It doesn’t have to be music even; just a corpus that you slave over, for a long time, for many hours a day... It’s intellectually challenging, but it’s also about expressing things that your emotional circuitry wants to get out there, that words and verbiage don’t capture.”

Brownell had a final recommendation for listeners: “listen to this EP in a quiet place. Part of that is a technical thing,” as he wants listeners to enjoy all the detail he has slaved over. But part of it is also about the mood of the EP. “I recommend listening to *Old Mirror* in a reflective state of mind.”

Old Mirror is available on Spotify, Google Music, Apple Music, Tidal, and on Bandcamp at suonds.bandcamp.com.



Brownell discusses his recent EP, *Old Mirror*. CHRISTINA PERRONE/THE BATES STUDENT

Question on the Quad

SARAH MCCARTHY
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Would you rather be too hot or too cold?



“Too hot”
- Weliton Filho ’20



“Too cold”
- Cara Starnbach ’19



“Too hot”
- Kellie Allen ’21



“Too cold”
- Forest Polsky ’21

Skiing

Alpine Ski Teams Are Eager to Make Their 2018 Debut

SARAH ROTHMANN
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

2017 marked a hard-fought and successful season for the men's and women's alpine ski teams. On the men's side, Michael Cooper '19 became the first Bates male alpine ski racer to receive an NCAA Championship invitation. Sierra Ryder '18 ranked 23rd on the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association (EISA) carnival circuit and just barely missed an invitation to NCAAs.

Although seniors such as Kelsey Chenoweth '17, who qualified for NCAAs, graduated last year, Cooper and Ryder, along with women's members Hannah Johnson '18 and Brielle Antonelli '18, all captains of this year's team, are very excited about the young talent that has joined their 2018 roster.

"As the only captain on the men's team, I think the main goal for me is simply to encourage and push my teammates to ski faster this year," says Cooper. "Even in the short few months we've had on snow, there's already huge improvements from all of the first-years. I think every single guy on our team has the potential to achieve a lot this season and I'm looking forward to watching them do it."

On the woman's side, Johnson comments, "My goal as captain is to create an environment that is both competitive and inclusive at the same time. The ski team is sometimes referred to as almost a 'cult' on campus, but I believe that the fact that we are able to spend so much time together fosters cohesiveness and a sense of community."

The Colby Carnival at Sugarloaf on January 20 and 21 will be the start of a new era for Bates' alpine ski team as eight first-years add depth and volume to the teams' rosters.

"This season, I foresee great things for both the men and women skiers. Fellow senior Hannah Johnson and I are eager to climb the results lists in Slalom and GS, and we have some other great skiers to watch out for as well including Hannah West '21, Griffin Mueller '20, and Sommer Glasgow '21," Ryder says.

"On the men's side, we have returning junior Michael Cooper who has done well this season already, and we also have Tagert Mueller '20 who I think will have a really good season as well. In the preseason races, both teams have been doing so well, and it has been really fun as a senior to be a part of the strongest team I think we have ever had in my time on both gender sides."

There are a total of 11 men skiers, five of whom are first years, whose names are: Sasha Cadariu, Joe Gillis, Matthew Hanus, Maximilian Schneider, and Calvin Wilson. The

women's team consists of 10 skiers, three of whom are first-years. The first-year skiers include: Sommer Glasgow, Amelia Kaplan, and Hannah West.

"My expectations for the team are high this season. We have a great combination of returners and first years skiers that should make for a competitive team during the upcoming university races. I am looking forward to the upcoming carnival races, and I hope to able to contribute in any way possible," says Gillis, one of the five male first-years.

"I have been watching our team evolve into a stronger team every year, and I am confident that it will keep building," Ryder adds.

Bates' DI alpine ski teams have a very intensive schedule and race against schools such as Dartmouth, Middlebury, UNH, Colby, and Williams, among others. Practices vary for each person depending on their class schedule. Classes are usually scheduled either all in the morning or all in the afternoon so that the skiers can go up to Sunday River to train for what ends up being approximately a 5-hour session. When competitions start, the team departs campus Thursday morning or afternoon, travel to the various carnivals, race Friday/Saturday, and then return back to campus Saturday evening.

Ryder skis every morning at Sunday River and returns for classes in the afternoon. "Our vans leave promptly at 7:30 a.m. in time to be on the chair at 9:00 a.m. We ski until 11:15 a.m. or so. We are so lucky to have an awesome training venue, because we get really good training lanes and great conditions the majority of the time," Ryder says.

Given the intensity and dedication required of this schedule, it is not a surprise that NCAA's are on the radar of every captain and team member. The carnival season ends with NCAA East Regionals February 23-24 at the Middlebury Carnival. The NCAA Championship will take place March 7-10 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

"NCAA's is undoubtedly the biggest event of the racing season, and I know it is the goal of many of us on the team. I would say that my personal goals for the team are to be even more competitive on the circuit than years past," Johnson says. "This year, we have a lot of depth to our team...there is no doubt in my mind that we, as a team, can be right there at the top with some of the best schools in EISA."

"We support one another and encourage each other to keep training hard," Cooper explains. "This team dynamic makes me incredibly excited for the college season to start, and I'm really looking forward to what our team can accomplish!"



Bates' men's squash player focuses for next point.
OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT



Katie Bull '19 returns a shot.
OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT



Women's squash player prepares for play.
OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT

Swimming and Diving

Swimming and Diving Team Defeats Middlebury and Remains Undefeated

MAX PETRIE
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams are off to great starts for the 2017-18 season. With three meets down, they have not lost and have high expectations for what is to come. Chris Lee '18 says, "We have Midd, Colby, and Bowdoin coming up in the next two weeks, and I think they present us with great opportunities to race our best events and get back into that racing mentality." This quote was taken prior to the meet against Middlebury on Sunday, January 14, which both the men's and women's teams won to continue the winning streak.

In the matchup with Middlebury, the men won by a score of 170-118, and the women won 152.5-141.5. In the men's meet, Riley Ewing '18 broke a Tarbell Pool record in the 200 backstroke. Alex Bedard '19 also broke a pool record in the 100 breaststroke. The women's team was in a tough spot towards the end of the race, as they needed to win the last two events in order to pull out the win. After

Hope Logan '18 won the 400-yard individual medley, it came down to the 200-yard freestyle relay team. This group was able to win as well, to give the team the scoring push it needed to finish on top.

Prior to this race against Middlebury, the team had their annual training trip to Florida over winter break. Although this may sound like a nice vacation, it is a lot of hard work. Lee says, "Florida marks a shift from massive yardage sets to more technical, mentally engaged sets... We swam twice a day, clocking about seven to ten thousand meters a day." He also mentioned how much the trip does to build morale for the team. Clearly, this is paying off, based on their first meet back.

In the first part of the season prior to winter break, the teams had meets against Trinity and Wesleyan, and the Maine State Meet. In the matchup with Trinity and Wesleyan, the women's team beat Wesleyan 171-119 and beat Trinity 208.5-84.5. In the Maine State Meet, the men's team came in first place with 1,096 points. Bowdoin took second with 869, Colby came in third with 648, and the University of Maine finished last with 521.

Squash

First-year Tiffany Cervantes '21 Speaks About the 2017-18 Squash Season

SOJUNG KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many first-years have already finished their first collegiate athletic season at Bates College. For others, like Tiffany Cervantes '21, they have only just begun. Cervantes is a member of the women's squash team and like any other athlete, the transition from high school athletics to collegiate athletics was not easy.

"There was a huge difference between high school squash and college squash for me. One aspect was preseason and in-season training: it was intense, but the team pushes through together," says Cervantes.

Compared to high school, the training for her has been much more difficult, and that has been something she has had to mentally and physically overcome. Each week, she dedicates herself to one to two hours of practice every day (except Mondays) to improve her game and perfect her skills. Additionally, collegiate sports offer a competitive environment that is significantly different to high school athletics. This takes some time to comfortably and emotionally adjust.

Cervantes started playing squash at the age of 13, which she stated was quite late. Playing at the college level with other athletes intimidated and even frightened her, because some of her teammates have played for almost their entire lives.

Fortunately, with the help of her teammates, she quickly felt at ease.

"They gave me a lot of good pointers and feedback during practices, and the captains, Vicky Arjoon '19 and Eliza Dunham '20, even offered to hit with me outside of practice," says Cervantes.

Cervantes used the word "roller coaster" to describe her season so far. It is no surprise that there were many ups, but also plenty of obstacles. As an elite athlete, every game is important and Cervantes explains the devastation she felt when she lost her first college match.

"I felt devastated losing my first match. Unfortunately, it came down to my match being the deciding one, so the pressure was on, and I felt like I let the entire team down when I lost it," says Cervantes.

What's great about being a part of the athletic culture at Bates is having the support of your teammates and coaches. And by having that support, players like Cervantes grow and develop into not only better athletes but also stronger individuals.

"A highlight for me so far, which really shouldn't be one, but it is now in hindsight, was when I lost my first match. Even though we face other schools as a team, when I'm in the court I'm on my own against my opponent. I was pushing my limit, played my best, and my coaches and teammates were there to give me a

pat on the back in the end."

On top of the immense demands and pressure of her sport, Cervantes also needs to balance her academic responsibilities. She explains her thoughts about what it means to be a student athlete at Bates, and similar to what other student athletes would say, it is definitely not a walk in the park.

"Being a student athlete at Bates is certainly a privilege to uphold but it's also a bit of an obstacle," she says. "You have to have your goals in mind and stay focused to succeed in both academics and your sport."

Cervantes still has three more years of college squash to play, and she has big goals for her sophomore season.

"I want to continue working hard on the courts and do a lot better next season. I now know what to expect, and that's definitely going to give me some leverage going into my sophomore season at Bates," she concludes.

The women's squash team played nationally ranked No. 24 Middlebury, No. 14 Williams, and George Washington January 13-14. It was unfortunately a tough weekend for the Bobcats, as they lost 5-4 to Middlebury, 8-1 to Williams, and 7-2 to George Washington. This Wednesday, January 17, the team will be playing Wesleyan in Connecticut, where they hope to come back with a win.



The men's squash team huddles before the match.
OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT

Women's **Basketball**

The Women's Basketball Bobcat Dance Party



Taylor McVeigh '21 fights for a rebound. **OLIVIA GILBERT/ THE BATES STUDENT**

KERRY MANUEL
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, January 14, Bates' women's basketball team played Williams College at 3:00 p.m. in Alumni gymnasium. Little did spectators know, while they were arriving to the game, the team was hosting a "mini-dance party" in the locker room.

Julia Middlebrook '21 of Ridgefield, Conn., a guard on the team, recounts this tradition.

"Before every home game, we have a mini dance party in the locker room to get hyped up," says Middlebrook. "I have been on multiple teams before this one, and never have I done this. That's what makes this team so unique: everyone is able to be themselves and have fun all the time."

Middlebrook says that the seniors put on "The Circle of Life" remix from the Lion King, and the team dances to the music.

Post mini-dance party this past Saturday, the team fell short to Williams College, 56-44. This is the third in-conference game loss for the Bobcats.

Middlebrook led the team in assists, with four throughout the game, and helped the team score 12 points.

When asked about the team environment, Middlebrook had nothing but positive acclaim.

"I have been able to have such a great experience on this team because of the girls and the coaching staff, who have been so welcoming," says Middlebrook. "So far, everyone is doing their best and the energy on the team makes the practices and, obviously, the games so much fun to be a part of."

On Friday January 12, the Bobcats were victorious against Middlebury, 60-57. Middlebrook quoted this game as the standout part of the season so far.

"The highlight of this season has definitely been Friday night. We won our first NESCAC game by beating Middlebury," explains Middlebrook. "We haven't beat them since 2012. It was cool seeing everyone working so hard, being successful and getting the W."

With 12 seconds left on the clock, Middlebrook assisted the winning 3-pointer, scored by senior Emily Freedland '18.

When asked about the biggest difference between the high school and college game, Middlebrook said it was the tempo and commitment.

"Coming from high school to college, there is a much bigger time commitment," explains Middlebrook. "There are more workouts, and I definitely have to put more time into it, but the upperclassmen have really helped me and the other first-years work it all out."

Middlebrook said when she was



A Bates defender blocks a basket. **OLIVIA GILBERT/ THE BATES STUDENT**



Julia Middlebrook '21 faces off with a defender. **OLIVIA GILBERT/ THE BATES STUDENT**

deciding on schools to attend, she loved Bates' school community. She said the football field in the center of campus was appealing, and the idea of knowing the people you see walking around was reassuring.

Going forward, Middlebrook is

determined to stay strong.

"I am looking forward to finishing up NESCAC play, seeing how our team will develop into conference play, and if we keep up our positivity and dedication to fight for every possession," says Middle-

brook. "I am looking forward to the opportunity for us to be successful. I believe it will keep on coming if we are willing to work hard."

The next game will be away on Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. against University of Maine Farmington.

WINTER SPORTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even the members of the men's basketball team felt the effects of the cold while practicing inside Alumni Gymnasium.

"During break, and throughout my four years here at Bates, we've had some practices where the gym was freezing cold," said men's basketball captain Justin Zukowski '18. "It has been a challenge at times because in between drills or at times when we stop practicing, it can get extremely uncomfortable...This winter break being especially cold, there were a couple of walkthroughs we had on days before our game where some of the players were wearing long sleeve shirts and winter hats to keep warm."

Additionally, the hazardous weather made travel difficult for many of Bates' athletic teams. From shoveling out vans to delayed flights, the mix of cold temperatures and snow consistently proved challenging for winter athletes.

The nordic ski team had originally intended to spend the last week of break in Rangeley, Maine on a training trip. However, the extreme temperatures forced them to amend their plans and shorten the trip to three days.

Similarly, the women's squash team began practicing later than

they had hoped due to the blizzard, which blanketed the northeast on January 4.

"Unfortunately, due to the storm and the fact that a reasonable portion of our team is internationally based, the blizzard delayed and cancelled flights, and pushed back a lot of our pre-planned schedule to practice early. Nevertheless, we all made it back and started our rigorous match preparation," commented women's squash captain Vicky Arjoon '19.

Not even the women of Bates' swimming and diving team were unaffected.

As team captain Hope Logan '18 humorously states, "After finals we escaped the cold and took flight to the lovely beaches of Deerfield Beach, Florida, as we do every year. After New Year's, however, we were back on campus for about a week before classes started, training in the tundra of Maine with our hair freezing twice a day after practice...the run between Merrill and Davis to lift in the morning [is] always a fun one in January at 6:00 a.m..."

Despite it all, the blizzards, the frigid temperatures and leaky ceilings, Bates' athletes made it through the extreme weather ready to compete in the New Year.

Women's Track and Field Gives 100 Percent for Opening Meet

Women's **Track and Field**

JACK MCLARNON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first meet for the women's indoor track and field season was a thrilling mixture of excitement, grit, determination, effort, tough losses, and triumphant victories.

The meet was held at Bates on Saturday, January 13, and was a three-way competition between MIT, Colby, and our own Bobcats. Although the day saw tremendous performances from all three teams, MIT emerged the winner with 106 points. Bates earned second place with 53.5 points, leaving Colby in third with 28.5. The final scores are not indicative of the effort put forth by each team, and Bates competitors from all different events saw some seriously impressive feats by the time this meet was over.

Notable among these is junior Ayden Eickhoff '19 setting a new school record for the 1000 meters with a time of 2:57.24, taking first place in the event as well. This fantastic performance broke a record that has been standing for fifteen years now, by Kelley Puglisi in 2003.

Other track standouts ranged across a variety of distances and

hurdles. In the 600 meters, sophomore Casey Snow '20 placed second with a time of 1:45.75, closely followed by senior captain Caroline Gettens '18 in third at 1:47.52. In the mile, senior Katherine Cook '18 ran 5:10.22 for second place. The 800 meters was also successful, with juniors Sarah Rothmann '19 and Wendy Memishian '19 placing second and third respectively, with 2:27.69 and 2:38.35.

Perhaps the most impressive event for Bates was the 60 meter hurdles, in which four athletes made it onto the Top 10 Performances list for Bates in that event, with first-years Amanda Kaufman '21 (9.31 seconds, prelim.), Jenny Martin '21 (9.49, prelim.), and Molly McCoolle '21 (9.90, prelim.) and junior Sarah Shoulta '19 (9.56, finals) taking the second, fourth, fifth, and eighth on the list, respectively.

About this great achievement, Kaufman says, "Going into the event I was very nervous. I told myself that I've been training harder than I ever did in high school. I guess everything just came together in that race. It was an incredible feeling crossing the finish line of my first collegiate race. I am very excited for the rest of the season and more opportunities to improve."

The field events had tremendous accomplishments as well.

For jumpers, outstanding performances include McCoolle winning the high jump with a height of 1.64 meters (5-0.45) and taking the fifth spot on the all-time best list. Also in the high jump, junior Shelby Burns '19 achieved 1.49m (4-10.5), placing third, and senior Srishti Sunil '18's long jump of 4.95 meter (16-3) placed fourth.

Additionally, the throwers had standout efforts, such as junior captain Katie Hughes '19 placing third in both shot put and weight throw, throwing 35-7.25 and 43-9.75, respectively.

There was also impressive depth displayed by the team as a whole, at all levels of performance.

Unfortunately, the meet was scored only four places deep, so many of the accomplishments from Bobcats who did not quite make the top spots were not acknowledged in the final score. The tremendous efforts of newcomers and personal bests from veterans look promising for upcoming meets in the season to come.

The next meet will be an invitational Saturday, January 20, also at Bates.

Men's Hockey Excites the Crowd With Close Win Against WIT



The men's hockey team lines up before the game. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT

HANNAH PALACIOS
STAFF WRITER

Bates' men's hockey team started out the second half of their season with a bang at Underhill Arena on Saturday, January 13. After losing some key games to end the first half of the season, including a devastating 13-4 loss to Thomas College, the team was back and ready to fight in the first competition of 2018 against Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT).

The two teams seemed to be equally competitive and matched one another with each goal for the majority of the game. The 'Cats set the tone early on. They played a high energy and smart game and used time and space to put together some effective plays throughout the whole night.

It truly was a night for the seniors. Senior captain Nick Barker '18 made completing three goals look easy and started the year off right with a hat trick. Dangling past the WIT defense, Barker sent one to the top shelf and brought the Bobcats up three to one.

However, despite the team's best efforts, the Bobcats just kept the Leopards at bay with the score at 6-6 late in the third. Senior captain Sam Levin '18 came to the rescue and made an unbelievable shot. He scored with about a minute thirty left, pushing the 'Cats up seven to six. Turning out to be the game winning goal, the Bates Bobcats sent the WIT Leopards back home with their tails between their legs.

In a hallmark moment that got the crowd wild, first-year defenseman Ben Stratton '21 scored his first goal of the game and fifth goal of the season with a well-placed snipe. Ever humble, Stratton speaks about the team's win and says, "It was a solid effort from the whole team. We responded quickly and simply out-worked them. It definitely feels good to get a win on home ice."

Stratton is not the only first-year on the team. There actually is a pretty heavy representation from the class of '21; Brooks Clement of Hartford, Conn. earned some good minutes this past game.

"Nothing better than putting one in the win column after a skid of bad games, especially in the way that we did. Top to bottom, everyone played well," says Clement.

Not to be left without credit where credit is due, seniors and assistant captains David Katzman '18 and Andrew Cahill '18 rounded out the superb skill set of the class of '18 with great showings all season through to last Saturday's game.

"Our captains [Barker and Levin] really led the way tonight" Katzman says when asked about the game. "They were flying all night."

The matchup versus WIT also marked the return of a couple of players from abroad who are eager to get back into the swing of the season. Looking forward, the 'Cats will face local rival Central Maine Community College next week at 7:00 p.m. and hope to put another notch in the win column.

"Practices have been uptempo and productive as we are working hard to get the results we desire," adds Barker.



A men's hockey player makes a shot. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT



The team celebrates after a goal. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT



Players celebrate after scoring. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT



Players move onto the next play. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT



A Bates team member skates during play. OLIVIA GILBERT/THE BATES STUDENT