

Charity intern makes a difference



Narcissism in media



Emerson hires AD search group



The Berkeley Beacon

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Boylston Place could be transformed with future construction of a dormitory building. Residence halls may replace Sweetwater Tavern and The Estate. • Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

College announces expansion

Laura Gomez, Beacon Staff

Instead of stepping into the bar of the Sweetwater Tavern for a pitcher of beer, students could be walking into a new 18-story, residence hall with a roof terrace and views of the Boston Common and the State House by Spring 2016.

On August 26, Emerson College submitted a report to the city on a proposed project at 1-3 Boylston Place to transform the existing four-story, 24,000-square-foot commercial properties into an 18-story, 89,900-square-foot residence hall.

The 1-3 Boylston Place residence hall could be the tallest campus structure at 171 feet tall, rising over the Walker Building and Piano Row. Rooms would have a suite-style set-up, similar to the Paramount Building's layout said Margaret A. Ings, Emerson's associate vice president.

The LEED Gold-certified building would only be used for residential purposes and, according to design renderings detailed in the report, would display a contemporary style of architecture using materials like brick terracotta and reflective glass on the exterior of the building.

The need for a new residence hall stems from the college's desire to repair the Little Building's exterior and interior structure.

"The Little Building has done the majority of housing for our students, but now it needs to be fixed," said Ings, at a Sept 3 community meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Boston, where the college presented the development proposal

to the neighborhood.

Built in 1915 as an office building and converted to a dormitory and dining hall in 1995 by the college, the Little Building's need for repair and restoration is recognized by the college community.

"I'm happy to see the LB will be repaired," said senior performing arts major James Murray. "If they can get rid of the scaffolding it would be great."

The construction of the new Boylston Place dormitory and the repairs to the Little Building are expected to begin in Spring 2014 and Summer 2014, respectively, according to Ings.

"The new residence hall will provide replacement housing for 407 students currently living in the 750-bed Little Building dormitory while repairs are being done on this building," wrote Ings in the letter introducing the report, known as Project Notification Form.

The city requires the form, which is subject to public review, for large construction projects. A Project Notification Form describes in detail features of the building plan such as floor layouts, design renderings, and the transportation and environmental impacts the construction would have on the neighborhood.

Residents of the Little Building would be rotated to the new dormitory as partial construction is completed in the new building and repair of the residential floors of the Little Building begin, said Ings. Ultimately, when both project are completed, the Little

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New food provider starts service at college

Brittany Gervais, Beacon Correspondent

Emerson will see a number of changes to its dining hall and recycling methods this year with the arrival of the school's new service provider, Sodexo.

The switch to the France-based company happened early last month, when Sodexo was chosen from three other food service providers to replace ARAMARK, a company which had been with the college for 15 years.

Steve Canario, the new general manager of dining services from Sodexo, said the company is already working with students to meet their individual needs.

"Serving healthy food is one of our main focuses," he said. "We try to do a great job of labeling our food."

Sodexo will offer new programs to provide students with easier ways to eat healthy. By logging onto My Fitness Pal, an online calorie counter and diet plan, students and staff can see nutritional information for any of the meals served in the dining hall that day. Each dish will also have color-coded tongs to tell students which meals served are healthy, and which they should eat in moderation, according to Canario.

For students with specific dietary needs, Canario said Sodexo will introduce a new area in the dining hall called My Zone. This is an area set aside for students who follow a dairy-free, gluten-free, or peanut-free lifestyle. Sodexo dietitian and director of undergraduate



Sodexo, a France-based company, replaced previous provider ARAMARK on campus • Andrew Harwood/Beacon Staff

dining Karen Jew will also be available on campus to answer questions and advise students on any of their nutritional concerns.

Along with introducing some changes to the dining hall, Canario said he also wants to start taking an aggressive stance when it comes to composting and recycling.

Emerson and Sodexo have recently announced their partnership with Planet Police, a compost hauling service, with a plan to develop a composting program on campus. This will include releasing a monthly report to let students

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"Serving healthy food is one of our main focuses."

- Steve Canario, Sodexo GM

Boston Strong creators earn celebrity recognition for T-shirt campaign and attend Video Music Awards

Kathryn Bennett, Beacon Staff

"It's been amazing and absolutely surreal to see businesses, celebrities, and everyday people helping out with Boston Strong in different ways." - Nick Reynolds, Boston Strong

A personal invitation to the MTV Video Music Awards seems out of reach for anyone without a platinum album. But Lane Brenner, a recent Emerson graduate, found herself on the guest list when she, along with co-founders of the Boston Strong campaign Nick Reynolds and Chris Dobens, were surprised with tickets to the network's famous award show for their charitable work.

"I was happy, shocked, crying, babbling, and speechless," said Brenner. "Obviously far too many emotions in a short amount of time."

"We were so excited to receive MTV's invitation, and the show itself was everything we hoped it would be. I mean, *NSYNC was there," said Reynolds, a senior visual and media arts major.

Dobens, Brenner, and Reynolds started Boston Strong after the Boston Marathon bombing to help raise money for the One Fund, which pays hospital bills and other expenses of those affected by the bombings that went off near the marathon finish line.

The group was scheduled to speak dur-

ing a resident assistant training session Aug. 13 about the progress of their campaign. When they arrived at the Bill Borden Theater Emerson alumna and MTVu personality Quinn Marcus appeared with a camera crew in tow.

"Quinn came out of nowhere, celebrities were holding our shirts and saying our names, and then we got invited to the VMAs," said Brenner.

MTVu, a network owned by MTV, which focuses solely on college life, surprised groups of college students across the country with tickets to the VMAs for a segment on one of their program *Random Acts of MTVu*. The creators of Boston Strong were the first to be recognized. Their surprise involved a video of celebrities including Robin Thicke, Fall Out Boy, and Shay Mitchell of *Pretty Little Liars* holding the now-iconic Boston Strong T-shirts and personally thanking Brenner, Dobens and Reynolds for all they have done to raise money for the One Fund.

Boston Strong has raised over \$900,000, according to their Facebook page, and the founders have no plans to stop anytime soon.

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news

College police plan for heightened building security in spring

Jackie Tempera, Beacon Staff

The Emerson College Police Department will roll out a series of new procedures this academic year, including changes to building entry policies, pending approval from President M. Lee Pelton. The changes would tighten security on campus, said Chief of Police Robert Smith.

According to Smith, he and the security council—a group of faculty and staff members with one student government association representative—began to review campus security after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting last December.

“It started after the school shooting,” said Smith. “But even more so after the Marathon bombings. We needed to reevaluate security so we know who is coming into our buildings.”

The Boston Marathon bombing occurred in April, when two bombs detonated at the finish line of the annual race. The college was placed under lockdown during the scare.

The most notable proposed change in the plan concerns building entry policies. Currently, when students enter the Ansin Building, Walker Building, or Tufts Performance and Production Center buildings for class, they do not need to show their student identification. But to access the Paramount Center, every student must “tap”—or touch their school-issued ID to a pad—at a checkpoint. The protocol in the Paramount Center is different because there are also dormitories in the building, said Smith.

Starting in the spring semester, every classroom building may follow the Paramount Center’s procedure, and every person entering might have to show identifica-

tion. Security will also tighten in dormitory buildings.

“We don’t have a problem [with delays] in [Paramount] to be honest,” said Smith. “And it will really make a difference as far as security goes.”

Benjamin Halls, the security council’s SGA representative, said he is not pleased with this portion of the changes. He said he feels tapping will take too much time and students will be late to class.

“I told [President Pelton] it shouldn’t be implemented,” said the senior writing, literature, and publishing major. “One problem with an ID and then no students are getting up the stairs or to class.”

But Smith said he has accounted for potential delays that may occur at the beginning of his plan.

“We will give students as much information as possible,” said Smith. “The more we give, the greater likelihood it will be successful and not disruptive.”

In giving students more notice, Smith said he believes that students will be better prepared and have their IDs readily available to quicken the pace of the taps.

Similar changes may come to the dormitory buildings. Smith said he will speak to Pelton in coming weeks about keeping residence hall doors locked in the evening, and adding tapping machines to the exterior of the buildings. Students would then need to use their ID card to open the doors.

“You can still tap in and enter the building,” said Smith. “But we have a lot of very popular nightclubs, and on the weekends students feel like [non-students] congregate in entryways and lobbies.”

An information desk where faculty and staff members can check in guests may be set

up in the Little Building lobby. This desk will also provide maps and directions for visitors to the campus, said Smith.

A slight alteration in the check-in procedure for guests to residence halls may be implemented as well. Students may need to sign these guests in at the Securitas desk, rather than with resident assistants.

The school also underwent some technology upgrades over the summer. College building entryways are now wired differently, and can be locked down in seconds from a switch in the police department’s office.

“During the Marathon bombing, it took us five minutes to get exterior doors shut down, which was good, but now we can be even quicker,” said Smith.

Defibrillator machines have also been installed around campus.

Smith said he was unsure what these upgrades cost, but that Jay Phillips, the associate vice president for facilities and campus services, had the figures. Phillips declined to comment.

In coming weeks, Smith said he will meet with Pelton to finalize these changes, and said he hopes to complete them as soon as possible, so students can begin to prepare.

Pelton sent an email to students in May, outlining the changes he said were slated for the fall semester. But Smith said he will be on Emerson’s upcoming Los Angeles campus frequently, developing security procedures for the site, which is why he elected to begin the changes in the spring.

“This is something I want to be around for,” he said. “We need to make sure the change happens as smoothly as possible.”

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New changes may require students to use IDs in all classroom buildings. • Andrew Harwood/Beacon Staff

New building would house students while fixes to Little Building occur

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will remain functioning as residential facilities, said Ings.

“LB needs a rejuvenation and a chance to be cared for,” said Melissa Obleada, senior marketing communication major. “But I feel bad for the small businesses.”

In March 2010, Emerson College bought 1-3 Boylston Place, space currently leased through March 2015 to the Estate nightclub at 1-2 Boylston Place and Sweetwater Tavern at 3 Boylston Place, according to the documents filed by the college to the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the city’s planning and economic development agency.

The fate of Sweetwater Tavern and the Estate nightclub is uncertain, but the college is currently in contact with the two establishments, said Ings.

Obleada said she regularly hangs out in Sweetwater Tavern, and enjoys its proximity to school.

“It’s nice to have a close by bar and restaurant that can be a regular place for Emerson students,” she said.

Olivia Moriarty, a senior performing arts major, feels Sweetwater is a staple among students.

“When you turn 21, you go there. It’s fun, it’s cheap, and it’s on campus,” she said.

Sweetwater Tavern and Big Night Entertainment Group, the managing company of Estate, declined to comment on the project.

Ings said that repairs to the Little Building could take at least five to seven years to be completed, and the new dormitory is expected to be ready for occupancy in Spring 2016.

Emerson does not expect to increase or decrease enrollment during construction or after both projects are completed. With approximately 400 new beds, the college hopes to increase its housing capacity to 70 percent of the student population, according to Ings.

Currently, Emerson’s four residence halls can house a total of 1,948 students: Little Building houses 750, Piano Row houses 564, Paramount houses 262 and Colonial houses 372 students.

Today, out of the 3,586 full-time undergraduate students enrolled, 55 percent are housed by the college. With the new dormitory completed and LB repairs finished, 66 percent of the full-time undergraduate students could be living on campus.

According to the Project Notification Form, the construction of the new residence hall will require the demolition of buildings 1-3 Boylston Place, but the college plans to preserve the façade of 3 Boylston Place because the project’s architects find historical and architectural value in the façade’s copper bay windows and the Romanesque Revival style of the building.

Initially, the college proposed to build a 280 foot high structure located at 1-6 Boylston Place that could house 750 students and include a dining facility, a fitness center, an equipment distribution center, and the Emerson Police Department, according to a letter of intent filed to the Boston Redevelopment Authority on June 5.

However, the Boston Redevelopment Authority did not support the plan and told the college to scale down the project to 171 feet, said Ings at a September 3 neighborhood meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Boston. As a result, the Tavern Club, partners in the project and owners of 4-6 Boylston Place properties, decided to terminate their partnership because they found the lower height discouraging to their enterprise, according to Ings.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority will review the project and take comments from other city agencies, neighborhood groups, and the public until September 27, according to Melina Schuler, associate director of media and public relations at the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

The filing of the Project Notification Form is only the first step of a process that could lead to certification by the city for implementation of the project as outlined by city code.

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Sodexo to expand healthy options for campus food

Continued from Sodexo, Page 1

know how much the school is composting, as well as how these efforts have impacted the environment, according to Canario.

Eco Reps, volunteer students who will explain how to properly compost leftovers, will be stationed next to the recycling area a couple days a week in the dining hall to talk about the process, said Canario.

Canario also said the dining hall will close at 9 p.m., one hour later than last year, and a newly remodelled C Store, a convenience store on campus, will be a bigger, more modern space. Some ARAMARK employees were offered jobs with Sodexo if they wished to remain on Emerson’s campus, according to Canario.

Alexandra DePalma, a sophomore marketing communication major, said students who weren’t fans of ARAMARK hope Sodexo will bring solutions to past complaints.

“I don’t know if Sodexo knows coming in how unpopular ARAMARK was,” she said. “People have high expectations.”

Sarina Clement, a sophomore writing, literature and publishing major, transferred to Emerson from Endicott College in Mass. this year, a school whose food provider is Sodexo.

She said she thought the the food was good at first, but then things began to sour.

“At first, I thought to myself, ‘Great, I won’t have to starve,’” she said. “Then I started getting headaches and stomachaches, and I think it was from the food.”

Clement said she is living off campus this year. While she already planned on cooking most of her meals, she said when she found out Sodexo was coming to Emerson, she went out and got a new lunch box so she could bring food with her to class instead of going to the dining hall for lunch.

Jay Phillips, Emerson’s associate vice presi-

dent of facilities and campus services, said he feels confident Sodexo is a good choice for Emerson.

“We will be making sure that [Sodexo’s] food options include healthy, sustainable options and have good value,” Phillips said in an email interview.

However, Sodexo does have a complicated past. The company has faced complaints of low wages, sexual harassment, inadequate sick-leave policies, a lack of health coverage, and anti-union behavior. In March 2001, Sodexo was accused of racial discrimination when nearly all mid-level black employees realized they were denied promotions because of their race. It became one of the biggest race-related job bias settlements in the last decade, according to Fox News.

Last year, all frozen beef products used by Sodexo in the U.K. were withdrawn in February following the discovery of horse DNA in a sample, according to The Guardian.

To keep a line of communication open, Canario said he wants to address any concerns students may have and create an open dialogue by introducing Napkin Notes, an informal program that will allow students to post their questions or complaints to Sodexo on napkins, and get back a response within a day or two. The bulletin board is posted near the recycling area in the dining hall.

Until then, Canario said he’s going to keep his ear to the ground and find out as much about Emerson students as he can.

“So far so good,” he said about his experience so far. “But we definitely need to communicate with the students about the types of services they need. Communication is really important to us.”

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Boston Strong to continue raising money

Continued from Boston Strong, Page 1

said Brenner. “If victims continue to need the money, we want to still sell shirts.”

“It’s been amazing and absolutely surreal to see businesses, celebrities, and everyday people helping out with Boston Strong in different ways,” said Reynolds.

“It’s still hard to believe how much work MTV put into getting celebrity endorsements for the T-shirts, and the VMAs were just the icing on the cake.”

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“I don’t know if Sodexo knows how unpopular ARAMARK was. People have high expectations.” – Alexandra DePalma, sophomore marketing communication major

editorial

Ain't no dormitory high enough

At issue:
Emerson hopes to build a new dorm on Boylston Place

Our take:
A good first step in guaranteeing more on-campus housing

The editorial is written solely by the Editor-in-Chief Evan Sporer, Managing Editors Ryan Catalani, Trelawny Davis and Andrew Doerfler, Opinion Editor Hunter Harris, and Assistant Opinion Editor Liana Genito without consultation from other staff members, and does not influence any other stories. Op-Eds reflect the view of only their authors, not The Berkeley Beacon.

If you're reading this from your fifth-floor Cambridge "apartment" with its fake fireplace and assorted kitsch from Sunday's Allston Christmas, after enduring a 40-minute ride on the Green Line to and from school—Emerson is working on a solution for more on-campus housing, although it'll probably be too late for you.

But if you're an underclassman living in a spacious Piano Row suite with an unparalleled view of the Common—you're in luck.

New plans to build an additional residence hall housing 407 students have been announced, with construction slated to begin in spring 2014. This new space will offer temporary housing to Little Building residents as that building undergoes renovations in summer 2014. The additional space provided by the new building, to be located at 1-3 Boylston Place, will not prompt an increase in enrollment, but offer more available housing for transfer students, upperclassmen, and other students now forced to live off-campus because of cur-

rent limitations in our residence halls' capacities.

With nearly half the student body moving off campus after their sophomore years, Emerson lacks an overarching sense of community that many other institutions of higher education seem to have. This is a sense of community that cannot be gained through once-a-week meetings, occasional run-ins at Boloco, and a mutual disdain for Suffolk, but rather, a place we can all call home. With this new dormitory, more students will be able to have the full four-year college experience—allowing for a true college community at Emerson.

Incoming transfer students could find the struggle to find last-minute, off-campus housing relieved with the expansion. It costs \$300 to be put on a waitlist for transfer housing at Emerson and it's a poor investment if you're a spring transfer with little-to-no possibility of housing. It is hard enough to integrate into a new school, and even more isolating to live off-campus. Despite the varied overall costs of Boston apartments,

For students accustomed to a six-building campus that—situated adjacently—would span less than a city block, the inconvenience of living off-campus is a major issue.

the difference in convenience between a two-mile walk and a two-flight walk can mean a lot to a busy student.

For students accustomed to a six-building campus that—situated adjacently—would span less than a city block, the inconvenience of living off-campus is a major issue. Being off-campus requires several lifestyle changes, including adjusting to an increased time spent commuting and scheduling classes in blocks of time maximizing junctures spent on campus. And although Emerson officially estimates that the cost of living off-campus is comparable to living in dorms, financial aid subsidies for housing can't always be transferred when students move away from the Common.

Although it's fun to pick out new furniture, having HBO, and argue with your landlord over whether that hole in the wall was there before you moved in, that can wait until after graduation.

Letters to the Editor

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.

Orientation Leaders and Resident Assistants,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping us re-open the campus in such a spirited and caring manner. Your attentiveness, thoughtfulness and untiring effort created an extraordinary sense of welcome for our new students and their families. The parents of our students

could not say enough about how appreciative they were for your muscle, your kindness and of course, your dance routines. The selflessness you displayed and the support you provided undoubtedly helped get our freshmen and transfer students off to a good start.

Please know that all of us at Emerson are deeply grateful for all that you contributed and all that we know you will con-

tinue contribute to help us enhance the Emerson experience in the days ahead.

Best wishes for a wonderful semester,

Dean Ludman, Ph.D.
Dean of Students

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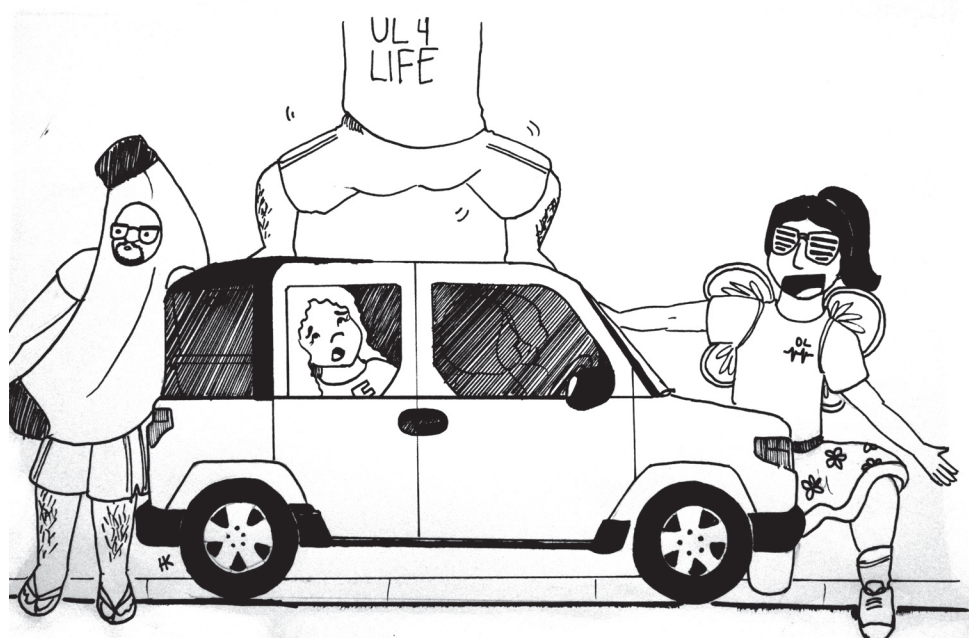
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The all-too familiar move-
in experience



opinion



Narcissistic characters on television mirror viewers' own narcissistic tendencies, especially the infamous mirror pic. • Photo illustration by Andrew Harwood

She loves my big ego

Ross Middleton
Middleton is a sophomore writing, literature, and publishing major & a Beacon correspondent

You tend to see narcissists a lot now on television shows.

From the serial philanderer and tortured ad man Don Draper on *Mad Men* (with secrets as dark as his perfectly gelled hair) to Walter White and his twisted foray in the world of meth to spare his family in *Breaking Bad*, TV is full of egotists of the highest order. It's normal to see vain, self-absorbed people in drama; egotists go as far back as Richard the III and are as modern as Hank Moody from *Californication*. But more and more often, egotistical characters are serving as the main characters on comedic shows.

From *Two and a Half Men*'s Charlie Harper to *Archer*'s Sterling Archer, we're starting to laugh at these selfish characters. By laughing at these egotists, we see the idiotic side of self-absorption that's prevalent in reality television and increasingly on social media. In a fictional setting, these narcissistic characters serve as a mirror to highlight our faults.

Narcissism is defined as both a mental disorder on the Axis II chart and a cultural problem. People who are defined as narcissists are usually shameless and

arrogant with a grandiose sense of entitlement. Normally you'd think a person who acted like that would be insufferable. However, nearly all critically-acclaimed TV comedies have exploited the narcissistic qualities of their protagonists to earn laughs, and big-budget TV dramas have started exploring the sinister underside of the narcissistic lifestyle.

Archer, an animated show about bumbling spies, shows how both the dapper killer known as Sterling Archer and the insane, glue sniffing secretary Carol can be gripped by the same destructive vanity. Peter Griffin's mad schemes on *Family Guy* often cause huge amounts of damage to his family life and his town of Quahog. Homer Simpson and Eric Cartman could be said to suffer from the same destructive egotism. Live-action shows are no exception: Charlie Harper in *Two and a Half Men*, the Paddy's Pub Gang in *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, and Sheldon Cooper from *The Big Bang Theory* all fall within this same category.

In a fictional setting, these narcissistic characters serve as a mirror to highlight our faults.

The real question is why we find these characters so funny. Often on social media sites we see idiotic comments, Instagram pictures of duckfaced middle school girls, and other examples of self-absorbed people. As we've created more ways of

communicating over the internet, we've become almost less social; we talk face-to-face less and rely more on texting, Skype, Twitter, Tumblr, and other social media outlets.

I'm not a technophobe, but I think modern technology is making us more self-aware in both good ways and bad. Self-love is good in moderation, but too much can lead to selfish or senseless thoughts and actions. While reality television shows highlight these attributes, they don't do much about them. The media portrays these forms of hyper-narcis-

sism in a neutral light, neither good nor bad.

In these TV comedies, the plans of the self-absorbed often go astray. (The countless business proposals of the gang in *Always Sunny*, the various relationship problems of Charlie Harper, and so on.) What's important about the comedic element is that there's a hope of redemption for these characters. Conversely, characters like Don Draper and Walter White will remain dramatic characters because their arrogance is all about self-preservation in the face of an intense identity crisis, and reality television stars show off a style of narcissism with no filters attached. TV comedies, unlike dramas, show the stupidity of narcissism and the true consequences of conceit.

So if you're feeling bad about your recent Facebook post about cats or the most recent gutter crawl through the streets of Boston, sit back, turn on some comedy, and watch the real losers do it.

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Rage against the voting machine

Hunter Harris
Harris is a sophomore visual and media arts and the opinion editor of the Beacon

An unengaged, uninformed, non-voting populace is a much more present threat than a handful of cases of voter fraud.

I have not forgotten that during the 2008 presidential election, I had to wait in line for nearly four hours to vote.

In the bitter cold, I stood in a long, winding line to exercise my basic constitutional right. I was lucky that a canceled afternoon class allowed me to eventually cast my vote, but there should be a concentrated effort by politicians to ensure that voting is easily accessible to us all.

Of course, that's not what has been happening. In many states in the South and Midwest, strict and unnecessary Republican-sponsored voter ID legislation has aimed to disenfranchise and alienate liberal-leaning voters.

Too many Republican leaders, including some in Texas, Kansas, Arizona, Arkansas, Tennessee, and a host of other states, have read inflammatory articles on GOP fan sites like Townhall.com that claim "Obama Likely Won Re-Election Through Election Fraud." These lawmakers feel Mitt Romney wasn't elected because millions of Democrats voted often.

They didn't. And some GOP leaders conceivably

read a few of the impossible-to-confirm reports of buses full of foreigners attempting to cast votes (presumably for their Democratic antagonists), and have concluded that voter fraud is sweeping the nation.

It's not.

Voter fraud is so unlikely that an ongoing study produced by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University's School of Law found that an American is more likely to win the lottery than to commit voter fraud. A separate entry in the same NYU study explains that not only is the Republican-described incarnation of voter fraud rare, but "much of the problems associated with alleged fraud in elections relates to unintentional mistakes by voters or election administrators."

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalism site ProPublica cited a New York Times article that discovered "120 cases [of voter fraud] filed by the Justice Department over five years," only 86 of which resulted in convictions. Even esteemed Republican Colin Powell expressed condemnation for the state's

newly-passed legislation, and expressed little faith in the measure's motives. At the CEO Forum in Raleigh, North Carolina, he remarked, "You can say what you like, but there is no voter fraud. How can it be widespread and undetected?"

And that's the thing: Conservative legislation espousing the intent to combat these rare cases only serves to disproportionately affect those less likely to vote for their party's candidates.

Disenfranchisement, a word used to describe the Grandfather clause (a nineteenth-century provision used to disallow freed African-Americans from voting in the South), is not an antiquated phenomenon. These recent efforts across the South and Midwest to pass or bolster controversial voter ID laws only serve to promulgate the disenfranchisement of students, the elderly, minorities, and members of the lower and middle classes.

North Carolina governor Pat McCrory described HB 589, a piece of legislation he signed into law in mid-August, as "a common sense law that requires voters to present photo identification in

order to cast a ballot" that would minimize "bureaucratic burden[s]."

But it only serves to maximize them: McCrory's measure prohibits polling places from extending hours due to long lines, eliminates pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds, and outlaws paid voting registration drives and provisional voting if the voter goes to the wrong precinct.

An unengaged, uninformed, non-voting populace is a much more present threat than a handful of cases of voter fraud. As an African-American woman under 21, my right to vote was hard fought: Four separate constitutional amendments (the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 25th) secure my ability to cast a ballot for the office of the President of the United States without paying a poll tax.

Voting isn't an inalienable right that should be made harder to practice.

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arts



Emerson writing, literature, and publishing major Donnie Welch is back on campus in Boston for his senior year. • Portrait by Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

Welch lights up the New Orleans poetry scene

Senior WLP major debuts *Leaving Dynamite* on social media

Dillon Riley Beacon Staff

Most writers aren't exactly keen on letting their audience in on their process. First drafts are meant for editors only, and show-and-tell is usually left for the finished product, not the hard work that goes into preparing it. But, senior writing, literature, and publishing major Donnie Welch doesn't see it that way. A decorated slam poet, Welch rewrote the script by debuting an initial draft of a poem he wrote online to an audience through a live stream feed just last month.

The piece, entitled *Leaving Dynamite*, was billed as a monologue "exploring the recent trend of young American men to execute extreme, public acts of mass violence."

Inspired in part by the recent Boston Marathon bombings, as well as a mass shooting that took place in New Orleans around the same time, *Dynamite's* purpose was not only to approach "what motivates these sort of events, but also the public perception behind what occurs and how that affects exposure," said Welch.

At the heart of the poem was the desire to really dig into what surrounds

these tragic events.

"I felt that in order to stop things like these from happening, we have to understand why they happen," said Welch. "The mission behind *Dynamite* was to present possible reasons why and to see if we can do something about them."

While presented in the unusual poetic perspective that Welch brings to all of his work, what really set *Dynamite* apart was the way he performed it. He recruited director and 2013 Emerson graduate Alex Ates, and the duo used social media—a platform they felt was well adapted to expressing art and engaging an audience—to workshop the poem.

The actual platform in question was Howlround, a livestream feed site run by the Emerson Center for the Theater Commons. The stream, filmed at an arts high school in Ates' hometown of New Orleans, went off without a hitch, reaching an audience of nearly 50 people at its peak.

"As we suggested, the piece was really a sort of rough sketch, so we wanted to sort of capture what goes into the process of creating something like this," said Ates. "We were also hoping to engage the audience and promote instant feedback through the use of the Internet."

While the two felt they were successful in doing so, the feedback they did receive wasn't exactly immediate.

"There was definitely a positive response to it, which was cool, but there wasn't a lot of active feedback from the stream," said Welch. "It was more personal things like emails and texts."

Welch and Ates have a bit of a history. Fast friends during their time spent as resident assistants in the Little Building, they eventually collaborated during a Shakespeare Society event at Emerson a few years back when Welch was brought in to read some of his work. Ates said he

was initially in awe of his talent.

"He has this ability to approach topics that most people don't really know how to articulate very succinctly," said Ates. "He is able to express what needs to be said in a way that just resonates."

Moving forward, Welch and Ates have already begun edits on the piece. With a deadline set for October and graduation on the horizon for Welch, plans are tentatively set in motion to further develop *Dynamite*.

"I'm free in the spring to travel and really give this piece the attention it deserves," said Welch. "But I don't really know what my next step is."

As for their respective futures post-graduation, Ates intends to continue working with artists in some capacity in New Orleans, while Welch's next move is a little unsettled, but not without options. A budding poetry career aside, Welch is now a recording artist and touring musician who collaborates with indie-folk artist Freddie Wilson under the pseudonym Welch & Penn.

Combining folk and beat poetry, Welch said the group originally released music together strictly as a means of funding a tour they undertook. The success of said tour led to some recording opportunities in Nashville.

"Hanging out in the studio especially was crazy," said Welch. "I'd never really been in an environment like that and I'd never really thought I'd end up there as a poet."

The same went for putting together *Leaving Dynamite*.

"I don't think I've experienced anything more difficult than trying to make theater," said Welch. "But putting out the live stream was this moment of total elation."

**"In order to stop things like these from happening, we have to understand why they happen."
-Donnie Welch**

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lifestyle

OL training plays up their unique strengths Leaders embrace program to welcome new students

Thea Byrd, Beacon Staff

All students' first experience with Emerson College's particular flair begins at move-in: The image of orientation leaders in rainbow tutus, sparkly spunks, and bizarre hats burns into the brains of Emerson students taking their first steps onto campus for as long as anyone still here can remember.

"No one does move-in quite like Emerson College... It's quite the production and I love the reaction from new students. It's electric," said Jason Meier, director of student activities. And this year was certainly no exception — social media blew up with pictures of and comments about OLs' dancing, sporting bow ties, and wearing banana suits.

Although OLs are traditionally some of the most spirited and unique members of the Emerson community because of the responsibilities the job entails, the goal of orientation is to make everyone feel at home, no matter how active they are in the social and extracurricular worlds, according to Emily Enters, chair of undergraduate orientation core staff.

"I've heard a lot of feedback in the past about how our orientation program is overwhelming or targeted towards more outgoing students, but I don't think that's true," said Enters. "The OLs we had on staff this year were a great reminder that you don't have to be 'crazy' to fit in at Emerson."

With this awareness in mind, a new training program has been implemented for OLs.

"This year, the Student Life team in-

cluded the StrengthsQuest program into its orientation leader training," Meier said. "Our OLs are able to identify what they're the best at and how to use it when working with our new students."

The success of StrengthQuest among orientation leaders has led to a new class that will be open and free for all students next spring, said Meier. It will focus on the leadership training techniques of StrengthQuest, which Meier described as "a multi-faceted training program that helps students discover their inherent strengths and how to use them in day-to-day activities."

OLs utilized the program to learn self-awareness and how to use that to unite the school, Enters said.

"It's about embracing the person you are and want to be," said Enters. "Not everyone is going to love or even like their Orientation week, but if every incoming student makes at least one meaningful connection during the week, we succeed."

Even returning OLs were able to embrace the changes in the program.

"I love orientation training," said Jen Tiedemann, a second-year OL and junior performing arts major. "There's a strong focus on team-building, and I love that. We all come to realize what our strengths are and how we benefit the orientation program."

OLs returned to Boston early to go through a four-day training program before freshmen arrived for move-in on August 26.

"The process reminded me of camp. It could even be called OL Training Camp," said Noelle St. Louis, an orientation leader and junior marketing



communication major. "It was a lot of fun but also exhausting,"

But the exhaustion doesn't end with training for OLs. As St. Louis described it, waking up before dawn and attending events all day was the norm for OLs during orientation week itself.

"Although it is hectic, it is a good hectic," said Caroline Lacy, an orientation leader and junior performing arts major. "You are having fun doing all of these things because you get to see the

smiles on the new students' faces and how excited they are to be in this new place, but also help the ones that are a little overwhelmed become more acclimated to the community,"

Katy Rushlau, lifestyle editor and an orientation leader, did not edit this article.

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Orientation Leaders from the 2012 program sing and dance on Boylston Street during new student move-in.

Ryan Catalani / Beacon Staff

Intern inspires Children's Hospital patients



Junior Ben Whalen interned at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Seacrest Studios this past summer. • Portrait by Andrew Harwood / Beacon Staff

Katy Rushlau, Beacon Staff

Landing that dream internship is often a quintessential component of a student's summer break, providing opportunities to gain skills in numerous fields. When junior Ben Whalen began his internship with The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) Patient Media Programs, he said he strived to learn the many facets of the live television process. But through his work, he also managed to brighten the lives of many terminally ill children.

Joining a group of six interns, crew members, and volunteers, Whalen said he worked in CHOP's Seacrest Studios, one of four children's hospital media centers in the country. The state-of-the-art facilities were founded by television personality Ryan Seacrest through his organization, the Ryan Seacrest Foundation, according to its website. The foundation aims to inspire children facing

life-threatening illnesses, said Whalen, a visual and media arts major.

"It's all about giving the kids something to do, raising their outlook, and giving them something positive to look forward to," he said.

As part of the program, Whalen said he helped young patients participate in live shows that air on the hospital's closed-circuit channel, Galaxy 51. Daily programs, he said, included a variety of game shows, sports call-in programs, and "The Countdown," a lineup of the day's hottest songs. Whalen said the interns mainly instigated the programs, working on a pre-determined list of shows and creating daily content. Whether the patients participated in the live audience or simply from the televisions and phones in their rooms, Whalen said he enjoyed helping the children get involved.

"The kids get very into it," said Whalen. "We want them to participate and sometimes they end up running the

shows for us."

One of his favorite components, he said, was the interactive nature of the studio, which allowed him to meet patients and brighten their days. The station, he said, tries to cheer up even the sickest of patients with special features and broadcasts such as a live magic show, meditation programs, and a bingo game on air.

"A lot of kids don't know about [the studios]," said Whalen. "Once they discover it, they seem to love it and we see them back every day."

With over 25 hours of live programming per week, interns serve as hosts, technical directors, board operators, and camera crew over the course of their jobs. This, Whalen said, allowed him to dive into areas of television production that he was unfamiliar with and make the most of his internship. Alongside his fellow interns, Whalen learned the ins and outs of editing programs Final Cut and Avid, and contributed to each show's unique brand, content, and production needs.

According to CHOP's Media Programs Manager, Kris Schrader, the programming must be interactive, entertaining, educational, and therapeutic for viewers, which also offers the unique opportunity for interns to experience just about every possible aspect of production.

"The unique hands-on production environment allows us to both train interns and engage children of all ages in a variety of ways," said Schrader.

Schrader also said they look for high-energy, passionate individuals with a great deal of initiative to fill the intern positions. Whalen and the rest of the program participants, she said, were expected to work independently without direct supervision throughout the summer.

**"Ben consistently demonstrated dedication and was always willing to jump in and assist in any way."
-Kris Schrader, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia media programs manager**

"They have to love to get down on a child's level and just have fun," she said. "Ben consistently demonstrated dedication and was always willing to jump in and assist in any way."

Recalling some of the highlights, Whalen said the organization often invites a myriad of celebrity guests, including Taylor Swift, who paid a visit to CHOP this past July.

Whalen, who is also a brother in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, said his coursework at Emerson provided him with the basic skills and knowledge he needed to thrive in the fast-paced television environment.

"I'd never worked on television before," he said. "However, every day I had a good foundation of the tools we were using and how we'd be using [them]."

He also said the internship itself gave him insight and experience with the technical side of television, unlike other internships he applied for, which had a more direct focus.

"I wanted to get involved in all different areas of the production processes, and this job definitely provided that," he said.

Though Whalen eventually hopes to work on the commercial side of the television industry, he said his work with CHOP not only prepared him for his future, but also allowed him to give back to his community.

"Growing up outside of Philadelphia, the hospital is a huge part of our community," he said. "That element of [service] and working with children was not something I originally sought out, but it made my time there that much better."

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sports

Welcome to the NEWMAC: Lions leave GNAC

Connor Burton, *Beacon Staff*
 Kyle Brasseur, *Beacon Staff*

After 18 years of competition, charter member Emerson College has left the Great Northeast Athletic Conference and joined the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

In 1995, the GNAC was established with Emerson as one of the original group of 12 NCAA Division 3 colleges and universities. Emerson was unanimously voted in as the 11th member of the GNAC back in Feb. 2012, the first expansion of the conference's membership in 14 years.

"In the big scene, we're looking to be competitive, lay the foundation [and] get us up to speed in terms of how the NEWMAC runs their organization," said Interim Athletic Director Stanford Nance. "Each year we're looking to get better and better."

Thirteen of Emerson's 14 sports teams joined the conference this semester. Men's volleyball, which is not a NEWMAC sport, will remain in the GNAC.

The Lions' new, more challenging slate of conference opponents will include Babson College, Clark University, Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology, Springfield College, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, among other top Division 3 schools.

Phil McElroy joined Emerson in 1999 as an assistant softball coach, and in 2003, he took over as head coach of the softball team. McElroy has compiled the most wins of any Emerson head coach, boasting a 337-201 record over 10 seasons. Despite his success, McElroy said NEWMAC opponents will present a greater challenge.

"In the GNAC, I felt comfortable going into every year saying we were going to be a top four team. Since 2007, we have been. I felt comfortable every year saying that we had a chance to win the conference," McElroy said. "I think when you get into the NEWMAC, you are talking about every one of the schools being the same. Whatever the top four teams in the GNAC were, there are going to be 10 or 11 of those teams in the NEWMAC."

McElroy's expectations aren't just based on an intuition. Emerson teams went a combined 0-11 against NEWMAC opponents last year.

"We are very, very happy to be going to this new league, but we also know that there's an adjustment," Nance said. "Our

trainers will be tested, our strength and conditioning coaches will be tested because we've got to raise our level. So our student athletes have to be in the best shape possible... we're competing at a higher level, and so we're still working on all those aspects."

For the first time in NEWMAC history, preseason coaches' rankings were released for each sport. The fall rankings are out now and show the high level of competition Emerson will be facing during its first season in the NEWMAC.

The reigning GNAC champion women's volleyball team, which went to the NCAA Tournament last year, is only ranked sixth out of 11 teams. After reaching three consecutive GNAC championship games, women's tennis is also ranked sixth, but out of nine teams, while women's cross country has been projected to finish 10th out of 11 schools. Men's soccer and men's cross country were both picked eighth out of eight teams.

"It's going to be a real struggle for some programs, maybe even us included," McElroy said. "You can hope for as much success as possible, but I think we have to prepare our coaches and players. A lot of people have talked about having us as coaches be supportive because it

could be tough."

Although the NEWMAC will bring tougher opponents, Eli Kell-Abrams, a junior point guard on the men's basketball team, said he is expecting some growing pains, but is ultimately looking forward to the opportunity the Lions will have this season to test themselves against stronger teams.

"It's like going from the Atlantic 10 to the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) or the Big East, but nobody ever became the best by playing easy teams," Kell-Abrams said. "However, I like the challenge. Instead of playing down to our competition we can play up."

Emerson will play its first conference games on Sept. 21, when men's soccer hosts an MIT team ranked second in the preseason poll. That same day women's volleyball will kick off its NEWMAC schedule at Mount Holyoke.

Connor Burton

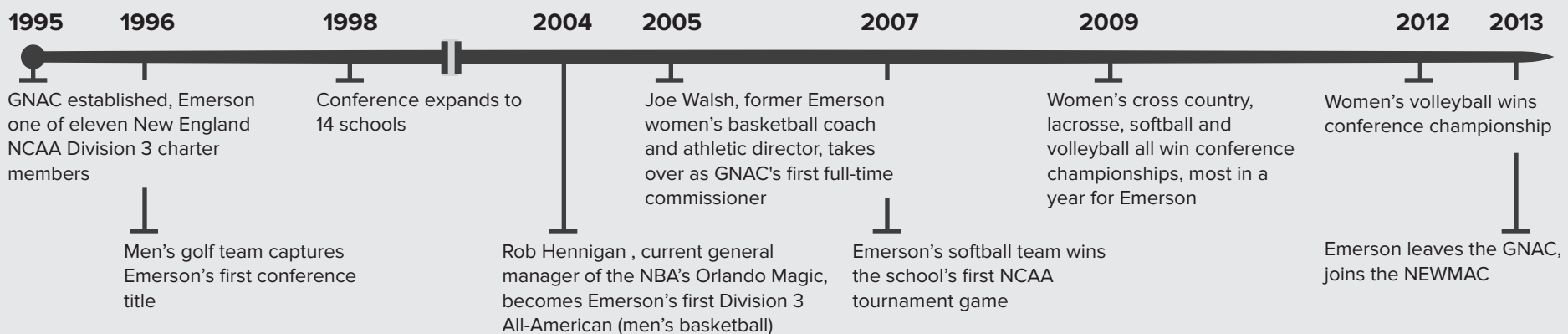
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GNAC Timeline



Search for permanent Emerson AD on the horizon



Stan Nance has been interim athletic director since May 2012.
 Ryan Catalani / *Beacon Archive*

Carl Setterlund, *Beacon Staff*

Emerson College went the full 2012-13 academic year without a permanent athletic director, but now, some 15 months after former Emerson Athletic Director Kristin Parnell resigned, the administration's plans are finally coming into focus, with movement expected by this winter.

"I want to let you know that Emerson has retained the services of Alden & Associates, Inc. to help the College conduct a national search for a permanent Athletic Director," wrote Dean of Students Ronald Ludman, who oversees the athletic department, in an Aug. 13 email to student-athletes.

Alden & Associates is an executive search and consulting firm that operates out of Florence, Mass., listing a specialty in intercollegiate athletics on its website. Formed in 1999, the firm cites having previously done high-level athletic administrative searches for four members of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference of which Emerson is now a member.

Emerson President M. Lee Pelton announced the formation of the Athletics Working Group in an email to the student body on April 25, 2012, naming Ludman as chair. The 14-member group — which included interim athletic director Stanford Nance — met over the Fall 2012 semester. Parnell announced her resignation on May 17, but an AD search was postponed until the group concluded its research.

"The goal there was to try and kind of benchmark where we were in comparison to these schools that we're going to be competing against in the NEWMAC," Ludman said. "The thinking there was, 'Well, before we go and hire an athletic director, let's make sure we fully understand what the needs of the program are.'"

According to Ludman, he submitted the Athletics Working Group's findings to both President Pelton and the board of trustees, who approved the opening of an AD search.

"I started to do a little research and called three different schools that all had done relatively recent searches," said Ludman, who said he reached out to other well-regarded private colleges in Babson, Bowdoin, and Wheaton.

Babson and Wheaton are both in-state schools and two of the original six members of the NEWMAC. Bowdoin is a fellow Division 3 college located in Maine.

As far as any specific qualities Emerson will be looking for in its athletic director, Ludman said strong management and people skills will be important. Other than that, he's waiting for Alden & Associates to visit the campus sometime during the fall semester, whereupon they'll conduct interviews with athletes, coaches, administration, and other key stakeholders in Emerson's athletic interests.

Ludman estimated that from there, a search would take roughly three months.

Upon Parnell's resignation, Pelton

promoted Nance from associate athletic director to interim athletic director, a position he has filled without restriction since.

"Maybe the process took so long because so many great people already in the athletic department stepped up, so they felt like they had the role filled," said junior Kat Rice, a middle blocker on the women's volleyball team. Rice gave positive reviews of Nance's family-oriented leadership style.

Ludman noted improved morale among staff and students under Nance.

"Emerson wants the best athletic director to lead the organization and through a national search that's what you're going to get," Nance said. "It may be me, it may not be me, but it's going to be the best person. And we all want the best person because if you're a parent you want the best person leading the department that can take you to that next level."

Nance said he has not yet considered his response if he were to be passed over for the permanent athletic director position and asked to return to his former role, but feels that he has "a pulse for what we need," due to his time at Emerson.

A disciple of recently deceased former Emerson AD Rudy Keeling, who preceded Parnell, Nance was hired as assistant athletic director in 2003 after coaching men's basketball under Keeling at Northeastern University.

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There and back again

Kevin Bright aims to make a name for his alma mater in the city where he made his

Andrew Doerfler, *Beacon Staff*

One late July evening this year, Kevin and Claudia Bright opened the backyard of their Los Angeles home to more than 400 people. The couple was hosting the kickoff event of a campaign to raise \$20 million for Emerson's Los Angeles Center, scheduled to open early next year.

"All Emerson affiliated, *supposedly*," Kevin Bright later joked of the attendees, who included alumnus and *America's Funniest Home Videos* creator Vin Di Bona and Larry David, whose daughter attends Emerson. "I should have checked to see if they had their IDs to make sure. I think there were some freeloaders."

Bright, who was one of the original executive producers of the mega-hit TV show *Friends*, had been appointed to lead the Los Angeles Center in May. And he was likely too busy that night to worry about verifying his guests' identities. Before addressing the crowd as one of the night's speakers, Bright chatted with attendees to paint a picture of his vision for the Center. On top of that, he ensured the event's program went smoothly, noticed Jordan Perry, a junior visual and media arts major who co-emceed the night at Bright's request.

"He was able to have two hats — to play host and open up his home, but then direct the event as he was hosting, talking with A.V. guys and making sure the cater-

ing was working," Perry said.

Since joining his alma mater's faculty in 2006, Bright, 58, has often shown the same hands-on approach. He has led 11 "Kevin Bright Workshops," a course where he teaches students to produce a television show. For years, he has also advised Emerson's annual EVVY awards.

"Even when it's hectic and there are a million things going on, he's good at stopping and talking one-on-one with students," said Perry, who first worked with Bright as an actor in one of the Kevin Bright Workshops. "He pushes them creatively and professionally. It's a balance — these are students, but he's also training professionals."

Paige Newman, a senior visual and media arts major, was a supervising producer on last spring's Kevin Bright Workshop and worked on multiple EVVYs shows. She said that Bright has a knack for getting his students to come up with good ideas on their own.

"Sometimes you think he's just talking, but he's always teaching," she said. "He'll motivate you to find the perfect answer."

Bright said that while he doesn't make decisions for the students, he tries to steer them in the right direction.

"I don't feel the lesson is 'Go out and make your mistakes, and you'll learn from your mistakes,'" Bright said during a recent visit back to Boston. "Some mistakes have already been made many times."

Many students arrive at Emerson hop-



Kevin Bright, named founding director of Emerson's Los Angeles Center in May, in front of the building site. Jenna LoSavio / Beacon Correspondent

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"I know he's been out filming at midnight. He has remarkable commitment."
—Emerson president M. Lee Pelton

ing to end up in Los Angeles — fewer make it big in Los Angeles and then come back to Emerson. Bright graduated from the college in 1976 and, after working for a few years in his native Manhattan, went on to Los Angeles to work on comedy specials and TV shows including *In Living Color* and *Friends*. He joined Emerson's faculty in at a transitional time in his life, following the cancellation of the *Friends*-spinoff *Joey*, for which he served as executive producer.

"After *Friends* I was reminded you don't automatically continue the path you were on. You go back to square one. And square one can be painful because you lose control again," Bright said. "They wanted something that was going to be *Friends* again. That's hard to do. I just wanted something that was going to be *Frasier*." (He also doesn't hesitate to point out that the numbers *Joey* posted before cancellation would make it one of TV's top comedies these days.)

He said former college president Jacqueline Liebergott asked him to come aboard for a semester. He had already been on the school's faculty since 2003, but had little teaching experience outside of a few courses at the American Film Institute.

He didn't expect to stay on so long — during his first year on the faculty, the Beacon reported that Bright said he had not ruled out staying for one more semester. But since that request from Liebergott, he has served as executive artist-in-residence, a visiting professor, an associate professor, and, now, the leader of the school's west coast expansion.

"It was a door that was continuously opening," Bright, who split his time between Boston and Los Angeles while teaching at Emerson, said of his longer-than-expected stay. "The projects at the end of each semester kept encouraging me to keep going."

Without actively seeking to get back into the professional TV business, Bright said there weren't any projects beckoning him back to Los Angeles, either.

"To a certain degree when you leave Los Angeles, they pretty much take it that you're not available," he said.

He also found himself forming other ties to Boston during his stay. For the last several years, he's taught film at the Perkins School for the Blind, for which he was featured in the Boston Globe and on

NBC's Rock Center with Brian Williams.

He said he'll miss the ties he's formed in Boston as he takes on a role that Emerson president M. Lee Pelton said only Bright could fill. Bright had originally been on the search committee tasked with finding a director for the center. But after narrowing the applicant pool to a group of finalists, Pelton and Bright agreed that none of the candidates fit had the vision they were looking for. Bright, though, had been involved with the plans for the L.A. program for years and had a vision for where it should go, said Pelton.

"When I say he's a creative genius, he's much more than that. He's also a businessperson. He ran a complex business called *Friends* for a long time," said Pelton. "

Pelton said he has also been impressed with Bright's eagerness to help students at any time. "I know he's been out filming at midnight," said Pelton. "He has remarkable commitment."

(Pelton, who said since coming to Emerson he's become friends with Bright, took special care to note the importance of Bright's wife, Claudia, in Bright's acceptance of the position. "He doesn't make significant decisions without her counsel and support and love," said Pelton.)

As the director of the Los Angeles Center, Bright said his major goals are to hire the staff for the new building, to transition the existing program into the building, to develop new programs, and prepare for the March 7, the tentatively scheduled ceremonial opening. In the longer term, he wants to expand the appeal of the Los Angeles program for students outside of visual and media arts and acting majors. The overall goal is to create a "synergistic" program that offers something unique to Los Angeles but builds on the curriculum in Boston.

Eventually, "once things settle," he said he also hopes to start something like the Kevin Bright Workshop in Los Angeles — though the possibilities for new programs will evolve slowly.

"What's really going to drive that is the students — what can we give them that's going to be a unique experience there?" Bright said. "But I'd love to continue what I started here."

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