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The Bates Student

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WEDNESDAY

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Lewiston, Maine

FORUM

Mansib Arko '21 talks about recent attacks of free thinkers in Bangladesh.



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Sukiyabashi Jiro dazzles in *Jiro Dreams of Sushi* according to Bria Riggs '18.



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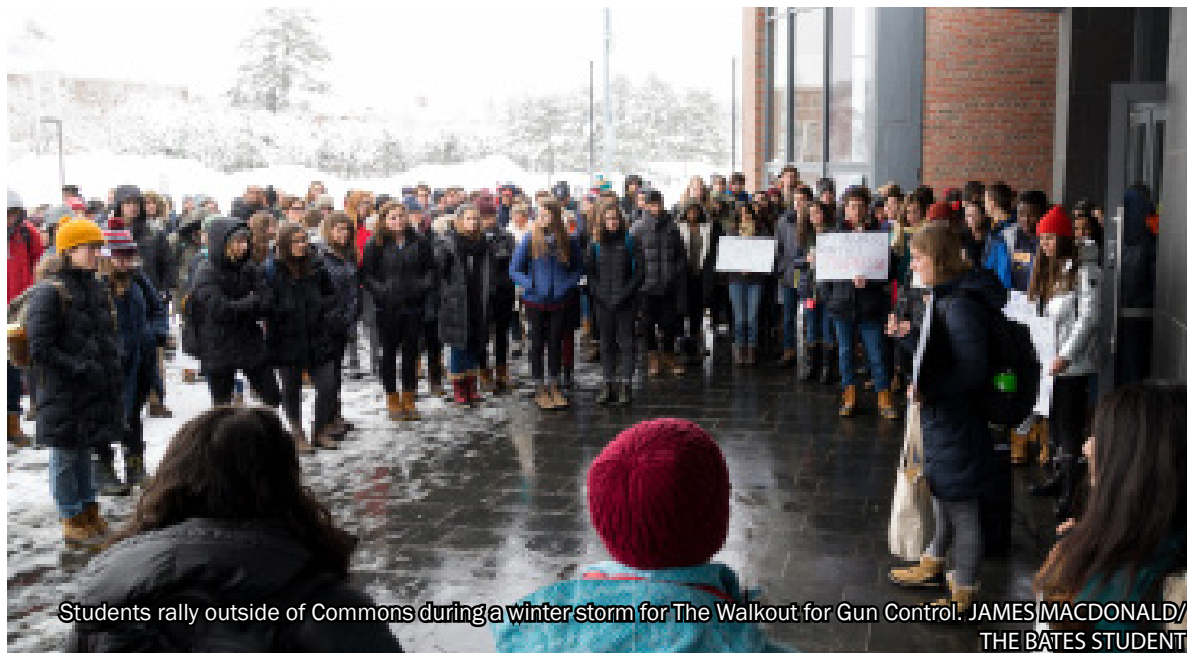
SPORTS

Vanessa Paoella '21 chats with the women's water polo team.



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Bates Students Demand Gun Control During Walkout



Students rally outside of Commons during a winter storm for The Walkout for Gun Control. JAMES MACDONALD/ THE BATES STUDENT

TRICIA CRIMMINS
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, March 14, the snow fell quietly onto Alumni Walk, quickly melting as it hit the pavement, or adhering together, creating frozen mounds. Amidst the storm, precisely at 10:00 a.m., members of the Bates community headed toward Commons to gather for the Bates College Walkout for Gun Control. The Walkout lasted seventeen minutes, "to represent one minute for each student that was killed at the Parkland shooting."

Hosted by Bates Student Action and Bates Student Government, the event gave Bates students an opportunity to rally together and share their thoughts on the school shooting epidemic. Students held signs that stated "enough is enough," "Black Lives Matter," and "our movement is intersectional."

As people arrived, Maddy Smith '20 shared some opening remarks. "This is not the first time that people have rallied around gun violence in this country," explained Smith, "this is an issue that Black Lives Matter has been fighting for so long."

Most of the students that gave speeches highlighted the frequency of mass shootings in the United States. According to statistics provided by Everytown for Gun Safety, eighteen school shootings have already taken place during this year alone.

"The point is to not constantly talk about the shootings after they happen, but to prevent the next one from occurring," stated student body president Walter Washington

See WALKOUT, PAGE 4

Inside Sports:

Five Time All-American Triple Jumper, Sally Ceesay '18, Opens Up About NCAA Experience



Sally Ceesay '18 jumps 40 feet, 3.5 inches at the Maine State Open Meet in Gorham, Maine, breaking her own record. THEOPHIL SYSLO/BATES COLLEGE

MAX PETRIE
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

While March drags on for most students in the cold of Maine, Sally Ceesay '18 has had a very different experience; she traveled to Birmingham, AL to compete in the 2018 NCAA Division III Track & Field Championships earlier in the month. She says, "Generally for nationals, the meets are pretty far away. My first one was in North Carolina, so it was really nice to get back down south to warmer weather. I love going away for nationals, because it's right in the middle of March, and everyone hates this month. I always see it as my vacation and quick break away. It was great." She continues, talking about being in a new place: "It was my first time in Alabama. I got to see a lot of civil rights landmarks and stuff like that, so that was really cool."

The bulk of her time, obviously, was spent preparing for competition. Ceesay competed in the triple jump, placing second and breaking her own record by a half inch with her jump of 40 feet, 4 inches. On preparation for the meet, she says, "In the last two years, I finally figured out what works for me in terms of my mental preparedness. I do the same thing that I've done all season, and I think that helps me best, because it keeps my nerves down. I know that if I'm

doing the same routine I've been doing, and I've been doing well at any normal meet, then everything should fall in place if I'm doing everything exactly the same.

With this preparation heading into her attempts, she then focuses on one thing: "My freshman year I had this coach. . . . He told me before every jump I have to tell myself that I am the sh*t and believe it and take every jump like it was my last one. I still do that to this day. I run through it in my mind." After this, she gets on the runway and clears her head. She says, "I try to clear my mind so I'm not thinking about anything."

Clearly this method of preparation has paid off, as Ceesay as earned All-American honors five times, the fifth coming at this NCAA's. As a first-year, she competed in the triple jump at the NCAA Indoor Championships, finishing 16th with a jump of 35 feet, 3.25 inches. A year later, during the 2015-16 indoor season, she earned her first All-American honors with a Bates record-breaking jump of 38 feet, 1.25 inches. With this jump, she became Bates's first All-American triple jumper since 1985. She went on to earn four more All-American honors in the event and has broken her record multiple times.

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Inside Forum:

Are You a Racist? – Part Two

KYLE LARRY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In my previous article, "Are You a Racist?" I explored the definition of racism. I highlighted the difference between prejudice and racism, with prejudice being strictly hatred, while racism is both hatred and having systematic power. Furthermore, I parsed the popular debate of whether people of color can be racist towards white people and vice versa. After much analysis, I concluded that people of color cannot be racist towards white people, but white people, on the other hand, can be racist towards people of color.

This, of course, raised even more questions, including: "can people of color be racists towards each other?"

Now, at first glance, people can make the following assumptions that when it comes to racism between two different ethnic groups: 1) in regards to people of color, everyone is marginalized; therefore, everyone

is on the same level when seeking out opportunities. So, if a person of color were to receive a prestigious position and blatantly discriminated against another person of color, then that person would be considered racist, because they are aware of the power structure meant to subjugate both of them as people of color. 2) People, especially in the Black community, could make the argument that some people of color are white passing. In being white passing, individuals can easily gain systematic power and oppress people of color with darker skin. For the sake of this article, I will be focusing specifically on the first argument with a lens pertaining to the relationship between two cultures.

Both of these arguments have merit and add layers of complexity to the question: "can people of color be racist towards each other?" However, there is something that both of the arguments fail to acknowledge: the master's complex. You see, when it comes to this question, it is not

a matter of whether people of color can be racist towards each other, but rather, why they show hatred towards one another. This is where the master's complex comes into play.

Now, let's explore a hypothetical situation with a Mexican man. If the man, who lives in a predominantly Latin community and has rarely interacted with Black people, and sees a Black man in his neighborhood, then he will have some suspicion, especially because his only reference to Black people is from the information he receives through media. The media often portrays communities inhabited predominantly by people of color in a negative light. So, the Mexican man would assume that the Black man is dangerous, even though he is innocently walking through the community. This problematic mindset tends to lead to actions, such as saying the N-word to assert dominance.

See RACIST, PAGE 2

A Cappella Dazzles at St. Paddy's Day Concert

TORY DOBBIN
MANAGING ARTS&LEISURE EDITOR

While many members of the Bates community were celebrating St. Paddy's Day at various events, this past Saturday evening I found myself in the Peter Gomes Chapel listening to some fantastic a cappella music. I was there to listen to Owlmen, a joint concert between the Bates College Deansmen and Vassar College Night Owls. When both groups came out of the practice area and took their seats, audience mem-

bers murmured about the splashes of green replacing the typical black-and-white Deansmen tuxedos.

The Deansmen opened with a tried-and-true classic "The Walk," a song narrated by a man as he breaks up with his girlfriend. John Thayer '18 lead the group through the sassy ballad. The group shifted gears to the Fleet Foxes song "Mykonos" with Patrick Nelson '18 taking the solo. The group deftly navigated the change in genre from their doo-wop beginning to the indie-pop hit.

See A CAPELLA, PAGE 5



Discussing Willful Ignorance in an Era of Mass Media

Content warning: police brutality, racism, transphobia, discriminatory violence

CARL DEAKINS
STAFF WRITER

Though the internet only came into being fairly recently, it is an invention with implications similar to, if not more profound, than the wheel. Humans have only just begun adapting to the anthropological effects of the internet. Many of the consequences remain to be seen.

On a personal level, the access to unfathomable amounts of information can be just as disorienting as empowering. The unassuming dimensions of a “smart” phone has led to the now familiar eye contact-less circles of craned necks. This is a cultural norm that anthropologists fifteen years ago would find unimaginable, save works of science fiction.

Yet, as new as these technological forces may be, there remains a tendency in discourse to erase traditions and movements that have existed for long periods of time.

For example, though the social movement #BlackLivesMatter is certainly new, the black American diaspora community has been protesting extrajudicial violence within popular discourse since at least slave catchers became the American police force. #BlackLivesMatter is certainly revolutionary in many important respects, but there can be a dangerous erasure of histories of political resistance that gets lost in the purported complete newness of modern movements.

Complacency is easy when current social change is seen as uniquely revolutionary, without any reference for progression. At the same time, denying new characteristics in contemporary

social movements usually leads to a type of misinformed and apathetic cynicism. Yet, knowing what characteristics actually defines a contemporary moments can be incredibly difficult living within that period, especially with the rapid expansion of information technologies.

Even though this expanse of knowledge is real, there is a manufactured paralysis of an individual’s own types of social privilege. Though social privilege is not a fixed object, there is a tendency to accept clean theories of progress along the ways a person can be privileged. This is a broad tendency that I would like to examine in a context in which I have more knowledge.

In recent years, “visibility” has become a paradigmatic word to describe themes of transgender and gender-queer representation in media and public space. This word, as a concept to describe a current moment, has a fairly flexible application. Still, from many perspectives, when understood as “increasing,” “visibility” is usually understood to be a positive sign of change. “Visibility” often becomes a rhetorical repository for all action on behalf of people who are transgender among Bates discussions with cis- students on justice for trans people. It is relatively common to hear the main part of the solution to discrimination against trans and genderqueer individuals to be answered with vague “visibility.”

Frankly, I do not know what is meant by this, nor do I think it has any efficacy. Simply being allowed to exist visibly in public spaces, does not necessarily deconstruct white centric cis-hetero patriarchal

societal structures. Combatting discrimination against trans-people is far more multifaceted than being visible in public spaces. This is especially the case when being visibly of queer gender presentation can become met with reactionary violence.

Further, “visibility” operates under the presumption that the issue is incumbent on trans and genderqueer to solve, it obfuscates the ability for cis people to advocate on behalf of trans people in employment discrimination, reactionary violence, gender marked bathrooms, or any number of well publicized issues. This does not even touch on the basic demands to be inclusive in language, activism, and application of emotional labor. Furthermore, the discourse “visibility” decouples contemporary American trans activism from any type of historical impetus. Transgender equality cannot be extricated from European colonialism for a plethora of reasons, particularly as inculcating gender binaries were a large part of white European colonial projects. This fact manifests in moments of political resistance like the heading of the Stonewall riots by black and brown drag queens.

Though this idea of “visibility” is certainly more complicated than I have space or the knowledge to exhaust, I think it demonstrates a particularly important reality that seems to have become heightened in the age of the internet.

It is relatively easy to be flummoxed by massive amounts of information and impetuously accept culturally reproduced ideas about groups outside one’s own knowledge base.

Surveying the Conditions and Consequences of Democracy

AYESHA SHARMA
MANAGING FORUM EDITOR

United States veterans are commended on their bravery in keeping American citizens safe from harm or danger. They are lauded for risking their lives to preserve the lives of Americans. But, with the United States’ huge military budget, are threats to national security and democracy really the country’s main concerns?

With the death count of Vietnamese in the Vietnam War at an estimated 3.8 million according to *Democracy Now!*, were anti-communism and containment really the primary reasons for U.S. involvement in Vietnam? Or, are threats to national security and democracy constructed in public consciousness to defend these atrocities alongside United States imperialism?

The United States is not the democratic bastion of international peace that many Americans think it is, and this narrative has caused more destruction than harmony or justice.

This weekend marks the 50th anniversary of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. During this massacre on March 16, 1968, United States soldiers killed more than 500 Vietnamese people in the Southern Vietnamese village of My Lai.

According to *Democracy Now!*, “The soldiers raped women. They burned their houses. They mutilated the villagers’ bodies. One U.S. soldier said he was ordered to ‘kill anything that breathed.’”

Just a single soldier involved with this massacre was convicted: a lieutenant named William Calley. Although he was sentenced to a life in prison, he ended up serving only three and a half years of house arrest instead. Calley did not express remorse for his involvement in this massacre in his personal statement.

According to his trial record on *Famous Trials*, he asserted, “Well, I was ordered to go in there and destroy the enemy. That was my job on that day. That was the mission I was given. I did not sit down and think in terms of men, women, and children. They were all classified the same, and that was the classification that we dealt with, just as enemy soldiers.”

This association of innocent civilians with enemies follows the United States military’s trend in targeting and attacking threats to democratic values and national security. While this government

paternalism helps the United States to build its image as a benevolent protector of its people, it simultaneously instills fear in United States citizens as well. It propagates the idea that there is always some external force, ideology, or person to be feared, rather than revealing the reality—that many United States citizens are complicit in supporting governments that are hell-bent on building the nation’s global power.

The so-called War on Drugs, though concentrated nationally, was also part of an imperialist agenda and employed this scapegoating mechanism to construct the image of Black and Brown Americans as criminals. Michelle Alexander, the author of *The New Jim Crow*, is one of many to connect the dots between the criminalization of Black and Brown people in the War on Drugs and the demographic statistics of mass incarceration.

In a *PBS* article entitled “Michelle Alexander: A System of Racial and Social Control,” Alexander claims that “President Ronald Reagan wanted to make good on campaign promises to get tough on that group of folks who had already been defined in the media as black and brown, the criminals, and he made good on that promise by declaring a drug war.”

She also discusses the consequences of incarceration—that formerly incarcerated people are “released into a permanent second-class status in which they are stripped of basic civil and human rights, like the right to vote, the right to serve on juries, and the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to public benefits.”

This process of mass incarceration not only disenfranchises Black and Brown people and strips them of their civil rights, but it establishes a structure of these people to be exploited for their labor within prisons. The United States military uses this cheap labor to their advantage.

According to *The New York Times* article “U.S. Flouts Its Own Advice in Procuring Overseas Clothing,” federal inmates in 2013 “stitched more than \$100 million worth of military uniforms.”

Although mass incarceration and foreign war initiatives are legitimized through threats manufactured to protect democratic ideals and U.S. citizens, they functionally obscure the oppressive conditions required for U.S. democracy to exist and those that the illusions of democracy create.

RACIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This hatred that the Mexican man has stems from the slave-to-master complex which posits that the Mexican man is flooded by white people’s perspective on Black culture and, eventually, assumes that he is better than Black people. When people attempt to justify others’ subordination, while not even acknowledging their own, they listen to the master, similar to how slaves listened to the master when they told them of their fellow slaves’ escapes.

This means that the Mexican man is basically a pawn of the white

man, and has no power over what he is saying. He only listens to the white man because that’s the information that is available to him.

This leads to the crux of my argument: people of color from two different ethnic groups cannot be racist towards each other.

Even if the Mexican man held a position over the Black person, or outwardly discriminated against him, he is not racist. The Mexican man’s power and hatred isn’t a result of that person, but a result of the person who he had to become in order to succeed. His assimilation

to white culture and adherence to the white man’s perspective is a way to survive, like how slaves had to survive by selling out their friends and becoming the master’s favorite. A person cannot be racist if they dislike a group based off information made to brainwash them, and create separation between marginalized groups.

Ultimately, people of color from different backgrounds cannot be racist towards each other. If anything, their hatred is a result of their ideas being white-washed.

The Bates Student

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Question on the Quad

What's your favorite day of the week?



*"Thursdays are good days."
-Aidan Temperino '21*



*"Friday."
-Eve Cinquiano '19*

SARAH MCCARTHY/THE BATES STUDENT

Bangladesh Undergoes a Shift in Religious Extremism

MANSIB TAHSIN ARKO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The recent trend of unhinged attacks on free-thinkers in Bangladesh continued as one of the most prominent writers in Bangladesh, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, was stabbed in his own university on March 3. Two years ago, Xulhaz Mannan, the publisher of the only LGBT magazine and an employee of the US Embassy in Dhaka, was stabbed to death in his home by religious extremists. Avijit Roy, a Bangladeshi American scientist and writer, was also murdered on an open street during a festival in 2015.

I can list several more incidents of similar nature but these three summarize the dangerous trend of intolerance that has been in the making for many years.

However, in my opinion, the most recent attack on Jafar Iqbal represents a much darker shift in the extremist movement in Bangladesh. Because most of the previous atrocities transpired on people who could be, in some way, associated with either secularism or atheism or LGBT movements. They would be writers, bloggers, or publishers who could be linked to books,

articles, magazines, Facebook posts, and blogs that directly clashed with some beliefs of Islam, albeit extreme ones.

But Jafar Iqbal is a devout Muslim who had never associated himself with any movement, something that I don't appreciate about him. The son of a martyr of the Bangladeshi Liberation War, he had been a successful researcher in the U.S. before returning to Bangladesh to teach in a local university. He is one of the most popular writers in Bangladesh, if not the most popular young adult novel writer, authoring more than two hundred books over the last forty years. His enormous fanbase and the support he yields from the public is what makes the attack on him even more surprising. The fact that he could have been attacked in a public program even after he was receiving police protection also speaks to the level of integration the assailant had.

In my understanding, he has been a perfect moderate in the recent climate of Bangladesh. While he has been a vocal proponent against religious extremism, he has eschewed supporting the LGBT movement or the more progressive secular-atheistic movements. Most of his work has centered around

preserving the true history of the liberation war of Bangladesh, opposing anti-liberation, pro-Pakistan political parties in Bangladesh, and promoting free-speech. For example, as an extremely powerful influencer for teenagers, he has promoted non-sectarianism between Muslims and Hindus through his novels and books. He has written extensively about the importance of tolerance and fairness for minorities who might not share the beliefs as most people in Bangladesh do. Issues that had generally been accepted by the conservative Bengali society as issues worth promoting. An attack on him represents a seismic shift in the extent of religious extremism in Bangladesh. It is a prelude to an attack on freedom of speech of all genres. It is a prelude to communal riots in even larger scales than before.

While I begrudgingly accept the fact that freedom of speech or a bill of rights for the irreligious or LGBT community in Bangladesh is out of reach for now, I can't accept a country where every act of progression can be halted in the name of religion. At this juncture, I must wonder: at what point would the government step in?

Have We Become Immune?

SARAH MCCARTHY
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Since Trump took office, it feels like every week another high-ranking official gets sacked for menial offenses such as disagreeing with the president or not showing enough loyalty. After the first 100 days, I deleted the news apps on my phone seeking solace from the unstable reality. But silencing the craziness does not change what is occurring, it allows for it to continue and threatens the democratic values of our nation.

As the new slogan of the *Washington Post* reads "democracy dies in darkness," thus my own silencing and the sense that many of us have become immune to rash changes poses a problem larger than we all realize.

While members of a president's cabinet should be generally on the same page regarding policy issues and things of that nature, it feels the agreement and loyalty Trump seeks is unwavering and total admiration. Trump has brought his signature move from *The Apprentice* to the White House, dismissing four officials including most recently Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and forcing Deputy F.B.I. Director Andrew McCabe to resign just four

days before he was set to retire. During his tenure thus far he has also forced resignations from over ten high-ranking officials including Sean Spicer, The Mooch, and Reince Priebus.

Most of these force-outs did not come as a huge surprise to the individual fired, nor many citizens of the nation due to Trump's constant scrutiny and overt bullying of his colleagues before officially removing them from a position that challenges his authority. After Director McCabe was asked to leave, Trump tweeted "Andrew McCabe FIRED, a great day for the hardworking men and women of the FBI - A great day for Democracy."

While Trump justifies his actions in the name of democracy and the everyday, hard-working American, he acts in accordance to what serves him the best in each moment without thinking about or understanding consequences of his actions.

Are Trump's actions truly serving the values of democracy or has he increasingly barricaded himself in order to protect and ensure a presidential power trip that focuses on the personality cult he has carefully constructed?

Trump has built his brand as a businessman and now a politician

on being a straight shooter who is unafraid to speak his mind no matter how vile his world views have become. As a candidate, he built a base on white fragility and the deconstructing of political correctness, two things he has worked to maintain while in office through executive orders and brash rhetoric.

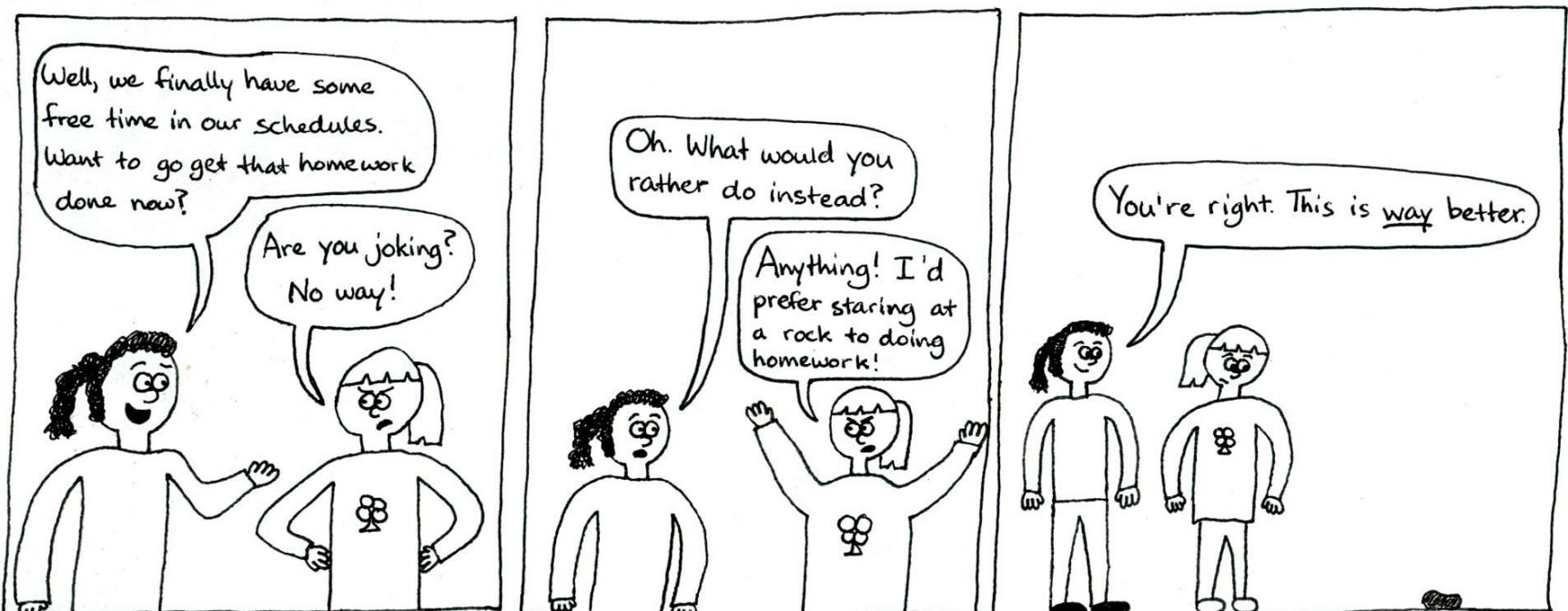
The thing Trump has failed to recognize is that while he attempts to keep his campaign promises and continue his image, he is in fact doing things he heavily criticized Obama for doing and is not weighing all the effects of his decisions such as the way he is handling the "trade war." Trump's constant scrutiny of the press and his obsession with fake news as a central role in his personality cult works to undermine the rights of the free press and works in opposition to the protection of democracy by building uncertainty in the population and positioning himself as the sole bearer of truth.

As we progress through this term especially heading into the midterm elections in November, it is important to be educated and engaged citizens. Standing by the wayside is no longer an option, attempting to ignore hard realities has no place in American society anymore.

Comic Corner

JACK MCLARNON
CONTRIBUTOR

Submit your comics to be considered for our Comic Corner feature!
Email as JPEG image to hposner@bates.edu



Clement Blows Whistle on Climate Policy

CHRISTINA PERRONE
MANAGING NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, March 14, Joel Clement, the Former Top Climate Official at the Department of Interior came back to his home state of Maine to deliver a speech on the Trump Administration's War on Climate Policy. In recent news, Clement has become somewhat of a celebrity whistleblower after writing an explosive op-ed in *The Washington Post* titled "I'm a scientist. I'm blowing the whistle on the Trump administration" this past July. More recently, *The Washington Post* has also published his fiery resignation letter to Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, criticizing him for failing to address the threat of climate change.

When Clement first came to the podium, he commemorated Stephen Hawking who died the morning of his speech, adding "how clever [it was] of him to die on Pi Day and also Albert Einstein's birthday." He continued, "So in his honor, I'm going to state a scientific consensus on climate change. Rapid climate change is real, it's dangerous, and we're causing it."

His speech centered on Maine State's motto: *dirigo*, meaning "I lead" in Latin. "I always thought it was just referring to Mainers, you know. We lead, we're leaders. There's a farmer and a sailor on the emblem and they're leaders. It totally escaped me that the north star was at the top of the emblem. Polaris, the symbol of guidance and direction is sitting there."

In his work, Clement advocates for Alaska Natives who are facing the threat of being erased from the face of the earth due to extreme weather and ice-cap melting. The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, "The warm temperature anomalies...I don't know at what point anomaly stops becoming anomaly, because this year we far exceeded those warm temperatures. In fact, I think the closest recording station to the Arctic is in Northern Greenland. And in February they detected temperatures over 40 degrees." Unfortunately, Maine is next on the list after Arctic people for facing devastating consequences of global warming.

"I'm going to talk a little bit about my experience as whistleblower to give you a sense of what we're up against both in Maine and Alaska with these climate impacts and can give you a little bit of a taste of what they're up to in this administration," said Clement.

He first began by describing the responsibilities involved for his job

at the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C., "Every aspect of every mission is affected by climate impacts, whether it's managing our legendary national parks, protecting biodiversity, providing world class science that the US Geological Survey provides... And so I was very public about this. I spoke very publicly and very frequently about the importance of addressing these impacts. I wasn't talking about CO2 and methane. I was talking about how do we handle the impacts that we know are already coming."

According to Clement, their goal was to eliminate all programs from the previous administration, "Anything with an Obama stamp on it had to go, good or bad, effective or ineffective. Marginalize all the scientists and experts, get them out of the way, and shrink and hobble government to allow industry fuller access."

One of the punches from the administration was aimed at the Senior Executive Service at the Department of Interior where Clement worked at the time. As an expert in climate change, Clement belonged to the SCS, which is the executive core of career professionals who were meant to be deployed wherever an agency needs high level but nonpolitical talent. "No agency in any administration has ever come in and move dozens in one night, as this group did... and to accomplish that they moved people into positions that were completely unrelated to their backgrounds or expertise. They moved them across the country, there was no prior consolation, they were given no choice in the matter."

Clement then admitted, "At any rate, I guess it was obvious that I was on their list, I believe, because of my work on behalf of Alaska natives facing these climate change effects. They seemed particularly eager for me to quit and I stayed at it because I was the climate change guy. They moved me to the office that collects and disperses royalty incomes from the oil and gas companies."

Clements was then promptly moved to an auditing office. Although he enjoyed the people working there, he felt that it was "a huge waste of my expertise and background and my salary." To him, it was very poor governance, but more importantly, it ended his work supporting the Alaska Natives. In fact, to this day, there is no one in D.C. coordinating federal response to this disaster in Alaska.

For the second half of his speech, he focused on how can we can put science back in the forefront of public policy, and "make it the north star of public policy." He proposed that we should have five goals: Democracy, transparency, fair budgeting, rule of law and science advocacy.

Foreign Language Spotlight: Jing Tian

MADELINE POLKINGHORN
STAFF WRITER

As part of a series here at *The Bates Student*, our News Department has interviewed different foreign language teaching assistants (TAs) in an effort to better understand Bates' foreign language department. Throughout the series, we have aimed to seek greater insight into the invaluable work the TAs and learning associates do to provide Bates Students with a fully dimensional language experience that allows us to strengthen our foreign language skills through intercultural exchange. As most foreign language students at Bates will tell you, the assistance of Foreign Language TAs is precious: whether you need help preparing for an exam, practicing a different alphabet, or simply want to converse with a native speaker. This week, I spoke to Jing Tian, a learning assistant from the Chinese department.

The Bates Student (BS): What

is your name and what do you do at Bates?

Jing Tian (JT): Jing Tian. The Chinese learning associate.

BS: Where are you from?

JT: Nanjing City, China.

BS: Why did you decide to teach Chinese? Why did you choose Bates?

JT: Teaching Chinese as the Second Language is my major. And it's interesting to teach Chinese. Bates is a good college. It has cooperation with my university in China.

BS: How long have you been at Bates?

JT: Since last September.

BS: What has been your favorite part of teaching at Bates? Has anything been challenging?

JT: My favorite part has been teaching Chinese grammar, as well as showing Chinese traditional culture, such as papercutting and Chinese calligraphy. Chinese tones are difficult for students, so it is a

little challenging to make them pronounce correctly.

BS: Have you ever taught or experienced the education system in China? If so, do you know of any differences between the Chinese and American education systems?

JT: Yes. I taught international students in China before I came Bates. The international students have more Chinese classes than students at Bates, and the number of students in a class in China is bigger.

BS: Do you have any advice for students learning a foreign language?

JT: Practice makes perfect. They can find a native speaker as a language partner.

BS: Will you be staying at Bates indefinitely? If not, Do you have any plans after Bates?

JT: No. I will go back to China in April. I'm still a postgraduate student, so I want to get my master degree firstly.

Amy Bass Talks About Her New Book and Lewiston Soccer's Dream Season



Students and community members listen to a talk by Amy Bass. JAMES MACDONALD/BATES COLLEGE



Bass reads an excerpt from her new book. JAMES MACDONALD/BATES COLLEGE



Bass takes questions from members of the audience. JAMES MACDONALD/BATES COLLEGE

MATT MORRIS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

During the fall, members of the Bates community were able to watch Lewiston High School's boys' soccer team play their home games on Garcelon Field, on the road to a state title. On Wednesday, students got to hear from an alumna and author, who wrote a book about the team's first title run in 2015, and its importance to the town.

Amy Bass '92, a sports writer and professor at New Rochelle College in New York State, returned to her alma mater to talk about her newest book. The book, entitled *One Team: A Coach, A Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Town Together*, looks at Lewiston High School's 2015 state title run in boys' soccer. In particular, *One Team* tells the story of how Lewiston's coaches were able to bring together white and Somali players behind a common goal.

Bass began the talk by introducing Lewiston High School Soccer Head Coach Mike McGraw, a major presence throughout the book, who was in the audience. McGraw also

received applause from the crowd when Bass introduced him. Bass called McGraw, "such a good friend and such an important part of this story." From there, Bass discussed the process of writing and researching the book and "embedding" herself in the Lewiston community.

"In so many ways, this book is a first for me. It's not an academic book, it's my first attempt writing nonfiction and to tell a story in a way I hadn't told a story before," said Bass.

Bass continued by reading an excerpt from her book and discussing McGraw and team's frequent use of the word "together," which she claimed was the single word she heard McGraw say the most during her time with the team. Lewiston's coaches encouraged white and Somali players to not only spend time together during practice, but also off the field, something that McGraw did not see as much of as he would have liked initially.

"If you're going to the store; if you're going to class, you need to do it together. High fives in the hallway. You need to hang out together... You need to stick up for each other," read Bass from *One Team*, quoting

McGraw.

Bass also discussed the process through which the first members of the Somali community to arrive in Lewiston came, as well the tension that it caused. Bass felt that Lewiston's soccer team set an example for the rest of the town and the nation on a path moving forward as a unified whole. In response to an audience question, Bass said that she saw soccer as a sport was particularly well-suited for bringing people from a variety of backgrounds together, because of its global popularity. Many of the student members of the audience were also members of Bates soccer teams.

After graduating from Bates, Bass received her Master's and Doctoral degrees from Stony Brook University. *One Team* is Bass's fourth book. Her others have ranged in subject matter from legacy of NAACP founder W.E.B Du Bois to the 1968 Olympics. Bass has won an Emmy Award for her work for NBC at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

One Goal: A Coach, A Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Town Together is available at Ladd Library and for purchase online from Bass's website.

WALKOUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'19.

Additionally, speeches touched on the power that members of the Bates community have in resisting the NRA and Congressional silence concerning gun regulation laws. Washington urged attendees "to understand that, while we still cannot believe in the White House," and members of Congress, we can "believe in each other. Keep resisting; do not stop talking about this moment; do not stop doing everything within your power to resist against the government."

In the spirit of substantial resistance, the organizers of the Walkout passed around petitions demanding common sense gun control to be given to U.S. Senator Susan Collins. Students had the opportunity to sign both during the event and at tables outside Commons later that day.

Beyond the petitions, Julia Panepinto '20 asked students to "remember that you have the power to make this change happen, and that what you do today has to translate into the future."

Both Eliza Roberts '19 and Muskan Verma '21 expressed their frustration concerning access to semi-automatic rifles in the United States. "It is ridiculous to me that

guns are available here in Walmart where you go to buy candy and cola," stated Verma. "We are not trying to take away all your guns," clarified Roberts, "but... the only point to [semi-automatic rifles] is to cause mass harm." Referencing the valiant efforts of the Parkland teens, Roberts explained "they just want some regulation, they just want to feel safe going back to Parkland... You want to feel safe in your school."

Verma also spoke about the upcoming March for Our Lives in Portland, ME. In conjunction with the march in Washington D.C., marchers in Portland are demanding gun regulations, background checks, bans on assault rifles, and measures to increase school security. The event will take place on March 24, and begin in Congress Square Park in Portland. Verma urged all students to attend the March to the best of their abilities. "This is something that matters... and no matter how busy you are, lives really, really, really matter."

The Walkout ended with a moment of silence honoring the lives lost in the Parkland shooting and the lives of all Americans "killed by senseless gun violence," notes Panepinto.

A CAPELLA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The Vassar College Night Owls are one of the oldest all-female collegiate a cappella groups in the US. JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT

As the Vassar College Night Owls took the stage, a leader introduced the group to the Bates audience. They are one of the oldest all-women a cappella groups in the U.S. (rivaled by the Smith College Smiffenpoofs) and previous members include Meryl Streep. They continued their history of jazz vocals with the song “Sexy Silk” originally performed by Jessie J. This sultry introduction set the mood; the group would continue their bold attitude throughout the four song set.

Their next song, “Saving Ourselves for Yale” is a play on history between Vassar and Yale; apparently, years ago Yale University reached out to Vassar and asked to merge schools. Vassar politely declined the offer, and both institutions eventually became co-educational. As the title suggests, the song is about women who would like to marry Yale graduates and is sung by both the Night Owls and an all-male a cappella group from Yale (The Whiffenpoofs).

The group changed genres in their third song with Amy Winehouse’s “Back to Black.” This emotional jazz tune shares the story of a turbulent breakup and consequent fallout.

The Night Owls ended their set with the mesmerizing song, “Plain Gold Ring” by Nina Simone. This song shared the story of a woman in love with a married man. While the story and lyrics were not particularly exciting, the Owls created a dazzling soundscore. When the soloist sang her sad story, the rest of the group produced a shimmering vocal backdrop that entranced audience members. The effect was dizzying.

After the Owls finished and bowed, the Deansmen came back onstage and completed their four-song set with other Deansmen classics, “Shenandoah” and “Army.” The folk song “Shenandoah” shares the emotional daily struggle of living during the United States’ early expansion period as French fur trappers explored west of the Missouri

River. In particular, the song tells the story of a sailor who falls in love with a Native American woman but never fulfills his heart’s desire. John Thayer ’18 sang the solo in the sad story.

The group switched gears for the next song; Ben Folds Five’s “Army” was an energetic pop song about a young man’s struggle to find purpose in his life. Soloist Justin Demers ’18 sings his heart out while the group performs goofy choreographed dance moves that tell the relatable story.

Both groups chose set lists that demonstrated a wide variety of performance ability, however, I was left wishing for more. I am an avid a cappella fangirl and longed for a longer set list than the short eight songs presented.

For the next show, I can only hope for a longer performance and more time listening to the music I love.



The Night Owls sing “Plain Gold Ring” at Saturday’s a cappella concert. JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT



John Thayer ’18 and the Deansmen perform. JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT

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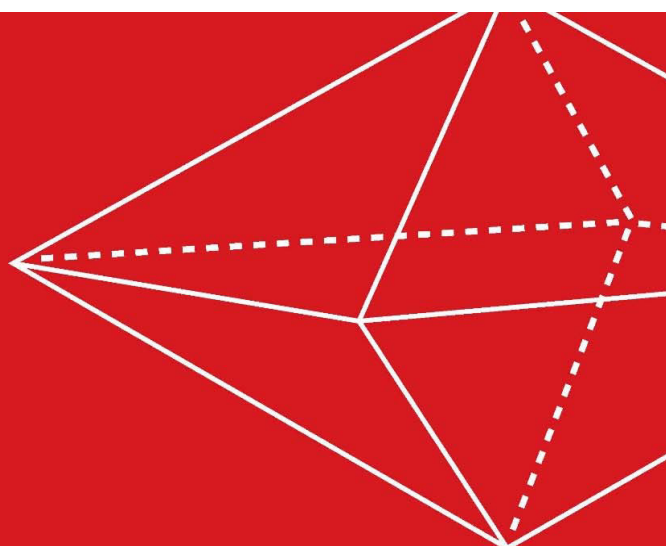
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A great day at Bates – Don't miss it!

Pau Faus Brings Humanity To Spanish Political Figures in Film “Alcaldessa”

LUIS DAVID MOLINA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I am a 1997 kid and I grew up in a Spain of economic decadence, a straight-up (note the irony) downhill Spain. The new millennium approached and within less than a decade, apartments went from somewhat affordable prices to price tags that nobody could handle. Banks gave out a lot of money and messed up a lot of people, particularly hard-working, middle-class folks. I still remember the year my sister moved to Madrid and she paid 1,000 Euros in rent for a 30 square meters (322 ft.) apartment. Having a teacher's salary of 1,600 euros/month for a tiny apartment and using more than half of it to pay rent had become the norm in the big city. This was 2004.

Discomfort grew and we transitioned from a right-wing government to a left-wing government when I was six. I still remember the moment when socialists won the election in 2004, and my dad increased his involvement in the party. I also remember the day when he had to close his small construction company, which he had worked his way up to owning after years of being a construction worker himself. There were too many buildings, and no one to live in them. Hundreds of construction companies around the country shut down, hundreds of people were out of luck. This was 2008.

Ada Colau, Faus' film star, had a lot more schooling than my father. Nevertheless, the two of them have something in common and that had to do with money. They

were both affected by a collapsing *burbuja inmobiliaria* (real estate bubble in English). Whatever side of the bubble they had been in, both companies and customers alike weren't happy. Fast-forward, mass evictions became a norm and Ada Colau, current mayor of Barcelona, became one of the leaders for the social movement emerging from such evictions— the PAH (*Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca*, or People Affected by Mortgages).

Pau tells the story of another working-class member, Ada Colau, who went from calling a representative of the Spanish Banking Association “a criminal” at a parliamentary hearing to the first female mayor of Barcelona under the merger left-wing party of *En Comú Podem*. As Pau would put it in his Q&A session, he “was interested in documenting how someone moves from activism to institutional politics.”

Through Catalanian independence debates mostly unmentioned in his work, Fau brings a human perspective to the life of the politician. How many times have I heard people insulting politicians? I don't even know. As my mum used to say, “blame all these politicians now, but the one getting crazy mortgages without holding a clue of whether you'd be able to pay back were you.” Political figures come from all different socioeconomic backgrounds, and they get credited and discredited often.

Fau succeeds in creating a documentary film that forgives the position of the politician and humanizes the gaze of their viewer.

Presented in a countdown narrative that unfolds in both Cata-

lán and Spanish, Fau documents a whole year of *En Comú Podem's* political campaign through the eyes of his camera and its gazes at Barcelona's mayor.

We see Colau in campaign planning meetings, in rallies, in debates with other electoral candidates, and in her humble apartment in Barcelona. We also see her a lot in the back-room of the party's untidy headquarters. There, Fau pulls out some black background and films Colau in some sort of video-diaries that express her concerns.

Interestingly enough, when Fau was questioned about what he asked her in those interviews, he stated that his go-to strategy was to ask, “How are you feeling today?” These video-diaries, extremely powerful because of the intimacy created, let us learn about her strengths but also about her fears.

Believe it or not, she is human and is afraid of becoming a leader as she analyzes her journey and realizes that a couple of years ago, it was she who cursed institutional political powers.

Politics is a tough and over-complicated beast.

I am aware that back home people would hate on me for looking at our politicians from a forgiving point of view. “Whether they are right-wing or left-wing, they are all thieves” is the current motto in many households. That being said, I found enjoyment (as one of the only Spaniards in the room) in watching Fau's documentary succeed in finding an empathizing eye in a profession that can bring its “professionals” as many supporters as haters.

MGMT is Back with Little Dark Age

ARIEL ABONIZIO
ASSISTANT ARTS & LEISURE
EDITOR

MGMT is pretty weird. The band's particular brand of alternative/indie with hint of psychedelia became popular after their first album *Oracular Spectacular*, followed by two less popular albums *Congratulations* and *MGMT*. On February 9, the group released a fourth album called *Little Dark Age*. It follows the band's own groovy synthesized feeling - a Pink Floyd that decided to be pop - but without the visionary energy. The band took inspiration in American politics to compose the new album and a few tunes reflect that. Most songs are quite flat and almost too relaxing, but the song “Little Dark Age” is a decent crowd pleaser.

Like other similar bands, Alt-J and Of Montreal, MGMT produces one good album every few average ones. *Little Dark Age* had promise, but fell in the “alright” category. Worth a listen but not worth the hype.

The American band was formed by Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser, who met during their first year at Wesleyan University. *Oracular Spectacular* was the band's big hit and targeted at the young indie fandom around 2007. They were the good weird then, but since that time alternative synth music has leaned towards pop and dance; MGMT seemed left behind. Although *Little Dark Age* is a bit closer to pop, there is still some emptiness, tension, contrast, energy, and wicked melodies missing and most of the songs feel like an endless spiral.

“The album was unimpressive... the songs are not very distinct and kind of blur together but there are a couple of interesting songs,” Joshua Andino '20 told me.

The ninth song of the album, “When You're Small,” is a little more interesting. It has a clear Pink Floyd feel for me: a moody repetition of sad melody and slow lyrics that are perfect for a gloomy day.

The inspiration for the album was the American political situation (and you-know-who) so perhaps this would be a great song for November 8, 2016. “When You're Small” captures the classic liberal arts college artsy frustration. What makes this song possibly the best of the album is the auditory simplicity but complex arrangement and odd lyrics.

“Days That Got Away,” the seventh song of the album, has some interesting effects and feels to me like walking dizzily around a big city. It's busy and confusing but still homogeneous somehow. The lyrics are “days that got away” on loop and even the dreamy voices feel isolated. If it is a trip, it is not quite a good one. There's nothing to hold onto.

Andino added a different opinion: “for me ‘Little Dark Age’ and ‘When You Die’ are two of the nicer ones in the album.” I agree that “When You Die” is the closest MGMT got to their earlier vibes. “When You Die” has suicidal lyrics and explicit language in a distorted and psychedelic vehicle so listen with caution.

Oracular Spectacular is still my favorite album of the band and *Little Dark Age* doesn't really come close. The band's first album opens with the simple riff of “Time to Pretend,” dreamy, soft, and vibrant like a drugged smoothie in Palm Beach. *Little Dark Age* lost the simplicity but that's okay; times are complicated and America is busy.

Little Dark Age is not “dancey,” but maybe MGMT delivered on the album that the country needs now.

Jiro Dreams of Sushi: A Close Look at a Japanese Culinary Hero

BRIA RIGGS
STAFF WRITER

Before *Chef's Table*, the critically-acclaimed Netflix original documentary series, David Gleb was already travelling the world to showcase the fine-dining and some of the globe's most captivating cuisine. Gleb, the director of *Chef's Table*, traveled to Japan to shine a spotlight on a hero within the culinary world: Jiro Ono.

He is most famously known for his absolute mastery of sushi and international acclaim. In *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*, Gleb reveals the hidden life and secrets of Ono and the rest of his team at Sukiyabashi Jiro, his tiny restaurant in the heart of Tokyo. Not only is the film beautifully shot and produced, but it tells a deep and rich story of Ono and what sushi really means to him.

Within the walls of Sukiyabashi Jiro, *Jiro Dreams of Sushi* reveals the magical experience of dining on what many food critics would name the best sushi in the world. The restaurant has ten seats and is tucked away in a mall in the middle of Tokyo. But despite its small appearance, visitors drop large amounts of cash, 300 dollars to be exact, to indulge in a 15 minute, nine piece course.

In fact, most of Gleb's documentary and his portrayal of Ono's story, can be described in numbers. A ten-seat restaurant with three Michelin stars. Three hundred dollars for nine pieces of sushi and fifteen minutes of food-based ecstasy. Despite being eighty-five at the time of production (2010), Jiro Ono still works seven days a week. But that is the kind of hard work required to be the best.

Ono's life has been one of deep dedication to improvement and creating the best possible product and experience of sushi possible. Many would call such dedication obsessiveness. Ono has dedicated much of his life to continuing to perfect the sushi he makes. He deliberately teaches his apprentices, so they may attempt to make sushi half as good as his own. But try as they might, it seems that no one will ever surpass Ono.

Even his own sons have come to accept this as fact. The elder of the two sons will take over from Jiro at Sukiyabashi Jiro, when, or if, Jiro ever retires. The younger of the two, on the other hand, gets to run his own branch of Sukiyabashi Jiro, but still while under the watchful eye of his father. The filmography makes it very evident that this family sleeps, breathes, and eats sushi. For the majority of the documentary's eighty-

three minute run-time, viewers are inside of Sukiyabashi Jiro.

The next most prominent setting is Tokyo's fantastically massive Tsukiji market where Jiro's older son dutifully bikes every morning to buy fish for the restaurant.

The film dives into the culture and traditions surrounding Japanese cuisine, especially with regards to sushi. Gleb also presents social commentary about Ono's childhood, how he was abandoned by his father and was driven towards sushi-obsession from this experience.

Both Ono, his sons, and the apprentices at Sukiyabashi Jiro discuss the tragic state of fisheries around the globe and what that means for their business and their culture.

Viewers are brought in on a rare, intimate social outing with Jiro to his hometown outside of Tokyo where they glimpse into the life of the young boy of would grow to become one of Japan's most esteemed chefs. And despite the cooking process not being the showiest of cooking styles, Gleb's filmography brings viewers in with an impeccable attention to detail and curiosity to understand the sushi-making process.

But what the film does most beautifully is present the audience with an up-close look at the masterly of sushi that only Jiro truly possesses.

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Men's Baseball

Baseball Team Looks to Reclaim Their Season After Tough Start in California

SARAH ROTHMANN
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

Despite a six-game losing streak during their week-long 2018 debut in California, Bates' baseball team looks to persevere and regain a victorious momentum throughout the remainder of their season. The Bobcats were in California from Sunday, February 18 to Saturday, February 24 and recorded six losses against Pomona-Pitzer, Occidental, Whittier, Cal Lutheran, Claremont-M-S, and Puget Sound. When reflecting on these losses, the team agrees that they need to bounce back by regaining their focus and playing with more energy and confidence.

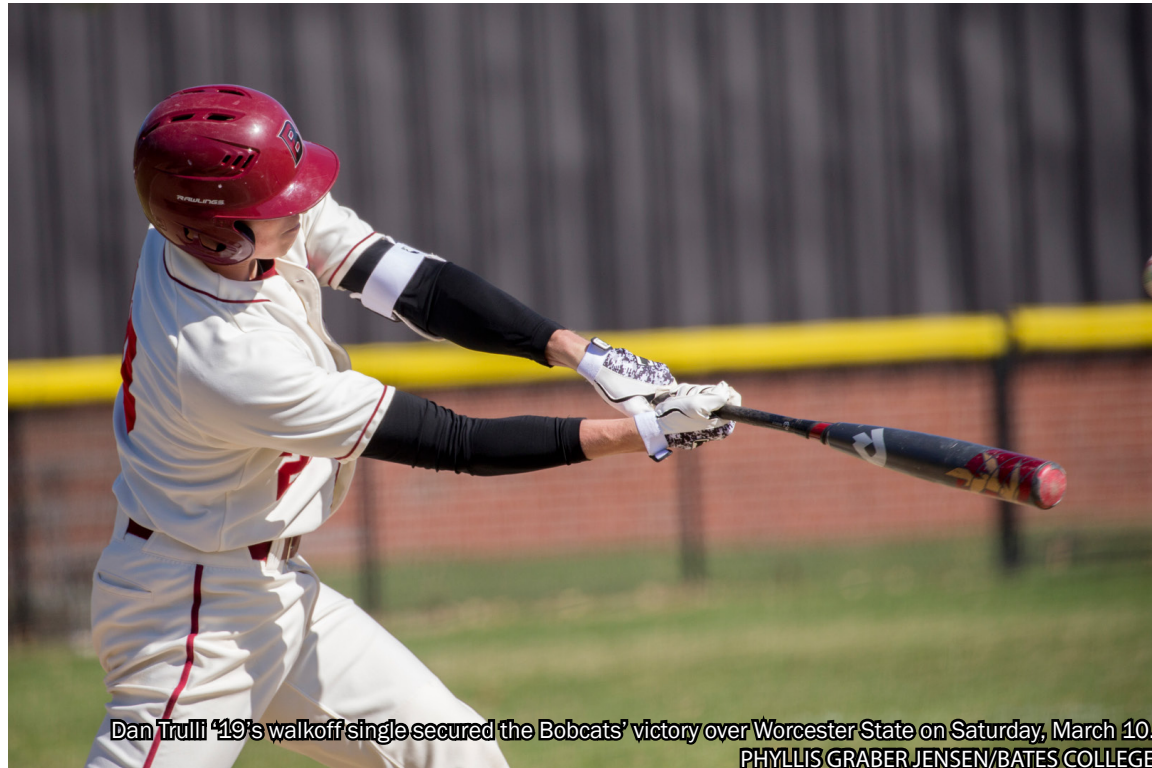
"We got off to a tough start in California and I think we just were not prepared all the way around," says Zachary Avila '20. "There were undoubtedly some good teams but we just lost some of those games due to lack of preparation."

"We did not do nearly as well as we had planned, but we've now had almost a month to work on the weaknesses we identified and feel ready to compete come NESCAC time," adds senior captain Jacob Shapiro '18.

This is the Bobcats' second season with head coach Jon Martin and the team understands that his expectation for them is to work on "executing" every pitch and situation, whether it be in games or practice. After a month of intensive practice and teambuilding, the Bobcats have already begun to turn their 2018 record around.

On Saturday, March 10, less than a month from their California season opener, the Bobcats traveled to Northboro, Mass. and swept Worcester State at the conclusion of an exciting double-header.

"Last weekend, against Worcester State was all around great baseball in both games," says Patrick Beaton '20. "Our pitchers did really



Dan Trulli '19's walkoff single secured the Bobcats' victory over Worcester State on Saturday, March 10. PHYLIS GRABER/JENSEN/BATES COLLEGE

well. Offensively, we had timely hits when we needed, with men in scoring positions to start innings. We also capitalized on all their defensive mistakes."

Game One ended with the Bobcats finishing with a tight victory of 3-2. The competition lasted for twelve grueling, hard-fought innings. During the final inning, Avila hit an RBI single to send Pat Beaton '20 home for the winning run. Beaton had hit a triple before Avila was at bat.

On the mound, the Bobcats only allowed two runs and six hits. Senior captain Connor Russell '18 lasted five innings and only gave up three runs before Shapiro took over during the sixth to earn the win. Russell struck out three batters, while Shapiro allowed no runs and struck out five batters.

Later that same day, the Bobcats defeated Worcester State 4-3 after another close game. The Bobcats

won the game in the bottom of the seventh inning when Dan Trulli '19 hit a walkoff single. Relief pitcher Justin Foley '19 earned the win, allowing no runs and recording three strikeouts.

"Ever since California, we have proclaimed ourselves to be in the land of execution," says Avila. "We know we don't have a big team, so we have been preparing a lot for the small ball aspect of the game, such as bunting and hit and runs."

"I think one thing that sparked us after California and made us play with more energy, as crazy as it sounds, is a picture of one of our teammates smiling at the camera during batting practice and giving a thumbs up," Kyle Carter '20 remembers. "Coach Martin got hold of the picture and now the awkward-smile-thumbs-up has become our thing, and it gives us so much energy for some reason."

The Bobcats will continue to

build upon their team chemistry and use mementos such as the "awkward-smile-thumbs-up" photo to earn more NESCAC wins.

The overarching goal for the team is to get to the NESCAC tournament, and that requires a cohesive team unit.

"We have a young lineup this year, but with great senior leadership and a great pitching staff, we know we have what it takes to not only get to the NESCAC Tournament, but win it," says Avila. "Since California, our entire outlook has changed, and there is a new sense of energy and focus in the locker room."

The Bobcats' games against MIT that were scheduled for Sunday, March 18 were postponed but they will look to keep their winning streak Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25 with back-to-back doubleheaders against Salem State and Endicott.

Sports Results from Week of March 11

Sunday
March 11

Men's Tennis at Middlebury: L, 7-2

Friday
March 16

Women's Tennis vs. Case Western Reserve: L, 7-2

Saturday
March 17:

Men's Lacrosse vs. Trinity (Conn.): W, 15-7

Sunday
March 18

Baseball vs. MIT:
Postponed

Men's Lacrosse

Men's Lacrosse Nabs First NESCAC Win of 2018 Season

HANNAH PALACIOS
STAFF WRITER

After narrow losses in the first two NESCAC matchups this season, Bates men's lacrosse headed into Saturday afternoon's game against Trinity eager to pull out a win. Although sub-zero conditions deterred a large crowd, the team exploded onto the field ready to fight.

The Trinity College Bantams were the first on the board, but the 'Cats quickly responded and took the lead with three goals in the first quarter; two of which were scored by Matt Chlastawa '20, who finished the game with a season high five goals. The points in this game also brought Chlastawa up to the top of the NESCAC standings in points, tying for first at 30.

The only goal of the second quarter came from an assist from Chlastawa, who ferried a ground ball to fellow sophomore Curtis Knapp '20, who put one more on the board from eight yards out. The second quarter came to a close with the 'Cats up four to one against the Bantams. Bates came into the third even stronger, bringing it to 5-1 within the first thirteen seconds with a goal scored by Jack O'Brien '18.

Rob Strain '20 recorded 11 saves throughout the game, but let two slip in in the last few minutes of the quarter. However, with another four goals in hand, scored by Chlastawa, Dahniq Brown-Jones '19, Clarke Jones '18, and Breschi '18, Bates finished out the third at 8-3. The Bantams fought hard, putting another four goals on the board. Despite the Bantams' aggressive offense, the Bobcats scored another six goals in the fourth, three of which came in the first minute of play.

At the end of the game, Jones netted a hat trick, and star of the game Chlastawa popped in two more to bring his tally up to five.

"This year has been so much fun. We have so many new guys contributing, that every practice and game has tremendous energy," said Chlastawa when asked about this year's squad. "I love my team and the coaching staff. We are extremely excited for the four-game home stretch we have for the next couple of weeks. It's always nice seeing and hearing family and friends in the stands."

That young talent has proved to be key for Bates, with first-year Will Haskell '21 quickly making his mark as a defensive force, racking up two ground balls and a game high three turnovers.

"The whole team has been putting in a lot of work this whole year, and it feels good when it shows in a game like today's against Trinity," says Haskell.

Although there is plenty of young talent on this year's squad, there certainly isn't a lack of talent or leadership from the upperclassmen. Senior captains Burke Smith '18 and Jones are consistent scorers, fierce leaders, and hold their team to a high standard on and off the field.

"The leaders on this team have emphasized from day one that this group works for each other and is a family," says Peyton Weatherbie '21. "From the start, every 6:00 a.m. conditioning class, every practice, every game we have played together and for each other. That is what drives us to succeed, and it shows in games like [Saturday's]."

The men's lacrosse team will take on Keene State at home on Tuesday, March 20.



Rocco Fantoni '19 gets ready for play. SARAH DU PONT/ THE BATES STUDENT

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Bates Water Polo: Wild, Wet, and Fun



Bates' Water Polo team gathers together after a practice. MECHHELLE KULESZA/COURTESY PHOTO

VANESSA PAOLELLA
STAFF WRITER

It is important to recognize that not all athletes at Bates compete under the NCAA Division III banner. Last year, the Bates women's water polo team, a club sport, succeeded at defeating all the teams in Maine during a weekend tournament held at Bates's own Tarbell Pool, earning them the title of Maine State Champions. This year, the team is coming back with a splash, as experienced team members and beginners alike come together for some fun competition in the pool.

The women's water polo team began informal practices in February; however, they were not able to begin using the pool until after February break. Now, with access to the pool, a normal day of practice for them may include dry land

work, swim sets, and general water polo skills such as dribbling, shooting, defense, and practicing formations. All of these skills are brought together during scrimmages, which are held every Friday.

On March 3-4, the women's water polo team competed in their first two-day tournament at Yale University, where they proudly beat Bowdoin in an exhibition match 5-0. This tournament proved challenging for the women's water polo team, because they only had five days of practice in the pool preceding this event.

"The way our schedule worked out coming back from February break, we had done some really casual team runs and team lifts... but we don't have pool time until after February break, and so we only had literally five days of practice before our first tournament," team captain

Ashley Kulesza '18 says.

This would be tough for any member of the team, no matter their experience level. However, as many of the team members this year are beginners, it proved especially challenging.

"When you're coming in with a young roster with a lot of beginners who don't necessarily know the sport... it's really rough getting in your first game and not really knowing what to do or what to expect," Kulesza says. "As much as we had this barrier, I'm really proud of how it all happened. I saw so much talent and hustle that weekend that I'm really excited for our next few tournaments, and having these weeks to actually practice and get some experience and game time in scrimmages will really help our outcomes and record, I think."

It is interesting to note that the

women's water polo team does not have a coach. Instead, team captains come together to discuss expectations for the team and help teach beginners. As a club team, this sport is meant to be competitive, but also fun. Since there is no coach, captains and team members with relevant experience are instructional during training.

"Sam Tyler is our varsity athlete swimmer who has been really great stepping up and helping us really focus on [our technique]," Kulesza says. "You swim on a swim team, and it's about time, but you swim in a water polo game, and it's about being fast, but also about swimming smart. She's been really awesome about coaching us through how to swim smart and to get in shape for water polo."

Water polo is a tough sport. Swimming and treading are impor-

tant, but these tasks take on a whole new level of difficulty when one must also maneuver the ball around the pool and into the net.

"If you're not an aggressive person or a strong swimmer, just that physicality of the sport can be tough for people," Kulesza says. "I think that's the most difficult aspect, but it's also a really fine aspect if you get into it and have that mentality."

The women's water polo team is always open to new people who would like to try out the sport. Practices are held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Tarbell Pool Tuesday through Thursday, and team scrimmages are on Friday at 5:30.

"Anyone who is interested can just show up any day and hop in with us," says co-captain Margaret "Meg" Robinson '18. "All it takes is a swimsuit and little toughness, and we can teach you how to play!"

Women's Tennis

Bates Women's Tennis Takes on Case Western Reserve, Swarthmore, and Washington and Lee

SOJUNG KIM
STAFF WRITER

The women's team had an exciting weekend playing in the Blue-Grey Invitational with matches on Friday, March 16, Saturday, March 17, and Sunday, March 18. On Friday, No. 17 nationally ranked Case Western Reserve won 7-2, stopping the Bobcat's five-match win streak. On Saturday, the Bobcats played No. 40 nationally ranked Swarthmore, earning a 5-4 victory. Finally, on Sunday, they unfortunately fell 7-2 to No. 14 nationally ranked Washington and Lee. All matches were held at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

"All the girls were excited about the Virginia matches. We had a long weekend, and everyone felt prepared, minus a couple of lingering injuries affecting some members in the starting lineup," says Maisie Silverman '18. "Our main goal throughout all our matches was to fight for each other and compete for each other, no matter what team we were playing."

On Friday, Case Western Reserve swept through the doubles matches with no wins for the Bobcats. In the singles matches, Silverman and first-year Hannah Sweeney '21 won their matches, earning Bates their only two points for the day. With the Bobcats not off to a good start to the weekend, Silverman knew that the team needed a little inspiration.

"Although we had positive energy during our Friday match,

we wanted to improve the energy level and the idea of having "heart from the start" for our Saturday match against Swarthmore," says Silverman. "Mostly, we wanted our mental game to be engaged from the start of doubles to the very last point in singles. After visualizing with the team and having a goal of how we wanted to be on the court, the doubles team all set out determined to compete from the start of the match—we swept doubles 3-0."

On Saturday, Bates seized control by winning all three doubles matches. Partners Silverman and Bella Stone '19 won 8-7 in the No. 1 position. Partners Sweeney and Lauren Hernandez '20 defeated Swarthmore's Shirline Wee and Julia Gokhberg 8-5. Finally, partners Suzanne Elfman '20 and Haley Washington '21 won 8-6 in the third position.

In the singles play, the Bobcats were able to get the two points they needed with Silverman defeating Wee 6-4 and 6-3 in the No. 1 position and Sweeney winning in the No. 2 position. However, Suzanne Elfman '20 fell short to Swarthmore's Scheibmeir 6-3, 2-6, and 6-1, and Hannah Londoner '19 lost to Ashley Gao 6-1 and 7-5. Sweeney won both her doubles and singles match against Swarthmore.

"I felt as though this weekend was a positive experience for the entire team. We fought hard throughout the three days of matches and played well collectively," says Sweeney. "I think as a team, we successfully persevered through any adversity or obstacles we may have come across."

On Sunday, Bates gave Washington and Lee a good fight. Bates' top doubles team of Silverman and Stone easily defeated Michelle Fleenor and Lauren Hassell 8-6, which raised their record for the season to 5-2. Unfortunately, Washington and Lee took the second and third doubles victories.

Bates held up for three of the six singles matches which included Sweeney's win against Emily Kochar 6-4 and 7-5, Washington's tight loss of 6-4, 6-4, and Hernandez's fall in a tiebreaker with a final score of 6-2, 1-6, and 10-8.

For Sweeney, her win against Washington and Lee's Emily Kochar marks her eighth straight win for singles match, which also raises her record to 9-1.

"We never gave up, even until the last point on the third day of matches. Going into our next matches, I think we are going to take what we learned this weekend and use it to become mentally stronger and tougher opponents," says Sweeney. "We have a lot we did well this weekend, and we are going to take that confidence into our next match and use it to play to the best of our ability."

Overall, the Bobcats had great competition during the weekend and will bring the same energy, attitude, team dynamic, and mental state for their next match against their rival, Tufts, on March 30.

"We played some really great competition and had some very close matches," says Elfman. "It was a great weekend, and the 'Cats showed a lot of heart out there."

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Of this accomplishment, she says, "It's really exciting. It's not something that I expected before I got to Bates, but ever since I've been here and realized what I'm capable of achieving, I've always been working towards it. It's an honor, and I'm thankful every time I think about it." As this is her senior year, her last indoor season has come to a close.

Reflecting on all four years

of competition, she says, "It's sad thinking about it coming to an end." However, despite the emotion, she is proud of her accomplishments and does not wish for anything to have gone differently.

She says, "I've achieved everything I want to achieve. I'll walk away knowing I had a great track career, put everything out there, and have no regrets."

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