Poll for increased gender neutral housing met with hope & skepticism

Nicole Mitchell 
Staff Writer

“I feel like […] Here we go again with the surveys, here we go again with the push for gender neutral housing […] People have been working towards this for so long and I was a freshman,” said junior Jaime Gonzalez. He was referring to the latest in a series of surveys generated by Lawrence University Community Council’s Residence Life Committee meant to gauge interest in increasing gender neutral housing and bathroom options in Lawrence’s residence halls.

Currently, rooms in Hiett and Brokaw Halls, the latter of which includes Smalls, and small houses are gender neutral. Notably, none of these residences are open to freshmen, and none offer the typical college experience of living on a coeducational floor. Sage is co-ed by floor, meaning that while roommates are all of the same gender, both men and women may occupy different rooms on the same floor. There are also a limited number of gender neutral bathrooms on campus, and even fewer of those have showers. Many of these bathroom rooms are also inconveniently located.

Explaining why it is important to offer more accessible gender neutral housing on campus, Gonzalez said “while the people who need [gender neutral housing] are a small demographic […] we need to work towards helping that demographic. Maybe only 20 percent of people on campus say they want gender neutral housing, but that 20 percent needs it.”

Gonzalez added that gender neutral housing is about giving people “the option to be in a space where they feel safe and comfortable.”

This sentiment was echoed by junior Allison Wray, a gender non-conforming student, who says “there is a sense of comfort in being able to have our own space and have our housing match our identities.” Wray added “people identify how they identify and […] respecting the needs of students who identify outside the gender binary, or who don’t but for who [gender neutral housing] is a more comfortable option, is really important.”

The most recent Residence Life Committee survey, which was sent out on Friday, Oct. 9 and will be open on voyager for two weeks, is likely a sign of hope for students like Gonzalez and Wray. This survey is the culmination of a student-lead initiative for increased gender neutral housing options, and follows a much broader poll sent out in spring of 2014. Sophomore and Residence Life Committee Vice Chair Dan Thomas-Commins said the 2014 survey “pointed to a strong desire for gender neutral housing in traditional residence halls,” and explained that this most recent survey is much more focused.

Instead of inquiring on general feelings about gender neutral housing, it will “tell [the Residence Life Committee] how many floors to set aside as gender neutral.” He says his goal is to extend the option of gender neutral housing to incoming freshmen and other students interested in a traditional residence hall experience. Junior and Residence Life Committee Chair Malcolm Lunn-Craft says that there is a “strong possibility” of that happening next fall.

MARS launch dinner receives attention & scrutiny from Lawrence community

Tina Czaplinska 
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 6 at the first Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault (MARS) dinner, Lecturer of Gender and Freshman Studies Helen Boyd Kramer opened with, “This is fucking stupid.”

The ‘this’ she was referring to was multifaceted and struck a chord with many of the women in the room. The video that followed, showing rituals women have for trivial actions like getting into a car to keep them safe, continued to highlight the discrepancies between the realities of masculine and feminine people.

Despite this, senior, Chair of Student Alliance Against Sexual Harassment and Assault (SAASHA) board member of MARS Hannah Shryer admits that the event had a different focus.

“Just sitting through the program was hard for me because it wasn’t targeted for people like me, it wasn’t targeted toward women, people who have as much knowledge on this issue,” began Shryer.

Shryer continued to stress that the attendees were “responsive and good listeners and felt that most of them could take [her] seriously.” Shryer was also surprised with the massive turn out. “Honestly, the event received too much publicity, too much recognition. It was just a launch event, which was really pivotal, but at the same time, it was a little too much, especially when people like me, people in SAASHA, people in Downer Feminist Council [DFC], people who have graduated have been working on this sort of thing for a very long time and these people have always been women and never gotten that rec-

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Poet John Murillo reads selected work in Wriston art gallery

Peter Winslow
For The Lawrenceian

This past Monday, Oct. 12, Lawrence University set up, “An Evening of Poetry with John Murillo” in Wriston Art Center, sponsored by the Mia Paul Poetry Fund. Murillo is the author of “Up Jump The Boogie,” a collection of poems that is currently being taught both in Assistant Professor of English Melissa Range’s Creative Poetry course and Bonnie Gildlen Buchanan Professor of English Literature and Associate Professor of English Timothy Spurgin’s Literary Analysis course this term. “Up Jump The Boogie” was published in 2010 and a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and up for the PEN Open Book Award.

Murillo was born in Los Angeles, and educated at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and New York University (NYU). He currently teaches at NYU and Hampshire College, and has become a revered poet over the past couple decades with honors including a Pushcart Prize, fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass., the Wisconsin Institute of

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Murillo read his work and answered questions last Monday in the Wriston Art Center gallery. Photo by Luke Payne.
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"[In the future, MARS] should consider doing a series of workshops that would more effectively relay this information and allow for discussion," said Conteh. "This was way too much information at once without addressing topics like rape that happens to men, how rape happens on campus, etc. It just felt like a lot of coddling." Shryer agrees that she envisions changes in the future.

"We could have been more intersectional and inclusive of people of different identities," Shryer said. "[This event] was definitely targetted for stereotypical ideas of what masculine people are and identify as and the groups they're in, so that realm of heteronormative gendered culture," said Shryer.

Through this, the general reaction seemed to call for a better way to meet the goals of this organization.

"Based on this initial event, I think that MARS has the potential to galvanize significant change with their future initiatives," said Dods.

"In the future[,] there should be more discussion about masculinity, because we were reiterating over and over that you should be able to talk about your feelings if you're a masculine person, but we never gave [the audience] the opportunity to do that or even digest it beyond hearing people present on it," continued Shryer. "In spite of the numerous changes requested by the Lawrence community, Shryer is ultimately pleased with the event. "Even if it was seemingly kind of basic, it was still important," concludes Shryer.

MARS plans on participating in future events throughout the year, for instance, a Concert for Consent occurring this spring.

Hannah Kinzer
Staff Writer

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar David Campbell gave a lecture titled "The Fermi-Pasta Ulam (FPU) Problem and The Birth of Non-linear Science." The lecture took place at 7:30 p.m. in Stitzel Hall, and was open to the community. It was one of the two lectures that are part of the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars Program. The second lecture was given Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The lecture was sponsored by Phi Beta Kappa, a national liberal arts honors society. The program, according to their website, "exists to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus by making possible an exchange of ideas between the Visiting Scholars and the resident faculty and students."

The program brings a visiting scholar to a college for two days to engage in the college's academic life. This includes meeting with students and faculty, and engaging in classroom activities. Visiting scholars also give a lecture open to the public. As one of the 283 campuses that have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, Lawrence University was selected to participate in the program.

The visiting scholar, Campbell, is a professor of physics, electrical and computer engineering, materials science, and engineering at Boston University. His work centers on the field of nonlinear science, and he co-founded the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Among other honors, in 2014, he received the Gauss Professorship of the Academy of Sciences in Göttingen.

Campbell’s lecture focused on non-linear science and using computers to run experimental mathematics on non-linear models. He described the underlying question of non-linear science as how to go from phenomena that are the same when reversed in time—a pendulum swinging back and forth—to phenomena that are not the same when reversed in time—pouring water out of a glass.

He then went on to describe the history of the non-linear field of science. He explained the research of scientists Enrico Fermi, John Pasta, Stanislav Ulam, and Mary Tsingou, and the questions that arose from their results.

He also explained research in chaos, solitons and patterns that developed from their research. Additionally, Campbell noted ongoing research in non-linear systems ranging from development of tail patterns on zebrafish to electronic information storage and transport.

Associate Professor of Physics Douglas Martin was eager to learn more about the history of mathematics and the application of computers in studying equations from the lecture. In addition, he hoped students would “be excited by the ideas of nonlinear dynamics and that at least a few [would] be excited enough to pursue the topic further.”

The lecture was open to all majors and members of the community. Martin said, “I hope this lecture reinforces the tradition of the liberal arts on campus, in particular, the notion that every subject taught at Lawrence is a component of the liberal arts.”

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Creative Writing and two Larry Neal Writers Awards. During Monday night’s reading, he recited nine poems in total, four of which are featured in “Jump The Boogie.” He encouraged his audience to be active when receiving his words, saying if they liked a particular line or verse, they should let him know with “grunts and snaps,” as he put it while laughing. He engaged the audience at every break between the poems, comically reminding about past experiences in his life and poking fun at the boredom that is often associated with poetry readings. According to Murillo, he does not identify as a spoken word poet, but his lyrical pattern is influenced by hip-hop and rap music. During his reading, he referenced his experiences playing basketball while growing up and how that has helped shape him into the individual he is today.

During the question and answer portion after his readings, Murillo answered many questions, varying from his personal maturity as a poet to where he draws influences to when first started writing. When asked how he prepared himself to write a poem, Murillo said he often reads before writing, or he practices different literary styles and techniques in order to sharpen his process and the development of his poetry. He also shared that often, he writes words on paper while vocalizing them at the same time in order to perfect his word choice and align the syllable placement down to each consonant and vowel. After the session, he stayed in Wriston to sign books and talk with some of the students studying his material.

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Dear Students,

It is with regret that I send out this letter, which is in lieu of this week’s school newspaper. Unfortunately, with the writer of a paper; the school newspaper is at a loss, and unable to complete a paper for the week. As you may have heard, a student of ours has passed on this week. The death of Chester Fishler, a surprise to us all, has been ruled to be an accident. We are not quite sure what the accident was, but we’re fairly certain there was no foul play involved.

His body will be shipped back to Boston, where his funeral service will be held. A candlelight vigil will be held in the student-run garden this Wednesday. Please remember to pay thanks to the Grapeville Water Treatment Plant; we do, after all, have a responsibility to the plants, right? We encourage this thought every day until you start to feel a little more in control.

Don’t freak out. This strategy is the most important. Think this way of keeping their head above water. The best thing you can do is try out a couple methods and find what works best for you.

The first thing I would suggest is to go to the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and request a time management consultation. The CTL doesn’t just have writing tutors, they have lots of resources to help you get all your work done and remain sane.

My sophomore year was as challenging as far as workload and other things go, and seeing someone in CTL every Monday really helped me feel prepared for the week ahead. Most of the time, all I needed was to lay out what I had to get done that week and get some objective assurance that it was doable. Other times, I needed more intensive help, like breaking up large readings into smaller chunks, setting personal due dates for them. Regardless of whether I needed lots of help or not very much, I always felt relieved and ready to conquer the world when I left that meeting.

If you really don’t want to go to the CTL for some reason, or you’ve already tried it, here are some strategies that work for me.

- Write it all down. Get a nice big planner and write every assignment you get into it. Look through your syllabi and write down every due date, including readings. Revert back to your planner religiously, checking in every morning and every evening. This really helps make sure you don’t forget any assignments.

- Schedule your day. Schedule it as an assignment! This can be a very handy use for that nice big planner you got. At the end of the day, write down your schedule for the next one. Write what time you’re planning on getting up, when your classes are and how much time you’re going to spend working on each different assignment; even assign time slots for meals, breaks and free time.

Back in my sophomore year, when everything was awful for me, I used to do this every day. I really thought about it when I have a lot to get done. If you’re feeling overwhelmed, I would suggest doing it every day until you start to feel a little more in control.

Liberal Arts: Why I Am Here

Savvra Stairopoulos
For The Lawrentian

Whoever has read Plato’s “The Republic,” has read a philosophy student of the past 70 years, should know very well by now that one’s greatest asset is their mind. Plato states that knowledge is attainable by all, but very few are actually bright enough to realize it. That is the reason for me, according to Plato, so few people ever choose to leave the cave. As Lawrence students, however, we are given an opportunity to escape the world in search of true knowledge. As an international student from Greece, I come from a country whose educational system was once praised for its open-mindedness, but which has now become a shadow of its former self.

I was born and raised in Greece, and for the greater part of my life, I lived a Greek school. As middle schoolers, my fellow classmates and I had the opportunity to explore the works of Homer and Plato, and study Greek history. Being exposed to great, timeless ideas was incredibly valuable for me as a young individual, but only to a certain extent. I had to read the Odyssey and then memorize what the translator’s views were on it. I had to read stories of the fierce Greeks who fought the Ottomans and then memorize their stories for the big, spooky exam that was coming up the next month.

As you have probably realized by now, the content of what we were being taught might have actually been exceptionally good, but there was no room whatsoever for us, as students, to think about what we were learning or even express our own opinions. We just had to follow this dull system of endless memorization which was unbalanced by critical thinking of any kind.

I may come from the country which once served as the center of knowledge and education, but years later, its political system that seems to delegitimize any kind of creative thinking. When I was presented with the opportunity of attending a liberal arts college outside of my country, I did not hesitate for a second in making my decision.

Coming to Lawrence was a way for me to escape the harsh realities of the Greek educational system by getting a liberal arts education. This meant, essentially, that I would have the chance to become a free-thinking individual by exploring multiple subject areas and becoming a well-rounded person. Coming here, I realized that Lawrence is an environment that fosters creativity and critical thinking instead of suppressing them. I finally got to read and give my own opinion on a plethora of topics that were initially foreign to me. It was, and still is, like a dream come true. My professors are not my dictators, but my mentors. My classmates are not my rivals, but my colleagues. Our class is not a lecture, it is a symposium without the drinking part, of course.

As a liberal arts-based education is a system that, like all others, has many flaws, both short-term and long-term. It is, however, a life-changing experience that gives birth to critical thinkers and independent learners by giving students the tools and the space they need to develop their ideas and voice their opinions about what they are being taught.

I wake up every day thinking of how grateful I am for being here, learning all these new things and meeting people...
Women's cross country continues to lead the pack

Matt Geleske
Staff Writer

In another pre-Midwest Conference (MWC) matchup, the Lawrence University (Vikings) Men's and Women's Cross Country teams ran at their only home meet of the year at Reid Golf Course at the Gene Davis Institutional. This meet was smaller than most as it included only six teams. However the women took care of it by taking the first place finish. The men placed third. The smaller size of the meet gave the Vikings a unique mental challenge to prepare them for the MWC meet at the end of the season. In big invites of over a hundred runners, the meet was mentally surrounded throughout, making front pack running extremely important. In a small meet, such as this one, however, the runners are almost alone as the race splits out.

"In races where every place matters, it is critical to stay mentally engaged," junior Max Edwards said. "The home meet was a good opportunity for that because there were not as many competitors so we all had an opportunity to run in space more. Running isolated makes it all the more important to focus on providing your top effort."

The Vikings certainly provided their top efforts in the women's 6k race. SeniorClause Brung led the women with a second place finish at 24:01. Brung was followed by sophomore Erin Schrobligen (24:27), senior Liz Landes (24:37), sophomore Margaret Hutt (24:39) and freshman Sierra Polzin (24:52). All five of the Viking scoring runners finished in the top 10 within a minute of each other, a great sign of success from the top five runners.

"The men's team overall took third, only losing to the competitive programs of University of Wisconsin-Madison Track Club and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Edwards was the top finisher for the Vikings in seventh place with a time of 26:33. Freshman Josh Janusik (26:46) and sophomore Berlin Schaefer (27:03), senior Cam Davies (27:25) and senior Jordan Atkins (27:28) rounded out the top five for the men. The two freshmen Janusik and Schaefer are welcome contributions to our young men's team. "The freshmen have really stepped up to help us strengthen our top five," says Edwards. "They give us a narrower gap between our top five runners and help with confidence heading into conference." Looking ahead, the cross country team will adjust their training away from a long taper and begin taping and sharpening up for conference—the final meet of the year—and the Vikings have their sights on the top prize. "We're trying to do the little things between now and then to stay healthy," says Edwards. "I believe that if we all run our potential on that day we have as good a shot as any.

Both cross country teams will travel the short distance to UW Oshkosh next weekend in one of the last meets before the conference championships.

Men's soccer look to improve standing after conference win

The Lawrence University Men's Soccer team traveled south last Saturday to win its conference matchup 1-0 against the Bishops of Beloit College. Junior Viking midfielder Max Branta showed his scoring prowess against the Bishops and scored the only goal in the 25th minute. The goal was unassisted and represented the Vikings' second score of the season.

So which team has what it takes to take the MWC? Before we answer that, a little history on the conference is needed.

The story of this post season is pretty much-hoped the team this year. We have bigger hitters going against us or teams that play us. We have a really strong schedule this year. We have some tough games coming up, but I'm going with the Cubs at this point.

Jordan Atkins
Staff Writer

It's October, which means the MLB Playoffs are back. It's time for history to be made and for players to make themselves legends. So which team has what it takes to bring home the World Series trophy? Before we answer that, a word on the playoff format.

This year has exposed everything that is wrong with the current playoff format. The current system rewards division winners and sends them based on their records, with the best two teams who did not win their division playing in a one game playoff for the right to play the best team in their respective league.

This year, the top three teams in the entire MLB came from just one division, the National East. This year, the second best team in the National East (the Cubs) has their seasons rely on the outcome of one game, just so their division win can hold their place in the best record in the MLB (Cardinals). Meanwhile, five teams worse than them waited comfortably knowing that they had a best of five series ahead of them, with three of them getting home field advantage.

Throw in the mix that home field advantage for the World Series is decided by the winner of a game that nobody, including the players and managers, even cares about (the MLB all-star game) and you have yourself a pre-game playoff format. It's time to reward overall record more than division winner. With this established, let's move on to the teams.

The story of this post season has undoubtedly been the Chicago Cubs, and it's not hard to see why. A young team full of rookies that thrives on home runs looking to end the longest championship drought in sports history? Sounds too good to be true, but this team is for real, evidenced by them defeating the St. Louis Cardinals and being the first team to clinch a wild card spot in their division.

With all of the other divisional series being decided by a five game, it's tough to pick any clear-cut favorites. Despite the Dodgers and their one-two punch of pitching, and this may be the Chicago blue in me coming out, but I'm going with the Cubs offense harder to defend and give the Cubs all the opportunities on the field.  "I'm going with the Cubs at this point.

Brady Busha
Staff Writer

The Chicago Cubs have become the MLB postseason story.

Katie Kumbalek - Volleyball

Midwest Conference Player of the Week after a fierce showing against Lake Forest and Beloit on Oct. 2. In a 4-0, respectively, victories she racked up 37 digs in the two day span, averaging 3.29 digs per set as Lake Forest beat Beloit both. Since then, the team traveled to Knox and Monmouth colleges, earning victories in both matches, notching their Midwest Conference record to 5-2, good for fourth in the conference.

Where are you from? What drew you to Lawrence?
I am from Houston, Texas. My Indoor Volleyball coach wanted me to go here, so I've been coming here since I was six years old.

What was the feeling like when you heard you were named MWC Player of the Week?
I didn't believe it at first. I thought it was crazy because I'm just a freshman. It's crazy that I'd get this much recognition early.

Winning like this, being on a tear individually and as a team, it must feel great. How do you and your team get psyched up or prepare in pre-game?
We are just trying to be loose and ready to go. My pre-game thing is to listen to "39 Seconds" by Slim Thug, he's a rapper from my hometown and it's the last song I listen to before I head up to the court.

The way you've been performing recently is impressive. How do you plan to keep this up?
By staying focused during games, and to keep pushing myself to be better every game.

What's one thing you're really looking forward to this fall?
I'm looking forward to going to the conference tournament, if we can make it. That's just exciting for me and the team.

How different does competing at Lawrence feel from competing in high school?
I came from a really competitive high school, and Lawrence is a step up from that. You definitely have bigger hitters going against you, going for the kill. It's kind of scary sometimes, but I can dig them.

How have your teammates helped you with your transition into the life of a collegiate student athlete?
They have been amazing. Everybody on the team is so well-versed in the game and never have any problems, they are always there for me. They are the best teammates ever.

This Lawrence Volleyball team is looking ready to take on any body right now. How far do you think the team can go?
I think we can win conference. We could. We just really have to take care of business, and to do it. We have a really strong team this year.
Women's soccer looking to get back on track

Tina Schrage
For The Lawrenceian

The Lawrence University Women's soccer team struggled this past week, falling to conference opponents St. Norbert College and Beloit College. St. Norbert defeated Lawrence 3-0. Both St. Norbert and Beloit out-shot Lawrence 19-8 and 18-7, respectively. Lawrence's record is currently 6-7-0 overall and 1-4-0 in the Midwest Conference.

Senior forward Casey Merkle continued to make her presence known in both games, shooting the most of any Lady Vike in both of the games combined. Merkle scored Lawrence's lone goal against St. Norbert last Saturday, the second minute on a breakaway with the help of freshman defender Mari Habubak.

"We could have done a lot better," freshman defender Christine Kerkmann said. "I think we just those games mostly because our team chemistry has been off. We just haven't been playing our game plan.

The game plan according to Kerkmann is dependent on the forwards and midfielders not forcing the ball into pressure and taking high quality shots. "Usually we don't take that many shots because we are working so much on our passing and movement into the box," Kerkmann said. "Once we have the opportunity, we either take it and the shot is way off, or we just don't use the opportunity.

The women's soccer team takes chances against the opposing team's goal keeper to test them.

Senior captain Patry Kealey fought hard in the goal, making four saves and allowing six against St. Norbert College and making six saves and only allowing two against Beloit College. Freshman goalie Mayan Essak continued to make her presence known, making six saves and only allowing two against both Beloit and Carroll.

"We communicate really well the way, Kerkmann said. "We help the forwards and the midfielders who are too far away from Patry and are unable to hear her. We are the distributors of information during a game. In order to make sure everyone is making the appropriate transitions during the game, Patry tells everyone where to go in order to play efficiently.

The women's soccer team is aiming to make it into the top four for conference, but the task will be a difficult one and the team will have to play the cards just right to get into the top four. "The only way we can get to the top four is to win every game from now until the end of the season," Kerkmann added. "We want to make our goal a reality.

The Lawrence University Women's soccer team's next game is against Monmouth. Despite several injuries, the Lady Vikes are still fighting hard to make the most of the season and capture a few, if not all, wins in the remainder of the season.
Would you tell us specifically about what you do on a campus? I see my job as opening students up to dance. In the Conservatory, and [for] students in general, I see dance as transformative power. Specifically, I am teaching two courses: a term called "Ensemble Thinking," which is a group improvisation, "Dance Appreciation," which tries to teach on many things just for a 10-week course, "Dance History" and other different forms of dance. I also bring different groups into campus and show people different possibilities of dance—what dance can be and what dance can do.

When I first arrived here, I realized there are many pockets of dance. All over the campus, there are dance clubs and dance teams—like modern dance club, African dance, Irish dance and so on. So I think that seen part of my role here is to collect and start a dance calendar, so that everybody can know what dance you can do on campus. I am also doing a dance series, bringing visiting dance artists in. So far on campus. I am also doing a dance series, doing my art, seeing my family and being amazing students. I can have a balanced life. Of course, this is having a balanced lifestyle, commuting certain days. I love it. Later I discovered Nina Martin, who was my mentor, in Lower Left. At that time, I was majoring in psychology and was not expecting that I would be a dancer or a dance professor. I was about to graduate from the university. At that time, I do not need to have ballet training or twenty years of training before getting here. What I need is just your open mind. The second thing is my colleagues. Everybody I met is so open, inspiring and ready to collaborate. Being surrounded by those colleagues is super amazing. And lastly, I have a balanced life for family.

What draws you to dance? When did you know you wanted to be a dancer? I was drawn to dance just because I have always been a mover. Before being an art professor, I was a gymnast. I started doing gymnastics at four. I was doing my art, seeing my family and being amazing students. I can have a balanced life. Of course, this is having a balanced lifestyle, commuting certain days. I love it. Later I discovered Nina Martin, who was my mentor, in Lower Left. At that time, I was majoring in psychology and was not expecting that I would be a dancer or a dance professor. I was about to graduate from the university. At that time, I do not need to have ballet training or twenty years of training before getting here. What I need is just your open mind. The second thing is my colleagues. Everybody I met is so open, inspiring and ready to collaborate. Being surrounded by those colleagues is super amazing. And lastly, I have a balanced life for family.

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Preparing for a concert at Lawrence University

Laura Leppink
Staff Photographer

During a rehearsal for the upcoming Oct. 16 Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra concert and Oct. 17 Lawrence University Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Concert, students shared what they are excited about and Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands, Andrew Mast talked about his experience so far with Wind Ensemble.

What groups do you conduct?
This year, I just conduct the Wind Ensemble.

What has been one of the most difficult parts of the rehearsal cycle?
I would say two things: Getting ready for Kaleidoscope in such as short period of time on a very challenging piece for the McTee Circuits, which is very demanding rhythmically, articulation, and technically. Also the Holst because it’s such a standard piece. I have done it many times and have really dug into it deeply, it isn’t so much about the notes and rhythm as it is the overall idea. It is going really well but that has been a challenge in the best sense of the word.

What are you looking forward to the most this weekend for the concerts?
I think the overall effect is really cool, I am really looking forward to putting it all together on stage Saturday. I know when we get done with the last note of the Holst we will have that completion. It’s like a really good meal that has all the good ingredients and all the courses and the completion will be nice.

What should students listen for during the concert?
Be open to new things and new sounds, because both halves of the program there are sounds that may be a bit unusual and different. Composers have asked for different ways of playing or different ways of setting melodies. Be open minded to those kinds of sounds and be ready for really great playing by really great musicians.

What advice do you give your students before a concert?
Stay relaxed, stay focussed, have fun and communicate with the audience.

Anything else you would like to share with the rest of campus?
You don’t have to dress a certain way or act a certain way to enjoy a concert, its open to anybody. If there is a perception that you have to know a certain thing in order to enjoy a concert at Lawrence that is simply not true. So, come and enjoy the concert!

“Well, Orchestra is playing this really cool piece by Rimsky Korsakov, Russian Easter. I think people should listen to the trombones at the very end when it switches into a halftime feel have a very Russian bell sounding motif. Also the trumpets have a pentatonic lick that they have throughout the piece that switches keys that is very very cool, which I get to play very very loud.”—Senior and Wind Ensemble-Symphony Orchestra member Mitchell Nelson

“Being in Wind Ensemble and Orchestra means I have a lot of playing time, but it will all end up in really great performances this weekend.”
— Super Senior and Ensemble-Symphony Orchestra member Morgen Moraine

“I am looking forward to the piece Symphonic Band plays with the left and right brass choir up in the balcony.”—Senior and Symphonic Band member Emily Wendorf

“The concerts this weekend should be really great, Kaleidoscope gave a first look at all the hard work all the performers have been putting in for these first concerts.”
— Sophomore Dean Chen

“Both groups are really great, I enjoy all the music they play.”
— Sophomore, Audience member and Wind Ensemble member Jack Kil Kelly-Schmidt

Preparations for a concert at Lawrence University"
It’s been a busy few weeks for The Goat Wizard. After releasing their debut extended play (EP), playing their first live show and finding a new manager, the members took time out of their busy schedules to sit down and talk with me about their music. The Goat Wizard—which, of my knowledge, is Lawrence’s only progressive rock band—features junior Will Patton on bass and vocals, junior Luis Gonzalez on guitar, senior Greyson Sztuczko on guitar and vocals, junior Alex Kurti on guitar and vocals, and sophomore Liam McCarr on drums.

Blending meticulous and experimental soundscapes with high energy playing, the Goat Wizard strives to create an atmosphere that is both fun and enjoyable, be it in front of an audience or just during rehearsal. You can experience this firsthand in their first show at Sinofsky a few weeks ago, where they got everyone head-banging, dancing or still with awe at what would happen next.

With this sudden influx into the university’s vast music scene, it is important to say that the band has been a long time coming. The core members of the group, Patton, Gonzalez and Sztuczko—started jamming their freshmen and junior years, respectively. When Patton took off a year later, Gonzalez, Sztuczko and Kurti formed Goat Wizard as a post-punk band who played several shows last year. However, the three’s desire to create the band they have now did not die out in that year. Over the school year and summer, the three began creating and recording “Are These Demons!!!?,” consisting of five original songs and a humorous bonus track, chiefly composed by Patton. The EP was made long distance and while it did not include members of Kurti and McCarr, they joined near the release to complete the live band setup.

The Goat Wizard’s EP is a fascinating glimpse into their sound, but comparing it to other even tighter and experimental sound they now have live and with the two new members, “Are These Demons!!!?" lacks that level of energy. I might sound crude when I say that, especially if you’re listened to the EP, but if you ever see them live, you should not doubt what I mean.

Unlike the EP, sounding incredible and the live shows even better, the six songs are a delicious pu pu platter that gives the listeners a taste of the unique sounds and noises present throughout their music. All of the band’s members cited pedaling as primary influences, inspired by the wide variety of sounds they can produce. They often use the pedals as instruments in addition to their main instruments. Between the five of them, there are currently 34 pedals, so the sky is the limit.

The reason I was so excited to focus on The Goat Wizard for this column is because the musicians all have a heavy involvement in the music Conservatory, save for Kurti. Gonzalez and McCarr are both majors on their instruments while Patton and Sztuczko are majoring in euphonium and trombone, respectively. With this knowledge, it does not surprise me that these five would create a band such as The Goat Wizard, yet they did. In probably the most serious segment of our 30-minute discussion, the four of them talked about why they love creating this music and also why they stick with their original academic paths. They wholeheartedly agreed that playing in The Goat Wizard is more fulfilling than their majors. Money because they have to try crazy things musically that they are passionate about and also to see themselves doing it in their future, as opposed to playing with the heavy classicists and majoring in euphonium and trombone.

They all acknowledge and appreciate the importance of their involvement in academic playing. “We all play an instrument or style that gets us into the Conservatory so that we could be around the people to do this,” Patton shared, and was immediately backed up by the rest of the band. Sztuczko added, “This is kind of a stepping stone—the major or the degree—to get where we really want to be as musicians, to be able to do what we want to do.”

This comes back to their academic pursuits—they shared with me how they benefit from them—but this intrinsically full of complexities and oddities is not something that can be seen from books or teachers, at least for them. The Goat Wizard plans to record and play more shows throughout the rest of their time here at Lawrence. With no specific plans besides to see where it takes them, their raw, experimental and unbridled creativity is something to be admired by many on campus, and hopefully will continue on their journey.

You can download their EP for free on Bandcamp, and keep your eyes peeled for future of only doing construction work quickly becomes more and more Pavissant as Carver teaches Nash throughout the film, the only thing for them to do in order to maximize profit is to try to find the right words to convey their messages clearly. He stated that what is most important is having something to say. Carver summed up poetry as “freeing” and “binding” in the sense that poets have the freedom to express their thoughts and feelings personally to themselves but binding in the way that craft and style are part of the great tradition of this type of writing.

Carver confessed that he has read and researched upon the same copy of “Up Jump the Boogie” for five years. One of the things he tries to make is that the poems seem new and refreshing is by changing up the rhythm and experience with another word and tone of his readings. Even in doing so he is able to present a new meaning to the poetry each time he reads aloud. He learned what syllables and rhythmic patterns do and do not convey the messages he wants to inspire through his poems. The last piece that he shared was titled “Song.” Like many of his poems, it is a simplistic poem about love and the city. Mr. Carver explained how he wrote this piece as a reflection of himself and in and out of a relationship and homesickness for New York. In “Song,” Carver writes how he moved across the country from the Midwest to New York during rush hour; distracted by a woman sitting opposite him. He describes words like “cocoa-buttered” and “refractured light” to describe the woman, and as the poem ends about the imagery creators in their own heads when reading this poem. Even the way that he read the poem, pausing at certain stanzas to emphasize ideas, helped convey his messages clearly.

Carver suggests to future writers that each day comes with reading and rereading and writing and rewriting. Carver said that great poets helps one to understand the craft of this style of writing and even to see the words. If there is specific craft to the skill, and Mr. Carver embraces the traditional ways of writing while as the freeform that each poet has for himself or herself is creating in an original piece.
**Kurt Vile's newest release is a powerful look into getting through mental illness, identity and rolling with the punches.**

The lyrics are autobiographical, many listeners can also relate them to themselves and think about their own lives. With instrumental bits throughout the album, it is easy to mull over both the content and personal experiences.

The album overall is extremely accessible, making nice background music but also grabbing the listener's attention by densifying the lyrics. Throughout “b'lieve i'm gon down...”, Vile mixes warm guitar, banjo, overdubbed vocals and pianos, hoping more than just tunes, like drums, machines and subtle synth pads. The mix provides a background that doesn’t take away from the vocals but remains interesting and calming when the vocals drop out.

While the compositional and instrumental aspects of the album drew me in at first, it was the subject matter that made me listen again and again. Vile opens himself up to his listeners and shares his contemplations with a raw and honest, sometimes comical but always sophisticat-ed tone. The feelings he presents are so raw they make one feel as though they are the only listener, enabling the art he made to be shared easily. However, the lyrics still come off as experimental and straight from the heart.

The connectedness Vile provides between the album and the listener was perhaps more present in the track, “Journey”, that fully blends instrumental sections with vocals of specific sections, which, it turns out, is an album that is not jazz, minimal ism or the like to listen to in the background or at a party. This album is a good job of being listened to actively or as ambience, making it not only unique in this regard but an album that I can put on while I’m studying and an album that can be, it is rated highly in my book.

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The college application process is becoming more accessible for individuals pursuing Lawrence University as a potential institution to complete their undergraduate degree. On Sept. 28, 2015, Lawrence University announced that they will no longer be charging a $50 application fee and that early decision would be replaced with another early action option. The absence of this fee will likely increase the rate of applications as it makes applying to Lawrence virtually painless in terms of finances.

Current students may ask, “Why should I care about this? I already go here.” It is difficult to accurately predict what will happen, but it seems to us that changing the application process in this way will actually greatly impact the way Lawrence University is seen nationally and around the world. This change in the application requirements could allow people who might not have applied due to the fee or application options to not rule out Lawrence.

We believe that making Lawrence University more accessible to students with financial need will be a positive change and another step in the direction of becoming a full-service institution. However, we hope that the admissions team and the rest of the administration is mindful of how this influx of more applications than usual will impact the daily life of the students.

Recently, there have already been issues related to student housing on campus.

With the student body continuously growing, there have been few significant housing changes to increase the amount of rooms available to students. There will also be slightly made up for with the new lofts in Colman Hall.

The limited housing has caused the quality of campus life to decrease as residence halls have had to make sacrifices in order to accommodate the increase in students. For instance, many of the floor lounges in the residence halls are no longer being used for their intended purpose as communal spaces for the floor. Instead of being used for hall floor programs or another place to study, many of the lounges have been converted to double or triple dorm rooms.

The increased size of the student body also makes it harder to honor the small class sizes that Lawrentians value so much and that are such a big part of marketing Lawrence to prospective students.

In short, we are excited about the potential good that these changes will bring, but we want the administration to be aware that we value our small school and living quarters that match the price we pay for them.

The opinions expressed in The Lawrentian are those of the students, faculty and community members who wrote them. All facts are as provided by the authors. The Lawrentian does not endorse any opinions piece except for the staff editorial, which represents a majority of the Editorial Board. The Lawrentian welcomes everyone to submit their own opinions using the parameters outlined in the masthead.

Letters to the Editor can be sent in to Opinions & Editorials Editor Jess Morgan at jessica.morgan@lawrence.edu. We review all letters and consider them for publication. The Lawrentian staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, decency, style and space. All submissions should be submitted on the Monday before publication, and should not be more than 350 words.

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Monogamy: not for everyone

Bridget Keenan
For The Lawrentian

The social construct of romantic love has proven itself to be a manipulative tool, especially on college campuses. Women are taught, among other things, that romantic love and the attention of men under the deluded belief that monogamy will bring them fulfillment in life is not sanctioned by either experience or psychology, but rather a culture using romantic love as a means of controlling the actions of its oppressed.

Love is an obligation. You cannot be considered to have a secure life until you engage in a serious long-term relationship. You would have to read and pressed to find a popular movie that does not end with the female lead finding “the one.” Society tells us we are incomplete without a partner. Dating for young American women is a Hobson’s choice; you can do whatever you want with your love life as long as you remain monogamous romance.

As if social conditioning through songs and media was not enough, the external pressure to pair off is innumerable. We are taught to believe that no one can be happy, fulfilled or complete without romance in their life. In particular, women who abstain from romance are accused of being cold-hearted, misguided, insane or ruthless. We internalize this ethos to the point where we cannot tell this socialization apart from our own thoughts and desires, and are discreetly denied personal autonomy. People who defy these sacred boundaries are clearly ostracized and ostracize by their social circles.

None of these mediums are as powerful in reinforcing this argument as that romantic love and desire are a source of social power when deemed by society’s standards. However, there is nothing innate or pleasurable about monogamy. The inherent reason that we can not fulfill our romantic desires through some other medium. Alternatives include polyamory, casual relationships, casual dating, non-monogamous relationships, non-passionate friendship, long-term but informal relationships, self-reliance and abstinence.

None of these mediums revolve around a single partner or ideal having complete power over the relationship, but instead, focus on the decisions of the person who engages in them. These alternative forms of alleviating romantic desires are just as effective and valid as traditional means, and should not be considered a secondary option.

Even more suspicious is the lack of information and education surrounding healthy romantic habits. Many people who abuse their partners emotionally or sexually get away with their crimes simply because everyone affected by it is too educated to say otherwise. Many of our paradigms for relationships are unhealthy, controlling, dehumanizing and oppressive. Sex education is no longer considered an option in liberal areas due to the consequences of ignorance yet, romantic relationships, which require much more effort and attention to detail have no cultural equivalent thereof. Our ignorance towards our own emotional health is willful and intentional.

The fact that we focus so much time on successful romantic relationships when the overwhelming majority fail to maintain them proves the presence of unrealistic expectations. Monogamy is juxtaposed with independence or career achievements as the path to happiness. Real and fictional women gladly give up all they have ever valued in order to be with a desirable partner. By presenting romantic love as an ultimate form of success, we undermine any hopes a woman may have of autonomy.

The rate of relationship abuse is through the roof. It is only after we realize that two people are miserable together. Personal happiness is only secondary to the amatonormative pressure to not be single. Bombastic reports of wedded happiness exist only to assert the superiority of romance. Any implications otherwise will be immediately devalued. Socially, monogamy was understandable in its origins but now relies on platonic marriage for procreation, it makes sense that the separation of romantic and amatonormative relationships would start out unclear. Since the marriage industry profits greatly from the divorce rate has risen to over 50 percent, and society no longer strictly requires that we use this model for relationships. There is nothing inherently natural about the view of love we hold in popular society, and it is high time we realize that these archaic traditions be abandoned. No one is forcing us to do this but ourselves.

The reasons these norms remain intact are the power and privilege given to those who validate them. To question romantic monogamy and marriage is to question our ability to navigate our own lives and bodies. The entertain- ment industry profits greatly through badly written appeals to our desire to be part of the system, and weddings are just as much a business as an institution. Abolishing romantic monogamy is a corner- stone of many western religions’ inability to conform to these ideals, and are used as grounds for racism and sexism.

By assuming control over our love lives, we insulate these systems that depend on us being too distracted with love to question their existence. People whose bodies or lifestyle choices do not validate true love can expect to live a lifetime of shame and uncertainty. If nothing else is convincing, the psychological consequences forced upon significant chunks of the population should provoke our conviction of love as supreme.

True love is a failed social experiment only preserved by oppressive forces that control the will of the public. Many women will never have the option of regaining their own desires, and virtually no one has the tools to wonder why they started searching for a soulmate in the first place. The “love” that we put on a pedestal is a source of unhappiness and self-understanding, but a means of control and oppression.
If we want to understand the way people think about and react to discussions about gun control, we need to explore the thoughts and feelings that occur simultaneously address our ideas of masculinity. As the dangers of our irresponsible gun laws are being challenged today, so are the vices of hyper masculinity. However, before exploring the relationship between the defense of our nation's gun laws and masculinity, we need to understand the way people organize their thoughts on both issues. The human brain has many distinct parts, the frontal lobe and the amygdala being two of them. The frontal lobe is, in a sense, responsible for rational, calculated thought. The amygdala handles our emotional and fast-acting thoughts. The amygdala is roughly the size of an almond, and is considerably smaller than the frontal lobe. Thus, it has been hypothesized that when we are in a state of fear or stress, our amygdala takes over and constrains the scope of our thoughts, actions and motivation.

While this is not a scientific analogy but a symbolic one, "amygdala thoughts" and "frontal-lobe thoughts" can help explain the way people think about gun control, masculinity and how discussions of the two affect us. The thoughts that come from our amygdala are constricted, irrational and uncontrollable. Our frontal lobe thoughts take longer to assemble, but are also more rational.

The second amendment, which gives us the right to bear arms and establish a well-regulated militia, was a rational extension of the type of rights that needed to be afforded to the states in the founding era. Attacks from the British, Native Americans and other groups with the Spanish in the American Southeast were all very real and present threats. Defense was a much more pressing issue in our nation’s infancy than it is today.

Our traditional notion of masculinity is also borne out of the context of our nation’s early history. Self-reliance, the defense of the family, personal honor and grit were in a sense borne out of the same conditions that the second amendment was. The world was a dangerous and sparsely populated place. Individual families did not enjoy the safety net that society provides us today. So, our ideas of masculinity are also closely tied in American society. For this reason, this essay will focus on the frontal lobe and the defense of our gun laws. And we can’t address our conversations about gun laws and masculinity in the country.

In a perfect world, social conservatives should bear the responsibility of addressing their critics in a calm and constructed manner. However, the arguments that call for a safer and healthier culture need to consider the possibility that our own rhetoric further enriches social conservatives and intensifies the amygdala response that shuts down rational thinking.

The key to mitigating the stress response and achieving lasting change is to control our rhetoric in a way that critically engages with the arguments that social conservatives provide for their stance on gun laws and traditional notions of masculinity. Being able to respect the legitimate reasons for gun ownership, and separating the virtues of traditional masculinity help us to build bridges of respect for each other and make compromises to create a safer, healthier nation.

About it. As far as time manage- ment goes, freaking out about an assignment being due is not better than working on it for the same length of time is kind of dumb. "That being said, if you do end up freaking out, please don’t best yourself up about it.

Life at Lawrence is pretty demanding and we can’t all perfectly content all the time. If you’re feeling like you need to make a meltdown, stop for a second. Sit down, take some deep breaths and then make a list of what you have to do. Do each of those things one by one and check them off your list as you go, and I promise that you will start to feel better.

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I consider it to be my duty and primary purpose in life to one day return to my country and share my views on education with my compatriots, so that they can see the world from an entirely new perspective. However, I am not a strictly pacifist and believe that our nation’s gun laws and masculinity are as readily as possible to respond to ideological attacks as it is to respond to physical threats. By challenging gun laws and hyper masculinity, the collective amygdala of social conservatism kicks in and shuts down any possibility for calm and rational conversations about either idea. However, that is not to say that social conservatives are account- able for the overly emotional response of social conservatives. Regardless, it is important to understand why it is so difficult to have a productive conversation about gun laws and masculinity in the country.

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**PHOTO POLL**

What is an issue you would like to see addressed more often on campus?

- "The healthy balance statement is an issue that goes unaddressed until it becomes a serious problem."  
  — Amanda Leonard

- "I want to see social justice issues reach outside the group of people who are already regularly involved in them at Lawrence."  
  — Sam Bader

- "A big issue is the lack of understanding towards the diversity of gender expression."  
  — Zindy Lin

- "Bon Appétit used to be a positive facet of this school, but now the degradation in quality, quantity and variety has been very disappointing."  
  — Mady Luna

- "The looming, imminent group housing crisis should be addressed sooner rather than later when it’ll become a real issue."  
  — Raleigh Heath

- "I think the indifference towards correcting misogynistic views really needs to be tackled on this campus."  
  — Colin Wolff

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— All submissions to editorial pages must be turned in to The Lawrentian no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday before publication.

— All submissions to the editorial pages must be accompanied by a phone number at which the author can be contacted. Articles submitted without a contact number will not be published.

— The Lawrentian reserves the right to print any submissions received after the above deadline and to edit each submission for clarity, decency and grammar.

— Letters to the editor should not be more than 350 words, and will be edited for clarity, decency and grammar.

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