



The Berkeley Beacon

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

Thursday February 1, 2018 • Volume 71, Issue 16

'Emerson Lions' phrase removed from merchandise

Maya Gacina, *Beacon Staff*

The "Emerson Lions" phrase will not appear on the new merchandise sold in Barnes & Noble at Emerson as a result of the college's rebranding and the company's decision, an assistant store manager said.

The lionshead will still be used on Emerson apparel, according to Jennifer Bonner, the assistant store manager.

Associate Vice President of Marketing Michael Sarra—who played a large part in reshaping Emerson's visual identity—wrote in an email statement that decisions about products sold in the bookstore are ultimately the responsibility of the Barnes & Noble company.

He wrote the discussion to incorporate the college's new branding into Barnes & Noble at Emerson College occurred last fall.

"Throughout the planned evolution of the college's brand, the Office of Marketing worked with Barnes & Noble to transition relevant merchandise to the college's updated identity," Sarra wrote.

Barnes & Noble at Emerson College Store Manager Douglas Finlay said new merchandise started selling in May.

See *rebranding*, page 3

Freshman manages magic career

Ally Rzesza, *Beacon Staff*Freshman starts professional magic career at age 10. • *Cassandra Martinez / Beacon Staff*

Alyson Hannigan, the host of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, saw her phone drop to the floor. Magician Ben Zabin had performed the same magic trick hundreds of times before, but failed for the first time in front of a 1,200 person audience. Although his clip was cut from the show, the blunder inspired him to write *AbracaDAMMIT!: Disaster Stories & Life Lessons From the World's Top Magicians* in 2017.

"I got to talk with pretty much the best of the best in the industry and hear about what went wrong in their shows, what life lessons they've learned, and any regrets they've had," Zabin said. "There are great stories from strippers ruining shows to tigers getting loose."

The business of creative enterprises freshman has performed magic at theaters, corporate events, and schools across the U.S. for 14 years, including the *Mac King Comedy Show* in Las Vegas. At the age of 19, he has authored two books and performed with famous magicians like Bill Herz.

He said he once hung out with internationally-famous illusionist David Copperfield at a barbecue.

"It's surreal to have all of my heroes in my phone and to be able to call and text them whenever," Zabin said. "It has opened so, so many doors, and it's been a lot of fun."

Zabin recently toured Costa Rica with *Magicians Without Borders*, a nonprofit dedicated to performing magic for children in impoverished and war-stricken areas.

See *magic*, page 7

Foultz overcomes injuries, leads scoring

Joseph Davidi, *Beacon Correspondent*

Kate Foultz, a sports communication major, is the leading scorer for the women's basketball team this year after turning her struggle with injury into a breakout season.

"She also had some physical issues back in high school, then a little bit her freshman year, and I think that held her back a little bit," head coach Bill Gould said. "While her improvement has been tremendous, I'm not really surprised at all because I knew she was a very good player so she's now back, I think, to where she should be and I thought she could be."

Foultz leads the team with 206 points so far.

Foultz tore her ACL in senior year of high school and learned she had rheumatoid arthritis before arriving at Emerson.

"It's hard to play basketball with a torn ACL and arthritis. So I was like, 'this is a lot,'" Foultz said.

"Freshman season was definitely a rough time. It was just a lot of finding out how to physically adjust to the game and finding out what my own personal body can handle."

While these injuries held her back freshman year, the change in her play has not gone unnoticed by her teammates.

While these injuries held her back freshman year, the change in her play has not gone unnoticed by her teammates.

"We knew when we recruited her my sophomore year, we [wanted] Kate on our team, senior Maya Savino, the team's captain, said.

See *Foultz*, page 8Kate Foultz scored seven points in Wednesday's win over Clark University. • *Daniel Peden / Beacon Staff*

news

Library databases cut, replaced with alternatives

Gabriella Mrozowski, *Beacon Staff*

The Iwasaki Library cut five databases from their collection at the beginning of the academic year due to the availability of cheaper alternatives and lower student usage than previous years.

Ad\$ponder, Baseline, Nielsen Film Industry Data, Nielsen Music Industry Data, and Nielsen Answers were removed from the 128 offered databases in 2017, Daniel Crocker, electronic resources and reference coordinator, said.

Crocker said the number of databases cut had a small increase this year, but the library does not track an average of how many databas-

"We evaluate all of our database subscriptions every year to figure out 'Is this worth paying for again and again?'"

es are discontinued.

The decision was made after reviewing student usage, subscription pricing, faculty input, and research on alternatives. So far, only four of the five have been replaced to supplement for the loss of data.

"We evaluate all of our database subscriptions every year to figure out, 'Is this worth paying for again and again?'" Crocker said.

The most severe loss has been Nielsen Music Industry Data, as Nielsen is the only company that keeps track and provides sales data from the music industry, Crocker said. The music database came in a subscription package with Nielsen Film Industry Data, but both had to be cut together because the college found a better replacement for Nielsen Film Industry Data.

Nielsen Answers provided consumer-level

data in Boston for radio listeners, but its replacement, Standard Rate and Data Services, provides bigger and broader consumer data with easier usage options, Crocker said.

While discontinuing databases is a routine process for the library, Electronic Senior Publisher-In-Residence John Rodzvilla raised the issue of whether or not students use the resources enough to warrant funding them.

Student usage results are decreasing. The lowest student usage of databases occurred in 2017, with 357,484 articles and other resources accessed, in comparison to the 465,451 articles and resources in 2013, according to the Emerson Academic Affairs Factbook.

Rodzvilla said he feels troubled by this occurrence and its implications.

"I'm also worried about how few students are doing deep research. For graduate school, [research] becomes very important," he said.

Sophomore Raegan Harris said she's only accessed databases from the Iwasaki Library once.

"I looked at [the databases] for a project, but didn't use them," Harris said.

Freshman Frank Frascella said library databases offered him useful books and articles when he was required to do research for a History of Visual Media Arts project. The loss of a database like Nielsen Film Industry Data will affect research of those in his major, he said.

"I know I'm going to have to do some research thing this semester ... and [the databases] are really useful for finding primary sources," Frascella said.

In the big picture, Crocker said despite the cuts the number of databases will continue to grow.

"We've been growing our digital content for years now, so we are certainly able to provide more and more year by year. But on the title by title level, there are some serious losses," he said.

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Iwasaki Library cuts five databases this school year due to expenses and low student use. Gabriella Mrozowski / *Beacon Staff*

New org promotes food justice and sustainability org

Gabriella Leonel, *Beacon Correspondent*

Senior Chala Tyson-Tshitundu said they felt inspired to start a Slow Food chapter at Emerson after hours of watching Chef's Table—an award-winning documentary series on Netflix that profiles a world-renowned chef every episode.

Slow Food Emerson, a new organization on campus, is trying to change the way students think about food.

"Writing is what I may be good at, but food is what I am passionate about," the writing, literature, and publishing major said. "Slow Food at its basis is dedicated to providing access to good, clean, and fair food for all."

Slow Food is a global non-profit organized into local chapters that seeks to promote local, organically grown food and support small-scale farmers, according to their website.

"It's the idea that meals can last a while, they involve conversation, and it involves putting care into the food that you make," Board Chair of Slow Food Boston Shane Clyburn '16 said.

Clyburn said people should get to know the

people who make the food they eat by buying locally rather than from a faceless corporation.

Tyson-Tshitundu interns at Slow Foods Boston, a chapter of Slow Food USA. They intend to inform the student body about various issues surrounding food justice and sustainability.

One of Slow Food Emerson's goals is to educate people on the exploitation and unfair compensation

workers who produce food experience.

"We know [exploitation] has happened in a

lot of industries, like the banana and chocolate industry, where they pay workers very little, if anything, and retain all the profit," they said.

Ultimately, Chala hopes that Slow Food Emerson can act as an on-campus food justice organization that advocates for equal access to healthy food.

"We're in a point in history where [the most important thing] is advocating for ... the rights of those who may not have the same access to power as we do," Tyson-Tshitundu said.

The first meeting for Slow Food Emerson will be on Feb. 1 in Campus Center room 118.

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"It's the idea that meals can last a while, they involve conversation, and it involves putting care into the food that you make."

SGA approves election timeline, grants appeals

Chris Van Buskirk, *Beacon Staff*

The Student Government Association approved an election timeline for spring 2018 on Tuesday.

Elections this spring will determine SGA officials for the fall 2018 semester. In recent years, most candidates ran unopposed, although SGA encourages multiple applicants.

Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt also presented two financial appeal requests from Emerson's Black Organization with Natural Interest and WECB.

SGA granted WECB \$8,364.53 for WECB Live!, a branch of WECB that started in September to enhance the Emerson music community, according to WECB's appeal document.

EBONI also received \$9,614.57 to fund the Black Rainbow Ball and BLACKOUT Fashion Show in honor of Black History Month. The events highlight black designers and fashion

while focusing on the cross-section of black and queer identities, according to their appeal document.

After both appeals, \$180,914.53 remains in the appeals budget.

SGA then appointed freshman Nola Elliffe as the health and wellness commissioner. In her application, Elliffe said she wants to create a writing and communication platform that encourages the completion of tasks to connect the Emerson community. Her experience with Lyme disease prompted her to learn more about various diseases and illnesses.

"This position and being in SGA really gives me a full picture on how to unify ... student and faculty organizations," Elliffe said.

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SGA Elections 2018

Feb. 20

Elections packets made available at Campus Life, on the SGA website, and on EmConnect.

March 2

Election packets are due by 12 p.m. to the Division of Campus Life.

Mid-March

Candidates present statements at Press Night

March 28

Polls open on vote.emerson.edu until end of day March 29.

Beginning of April

Results announced, new officers assume positions

Graphic by *Laura King / Beacon Staff*

Emerson hosts third annual Mass Green Summit

Gabriella Mrozowski, *Beacon Staff*

The college will host the third annual Mass Green Summit—a series of panels advocating for grassroots environmental action—fulfilling its seven-year promise to lower the college's environmental impact.

The event will be in the Semel Theater in Tufts on Feb. 3.

Mass Green Network, the organization behind the summit, will discuss issues such as plastic bags, bottled water, and pesticides. Founder of Mass Green Network Bradford Verter said interest in passing a ban on plastic bags sparked the summits.

"The Mass Green Network fits with everything Emerson is doing," Amy Elvidge, sustainability coordinator, said.

She said the college and Mass Green Network share a dedication to civic engagement and en-

vironmental sustainability.

For Suzie Hicks, events like the summit help with her show, *Suzie Hicks the Science Chick*. Hicks said she plans to send her team of writers to the summit so they can learn more about plastic, as she plans to incorporate the waste product into the theme of sustainability for college students in her show.

"I think a really good point about this summit is to teach students that they can make change in their own lives, even if it's the smallest thing," she said.

The college signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2009 under the college's last president, Jacques-

line Liebergott. By doing so, the school took a stand in lowering its environmental impact, Elvidge said, and hosting events like the Mass Green Summit improves their commitment.

Elvidge said Verter contacted her in early fall about the summit. Verter said the purpose of the Mass Green Summit is to establish local, environmental action.

Mass Green Network provides free guidelines to people who are passionate about environmental civic engagement, according to their website.

Verter previously taught Social Movements at Emerson, a course he said centered around studying political demonstrations of agricultural workers across American history.

This year's summit will feature Boston City Councilors Ayanna Pressley and Michelle Wu and Massachusetts Sen. James B. Eldridge, according to Mass Green Network's website.

Registration for the event is free and remains open. The mandatory sign-up welcomes anyone and gives the college an exact number of attendees for safety, Verter said.

Earth Emerson, a student environmental organization, has been promoting the event with posters on campus. Kayla Burns, co-president of Earth Emerson and sophomore, said hosting an event like Mass Green Summit can serve as a great way for motivated students to get involved in environmental issues.

"[Our generation] is going to have to carry the burden of finding solutions and dealing with all the damage," Burns said.

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"The Mass Green Network fits with everything Emerson is doing."

New merchandise to reflect rebranding initiative

Continued from page 1

"Often things had the old brand, and we wanted to be conscious of the cost of merchandise that would have the new brand," Sarra said. "As far as I'm aware, the bookstore is selling all things [new and old]."

"Once some of it sells out, that's it."

Barnes & Noble textbooks employee and graduate student Sarah Mackeben said the textbooks store will also be removing the Emerson seal, used and established since 1982, from supplies associated with Emerson.

"Once some of it sells out, that's it," she said. Despite the seal not appearing as often in Barnes & Noble stores, it will still be closely tied with the college's brand, Sarra said in an interview.

"We heard from over 2,000 members of the community and we made a lot of changes that folks thought weren't working so well," he said.

"The seal has not changed."

Freshman Daniel Reilly said removing "Emerson Lions" merchandise takes away an essential part of the college's community, including athletics, which uses the lion as their mascot.

"I've seen Emerson Lions on t-shirts for drama clubs and other sorts of programs that aren't athletic per se," he said. "It kind of brings the whole college community together."

Julien Marques '99, associate director of business development and graduate professional programs, said he thought the college made a huge mistake when the Office of Marketing presented the flourish.

"To hear that with the new branding ... that they're removing the seal, which really for myself is what I feel close to in terms of iconography for the school, is a huge miss," he said. "Especially since 'expression is necessary for evolution' is a core tenant of the college."

Marques said he understands the college's decision from a corporate point of view, but as an alum, he doesn't see any harm in keeping the seal.

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Barnes and Nobles at Emerson College will discontinue some old merchandise as part of the college's rebranding. *Lala Thaddeus/ Beacon Staff*

Online scammers target eCommon direct deposit page

Chris Van Buskirk, *Beacon Staff*

The college took down eCommon's direct deposit page until further notice after two email attacks affected faculty accounts on Friday, Jan. 19.

This marks the first major phishing event in the seven months since the college switched its email provider from Outlook to Gmail.

A phish, or fraudulent email, from tud51253@temple.edu tried to obtain personal information from faculty and students by directing recipients to a fake website identical to eCommon, Systems Administrator Dennis Levine and Director of Information Technology

Infrastructure Frankie Frain said.

"If [students or faculty] tried to login, what they're really doing is handing their password over to the attacker," Frain said.

The direct deposit page allows members of the college to link a personal bank account for the college to send paychecks or refunds. Frain said although they resolved the incident on Friday, IT took down the page to prevent attackers from gaining access in case additional people were harmed.

This marks the first major phishing event in the seven months since the college switched its email provider from Outlook to Gmail, Frain said. Two phishing attempts occurred within an hour of each other, although it is unknown if they were related at this time.

Frain said the first attempt instructed recipients to click a link to gain access to important health information from the Emerson College Medical Care Center. Once clicked on, the link would direct recipients to a Facebook page and then to an Australian-hosted webpage identical

to eCommon. If the recipient logged in, the attacker would see their username and password.

"If [students or faculty] tried to login, what they're really doing is handing their password over to the attacker."

A second attempt occurred at roughly 1 p.m. and came from a Temple University account. Frain said that previous phishing attempts may have targeted Temple in Philadelphia.

When the first email was identified as a phish, the sender was blocked, and an email alert was sent out to the Emerson community at 1 p.m. When IT discovered the second email, they blocked all contacts with Temple.edu email addresses.

"We were actually able to follow the link, and

find [the] Australian-hosted website, and block that so that if at least anybody was on campus they wouldn't be able to fall for it," Frain said.

At 2 p.m. Frain said his team took down the direct deposit page while they figured out the nature of the attack.

Emerson is in the process of adding additional security layers to both emails and eCommon's direct deposit page.

Although it's not implemented yet, the college recently acquired Mimecast, an email security service with features like checking the authenticity of links, which Frain said the college didn't have before. Emerson is expected to introduce the service when the new eCommon portal goes live.

"If this new mail system flags [an email] as a phish, that URL can be rewritten so the person doesn't go there," Frain said.

Kieran Bauman contributed to this article.

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Incident Journal

The Incident Journal is provided to the Beacon weekly by the Emerson College Police Department. Beacon staff edit the Incident Journal for style and clarity, but not for content.

Monday, Jan. 22

The Emerson College Police Department responded to a report of a burning smell inside Center Stage. Facilities Management and the Boston Fire Department responded. BFD located the source of the smell in Whisky Saigon and cleared the building for re-entry.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

ECPD responded to a report of an activated smoke alarm on the fourth floor of the Ansin Building. FM and BFD responded to

the incident. The ongoing construction caused the fire alarm, and BFD gave the all-clear for building re-entry.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

An Emerson staff member turned in a wallet to ECPD that contained a fake ID. The matter was referred to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

The Fitness Center security guard reported to ECPD that the building was being evacuated because of a fire alarm going off. The alarm was activated by an adjacent business, whose fire alarm test button activated. FM was notified and responded.

ECPD responded to a report of an activated smoke alarm in

the basement of the Colonial Building. FM and BFD responded and found ongoing construction activated the fire alarm. BFD gave the all-clear for building re-entry.

A student reported a suspicious email they received to ECPD. The sender was found to be fictitious, and the student was advised to report any further suspicious emails.

Thursday, Jan. 25

ECPD responded to a report of an activated smoke alarm in the Tufts Performance and Production Center. FM and BFD responded to find a broken water pipe inside the fire pump room had activated the alarm. BFD then gave the all-clear for building re-entry.

editorial

Please don't make us fight sports fans to get to class

At issue:

Potential parade could interrupt campus and classes

Our take:

Don't risk it. Postpone class times

Editorials are written solely by Editor-in-Chief Allison Hagan, Managing Editor Laura King, Opinion Editor Abigail Hadfield, Deputy Opinion Editor Hannah Ebanks, and Assistant Opinion Editor Brittany Adames 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.

Any Emerson student that had to trudge to class on Feb. 7, 2017 knows the absurdity and aggravation that comes with the New England Patriots Super Bowl parade. The route ran straight down Boylston Street and encompassed the main strip of campus. Eager football fans turned the sidewalk space between Little Building and Piano Row into a warzone. Peaceful, swift walks to class felt like swimming upstream for miles, but the water was comprised of beer breath and Tom Brady jerseys. Gaggles of drunk men in red, white, and blue pom-pom hats created lengthy lines at Emerson's Cafe. Students reported 40 minute commutes between buildings and those living off-campus were forced to walk to Chinatown to access the T.

If the Patriots win the Super Bowl this coming Sunday, it will be their sixth championship title, marking another triumphant year for New England fans. Traditionally, a parade is held following a win, which oftentimes leads to crowds too large to be constrained. To prevent last year's problems, the college should delay the start of classes until the parade passes by the college.

Assuming the Patriots win, the parade will likely happen sometime next week. This brings into question the measures that the college

should take to ensure faculty and student safety. The weather next week, while a little chilly, will certainly not deter avid Patriots fans from coming out in hordes, and there will be less sidewalk space available with the ongoing

"A downtown setting requires adaptation to an ever-changing environment full of rallies, parades, and constant construction."

construction.

Most colleges don't need to worry about massive Super Bowl parades charging right through the heart of campus, but Emerson is not a typical school. A downtown setting requires adaptation to an ever-changing environment full of rallies, parades, and constant construction.

For all the perks that come with living in the city, there are inevitable drawbacks as well. Emerson needs to be prepared to deal with life in the city, come what may.

Last year, students received emails from Emerson College Police Department and the Office of Housing and Residence Life with information about the parade and cautioning students to allocate extra time to get to classes. Both emails stated ECPD would be diligent about ensuring only members of the Emerson community could access campus buildings. Despite these warnings, many students still had negative experiences trying to navigate around campus.

If this parade happens again, we think it's time to learn from past experience. Students should not be subject to the impassioned, drunken crowds that block the only entrances to our main buildings yet again. Cancelling classes is not something we take lightly at all, especially since Emerson doesn't build makeup days into our academic schedule. We've waxed plenty in the past on how detrimental Saturday classes can be to students and faculty. But protecting our community from literal unwanted crowd-surfing—no really, that happened—takes priority.

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.

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

Response to the 1/25/18 Beacon editorial: What's in a name?

"What's in a name?" expresses a concern about the name changes of the Educational Equity and Justice Committee and the Social Justice Center. The concern is that these changes are nothing more than another bureaucratic distraction from actual action. In my two years as co-chair of POWER, I have encountered many of those. In this case, I believe that the changing of language is not an empty gesture.

The article notes that the words "diversity" and "inclusion" have largely lost their meaning.

In order to address this issue, it's crucial for us to adapt our word choices to more accurately reflect our intentions and goals. If language and naming had no significance to the work of social justice, we would still be using outdated and offensive terminology ("colored people") versus the person-first language ("people of color") that is accepted today.

The article states, "Promoting intersectionality and diversity shouldn't immediately be clumped under the label of 'social justice.' This only perpetuates the idea that inclusion is inherently political, and should always be seen as such."

To state that the work of inclusion is not inherently political is to ignore the sociopolitical

and historical context of who is typically included, who is excluded, and why. As one of my peers said at the protest in October, "Our lives are political. Our existence is political." It is impossible to separate inclusion from social justice or political context. Oppression does not happen to everyone equally, because of the systems of privilege that influence our institutions and social structures in violent and subtle ways.

Signed,
Lucie Pereira

The Berkeley Beacon

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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.

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by the Editorial Board
illustration by Enne Goldstein

Students are distraught after learning MoviePass was discontinued at the Loews theater.



opinion

Navigating the nuances of invisible disabilities



The thought of once again being doubted, othered, and isolated because of something you were born with can be troubling. • Photo Illustration by Justin Johnson / Beacon Staff

Dylan Rossiter

Rossiter is a freshman journalism major & Digital Strategist for the Beacon.

Pen, check. Laptop, check. Confidence? I take a deep breath, pop in some Ed Sheeran, and head for the elevator with the little buttons I pray I'll be able to navigate without looking like an idiot. Then there's another elevator with different buttons, before finally making it to the right floor. Now the only problem is, I need to locate the classroom. I put my face up to each room number until I finally find the right one.

For blind and visually impaired students, getting to class on the first day of a new semester can be a challenge, but that battle is nothing compared to the emotional storm coming once the syllabus comes out. I can handle the awkward introduction where everyone goes

around the room and says their name, year, and major. Suddenly though, right when my confidence starts to improve, the debilitating anxiety returns as the professor begins reading the syllabus. Are they going to call on people to read? I hope not.

First impressions are everything on the first day of any class. No one will judge you for failing to have the required texts with you, but if you cause a disruption or stray from the norm, people will notice and it will stick to you worse than the gum under an Ansin chair. Interrupting the course of peers to shamefully say that you can't read a block of text because it is too small, will stay with everyone in that classroom for the duration of the term. You will be known not as the kid that sits by the window, but as the blind kid that sits by the window. The thought of once again being doubted, othered, and isolated

because of something you were born with can be troubling.

"First impressions are everything on the first day of any class."

Personally, I approach the awkward encounter with the mentality of "screw it, I'm blind," but not everyone in these shoes has that level of self-confidence, and even I find my body gripped with trepidation as the moment of faith approaches. The seconds immediately prior to and following the admission seem to last for decades with tidal waves of sweat washing over my body.

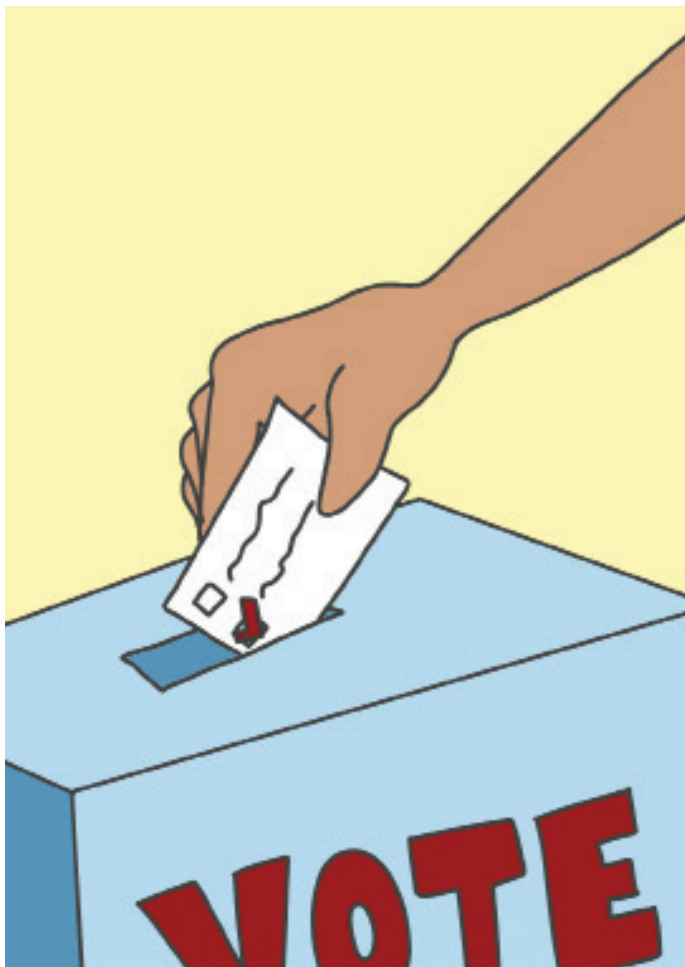
Unlike most quandaries at Emerson,

administrators cannot fix this by stepping up and fulfilling their job descriptions, or making a new office to cater student needs. The office of Student Accessibility Services does a phenomenal job of working with students who require accommodations in a private, discreet manner.

At the end of the day, this is an issue affecting a portion of the community with invisible "disabilities" that can't fit under Harry Potter's cloak for very long. So please, when you find yourself in this position during a class—and you will at some point—don't see it as a disruption, just try to understand and be grateful that you had no trouble pushing the elevator button to get here.

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Making millennial voices matter



David Fadul

Fadul is a sophomore writing, literature and publishing major and Beacon correspondent.

In November, transgender rights will be on the state ballot. A 2016 law prohibiting discrimination based on gender could be overturned by a veto referendum, due to the concentrated efforts of bigots and fringe voices last year. But our generation's involvement in politics can ensure that such discriminatory laws are defeated, even in the face of such a damaging and ignorant referendum.

The Massachusetts ballot initiative process is relatively open and simple, requiring a set number of signatures and approval by the state government. While this means that progressive measures like marijuana legalization can pass, it also means that regressive policies are occasionally considered as well. That is the case this year. As Emerson students, we have often rallied together to support our transgender classmates. In 2013, we even made headlines when Phi Alpha Tau successfully raised money to circumvent outdated insurance policies to help pay for one member's surgeries. Now we must make headlines again, this time by showing once and for all that our fellow classmates and citizens deserve respect and safety.

Another initiative on the ballot would impose a tax on citizens with incomes over 1 million dollars to increase funding for public high schools and colleges, with some funds allocated to fixing roads, bridges, and public transportation. Emerson students know the unbelievable cost of college tuition, and if voters approve the measure the state would be taking a large step in making education more accessible. Plus, the T would get some much-needed renovation and improvements, which we can all agree demands attention. Unfortunately, conservative groups have already filed a lawsuit to derail this initiative, opting to go to court instead of the ballot box. We cannot allow their greed to stop our progress.

Though these two initiatives are definitely on the ballot, a few more are still undergoing the review process. These potential questions would significantly alter work and life in Massachusetts, an important consideration for anyone

staying in the state after graduation. One would increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and another would provide paid sick and family leave. If these measures pass, students may have more in their bank accounts to rent apartments and take public transportation, and local businesses would benefit from our newfound purchasing power. If you fall ill, sick leave ensures you don't risk your losing job by staying home. Yet powerful business interests are already spending hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to defeat the measure, something we cannot allow.

Time after time, our generation has failed to show up at the ballot box. In 2012, about 46 percent of millennials turned out to vote. In 2016, about 50 percent did. While this increase seems promising, it's disappointing compared to the 69 percent of baby boomers who voted in both elections. With so much happening on the news, it can be hard to focus on local issues and how they affect you. Yet we must recognize that politics affect everything, and that we millennials have the voting power to play a key role in this fight.

In the 2016 referendums, public school defenders struck down charter school expansion 62 percent to 38 percent. Animal rights supporters, determining that humans should end their cruelty to animals, won with a stunning 78 percent victory. Young voters and civil rights advocates, who oppose mass incarceration, legalized marijuana with an 8 percent margin. These huge victories demonstrated that the people of Massachusetts were resolute in their vision of a progressive state.

Now our generation faces a new challenge. We must declare—decisively and absolutely—that transgender rights are human rights, education must be accessible, transportation is worth funding, and workers deserve earnest pay for the work they do.

These will remain out of reach if we don't register to vote. So please, if you'll be in the state this fall, take a minute to fill out a registration form to vote in Massachusetts. Far more than just names are on the ballot.

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We must recognize that politics affect everything, and that we millennials have the voting power to play a key role in this fight.
Illustration by Laura King / Beacon Staff

living arts

Freshman Ben Zabin mystifies the magic community



At 19, freshman Ben Zabin has authored two books and traveled around the world doing magic.
Cassandra Martinez / Beacon Staff

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He traveled with a small group of student magicians to schools, theatres, and prisons.

"We were doing magic for kids whose parents make five dollars a day as farmers," Zabin said. "And they were so grateful for the reception. I was just happy to be there."

He said the children radiated joy despite the poverty they experienced.

"I went in to teach magic to them, and one of the kids started crying," Zabin said. "He was telling everyone he worked with a Las Vegas magician, and he just took that so much to heart—I have chills right now just thinking about it."

In Costa Rica, Zabin traveled with a group of magicians and his friend, Diego Vargas, a fellow magician and the director of Magicians Without Borders. Vargas said Zabin designed the show's routine as the only professional in the primarily student pack.

"The kids from Magicians Without Borders Costa Rica are from a really, really poor area," Vargas said. "So I was actually telling them, 'Hey this guy, Ben, he has performed in Vegas. He knows [David] Copperfield,' and they were like, 'Wow!' I mean, you wouldn't believe their faces."

Vargas said working with Magicians Without Borders has been a dream come true, and that he wanted to change the world through smiles. Zabin said the socioeconomic barriers between him and his audience vanished after he started performing. Guards and prisoners gathered in one crowd during a prison performance.

"[The prisons] were super scary at first, considering I'm a white boy from Connecticut," Zabin said. "As soon as the show started, immediately the language barrier was gone, the social barrier was gone, the freedom barrier was gone, and by the end of the show we didn't want to

leave."

Before picking up a pen or a wand, Zabin said he received his first magic set at the age of five and continued practicing because he failed at sports. He said his speech impediment and insecurities vanished when he stepped on the stage.

"I was very shy," Zabin said. "Magic gave me the confidence to be myself and gave me something I was good at. I loved doing it. I love making people happy. I love making people laugh. It was just a blast."

He said his parents provided total support—even when he traveled across the country at 10 years old. Steve Zabin, his father, said any concern he had of his son traveling disappeared after seeing him do what he loves.

He said Ben Zabin appeared in a town-wide talent show as a child. Right before the show began, one of his tools malfunctioned.

"He totally collected himself, walked out on-stage with such confidence, and the rest of the act went just fine," Steve Zabin said. "And at that moment I remember

saying to myself, 'wow, there's something really special about this 8-year-old.' I just knew that this kid knows what he is doing."

Zabin says he encourages anyone interested in learning the secrets of magic to jump into the industry.

"Just do it," Zabin said. "I think so many students and kids are so caught up in the fact that they have to learn everything before they go out and do it. I just think they should do whatever they wanted to do right now."

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"Magic gave me the confidence to be myself and gave me something I was good at. I loved doing it. I love making people happy. I love making people laugh. It was just a blast."

Sex Column: Living up to rainbow flags and #MeToo pins



Kyle Labe
Labe is the Living Arts editor & the Beacon sec columnist

It happened at a typical Allston house party, where the jungle juice costs two dollars and half-inflated balloons litter the floor. Without warning, a boy I didn't know pressed me up against the wall and forced his lips on mine. Earlier that night he attempted to hit on me, but I blew him off. Thinking he had taken a hint, I stepped away—but when I turned around the next thing I felt were his slimy lips.

I didn't want it. I never gave any consent. I froze. When I gathered my senses I managed to shove him off, but he didn't leave me alone. I whispered to my friends, but the music was so loud they didn't hear. The boy clung to me and didn't quit. He reeked of liquor and pot. Eventually, I snaked through the crowd and lost him, but evading him was as challenging as amputating a limb.

I didn't realize it that night, but I soon came to understand that I became one tiny thread in a web of people saying #MeToo.

The Human Rights Campaign reports that 40 percent of gay men and 47 percent of bisexual men endure sexual assault that isn't rape. We face much higher rates of harassment than our heterosexual equals, much of which is central-

ized in our own community.

Since the #MeToo campaign broke out, I have recalled each unwanted pass, caress, catcall, and ass-grab I have experienced since coming out of the closet. It's almost a culture within the gay community—through Grindr, bars, and nightclubs—to internalize this sexual deviance. I have been non-consensually groped, sent unsolicited photos, and offered money for sexual favors by fellow queer men so often that I've come to view this behavior as typical.

But it's not normal. This train of thought causes victims to stay silent. I didn't tell anyone about my assault because I didn't believe anyone would care. Before that night, I was familiar with all the shocking stories in the media—about Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Larry Nassar, and many more corrupted, abhorrent, powerful men—and I convinced myself that I had just experienced a kiss at a party. Victims of actual abuse have real problems. No one

would bother with what happened to me. For a while, I avoided referring to what happened as assault, considering it a term too serious to include my small incident. I feared even saying #MeToo.

"Consent is not some blurry line that can be crossed with shots of vodka, pounds of glitter, and strobe lights. If we're going to keep calling gay bars and clubs safe spaces, we need to assure that they are safe."

months, I've attempted to enter the mindset of my assaulter. Why did he do it? Maybe he thought it was okay. The environment we were in certainly didn't stop him. In fact, it seemed to motivate him.

In them., an online LGBTQ magazine, reporter Phillip Henry writes, "The gay commu-

nity has made sexual assault an appealing and casual art form. Gay culture doesn't just tolerate sexual assaults, it encourages them."

The problem is not only within how one queer individual interacts with another, it's how gay culture interacts with sexual assault as a whole. There's no shaming, no rebuke—just shrugs and side-eyes.

In my experience, when sexual assault is mentioned in queer spaces, it is met with calls to action that never lead to any action. Enthusiastic to fight for the cause, people often let that fire die just as swiftly, as is often the case with LGBTQ issues.

The #MeToo movement gives me hope about the way we talk about consent, but there is a severe lack of discourse about it within the gay community. That needs to change. Consent is not a blurry line that can be crossed with a few shots of vodka, pounds of glitter, and strobe lights. If we're going to keep calling gay bars and clubs safe spaces, we need to assure that they are safe.

And to the boy at that party, shame on you. Even if you had been a decent person, I would sadly still need to write this. Because this behavior is not going to change unless our community does. We need to start actually supporting one another, and not just saying so. Until then, all I can say is #MeToo.

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Sorority to celebrate month of femininity

Natalie Busch, *Beacon Staff*

Rebecca Johnson, Sigma's marketing chair, said HerStory is a gender-inclusive event open to anyone who identifies with the word femininity.

"Obviously [HerStory] itself is centered around the pronoun 'her,' but we don't want it to be centered around just women or just people who identify as female," Johnson said. "So whether you are a man, a woman, non-binary, or gender fluid and you just want to participate, this is open for you."

Festivities will include a women's comedy night, a roundtable discussion on gender, a sex positivity workshop, and a donation drive to collect feminine products for homeless women. The month will conclude with a formal dance at the Cabaret to benefit Planned Parenthood.

A photoshoot where students will recreate photographs of influential women from history will take place on Feb. 10 in Piano Row's Multipurpose Room. The photographs will be displayed at all HerStory month events. For the photoshoot, interested students submitted an application explaining who they wanted to portray and why. According to Johnson, there were a variety of suggestions, including Carrie



Rebecca Johnson is the marketing chair of Sigma Pi Theta, which will be holding its annual HerStory month this March. • Brooke Northrup / Beacon Staff

"I think just learning about women's struggles and what women go through every day can literally help anyone."

Fisher, Sally Ride, and Bessie Coleman.

Sigma Vice President Jenna Lennon said she spent two hours with Johnson looking over around 20 applications, some of which were

from students new to Emerson this semester.

"We had at least four or five responses just saying, 'There are no particular women that I have in mind, but I want to be involved in any way I can, because this is such an important event,'" Lennon said. "That kind of hit home for me. This is already resonating with people and it hasn't even happened yet."

Johnson said one person used to serve as chair for all events, which limited HerStory month. But this year, the junior said, different

people will organize each individual event.

Junior Elle Watson will lead the roundtable discussion on gender and sexuality. Watson said anyone can find value in HerStory month.

"I think just learning about women's struggles and what women go through every day can literally help anyone," Watson said. "It's not just about empowering women, it's about empowering everyone by learning about women."

Lennon said she wants Sigma's HerStory month to be an annual event students look for-

ward to, like Kappa Gamma Chi's Emerald Empowerment or Alpha Epsilon Phi's Ribbons on the Runway. After she graduates, Lennon said she hopes HerStory continues to evolve.

"Just because we're having a photoshoot and

"It's not just about empowering women, it's about empowering everyone by learning about women."

a comedy night this year doesn't mean that next year the same thing has to happen," Lennon said. "If we get feedback this year and people don't think a certain group was recognized then I want to continue building this and I want to continue recognizing as many people as possible."

Lennon, who joined Sigma during her freshman year, said her sisters drew her into the sorority.

"They're genuinely good people who are a part of an organization not for the name and not for recognition," Lennon said. "They're just doing something to vibe with other good people."

Lennon said her sisters at Sigma helped her grow and showed her how to be a powerful person.

"They're showing me that there is no status quo anymore, and kind of do what you want to do and be who you want to be and everything else will follow," she said. "They've just taught me what it means to be a leader and to be unapologetic for who I am."

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Owen Elphick pens way into Poet's Corner

Stephanie Shih, *Beacon Staff*

The largest daily newspaper in Connecticut recently published eight of Owen Elphick's poems in its monthly Poet's Corner column, making the sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major the youngest poet ever to have his pieces featured in The Hartford Courant.

Robert Rennie McQuilkin, the Connecticut State Poet Laureate who manages the monthly section, invited Elphick to submit his work after watching him perform at the Hill-Stead Museum's annual Sunken Garden Poetry Festival a few years ago, where he was one of five winners who were given the opportunity to recite in the garden and have their poems printed in Fresh Voices 23.

"Most of the authors published have been in their 60's, 70's, or even 80's," McQuilkin said. "I decided it was time to publish someone younger, someone who is on the way up, and I immediately thought of Owen. I agree with a lot of people that he's one of the most outstanding young poets we have run into."

Although he began writing poetry in the seventh grade, it wasn't until he participated in the Poetry Out Loud competition during his junior year of high school that he considered a career involving it.

Starting at the classroom level at E.O Smith High School, Elphick won his way up word by word through the school-wide, regional and state competitions, securing a spot as one of nine finalists out of over 250,000 students across the nation. He performed three poems and ended up placing fourth at the 2015 Poetry Out Loud National Championship in Washington D.C.

"Because I was involved with Poetry Out Loud, I made connections with many poets, who then gave me opportunities to read at various venues in Connecticut," Elphick said.

Since, he has also recited at the Connecticut

State Capitol on Poet's Day, Bishops Corner during its Poetry on the Patio series, and Hill-Stead Museum on Young Poets Day.

Even though Elphick has experience with reading poetry, he said he is more focused on writing it. Of his published pieces, "The Birdwatchers," which he wrote for his father, is one of his favorites. Elphick attributes the way he is now to the way his parents raised him—had they not read to him when he was younger, he would not be the writer that he is today.

"My parents are evolutionary biologists and avid bird watchers, and what they do is very different from what I do," Elphick said. "It means a lot to me that I was able to create something that connects my passion to theirs."

Elphick also credits Denise Abercrombie, his creative writing teacher at E.O Smith High School and the coordinator of its Poetry Out Loud program, for shaping him.

"Owen is incredibly talented, so it was always more about helping him gain confidence and believe in what he had to say, rather than helping him figure out what he wanted to say," Abercrombie said. "It was my role to keep encouraging him to find his own voice and vision, and help him accomplish his goals."

Elphick said he enjoys poetry because it allows him, through the manipulation of language, to elevate the simple things in life and make them more significant.

"It's not exactly about making someone feel a particular kind of way with my writing, because I don't have any control over that," Elphick said. "Rather, I just try to make sure that it's not all about me, because it's much more important to make people think in new ways, and see the world in different ways."

Recently, Elphick has been focusing on submitting his works to different publications. A member of the Emerson Poetry Project and Em Review, Elphick has had his work published in Gauge Magazine and Black Swan Magazine.



Owen Elphick is the youngest writer to be published in The Hartford Courant's Poet's Corner. Cassandra Martinez / Beacon Staff

"I'm serious about making this a part of my career path, so I have to get smart about not only being good at writing, but also being good at getting that writing out into the world," he said.

Although he is unsure of where the future will take him, Elphick is determined and said he will continue working hard to write pieces of which he is proud.

"The cool thing about the last three years for me has been seeing how things link together—

how being involved in one thing has allowed me to go to other things," Elphick said. "I'm thankful to have gotten all these opportunities and to have done all these things at such a young age, but I don't really feel satisfied yet. I know I still have a lot more I want to do, and a lot further I want to go."

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sports

Foultz overcomes injuries to lead Lions in scoring



Kate Foultz leads Emerson's women's basketball team in scoring with 213 points. • Daniel Peden / Beacon Staff

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Foultz said adjusting to college-level basketball took some time.

"You leave high school being one of the best players on your team, and then in college everyone was the best player on their team," Foultz said. "So it's a lot of adjusting to the pace of the game and knowing that even if a team is bad, they're all at least collegiate athletes who can play basketball."

Foultz played high school basketball at Newbury Park High in Thousand Oaks, California with teammates who now play for Vanderbilt University and Gonzaga University. She also played for the AAU team West Coast Premier, which she said was a challenging basketball experience.

While the NEWMAC is a tougher league than high school, Foultz feels that she hit her stride this year with her performance. Aside from recovering from injuries, Foultz said she prepared for this year by adopting a better outlook on the game and remembering that she is a good basketball player.

Early opportunities helped lead to Foultz's

high scoring season. Foultz said injuries to other players early in the season allowed her to play more.

"I think I was able to just have the ball in my hands a lot more and have opportunities for myself where I was able to score, and it helped build my confidence," Foultz said.

That confidence resulted in her leading the team in her breakout season. Her 213 points place her 16th in the NEWMAC for scoring, and she's 21st in field goal percentage, and 17th in three-point shooting percentage.

This season, Foultz has nine double-digit scoring games, including four with 18 points or more. In her highest scoring game this season against Coast Guard on Dec. 2, she scored 20 points.

"She's just such a threat from the perimeter,

she's a smart player, and her defense just keeps getting better and better," Gould said. "Overall I think she's just having a great, great season."

Recently, Foultz said she is in a shooting slump. Her offensive production has been down, scoring only five against Springfield College, six against Wheaton College, and seven against the United States Coast Guard Academy in the last three games. Foultz said she can get out the slump, however.

"I'm gonna keep shooting and hopefully those shots go in," Foultz said. "Our team is big on 'shooters shoot to get hot and shooters shoot to stay hot.'"

Off the court, Foultz studies sports communication and hopes to find a career she enjoys in the field. While she feels unsure about what exactly she wants to do, she has some ideas.

"Something combining [public relations],

writing, working with teams or athletes, or social media," Foultz said.

Foultz said she might enjoy ghostwriting for athletes in The Players' Tribune.

While she studies sports communication now, the broadcast journalism program at Emerson initially attracted her to the school. Having her twin sister attend Emerson also helped Foultz decide to come to Emerson.

"We both have very independent lives here. We're by no means attached to the hip," Foultz said. "We're roommates too so it made that process a lot easier and it's nice having her, especially since the rest of my family is on the West Coast."

The women's basketball team's next game is Saturday on the road against Smith College at 2 p.m.

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Athletics department hosts Special Olympics event

Michael Cerullo, Beacon Correspondent

Hundreds of fans filled the seats of the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gym on Sunday to cheer on athletes competing in the first livestreamed Special Olympics Massachusetts event at Emerson College.

Emerson Channel Sports livestreamed the event, which was also posted on the Special Olympics Massachusetts Facebook and Twitter pages. The stream lasted for almost four hours and showed the games, sideline commentary, and interviews with the athletes.

The participating teams included the North Attleboro Big Red Machine, the Brookline Cougars, the Mansfield Hornets, and the Heated Lions Seniors. Collectively, the teams competed in five games during the event.

Emerson Channel Sports executive producer

CJ Rogers plays baseball for the Lions and has been involved in the Special Olympics since grade school. He said the livestream provided the athletes' loved ones and community members who could not attend the event with a way to support the event from their homes.

Rogers also said he wanted to treat the games like any other college sporting event.

"The student-athletes are just coming together trying to make a similar atmosphere that they would want if they were to have a game on their home field," Rogers said.

Representatives from the Emerson baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, and basketball teams, as well as the cheer squad, were present at the event. Emerson's athletic teams and other supporters cheered on the athletes by making signs, chanting, and giving standing ovations for the kids showing their skills on the court.

Aster Cheng, freshman cheerleader, attended the event. She said that she was pleased with the strong turnout from the Lions athletic teams.

"I think it's really sweet," Cheng said. "It's really great to see a lot of the Emerson teams come out and support all of these kids."

Quinn Madden, sophomore member of the women's basketball team, volunteered to referee. She said the student-athletes' energy made the event more exciting for the participants.

"It feels to me like a college game, lots of hype and everyone's really energetic and it helps the players," Madden said. "They react to the crowd cheering for them, and I think it makes it more fun."

The athletes appeared excited as their supporters erupted in applause whenever a player scored a basket, completed a pass, or secured a rebound.

Hornets player Thomas Keaney's father, Sean Keaney, said his son has been involved with Special Olympics Massachusetts for one year. Thomas Keaney said he actively participates in sporting events year round.

Sean Keaney said Special Olympic programs are great events that allow his child to continue pursuing his athletic ambitions.

Sam Knox, sophomore and the master of ceremonies, said the participants' kindness and dedication to their teams made the event special.

"It really was just an uplifting, warm atmosphere," said Knox. "Something that I love being a part of."

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Upcoming games:

Men's Volleyball
Dean @ Emerson
Brown/Plofker Gym
Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.

Men's Volleyball
MIT @ Emerson
Brown/Plofker Gym
Saturday, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m.

Women's Basketball
Emerson @ Smith
Ainsworth Gym
Saturday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball
Emerson @ Springfield
Blake Arena
Saturday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m.