



The Berkeley Beacon

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Hundreds rallied with Emerson students Monday against Kavanaugh

Special Section pg. 6-7

Sophomores Mari Sitner, Annie Noel, and Senior Erin Swauger planned a protest in response to Sen. Jeff Flake's vote on Kavanaugh's nomination last Friday. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

First major hotel strike organized by alumna

Stefania Lugli, *Beacon Staff*

Alumna Nicki Morris '15 helped organize UNITE HERE Local 26 hotel workers on strike in front of Sheraton Boston Wednesday morning.

Demonstrators orchestrated seven simultaneous strikes at Marriott hotels across the city beginning at 6 a.m. More than 1,500 Marriott International hotel workers in Boston walked out of their places of work to strike in the midst of a six-month-long discussion for contracts, according to a union press release.

Local 26 is Boston's hospitality workers' union and includes the college's food service workers. They serve as the local branch of UNITE HERE, a labor union in the United States and Canada with more than 265,000 active members.

Brian Lang, the president of UNITE HERE Local 26, said this is the first major hotel strike in Boston's recent history.

Morris works for the union's communications department. She walked in and out of the throng of hotel workers, shouting along with them or placing a comforting hand on their shoulders.

Morris said the union's demands are simple—livable wages, more time with their families, money for retirement, and the ability to retire. She declined a full interview with the Beacon,

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More than 1,500 Marriott employees went on strike Wednesday. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

Student Facebook event turns viral

Maya Gacina, *Beacon Staff*

Senior Erin Swauger said she sobbed after watching nine hours of the Supreme Court committee hearing on Sept. 27 for the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who faces multiple sexual assault allegations by former classmates.

Mothership Strategies—a political organization based in Washington D.C.—assigned Swauger, who works as a digital fellow for the company, to watch the hearing from start to finish.

On Friday, Swauger received news on Facebook from her friend, sophomore Annie Noel, that Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, a critical Republican swing voter who confirmed Kavanaugh in the Supreme Court, would make an appearance at the Forbes Under 30 Summit on Monday.

At the time, Forbes scheduled Flake to appear in Colonial Theatre, just feet away from the Walker Building where Noel and Swauger have their Monday classes.

On Friday morning, Swauger opened Facebook on her laptop and made an event page entitled "Tell Jeff Flake to Reject Kavanaugh." Swauger made the page so students could express their anger at Thursday's events and protest Flake's appearance in Boston and on the college's campus. She told Noel right away.

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news

Journalism Department requires new prerequisites for EDC

Katie Redefers, *Beacon Correspondent*

The journalism department created a new series of quizzes journalism students must pass before checking out equipment from the Equipment Distribution Center.

The department designed the quizzes, also known as badges, for students who need to check out equipment for a specific journalism class, as opposed to extracurricular uses. To check out a certain tool like a DSLR camera, students must pass the corresponding quiz on Canvas to earn a badge. Journalism Department Chair Janet Kolodzy helped develop the new program.

"I think it's important that we explore more than just one way in which students get up to speed with technology, and that we explore a couple of ways," Kolodzy said. "I want the badges to be a way in which students can feel their technological expertise is recognized and useful."

At the moment, the journalism department offers six base-level badge courses on Canvas, according to Kolodzy. The badge course students must take depends on the curriculum of their journalism class.

Prior to the development of the badge program, journalism professors required students to take workshops before gaining access to hardware. The badges will replace workshops moving forward, as students in the past often took the same workshop multiple times for different classes, according to Kolodzy.

Students must complete a 15-question prerequisite course called the Safety Badge prior to checking out equipment from the EDC or taking other EDC-oriented badge quizzes, according to Kolodzy. Technology Director for the School of Communications Jonathan Satriale and journalism professor Angela Anderson-Connelly worked with Kolodzy to develop this course over the summer.

The student receives a passing grade for the safety course if they answer 11 out of 15 questions correctly, or 73 percent. If the student fails the safety quiz on the first try, the course allows them three attempts to pass. They may refer back to information in the modules.

The Safety Badge consists of several modules in which students read through informational slides. These modules cover topics such as what to bring when reporting and how to handle potentially dangerous situations while reporting.

Associate Director of Media Technologies and Production Timothy MacArthur said the EDC receives the results of the course online after the student completes it on Canvas.

"Anything that can reinforce awareness of how equipment works and how to be safe is valuable," MacArthur said in regard to the badges. "The EDC hopes to be a resource for students looking for help with equipment."

Kolodzy said she wants students to leave the safety badge course with a baseline understanding of situational awareness.

"These days, unfortunately, journalists sometimes aren't welcome in places," Kolodzy said. "I want [students] to take away how to be able

"Anything that can reinforce awareness of how equipment works and how to be safe is valuable."

"I think it's important that we explore more than just one way in which students get up to speed with technology."



Evening Operations Manager Jake Nadeau works at the EDC distributing equipment to students. Cullen Granzon / Beacon Staff

to do their job in the smartest way possible in terms of safety."

Kolodzy said the journalism department hopes to offer intermediate and mastery badges in various topics. One such badge might certify a student possesses a comprehensive understanding of Final Cut Pro, according to Kolodzy.

Freshman journalism major Julia Mallon said the difficulty of the safety badge test surprised

her.

"I had to go back and read the slides diligently because the questions were pretty specific," Mallon said.

✉ kathryn_redefers@emerson.edu

Emerson alumna supports Boston-wide hotel workers strike



Local 26 is Boston's hospitality workers' union and includes the college's food service workers. Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff



Seven simultaneous strikes occurred at Marriott Hotels starting at 6 a.m. Wednesday. Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

Continued from page 1

"I don't want the spotlight," she said. "I want the focus to be on the workers themselves."

Mei Leung, a housekeeper at Sheraton Boston, has worked at the hotel near the Prudential Center for more than 30 years. She works five days per week, eight hours per day, and cleans 15 rooms each shift.

"For me, I need the retirement. I'm 71 years old. I still have to work. That's no good," Leung said. "An old woman, still working. It's so hard."

She said she hopes the union will succeed in finalizing a new contract so she can lessen her struggle in paying for her husband's high blood pressure medicine.

Morris did not support union workers in their fight for a fair contract for the first time on Wednesday.

In 2012, Morris founded Emerson P.R.I.D.E., a club dedicated to uniting students against sweatshops and labor abuse. She helped organize a contract between Emerson's food service workers and administration from 2014 to 2015.

The food service, or dining hall, workers joined UNITE HERE Local 26 in Fall 2014 after a campaign promoted by Emerson P.R.I.D.E., which eventually helped them win their first union contract in April 2015. According to an update on the union's website, the four-year contract with former food service provider Sodexo locked in hourly wage increases for all workers of 75 cents a year.

As cars repeatedly honked their horns in solidarity while driving past the union workers on strike in Back Bay, another group of strikers in the Theater District marched in front of the Ritz-Carlton—directly across from the Equipment Distribution Center.

Senior Samantha Mangino said she walks by the Ritz-Carlton almost every day on her way to class. She found the images of workers instead of the usual wealthy-looking guests in front of the hotel powerful.

"As a student, this is in my neighborhood. It was powerful to see that not everything is great that's happening in the neighborhood," she said.

Her journalism feature writing class went to the strike at the W, a hotel chain owned by Marriott International, around noon. She said the protest at the property ended when workers moved to join another strike at the Ritz-Carlton.

"Everyone there striking was willing to talk and be open about what they were doing," Mangino said. "This was a part of an overarching theme of workers' rights issues. The common theme was 'one person should only have one job.'"

Boston's Local 26 includes food service workers at Harvard University, Lesley University, Northeastern University, and other colleges within the city.

"Hotels are nothing but bricks, mortar, glass, and chrome if it wasn't for the workers that provide excellent service," Lang said.

When asked about next year's re-negotiations for Emerson's food service workers, Lang referenced similar Local 26 contracts as a standard for the college to look to, including neighboring campuses such as Harvard University, Northeastern University, and Simmons College.

"There's a standard that's been set for food service workers' campuses," he said. "We would hope that the Emerson administration would recognize the standard in the Boston area and encourage their food service contractor to fall in line with those at the other campuses."

Morris reflected on her past success with union contracts amid dozens of hotel workers clutching picket signs and chanting "no contract, no peace," in front of the Sheraton.

She said she plans to return to Emerson's food service workers' aid in 2019 for contract renegotiations.

"It feels good to fight and win," Morris said.

✉ stefania_lugli@emerson.edu

SGA debates new criteria for student scholarship

Diana Bravo, *Beacon Correspondent*

The Student Government Association debated potential criteria for a senior scholarship they hope to award next year.

At its weekly Tuesday meeting, SGA discussed lowering the GPA requirement and awarding the scholarship on a need-basis to make it more accessible for students. SGA previously debated giving the scholarship solely to student leaders at the college. The student activities fee will fund the scholarship in part. SGA plans to establish new criteria by the semester's end to award the scholarship next year, according to Executive Treasurer Ian Mandt.

SGA did not vote to finalize the scholarship during its meeting.

SGA members discussed lowering the GPA requirement from 3.33 to 2.7 and making the scholarship more need-based than merit-based. They also debated whether students should demonstrate leadership at an Emerson-based organization and whether students should apply or be nominated.

"There are barriers that we don't even think of because no one really understands what another person's college process is like," Transfer Student Commissioner Melissa Bordelon said.

The Executive Board said students should not

consider the scholarship as part of the college's efforts to make the college more affordable.

"This should in no way be in lieu of the college looking into more aid," Executive President Jessica Guida said.

The senior scholarship continues a 2008 grant created for student leaders. However, it remained inactive due to ethical concerns surrounding the selection process.

Previously, SGA members participated in the selection process—which potentially allowed bias. Part of the ethical dilemma resided in the fact that students are not allowed to view each other's financial information.

"We want to open [the scholarship] to any form of leadership ... and we want to make sure it goes to people who need it the most," Mandt said.

Over the summer, the Executive Board met with representatives of the Office of Financial Aid, Office of Institutional Advancement, and SGA Advisor Sharon Duffy to discuss funding.

Last year, SGA decided to increase the money available for the scholarship by using the student's activities fee—an \$800 semesterly charge to all undergraduate students.

SGA voted to allocate \$25,000 of leftover money to this scholarship fund last year. They use the money in the scholarship account, called



SGA discussed possible requirements for its student scholarship at joint session. *Stephanie Shih / Beacon Correspondent*

the principal fund, as aid. Rather, SGA awards the interest the scholarship collects.

The principal fund accrues interest at the federally mandated interest rate of 2.25 percent, but the Board of Trustees only allows SGA to take out five percent of the scholarship account bal-

ance to award to students. If \$100,000 exists in the principal fund, \$5,000 can go towards scholarships.

✉ diana_bravo@emerson.edu

Most engagement for emConnect comes from new students

Frances Hui, *Beacon Correspondent*

Statistics show incoming students use emConnect more than any other group at the college, according to the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership.

During the fall 2018 New Student Orientation, SEAL used emConnect to provide incoming students the orientation schedule. Director of SEAL Jason Meier said new students are the most active users on the platform and 71 percent of students logged in to the platform more than four times categorizing them as an engaged user.

Resident Assistants and Fraternity-Sorority Life organizations are the second largest group to use emConnect, according to Assistant Director of SEAL Andrew Donahue. The CampusLabs database also collects other information, like how the event blog page attracts the most visitors of the whole site, and students who log-in to emConnect browse the platform for an average of 12 minutes. The college also used the website for a voter registration drive to increase Emerson's student voter turnout percentage for midterm elections.

SEAL designed emConnect spring 2017 as a social platform to provide students with an outlet for information related to organizations and events on campus, according to Donahue. emConnect provides lists of events, forms, group pages, and announcements. Student leaders can also use it to advertise their organization's events and communicate with students, as well as use the platform to manage their member enrollment and budget.

Gregorio Leon, board member of Artful Comics, said when he mentioned emConnect to people at the organization fair, almost all of them didn't know what it was.



Andrew Donahue said incoming students make up the largest group of emConnect users. *Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff*

"Right now it is just a place to keep our mailing list and submit forms," he said. "That part is really helpful, that we don't have to hand in a physical copy of every form to them."

Even though new students were encouraged during orientation to join at least one organization related to their major and one related to personal interests, Meier said a student at Emerson is involved in 3.5 organizations on average. The definition of being a member of a club is not clearly stated.

Freshman Danielle Fineza is involved in three organizations at the college. She said she

uses emConnect to learn about information regarding organizations and events happening on campus.

"I think emConnect is relatively easy to use and it is helpful to have so much information in one place," Fineza said.

Unlike Emerson, colleges such as Tufts University and Harvard College use their homepage to provide lists of campus organizations. Generally, they are located in separate sections across the site. Students are then encouraged to contact organizations through the email address provided on the list.

Before emConnect launched in August 2017, organizations at the college could only use social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, and the bi-annual organization fair to advertise and connect with members, according to Donahue.

Student leaders now fill out a form on emConnect if they wish to advertise an event on the site. They are required to provide details of the event and answer questions making sure the event complies with school policies. Once completed, SEAL approves the form within one to two hours on weekdays and then places the events on the site, according to Donahue.

Emerson's Advancement Group for Love and Expression Board Member James Manley said emConnect helped the organization spread the word and keep track of people who attended their activities. But he said he wished SEAL would approve events on the site faster.

"I haven't had too much bug with emConnect other than it takes a day or two for the event to get approved," he said.

Donahue said emConnect is a digital continuous version of the organization fair—allowing students to involve themselves with clubs year-round. However, not every organization is in favor of using emConnect.

Donahue said SEAL works with focus groups made up of students from different organizations to make emConnect more accessible to students.

"It is a working process, and I think students have been really receptive to using it," Donahue said. "I think it could be a more effective tool, but I am really content with the progress and how it changes the way students get involved."

✉ wingting_hui@emerson.edu

Incident Journal

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

Tuesday, Sept. 25

A student was stuck inside an elevator in the Paramount Center. The elevator began to function and opened its doors. Facilities Management was notified of the situation.

The Emerson College Police Department and Boston Fire Department investigated a fire alarm at the Equipment Distribution Center. The cause of the alarm was undetermined and no issues were found.

An unarmed perpetrator robbed a community member at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Chinatown Station. The Boston Police department arrested the subject, and the victim remained uninjured.

EDC staff turned over marijuana found inside the center.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

A student was temporarily trapped inside an elevator at the Paramount Center. The elevator was taken out of service until it could be inspected.

A student reported that they were harassed while living off-campus.

Thursday, Sept. 27

Two students were momentarily trapped inside an elevator in Ansin Building. They were unharmed, and Facilities Management investigated.

Friday, Sept. 28

A student was assaulted while off campus, and no injuries were reported.

An EDC staff member reported seeing an unknown person smoking drugs. The suspect fled the scene before ECPD's arrival. Investigating officers found a small plastic bag with what

appeared to have crack cocaine inside. The drugs were taken as evidence to be destroyed.

A staff member reported the theft of personal property taken from their desk on the ninth floor of Ansin Building.

ECPD investigated a report that a student worker had abandoned their post on the second floor of Piano Row residence hall, leaving a door unsecured.

Saturday, Sept. 29

ECPD and Facilities Management responded to several students stuck inside an elevator in the Paramount Center. The students were freed and uninjured. The elevator was taken out of service until repairs could be made.

editorial

Not just speaking out, but showing up

At issue: Organizing a rapid response to overwhelming events.

Our take: Let's maintain this momentum.

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

Last Thursday, the nation watched as Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and Supreme Court Nominee Brett Kavanaugh testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Viewing the hearing was almost inevitable as classrooms, offices, and restaurants across the nation tuned into various news outlets. Accusing Judge Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her at a party in 1982, Ford served as a beacon of courage and perseverance for survivors of sexual assault. Many of these survivors described past Thursday's events as triggering, due to Judge Kavanaugh's unstable temperament and the likelihood of his appointment to the Supreme Court.

After the intense events of Thursday, two students decided to organize a protest addressing Senator Jeff Flake's appearance at Forbes Under 30 Summit, which was originally scheduled at Colonial Theatre. The Facebook event quickly gained a lot of attention and the college canceled the event due to safety concerns. But that didn't stop the

organizers who moved the protest to the new location of Flake's appearance at City Hall Plaza. What started as an Emerson-based protest grew into

Those involved deserve recognition for their capabilities to organize such a peaceful, operative demonstration.

something much larger and attracted hundreds of protestors and prominent public figures to speak.

We are proud. Proud of every Emerson student and survivor involved in such an important, emotionally draining act of advocacy, and every individual who joined the protest to

demand justice. At the Beacon, we find there's an obvious right and wrong in the matter, and we wholeheartedly support those willing to exhibit the strength and take the sacrifice to stand at the forefront of chaos.

Those involved deserve recognition for their capabilities to organize such a peaceful, operative demonstration. Almost instantaneously as the news of Flake's appearance reached public attention, students like Erin Swauger and Annie Noel took no time to instigate action. We are all part of the resistance, and it takes people as bold as these Emerson students to enact any real change.

Now, we hope that these voices behind Monday's protest will translate into votes. Those silenced in the past finally hold the power to affect the legislation that cemented this cycle of misogyny and injustice. They must take advantage of this opportunity.

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.

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Website
berkeleybeacon.com

Phone
(617) 824-8687

Email
contact@berkeleybeacon.com

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

Twitter
[@BeaconUpdate](https://twitter.com/BeaconUpdate)

Editor-in-Chief
Shafaq Patel

Copy Managing Editor
Kyle Labe

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Monika Davis

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Douglas Struck

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Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board
illustration by Ally Rzesza

It seems only fair that Griff should get a statue and a holiday too.



opinion

Students detail financial journey to Emerson

Last month, the Beacon profiled a student planning to join the military after graduation to help pay off college debt. This story made us curious about the efforts other students make for financial assistance. So we reached out on social media and by email to ask students: “The cost of attending Emerson is high and the rate of tuition increase is higher than other institutions, as the Beacon reported in 2016. What are you doing currently or what did you have to do to make Emerson a reality for you? What improvements do you want to see the school make in terms of financial aid?”



I told myself that I would go to Emerson by applying for scholarships day and night.
Photo illustration by Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff

Abbey Finn

Finn is a freshman journalism major & Beacon correspondent.

Even before high school, I knew I wanted to attend a college outside North Carolina. Nevertheless, I was aware that, along with the adventure that studying in a new place bears, my dream would come with an intimidating price tag.

Yet Emerson made this dream entirely plausible by not charging out-of-state tuition and by offering me a scholarship that makes payments monumentally easier. By receiving the Trustee Scholarship—which accompanied my admission to the Honors Program—I was able to fulfill my dream. Without this scholarship, I may not have been able to attend Emerson at all.

For this reason, I feel fortunate that in high school I found the motivation to endure the sleepless nights of writing and rewriting essays, and the countless hours of studying that it took to ace AP classes. Now, because of that, I get to pursue an education at a school that I could have only dreamed of before. I just wish that this opportunity was available for more students because scholarships like mine can be a huge helping hand.

✉ abbey_finn@emerson.edu

Frances Hui

Hui is a junior journalism major & Beacon correspondent.

I transferred to Emerson from Shoreline Community College in Seattle as a junior. I didn't apply for housing because the cost for a double room intimidated me. Instead, I searched online for any homestay families that would cost similar to what I paid in Seattle. Eventually, I settled down with a family in Medford, where my commute is about 45 minutes. I bring my own lunch, sometimes dinner, with me to school since I don't have a meal plan and don't want to spend money eating out.

As an international student, I am not eligible for need-based financial aid from Emerson or the federal government. The few merit-based scholarships that are available are usually granted to freshmen before the college releases the transfer admission results. Many believe that international students are wealthy, but in reality, some of us come to the U.S. to look for a better education and political environment. At least that's what I'm doing. Overall, I wish that Emerson could open more scholarships and fundings for international students so everyone can receive the same opportunity to seek financial help.

✉ wingting_hui@emerson.edu

Diti Kohli

Kohli is a freshman journalism major & the Beacon's assistant opinion editor.

Although I am grateful that I could have attended Emerson without any loans or merit-based aid, my scholarship was a determining factor when I was deciding between Emerson and other schools last spring. I received my scholarship because of high school grades, AP test scores, and application essays. But, if Emerson hadn't offered me that money, I'm not sure I would have chosen to be here and been able to write for this paper today.

Now, I'm pressured to maintain my scholarship by keeping my GPA above the required minimum of 3.0, while also participating in extracurricular activities and juggling a social life. The possibility of losing a significant amount of money keeps the stakes high.

The reality is that the cost of tuition remains extraordinarily high, even with my scholarship. I'm currently researching summer courses that could fulfill more than one liberal arts requirement so that I could graduate in three years. Thankfully, my parents are supportive of my education both financially and morally, but I want to save them as much money as possible.

Overall, I believe the college needs to focus on reducing superfluous expenses to slow down tuition increase. The money that is saved from reductions should, in my opinion, go towards more efforts like the new Normal Lear scholarships that supports students from lower-income households.

✉ diti_kohli@emerson.edu

Eloisa de Farias

De Farias is a freshman journalism major & Beacon correspondent.

In high school, I posted a picture of Emerson on my wall to mark its place in my goals. Emerson was my dream, my goal, and my plan. However, becoming a Lion came with quite the cost: approximately \$46,016 a year, excluding room and board. My family, of five people, has an annual income of around \$28,000. Being from Hawaii, having dual citizenship with Brazil, and not being able to afford school tuition are all disadvantages stacked against me. But, I refuse to let those numbers define who I am.

I am driven by the desire to have my voice heard. I told myself that I would go to Emerson by applying for scholarships day and night. As a result, I racked up \$9,600 worth of outside scholarships and donations.

Although I am grateful to accomplish my dream to attend Emerson, not everyone gets this opportunity. Lowering the cost of room and board would help. I took out a loan for the sole purpose of not being able to afford living costs. There should be an increase in merit scholarships, as there are various creative and intelligent individuals that need financial assistance to accomplish their dreams as well. An effort by Emerson to cater to these people would not only be beneficial to these students, but also to the world that awaits their voices.

✉ eloisa_defarias@emerson.edu

The opinion section sends out prompts periodically. If you are interested in responding to a prompt, keep an eye on Beacon social media to see when we post.

Also, if you have a pitch for an opinion article you can send it to the opinion editor, Hannah Ebanks, at hannah_ebanks@emerson.edu.

Abandoning my name for cultural conformity

Xinyan Fu

Fu is a freshman journalism major & an international student columnist.

When in a Western country, I always introduce myself as “Eliza.” Very rarely do I tell people my Chinese name, “Xinyan.” I find that most Asian youth share this habit. Adopting an English name is a widespread phenomenon in Asia, especially with individuals going abroad to work or to study. This is partly because people—including Asians—believe Asian names are hard to pronounce.

Choosing a Western name can be challenging and daunting, especially for individuals unfamiliar with English. Because of this lack of comprehension between people and language that's lost in translation, most Asians will just randomly select common names like Tom, Bob, Amy, or Mary. Others, especially young people dissatisfied with such ordinariness, opt to select a unique name for which they look to movies and television shows. Others even make up their names with random words—I've met a Cherry, a Seven, an Eleven, a Wordless, a Pony, and even a God.

I always joke about those random word names. However, I never really doubt the necessity of picking up an English name. I started to consider the necessity for Asians to adopt English names after I watched a video made by a group of Chinese students at Columbia University. It educated people on the meaning of their Chinese names and called for everybody to respect their names. Chinese students made this video because Columbia students found the name tags with Chinese

names ripped off every dorm, even though those with English first names and Chinese surnames were preserved nicely. I was just as enraged as the video creators, not only because ripping off non-Western names is rude, but because in China, our names mean a lot to us.

Usually, in China, names for newborns are chosen by elders of the family to represent the beautiful wishes and expectations they have for the child. My name, Xinyan, means “the beautiful scenes of the rising sun.” My mom said she picked this name because she wants me to be as energetic as the sunrise, and also because the character “Xin” is from one of her favorite high school teachers. I bear my name as a gift from my parents, because it conveys the love and hope they have for me. Traditionally, Chinese people deem names as a symbol of family roots. It is common for one generation in the family to have similar names, which in Chinese is called zibe or banci. Normally people in the same generation share the same character of their names. For example, the zibe for my mother is Ying, so my aunts' names are Hongying and Liying, while my mother's name is Wuying. Zibe is an ancient tradition which first occurred thousands of years ago. It aims at conveying the hope for the whole generation and reminding people of their roots since the names always rhyme.

Therefore, even though I enjoy my English name, I've always felt that it is just an identification code no different than my student ID number. I choose “Eliza” from my favorite character in my favorite book, “Pride And Prejudice.” It wasn't my first English name. Just like people buy new clothes to replace old ones,



Even though I enjoy my English name, I've always felt that it is just an identification code no different than my student ID number. • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

I'd change my English name over and over after I grew sick of it. The same goes for my friends. We change our names whenever we want, whether it's because it sounds less cool than it did before, or because we are no longer intrigued by the movie from which we chose our name. Such rapid changes wouldn't really affect our lives because in China the English names are only used at school.

Since elementary school, my English teachers in China always told us that everyone should adopt an English name, and that, in class, people should only call one another by these names. This followed me to high school, where my AP World History teacher—a middle-aged, American man—commented on each of our names as we introduced ourselves. I still remember how he said that my name, “Aurora,” was “sort of odd”

and something he has “never heard.” That night, I changed my name for the fourth time.

There is nothing wrong with adopting an English name; however, people should have a higher acceptance of non-Western names. It is nice for people to ask and to try to remember my Chinese name because, for me, it is the real representation of myself. International students should teach others how to pronounce their names, and domestic students should try to remember the pronunciation. Students should work harder to learn and respect others' names, because names are not only the representation of people, they are also the illustration of people's culture and roots.

✉ xinyan_fu@emerson.edu

Students lead protest again

Students oppose Kavanaugh in solidarity with survivors

Chris Van Buskirk, Stefania Lugli

Three Emerson students clutched onto a banner that read “#StopKavanaugh” in front of a rally of hundreds at City Hall Plaza Monday morning. Just days before, senior Erin Swauger and sophomore Annie Noel, and sophomore Mari Sitner organized the rally in opposition of Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court.

The students co-organized the rally to stand with sexual assault survivors and encourage Senator Jeff Flake to change his decision on Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination. Speakers included Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston City Councillor At-Large Ayanna Pressley, and New York state congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, among others.

The student organizers closed the protest with individual speeches. In her speech, Swauger said how proud she felt that her small student-led protest at Emerson grew into a powerful crowd. Noel spoke last with clear emotion, choking up as she detailed her personal experience with sexual assault.

“When I was growing up, I was told to watch what I wore, to watch what I did,” Noel said. “All three of my assailants were people I know, were

people I grew up with, people I trusted.”

The rally took place steps away from the Forbes Under 30 Summit where Flake held a public discussion about the Kavanaugh hearings. NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, and the American Civil Liberties Union contributed to Swauger, Noel, and Sitner’s planning of the rally.

“The Under 30 Summit is a vibrant marketplace of ideas and discussion, and we respect Sen. Flake — and speakers from all points of view — whose decisions have far-reaching impact for society,” Senior Vice President of Communication for Forbes Media Matthew Hutchison said in the statement to the Beacon.

Flake was originally scheduled to speak at the Colonial Theatre at an event entitled “Future of the Republican Party.” President M. Lee Pelton canceled the panel citing safety concerns after Swauger, Noel, and Sitner’s rally gained about 1,000 interested people on Facebook Friday night.

Student organizers confirmed the protest moved to City Hall Plaza by Saturday afternoon. The move allowed for a larger crowd and spurred a media flurry as politicians volunteered as speakers. Swauger said the protest turnout exceeded her expectations.

“I’m completely overwhelmed in the best way,” she said in an interview during the protest. “I never thought that starting something in my bed on a Friday could turn out like this.”

Pelton said in a phone interview after the protest that he was proud of the level of civic engagement of Emerson students showed despite the abrupt schedule changes. He also said he recognizes the impact Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination

Sophomore Samantha Woolf sat on the plaza floor, recording video of speakers for the class.

“It’s incredibly amazing for me to be this close to such monumental government leaders and survivors,” she said. “It’s extremely exciting for me as a journalist to be this close to such breaking and important news.”

Noel, one of the Emerson co-organizers, said in an interview that her experience as the deputy field director for Suffolk County Democratic Nominee for District Attorney Rachael Rollins’s election campaign taught her that women and people of color can make a difference in politics.

“We can act. We can knock on doors and be heard,” she said. “We are going to emphasize that this is about students—students are taking this action. We are not going to let anyone or anything silence us.”

Pressley said in an interview with the Beacon that Emerson students are often amongst some of the first to mobilize.

“I said to the Emerson students today, [Noel] specifically, that I do not consider any of them leaders of tomorrow,” Pressley said. “They are the leaders of now.”

✉ c_vanbuskirk@emerson.edu

✉ stefania_lugli@emerson.edu

“We are not going to let anyone or anything silence us.”

tion left on women.

“These women have suffered in silence for many, many years,” Pelton said. “I’m very pleased that our students have given their voice to this important issue.”

Cheryl Jackson, professor of Advanced Audio-Video Journalism, invited her class to the plaza as an opportunity for students to practice breaking-news reporting at the local level.



(Left) Candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez addressed the crowd at City Hall Plaza on Monday. Sophomore Annie Noel spoke about her experience with sexual assault during her speech.



Photos by Anissa Garzidy / Beacon Staff

National organizations join students in protest

Continued from page 1

From there, they became co-organizers.

“I just thought I was going to roll up to the street after class and be like ‘Boo, Jeff Flake!’” Noel said in an interview on the day of the protest. “I felt energized and confident in taking this on. That student activism, young activism, can make a difference.”

After starting the event page, Swauger and Noel reached out to close friends and other Emerson students with possible interest.

Although the location of Flake’s appearance moved from the Emerson campus to City Hall Plaza on Sept. 29, Swauger’s event page garnered more than 1,000 interested supporters by Friday night.

“I’m just so happy that so many people want to be politically involved, and that so many people care about trying to stop Kavanaugh’s confirmation,” Swauger said in an interview a day before the protest. “But at the same time, it’s just completely overwhelming, in the best of ways.”

Shortly after, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts reached out to Swauger and brought on Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union to promote the event and help with permits.

Sophomore Mari Sitner said she saw the news of Flake’s appearance pop up on a Facebook page called “Emerson Shitposting” on Fri-

day. As a member of the Boston Socialist Alternative familiar with NARAL’s work, Sitner said she took it upon herself to reach out to NARAL and Swauger.

“I just want to emphasize the fact that this movement isn’t untouchable,” Sitner said in an interview on the day before the protest. “It isn’t for rich people that live in Silicon Valley and went to Yale and know people who are going to be Supreme Court justices. It’s for every woman and everyone who has ever been sexually harassed or abused.”

In the United States, according to the National Sexual Violence Research Center, one in three women and one in six men experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime. Nearly two-thirds of college students experience sexual harassment. More than 90 percent of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault.

“I am a survivor—I talk about that in my speech,” Noel said in an interview minutes before the protest took place. “I just think that what was going on in those hearings was absolute bullshit.”

On the day of the protest, the Facebook page showed 3,900 people as “interested” and 961 people as “going.”

“This has been possible because we spoke up, not just myself and Annie forming this Facebook event at Emerson, but because of all of the

survivors around the world, every speaker here today, and Dr. Ford,” Swauger said in her speech at the protest. “I am honored to be a part of this movement. I am honored to fight for survivors everywhere.”

While speaking at the event, NARAL Executive Director Rebecca Hart Holder reminded everyone in attendance the students still held the spotlight.

“I just want to take a moment to thank students from Emerson College who helped launch this,” Hart Holder said. “You’re gonna hear from elected officials, you’re gonna hear from survivors today, you’re gonna hear from nonprofit organizations, but it is the students that lit the fire.”

Sitner said she felt the organizations actually pushed aside her and her peers’ student voices.

In an interview on the day before the protest, Sitner said the professional organizers like Planned Parenthood and NARAL sent emails to her, Swauger, and Noel with updates they didn’t know anything about.

Swauger said they found out the time and location of the protest changed from the Facebook event page she made.

“I think there’s the danger of it becoming about them as opposed to about the students and the protesters and just the ordinary everyday people who come out,” Sitner said. “And I think that on the organization side it has kind of fallen into that trap a little bit.”

Noel said she didn’t feel in control of the event either.

“We had been reaching out to them saying that we didn’t feel like this was our event anymore,” Noel said. “But we will take the opportunity we are given and make the most of it.”

NARAL organized the majority of the speaker list and gave Swauger, Sitner, and Noel two to three minutes each to speak at the end of the event. NARAL gave other speakers like Sen. Edward Markey and Mayor Martin J. Walsh five to seven minutes.

Organizers also added speakers to the list just minutes before the speaker portion began, according to Swauger.

“I do understand that we want these large speakers to draw a crowd and give more attention to the topic,” Swauger said. “I do wish the students especially had more of a voice though,” Swauger said.

Swauger’s mother, Laura Swauger, and brother took off work and drove down from New Hampshire to witness the spectacle. Laura Swauger said she brought up her daughter to be politically active like her.

“It’s turned into so much more than just heckling someone on the street,” Erin Swauger said. “It’s turned into an actual movement.”

✉ maya_gacina@emerson.edu

Protest Against Kavanaugh



A sign at the protest read “We don’t need another predator in chief,” and another read, “Protect, safe, legal abortion.” • Photo by Monika Davis / Beacon Staff

Pressley praises student activism

Stefania Lugli, *Beacon Staff*

Boston City Councilor At-Large Ayanna Pressley praised Emerson students’ activism and organization of the protest against Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court.

Pressley recently ousted 20-year incumbent Congressman Michael Capuano for the seat in Massachusetts’ seventh congressional district, where Emerson resides. She gained political celebrity status after she became the first black woman to represent Massachusetts in Congress.

“Emerson students are often amongst some of the first to initiate, to mobilize, to show up,” Pressley said in an interview with the Beacon. “This is just one more step in the legacy of activism and socially-conscious leaders that Emerson is producing.”

Pressley, an honorary member of Emerson’s professional service sorority Kappa Gamma Chi since spring 2013, said Emerson students’ organization of the rally did not surprise her. She said the college maintains a long history of

activism.

“Young people have been at the fore of every social movement in this country,” Pressley said. “It is very important that youth step up, but this is not a new phenomenon.”

Senior Erin Swauger and sophomores Annie Noel and Mari Sitner organized the protest after they noticed the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit scheduled Republican Sen. Jeff Flake to speak at Emerson’s Colonial Theatre on Sept. 28. Flake voted yes to approve Kavanaugh during a Senate Judiciary Hearing on Sept. 27. He also called for an FBI investigation into the sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh.

Pressley said the motivation for the rally did not depend on Flake.

“It was for survivors,” she said. “It was to reaffirm the humanity of, and lift up the dignity, the healing, and the fight for justice for all survivors.”

✉ stefania_lugli@emerson.edu



Candidate Ayanna Pressley encouraged the crowd to resist on Monday at City Hall Plaza. Photo by Cullen Grenzen / Beacon Staff



Sen. Jeff Flake spoke at the Forbes Under 30 Summit at City Hall Plaza on Monday. Photo by Cullen Grenzen / Beacon Staff

Sen. Flake panel draws crowd

Stephanie Purifoy, *Beacon Staff*

Senator Jeff Flake spoke to about 300 people at the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit while 20 attendees silently protested in City Hall Plaza Monday.

Flake was originally slated to speak on a panel with Governor of Ohio John Kasich at Emerson’s Colonial Theatre at 11:30 a.m. However, due to security, concerns, Flake’s panel was rescheduled to 1:45 p.m. in the Under 30 Village at City Hall Plaza, following former Secretary of State John Kerry. Emerson students co-organized a protest outside the Forbes Under 30 Village in City Hall Plaza from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Flake’s conversation with the moderator ranged from his new book, “Conscience of a Conservative”, to his thoughts on running for President in 2020. However, most of the questions focused on the hearings of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump’s Supreme Court Nominee.

Flake said Kavanaugh made an impassioned and raw defense against the accusations of sexual assault from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

“If I had been unjustly accused, that’s how I probably would’ve responded as well,” Flake said. “I felt still a lot of doubt after the hearings and that’s why I thought it was important to find more information through an investigation.”

Flake’s affirmative vote on Sept. 28 helped take Kavanaugh’s nomination out of committee. That same day, Flake was confronted by two women about his support for the nominee. Video of this encounter went viral, and after the vote, Flake demanded an FBI investigation which has since begun. An image of the confrontation was shown during Flake’s discussion.

“I’ve gotten calls and emails and texts from women telling me of their experiences, and I know many of my colleagues have received them as well,” he said during the talk. “Dr. Ford emboldened a lot of women to come forward.”

Around 20 people attending the summit silently stood with signs that expressed support for Ford and other survivors of sexual assault. Morgan Payne, a senior at Texas Southern University, heard someone talking about the spontaneous protest before Flake’s discussion and asked to join in.

“I don’t know if [the protests] had an impact on [Flake]. He will believe what he wants to believe,” Payne said in an interview. “However, it always makes a difference and it’s important that we continue to stand, continue to fight, and continue to put pressure on him.”

✉ stephanie_purifoy@emerson.edu

living arts

Review: Hamnet rises to greatness on Paramount stage

Ally Rzesza, *Beacon Staff*

I went into *Hamnet* expecting a straightforward, one-man play about Shakespeare's son. I figured it'd play around with Shakespeare's family life or twist the meaning of Hamlet quotes similar to my senior year literature class. But the play shattered my expectations.

ArtsEmerson's latest show follows *Hamnet*, a boy searching for his father, William Shakespeare—a man never involved in his son's life due to his success. *Hamnet* aspires to become great like his dad, though he doesn't know how to become "great" or what greatness even looks like.

Throughout the play, the character of Shakespeare appears to disrupt *Hamnet's*, his own, and the audience's perception of reality. Although

the play grapples with dark themes, including elements from multiple time periods and brief nudity, I found myself laughing and cheering at the incredible experience *Hamnet* provides.

I highly recommend reading ArtsEmerson's blog post on *Hamnet's* history before seeing the show and brushing up on famous *Hamnet* lines. Although the dialogue reveals *Hamnet's* historical context, such as his young death, it isn't provided until the later half of the production. The playwright strategically composed *Hamnet* and while missing out on them won't diminish the experience, it's a waste of some impressive writing.

Hamnet begins as soon as the audience sees the set, which features a large screen that films a squared-off portion of the stage and the audience. I grew accustomed to the audience's reflec-

tion until they eerily combined it with computer imagery. The screen acts as a magnifying glass as *Hamnet*—played by and written for actor Ollie West—acts like an existential 11-year-old trapped in a box.

Dead Centre, *Hamnet's* production company, advertises *Hamnet* as a one-man production. Nonetheless, they project an unnamed, previously-filmed actor playing Shakespeare onto the screen, who appears as *Hamnet's* "stage partner" for the majority of the show. Instead of a distraction, the screen effects felt woven into the text. *Hamnet* stood next to the camera appearing large when dressing like Hamlet, a character he perceived as great, and stood away from the camera appearing small when he felt confused.

The projection of Shakespeare felt unearthly but never forced—even when he dances and sings to Johnny Cash's "A Boy Named Sue." The timing of effects felt natural and smart, and I gasped several times as objects came to life seemingly on their own—the projection kicks a ball that moves in real life, and a light flash pierces the screen's footage.

Bush Moukarzel, one of Dead Centre's creators, wrote *Hamnet* for West to perform after he could not cast him in a different show, and one can easily see why. West's eyes follow the trail of Shakespeare on stage so realistically I often found myself glancing down, expecting someone to appear in front of me when I tore my eyes from the screen. I can't imagine retaining object permanence of a moving human for one hour, but he does it effortlessly.

Shakespeare's actor, unnamed by Dead Cen-

tre, complemented West well, highlighting the historical figure in a usual and authentic light. The actor portrayed Shakespeare's transition from audience member to grief-stricken father spellbindingly.

The playwright infuses Shakespeare's lines brilliantly without seeming stereotypical. *Hamnet* questions and reiterates Hamlet's "words words words," trying to become the tragic character. A randomly chosen audience member even wears a bed-sheet ghost costume and recites the lines of *Ghost*,

Hamlet's father, onstage. Although the moment was hilarious—the audience member messed up several lines—it served as a brilliant foreshadow to Shakespeare's later emergence from the audience.

One must see *Hamnet* more than once to grasp everything, but I have few complaints. Shakespeare's nudity may prevent some from seeing the show—it's brief and full-on, but nevertheless unnecessary. My only complaint with the computer graphics was an extremely fake and off-putting depiction of vomit.

Regardless, the play ensures we will not forget *Hamnet*. He shows nothing can result in greatness, but nothing has a price to pay. The production stars Aran Murphy as *Hamnet* for the rest of its Boston run at the Paramount Theatre and runs until Oct. 7. Emerson students, staff, and faculty can receive one free rush-ticket two hours before each performance at the box office.

"Regardless, the play ensures we will not forget Hamnet. He shows nothing can result in greatness, but nothing has a price to pay."



Ollie West stars in *Hamnet*, playing at the Paramount Theatre through Oct. 7. Courtesy of Gianmarco Bresadola

✉ ally_rzesza@emerson.edu

Plants get new chance with alumnus app DRYP

Cassandra Coyer, *Beacon Staff*

When Ben Kling '13 left his first job in New York, he carried out an office plant with a box of his things. Five years later, he filled his apartment with between 50 to 70 plants, everywhere from the kitchen to his bathroom.

With so many plants, Kling said he wanted to create a tool to help people care for their plants.

Kling said he started working on his idea last May—designing, marketing, and promoting his app, DRYP, across social media platforms to raise money for its blossoming. Users enter information about their plants into DRYP, which uses notifications to remind users to water their plants. It also incorporates a diagnostic tool to explain what's wrong with a plant and how to fix it and includes basic lessons on light, soil, watering, and potting.

Kling said he set a budget for his fundraising campaign on Kickstarter at \$35,000, which he believed was the minimum required to release the app for iOS without investors.

The campaign reached its goal last Saturday after 2,000 backers donated over \$38,000, making it the eighth most backed app of all time on Kickstarter.

"I wouldn't have started if I didn't think that it would make the amount," Kling said. "It's a very obvious idea in a lot of ways. People keep asking me, 'Isn't this already a thing?' It's not."

According to the Kickstarter campaign, DRYP "will help aspiring plant parents break their murderous cycle — and it'll make life easier for experts who have a whole jungle to care for." It describes DRYP as a "personal plant as-

sistant."

Kling collaborates with a close friend, who asked to remain unnamed, to assist in development.

"I did a couple of early designs to get my developer convinced to work on it with me," Kling said. "Once he said yes, and I knew I could actually make it, I spent the entire summer redesigning it and making marketing materials like ads—Instagram ads, Facebook ads, and animated stuff"

In October, his developer will start working on the first version of the app. Kling said he plans to contact investors to perfect the app for the market.

"We'll probably have the means to launch in December, but it doesn't really make sense to launch a plant app in the dead of winter," Kling said. "So, we'll probably get a version now and test it, and perfect it, and do a more significant launch in the spring."

Kling said if investors get involved, he hopes to affiliate marketing by adding the option to purchase plants or accessories through the app. He said he also wishes to incorporate animated lessons for people lacking a green thumb.

In the meantime, Kling is always busy recording music; doing animation and illustration freelance; writing for ClickHole, a comedy website; and even building furniture in the workshop in the basement of his apartment in Brooklyn.

"I try to vary the things that I do, to keep things interesting. So this is one of a bunch of things but it's going to be the main focus for a while," Kling said.

Kling said he plans to sell DRYP for 99 cents

on the App Store to cover service costs.

"I don't want to make a cluttered ad-filled version of the app, and I don't want to do a free version of the app that doesn't work as well," Kling said.

Senior Abbrianna MacGregor said she purchased bamboo and sunflowers for her Boston apartment to attract colors and liveliness. She said she realized caring for plants can be tricky, especially as a busy student.

"I'm just putting water in [plants] blindly and giving them sunlight and hoping that's all they need, because I don't really know the differences between the plants," MacGregor said.

MacGregor said she often forgets to water her plants and would definitely consider paying 99 cents for an app that provided guidance and daily reminders.

"I think it would be good to have the noti-

fications and feel like the money I paid for the plants isn't going to waste, and that I'm taking good care of them," MacGregor said. "My bamboo hasn't been watered in months, so I think I need this app now. I just want my bamboo to thrive."

In the following month, Kling said he plans to send merchandise to those who pledged to the Kickstarter, with reward varying on the amount donated.

"I would like to keep working on [the app]," Kling said. "There is enough interest, I can tell, so if we can figure out a way for it to be profitable then I would love for it to be a decent-sized company."

✉ cassandre_coyer@emerson.edu



Ben Kling '13 crowdfunded his personal plant assistant app, DRYP. Courtesy of Ben Kling

Local bands burn bright at Fire House venue

Lilly Milman, *Beacon Staff*

Senior Michael Papetti's back tattoo depicts a small burning house—an ode to "Fire House," the music venue he created in his living room. Last year, he began hosting shows from it. He passed the responsibility to junior Jacob Nakshian when he moved out.

Located in Allston, Fire House hosts "do-it-yourself" shows where students from local institutions like Northeastern University and Boston University gather in Nakshian's living room to watch concerts. Shows take place on the first floor of a multi-story house, in a room estimated at half the size of Emerson's multipurpose room, where Nakshian lives with roommates. Events typically feature anywhere from three to six bands a night, according to Papetti.

Nakshian said the house's biggest show yet, dubbed "Fire House: The Next Generation," happened a week after he moved in this year. An estimated 200-250 people attended the show, which brought the space to capacity, Nakshian said.

Junior Claire Foley, a member of the band Ultra Chappelle, performed that night as a solo act. Foley said they enjoyed interacting with the crowd.

"I would say the energy of the room was definitely very engaged," Foley said. "Everyone who was there definitely seemed to be having a good time. I messed around with my keyboard a lot, and I had the audience select a beat for me and stuff."

Foley said a week after their Fire House performance, BU students they met at the show featured their music on a radio show.

Junior Lily Bump attends shows at Fire House regularly, including the Next Generation show. She said she primarily finds out about shows through her friends and word-of-mouth. Bump said she feels safe and comfortable at house shows, even crowded ones.

"It's cool to see people that you recognize doing something that they're passionate about and performing," Bump said. "I like that atmosphere. Even when you don't know someone, you know of them. That's cool because sometimes I can be awkward at parties, but at house shows, it just feels familiar, safe, and cozy."

Past lineups included Emerson students such as singer-songwriter Foley and Nakshian's band, Healing Cow, and other local Boston acts like Fish House.

Papetti said his inspiration to turn his home into a DIY venue came from Berklee College of Music students last fall. He does not play in

a band, but he said he is passionate about live music.

"I moved in, and we started hearing people upstairs playing saxophone and playing trumpet," he said. "They were all these Berklee kids that wanted to make music. My roommate and I got the idea that we should throw shows here and invite them down."

Papetti said he hosted his first show in October 2017 when friends of his, Connecticut-based band Bonsai Trees, offered to loan him a sound system in exchange for a space to play.

"It went really well," Papetti said. "We decided that we'd get to know the scene a little bit more and throw some stuff towards January. The next semester we really started kicking into gear."

During Papetti's final semester living in the house, he said he threw shows every two to three weeks for a period of time and did not get a single noise complaint.

Nakshian said he moved into Fire House at the beginning of September 2018, where, during his first night living there, he hosted a comedy show during his first night living there.

Nakshian said he first learned about Fire House after meeting Papetti at a Healing Cow show.

"I met Mike at this place, the Teachers' Lounge, at a show in March that Healing Cow played. Afterwards, he just started booking me on bills, and we started playing there a lot," Nakshian said. "We played like four shows or something in the span of two months."

Although Papetti no longer lives in the house, he said he still helps Nakshian host. Responsibilities range from manning the door, to working the sound system during performances ensuring everyone in the crowd feels safe. Otherwise, Nakshian only books bands and invites friends to transform his home into a venue. While Fire House requires no fee, according to Nakshian, they suggest making a donation at the door.

Fire House stands as one of a handful of successful house venues in Boston still operating, according to Papetti, who said, "There are more bands than ever, but not a lot of spaces anymore."

Nakshian agreed, referencing the challenge of finding a place to practice as a part of Healing Cow.

"It's hard to find a place to play drums. Where do you keep a drum set in Boston and how do you get a drum set around?" Nakshian said. "When we wanted to play freshman year, we would have to lug all of our equipment from Paramount every single time and lug it back—which isn't that bad obviously, but you have to



Junior Jacob Nakshian playing guitar at his venue, Fire House.

Courtesy of Logan Wilder

want to do it."

However, Nakshian also said he believes Emerson's music scene has the potential to grow.

"If you want to make this [scene] grow more at Emerson, you need to get more people that know what they're doing—and people to train the people after them, like Mike trained me," Nakshian said.

Papetti said attendees of the year's first show did not cause problems for hosts or performers.

"The people are respectful," Papetti said. "It's not a rowdy crowd. They're not gonna mess your house up."

Nakshian said he is taking time to reorganize Fire House and form a plan to better accommodate large crowds, which he said will likely include capping admission earlier in the night and having a bigger team of people.

"Hosting was totally different. For most of the night, people were coming in so quickly that it was a lot," Nakshian said. "But at the end of

the night, knowing that you put on something that so many people wanted to see was a really cool feeling."

Papetti said for students like himself, joining the music scene allows one to meet new people and pursue one's passion.

"I get to dance in my living room, you know?" Papetti said. "It's awesome. I've met some of the greatest people in Boston because I hosted. I got to meet Jacob through the scene. I have so many wonderful people that are around me that care about it, and that's really the highlight for me. There's this amazing community that's just behind the curtain that you don't really get to think about until you're deep within it."

✉ lilly_milman@emerson.edu

Pretty Girl Rock: The ethics behind your favorite makeup



Caroline Broderick
Broderick is a senior journalism major, living arts editor, and the Beacon's beauty columnist.

In June, Katherine von Drachenberg, known widely as Kat Von D—tattoo artist and CEO of Kat Von D Beauty—announced on Instagram that she would not vaccinate her soon-to-be-born son.

"My own Father flipped out on me when I told him we decided to ditch our doctor and go with a midwife instead," she wrote in the caption. "If you don't know what it's like have people around you think you are ridiculous, try being openly vegan."

The internet responded with fierce criticism—many protested the brand, and certain beauty influencers publicly denounced Kat Von D Beauty.

For example, last month, YouTuber Chloe Morello tweeted to her 145,000 Twitter followers and 2.6 million YouTube subscribers, "I would like to make it known that I denounce anyone that doesn't vaccinate their children."

Later, she commented on a Kat Von D Beauty Instagram post, "does polio come as a gift of purchase."

Other commenters on Von D's post responded just as negatively. "I've thought about this for a while but I've finally decided I can no longer support the brand of someone who would endanger the lives of others just because they haven't done ACTUAL research," Instagram user @missesbun said.

When it comes to makeup, nobody looks for an ethical dilemma. When the consumer questions their purchases and researches the actions of a brand, they should support a business whose ethics mirror their own. We must merge our ethics with our purchases and use our money to fund better businesses and people.

Aside from Von D's personal choices, her brand recently released a questionable bundle of liquid lipsticks from their "Fetish" collection, including "Underage Red," "Lolita," and "Ophelia." Not only does the bundle validate the fetishization of young girls, but it actively shapes it as appealing. Each item a company produces acts as an extension of their brand—it should mark what they represent.

We each operate as one consumer, but together we can spur changes. It may feel like a simple tweet or comment, but when we put action behind those words and make the decision to no longer support certain brands, actual change can and will follow.

In August, Twitter user @saiesai searched

YouTube Laura Lee's old tweets and discovered racist comments from 2012, such as, "tip for all black people, if you pull ur pants up you can run from the police faster #yourwelcome."

Since the controversy, Lee's subscriber count dropped by 600,000, bringing it down to 4.4 million. Both Ulta Beauty and Morphe Cosmetics stores removed her beauty brand, Laura Lee Los Angeles, and Lee's apology video ranked in the top 50 most disliked videos on YouTube prior to its removal.

As referenced in the @saiesai tweet, videos resurfaced of Jeffree Star, owner and CEO of Jeffree Star Cosmetics, using racial slurs and allegedly referring to a black makeup artist as a "gorilla." Several other questionable videos of Star show him screaming at fans and threatening to lighten someone's skin with acid in a sketch.

Currently, Star has 10 million subscribers on YouTube. Although he received backlash from fans and makeup artists of color, he continues to receive 4 million average views per video and his makeup line still thrives.

Sometimes it's easier to buy the lipstick or the mascara when there's no direct connection to the owner. The work comes in now. By doing research before makeup purchases, you can decide where you'd like to put your money. A simple follow on Instagram can keep you in the know and aid in your decision of whom to support.

We need real consequences for the morally

and ethically wrong actions of companies and owners. While everybody maintains their own guidelines for what does or does not match their ethics and morals, becoming aware of this can

help you make better-informed purchases of makeup and beyond.

In general, supporting small businesses makes a positive impact. According to Forbes, local businesses give back to the community more than chains. These businesses create less of an environmental impact and one can more comfortably with them than a large corporation, according to the Institute for Self-Reliance.

ance.

Instead of Kat Von D Beauty's Everlasting Liquid Lipstick, go to Ulta in Braintree or Dorchester for a Dose of Colors liquid lipstick. The brand sold primarily online until it gained enough recognition and support for Ulta to stick it in-store.

Makeup is no longer just makeup. Look past the label and research where the money you spend goes. When we become informed consumers, we create an atmosphere where no brand or person who makes unethical or immoral decisions can thrive.

✉ caroline_broderick@emerson.edu

"We are each one person and thus one consumer, but collected we can spur changes."

"We must merge our ethics with our purchases and use our money to fund better businesses and people."

sports



Women's Volleyball

Freshman defensive specialist shines on volleyball court

Domenic Conte, *Beacon Correspondent*

Standout freshman Lauren Quan took on a larger defensive role for the women's volleyball team in the wake of a season-ending knee injury to star player Carolyn Vaimoso.

Senior captain Fara Cohen said Quan's skill and composure help fortify the back line.

"[Quan] plays dynamite defense—it's an absolute pleasure to be back there with her. She stepped into a starting role with grace and confidence," Cohen said. "She has a very calm demeanor, which is great in those pressure moments."

Quan began starting at the libero position following Vaimoso's Sept. 15 injury.

"We have had some injuries, but I feel like everyone on the team has stepped up," Quan said. "We are a strong team that is working very hard, and it's starting to pay off."

Head coach Ben Read said Quan contributes her versatility to the team.

"Her passing, serving, and defense is something our team needs, and it was what we looked for in the recruitment process," Read said. "There's already been a huge improvement from where she's been in the preseason to where she's been this week."

Quan recorded at least 15 digs in each of the past four matches with 4.5 digs per set. The highest ratio of digs per set in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference is 4.69. Read said Quan can realistically and ideally

maintain a dig per set ratio of 4.0 or better for the rest of the season.

Her 3.06 digs per set ratio this season ranks 17th in the NEWMAC, and her 190 digs on the year put her at eighth—second of all freshman in the conference.

Quan said the team chemistry and atmosphere provided her with a smooth transition into college-level volleyball.

"The team has been so welcoming since the start of the season," Quan said. "It was easy to settle into my role and play comfortably because of the team support on and off the court."

Cohen said her chemistry with Quan on the court lifts the team defensively.

"I can always look over at her, and we lock eyes, and we know we can pick up the next ball that comes our way," Cohen said. "We trust each other, and that's one of the most important aspects of serving, receiving, and defending."

Quan said she owes her development, in part, to Cohen's leadership and experience on the court.

"Fara has taught me so much about staying calm and being a good leader on the court," Quan said. "She's very aggressive, hard-working, and has a strong presence on the court that I want to mimic."

Off the court, Quan has a passion for reading. She prefers contemporary fiction like her favorite book *The Catcher in the Rye*. The San Diego native said she loves visiting the Boston Public Library.

"I have no doubt that she will continue to be a defensive rock for this program for years to come."



Lauren Quan places second amongst all freshman in the NEWMAC in digs with 190. *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

As a marketing communication major, Quan said she hopes to incorporate literature into her future career by joining the marketing department for a publishing company.

"I love the opportunity to play volleyball, but I was most attracted by the impressive and unique programs that Emerson has to offer," Quan said.

Quan said she hopes the team makes playoffs, but she set individual goals as well.

"I would really love to break 300 digs on the season," Quan said. "As for my career, it would be awesome to follow in Fara's footsteps and re-

cord 1,000 digs."

Cohen said she expects Quan to play a big role in the Lions' future.

"[Quan] is a dedicated athlete—the sky's the limit for her," Cohen said. "I have no doubt that she will continue to be a defensive rock for this program for years to come."

✉ domenico_cont@emerson.edu

Women's volleyball seniors set new career milestones



Cohen joined the 1,000 digs club against Mount Holyoke. • *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

Aaron Miller, *Beacon Staff*

Seniors Moira Brennan and Fara Cohen both hit milestones in their women's volleyball careers this past week, joining the 2,500 assists and 1,000 digs club, respectively.

Brennan, the team's star setter, became the first member of this season's team to earn her 2,500th assist during a conference game against Mount Holyoke College.

The Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gymnasium Skybox will permanently display these records on banners.

Brennan attributed her achievement to the team and their help in getting her assists.

"I couldn't have done it without the team," Brennan said. "All of the digs and kills allows me to get the assists."

Brennan started volleyball at seven years old because her whole family played.

Cohen, an outside hitter and defensive specialist, joined the 1,000 digs club after attaining her 1,011th dig in the same conference game win against Mount Holyoke. She ranks fifth for most digs in Emerson women's volleyball history.

"Volleyball is the epitome of a team sport," Cohen said. "[The 1,000 digs is] a great individual achievement, but it's also a tribute to all of the players we've played with."

Before joining the volleyball team, Cohen swam competitively in high school. She said she joined Emerson's volleyball team because she loved the sport and wanted to play on a competitive team.

"Swimming was very individual, and once I



Brennan now has 2,708 career assists and 593 in total this year. • *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

experienced being on a team, I just knew that was where I was going to thrive," Cohen said.

Cohen says the team aims to make the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference playoffs and build upon last year's team.

"Our team has never made the playoffs, so we just want to push as hard as we can to make the best run that we can," Cohen said. "We're trying to push the limits."

Cohen has played basketball for four years and this is her fourth season playing for Emerson.

Head Coach Ben Read attributes Brennan and Cohen's achievements to them performing to their best ability in their given positions.

"[Cohen] is doing her job, and she's getting the digs she needs to help our team be successful," Read said. "[Brennan], as our primary

setter for the last three and a half seasons, hit a number that you should be able to get if you are the primary setter."

Brennan said she sees the team succeeding for years to come.

"This is the best we've felt about our team in a really long time," Brennan said. "Even after [the three seniors] leave, the team has a great core group that they can build upon."

The Lions play their next conference home game on Friday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. against Wentworth Institute of Technology.

✉ aaron_miller@emerson.edu

🐦 @theaaronjmiller

A Teach-In on Race Keynote

Emerson
COLLEGE



The Offices of the President,
Academic Affairs, Social Justice Center,
and Honors Program Present

“A Conversation on Racial Justice, Campus Dissent, and Practicing Accountability”

Rachel Kuo, Scholar and Educator

Friday
October 12, 2018
10:00 am

**Cutler Majestic
Theatre**
219 Tremont Street

Open to the Emerson community

Doors open at 9:00 am
9:45 am: Opening Notes by
the SkinTones

Seating is first come, first served

About Rachel Kuo

Rachel Kuo is a contributing writer for *Everyday Feminism* and a scholar and educator in New York City, researching digital technologies and racial justice movements. She has worked as a social justice educator, designing curriculum and communication strategy for the NYU Center for Multicultural Education and Programs and the University of Wisconsin Multicultural Student Center, and is a founding member and current affiliate of the Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies and also on the leadership committee for the Asian American Feminist Collective. Her writing on cultural politics, food, beauty, and technology has been published in *Everyday Feminism*, *Huffington Post*, *Open Democracy*, *Reappropriate*, *New Media and Society*, *Journal of Communication*, and the *Routledge Companion to Asian American Media*.

Teach-In on Race Panels

The Offices of the President,
Academic Affairs, Social
Justice Center, and Honors
Program Present



October 12, 2018

10:00–11:00 am

A Conversation on
Racial Justice,
Campus Dissent,
and Practicing
Accountability:
Keynote by
Rachel Kuo

Cutler Majestic Theatre

11:15 am–12:15 pm

A Primer for Activists

Semel Theater

Panelists

Anny Martinez, Program on
Inequality and the Common
Good
Juma Inniss, The Message
(Emerson alum)
Chelsey Cartwright, aide to Ayanna
Pressley and Elizabeth Warren
(Emerson alum)
Moderator: Alexis "Lex" Fernandez
(co-chair of POWER)

Whose America?

Greene Theater

Panelists

Vicky Graf, president of AMIGOS
Alexandra Pineros-Shields,
director of ECCO (Essex County
Community Organization)
Moderator: Ilina Ghosh

12:30–1:30 pm

The POWER
You Hold

Multipurpose Room

A workshop and guide on available
resources and support for
fighting bias and discrimination at
Emerson

Organized by Student Advocacy
Group POWER
Alexis "Lex" Fernandez

1:00–4:00 pm

Wiki Edit-a-Thon

Iwasaki Library

Spotlight on Screenwriters of
Color during the Iwasaki Library's
first-ever Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon!
Drop in at the library and help us
improve and add information about
underrepresented screenwriters.
Never edited Wikipedia before?
No problem! Register at <http://ec1880.us/editathon>.

Special Guest Rae Shaw will
be giving a talk on her current
research project on African American
screenwriters at 2:30 pm.
Refreshments will be served.

1:45–2:45 pm

Intersectionality
(Where Identities
Meet)

**Walker Building,
Room 202**

Panelists

Catherine D'Ignazio, writer, artist/
designer, hacker mama, assistant
professor of journalism
Raz Moayed, SGA, Zeta Phi Eta,
Flawless Brown
Jessica Chance, actor, writer, assistant
director at Career Development Center
(Emerson alum)
Moderator: Erika Williams, assistant
professor in Institute for Liberal Arts
and Interdisciplinary Studies

Artful Change

Greene Theater

Panelists

Eve Boltax, musician-in-residence
at MANNA community
Porsha Olayiwola, artistic director
of MassLEAP, slam champ,
Emerson grad student
Jamie Gahlon, director of HowlRound
Theatre

3:00–4:00 pm

Building Community

Greene Theater

Panelists

Carla Gualdrón, program director,
Teens in Print (Emerson alum)
John Spack, executive director,
Discovering Justice
Melanie Matson, director of the
Healing and Advocacy Collective
Moderator: Ashley Tarbet DeStefano,
assistant director of community
engagement

Who Gets to
Tell the Story?
(Race, Art, and
Appropriation)

**Walker Building,
Room 202**

Panelists

Ed Lee, comedy writer, assistant
professor of VMA
Doug Ishii, assistant professor of WLP
Sahil Patel, writer, Emerson
undergraduate student
Moderator: Rukhsar Palla, Emerson
graduate student, co-founder of
Writers of Color@Emerson

Open to the Emerson community
Seating is first come, first served