

## Soccer teams shoot for playoffs



## Alumna wins Best Short by Women



## The anxiety of running alone



# The Berkeley Beacon

Emerson College's student newspaper since 1947 • berkeleybeacon.com

Thursday October 11, 2018 • Volume 72, Issue 6



## SHEETS magazine pulls back the covers on sex and relationships

By Melanie Curry • p. 7

From left, Abbrianna MacGregor, Alison Michalak, and Kamryn Leoncavallo started an online sex magazine • Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff

## Two years of protest by staff union results in first contract

Maya Gacina, *Beacon Staff*

The college began distributing the demands and benefits listed in the collective bargaining agreement or contract with Emerson's staff union after ratification this summer.

The Service Employees International Union 888 voted to ratify an agreement set forth by the college and the union's bargaining committee on May 31. After nearly two years of protest, unfair labor charges, and petitioning, the union, made up of 150 staff members, received its first contract. According to two union members, it granted many of their wishes.

The college agreed to exile merit pay, which gives employees pay raises based on performance evaluations set by the employer, to give union members a monthly commuter benefit and a shared sick program, which allows staff members to donate sick-time when a fellow staff member needs an extended sick-leave.

The college also agreed to elevate union member's wages to the 40th percentile, where the rest of Emerson employees' wages reside as of March 26. Union members were still in negotiations with the college so their salary remained untouched.

See *Union*, page 2

## Title IX office takes down job posting, remains vacant

Riane Roldan, *Beacon Staff*

The Title IX Office removed the job posting for the lead investigator position after two potential candidates for the position took jobs elsewhere, according to college officials.

After a nine-month vacancy, the office narrowed down applications to three qualified candidates in September. After requesting Skype interviews with two of them, the Human Resources business partner the office works with discovered that both candidates accepted jobs elsewhere. The lead investigator is responsible for handling all Title IX investigations at the college.

"For now, the search committee and I have agreed the best course of actions is to take the posting down for a period," Pamela White, the associate vice president of Title IX and Clery Act coordinator, wrote in a statement to the Beacon.

The posting, previously listed on HigherEdJobs, was removed on Oct. 5.

White said she met with the office's Human Resources business partner to discuss "next steps" last week.

While the office secured external investigators to handle new reports as they arise, it is unclear how they handle old reports. It is also unclear how much the external investigators cost.

White declined to be interviewed for this article.



## Women's soccer prepares for playoff push

By Aaron Miller • p. 8

Senior Jess Frost runs down the wing against WPI. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

## Alumni earn Emmy nomination for mockumentary

Lilly Milman, *Beacon Staff*

When alumni Dan Perrault '09 and Tony Yacenda '10 pitched the idea for the documentary parody *American Vandal* to Netflix in 2016, neither possessed any television experience. Both said they worked freelance and odd jobs to just barely make ends meet, and Perrault was even picking up shifts as a children's birthday party entertainer.

The Emmy-nominated Netflix original series treats a comedic crime with the seriousness of a real one. The fictional documentary features Vine star Jimmy Tatro and former Nickelodeon actor Tyler Alvarez.

The first season investigates the mystery behind a series of phallic graffiti that appears in a high school parking lot. The second season, released Sept. 14, follows a criminal called "The Turd Burglar" who contaminates a cafeteria's lemonade with laxatives.

Perrault, a producer and writer for the show, said experts in the criminology field informed the second season.

"We started to experiment with using actual experts in criminology, police interrogation, and other areas that are relevant to the show and blending that with our fictional characters," Perrault said. "We try to make the show feel as authentic as possible to us."

Perrault said he and director Yacenda wrote the show alongside Emerson alumni, twin brothers Kevin and Matt McManus '09.

See *Laxative*, page 8

The Beacon online



/berkeleybeacon



@BeaconUpdate



berkeleybeacon

# news

## SGA awards \$3,000 gift to current senior

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Correspondent*

A senior received a \$3,000 gift from the Student Government Association, funded by leftover money from an unused scholarship, over the summer.

This summer, Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt said the executive board learned they had funds available from an old SGA student leader scholarship. The executive board met with representatives from the Office of Financial Aid, Institutional Advancement, and the SGA

**"We want to make sure that whatever direction we go in is the direction that the joint session is in favor of."**

Advisor. SGA has not awarded the scholarship since 2008 because college policy prohibits students from seeing the financial information of other students, according to Mandt.

The SGA executive board approved Director of Financial Aid Angela Grant to give \$3,000 of the available \$5,084 to a current senior, based purely on demonstrated financial need, according to Mandt. The remaining \$2,084 from the old student leadership scholarship will be placed in the fund for a new \$25,000 SGA scholarship for seniors.

Members of the executive board—Executive President Jess Guida, Executive Vice President

Raz Moayed, and Mandt—began working on the \$25,000 senior scholarship last year.

Over the summer, the SGA executive board met with Grant, Associate Director of Financial Aid Carol Smolinsky, representatives from the Office of Institutional Advancement, and SGA Advisor Sharon Duffy about the new \$25,000 senior scholarship SGA hopes to finalize this semester. The SGA joint session has not reached a decision about that particular scholarship yet but hopes to soon.

"We want to make sure that whatever direction we go in is the direction that the joint session is in favor of," Mandt said.

When the \$25,000 for the scholarship was set aside last year, SGA agreed on a time limit for the joint session to determine the scholarship guidelines. If they cannot reach an agreement on the guidelines by the end of the fall 2018 semester, SGA-recognized student organizations can use the money, according to Mandt.

*News Editor Riane Roldan did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.*

✉ diana\_bravo@emerson.edu



SGA discussed possible requirements for its student scholarship at joint session. *Cullen Granzon / Beacon Staff*

## Staff union earn higher wages, benefits

*Continued from page 1*

Previously, staff member wages were lower than the 25th percentile, or less than 75 percent of similar employee wages in peer schools like Brandeis University and Skidmore College, according to the staff compensation survey.

"For a first contract, I think we got a lot for what we asked for," Estelle Ticktin, an administrative assistant to the chair of communication sciences and disorders, said in an interview.

Ticktin, one of the union's bargaining committee members, said she thinks the union and the college reached a very successful and mutually beneficial conclusion.

"I think the college is very pleased about how it worked out," Chief Human Resources Officer Shari Stier said in an interview.

The college and the Emerson staff union created the collective bargaining agreement to set standard wages, establish working conditions, and ensure efficient operations, according to a PDF of the contract sent by Ticktin.

SEIU 888 represents staff in the Office of Academic Affairs, the School of Communications and Marketing, and the Information Technology and Institutional Advancement departments.

SEIU 888 Member John-Albert Moseley, a program coordinator for the visual and media arts department, said the most important aspect

**"For a first contract, I think we got a lot for what we asked for."**

the college agreed on in the contract was getting rid of merit pay. He said the old system of using merit pay to evaluate raises was arbitrary, unfair and biased.

"It's a really great first step in establishing greater salary equality across job descriptions, across job titles, and, really importantly, of the disparity between men and women's pay," Moseley said.

By January 2019, every member who is not yet paid at the 40th percentile of the new compensation study will have their salary adjusted, according to the contract.

The contract also states performance evaluations, which employers used to determine employees' raises in the merit pay system, will no longer be tied to compensation. Union members will also now have the ability to provide feedback on their managers.

Moseley said one benefit the union pushed for, and was surprised to receive, was the commuter benefit. The college now grants all staff members who work 20 hours or more a week an \$84.50 stipend per month to cover public transportation costs for travel to and from the college.

According to Stier, in the Office of Human Resources, this program started on Oct. 1.

"It's a very helpful way to not only encourage public transportation, but to really help staff out

where transportation can be a burden in a very cost-driven city," Moseley said.

Moseley commutes to Emerson from Providence, RI and pays more \$363 a month to take the commuter rail from zone 8, his Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority district. The \$84.50 per month is about the same price as a monthly zone 1 MBTA subway pass.

Moseley said many union members can't afford to live in Boston, and that it's a shame he can't live in the same community he works in, but the commuter benefit is a huge help.

"A lot of the benefits make us more family-friendly and make us more environmentally green," Stier said.

Union members will also have access to a shared sick-time program, or sick bank, for when staff members, or a family member, suffers a catastrophic illness or injury and needs more time off of work.

When Moseley started his first job at Emerson, he had to go through an emergency surgery but did not have enough sick-time built up to take time off for it. He said his colleagues begged and pleaded the Office of Human Resources to share their sick days with him.

He said his fellow employees were great advocates and created a temporary policy in place to enable Moseley to take advantage of the donated sick-time, but he's happy there is now a

permanent plan in place for when other staff members need to take time off.

Stier said during the first enrollment period this year, 97 staff members donated 3,000 hours which equals about 366 days. The average number of days donated from each staff member was 3.77, Stier said.

Moseley said establishing the first contract gave the union a constructive voice and changed the relationship between the union and college.

"We now have contractual language that guides how we behave with each other and how we get through the day with each other, and how we, from time to time, have to challenge each other," Moseley said. "We cannot just be swept

away. Our voice is at the table, and we have tools to make sure that it's heard and that we resolve things in a fair and equitable way."

Ticktin, a chief organizer of the union when it formed in 2014, also said the dynamics between the college and the union have changed after 20 months of negotiating.

"It's the beginning of more of a working relationship between staff and management," she said. "It has been a hard fight, and you don't get anything you don't fight for."

✉ maya\_gacina@emerson.edu

**"It has been a hard fight, and you don't get anything you don't fight for."**

About 70 staff union members stood side-by-side on the lower level of the Max Mutchnick Campus Center while college administrators entered room L-151 for a contract negotiation with the union's bargaining committee.

April 26



*Maya Gacina / Beacon Staff*

In the thirty-second negotiation between the staff union and the college, representatives from each side settled on a collective bargaining agreement that exiled merit pay and granted full annual raises to staff union members.

May 10



*Chris Van Buskirk / Beacon Staff*

May 1, International Workers' Day

In a Emerson Staff Union rally outside of the Ansin Building, union member John-Albert Moseley handed President M. Lee Pelton a petition with more than 1,000 signatures gathered over the course of five months from Emerson staff, faculty, and students urging the college to expedite a fair contract.

May 31

Staff union members voted to ratify the agreement. After nearly two years of negotiations, the staff union and the college settled on an agreement.

*Graphic by Maya Gacina and Riane Roldan*

# College focuses on raising campus recycling rate

Kaitlyn Bryson, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson came in last place in a recycling competition against five other Boston colleges and universities last spring. This semester, the Sustainability Committee and Bon Appetit combined resources to focus on educative initiatives for students to minimize waste production.

Last year, the college had a recycling rate of 12 percent and a composting rate of 14 percent—26 percent altogether. According to data collected from RecycleMania, a program used by colleges and universities to create more sustainable campuses, 63 percent of that waste was recyclable or compostable.

At the end of an eight-week RecycleMania competition against Babson College, Boston College, Endicott College, Harvard University, and Lesley University in April, the college had a 10 percent recycling rate. The second lowest-scoring school, Babson College, had a 28 percent rate, while the highest rate went to Endicott College at 53 percent.

According to the Sustainable Emerson Facebook page, Emerson's recycling rate last spring ranked No. 141 out of 150 colleges and universities in the nation.

This year, the recycling rate increased to 20 percent, according to Sustainability Committee Co-chair Duncan Pollock. Pollock said students need more education on what they're throwing away for the college to improve its campus-wide recycling rate.

"We have a recycling rate that is not where we want it to be," Pollock said. "We do a really good job at the administrative side, but not on the student side."

This fall, the sustainability committee created an interactive sustainability guide located on Emerson's website for students, Sustainability Committee Intern Carrie Cullen said. Cullen acquired the former responsibilities of Amy Elvidge, the sustainability coordinator who resigned in July.

Currently, no recycling or composting signs label bins in the Dining Center, not including Center Stage, and all of the materials disposed in those bins are considered waste.

Duncan said the college employs individuals who go through the dumpsters to find card-

board, but no one goes through trash bags to find recyclable or compostable materials.

In the coming weeks, Cullen said she plans on placing signs with a QR code to the sustainability guide near trash and recycling bins in heavily trafficked bins on campus, such as the Max Cafe, the Iwasaki Library, the Walker Building, and the Dining Center.

The guide features specific waste products students may encounter on a daily basis, like a plastic mac and cheese self-serve container, and directs students on where to put the item, Cullen said.

"By providing the infrastructure and a guide to make this as accessible as possible, hopefully students will have all the resources they need to improve personal behavior," Cullen said.

In Center Stage, Cullen and the sustainability committee added digital signage on television screens that feature recycling tips for students to use when deciding what item to put in which bin.

Sophomore Alanna Nickles said she feels like the current signage for specific waste in the Dining Center

and Center Stage is unclear.

"It is all in the same area [in Center Stage], and it is really hard to tell which is which," Nickles said. "That is why the majority of the trash that is thrown away in the dining hall by students just goes to the landfill."

Pollock said his department usually finds the lowest amount of recycling and the high est amount of trash in the residence halls.

In March, RecycleMania hosted a competition for how much each floor in Emerson's residence halls recycles.

Piano Row recycled an average of 3.67 percent of waste, the Colonial Building recycled 16.9 percent, Paramount recycled 7.5 percent, 12 Hemenway recycled 4 percent, and 2 Boylston Place recycled the most with an average rate of 14 percent, according to results posted on the Emerson Sustainability Facebook page.

The average recycling rate calculated out of all five of the residence halls was 9.2 percent.

The sustainability committee explored implementing composting outlets on every floor in residence halls last year, but the worry of pest control and contamination halted the initiative, Pollock said. The college began composting three years ago solely in the dining facilities, ac-



According to the Sustainable Emerson Facebook page, Emerson's recycling rate last spring ranked No. 141 out of 150 colleges and universities in the nation. • *Abbey Finn / Beacon Correspondent*

ording to Pollock.

Nickles said she set up her own composting system in her suite and disposes of it once a week free of cost through Project Oscar, a Boston-funded composting initiative.

"I honestly don't know if it is as much of a pest control issue or just people not wanting to spend time and resources on it," Nickles said.

There are no compost bins in the Dining Center for students to use, but Bon Appetit keeps compost bins behind the kitchen for all food waste produced by the Dining Center cooks, according to Pollock. Center Stage also has a compost bin where students can place food waste and anything else possibly compostable like cardboard.

All of the compost materials then go in a larger compost bin outside for waste management to pick up, Bon Appetit District Manager Dawn Sajdyk said.

According to Pollock, waste management takes the compost and distributes it to one of two places—a clean-composting farm that takes only food products, or a non-clean composting farm that takes a variety of compostable products other than food waste, like paper.

Bon Appetit sends the kitchen waste to clean farms, for it is regulated as solely food waste, and sends the general Dining Center compost bins to the non-clean composting farm because

of possible contamination with other products, Pollock said.

Emerson currently has no process to filter through non-clean composting waste or landfill waste.

"We are very cognizant about what goes into the landfill," Sajdyk said.

Bon Appetit also works with Food for Free, a Cambridge-based program that picks up frozen, leftover food from campuses throughout Boston and donates it to local food banks and shelters, according to the program's official website.

The college worked with Food for Free last year through Sodexo, but Bon Appetit lowered the amount of leftover food this year by producing smaller batches, Sajdyk said.

Sajdyk said Emerson's dining services wants to partner with different organizations on campus to push the sustainability issues out to the students.

"This generation coming up is much more socially conscious than generations before and the more education we can do around it to preserve the earth is really where our future lies," Sajdyk said.

*Maya Gacina contributed reporting for this article.*

✉ kaitlyn\_bryson@emerson.edu

## College hires known union-busting law firm

Riane Roldan, *Beacon Staff*

The college retained a new law firm for outside counsel this summer, according to college officials.

Jackson Lewis, a national law firm which specializes in workplace law representation, will act as the college's outside counsel when needed. Shaylin Hogan, vice chair of Emerson's chapter of Service Employees International Union 888, said the firm famously busts unions.

A Chicago-based nonprofit magazine, In These Times, cited a report calling Jackson Lewis "the number one union-buster in America." As of 2013, Northeastern University also retains Jackson Lewis.

The hire comes months after ratifying a collective bargaining agreement that gave staff union members higher wages and a slew of new benefits.

"I don't know yet exactly what it's going to mean for us," Hogan said. "It's a little scary to think of what could be coming down the pipeline, but we like to think that it won't affect our relationship [with the college]."

Hogan said the union found out about the hire through an email exchange in August.

A union member sent an email to the college's general counsel, Christine Hughes, and former lawyer from law firm Morgan, Brown & Joy about a grievance, Hogan said. The college responded to the union member asking them to copy a new lawyer from Jackson Lewis instead.

"There was no other notification or anything," Hogan said.

Hughes said matters regarding legal affairs

are confidential.

"We base our decisions on hiring outside law firms who represent or advise the college on our needs and the attorneys' expertise in particular areas," Hughes wrote in a statement to the Beacon. "Jackson Lewis is a national law firm with tremendous depth and breadth in employment and labor law."

Aaron Foster, a sophomore and founding member of

Young Democratic Socialists of Emerson, participated in the Picture Yourself Working at Emerson demonstration last February. Union members organized the display to raise awareness of the issues they face while prospective students visited the college for Picture Yourself at Emerson Day.

**"It's a little scary to think of what could be coming down the pipeline."**

He said he wants to make students aware of the latest development between the college and the union.

"[Emerson] is a campus where there are a lot of struggles happening," Foster said. "It's not some progressive liberal haven ... it's not the woke school."

Hogan said the union and the college ratified the agreement based on the understanding that the two shared common values.

"That's always been our goal, helping Emerson live up to all of the ideals that they say they're going to live up to," Hogan said. "When they say that to our faces and then they turn around and hire a law firm that specializes in kind of breaking apart that kind of stuff, it's really hard for us to take them at their word."

✉ riane\_roltan@emerson.edu

## Backstage Cafe offers reusable straws to curb plastic waste



Backstage Cafe now offers reusable straws. • *Cullen Granzen / Beacon Staff*

Kaitlyn Bryson, *Beacon Staff*

The Backstage Cafe now offers customers free reusable straws.

Emerson dining services chose to eliminate all plastic straws campus-wide at the beginning of the semester, Director of Operations for Dining Erik Zamudio said.

At first, the cafe offered paper straws. Now, Backstage Cafe should only offer reusable metal straws to customers, free of charge, Zamudio said. But as of Oct. 7, customers could still take plastic straws.

Zamudio said the cafe should receive a shipment of reusable straws once a week, and something must have gone wrong in the ordering process.

"This is something I am more than happy to

address with the staff," Zamudio said.

Carrie Cullen, a senior sustainability intern with two years of experience on the Sustainability Committee, said the use of plastic straws in the Backstage Cafe surprised her. However, because plastic straws only account for about one percent of plastic waste, she said she directed her focus elsewhere.

"I'll certainly look into it now that a need has been expressed," Cullen said. "In the meantime, I'd say that, while straws are a very important resource for folks with accessibility needs, students who are able enough and wish to reduce plastic may consider not grabbing a straw or getting reusable straws for further use."

✉ kaitlyn\_bryson@emerson.edu

# editorial

## When 'the best course of action' isn't enough

**At issue: Vacant Title IX lead investigator position.**

**Our take: Refusal to communicate renders ambiguity.**

*Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Shafaq Patel, Managing Editor Kyle Labe, Opinion Editor Hannah Ebanks, Deputy Opinion Editor Katie Schmidt, and Assistant Opinion Editor Diti Kohli without consultation from other staff members, and does not influence any stories. Op-Eds reflect the views of only their authors, not The Berkeley Beacon.*

The Office of Title IX Equity and Access still does not have a lead investigator after a nine-month search, and the office took down the job posting earlier this month after two out of the three qualified candidates took jobs elsewhere. The Office has not employed a lead investigator since last semester when Pamela Ring left the college to pursue private practice in early January. Emerson now uses external investigators.

We cannot comprehend why the “best course of action” involves the removal of the posting due to the office’s lack of communication.

Though the office sparingly commented in past Beacon articles, which we mentioned in an editorial last semester, they also repeatedly deny interviews. While we respect the privacy of victims and the confidentiality of individual cases, we feel we have the right to more information about the process of finding another lead investigator.

We feel the office should inform the Beacon and the college at-large on the process because it is a crucial student resource. The lead investigator holds responsibility for handling all Title IX

investigations at the college, and the lack of that position is highly problematic. This inaction trivializes the experiences of survivors, and leaves uncertainty for future investigations.

According to the Department of Education, as of Sept. 28, 2018, the college still has one open case from 2013. The case contains four

**We don't just want a lead investigator, we need one. We demand one.**

complaints against dissemination of policy, procedural requirements, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Emerson’s Clery Report, which publishes an institution’s annual crime statistics, shows that reported rapes have doubled from three incidents in 2016 to six incidents in 2017—a wildly increasing number from 2015’s zero.

However, Emerson’s history with Title IX has always been a sticky one. In

a 2017 Beacon op-ed, Piper Clark said that, after 116 days of the administration questioning everything from her drinking habits to her choice of dress, her assailant was found responsible. In 2013, Sarah Tedesco said to Huffington Post that Emerson’s administration told her she “shouldn’t be making a big deal” out of her attack. When Emerson found her assailant not guilty, Tedesco claimed she was assaulted during the probe by the same person.

Sexual assault and violence are not confined to our campus. Recent movements, like #MeToo and Time’s Up, show how these issues pervade Hollywood, the political world, and everyday life. And while some of those accused faced consequences, the recent nomination of Brett Kavanaugh—who allegedly assaulted Dr. Christine Blasey Ford at a college party—to the Supreme Court illustrates sexual assault cases must be handled differently. As a college, we should strive to set an example and provide consistent and sufficient resources if a student needs to file a Title IX complaint.

We don’t just want a lead investigator, we *need* one. We *demand* one.

## Letters

If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in the Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to [letters@berkeleybeacon.com](mailto:letters@berkeleybeacon.com).

Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.

### The Berkeley Beacon

© 2018 The Berkeley Beacon. All rights reserved. The Beacon is published weekly. The Beacon receives funding from the Student Government Association of Emerson College. Anything submitted to the Beacon becomes the sole property of the newspaper. No part of the publication may be reproduced by any means without the express written permission of the editor.

Website  
[berkeleybeacon.com](http://berkeleybeacon.com)

Phone  
(617) 824-8687

Email  
[contact@berkeleybeacon.com](mailto:contact@berkeleybeacon.com)

Office Address  
Piano Row, Rm. L-145  
150 Boylston St.  
Boston, MA 02116

Twitter  
@BeaconUpdate

Editor-in-Chief  
Shafaq Patel

Copy Managing Editor  
Kyle Labe

Visual Managing Editor  
Monika Davis

Advisor  
Douglas Struck

News Editor  
Riane Roldan

Deputy Enterprise Editor  
Maya Gacina

Deputy Express Editor  
Chris Van Buskirk

Assistant Express Editor  
Andrew Stanton

Assistant Enterprise Editor  
Stefania Lugli

Living Arts Editor  
Caroline Broderick

Deputy Lifestyle Editor  
Grace Griffin

Deputy Arts Editor  
Annika Hom

Assistant Lifestyle Editor  
Ian Sloan

Opinion Editor  
Hannah Ebanks

Deputy Opinion Editor  
Katie Schmidt

Assistant Opinion Editor  
Diti Kohli

Sports Editor  
Kyle Bray

Deputy Sports Editor  
Aaron Miller

Assistant Sports Editor  
Anissa Gardizy

Chief Copyeditor  
McKinley Ebert

Photography Editor  
Erin Nolan

Deputy Photo Editor  
Cullen Granzen

Assistant Photo Editor  
Abigail Noyes

Social Media Manager  
Ally Rzesza

Web Manager  
Dylan Rossiter

### Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board  
illustration by Ally Rzesza

Emerson students test bad jokes using “reply all” on email chain.



# opinion

## Exercise for women shouldn't come with threats

**Katie Schmidt**

*Schmidt is a senior writing, literature, and publishing major, & Deputy Opinion editor.*

Two summers ago a man in a car followed me while I jogged in my neighborhood. After two instances where he insisted I stop running and speak to him, I fled to my former high school's swimming pool, which was thankfully nearby and hosting a swim meet. When I turned away from his car, the man yelled obscenities at me and sped off.

I consider the timing and location of this encounter a godsend. Under different circumstances—if I went running in a rural area or not near a crowd of people—I may not have been so lucky. I may have ended up like so many female runners before me: dead.

Time and time again, life as a runner and a woman proves a deadly combination. Following the death of University of Iowa student Mollie Tibbetts this past summer, Senior Editor at the New York Times Talya Minsberg wrote "Running While Female," detailing the constant paranoia and anxiety that women face on every single run. In 2010, a man brutally raped and murdered high school senior Chelsea King while she ran on a hiking trail one afternoon in my hometown of San Diego. Since childhood, I've feared going anywhere alone because of the threats of harassment, abduction, assault, and murder.

Before every run, I ask myself, "What are you going to do if you get attacked?" Even during evening runs on the Common, I find myself locating stores, lit areas, and clusters of people to run to if I'm ever in danger. I believe that Emerson College and the Emerson College Police Department try to make the campus and its

surrounding areas safe—however, the problem resides much deeper than keeping popular areas supposedly free of danger. The fact that so many men share the mindset that a woman running or jogging alone welcomes harassment or assault poses a larger problem. I've experienced male harassment while running since age 15. From teenagers to seniors, men believe they deserve my attention at their command.

When I simply walk alone in broad daylight, the anxiety of becoming a target still exists. Last fall, during one of my first weeks at Emerson, a middle-aged man approached me on the corner of Boylston and Tremont streets to tell me I was very beautiful. He then asked about my ethnicity, and, reluctant to respond, I jaywalked across the street with a crowd of pedestrians. Heading for the textbook annex, I noticed the man following me and watching me from the other side of the street. Halfway down the Boylston Place alley, I heard a voice call out from behind me. It was him. I quickly rushed into the store and waited 15 minutes inside to assure my safety.

I'm not asking that the college implement a new policy, or that police officers constantly survey Tremont Street, Boylston Street, Boston Common, and other surrounding areas. I ask for women to freely run, walk, or simply exist without the threat of harassment, assault, or murder.

With Brett Kavanaugh's recent confirmation to the Supreme Court, I fear that, despite the rise of the #MeToo movement, women still live in a world where justice for sexual assault only exists as an illusion. I fear that although some women courageously speak out about their sexual assaults, their assaulters still face few consequences.

While enacting legislation to create stricter



Even during evening runs on the Common, I find myself locating stores, lit areas, and clusters of people to run to if I'm ever in danger. • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

sentences for sexual predators is a valuable step, violence against women will not stop until we begin to raise our sons with a different mindset—one that teaches them that women will not bend to their wills. Until then, women must rely on movements like #MeToo and Time's Up to create a world where we deal with sexual assault seriously, and ideally eradicate it. While women lead these movements, significant change can only come about with male allies willing to call out and correct the misogynistic behavior of every man they come across.

When I confided in my mother about the man who followed me in his car two summers ago, she told me a story from her early twenties. A man in a pickup truck pulled over to the side of the road and smacked her butt before speeding off. Nearly every woman who runs, walks, or does anything alone has a story like this. So, to create a future in which all of our daughters can run freely and confidently, our mindsets and world must change.

✉ kathryn\_schmidt@emerson.edu

## Speaking up to dismantle cultural barriers



International students may hesitate or avoid interacting with domestic students because of the language barrier and cultural differences.

*Photo illustration by Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff*

**Flora Li**  
*Li is a freshman journalism major & a Beacon correspondent.*

One day, as I sat struggling with a reading assignment, my roommate simply asked, "What's up?" I wasn't sure how to reply. In China, I never studied such exchanges in my English classes. I asked her, "How do people usually respond when asked, 'What's up?'" She told me I could just answer "All right" or "Nothing." So I nodded my head, said, "Okay, then I am all right," and that was the end of the conversation.

For international students raised with a different cultural background, socializing can be challenging. International students may

hesitate or avoid interacting with domestic students because of the language barrier and cultural differences. For me, it takes more effort to speak in English, because my brain automatically translates my ideas to Chinese, my first language, and I have to re-translate my ideas to English. Sometimes I fail to use the right word to describe my feelings accurately.

Freshman Zichen Zhou, who is not a native English speaker, said he'd rather stay silent than struggle in a conversation with friends. Because of the language barrier, he sometimes cannot fully express himself to make his friends genuinely understand his feelings. He said socializing with friends is different from participating in classes.

"When I failed to organize my language in

class, my professor would ask 'Pardon?' [to understand what I meant]," he said. "But my classmates would not."

Ziyang Lin, a Chinese first-year student, said that she had difficulty finding topics to talk about with her American friends.

"Sometimes I heard my classmates laughing, but I had no idea why," she said. "I thought I might interrupt them by joining their conversations."

A lot of international students experience these socializing problems. However, hesitation and anxiety regarding communicating and socializing with domestic students can be resolved one way—by speaking more.

By talking more, the language barrier diminishes. Communicating in English may

be harder for some international students, but they can improve with practice. Oftentimes, I'd stop talking because I did not want to botch the conversation with awkward sentences. I remained silent but later realized it'd become a bad habit. It can be difficult to speak up, but it becomes easier with practice.

My mother once called me after orientation week, and asked if I had made any new friends from America. I said I hadn't. I decided then to force myself to talk to others. Once I was on the elevator with a domestic student. I made up my mind and tried to appear casual. "Your boots are cool." She said thanks and told me more about her boots. I was more relaxed to ask follow up questions and we talked naturally. Starting a conversation was not that hard. The more I talk, the more confident I become. Although I am still struggling to speak fluently, I have made progress. Language barriers can only be solved with consistent practice.

Talking more can also help us recognize cultural differences. During orientation week, my friend Grace invited me to have dinner with her friends. While eating, Grace and her friends discussed the television series "Black Mirror." I had never watched "Black Mirror," so I inquired as to what it was. They explained their favorite characters and described the show's creepy moments.

In that half-hour talk, I did not feel excluded. Rather, I learned about an interesting sci-fi show and, by conversing about my friends' interests, I did not bore them. I didn't know anything about the genre, but I still had a pleasant conversation. What I did wasn't complicated—I just asked what they were talking about.

We should believe that our words are indispensable. I come from a country with ideas and customs with which others are unfamiliar; these cultural elements make up my brain structure, which enables me to construct opinions towards everything I feel and see. My voice is different and it brings a fresh perspective to others. My confidence and the confidence of my culture gives me the courage to initiate and engage in conversations with other students. I realize I don't speak English fluently, and I realize I don't have a deep comprehension of American culture. However, what I truly believe is that my voice is valuable, and I will continue to share it.

✉ zhutao\_li@emerson.edu

# living arts

## Alumni investigate laxative lemonade in Netflix series

Continued from page 1

The brothers wrote a total of four episodes across the show's two seasons.

According to Perrault, he and Yacenda binge-watched documentary series like *Making a Murderer*, *The Jinx*, and *Serial* prior to making *American Vandal*. He said he and Yacenda lived together at the time, and they found out about Netflix's interest in the show while together at home.

Perrault, who graduated with an acting BFA, said he felt confident during the pitch meeting with Netflix, where he took on the persona of a documentarian similar to the series' protagonist Peter Maldonado.

"I've now done two TV pitches, both of which I'm mostly in character," Perrault said. "When I'm in character, it's very similar to being on stage at Emerson and my sketch comedy days [in *Chocolate Cake City*]. It's just like any performance: You only get nervous when it's not working."

**"Not only did they sell the pitch, they sold it straight to a series to Netflix. That's the dream."**



Dan Perrault '09 (left), Tyler Alvarez (center), and Tony Yacenda '10 (right) on set of *American Vandal*. Photo Courtesy of Tony Yacenda

Yacenda said he spoke about the series from a directorial standpoint during the pitch and did not feel nervous either.

"It felt like we had nothing to lose going into it because it was so different," Yacenda said. "We never thought we would get a TV show based on where we were career-wise. So it was fun to just do something weird and to do something that they weren't expecting. At the very least, we knew we were entertaining them even if they weren't going to pick up the show."

Out of everyone involved with the show, Matt McManus described Yacenda and Perrault in a phone interview as the most unbelievable success story. He said he and his brother directed

the feature film *Funeral Kings* before they became involved in *American Vandal*. However, Yacenda and Perrault previously only focused on creating viral short-form content for outlets like *Funny or Die* and *College Humor* before catching their big break with *American Vandal*.

"They've got the craziest road to getting here in my opinion," Matt McManus said. "These guys made a ton of viral videos, and Dan was working at Fandango. Then they pitched to me, and it was the best pitch I ever heard. I was jealous, really. Not only did they sell the pitch, they sold it straight to a series to Netflix. That's the dream."

Matt McManus said he and his brother met Yacenda through a mutual friend at Emerson.

He said before he actually met Perrault, he saw him perform with the comedy troupe *Chocolate Cake City*.

"He was the standout. He was so hysterical," Matt McManus said. "We became friends, and I remember how funny he was. I remember seeing a video from that performance, and you can hear my laughter breaking through the crowd."

Yacenda said in the case of *American Vandal*—working professionally with friends lacks drawbacks. He said the four of them can communicate honestly in the writers' room—not always the case in television.

"I think there's an honesty and communication with friends. When you're dealing with the writers' room, there's a lot of egos, and you have

to be political in the way you collaborate with other writers. But with the McManuses or Dan, we just have a shorthand where I can just be like, 'No, I don't like that,'" Yacenda said.

Yacenda said he advises current and future Emerson students try to make these types of strong relationships in college.

"Try to find out what you're good at, and try to find other people who are talented and make those relationships," Yacenda said. "The greatest thing that I got out of film school was all the relationships with talented people around me."

✉ lilly\_milman@emerson.edu

## Alumna's film highlights stress of social media, wins at festival

Taina Millsap, *Beacon Correspondent*

Ashley Zipperman '18 never imagined her class project would go on to win at the Burbank International Film Festival.

Zipperman's short film "Verified"—which illustrates the drama and pressure the internet creates for millennials—won Best Short Film by Women. The festival, held every year in Burbank, California from Sept. 5-9, celebrates envi-

ronmental and social justice filmmakers.

"Verified" follows Greta, a midwestern girl, as she travels to Los Angeles to visit her internet-famous cousin, Alex. There, she discovers the extremes of social media, and she changes her personality and wardrobe to fit into Los Angeles' scene.

"Being from LA, I noticed [the Internet] being a lot more present here—how many likes you have, the pictures on your feed, the number

of followers you have," Zipperman said. "People outside of our generation don't really understand the drama and anxiety that it causes, and I felt that these extremes needed to be shown."

Zipperman showcased "Verified" at the International Burbank Film Festival and released it to the public on Vimeo on Oct. 4.

Zipperman said she did not expect to win when she submitted the film, and later on received an invitation to the reception. She said she didn't even attend the ceremony.

"I ended up getting a call a week later," she said. "I just started crying when the founder said I won. It felt great to be recognized for such an important category, especially during times like now."

Zipperman created "Verified" as her BFA project for a two-semester course entitled VM 490: BFA Production Workshop.

According to Zipperman, Emerson alumni and advisors comprise most of the film's creative force. She said Emerson's visual and media arts department helped her form connections to people with similar visions.

Marcos Gonzalez '16 collaborated with Zipperman to construct a linear storyline that would fit her initial ideas.

"I would write drafts and then give it to her, and have her tell me what she liked and what she didn't like," Gonzalez said.

As a writer for *Comedy Central*, Gonzalez said writing a drama script challenged him since it differed from his usual genre.

Emerson assisted Zipperman in making connections with other professionals who ultimately became a part of her crew during the process of "Verified."

"Staying connected with peers and building relationships with one another is super important," Zipperman said. "Emerson also does a good job at making sure the script is good before the film is made."

Most of what would become the film's crew came from Zipperman's senior year BFA class, including professor and advisor James Sheldon.

Sheldon acted as Zipperman's advisor, guiding her in production and assuring the graphics, colors, and music matched Zipperman's vision.

"Particularly with [Zipperman], what really made it was her perseverance and attention to detail," Sheldon said. "She was good at getting other people to work with her—it's a group effort."

Visual and media arts major Haley Macmillan said the film's victory marks an achievement not only for those involved, but for all women trying to break into the film industry.

"The deeper you go into the industry, you begin to understand that women are viewed differently," Macmillan said. "It's inspiring moments like these that remind me my dreams are still valid and I, still, as a woman can achieve whatever I want."

Zipperman also highlighted the importance of female victories, especially when dealing with an industry run mostly by men, and the importance of speak up.

"A lot of the times, being women, we can be a little shy and passive—it's best to know what you want creatively and go for it," Zipperman said.

✉ taina\_millsap@emerson.edu



From left, Jacob Caron, Matt Lingenfelter, and Ashley Zipperman '18 filming "Verified." Courtesy of Ashley Zipperman

## SHEETS magazine uncovers love and sex

Melanie Curry, *Beacon Correspondent*

Juniors Alison Michalak, Kamryn Leoncavallo, and senior Abbrianna MacGregor always discuss their sex and love lives together.

So, it's unsurprising the trio started SHEETS Magazine—Emerson's sex magazine—the first week of this school year.

SHEETS is a digital magazine dedicated to “sharing the human experience of love, romance, and sex,” as stated on its website.

“We're such a diverse school with so many sexual orientations represented that it's weird that we haven't had one yet, exclusively for dating, romance, and relationships,” MacGregor said.

Last year, Michalak, Leoncavallo, and MacGregor conceived SHEETS while sitting in Center Stage. Together, they started brainstorming ideas about what articles the magazine would publish.

Michalak, a creative writing major, started working on the magazine mid-summer. Michalak said she taught herself how to use Wix—an online website creator—and created SHEETS at a beach by her house.

Leoncavallo, who wrote for Your Magazine's romance section, and copy edits for the Berkeley Beacon, has previous experience writing about sex and relationships. However, according to Michalak, SHEETS is not about expertise in relationships or sex, but rather different experiences and their validity.

**"It's best to know what you want creatively and go for it."**



From left, senior Abbrianna MacGregor, and juniors Alison Michalak and Kamryn Leoncavallo created SHEETS this semester. *Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff*

“Everybody has their experiences and all of those experiences are valid,” Michalak said. “It's not about being an expert in sex, love, and relationships. [It's more] ‘Let me tell you about my experiences.’”

SHEETS is not a Student Government Association recognized organization. Michalak said SHEETS must remain an organization for a year for official recognition. Without official recognition, SHEETS is limited to a digital platform and cannot circulate a print issue.

Junior Emma Cox, SHEETS' art director, says an online platform fits the publication more.

“Print is great,” Cox said. “But I think for what [SHEETS] is, online has a lot more freedom.”

Junior Peyton Hassler, SHEETS' social media executive, said she agrees with Cox.

“I think the great thing about SHEETS is that it's a constant online database,” Hassler said. “I think it's a little bit more personal than the other magazines.”

Sheets published several articles on their website so far, such as “Pregnancy Anxiety” and “How to Collect Boyfriends.”

“Pregnancy Anxiety: Why it Sucks and How to Navigate it,” is SHEETS' most popular article. Written by Suffolk University student Micaela Clark, the article explains how to deal with pregnancy anxiety and offers strategies to avoid it.

**"The more you open up the conversation and make it less taboo, the more people are willing to talk about their own experiences."**



From left, Abbrianna MacGregor, Alison Michalak, and Kamryn Leoncavallo write about their love and sex lives for SHEETS. *Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff*

or human trafficking, after asking students what topics they want to see.

Because SGA does not officially recognize SHEETS, they can only advertise the organization on social media.

Hassler says social media is an important tool to get the word out about SHEETS. SHEETS has almost 70 followers on Instagram.

“As we gain more recognition and put out more content, I definitely plan to build on our social media presence,” Hassler said.

Hassler, a member of the LGBTQ community, said while a lot of their content is heterocentric, SHEETS is open to all identities. Hassler said, as more people get involved, SHEETS will become more diverse.

Michalak and MacGregor said SHEETS also encourages sexual empowerment.

“I think the more you open up the conversation and make it less taboo, the more people are willing to talk about their own experiences, and that can even mean talking about their experiences with assault,” Michalak said.

Leoncavallo said students may feel very hesitant about submitting personal works, so SHEETS allows students to submit anonymously.

Sophomore May O'Day said she would love to read articles related to sexual experiences, despite not wanting to submit her own experiences. She said many of her friends would enjoy reading SHEETS' content.

O'Day also said since Emerson is such a progressive school, she didn't think SHEETS would face any controversy.

Hassler said creating, sitting down, and talking as a group makes it easier for students to share experiences.

“If [students] were more comfortable as a group interpersonally, it'd be easier to put those ideas and feelings down on paper,” Hassler said.

*Editor-in-chief Shafaq Patel did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.*

✉ [melanie\\_curry@emerson.edu](mailto:melanie_curry@emerson.edu)

# sports

## UPCOMING ACTION

**MEN'S TENNIS:** Emerson @ Regis, 3 p.m. Friday

**CROSS COUNTRY:** Suffolk Invitational, 4 p.m. Friday

**WOMEN'S SOCCER:** Emerson @ Wellesley, 11 a.m. Saturday

**MEN'S SOCCER:** Emerson vs. Springfield, 1 p.m. Saturday

## Women's soccer makes final push for playoff spot

Aaron Miller, *Beacon Staff*

The women's soccer team's expectations of a New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference playoff run near reality as the Lions sit in sixth place with a 3-2 record.

The team won three conference victories against Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, Wheaton College—with each ending 2-1.

The Lions' first conference loss came against Springfield College—the top-ranked team in the NEWMAC, on Sept. 22. Despite scoring the opening goal in the first three minutes, Springfield pushed back with two goals in the second half.

Head coach David Suvak said despite the team's loss to Springfield, he's content with how the team played.

"We gave Springfield a pretty good match," Suvak said. "It could have gone either way. I'm disappointed for the result in that match in particular, but I am happy in the way our team performed."

The Lions also lost 3-1 to Worcester Polytechnic Institute, which is ranked fourth in the conference, on Oct. 6.

Junior forward Veronica Alberts said the Lions can still get far into the playoffs despite losing two important conference games. Alberts scored the lone goal against WPI.

"I think it's still super early on in the season, so we can for sure get the next one and the next one, and if we get to five [wins], we'll be in a very good spot," Alberts said. "Our two losses really show us what we can do to improve and what we're capable of, so I think we're actually in a pretty good spot."

Suvak said the NEWMAC is a challenging and competitive conference.

"Every match in the NEWMAC is a hard match, and there are no given games that are automatic wins," Suvak said. "It's a battle to just



Amanda Benavente (right) challenges for the ball against WPI. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

get into the top seven."

The 2018 season for the women's team began with a major hiccup when freshman goalkeeper

Silvia Dowell suffered an ACL injury prior to pre-season training. Two other freshman goalkeepers, Megan Rose and Sophia Giordano, stepped up to fill the position.

Rose made 72 saves in 11 games—ranking her third for most saves in the NEWMAC.

Rose and Giordano have earned the NEW-

MAC Women's Soccer Defensive Athlete of the Week accolade for their performances in conference and non-conference games for the Lions.

Rose said the team continues to improve, and she believes the team is a strong contender for the playoffs.

"I think that the leadership

and the camaraderie between everyone has been very helpful," Rose said. "As long as we stay consistent throughout our whole game, play

**"As long as we stay consistent throughout our whole game, play possession, and get chances on goal we have a very good chance of getting into the playoffs."**

possession, and get chances on goal we have a very good chance of getting into the playoffs."

Last season, the Lions did not make the NEWMAC playoffs—however, with the help of 11 freshman recruits this season, the women's soccer team has seen a major uplift in competitiveness. Suvak said the freshmen proved themselves as significant additions to the squad.

"I believe that the best player should be on the field, and if that's a freshman or an upper-classman, then they should be rewarded by their skill," Suvak said. "Those [players] are proving themselves in matches and in training that they belong there."

Alberts said the chemistry between the mix of freshmen and upperclassmen contributed to the team's success so far.

"I think the team chemistry is awesome," Alberts said. "Having a big senior and freshman class has everyone meshing together very well, and I think team chemistry is one of the most helpful aspects to us in our season."

Senior forward Jess Frost—who is tied for most goals on the team this season with four—said the team is not only a strong contender for the playoffs, but for an opening playoff home match. She said this would give a significant advantage to the team in the tournament.

"Of course, we are still contenders for the playoffs—we are even contenders for a home game, which is something we would love to have," Frost said. "We would be the first fall sport to have a home playoff game [in Emerson history]."

The Lions play their next conference game on Saturday, Oct. 13 against Wellesley College at 11 a.m.

✉ aaron\_miller@emerson.edu

🐦 @theaaronjmilller

## First away NEWMAC win keeps men's soccer in playoff hunt



Ryan Anderson prepares for a throw in against Clark. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*



Robbie Shinder lays out for a save against Clark. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

Karina Sanchez, *Beacon Correspondent*

The men's soccer team may make playoffs, despite a conference record of 1-3 and only three games left in their regular season.

The Lions sit in seventh place out of nine in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference. The top five teams in the conference all qualify for playoffs.

Freshman midfielder Avery Niles said the team's attitude going into games has changed as the season progressed.

"From the beginning of the year, our winning mentality has changed," Niles said. "In the beginning, we went into games being a team that settled for a tie, to now where we want to walk away with a big win and make a statement."

With tough competition in the NEWMAC, head coach Bryan Harkin said they must overcome obstacles to continue into playoffs.

"Ultimately we want to win now, but we have to get everything in place before we can get to the goals we want to get to and set all our blocks and foundation in place," Harkin said. "We are a young group and need to gain the confidence."

The Lions claimed their first win against the United States Coast Guard Academy on Sept. 22 due to a goal from junior forward Gavin Fautette, who leads the team with four goals. The 1-0 victory marked their first away win in the NEWMAC since Emerson joined the conference in 2013.

Sophomore goalkeeper David Kemp made three saves, one of them in the last 30 seconds of the game, and earned NEWMAC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance.

The Lions opened the season with a 3-0 loss to Clark University, before falling 1-0 in overtime to Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Babson College, respectively. In their game against WPI, the defending NEWMAC champions, the Lions kept the game tied at zero until the last 40 seconds.

"Coming off losses, we need to forget about it and come in the next day ready to improve," junior defender Creighton Dorfman said. "In the long run, we have to look back and think that we took the standing champions all the way to the last 40 seconds."

Dorfman said the Lions, although considered

underdogs want to prove they can compete at the highest level in the conference.

"When we play teams that might be better than us, we need to have the belief and perseverance that we can get results against them," Dorfman said.

As a team of primarily freshmen and sophomores, Niles said the men's soccer team devoted this season to finding their place and becoming more comfortable in their roles.

"We do a good job sticking together and not pointing fingers, but also working as a team and not just individuals," Niles said. "We have all settled into our positions, we have gotten more comfortable, and we do our best on the field when we are able to shift the ball back and forth rather than just launching it across the field because we can."

In addition to focusing and setting long-term goals, Niles said chemistry factors into the team's success.

"Trusting each other and fighting for the guy next to you is important. As long as we can keep trusting and fighting for one another, that will be what keeps us from breaking down," Niles

said. "We also need to improve our second half performance, and we can't let getting scored on deteriorate the rest of our game."

In order for the men's soccer team to advance into playoffs, they need to win two of three remaining games.

Harkin said even though their season has not gone as planned, he still believes they could make playoffs.

"I am pleased with where we are at and the progress watching them work and get better, although I am not pleased, but disappointed, with results—but we are taking steps in the right direction," Harkin said. "Being young can be a disadvantage at times, but in our case we have a desire to improve, and they are coachable and energetic."

The Lions will compete against Springfield College at Rotch Field on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.

✉ karina\_sanchez@emerson.edu