



# The Berkeley Beacon

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

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## Beacon Breakdown: Proposed Title IX policies under revision

Belen Dumont, *Beacon Staff*

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos introduced changes to the federal Title IX policy in November 2018 that would alter or reverse guidelines established under former President Barack Obama's administration.

The 145-page document changes the Title IX policies for all federally funded colleges and universities across the country. Most schools, including Emerson, receive some form of federal funding through financial aid. Title IX protects people from discrimination on the basis of sex in an educational or federally funded institution and dictates how schools should handle sexual harassment and assault allegations.

The proposed changes would affect how formal complaints in sexual harassment or assault cases are filed and investigated. Additionally, they would redefine sexual harassment, allow colleges to set a higher standard for evidence, and permit the accused and accuser to cross-examine one another according to the college's policy.

**How could these changes affect Emerson?**

If the government accepts the proposed draft, Vice President of the Social Justice Center Sylvia Spears said there would be a date and deadline for colleges to revise their own policy—a process that could take several months. All colleges would have to make changes to adhere to the proposed new rules. However, Spears said they have not yet discussed specifics at Emerson.

*See DeVos, page 2*



## Student comedy show gets Big Ugly break

By Katie Redefer • p. 6

David Potashnik (top) and Benjamin Zieper (bottom) created The Big Ugly Show in their dorms. • Greyson Acquaviva / Beacon Correspondent

## Over 2000 mugs missing from Dining Center

Hanna Marchesseault, *Beacon Staff*

The Dining Center will not take action to prevent people from stealing mugs for the 2019 spring semester, according to a dining official.

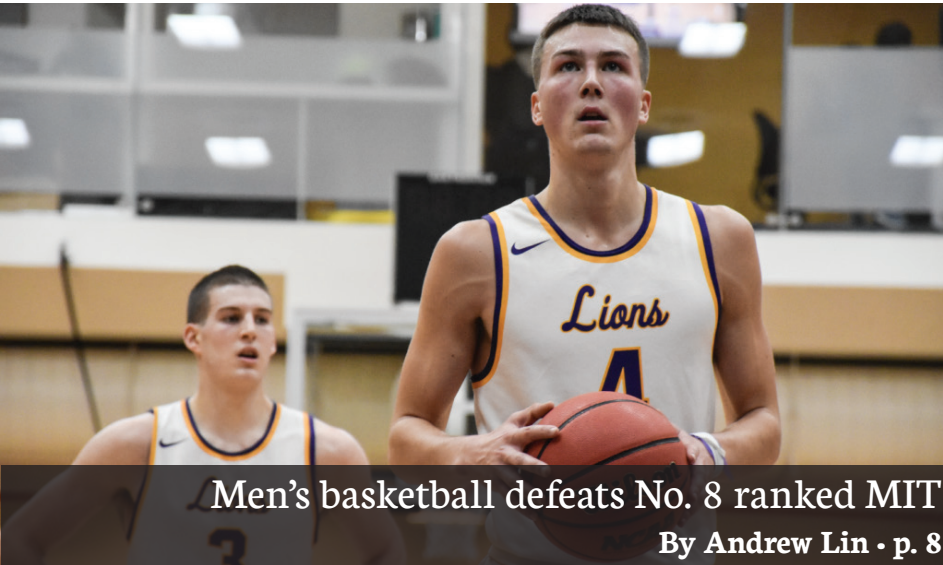
Resident District Manager for Bon Appetit Management Dawn Sajdyk said the college replaced more than 2,000 mugs at the start of the spring semester because of the items breaking and students taking them from the Dining Center.

“None of us are here to police the students,” Sajdyk said. “We all want to simply make sure the students have what they need because they’re our number one priority.”

Sajdyk said that if she or other Dining Center employees see students leaving with mugs or other utensils, they will ask them to bring the items back when they are finished.

Assistant Director of Community Standards and Student Conduct Melissa Woolsey said if resident assistants find Dining Center items in a dorm more than once during the routine health and safety inspections, the items will be confiscated and the individual will be charged with a “misuse of college resources/property.”

The Dining Center partnered with the Facilities Management Department for a retrieval process, including a place for facility staff to return Dining Center items if they see any around



## Men's basketball defeats No. 8 ranked MIT

By Andrew Lin • p. 8

Jack O'Connor (right) leads the team in points per game. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

campus, Sajdyk said.

Sajdyk said the Dining Center will continue to make sure students feel welcome when they enter, and she hopes students will continue to provide feedback about their dining experience.

Sajdyk said in an interview that most of the mugs went missing around the end of October and December. She said she assumes most people wanted to take their drinks to study in other locations besides the Dining Center. According to Sajdyk, replacing mugs and other dining utensils is common for the college.

“We work with a lot of local vendors that allow us to replace missing items,” she said. “We make sure to budget for the replacement of

items like this.”

Sajdyk said the college could allocate more funds to other aspects of the Dining Center, like student events and outside food vendors, if fewer dishes like mugs and plates had to be replaced.

Desk Coordinator Maya Kaczor sent an email to the resident assistants to confront students when they discover them with stolen Dining Center items.

“If [students] don’t go and return those items, you should fill out an incident report,” Kaczor wrote in the email.

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## "Try Guy" Kornfeld '12 turns hobby into viral success

Katie Redefer, *Beacon Staff*

At the BuzzFeed office in Los Angeles, four men took turns trying on teensy, lace-embellished thongs in front of a thin curtain. What they didn’t know then is this light-hearted video would turn them into the viral sensation “The Try Guys.”

Zach Kornfeld ‘12 co-founded the YouTube channel The Try Guys, which has garnered over 5 million subscribers in six months. The channel consists of four men—Kornfeld, Keith Habersberger, Ned Fulmer, and Eugene Lee Yang—who create videos of themselves trying out various hobbies, clothing styles, and topics in a humorous context.

The Try Guys got their start in 2014 at BuzzFeed by creating videos like “The Try Guys Try Labor Pain Simulation,” which amassed over 32 million views on YouTube and 120 million views on Facebook.

Kornfeld first developed an interest for making videos in middle school, when he would create “bad rip-offs” of the movies he liked.

“Originally it was me in my bedroom with a cheap camcorder and some teddy bears,”

*See Kornfeld, page 7*

# news

## Lucas Flint remembered as kind-hearted, dedicated

Abigail Hadfield, *Beacon Staff*

At 15 years old, Lucas Flint performed tedious tasks at the Emerson radio station WERS as part of a volunteer program for non-Emerson students.

Flint, an East Bridgewater, Massachusetts native, was a long-time listener of the college radio station and would operate the phones in the call center, take donations from listeners, stuff envelopes, and help out with other small tasks when necessary. He became one of the station's first outside volunteers.

After arriving at the college in September 2016, Flint continued his volunteer work—coming in after hours and helping out, performing the tasks that no one else wanted to do. He worked under Kevin Cooney, the director of WERS development.

"I just think that it's pretty unique to find someone who has been dedicated to something that matters to them for that long," Cooney said. "I think that's really cool that the station mattered to him that much."

Flint, a junior visual and media arts student, passed away on Dec. 18 at the age of 21. He was hit by a drunk driver on Dec. 15 while walking home from his job at the Laugh Boston Comedy Club shortly before 1 a.m. Flint passed away in the hospital three days later. He is survived by his parents Susan and David Flint.

Braintree Police said they found the vehicle involved in the crash in Holbrook, Massachusetts, and then located and arrested the driver, Darrell Young, 25, of Quincy, Massachusetts. Young was arraigned on Dec. 17, according to police.

Flint's mother often heard from friends that she had raised a good one. She described him as thoughtful, caring, and passionate—someone who brought kindness and warmth to everyone who knew him.

"He just had a respect for the different," Susan Flint said. "And that was him—he was a lit-



Lucas Flint passed away on Dec. 18 after being struck by a drunk driver. *Courtesy of Susan Flint*

tle different, but he respected anybody who did something in a different way."

She remembers taking Lucas to a locally owned video store every weekend when he was 3-years-old. The store owner, a man named Jim, would let him run around the store. His mother said Lucas would roam up and down the aisles, taking everything in as if he were in a museum.

"It was just the cutest thing because it was better than Disney World," his mother said. "He would rather go to Jim's video store."

Flint was known as incredibly kind-hearted by his friends and family—always making people laugh and going out of his way to help others, according to his mother.

"He would hold the door, man or woman, [or] little kid," Susan Flint said. "He would hold the door, and it usually turned into five or six people, and I said, 'You'll be there all day hold-

ing that door!' But that's how he was."

Morgan Capodilupo '17 was a close friend to Lucas during his time at Emerson. They met when Capodilupo was a senior working with Lucas for The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the AMC Loews Theatre. As soon as they met, she said she felt like she had known Lucas her whole life.

"He was unapologetically his own person," Capodilupo said. "He was never afraid to be himself. He didn't care if he had a million friends or just a few. He just was happy to be himself."

Among friends and professors in the VMA department, Flint was known as an avid film lover, constantly watching or talking about movies. Professor Vinicius Navarro taught Lucas in a History of Documentary class during the fall 2018 semester.

"When he spoke about a film that he enjoyed,

you could see his face light up," Navarro said. Susan Flint remembered the Christmas movies her son enjoyed during the holidays. She said his most recent watch was "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" with David Bowie—she noted it was not a very traditional Christmas movie, but one that Lucas loved.

A GoFundMe page appeared on Dec. 15 to help cover medical costs and support the Flint family. At the time of publication, the fundraiser had surpassed its final goal of \$35,000 and is now at \$35,900.

In addition to the GoFundMe page, Emerson parent Kate Mueth of East Hampton, New York decided to use her birthday to create a Facebook fundraiser for Lucas. Although she did not know Lucas or his family, she was moved by an email President M. Lee Pelton sent to the Emerson community regarding Lucas' death and wanted to help.

Mueth hopes to create a remembrance for Lucas, either in the form of a scholarship or some sort of memorial on campus. She has been in contact with both Flint's mother and the college to organize where the money will go.

"It's just putting pain into motion to try to give a different trajectory," Mueth said in a phone interview. "When this kind of thing happens, everybody scoops in around you, but there's a day when everybody just starts to get back to their lives. And that's actually the time when they really need the support the most."

A Memorial Funeral Mass was held on Dec. 28 at Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Braintree, Massachusetts. Flint was an organ donor, and his kidneys, liver, left lung, and heart have gone to five different recipients.

In an email, President M. Lee Pelton announced the college plans to hold a celebration of Lucas' life in the spring semester, although a date has not yet been set.

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## DeVos' proposed changes to Title IX could impact Emerson

*Continued from page 1*

"I think it's wise for all members of our community—not just students, because the Title IX policy would affect staff and faculty as well—to be actively engaged and paying attention," Spears said. "Because it will affect Emerson's policy."

### How would Title IX cases be affected?

The proposed changes would redefine sexual harassment as unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex and must be so severe that it interrupts someone's access to education or related activities. The Obama administration defined sexual harassment as unwelcome conduct including unwanted verbal, nonverbal, or physical advances of a sexual nature.

If DeVos' document is approved, colleges will be allowed to set a higher and more rigorous standard of proof when evaluating claims of sexual harassment. Under Obama's administration, a party only needed their allegations to have a 50 percent or greater chance of verity.

Spears said the standards of proof under the Obama administration were considered the best practice at Emerson for several years. The college has not yet discussed changing the standard for evidence in anticipation of the new rules, according to Spears.

In regards to ongoing cases, Spears said it is common practice to continue using the current Title IX policy throughout a federal case process. The exception would be if both parties involved in the case, the accused and accuser, agree to switch to the new policy.

The new rules would also give a person accused of sexual misconduct the right to cross-examine their accuser. This means anyone accused of sexual harassment or assault would have the right to question the person who made the accusation or filed a complaint.

**"These reforms ... might be positive and some might be useful, but they deserve great scrutiny."**

- James McManus

The Obama administration discouraged direct cross-examination of parties or witnesses. However, if a school allowed one party to cross-examine the witnesses, the other party had the same right.

"Allowing an alleged perpetrator to question a complainant directly may be traumatic or intimidating, and may perpetuate a hostile environment," the federal Office for Civil Rights published in a 2011 Dear Colleague Letter during the Obama administration.

### How would sexual harassment and assault claims be reported?

Emerson's current policy dictates that all faculty and staff members are mandated reporters. However, under the proposed reforms, educational institutions would only be responsible for investigating incidents with formal complaints.

A formal complaint is made to an official with the authority to initiate corrective measures. According to DeVos' document, officials would not need to include professors, resident advisors, or any other college staff. Colleges would be able to decide who is a mandatory reporter in Title IX cases and could limit that field to a small number of people.

The new rules would affect the federal policy requiring colleges to investigate a complaint regardless of where the incident occurred. Under DeVos' rules, educational institutions would only be responsible for investigating allegations that occurred on campus or within their own programs.

"I would worry about any changes in the regulations that make it less likely that people are going to report concerning behavior, or less likely that they are going to have access to supportive resources," Spears said.

According to the new regulations, a school can be held accountable for not properly addressing an allegation if they are acting "delib-



One of DeVos' proposed changes might affect college policy by redefining sexual harassment. *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

erately indifferent." Therefore, an institution would violate the law if they responded unreasonably to the sexual harassment allegations considering known circumstances. It is not clear what would be considered an unreasonable response in DeVos' document.

### What can students do if they want to provide feedback on the proposed changes?

The public can submit comments to the proposed draft of regulations online until Jan. 28, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. Following this, Congress can either offer a new draft or alter the current document.

Spears said although Emerson's Title IX office appreciates hearing students' thoughts, the only way to potentially impact DeVos' changes are to submit comments to the government.

James McManus, an Emerson journalism law professor, said the new Title IX rules were not entirely unprecedented.

"These reforms have been discussed for many years—and some of them might be positive and some might be useful, but they deserve great scrutiny," McManus said.

Associate Vice President and Title IX and Clery Act Coordinator Pamela White could not be reached for comment.

According to Spears, there are numerous public interest groups like End Rape on Campus, Know Your IX, and It's On Us gathering and commenting on the Title IX revisions. The U.S. Federal Register and Know Your IX websites also offer information about the changes and their potential impacts.

"People need to comment directly to the federal government," Spears said. "Where I've always kind of landed on comment periods is: It's better to participate and have your voice known than sit silently."

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# Housing operations look for graduate student after director

Anissa Gardizy, Beacon Staff

The Office of Housing and Residence Life is operating without an associate director of housing operations after the former director left the college at the beginning of January. The college has not yet posted an application to hire someone else.

Former Senior Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life Seth Hodge left his position on Jan. 2, according to an automated reply from Hodge's Emerson email. Hodge began working at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Massachusetts as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs for the spring 2019 semester.

**"The graduate student gives us the opportunity to have an extra set of hands to work on projects."**  
- Kendra Stokes

Olin College is considerably smaller than Emerson with an estimated incoming 2023 class of 84 students, according to its website. Emerson's 2022 class consisted of about 900 students in fall 2018, according to the college's website.

Hodge declined to comment.

Assistant Dean for Campus Life Elizabeth Ching-Bush said Hodge's departure was a great professional opportunity for him and his career.

"It was a great time for him to go ahead and [take the position]. It was a great next step for him professionally," Ching-Bush said.

Assistant Director of Housing Operations Kendra Stokes said transitions for jobs in higher education are best at the end of a semester or over the summer.

"It allows for a smooth transition for you as a professional and for those that work around you since you are closing out the fall semester and wrapping up assignments for the spring. It was an easy time to transition [Seth] out of the position and for Seth to transition into a new position elsewhere," Stokes said.

Without a director, Stokes takes the brunt of the office's workload with tasks such as preparing for housing selection in the spring and incoming students in the fall.

"With Seth's departure, it's just making sure that none of those pieces get lost in translation. It's re-scoping how I have looked at my day-to-day operations," Stokes said.

**"We are looking at the future and what we might need or want to be happening."**  
- Elizabeth Ching-Bush

Many of the housing operations have become easier to manage with StarRez, a housing software Emerson began using last year, according to Stokes.

"Of course, I have taken more on, but we are streamlining as much as possible [with StarRez]," Stokes said. "We are really fortunate at Emerson to have been investing in a housing software that helps orchestrate all of our processes."

Instead of searching for a new director, the administration posted a job application online for a graduate student interested in working with housing operations. The hired student would learn how housing operations function at a college and earn

a starting hourly wage of \$15, according to the application. The application also states that the student must be a graduate student currently enrolled in a degree-granting program in higher education, student personnel, counseling, or a related field.

"Instead of jumping right back in and filling a position, we are able to give ourselves some time and evaluate roles, responsibilities, and the needs of the department and students," Stokes said. "The graduate student gives us the opportunity to have an extra set of hands to work on projects while still giving us time to evaluate positions."

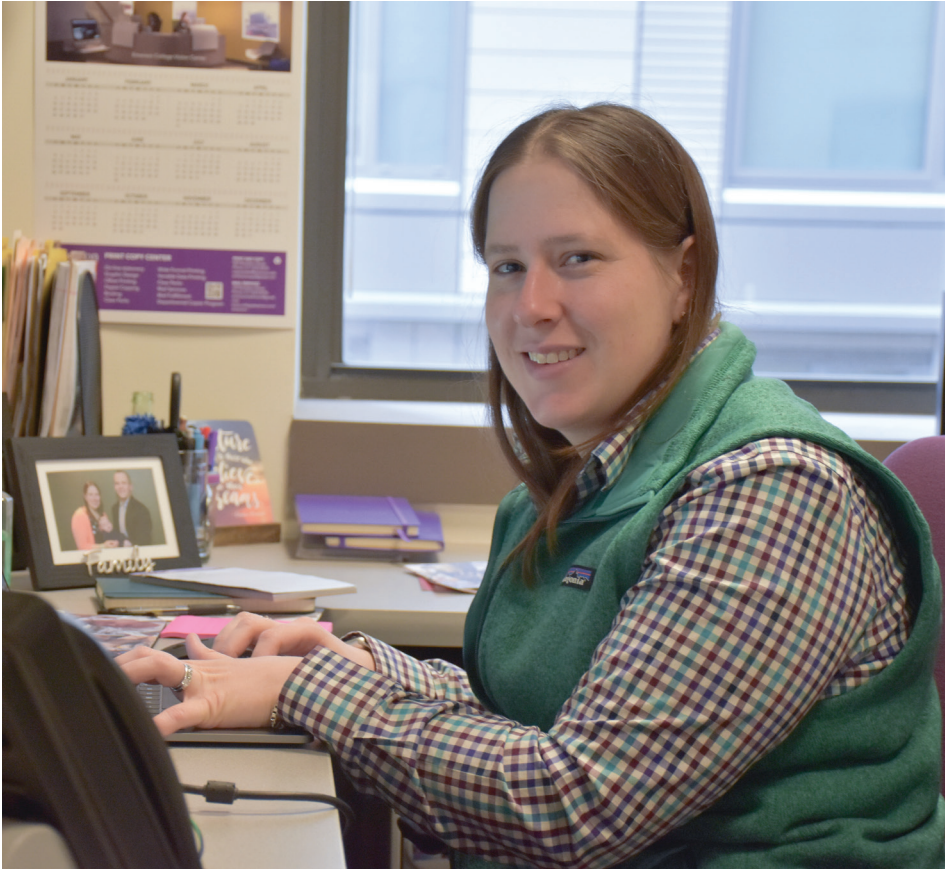
The priority is to hire a graduate student before considering to fill Hodge's former position as director, according to Ching-Bush.

"Right now we are focused on the grad student—we are looking to see how this semester goes," Ching-Bush said. "We are looking at the future and what we might need or want to be happening."

Stokes said now is the right time to pursue hiring a graduate student—though, in her more than two years of working at the college, she said she has never had one.

"We have had people reach out to us, but we haven't had the right time to do that. Now is the right time, and we have the resources to have someone," Stokes said.

Before working with StarRez, Stokes said she could only use the login to the housing opera-



Assistant Director of Housing Operations Kendra Stokes is taking on the brunt of the office's workload following Seth Hodge's departure. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

tions system in her office. Now, she has the ability to program different levels of access on the software that would allow a graduate to perform certain tasks.

In addition to collaborative software, Stokes said she feels more comfortable having a graduate student as she has become more accustomed to the college.

"I have a bigger skill set and a better understanding of the Emerson community. I had students reach out my first semester here, and that is probably not the best time to take on a grad student—I was just learning my role myself," Stokes said.

Housing operations will also receive assistance from two current residence directors, Desiree Bradford and LaKiyah Russell, who expressed interest in working more with housing in the spring. The RDs will be working on the promotion of housing selection, informational sessions for students, and other background

tasks that occur in the office, according to Stokes.

In the fall, the office will need to fill more beds on campus with the scheduled opening of the Little Building. However, Stokes does not foresee any additional challenges in opening the building with the current staffing situation.

"Opening Little Building will be a normal operational challenge because it is a new building, but nothing beyond regular opening in the fall," Stokes said.

Stokes expressed confidence that students would receive the same services from housing operations during a time of staff changes.

"The student experience with housing operations is not going to be impacted in any negative way due to staffing changes," Stokes said. "This is a time for us to continue the good work that we do."

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# College hires retail broker to bring businesses to Little Building

Hanna Marchesseault, Beacon Staff

The college hired The Dartmouth Company, a retail broker, to raise interest for five to six available business spaces on the first floor of the Little Building, according to a college official.

While no official decisions have been made concerning which tenants will move in, the college hopes to award leases to vendors by April and have tenants in the building by September, according to Senior Associate Vice President for Real Estate Arthur Mombourquette. The Little

**"The types of businesses that we're interested in are mostly food-related."**  
- Arthur Mombourquette

Building is scheduled to open in August.

"The types of businesses that we're interested in are mostly food-related," Mombourquette said. "This includes coffee shops and fast casual dining that will interest the students and create a revenue for the school."

Representatives from The Dartmouth Company declined to comment.

The businesses on the first floor, accessible from Boylston and Tremont streets, will most likely accept ECCash to attract students, according to Mombourquette.

Late Vice President for Administration and Finance Maureen Murphy, with encouragement from the Board of Trustees, made the decision about three years ago to search for vendors at the end of the Little Building construction project, Mombourquette said.

"From a student's perspective, I would really enjoy some more food options," freshman Cameron Carleton said. "Places like the [C-Store at The Max] get really crazy, and this is another option for students to potentially meet up and study."

Carleton said he would like to see Einstein

**"From a student's perspective, I would really enjoy some more food options."**  
- Cameron Carleton

Bros. Bagels—a bagel and coffee shop that had a location in the Little Building before construction began—return, and possibly a sit-down-style restaurant.

"We want to bring in food that we may not have at the Dining Center," Mombourquette said. "Our goal is to make sure that it's healthy and what the students need."

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# ECPD to increase security for Women's March on Boston

Stephanie Purifoy, Beacon Staff

The Emerson College Police Department plans to staff extra officers to ensure campus safety during the third annual Boston Women's March on Boston Common on Jan. 19, according to the police chief.

ECPD Chief Robert Smith said in an interview he is optimistic the day will go smoothly with officers patrolling campus and minimizing foot traffic in the Boylston Place alleyway. Smith said the college will not lock down the campus. A lockdown requires students to tap their college IDs to enter any Emerson building.

"We don't want the event to be disruptive to

the community, and we don't think it has the potential to cause trouble," Smith said. "These types of events tend to be fairly peaceful, and so we don't see the need to lock the campus down."

An estimated 175,000 people flooded Boston Common in January 2017 for the first Boston Women's March. Two years later, Smith said organizers expect less than 10 percent of that number for the 2019 demonstration.

**"[The march] shouldn't affect the college in any negative way."**  
- Robert Smith

This year's march is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The route will wind around Boston Public Gardens and down Commonwealth Avenue.

"[The march] shouldn't affect the college in any negative way, and it'll probably be a peaceful event—crowded one, but peaceful," Smith said.

Deputy Chief Eric Schiazza said the department locked down the campus for events like

the Boston Red Sox parade in October 2018 and the "Rally for the Republic" in November 2017.

Smith said the Red Sox parade warranted the lockdown because there were hundreds of people on the Boylston Street sidewalks, and the ECPD wanted to prevent attendees from entering campus buildings. The campus was shut down during the "Rally for the Republic" to prepare for a possible conflict between protestors and counter-protestors.

Smith said the Boston Women's March presents neither of these issues since the route of the marchers will move away from campus.

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# editorial

## Upholding the importance of print newspapers

### At issue: The livelihood of our print edition

### Our take: Our print edition is a learning tool

Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Maya Gacina, Managing Editor Monika Davis, Opinion Editor Katie Schmidt, Deputy Opinion Editor Diti Kohli, and Assistant Opinion Editor Ziqi Wang 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.

Over winter break, the publishing company that printed our weekly edition closed down their commercial printing services. With the first issue scheduled for publication in less than two weeks following this news, we had many decisions to make and possible changes to maneuver. Our advisor popped the question of whether or not we should become an online-only publication. Luckily, an affordable printing press became available, but the possibility of having to move the paper to a fully digital format left a scar.

The Berkeley Beacon is Emerson's only student-run newspaper and consistently covers campus-wide news and events that affect students, faculty, and staff. Our newsroom works to ensure that every story we publish—online and in print—is of the highest quality. Although our daily news site is equally as valuable as the print version, the physical copy is the cumulative representation of a week on campus and delivers the most relevant news to our readership.

At the Beacon, we firmly believe print is not dead. Newspapers are the fibers of journalism. Even though an

argument can be made that moving content completely online would allow us to further enhance our daily schedule, we take pride in maintaining and producing a weekly print edition and updating our website daily.

Our print issues are more than pieces of paper—they are a way for our readers to hold an artifact that represents a

**"Our print issues are more than pieces of paper—they are a way for our readers to hold an artifact that represents a point in time."**

a point in time. We've published memorable editions, including our Oct. 4, 2018 print edition which reported on the Sen. Jeff Flake protest co-organized by Emerson students. This edition not only symbolizes an emotional and momentous week, but also serves as a cohesive representation of the Beacon's extensive reporting and dedication.

The Beacon staff takes immense pride in seeing our bylines in print, as we are sure many other on-campus publications do as well. For journalists, there is simply nothing better than physically holding the result of our hard work.

By having a printed issue, we reach a wider audience because, despite popular belief, a printed issue can be more accessible than the internet. Every week, copies of the latest issue will be delivered to the Walker Building, Ansin Building, Piano Row, 2 Boylston Place, and Colonial Residence Hall. Parents and prospective students who visit our campus can pick up a copy when touring. Security guards who work at the front desk read it when they have free time. As student journalists, it's important we prepare ourselves for the world beyond Emerson. As print remains an active element in the publishing industry, it is key we learn the skills to produce a print edition, such as layout and design. If print editions suddenly stopped appearing on campus, people may think we simply shut down. The print edition is a tangible reminder to students and faculty of the important events happening on campus and the impact these potentially pose to us all.

## 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.

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### Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board  
illustration by Ally Rzesza

Students ditch mugs to steal higher-ticket items from the Dining Center.



# opinion

## Restitution is needed for students affected by government

Diti Kohli

Kohli is a freshman journalism major & deputy opinion editor for the Beacon.

The United States is experiencing its longest government shutdown in history, three weeks and counting. Many of us are not directly affected but the disruption in Washington D.C. is jeopardizing the academic future of a small percentage of college students around the country.

While those who are already paying off their student loans remain unaffected, current college students accruing their share of debt may find themselves in trouble. Approximately 76 percent of Emerson students receive some kind of financial assistance, and the shutdown's potential impact on grants and loans is becoming increasingly relevant to our student population.

The Washington Post reports that a feature on the Internal Revenue Service's website which allows families to provide a proof of income and tax transcripts needed to secure financial aid is currently unavailable. This issue makes it impossible for some students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, according to USA Today. In addition, certain questions on the FAFSA application require interaction with government organizations that are closed indefinitely by the shutdown.

Sadly, vulnerable students are largely the ones impacted by these disruptions. Roughly 30 percent of those who complete FAFSA and are then required to submit income verification are from low-income households.

These disruptions have the potential to stop students from receiving grants, loans, and other alternate forms of financial aid in the coming semester. In extreme cases, prospective freshmen are unable to effectively calculate which schools they can afford to attend in the upcoming school year. And even more urgently, consequences of the shutdown are prohibiting current students from enrolling for classes in the spring.

Lila Jolie, a freshman theater and performance major originally from Washington D.C., said at least 30 people she knows of are unable to pay their tuition for the spring semester because of the shutdown's impacts on their families' jobs. These students' parents are either federal workers or are employed by places in the area



The shutdown is another barrier impeding financially unstable individuals from the education they deserve. Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

that are supposed to be free and are closed, like the Smithsonian National Museums.

"Most of the people I know both of their parents work, so I guess one makes up for the other," Jolie said. "But now, they can't come up with the money for college."

This issue is being largely overlooked by government officials. The Department of Education created a temporary, alternate method to verify family income on Jan. 8 only after repeated complaints from users. Though this effort aids desperate students, no proactive measures have been otherwise made to alleviate their financial struggles. The government is making no intention to take responsibility for these disruptions, even though aid experts revealed to the Washington Post that it is highly likely the Internal Revenue Service website complications are a result of the shutdown.

As colleges throughout the country are faced

with an influx of despondent students whose intended financial paths have been blocked by the shutdown, the Department of Education is obligated to take some kind of serious action. According to their website, the department's mission is to "promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering education excellence and ensuring

equal access." But their actions during the shutdown, or lack thereof, have only limited students' academic opportunities and contributed to the ever-expanding economic gap in the system. At the

very least, the government should be providing colleges with basic recommendations on how to guide students who suddenly have no means to remain at their institution.

But if only a small percentage of college students are being affected, why should all of us care?

**"The shutdown will continue to create a logistical nightmare within the financial aid system."**

The shutdown will continue to create a logistical nightmare within the financial aid system. Those who are logistically or lawfully unable to submit IRS documents online or via phone are forced to submit paper forms. The College Investor reports workers will be met with these piles of paperwork in addition to other mounds of work once they return post-shutdown. Additionally, annual FAFSA submissions will be processed slower, backlogging after nearly a month of inefficiency.

But even more importantly, the shutdown is another barrier impeding financially unstable individuals from the education they deserve. In a country with a growing divide between political parties, there is no need for an even larger disparity in the economic positions of the current, college-attending generation. Today's college students are this generation's movement of novel thought and intuition. We should be angered that the pre-existing and already expensive institution of higher education in America is somehow being made even more inaccessible to so many.

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## Never growing up: breaking away from the conventions of adulthood



It's okay to take a path you don't see anyone else on. • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

Ally Rzesza

Rzesza is a junior journalism major & social media manager for the Beacon.

As a part-time job, I get paid to play UNO. Working as either a theater or daycare teacher for the past several years, I've grown accustomed to the spunk of a second grader. Every few days I'll try to teach a new dance move and hear, "I'm eight, of course I know how to do that!"

The child, assured by their eight whole years of life experience, imagines spinning

into a breakdance they saw on "America's Got Talent" as I set up the freeze-dance music. After the fanfare playing in their mind ends and they twirl around a few times, I act impressed and then casually resume teaching the day's choreography before their frustration kicks in. While children can accomplish amazing things, they don't always understand when to grab a helping hand. Unfortunately, this naiveté doesn't go away with age.

Most states define an adult as someone over the age of 18. I've heard many Emerson

students rave about and reject their newfound adulthood, from those moving into their first dorm to those renting their first apartment. Yet, Dictionary.com defines an adult as "a person who is fully grown or developed or of age." But I don't know anyone my age, including myself, who has finished growing in regards to mental maturity. When someone assumes they understand how the world works based solely on their experiences, they isolate their life from new influences.

Even though the human brain reaches its adult size at age 10, new neuron connections in the frontal lobe that can affect behavior occur beyond age 30, according to the New York Times. Even when considering age as a measure of someone's maturity, it's important to consider that humans mature at different rates. Some people develop faster than others, either voluntarily or by force. Medical disorders, mental illnesses, socioeconomic circumstances can both advance and delay maturity.

Everyone comes to college with an entirely different set of experiences. A student's past may have over prepared or underprepared them for higher education. Students must recognize where they stand in accordance with their experience and pick their path appropriately—whether this means researching how to do laundry on YouTube or applying for a resident assistant position. I took a gap year after high school to work several jobs that gave me mentors, social skills, and employment

**"Some people develop faster than others, either voluntary or by force."**

experience. Still, it's hard to view myself as an adult when I feel insecure about my nose and have never paid an electricity bill.

Humans need skills to live relatively independently, yet not everyone learns how to manage various responsibilities from their family. Some people started working to support their family as a teenager while others obtained their first job on campus. People start moving toward adulthood when they stop focusing on

how much they don't know and begin taking responsibility for their actions. Humans genetically reject information that goes against their preconceived notions, but one needs to fight this innate defense mechanism and accept what they don't know. Students shouldn't feel pressured to have everything under control just because they've lived for 18

years.

Still, students need to resist the urge to bluff about their knowledge in response to this pressure. I hear Emerson students speaking about their majors with the confidence of a seasoned veteran despite only dipping their toes in their areas of study. Students should keep their minds open and use past experiences to keep learning instead of tunneling their vision. If someone isn't ready to take the same steps as their peers, that's fine. It's okay to not know where your degree will lead you. It's okay to take a path you don't see anyone else on.

Students need to leave behind the myth of what they're "supposed to be" and take responsibility for their future, one eight-year-old twirl at a time.

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# living arts

## Student comedians bring stand-up from dorm to bar

Katie Redefers, *Beacon Staff*

During the first week of last semester, junior Benjamin Zieper and sophomore David Potashnik crammed student comedians into a small dorm room to practice their routines on an audience of peers. After hosting a few dorm shows, the two decided to move the location to a bar in downtown Boston.

Comedic arts majors Zieper and Potashnik are the hosts of The Big Ugly Show presented by a student comedy group the two belong to, Writers of the Dorm. The show is hosted once a month at Democracy Brewing, a bar in Downtown Crossing, and features student comedians from Emerson along with local comedians. The show is open to people of all ages.

Zieper and Potashnik pay every comedian performing a set, whether professional or not, from the \$3 admission fee for the show, according to Zieper. Any leftover money goes towards funding Big Ugly Shows in the future.

After a few good turnouts for the show at Zieper's dorm room last semester, Zieper and sophomore Aaron Axelrod, a producer for The Big Ugly Show, started looking for venues outside of Emerson to take the live show to.

Once Democracy Brewing offered the group their venue, The Big Ugly Show started performing there monthly, in addition to holding the monthly dorm shows. The venue fits a maximum of 50 people, according to the bar's website, and audience members fill the room at most of their shows, according to Zieper and Potashnik.

Zieper said one of the main goals of The Big Ugly Show is to give student comedians a chance to perform stand-up outside of troupes recognized by the Student Government Association.

"Troupes at Emerson are very exclusive, you have to audition to be accepted into their community. With The Big Ugly Show, it's just us finding hard-working comedians and giving them time to perform," Zieper said, "We try to show people there are different ways to find the success you want."

Writers of the Dorm is not recognized by the SGA, and purposefully so. According to Zieper, the group feels the guidelines for SGA-recognized organizations go against the group's belief that students don't need to practice comedy in a traditional way.

"To get recognized by the college, there are standard guidelines you have to abide by. One of the whole reasons Writers of the Dorm was cre-



Junior Benjamin Zieper (left) and sophomore David Potashnik (right) created The Big Ugly Show in their dorms and now hold performances at Democracy Brewing. • Greyson Acquaviva / Beacon Staff

ated was because we were trying to show people they don't need to follow the norm," Zieper said, "We find that people really gravitate towards that."

In addition, when student organizations become recognized by SGA, they sign the rights of the club over to the college. Potashnik said the group hopes to expand past the college in the future, which requires Writers of the Dorm to remain separated from Emerson.

Instead of the traditional process of holding auditions to find comedians, Zieper and Potashnik find eight performers for The Big Ugly Show through their friendships with comedians at the college and around Boston. The headliners for the show are allotted 10-15 minutes for their sets, while the other acts get five to seven minutes. The Big Ugly Show also hires at least one professional comedian for each show, like Anjan Biswas who performed a set at their most recent show on December 3, 2018 at Democracy Brewing.

Senior Jacob Feldman, the president of the SGA-recognized stand-up show Inside Joke,

also performed a set at The Big Ugly Show on December 3. He said The Big Ugly Show offers students a unique opportunity to learn more about stand-up by working with more experienced comedians.

"It was really cool for the Emerson kids who went because they had a bunch of non-Emerson comics, which is fantastic," Feldman said.

Feldman said he admires Zieper and Potashnik's commitment to paying every comedian in their show.

"They pay their comics, which they don't need to do. That's just them being nice. There's absolutely people who would do it for no pay at all," Feldman said. "This is the type of thing Emerson kids should really want to support."

According to Potashnik, The Big Ugly Show tries to feature a large variety of different comedic styles at their shows to keep their audience of mostly college students interested in the sets. Potashnik said in the future they hope to attract audiences outside of the usual Emerson crowd.

"We're trying to expand our audience within

the Emerson community to appeal to all majors, not just the comedy and film majors. We want to reach out to everybody," Potashnik said, "After that is when we want to start focusing on how to get the general public to come to our shows."

Zieper and Potashnik said they hope The Big Ugly Show will help improve the reputation of Emerson comedians in the Boston comedy community over time.

"It's a show that successfully combines the Emerson College comedy scene with the Boston professional comedy scene. It really does help our case as Emerson students in the comedy scene by showing we're ambitious, hard-working and good writers and performers," Potashnik said.

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## Head Over Feels: Have some respect. Stop ghosting.



Grace Griffin  
Griffin is a junior interdisciplinary major, and the Beacon's love columnist.

My last "breakup" happened with a guy whom I never officially dated. I use the term "breakup" loosely because he didn't end things with me—he ghosted me.

For about a month, I regularly hooked up with a guy I'll call "Cole." Our conversations staggered until he stopped talking to me altogether. As it turned out, everyone who told me, "It's not like you were dating," was right. We never dated, but that doesn't mean I can't be hurt by his disregard for my feelings.

I've seen this trend of "ghosting" in my own dating life and heard stories of the same thing happening to friends—they go out with someone, hook up with them, and then never hear from them again.

Cole and I met through a mutual friend and spent almost every night together for a month. We hooked up, went out for food, and hung out exclusively. But because we never defined our relationship, I assume he didn't see a need to end things explicitly.

During the summer of 2018, I went out on one date with a guy I'll call "Anthony." He was nice, but I didn't want to go out with him again.

When Anthony texted me and asked me out on a second date, I didn't know how to reply, so I didn't. I felt so guilty about ghosting him that I texted him months later to apologize.

I've been broken up with before and it hurt, but being ghosted left me feeling confused and disrespected. I didn't want to make someone else feel like that. I felt embarrassed trying to reach Cole, knowing I wouldn't get a reply. I had invested time in our relationship and felt a connection when we were together. When he cut me out of his life without warning, I felt like he didn't value our time together or care if he hurt me.

Hookup culture, especially on college campuses, provides the perfect conditions for lack of connection and basic decency. It seems like people don't see casual sex as what it is—a relationship. Regardless of exclusivity or labels, when two people interact in any way, they form a relationship. As a result of hookup culture, the intimacy and emotions that come with sex don't feel valid if the relationship is "just a hookup." Something about casual sex empowers people to forget how to respect others.

I've found that, without defining the relationship, there is no social, and less of a moral, obligation to respect the other person. Societal standards set norms of how to treat a significant other, but there are no such rules in place for

how to treat a hookup partner.

Carolyn Bradshaw and her colleagues at James Madison University conducted a study where they explored college students' perceptions of hookups versus dating. The study concluded that the majority of the 221 participants feared commitment in some way. Most of the men in the study, "Fear that even in hooking-up relationships, which are supposed to be free of commitments, a woman might seek to establish a relationship."

Fear of commitment in the new dating age contributes to the lack of decency in hookup culture. A Gallup poll showed that the number of single 18- to 29-year-olds rose from 52 percent in 2004 to 64 percent in 2014. This can be attributed to the "choice overload" phenomenon present on dating apps. "Choice overload" refers to the idea that more options lead to fewer decisions and lower decision satisfaction. On dating apps, there's always the chance that someone else could be out there, right at your fingertips. For some people, there's a subconscious fear of missing out when deciding to date someone exclusively.

Matching with someone on a dating app only takes one swipe. With gestures as low effort as sending a flirty GIF, a connection can be made. For example, I have 519 matches on Tinder. If

**"Regardless of exclusivity or labels, when two people interact in any way, they form a relationship."**

I hooked up with someone from Tinder and it didn't work out, I would still have 518 more matches I could contact. To many people, connections formed via dating apps are seen as disposable conquests rather than actual people.

In an article on Thought Catalog, 25 men answered the question, "What's The Difference Between A Girl You Date And A Girl You Just Hook Up With?" One answered, "The girl I want to date has a vagina and a brain, the girl I want to hook up with must only need the former."

Most of the answers from men quoted in the article conveyed a similar tone—partners they hook up with are only valued for their looks. Objectifying people makes it easy to disconnect with them by ghosting, but everyone deserves common decency, whether that person is a stranger, a friend, or someone you're having sex with.

Ghosting is so common in this era of dating that many don't see it as disrespectful. Cole probably didn't see anything wrong with the end of our relationship. He had no societal obligation to "break up" with me since he never called me his girlfriend. However, no relationship should end that way. If a friend started ignoring you one day with seemingly no cause, it would be seen as rude because it goes against societal norms—friends talk about their problems and work through their issues. This standard should be the same for casual dating partners.

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# Professors' digital museum tells the story of the banjo

Cassandra Coyer, Beacon Staff

When Associate Professor Marc Fields finished his documentary “Give Me the Banjo” after a decade of researching and gathering content on the instrument’s history, he knew he hadn’t told the full story yet.

In Fields’ earlier work, he completed several projects about early American culture and entertainment and repeatedly saw the same trend: the banjo.

After the release of the PBS documentary in November 2011, Fields and Assistant Professor Shaun Clarke, the project manager, developed a website through Emerson allowing Fields and Clarke to present the banjo’s complete history by including content they weren’t able to initially include.

The digital museum, named The Banjo Project, comprises over 300 hours of banjo-related content and is now online in a beta version. The project will be completed in June 2019, according to Fields.

“I knew pretty soon after getting into it that a one-off feature documentary, even if it was 90 minutes long, wasn’t going to adequately cover the full history and all its complexities,” Fields said.

Viewers can find live performances, narratives, timelines of historical context, maps, and key events in the digital museum. The museum also showcases interviews with banjo players, makers, and scholars.

“The online platform allows people to follow the aspects that interest them the most, but it always connects them with additional material and information if they want to pursue it,” Fields said. “It appeals to potentially a much broader

audience that ranges from people who know next to nothing about the banjo, but there’s something that piqued their curiosity—whether it’s a song or a performer—to people who are the real banjo geeks.”

Before he began shooting his documentary in 2002, Fields said he realized there was a story to be told after listening to Tony Trischka’s 1993 album *World Turning*, which includes performances in different historical styles—from West African to punk—all played on the banjo.

“That was a eureka moment where I realized that I could actually tell the history of America’s popular entertainment or popular music through the evolution of the banjo,” he said.

The digital museum completed the documentary’s work by capturing the banjo’s evolution, from its entrance into the United States by enslaved Africans, until today, according to Fields.

“I think we have a difficult relationship with our past as a culture because so much of it is the result of very serious kinds of prejudices and misunderstandings,” Fields said. “The banjo as an icon—so to speak—has gone through a lot of different stages that all tend to whitewash the contested aspects of it.”

Fields said the banjo underwent several changes from African and European Americans,

and it shaped most American musical styles starting from the minstrel show—an early nineteenth century form of entertainment where white people caricatured plantation slaves—to jazz, folk, blues, country, and more.

Though the banjo is one of America’s oldest instruments, it still remains what Fields referred to as a “snubbed” instrument, often carrying stereotypes that even Clarke said he believed prior to working with Fields.

“When I started working with [Fields], I had limited knowledge about the banjo. A lot of what I knew was through the stereotypes that a lot of people have about the banjo in our contemporary society,” Clarke said.

Many still associate the banjo with white, rural people living in the Appalachian Mountains, according to Fields. He said he thinks these misconstrued opinions about the instrument didn’t help the idea that it was a respectable, or even an intelligent, part of American culture.

“We listen to so much music that’s influenced by the banjo, and we don’t even know it and so it’s important for people to understand the history,” Clarke said.

Ethnomusicologist and Author Kip Lornell gave interviews for the Banjo Project a decade ago, and his videos are now featured on the digital museum. In his interviews, he explained

**"We listen to so much music that's influenced by the banjo and we don't even know it."**  
- Marc Fields

the transformations the instrument underwent and the origins of these stereotypes.

“It’s those three things: the passage of time and history, a change in racial identity and then in identification, and the third is the commodification and the commercialization of the banjo,” Lornell said. “All those things helped to transform an instrument that was clearly of African origin to one that we now associate with white America, and usually with the South as well.”

Lornell emphasized that the banjo is a versatile and interesting instrument and that a project like the digital museum could help break these stereotypes.

“The Banjo Project online is a very good thing, because eventually some people will find it and they’ll listen to old-time banjo players like Charlie Poole and they’ll listen to Béla Fleck and say, ‘This is some good stuff here—maybe I should listen to a broader range than I’m listening to,’” he said.

Fields said The Banjo Project, like other museums, will never be finished, and they will try to keep it updated with new content.

“One of my reasons for doing this is just to open people’s eyes and ears to the incredible range of music that the banjo has been associated with,” Fields said. “Not just to think of it as an artifact of another area but something which has cultural significance, but also is a tool for great musical expression.”

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# “Try Guy” Kornfeld ‘12 reaches 5 million subscribers

Continued from page 1

Kornfeld said. “I’m just lucky that my hobby somehow turned into a career.”

Kornfeld said his passion for filmmaking stayed with him through his youth. Growing up in Scarsdale, New York—which has a high Jewish population—Kornfeld said he became the go-to video editor during his teen years for bar mitzvah montages.

“The videos people made at bar mitzvahs were awful, so as a kid I was like, ‘I can do better,’ and so I became the most in-demand bar mitzvah editor in all of Westchester County,” Kornfeld said. “Through that, I taught myself how to edit.”

Kornfeld said he was attracted to Emerson

because they allowed him to learn film production and take film classes as early as his first semester. He attributes most of his video production skills to working on student films.

“You really only learn by getting hands-on. Not to downplay the importance of my classes, but I’ve learned so much more from all the times I was doing extracurricular shoots,” he said. “There are so many opportunities to learn beyond the classroom—those are really the things that are going to make a lasting impact.”

Kornfeld said one of his few regrets during college was not joining any clubs or student organizations. According to Kornfeld, he auditioned for an improv group once, and after doing poorly at the audition, he didn’t try out for any others.

“I only worked on film shoots. That’s all I did,” Kornfeld said. “There’s fliers all over the place. Anytime someone was looking for anything, I took a little paper, I went in, and I tried to get on as many shoots as possible.”

Kornfeld said he tried to get experience with as many positions, sometimes taking roles with which he didn’t have any practice.

“My first semester of my freshman year I was an assistant director for an upperclassmen shoot. I don’t know why they chose me,” Kornfeld said. “I had to go home and google what that job was.”

Professor Linda Reisman teaches the 400-level classes of Producing for Film and taught Kornfeld during his senior year at Emerson. She said seeing Kornfeld find success with The Try Guys makes her proud.

“Sometimes you have a class where there’s a couple of students where, just instinctively, you know that they’re going to go somewhere with their lives. Zach was one of those students,” Reisman said. “I remember him vividly. He was articulate, passionate, and somebody who thinks outside of the box. I’m really excited for him and I can’t wait to see what he does next.”

After graduating in 2012, Kornfeld got his first job at the commercial production company Caviar from an internship he completed during his time at Emerson Los Angeles. Working for a few years as a production assistant, Kornfeld said he realized the job didn’t fulfill him in the way directing and producing videos did.

“My first couple of years out of college, some could mark as a failure,” Kornfeld said. “I reached a down point where I realized I wasn’t making anything. I was getting paid, but I wasn’t getting paid to do what I liked.”

In February 2014, Kornfeld started working for BuzzFeed at the advice of Ella Mielniczenko ‘13, who’s currently an executive producer at BuzzFeed. Mielniczenko, who was a BuzzFeed video producer in 2014, said Kornfeld’s skills in directing and conceptualizing viral videos made him a good fit.

“From the beginning, he had a really good eye for comedy and for creating hit content,” Mielniczenko said. “From there, he fell into being in The Try Guys and it just grew from there.”

Mielniczenko said she likes working at BuzzFeed because it reminds her of being in film school in the way video producers perform many jobs at their shoots instead of focusing on one.

“The cool thing that drew me to a company like BuzzFeed is that people were doing so many different roles,” Mielniczenko said. “The best part about working in digital media, whether

it be BuzzFeed or another company, is that you don’t have to focus on traditional roles. You can be creative and make your way.”

At BuzzFeed, Kornfeld filmed, directed, wrote, and produced videos for the website. Through his job as a video producer, Kornfeld began making videos with the other three Try Guys.

“Over the course of the first couple of videos, we really started to hone what this thing was, what we liked about it, and what the audience liked,” he said. “It evolved from something we were doing just for fun into a hit really quickly.”

In a few months, The Try Guys gained a reputation for their videos. Their first viral video, “Guys Try on Ladies Underwear For The First Time,” uploaded on Sep. 4, 2014, garnered over 21 million views on YouTube. Most of their videos reach a minimum of 3 million views on YouTube, and many of their videos receive more views on Facebook. For example, “The Try Guys Wear High Heels For A Night” reached 13 million views on YouTube, while on Facebook the video nearly tripled that number at 37 million views.

“The Try Guys really came from the four of us making something, goofing off, having a great time, and seeing if we could recreate it,” Kornfeld said.

After making 121 videos for BuzzFeed, The Try Guys left in June 2018. Kornfeld said leaving BuzzFeed felt essential for the group’s growth and future endeavors. Kornfeld also said The Try Guys hoped to connect with their audience more by launching their own channel separate from BuzzFeed.

“We are so proud of everything we accomplished at BuzzFeed, but for where we wanted to go next we felt it was really integral to be on our own,” Kornfeld said. “A lot of it has just been about ways that we can deepen our fan engagement and connect with them directly, but also ways we can expand this thing that we’ve built to be as big as possible.”

Kornfeld said his biggest piece of advice to students is to allow themselves to be surprised by where their career takes them.

“I had one dream from the age I was 10 years old, and I was convinced anything short of it was a failure,” Kornfeld said. “My reality could not be further from what I dreamt for myself. The secret is that the real thing is better than your dreams.”

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Ned Fulmer, Keith Habersberger, Zach Kornfeld ‘12 and Eugene Lee Yang (from left to right) of “The Try Guys” garnered over 5 million subscribers in six months.  
Courtesy of Zach Kornfeld

# sports

## Women’s basketball closes winter break with consecutive wins

Domenic Conte, *Beacon Staff*

The women’s basketball team ranks fifth out of the 11 teams in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference after finishing winter break with two wins and two losses.

The Lions defeated Mount Holyoke College and lost to Babson College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology to place in the NEWMAC with a record of 4-3. Smith College ranks fourth with a 4-3 record, while three teams—Wellesley University, Clark University, and United States Coast Guard Academy—have 3-4 records.

Head coach Bill Gould said the team is putting in the effort necessary to climb the conference standings.

**"We're very unselfish and we're executing well,"**  
- Bill Gould

"I feel pretty good about where we are at just in the fact that we are competing and improving every day," Gould said.

Emerson defeated Simmons University 78-41 in a non-conference matchup on Jan. 5. Despite a three-and-a-half week break since their last game, Emerson shot 46 percent from the field while holding Simmons to 29 percent.

The Lions played their first conference game of the season on Jan. 8 against Babson College. Senior center Charlie Boyle scored 14 points while shooting 60 percent from the field, but a quiet fourth quarter and poor shooting from the perimeter led to a 16-point loss.

Boyle said the team’s most significant loss during conference play served as a learning opportunity.

"For both myself and the team, I believe that in high-pressure games like [against] Babson we have to stay calm and collected through all four

quarters," Boyle said.

Following the Babson game, Emerson hosted MIT on Jan. 10. In a defensive matchup where both teams struggled to score, an 8-0 MIT run in the final five minutes of the game secured a 54-43 win for the Engineers.

In their fourth and final game of winter break on Jan. 12, Emerson defeated Mount Holyoke 79-36 for their most commanding win of the season. All five starters for the Lions scored in double figures while the team shot 13-of-24 from the three-point line.

Gould said the team can boost their chances of securing a higher seed by improving defensively.

"I think we are a strong defensive team, but what I don't like is that we are giving up too many three-point

shots," Gould said.

Emerson’s opponents have shot 35.8 percent from three-point land this season, the third-highest percentage in the conference. In the losses suffered over winter break, both Babson and MIT found more success from beyond the three-point line than Emerson. Babson buried eight threes on only 12 attempts, while MIT’s four three-pointers proved to be crucial in their low-scoring matchup.

On the other end of the court, Gould said the team’s ball movement has been a bright spot this season.

"We’re very unselfish and we’re executing well, which is great because it shows that the team is playing well together," Gould said.

Emerson leads the NEWMAC with 16.2 assists per game. Additionally, Gould said the team records an assist on over 70 percent of their baskets whereas most teams hover around



Rachel Davey (No. 5) fights for the ball in the paint. • Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

40 or 50 percent.

Boyle’s efficient shooting is a standout advantage for the Lions. She ranks first in the NEWMAC with a 58.8 field goal percentage while her 13.1 points per game trail five other players in the conference.

"I can attribute my field goal percentage to me trusting myself and my shot," Boyle said.

Gould said Boyle’s shooting comes from a combination of individual skill and selfless ball movement on offense.

"First of all, she’s just a really talented player who has worked hard to get better throughout her career," Gould said. "She also has teammates that will give up an open outside shot in order for her to take an open shot from inside."

Upcoming conference games include matchups against Smith College on Jan. 19, Wheaton College on Jan. 23, Springfield College on Jan. 26, and a rematch against Babson College on Jan. 30.

Gould said the team’s standing after the Babson game will indicate their confidence going into the postseason.

"The month of January will be a good sign of how we’ll look going into the playoffs," Gould said. "If we feel good about where we’re at, we have the talent to compete for the conference playoffs."

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## Men’s basketball enters NEWMAC play with three wins

Andrew Lin, *Beacon Staff*

The men’s basketball team started the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference regular-season play with wins over the United States Coast Guard Academy, Clark University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a loss against Springfield College.

The men’s basketball team played four games against NEWMAC opponents during winter break. The Lions’ first game was against Coast Guard on Jan. 2.

Senior guard Geoff Gray and junior guard Jack O’Connor each scored 20 points as the Lions fought back from a seven-point halftime deficit to surge past Coast Guard 84-76.

The contest remained relatively close as the Coast Guard Bears held an eight-point lead late in the first half. Though the Lions briefly retook the lead towards the end of the half, the Bears led 46-39 at halftime.

Early in the second half, the Bears maintained their advantage over the Lions and led 65-60, but the Lions used a 14-0 run to gain a nine-point advantage. O’Connor hit a crucial three-pointer to increase the lead to five points as the Lions pulled away late to seal the win.

Freshman center Jarred Houston played a vital role in the game as he finished with a double-double of 17 points and 18 rebounds. Gray also had a complete game, adding 12 rebounds and six assists to go along with his 20 points. The team shot 50.8 percent from the field while limiting Coast Guard to just 35.9 percent. They also out-rebounded Coast Guard 50 to 38.

The Lions defeated Clark 86-81 on Jan. 5 thanks to freshman guard Zach Waterhouse’s 24 points in the second game of the break.

The Cougars raced out to an early 10-point lead, but the Lions quickly erased the deficit and regained control. By halftime, the Lions led 50-44 and later extended their lead to 13 points,



Senior Geoff Gray (No. 3) won the NEWMAC men’s basketball co-offensive athlete of the week. Anissa Gardizy / *Beacon Staff*

but the Cougars slowly cut into the deficit as they trailed 78-82 with under two minutes left. The Lions eventually pulled away as Gray and O’Connor hit late free throws to close the game.

Waterhouse added eight rebounds to his 24 points while Gray notched another double-double of 23 points and 11 rebounds. Despite giving up 12 three-pointers, the Lions outrebounded the Cougars 48 to 34.

For his efforts, Gray won the NEWMAC men’s basketball co-offensive athlete of the week with 43 points, 23 rebounds, and 10 assists in the first two conference games of the season. Houston won the NEWMAC men’s basketball

defensive athlete of the week after totaling 26 rebounds and 21 points across two games, including his double-double against Coast Guard.

The Lions then pulled off one of the biggest upsets in program history on Jan. 9 by routing Division III No. 8 ranked Massachusetts Institute of Technology 84-65.

Though the game remained close in the first half, Gray and O’Connor’s combined 31 points gave the Lions a 46-38 advantage. In the second half, the Lions erupted on a 29-12 run en route to a comfortable 19-point win against the Engineers. Gray and Waterhouse had a combined 22 points in that run alone.

Gray, O’Connor, and Waterhouse totaled 71 points as the trio drained 13 three-pointers. Gray recorded a third straight double-double by collecting a game-high 13 rebounds to go along with his 30 points. The Lions delivered a strong performance on both offense and defense by shooting 54.9 percent from the field, and limiting the Engineers to just 27 points in the second half. Springfield College snapped the Lions’ three-game winning streak with an 86-79 win on Jan. 12.

The Pride jumped out early on the Lions as they held an 11-point lead in the first half. The Lions fought back, cutting the deficit to seven, as halftime ended with a 44-37 advantage for the Pride. The Lions never led in the first half.

In the second half, the Lions continued to cut into the lead and trailed 47-46 after a layup by freshman guard Trevor McLean. The Lions trailed by one point twice in the half, but the Pride pulled the game out of reach by scoring late free throws.

O’Connor led the Lions with a team-high of 24 points while Gray and Waterhouse each added 16 points. Springfield junior guard Jake Ross tallied a career-high 42 points to guide the Pride to a win.

The Lions finished the winter break with a 3-1 conference record and hold an overall record of 8-7. They place third out of eight teams in the NEWMAC behind Babson and MIT.

The men’s basketball team did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

They play their next game on Jan. 16 against conference opponent Worcester Polytechnic Institute, ranked fourth in the NEWMAC, at 8 p.m.

✉ andrew\_lin@emerson.edu

### Upcoming games:

#### Men’s Basketball

Emerson @ Wheaton  
Saturday, Jan. 19 at 11 a.m.

#### Women’s Basketball

Emerson @ Smith  
Saturday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.

#### Women’s Basketball

Wheaton @ Emerson  
Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

#### Men’s Basketball

Babson @ Emerson  
Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.