

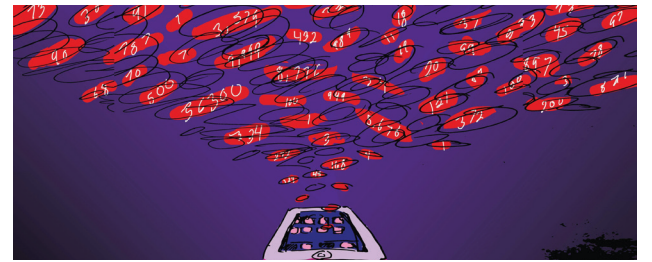
Fall sports to host Senior Day Saturday



Brockhampton is changing hip-hop



Resisting the wormhole of notifications



The Berkeley Beacon

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

Thursday October 18, 2018 • Volume 72, Issue 7



Junior turns Emerson memes and inside jokes into buttons

By Grace Griffin • p. 7

Junior Liza Rogulina makes and sells her own Emerson-inspired pins from her Allston apartment. • Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff

Reports of on-campus elevator entrapments spikes

Tomas Gonzalez, *Beacon Correspondent*

The college's police department helped release students from on-campus elevators in six separate incidents this September. Half of those incidents involved elevators in the Paramount residence hall.

The Paramount residence hall elevators held the most entrapments this year with five total incidents. Other residence halls, along with the Ansin and Tufte buildings, had one or two incidents each, according to previous incident journals.

In 2017, 2 Boylston Place contained the most incidents, with seven reports from students trapped in the elevators after the building opened.

This year, three out of five elevator incidents in Paramount residence hall occurred during the last week of September. Loose wires inside the main travel cables caused issues in both the building's elevators, according to Director of Building Operations Joseph Knoll.

Freshman Delaney Katz called the Emerson College Police Department on Sept. 29 while trapped in one of the elevators in the Paramount residence hall with seven other students.

"As soon as we got onto the elevator, it started going up until we felt it fall and then go back up and fall back down again," Katz said.

See *Elevator*, page 2

New procedure to deal with cannabis on campus

Anissa Gardizy, *Beacon Staff*

The Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct updated the way Resident Assistants handle incidents involving the smell of cannabis in rooms by adding a Cannabis Scent Notice to standard procedure.

Last year's approach entailed RAs knocking on doors when they smelled cannabis and filing an incident report. The Cannabis Scent Notices aim to increase the effectiveness of tracking, addressing, and communicating issues of marijuana on campus, according to Assistant Director for the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct Melissa Woolsey.

The notices are small purple cards that say "Cannabis Scent Notice" on the front. The back of the card features an explanation of what the notice means and a QR code that links to Emerson's policy for alcohol and other drugs. The school still requires RAs to file an incident report each time they post a scent notice, but it will take three notices to warrant a conduct hearing.

Woolsey and Assistant Dean of Campus Life Elizabeth Ching-Bush introduced the new procedure after seeing the college's peer institutions use scent notices. Hired in the spring, Woolsey and Ching-Bush immediately began working on different ways to best handle cannabis-related incidents in residence halls.

See *Initiative*, page 3

Crowds file into the Boston Opera House next to Paramount. • Cullen Granzen / Beacon Staff

Boylston or Broadway? Hit musicals bring sidewalk traffic

Lilly Milman, *Beacon Staff*

The Emerson Colonial Theatre premiered "Moulin Rouge! The Musical" this summer, and brought hundreds of theater guests to Boylston Street. Now, with classes in session, students must dodge these matinee crowds to access campus buildings.

The offices of Campus Life, Campus Services, and the Emerson College Police Department meet with Ambassador Theatre Group representatives once a month to discuss details of their partnership in regards to the theatre and how each department can cooperate. This month, the college representatives spoke about managing sidewalk traffic on Boylston Street during events held at the newly restored 118-year-old Colonial Theatre.

Duncan Pollock, assistant vice president for Facilities and Campus Services, said the showing of "Moulin Rouge!" last August inspired the topic of crowd regulation.

Pollock acknowledged "Moulin Rouge!" brought an exceptionally large crowd.

"Moulin Rouge!" was a huge hit," Pollock said. "It was a pre-broadway, and they had crowds like they won't have for probably like any of their other shows for the rest of this year."

In order to speed up lines and process crowds faster, Pollock said the Colonial Theatre uses a high-quality metal detector, and ATG emails visitors in advance to leave behind large bags.

See *Crowds*, page 3

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news

College calls on SGA to help promote Voice Your Choice

Kaitlyn Mettetal, *Beacon Correspondent*

An Emerson Associate Director petitioned the Student Government Association at the weekly Tuesday meeting to help promote the Voice Your Choice initiative where students can allocate \$100,000 of alumni donations.

Jillian Naimo, associate director of student and young alumni engagement, asked SGA to promote the program by spreading awareness via word of mouth and social media platforms. Naimo plans to roll out social media advertisements and emails to the student body for Voice Your Choice this week.

The initiative lets students vote on the distribution of \$100,000 in alumni donations. Voice Your Choice gives each class a set amount of money to spend in one of five areas. The first round of voting takes place on Nov. 16th.

On Nov. 16, students can vote to support the college's global initiatives, academic excellence and innovative learning, the Emerson fund, community and co-curricular experiences, and

student access.

Seniority determines the amount of money the initiative gives each class. The senior class votes on \$50,000, juniors \$25,000, sophomores \$15,000, and freshmen \$10,000.

"I really like this idea," Marketing Communications Senator Will Palaukas said. "I think it's really good that it's going to make other seniors and other students aware of the fact that money is going places."

Naimo said her office plans to promote a quiz called "Our Emerson. Our Voice. Our Choice" to help students decide for what issues they want to vote.

In spring 2019, the classes will vote on which

specific issues within their areas of interest they will support.

Naimo said alumni and parent donations are important to the college since tuition only covers between 60 and 75 percent of the college's costs. The college can access between three to five percent of its \$160 million endowment at a time, according to Naimo—alumni donations allow the college to cover the rest of its costs.

News outlets like U.S. News use alumni and parent donations as a metric to judge alumni approval and form their college rankings, according to Naimo. For comparison, Suffolk University's endowment is \$270

million, Northeastern University's \$700 million, and Boston University's \$2 billion, according to Naimo.

SGA also appointed sophomore Jay Liu and freshman Cassie Shelly as the new international student coordinator and executive assistant, respectively.

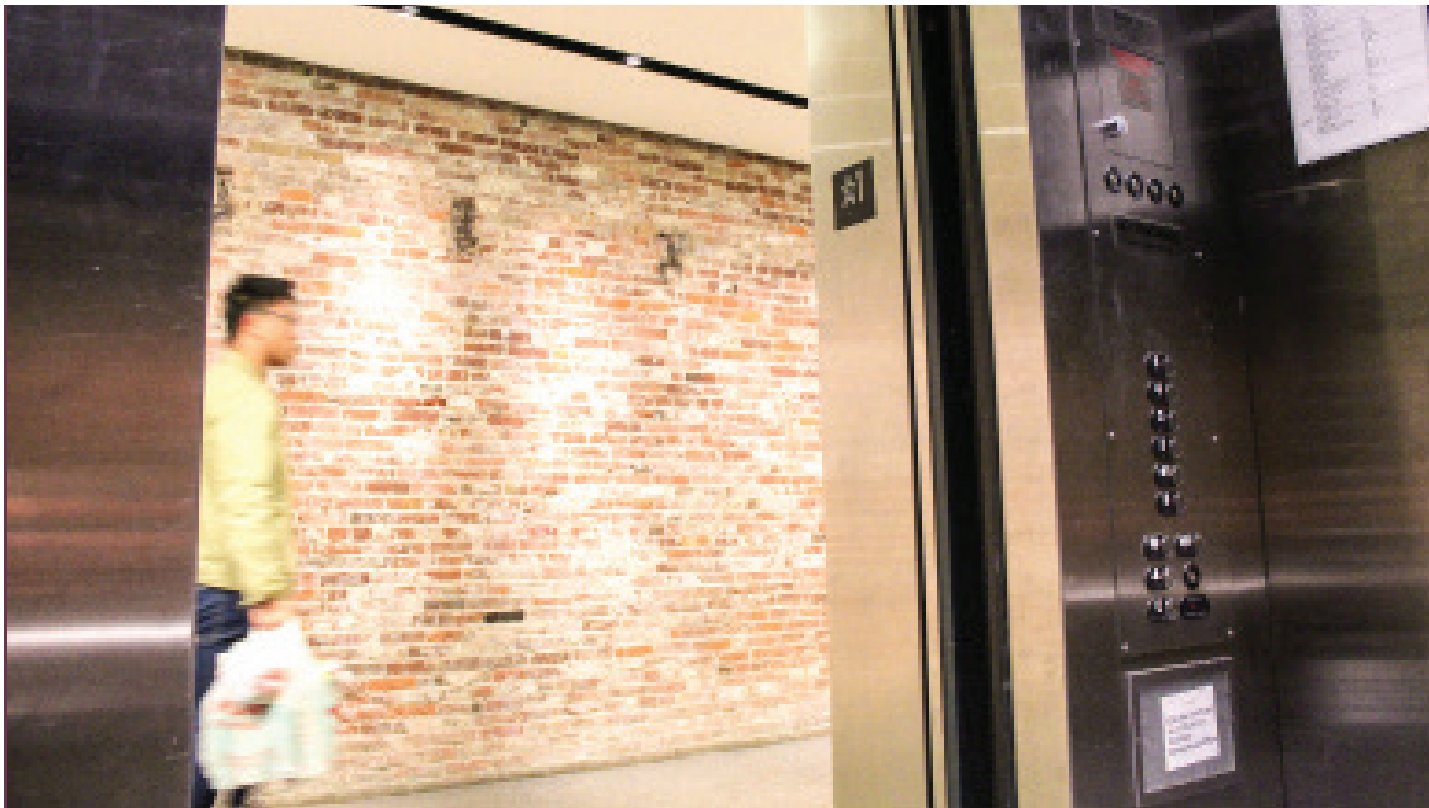
Liu's past experience with student government includes work on his high school's student council. Before SGA appointed her executive assistant, Shelly participated in her high school's student government and underwent the Student Government Leadership Program.

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

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"I think it's really good that it's that it's going to make other seniors and other students aware of the fact that money is going places."

Trapped student compares elevator to Tower of Terror



ECPD responded to three Paramount elevator incidents in one week. • Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff

Continued from page 1

"It probably dropped up and down for like twenty or so more times. It was like the Tower of Terror ride in Disney. It was really scary."

ECPD responded and released the students by prying open the elevator doors, according to ECPD Deputy Chief Eric Schiazza. Within 30 minutes, the students exited uninjured.

Technicians shut off both elevators from 1 a.m. to noon on the day after the incident for repairs, according to Knoll. At noon, the techni-

cians fixed one elevator as they already worked on it for safety issues, but the other elevator—which held the trapped students—required a three-day-long repair.

Freshman Jonathan Ross, one of the seven students trapped in the Paramount elevator with Katz, said the lack of a second elevator caused delays for him and other students trying to enter and exit Paramount.

Schiazza said ECPD opened the stairwell and freight elevator for student-use after the incident. Freight elevators typically carry large

items floor to floor—and unlike Paramount residence building's standard elevators, which only reach a limited number of floors—the freight elevators open on all floors.

Schiazza called this many elevator incidents within a month a rare occurrence.

Knoll said the college does not directly manage the elevators on campus. An outside company, Delta Beckwith, regulates and repairs the elevators.

"There have been very few instances where this has happened in the past. They really do a

stellar job with the elevators, this time it was really rare where there were several entrapments in elevators," Schiazza said.

Knoll said the college has a Delta Beckwith technician on-campus Monday through Friday to maintain and inspect the elevators from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If an emergency call happens overnight or on weekends, a technician travels to Emerson for repairs.

The decade-old elevators in Paramount residence hall underwent all of the regularly scheduled maintenance tests needed to ensure safety standards, according to Knoll, but he called the incidents unforeseeable.

"It probably dropped up and down for like twenty or so more times. It was really scary."

"This is something you really cannot predict—we were prepared for it as best as we could," Knoll said. "I don't remember ever at least not having one elevator operating, so this is a first for something like that."

Sophomore Maevie Chapman, who's living in Paramount for a second year, called the elevator malfunctions a prevalent problem on-campus.

"I feel like it's getting worse, but that might just be my bias of living in Paramount," Chapman said.

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Incident Journal

The Emerson College Police Department department provides the Incident Journal to the Beacon every week. Beacon staff edit the Incident Journal for style and clarity, but not for content.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

The Emerson College Police Department is investigating a report from a staff member who received an email from a person with no Emerson affiliation.

Wednesday, Oct. 10

ECPD intervened with a student for disorderly behavior in the Dining Center.

An ECPD officer found smashed objects on the ground at the back of the Piano Row residence hall. They do not know who conducted the vandalism.

ECPD responded to a fire alarm in the 12 Hemenway residence hall after a student left popcorn inside a microwave oven for too long. The incident did not cause a fire.

Thursday, Oct. 11

The Office of Housing and Residential Life turned over a plastic bag of marijuana confiscated from students to ECPD.

A student reported the theft of personal items after leaving a bag unattended inside the Max Cafe.

Saturday, Oct. 13

A motor vehicle parked for a significant period of time inside ECPD's designated parking area. ECPD issued a parking citation after attempting to contact the owner.

Sunday, Oct. 14

ECPD investigated a report of a security officer sleeping on the job inside the Ansin Building.

ECPD observed minor damage to the college shuttle bus at Paramount Center.

ECPD investigated a report from a person with no Emerson affiliation who believed a student assaulted them after almost hitting them with a skateboard in the area of Washington St. and Summer St.

Corrections & Clarifications

Last week's article titled "Title IX office takes down job posting, position remains vacant" and the editorial "When 'the best course of action' isn't enough" stated the lead investigator is responsible for handling all Title IX investigations at the college. The lead investigator does not handle all Title IX investigations at the college.

New initiative intended to change dialogue about cannabis

Continued from page 1

“We spent a lot of time trying to understand what the culture was like and what students’ views on cannabis and marijuana were like,” Woolsey said. “We wanted to make sure that our students were more informed about what was reported and what wasn’t reported.”

In previous years, if an RA smelled cannabis, they knocked on a door if they could pinpoint the smell to a certain room. Sometimes, residents opened the door upon hearing the knock, but RAs often faced empty suites and situations where residents failed to open their door.

Junior Rachel Levin, a Resident Assistant, explained RAs still file an incident report when residents do not open their door. The incident reports also include whether or not RAs heard shuffling inside the room.

“It did happen a few times where someone just wouldn’t answer, and you could clearly tell that they were in there,” Levin said. “Then it is unfair as a resident to have an incident report written about you and not have verbal confirmation that it happened, so I like the scent notices this year.”

“We spent a lot of time trying to understand what the culture was like.”

When the school contacted the students about the incident, some never knew it occurred in the first place. Even if students opened the door, RAs possessed no formal way of informing the entire room or suite. Woolsey said the notices let those potentially impacted by the smell know there is someone monitoring it.

In addition to informing the whole room or suite, the Cannabis Scent Notices also provide a better way to track and address drug violations. The fact that it takes three notices before a conduct hearing raises the chances of accurately identifying and addressing an issue, according to Woolsey.



The notices are index-sized purple cards with “Cannabis Scent Notice” on the front and explanation of the notice on the back. *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

“Last year we had community members who were really frustrated consistently about smells and people using around them,” Woolsey said. “However, there were no reports that we could follow up on to adjudicate or investigate it. This is a way to have increased reporting and increased knowledge.”

Sophomore Nola Elliffe, the Student Government Association Health and Wellness Commissioner, said the Cannabis Scent Notices

mark a step in the right direction as the college continues to enforce rules that differ from the Massachusetts law in regards to cannabis use. She hopes RAs continue to use their best judgment when handling cannabis scent incidents.

“I really hope they are taking into consideration that there are many ways they could be smelling [marijuana],” Elliffe said.

So far, no room or suite has received three

“Students who are receiving them understand the policy after they read it and hopefully discontinue the behavior.”

notices, according to Woolsey.

“Right now we haven’t seen any trends, which I think is a positive thing,” Woolsey said. “Students who are receiving them understand the policy after they read it and hopefully discontinue the behavior.”

Editor-in-Chief Shafaq Patel, Managing Editor Kyle Labe, and News Editor Riane Roldan did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.

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Students dodge crowds in front of Paramount and Colonial

Continued from page 1

In order to speed up lines and process crowds faster, Pollock said the Colonial Theatre uses a high-quality metal detector, and ATG emails visitors in advance to leave behind large bags. ATG also suggests visitors arrive about 45 minutes early to avoid a sudden rush.

“It’s much easier controlling the crowd going in than it is coming out,” Pollock said. “So we’re going to have those discussions going further, in the future. It’s going to be an ongoing challenge.”

On Oct. 1, during Monday classes, the Forbes Under 30 Summit held panels throughout the day in the Colonial Theatre.

Junior Katharine Rhee compared the crowd in front of the theatre to the busy lines of Whiskey Saigon, a nightclub next door to the historic theatre.

“There were just rushes of people, students were unable to get through this whole crowd,” she said. “I was late to class a number of times, trying to get through events that I had not attended.”

Senior Connor Wolff also attended the Forbes Under 30 Summit. Wolff said he had to walk around the sidewalk as crowds piled up on the streets before and after the Forbes panels.

“People were just walking in and out, it wasn’t like they were trying to control the flow of traffic or anything,” Wolff said.

Sophomore Daniella Baltazar lives in the Paramount Center Residence Hall outside of the Paramount Center, a theater that welcomes high-profile shows like “Cats” and “The Lion King.”

“It’s not so much like Emerson-only events, but there are events that are open to the public. That’s when it gets bad,” Baltazar said, “Because a lot of people will stand by the street, especially when it’s over.”

She said since her residence hall neighbors are both the Paramount Center and the Boston Opera House, sometimes the two theaters play shows at the same time and it is impossible to get through the crowds.

Baltazar also lived in Paramount last year.



Crowds file into the Boston Opera House in front of the Paramount residence building entrance to see “Hamilton.” • *Photo by Cullen Granzen / Beacon Staff*

She said the events have not affected her ability to get to classes because the shows are usually later in the day, but she knows students who do have evening classes, and the number of people in front of her building still impact her daily routine.

“It’s very frustrating to get through because occasionally we have to walk on the actual street, which isn’t really that bad because of the way it’s set up, but it’s still frustrating,” Baltazar said. Pollock said in a phone interview that the

“This is still their campus.”

Paramount Center has lobbies on the first and second floor to hold guests and lines.

“Nothing has been really done because there are not really lines outside of the [Paramount] Theatre,” Pollock said.

The Broadway blockbuster “Hamilton” opened at the Boston Opera House and is currently playing until November 18. The theater holds 2,667 seats and tickets for the hit musical quickly sell out.

Pollock added that the Paramount Center does not typically show matinees during the

school year.

The Paramount Theatre holds about 740 seats when accounting for the Robert J. Orchard Stage and the Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre. The Colonial Theatre doubles that amount with 1,700 seats.

ECPD was not present at the second meeting between the college and ATG, but Chief Robert Smith said he discussed the possibility of stationing officers at the entrance of the ECPD office during busy nights at the Colonial Theatre. This would ensure students’ access to the office when lines begin to block the ECPD and the Barnes & Noble at Emerson entrance, Smith said.

“There were just rushes of people, students were unable to get through this whole crowd.”

“We want to make things convenient for [Colonial Theatre] attendees, but not inconvenient for our students. This is still their campus,” Smith said.

Pollock said the next meeting with ATG and the college will be about preparing for the next Emerson Colonial Theatre matinee, “The Play That Goes Wrong.” The show will run for two weeks from Nov. 7 to Nov. 18 and will play every day except for Monday.

“It’s really a partnership. We own the building, [ATG] rents the building,” Pollock said in regards to the Colonial Theatre. “They’re responsible for their patrons, but we have to help them and they have to help us because we are in this community together.”

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editorial

Making changes before the climate does

At issue:
Student engagement with sustainability.

Our take:
We must do more.

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.

Over a week ago, the New York Times detailed a seemingly apocalyptic future, with worsening food shortage, rampant poverty, and intensified natural disasters. The article cites a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that claimed dire consequences if current cultural and economic practices remain the same.

While this is horrifying, and even the most hopeful optimists possess a startling brand of cynicism around the topic, we can't rely on the government and politicians to fix everything. While The New York Times states the coal industry is considered detrimental to the Earth, that doesn't mean we, as students, can't do our part. If politicians will continue to disappoint us, we must take matters into our own hands, even if it doesn't seem like much.

A recent article from the Beacon revealed that last year Emerson "had a recycling rate of 12 percent and a composting rate of 14 percent" even though RecycleMania estimated 63 percent of our waste was compostable or recyclable. The blame, as the article states, fell not as much on the administration as it did the student population.

Although Emerson's recycling rate increased to 20 percent this year, according to Sustainability Committee Co-chair Duncan Pollock, there is still ample room for improvement regarding sustainability on students' behalf.

Students must hold each other accountable. If someone improperly trashes their waste, confront them. If your friend mentions something uninformed, let them know.

It's time students make a considerable effort to participate in the sustainability goals on campus. The college has different organizations

and programs—Earth Emerson, Eco Reps, and Green Room Certification are just some resources—in place to try to lessen their environmental impact. But students seem removed from these issues, indifferently placing responsibility in the hands of these organizations.

Students must hold each other accountable. If someone improperly trashes their waste, confront them. If your friend mentions something uninformed, let them know. Think about what to recycle and throw away. Share articles like the New York Times' piece on your social media. And encourage everyone you know to do the same. We will only meet sustainability goals if students push each other to participate in these efforts and ensure their contributions last.

Environmental sustainability is not a "niche" concept. It affects everyone, and we can all do our part. The forecast may look grim, but we still have to live on this planet, and we should do everything we can to protect it.

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.

The Berkeley Beacon

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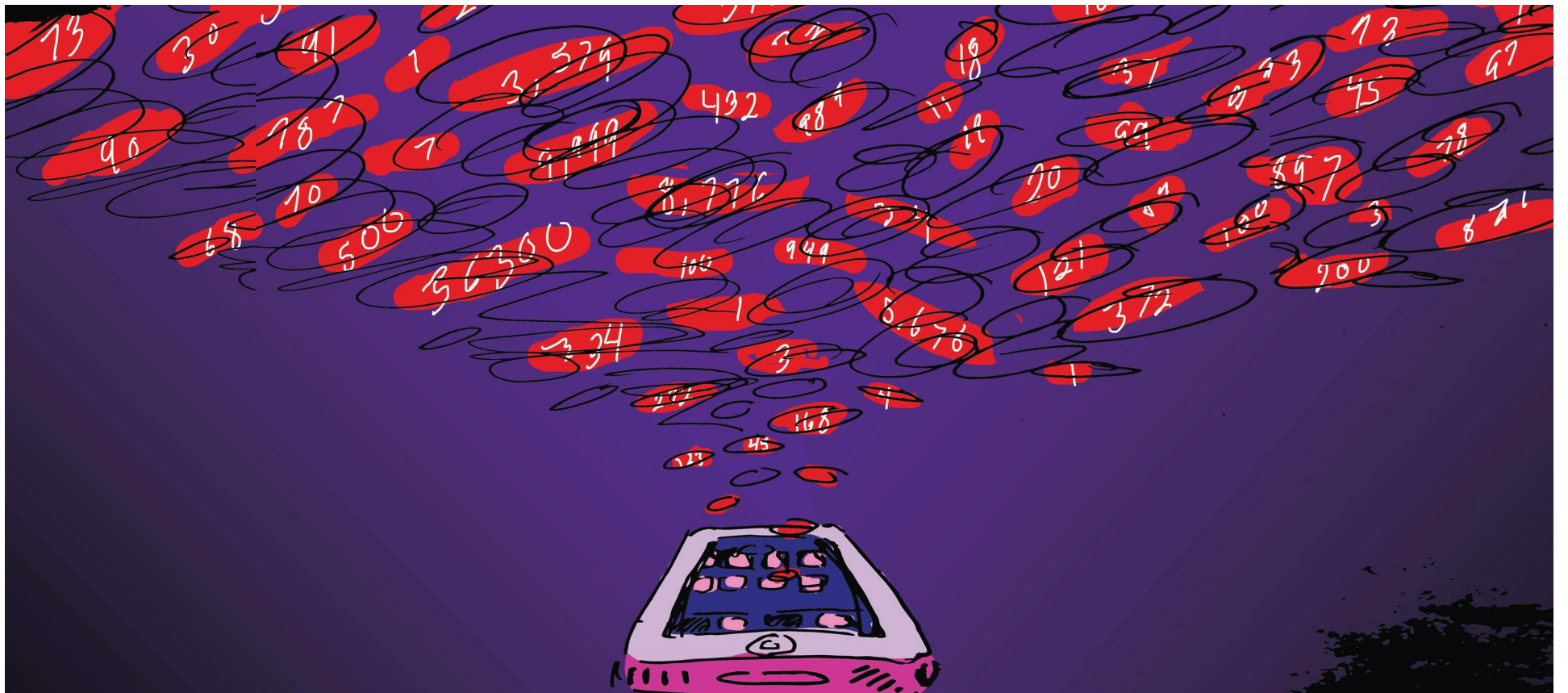
by the Editorial Board
 illustration by Ally Rzesza

One piece of trash won't hurt.



opinion

Defying the temptation of notifications



Any bing from my phone induces dread because it may be yet another addition to my never-ending to-do list • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

Hannah Ebanks

Ebanks is a junior journalism major & the Opinion editor.

Recently I've had the urge to throw my phone in the trash. It started toward the end of the summer, when breaking news alerts constantly reminded me that the outside world wasn't the same as my lazy vacation. Since school started, my number of daily notifications has skyrocketed due to my busy schedule. Now, any bing from my phone induces dread because it may be yet another addition to my never-ending to-do list.

The latest iPhone software update added the Screen Time feature, which tracks how much time a user spends on apps and also allows them to set time restrictions. Because of this, I realized how much time I waste on social media. Last week, for example, my total screen time was 32 hours and 18 of those hours were spent on social networks. I received around 241 notifications per day. My most used app is Twitter, which consumes approximately 48 minutes of my day.

As a journalism student, it's easy to come up with excuses: I must keep up with a 24-hour news cycle and I have an obligation to know what is happening in the world at all times. However, most of my feed is filled with non-news, and my intention to only spend five minutes catching up on the news then turns into 15 minutes of reading the replies on the latest "Thoughts of Dog" post. The feeling of being "in the know" is hard to resist. But ultimately, squandering so much time on Twitter isn't productive.

Since I'm usually on my phone, I feel as if I need to be accessible all the time. I hate having any notifications and will do whatever is necessary to get rid of them, so I usually respond to messages within minutes. Now, I feel pressured to be reliable, and answer messages right away, even if they aren't urgent. I rarely turn my phone on Do Not Disturb because I'm afraid I could miss an important notification, message, or call.

In the New York Times article, "How Tiny Red Dots Took Over Your Life," John Hermann writes, "What's so powerful about the dots is that until we investigate them, they could signi-

fy anything: a career-altering email; a reminder that Winter Sales End Soon; a match, a date, a 'we need to talk.'"

If my phone is charging on the other side of my room and I hear a notification, I have trouble diverting my thoughts from it. Sometimes I try my best to wait, but that bing is usually followed by another and another and, before I know it, I'm on my feet to cross the room and check my phone.

So, in a way, it does feel as if the "red dots" are taking over my life. Both my school and social life are tied to social media, especially Facebook. Upon my arrival at Emerson, I remember my orientation leaders mentioning that Facebook groups were "the heart of Emerson culture." At the time I didn't fully comprehend it, but now I do. Currently, I'm in more than 20 Facebook groups associated with Emerson, but I only participate in a third of them.

After my first Screen Time report, I started trying different strategies to reduce my urge to constantly check my phone. I make note of apps unnecessarily taking up a lot of my time. I have

unsubscribed from mailing lists, and I've limited notifications to only my most used apps. I haven't implemented time limits yet, but in the past weeks I've noticed my overall screen time decreasing. When on a deadline, I put my phone on vibrate, hide it far from my reach, and notify people that I won't be available for a few hours.

I realize I am terrible at multitasking. I can't focus on a task while scrolling through notifications on my phone. But I'm improving. I'm keeping track of how much time I spend on social media, and I'm more careful about constantly being on my phone. I finish a task before responding to anything or anyone. As a result, the notifications that do require my attention are less overwhelming. Although the notion of completely disconnecting is unrealistic, limiting my time on my phone is one step toward improving my mental health.

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Letters

The following letters are responses to the October 11 Editorial "When the 'best course of action' isn't enough." The one on the left is from Sylvia Spears and the Healing and Advocacy Collective. The full version of these letters can be found online.

From Vice President of the Social Justice Center, Sylvia Spears:

Open Letter to the Beacon

I would like to express my appreciation to the Beacon and its editorial board for their interest in the hiring process for College's Title IX investigator. As Vice President for Equity & Social Justice, the Office of Title IX Equity & Access reports directly to me. I agree with the editorial board that the Title IX investigatory function plays an essential role in our Title IX processes. That is precisely why it is critically important that anyone hired into that role bring depth of experience in conducting Title IX investigations or other civil rights investigations, has a background in working with students as well as other community members in a college or university setting, and, ideally, has training and expertise in trauma-informed investigations. I, too, want this position to be filled as soon as possible, however, it is not in the best interest of our community to hire an individual who does not possess the requisite skills for the position. In fact, it could do harm to the individuals engaged in what is already an emotionally challenging process.

In addition, when a search process does not yield a strong applicant pool or result in a hire, it is standard practice to temporarily remove the posting so the position's scope, salary, as well as our recruitment efforts can be examined to determine if there might be ways to enhance the strength of the applicant pool. This is the search committee's rationale for temporarily removing the position posting. We are working collaboratively with Human Resources to examine what we might do to cultivate a stronger applicant pool. The position will be re-posted in the very near future.

According to its website, the Social Justice Center works to uplift and support individuals and communities through areas like Radical Care & Advocacy, Movement Building, Community Knowing & Sharing, and Access and Equity.

From the Healing and Advocacy Collective:

For anyone who is reading this, we discuss sexual assault, the Title IX process, and reference Betsy DeVos.

To the community:

We are writing this in response to the articles published regarding the search for a Title IX investigator. We appreciate journalists who have played critical roles in bringing national attention to the issue of interpersonal violence on college campuses.

In our roles as counselors/advocates working alongside survivors, we often accompany individuals through the Title IX process. As a result, we have an understanding of how the process works and Title IX investigator role; we are always working alongside survivors prioritizing what they need and want. The Title IX investigator has a significant influence not only on the outcome, but also on a survivor's experience of going through an investigation.

From our perspective, it is not one that we want filled until there is an individual who is qualified and is a fit for our community. The necessary skill set includes both knowledge and application of equitable processes and practices. Historically, colleges and universities have not been responsive to or supportive of survivors. Currently, Betsy DeVos and the Department of Education state they are working for equality, while in reality they are making it more difficult for survivors to report or participate in an investigation process. Any Title IX investigator must understand this difference between equality and equity, and the historical inequity that exists. They must also understand how racism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ableism, and misogyny are part of interpersonal violence, impact our community, and can be a barrier to participating in an investigation. In addition, any candidate must understand the impact of being part of a small community.

Melanie Matson and Greta Spoering are part of the Healing and Advocacy Collective, a confidential resource supporting individuals who have been impacted by power-based interpersonal violence.

living arts

Generation Citizen mobilizes high schoolers

Ian Sloan, *Beacon Staff*

The organization Generation Citizen: Emerson College uses the energy of recent civic actions like March For Our Lives to teach energized students of Charlestown High School about their government and how it works for them.

The organization started sending trained volunteers, called democracy coaches, to Charlestown High School on Oct. 4. Every Thursday and Friday for six weeks, some of the 15 members travel two and a half miles to teach students about civics and their community leaders. The organization began at Emerson in 2013 and became Student Government Association recognized in the spring of 2015.

According to its website, the organization aligned its teaching methods with state-standard civic programs across the country. Although the curriculum does not cover the upcoming midterm elections, the organization encourages students' political engagement. Generation Citizen launched the Action Civics program, which encourages students to debate and build consensus around an issue affecting them personally, from public transit to violence.

Junior Caroline King, advocacy director for Generation Citizen: Emerson College, said high school students learn their leaders' accessibility through the democracy coaches.

"Teaching young people how to be citizens is so important because it fills a foundation that they will grow up on for the rest of their lives," King said.

Senior and former chapter director Hannah Sun said the method surpasses typical worksheets.

"It's much more than learning the branches of government and memorization—we want to actually put them into it," Sun said. "They use that knowledge that their teacher has been giving them to select how they will effect change."

Along with traditional teaching of the government's functions, the democracy coaches

help students choose an issue to research. The students then explore the issue and complete corresponding activities.

"One awesome activity we do is consensus building," King said. "This is when we have all of the students brainstorm issues in the community they want to solve. We foster an environment where these students are able to talk with one another and discuss what issues they are passionate about."

King said democracy coaches will assign students to write scripts for phone calls with local representatives and emails with the school board.

"They are really doing hands-on activities where they themselves are tasked with making the change they want to see," King said. "They have the opportunity to see that they can call their representative and, even if they don't pick up, they can leave a message or possibly get an email response."

Sophomore Madison Lynch, the outreach director, helps students contact community leaders like state senators and representatives. The students then realize their leaders respond.

Lynch said she believes this component of Action Civics is important with the current culture.

"Especially now in the political climate we're in, I think it's important that young people learn their role and how they can create

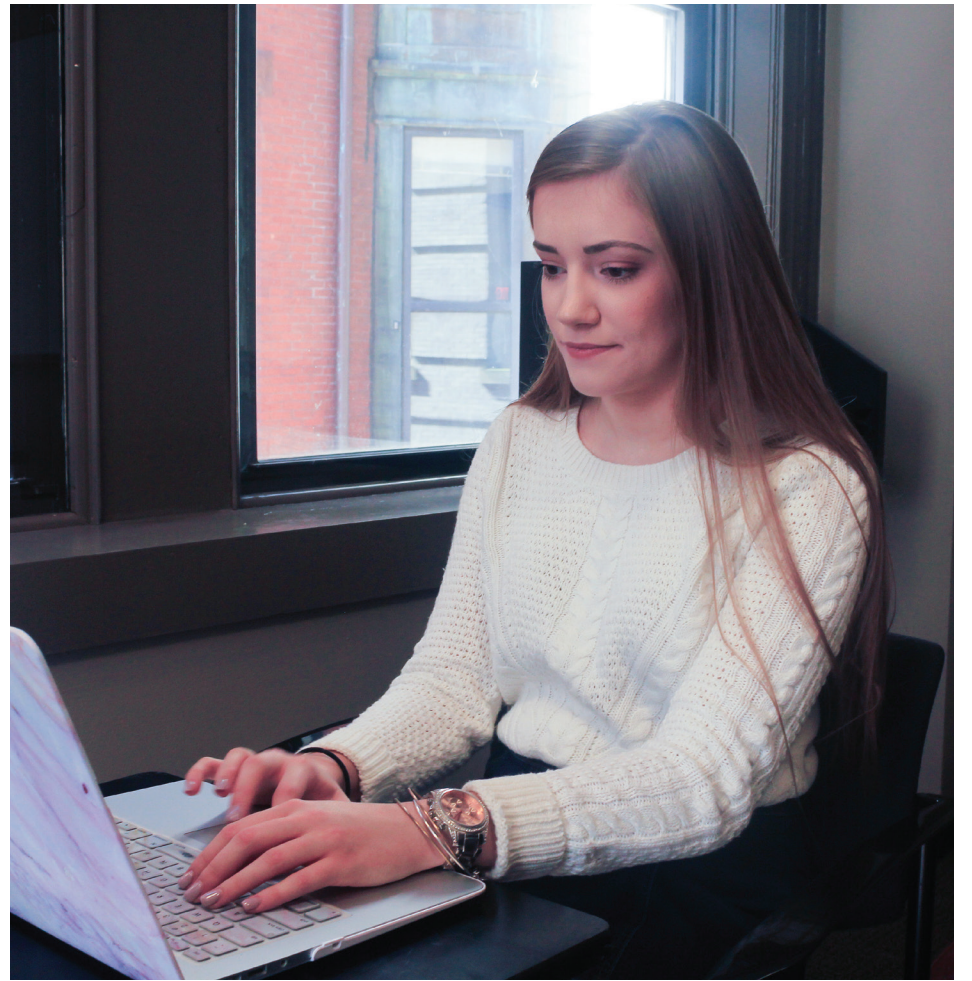
change," Lynch said.

On Dec. 4, "Civics Day," representatives from each Generation Citizen classroom in the Boston area present their projects at the State House. There, they outline the entire Action Civics project, from their chosen issue to who they contacted.

"It's an accumulation of all of the work that the students have done," King said. "It's really cool, especially being at the State House, because many of the students have not seen it before. Showing the students that this is where change happens is really the point of Civics Day."

Many different schools, such as Tufts Uni-

"Teaching young people how to be citizens is so important because it fills a foundation that they will grow up on."



Junior Caroline King is the advocacy director for Generation Citizen: Emerson College. *Abby Noyes / Beacon Staff*

versity and Boston University, are involved with Generation Citizen.

Lynch said she is trying to organize events to connect all campaigns chapters and different on-campus advocacy organizations.

"I will oversee a committee focused on event planning and fundraising, creating events that different chapters come to, as well as a more Emerson-centric one to get more advocacy orgs on campus to get involved," Lynch said.

Sun said high school students can also join Generation Citizen's Youth Advisory Board and Youth Council following Civics Day.

"Generation Citizen wants to keep fostering the civic engagement after we leave the classroom," Sun said. "Students can use their knowledge that their teacher has given them and select

how they want to effect change. They will know who to go to, whether it be a person in the executive branch or a legislator."

King called Action Civics a great way to create a genuine interest in students and start change in their communities.

"I don't think we give students enough credit for how much they know and how much they can do," King said. "If the future is looking like the kids in these classrooms, I think we're gonna be in a really good spot."

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The B Side: Brockhampton breaks the hip-hop mold



Kyle Bray
Bray is a sophomore journalism major, the sports editor, and the Beacon's music columnist.

Brockhampton self-proclaimed itself as the "best boy band since One Direction." Its quick rise to fame and early success proves the group earned the title.

The hip-hop collective set a new career milestone when its first major label album iridescence claimed the No. 1 spot on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart only one year after the viral success of its Saturation trilogy.

In the first week following its Sept. 21, 2018 release, iridescence sold the equivalent of 101,000 albums—full album sales accounting for 79,000 of them—to beat out pop star Josh Groban for the No. 1 spot. Brockhampton spearheads more than the Billboard charts. Brockhampton leads the changing tide in hip-hop, opening opportunities for the genre's progression.

The group began after de facto band leader Kevin Abstract inquired if anyone wanted to start a band on a Kanye West fan forum website known as 'KanyeToThe.' This incited AliveSinceForever's formation in 2010, which featured current Brockhampton members Kevin Abstract and Dom McLennon. Later disbanding in 2014, the group rebranded themselves as Brockhampton.

Brockhampton consists of 14 members in their early 20s that serve as rappers, singers, producers, and designers. Brockhampton earned a cult following through its unique artistic approach to hip-hop and progressive lyrics, and its fight against some of the most controversial aspects of hip-hop.

People know Abstract, for example, for his honest lyrics, which often focus on his life as a gay, black man in the U.S. One of his most famous verses features on the song "JUNKY," where he raps of his experience being one of the only LGBTQ+ figures in the hip-hop community and calls out his critics who often dispraise him for rapping about his sexuality.

Abstract is right—hip-hop culture benefits from his presence. Given the genre's troubled past with homophobia, it's difficult to find any LGBTQ+ personalities in hip-hop. Nevertheless, Abstract and the rest of Brockhampton do not shy away from tackling homophobia and because of that, instead of losing fans, they've only garnered more success. Abstract provides a rare voice for LGBTQ+ hip-hop fans.

"For too long, hip-hop allowed problematic figures to succeed despite their actions."

Brockhampton also fights against themes of toxic masculinity. Bravado defines hip-hop, but on songs like "WEIGHT" in iridescence, Abstract and McLennon open up about their mental health and Brockhampton's struggles with depression and self-harm. In a genre typically filled with macho men, the members of Brockhampton openly share their feelings.

Despite the group's progressive message, they are not immune to controversy. In May 2018, several women came forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against Brockhampton founding member Ameer Vann. Rhett Rowan, a singer-songwriter who previously dated Vann, detailed how the Brockhampton rapper emotionally manipulated and mentally abused her. The issue divided fans. Some defended him while others called for his removal from the group.

Shortly after the allegations, the group performed at Boston Calling without Vann, and then posted an announcement on their social media the following day that Vann was no longer a member of Brockhampton. They canceled the last dates of their tour and postponed their

upcoming album, PUPPY, which remains unreleased.

By removing arguably the "face" of its early success, Brockhampton remained committed to its message of progress. Some fans lamented his removal since problematic hip-hop figures like XXXTENTACION and 6ix9ine still enjoyed successful careers despite countless allegations. XXXTENTACION, despite his charge of robbery and assault with a deadly weapon, posthumously won Best New Hip-Hop Artist at the 2018 BET Hip-Hop awards and received support from famous rapper Kendrick Lamar. Rapper 6ix9ine, who pled guilty to one felony count for the use of a minor in a sexual performance in 2015, remains a successful artist and is even set to collaborate with Kanye West—a hip-hop superstar with his own long list of controversies. Brockhampton could have easily ignored the allegations against Vann—like West did with 6ix9ine—and continued on with him in the group.

In the end, the group wisely removed Vann. For too long, hip-hop allowed problematic figures to succeed despite their actions. While Vann's removal is only a small step in ending the industry's rampant misogyny, it's important to see problematic figures held accountable for the actions, especially in a genre where they often remain successful despite allegations.

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living arts

Student turns pin-making hobby into hustle

Grace Griffin, *Beacon Staff*

Students on campus can be seen sporting pins on their jackets and backpacks with professor Chester Lee and his infamous catchphrase, “If I may,” or ones that read “Don’t kiss fascists,” a quote from professor Ralph Trost. Both pins are references to professors at the Kasteel Well campus.

Junior Liza Rogulina decided to commemorate her memories from her semester abroad at Kasteel Well last spring by making buttons. The visual and media arts major created a set of six buttons centered around her experiences in Europe.

Rogulina created an Instagram account, @lizar_buttons, and sells each button for \$2, three for \$5, or the whole Kasteel Well pack for \$9. The account has 118 followers and features buttons with quirky sayings and Emerson references. To purchase buttons, buyers can direct message Rogulina on the account.

“I don’t know the number of how many I’ve sold, but I’ve sold over \$100 worth,” Rogulina said.

Rogulina said the inspiration to make buttons came from watching visual artists on YouTube, such as Baylee Jae. She said she designs each button on Photoshop, prints the image, then uses her button maker to cover the image with plastic and attach the metal backing. Rogulina said the buttons take less than a minute to make.

Rogulina said she started creating buttons when she couldn’t find the types of designs she was looking for already made.



Junior Liza Rogulina creates Emerson and pop culture inspired buttons with her button press and sells them for \$2 each. • Erin Nolan / Beacon Staff

"I'm just doing this for fun, and I'm excited people like them."

“I had a lot of really specific kinds of designs I was looking for but nobody had, so I thought ‘I’ll just make it on my own,’” she said.

Due to the popularity of the Kasteel Well

pins, Rogulina created more designs to advertise on her Instagram account. Some are based on Emerson, such as one with a picture of President M. Lee Pelton and the phrase, “This man ate my tuition.”

“I didn’t make the design for the Lee Pelton pin, but I did ask the person who did make if I could use it,” Rogulina said.

Rogulina said she started designing other buttons at the request of junior Emilie Krone. Krone said she and her friends, who also studied at Kasteel Well in fall 2017, loved Rogulina’s first set of buttons and wanted Rogulina to create more.

“I saw [the Pelton meme] on the Facebook page and it was already circular, so I was like ‘Oh my god, this is perfect,’” Krone said. “She

had just gotten her button press so I sent her a picture and said, ‘Liza you have to make this—people would totally buy it.’”

Junior Jonah Puskar, who created the meme of Pelton featured on the pin, posted it to the Facebook group Emerson Shitposting. The post garnered over 190 likes.

“People told me to make stickers of it, but I thought ‘Oh, it’s not that good,’” Puskar said. “Then I went to my girlfriend’s apartment one day and she said ‘I have a surprise for you.’ She pulled something out of her bag and it was this pin, and I said ‘Did someone actually make a pin of my stupid meme?’”

Other pins for sale feature short epigrams such as “Can you not?” and “Not today satan.”

Many buttons display Rogulina’s original art-

work. Aside from creating and selling buttons, Rogulina posts her artwork on a separate Instagram account with over 700 followers. Her art mostly features people, and she sells some designs on Redbubble.

“In general, I pretty much draw girls because it’s what I do for fun,” she said. “I’ve always liked drawing people, more specifically girls. I’ve done a bit of graphic design too.”

Rogulina said she is considering opening an Etsy shop or bringing her buttons to art conventions after graduation.

“I’m just doing this for fun, and I’m excited people like them,” she said.

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Global voice series hopes to bridge language barrier

Soleil Easton, *Beacon Correspondent*

During Jane Fu’s first three years at Emerson she never spoke up in class because she thought her classmates wouldn’t understand her.

Fu moved from China to Boston to study communications, yet she mainly feared communicating in English.

“Beginning this new stage of my life in America was scary, and I constantly felt a pressure to speak perfect English,” Fu said. “I thought my pronunciation when speaking English was not understandable. It was weighing me down.”

Recognizing the pressure on international students to speak English, three communication studies professors—Jeremy Heflin, Thomas

Smith, and Mohamed Khalil—started creating the Global English Voice Exercise series last year. This online series aims to help non-native English-speaking students, but the public can’t access it yet. All three professors strive to release it sometime this year.

The six episode series focuses on public speaking exercises and hopes to produce an international community of writers, bloggers, and digital activists. According to Heflin, not only international students can benefit from the series—anyone can access it and use the techniques.

Heflin, Smith, and Khalil each received a \$1,200 Emerson presidential grant for the series in 2017.

“Our award was for an innovation in-curriculum design using video production to engage the Emerson community in global voice elocution,” Heflin said.

The series teaches sounds international students may not use in their native language and time-tests viewers’ new skills. Fu said she decided to participate as an actress in the Global Voice series in hopes of improving her English-speaking skills and getting involved on campus. She said she believes the series will benefit other international students since it covers pronunciation and speaking skills.

“The techniques [Smith] taught us are very helpful,” Fu said. “I have gained more courage to speak up in class this year because my English-speaking skills have improved.”

The series intends to provide independent support for international students. According to Heflin, international students face pressure to function in an English-speaking country at the same level as native speakers.

“We want to give [students] as many elements as possible that are going to help their intellectual capacity to be as strong within another

language compared to their native language,” Heflin said.

Yuhan Cheng, a freshman visual media and arts major, moved from China to Boston. He has mixed feelings about the Global Voice series and worries it will try to Americanize him.

“I am really happy with my English pronunciation,” Cheng said. “But, I also really love my Chinese accent.”

He said other international students may find it insulting because they may not think their English needs any help. But, he does not understand why some international students do not participate in heated discussions. He thinks the series will help students speak up in class.

“I hardly ever see Chinese students speaking up in a heated discussion,” Cheng said. “Maybe because they are shy like me, and America is a culture shock for all of us.”

Graduate student Ana Cappellin moved to Boston from Venezuela. During her first year in 2017, she said she frequently visited the Writing and Academic Resource Center at Emerson to improve her English writing and communication skills.

In January 2018, Cappellin said she joined the Global Voice team and participated in demonstrating the exercises.

“The series is a first step for international students to take English to the next level,” Cappellin said. “It will help them improve their pronunciation and the way they communicate.”

The professors already created all six episodes. They hope to finish a webpage sometime this year where all Emerson students, staff, and faculty can access the episodes.

“I like the idea of it being for everybody,” Heflin said. “It is very democratic in how it is sup-

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Students Jane Fu and Shirley Hu participated in creating the Global English Voice Exercise series. Courtesy of Jane Fu

sports

UPCOMING ACTION

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Emerson @ Simmons, 7 p.m. Thursday

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

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Emerson vs. Babson, 4 p.m. Saturday

Women's volleyball set to close out season after injuries

Maximo Lawlor, *Beacon Correspondent*

The women's volleyball team nears the end of a competitive season despite injuries to four key players.

With a 2-6 conference record in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, the Lions sit at 13-10 in their fall season. The team ranks eighth in conference standings, only one spot away from making the championship bracket.

After a 5-0 season start, the Lions lost six out of the next seven games, bringing them to a 6-6 record in the middle of their fall schedule. They added two victories following wins against Castleton University and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on Saturday.

Head coach Ben Read said injuries took a large toll on the season.

"We've had a lot of injuries with starters out, and it affects the chemistry out on the court, so we haven't performed as well as we would have liked," Read said.

Sophomore outside hitter Grace Tepper said even through all the injuries, the team never stopped giving its best effort on the court.

"We work hard through it all. We work on things we need to fix, like how to improve our game despite all [the team's injuries]," Tepper said. "A lot of it is working on our mental focus. Finishing matches is something that we always talk about. It's really important."

Read said he doubts the possibility of making it into playoffs, but he's still motivated for the remainder of the season.

"Playoffs are out of the picture for us, I believe. Statistically, we might be in it, but looking at it, it's probably not going to happen," Read said. "We're committed to go ahead and get better every single day."

Young players shine bright

The four injured players on the team this season—such as star freshman Carolyn Vaimoso with a knee-injury—forced the team to throw young players onto the court against more experienced teams.

Read said he praised the new players on the



Fara Cohen (left), Kelley Guerra (center), and Albany Alexander (right) celebrate a point. *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

team for stepping up to the plate and performing well.

"We've had some younger players get some very valuable playing time, and they have definitely improved," Read said.

Freshman libero Lauren Quan played as the team's defensive specialist this year with 254 digs.

She said her fellow teammates rose to the challenges they faced over the season.

"Everyone stepped up," Quan said. "We've been working super hard in practice, and it's showing on the court."

Other freshmen who stepped up to play this season include Anna Hamre, Grace Hutchinson, and Reina Garcia. Each played at least 11 games throughout the season.

Seniors' final push

The three seniors on the team—Kelley Guerra, Moira Brennan, and Fara Cohen—set the tone for the younger players this year. Read said the seniors serve as role models for their teammates.

"Our seniors have been very persistent throughout the year," Read said. "Our seniors

want to leave our team at a good place."

Brennan said she enjoyed the chemistry of the team and the other seniors.

"It's been really fun out there, especially for the seniors," Brennan said. "It's a good team to end with."

As the seniors gear up for the last stretch of their collegiate careers, Tepper said she feels unhappy to see them so close to the end.

"Honestly, we're sad to see a lot of seniors go," Tepper said. "We're going to have a blast while we have time and just do the best with what we have left."

The Lions will honor Brennan, Guerra, and Cohen on senior day before their matchup with Connecticut College on Oct. 20 at 2 p.m.

Lions aim for upsets

With only six games left in the Lions' season, the team hopes to overcome conference opponents Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Springfield College.

Read said he hopes to claim victories over remaining conference competition at the end of the season.

"We'd love to go out and win against [MIT and Springfield] and just make a statement going into next year," he said.

Quan said she could see the team using non-conference games to prepare for the two conference showdowns.

"We're going to need to work on staying consistent throughout the whole game," Quan said. "These next games are going to be a really big deal for us."

Read said he looks forward to the remainder of his team's season.

"We're gonna be the best that we can, and hopefully we can upset some NEWMAC teams in the process," Read said.

The Lions play their next game against Simmons College on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. They face off against MIT in a home matchup on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.

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Soccer, volleyball teams to honor seniors Saturday

Andrew Lin, *Beacon Correspondent*

The soccer and volleyball teams will honor their seniors when all three teams play at home on Oct. 20.

Men's soccer will play Wheaton College at 1 p.m. followed by the women's soccer game against Babson College later at 4 p.m. on Rotch Field. Women's volleyball will host Framingham State University and Connecticut College starting at 10 a.m. Before the game starts, there will be a brief pregame ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the seniors for the past four years.

The women's soccer team has a 4-2-1 record in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference and sits in fourth place out of 11 in the conference—at least seventh place is required to qualify for the playoffs. The Lions play Babson in a crucial conference meeting on senior day as the women's team aims for a playoff run with just three games left.

Senior forward Paige Haley said she hopes the team can use the senior day excitement to pull off a win against Babson, a team Emerson has never beaten before.

"Whenever we play on senior day, everybody has a lot of energy and they're all really pumped up," Haley said. "We tend to play a little better, so I'm excited to see that against Babson."

Senior forward Jess Frost said that the team has gradually morphed into a playoff contending team in the conference since her first year.

"We were getting one win in the NEWMAC, and now we're playoff competitors. So I think as a legacy to leave behind over my four years—the changes that the team has gone through and the steps that we've taken forward to become one of the best teams at Emerson," Frost said.

Frost and Haley each have five goals this season, while Frost and senior midfielder Elizabeth Noble tallied five and two assists respectively this season.

Both Frost and Haley said they are thankful for their teammates over the past four seasons.

"I just want to say thank you to everybody. It's been such a great four years, and I'm really grateful that I got to play this sport a little bit longer than anticipated," Haley said. "I've had the best time, and I just want everybody out there to enjoy their time."

The women's volleyball team looks to grab two wins on senior day as the Lions host Framingham State and Connecticut College. At home, the volleyball team holds a 6-4 record against opponents, and the team's statistics at home are slightly better than on road in areas like hitting percentages, kills per set, and assists per set.

Senior Kelley Guerra said it will be an emotional day for her, as it will be one of the last times she will play with her teammates.

"I think it's just gonna be like a fun celebration of the past four years. It's kind of bitter-sweet, because I know I'm definitely going to cry because it's just so emotional," Guerra said. "It's going to be hard knowing that's one of the last times I'll be playing with my teammates who I really just love, but I'm just excited because it's fun."

Guerra will be joined by fellow seniors Fara Cohen and Moira Brennan in their final home game. Brennan leads the team in assists with 691 while Cohen leads the team in digs at 270. Guerra leads the team in blocks per set at 0.72. Brennan and Cohen both hit milestones earlier this month when Brennan topped 2,500 assists and Cohen surpassed 1,000 digs.

The men's soccer team is 1-4 in the NEWMAC and sits second to last in conference standings while Wheaton holds fourth place in the conference with a 2-3 record. Since Emerson joined the NEWMAC in 2013, the men's soccer team is winless against Wheaton.

Senior forward Max DeLuca and senior defender Paul Bou Aziz will play their last home games with the team on Oct. 20. Senior Bou



Jess Frost leads her team in scoring with 15 points. • *Anissa Gardizy / Beacon Staff*

Aziz is the second leading scorer for the men's team this season with three goals.

DeLuca said he looks forward to playing against Wheaton with his teammates in his last appearance at Rotch Field.

"I'm just most excited to hopefully get a win," DeLuca said. "We've had a few close games with Wheaton in the past three years I've been here, so hopefully we can get a win against them and just enjoy the last day playing at home at Rotch with a bunch of friends and teammates."

The men's soccer team looks to finish their last home game on a high note before they finish the season on Oct. 27 against Massachusetts Institute of Technology at 1 p.m.

DeLuca said he believes that the program has

a bright future moving forward. He adds that the team is headed in the right direction under head coach Bryan Harkin and the captaincy of junior defender Creighton Dorfman.

"It's definitely looking up in the program now," DeLuca said. "Coach Harkin has been tremendous for the team and Creighton Dorfman has done a wonderful job leading as a captain, and I'm excited to see what the program's looking like next year."

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