Angela Davis addresses contemporary racism at 25th annual MLK celebration

Angela Davis spoke at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel last Monday, Jan. 18. Photo by Hailie Nguyen

LUCC President and Vice President elected

Max Loeb & Jo-Hanna Rifai

Amaan Khan & Zach Ben-Amots
Copy Chief and Editor-in-Chief

The Lawrence University Community Council (LUCC) conducted its annual executive elections on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Hours after the election concluded, The Lawrentian broke the news that juniors Max Loeb and Jo-Hanna Rifai had been elected president and vice president of LUCC respectively.

Preparations for the election started in ninth week of Fall Term when LUCC released the applications, each requiring 150 signatures from the student population before the candidate was eligible to run. These applications were due on Saturday, Jan. 9, but only one application for president and two for vice president were received by this due date.

Upon the recommendation of senior and LUCC President Wesley Varughese, LUCC General Council voted to extend the deadline for submission of materials. The theme of the night was “Breaking the Chains of Injustice.” Davis discussed a range of topics, including institutionalized domestic racism and the Black Lives Matter movement. She spoke on the work of King and how it relates to current struggles—both at home in the United States and in the struggle for answers in Palestine. In doing so, Davis highlighted King’s lesser known ideas on seemingly contemporary issues. Davis also addressed the for the marginalized community within the limitations of this position,” said RafiQue.

To adequately prepare the community to vote, LUCC and The Lawrentian pursued various methods of disseminating information about the candidates. The newspaper published each candidate’s platforms on its website to complement the brief statement available just prior to balloting. In addition, Varughese and LUCC Vice President Ali Heiring hosted the second edition of a quasi-formal radio debate with the candidates. The debate was conducted over the student-run internet radio station WLFM on Sunday, Jan. 17.

The following evening, The Lawrentian Editor-in-Chief Zach Ben-Amots and Copy Chief Amaan Khan hosted the more formal debate with the candidates. This year’s debate differed from others in both its location and tone. Hosted in the Nathan Marsh Pusey Room of the Warch Campus Center rather than the café as in past years, the debate’s focus remained on nearly all campus issues with the community council’s purview.

The final candidate pool was composed of Loeb and junior Abedin RafiQue running for president, and juniors Elana Lambert, Glenn McMahon and Rifai contesting in the vice presidential race. Lambert later withdrew from the election.

“During my time at Lawrence, I’ve spent a lot of time trying to help other people. It’s something I thrive on,” said Loeb. “I decided to run for LUCC president because I feel like that’s an excellent position to empower the student body.”

RafiQue ran with greater internal experience within LUCC, having spent the past year serving on the LUCC cabinet as public relations secretary. “My platform was focused on going beyond the administrative role that LUCC has traditionally played, and working with the marginalized community within the limitations of this position,” said RafiQue.

Students volunteering as part of Lawrence University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day initiatives. Photo by Sadie Tenpas
LUCC elections continued from page 1

Varughese also noted the changes in debate quality and format. “At least 30 to 40 people attended, even on a day with major events scheduled on campus,” concluded Varughese. “These students were actively listening and asking questions, showing us that there were so many different pieces to hit during this election.”

Balloting took place on Tuesday, Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Warch Campus Center without any major issues. Separate voting booths were also set up in the Alexander Gymnasium and the Conservatory from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This was the second year the executive elections were conducted on only one day and multiple voting booths were established across campus.

By the day’s end, 652 and 644 ballots were submitted for campus and LUCC elections respectively. This marked significantly higher student involvement than that of previous years.

LUCC Parliamentarian Adam McDonald felt this year’s election ran smoothly and effectively engaged the student body. “Having polls open all day and three locations helped to give students more opportunities to cast their vote,” said McDonald. “Compacting the election into one day also helped to create more excitement around the election, which hopefully increased voter turnout.”

Around midnight, the ballots had been counted and results were officially sent to the candidates. According to protocol, the results are to be kept private for three days beyond the release since candidates have the right to contest the outcome for that duration.

However, this year, all four candidates waived their right to contest the results through written communication with Varughese. The Lawrentian broke the news through social media in the early hours of Wednesday, Jan. 20 as the campus buzzed with excitement.

‘Although LUCC can [only] engage with a limited number of people, the voting process is still open to the entire campus,” said Rafique. “It was clearly important for all candidates to engage with students outside of their target groups and address the needs of the general student body.”

Both election winners are excited to take office and are already looking forward to enacting policy and reform in the student government.

“Going through the elections was a great experience,” said Rifai. “I want to congratulate all the candidates on great runs, and I look forward to a productive year ahead.”

Regarding potential LUCC changes in the coming year, Loebl said, “I definitely want to work on changes in debate quality and format. ‘Stonewall Uprising,” which enters the country in 2015. The Austrian government has announced that it will limit the quantity of refugees granted asylum in the nation to 1.5% of Austria’s population over the next four years. This will have the effect of limiting incoming refugees to 37,500 per year, less than half of the 90,000 asylum seekers that entered the country in 2015.

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Angela Davis continued from page 1

IRAQ: St. Elijah’s Monastery, the oldest Christian monastery in Iraq, has been destroyed by members of the Islamic State according to both local villagers and satellite imagery obtained by the Associated Press. The monastery was originally constructed over 1400 years ago.

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Making LU Home

Savvas Sfairopoulos
Columns

In what was the middle of the night for you, I called you on the phone yesterday. You did not hang up and you did not complain about me waking you up. You were worried. You had some say that love is a contact sport, but that has never been the case with you. As my parents and guardians, you have steered me through all the hard ships that I have been through, and always managed to point me towards the light when I found myself wandering aimlessly in the dark. Getting to spend some time with you during Winter Break made me reach an epiphany: it is hard to think about how much someone means to you when you are so used to them being there.

As a teen, I strived to be perceived as a rebel going against the status quo, demonstrating extreme risk-taking practices and always talking back to my teachers at school. What I failed to realize at the time, however, was that you were the ones who would get in trouble for my childish behavior. It was you who would have to be confronted by my furious teachers about my misbehaving, unbecoming actions and most importantly, lack of motivation.

Despite all the hardships you had to endure, of which I was now on my own encouraged me to take your teachings to heart and apply myself to the greatest extent of my abilities. I would not dare claim, however, that I am an independent man. That would be quite silly of me — when your parents are paying for your education, you cannot, by definition, be independent.

After the first few months I got to spend here, my mind became flustered on one thing: total victory. Yes, it does sound extremely egotistical, and it is to a certain extent, yet I feel that this is the only way for me to honor you. I highly appreciate the fact that, despite the abysmal financial situation in Greece, you still decided to take the huge risk of sending me to the U.S. for my studies. Furthermore, I am still amazed by the overwhelming amount of courage that you had to gather in order to place your trust in someone like me—who in the past two years, seemed to be utterly unmotivated and unwilling to work hard to achieve the goals he had set forth. For all that you have already done and continue to do for me, I wish to thank you wholeheartedly.

I cannot predict what the future may bring our way. The distance that currently separates us is most definitely a tremendous problem. I do not get to see my parents...
LU track starts season off strong

The Lawrence University Indoor Track and Field teams competed in their first meet of the indoor season last Friday at UW-Oshkosh. Both men and women teams finished third against the historically dominant Oshkosh Titans and conference rival Ripon Red Hawks.

The women finished with 42 points and the men finished with 40.

As it was the first meet of the year, the Vikings looked to start the season off on a strong note. “We’re having a good start to our season, our aim is to start thinking about big season goals,” said junior Max Edwards. “Heading into the season, our aim was to finish in the top three, but they have been far from easy. We're all on the same page.”

The Lawrence University Community Athletics (LCAA) was created to bring the remaining 21 varsity programs, effective at the end of the year, the chance at winning the NCAA conference and look at the teams that have convinced Burstein to make and to stay focused, we do a lot of talking to make sure that we're all on the same page.

President Burstein to make and to stay focused, we do a lot of talking to make sure that we're all on the same page.

Several players on the team were recruited to play another sport at Lawrence and were drawn to the golf team because of the opportunity to play two sports at the NCAA varsity level.

The easiest thing is getting along with all of my teammates. We gel really well on and off the court. The hardest part is hav- ing all of the team put in so much work, so many minutes into prac- tices, and it just comes up short sometimes.

How different does the atmos- phere of Lawrence feel from where you’ve been previously?

Yes, I am referring to the Eastern Conference as the Lawrence James Conference because he has earned his spot in the starting lineup. I have seen the team start to play well together as a team. On paper, it seems like they should play well together, but it just hasn’t had the success. There is still time for them to get it together, but it is a real disappointment for the Lawrence fans.

Meanwhile, the Spurs are another team that paper appears to be a threat, they are still searching for an identity. The Spurs have been a pleasant surprise, but do not have the depth for a long playoff run. Right now the Spurs are the easiest team to beat, but I am going to stick by my preseason pick and say that the Heat get it together in the second half.

For the West, the story has never had a strong recruit and has been fairly good enough for second place.

For the men, the top finisher was the 4x400 meter relay which finished in second place with a time of 3:42. Freshman Dan Sandusky, in his first indoor col- lege meet, took fourth place in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 9.37. Other top finishers for the men include Edwards in the 1 mile run for third in 4:31 and senior Davey Wade. Wade is playing like a star consist-ently again. However, the Miami Heat just has not been able to put it together as a team. On paper, they have all the pieces and look like they should play well together, but it just hasn’t had the success. There is still time for them to get it together, but it is a real disappointment for the Lawrence fans.

Meanwhile, the Bulls are another team that paper appears to be a threat, they are still searching for an identity. The Raptors have been a pleasant surprise, but do not have the depth for a long playoff run. Right now the Cavs are the easiest team to beat, but I am going to stick by my preseason pick and say that the Heat get it together in the second half.

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Men's basketball struggles in conference play

Jordan Atkins
For the Lawrencean

The Lawrence University (Vikings) Men's Basketball team has struggled in recent weeks as it works through the meat of its Midwest Conference schedule. "The Vikings won four out of five games over last winter break, including a 2-0 record at the Puerto Rico Classic, but have been unable to translate their prior success into wins since the start of Winter Term. The Vikings currently hold an overall record of 5-4-1 in the conference and must avoid foul trouble for the rest of the season and must avoid foul trouble for the rest of the season and must avoid foul trouble for the rest of the season."

As the season continues, the Vikings are looking forward to the success of their offense. "The Vikings are looking forward to the success of their offense. As the season continues, the Vikings are looking forward to the success of their offense."

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Lack of bananas in Andrew Commons indicates need for food changes

Alanna Rieser
For The Lawrentian

As a liberal institution, Lawrence is in the midst of cultural and political changes, including a new wave of food consciousness. Gluten intolerances are on the rise alongside vegetarianism and veganism, yielding a change in perspective on food preparation.

Many universities are not receptive to morphing millennial food culture, providing few to no options to cater to the entire student body.

Bon Appetit makes changes each term with the goal of improving daily food conditions for Lawrence students. These changes, while sometimes thoughtful and consciously made, can also have rebounding effects, causing distress or worry for Lawrentians.

In Andrew Commons, my saving grace when in need of food was the amount of bananas available on a near-daily basis. They are the perfect addition to any meal, providing potassium on cold winter days and a refreshing taste in any fruit combination. Without this super fruit, my malnourished, sickly bodies would lack the proper nutrients to survive in the great north of Wisconsin.

Recently, there were several changes in the layout and offerings of Andrew Commons. In Spring and Fall Terms, the commons had more fruit bins and panini presses, modified salad and sandwich stations, and only gluten free cookie options. While the appearance of a collective food consciousness from Bon Appetit is somewhat comforting, the recent lack of fruit in the commons is worrisome for many students.

For the past several years, there were banana stations in the commons, typically overflowing with assorted fruits, featuring bananas at least three times each week. These yellow beacons of light provided smiles and nutrient-rich snacks to hungry Lawrentians.

There are now fewer fruit options available to students, a noticeable change for junior Kristina Verhasselt. She said, "I miss having fruit in my diet. Bananas have always been a staple." Verhasselt noticed that the amount of bananas has decreased severely since returning from her term abroad and was nagged by the idea that there are fewer daily fruit options.

This change has not gone unnoticed by other students on campus, stretching from Alexander Gymnasium to the Conservatory. Senior Justin Coyne stated, "I have noticed this change. Every Tuesday [or] Thursday, they had bananas, and now they don’t have them. I’m pretty upset. I usually would get a banana with lunch."

Rather than being in fruit bins, bananas are now only available in small bowls—positioned so that they go unnoticed by many students—or for purchase in the cafe or corner store. Having to pay for her daily banana fix prompted junior Alaina Leisten: "When you’re charging more than half of a dollar for a piece of fruit on culinary cash, it’s a little goofy. Now you can pretty much only get them in sack lunches and that’s frustrating."

In response to my questioning the whereabouts of the fruit bins, Bon Appetit representatives were less than excited to provide their answers. I received no response to my emails, further emphasizing the question: where has the fruit gone?

The banana’s disappearance has touched the lives of Lawrentians, bringing the importance of the fruit to light. As these changes continue to gain attention, Lawrentians must rise up, grab the banana by the peel and hope for a better tomorrow.

Photo Feature:

How Lawrentians stay active in the winter

Karina Barajas
For The Lawrentian

Finding it hard to stay active this winter? Feeling the winter blues? Not to worry. The Lawrentian has you covered. Staff and students share tips and tricks on what they do to keep their New Year’s resolution of staying in shape.

Director of Wellness and Recreation Eritt Buechelt creates wellness programming for students, staff and faculty based on research, campus assessments and student input. "These opportunities include the Yoga Boot Camp, TRX and the Healthy Viking personal training program. She meets with students to discuss biofeedback, nutrition, performance and orthopedic injuries. She is the advisor to club sports, works with the YMCA and teaches a three-unit personal sustainability class on wellness.

During winter, her favorite activities are TRX on the track, badminton and pickleball. Her advice to students to be more active is, "Find something fun that helps you move more. Find friends with the same interests and try new things. You are much more likely to keep up an activity you enjoy. Movement is a long-term investment in your overall well-being and it promotes increased growth of your brain cells to help you academically."

Freshman and Wellness Center student worker, Jason Lau said, "People view the winter as something that stops them from working out and staying fit, but really, it’s not like that. It’s more of a motivation to do it just because everyone else isn’t and you want to yourself." Lau runs outdoors on a trail by the Fox River behind Trever Hall and swims whenever he can. His advice to motivate students to stay active is to "set small goals" even if it means working out five to 20 minutes.

Sophomore Meg Krautsch works out in Alexander Gymnasium every other day. She does weights, squats, pull ups and bench to target her legs, upper body and core. Her purpose for doing so is training for softball season and motivational videos. Her advice for a student finding ways to stay active is, "Working out is a process. If you put the work in, you will begin to see changes within yourself."

Junior Jason Straughan stays as active as possible by participating in indoor track, weightlifting and training for football. He says, "Huge distresses gets me out of the room and keeps me active during the winter." Jason walks out or "hits the iron" three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. His advice to keep students motivated during the winter is "set goals and time away for yourself for classes, working out and your schedule. Knowing who you are and your schedule helps you stay motivated." He also enjoys skiing, snowball fights and making snow forts with his sister.

Whether it is braving your way to the Wellness Center, working out to online workout videos or running up the stairs in Warf Campus Center, you are sure to find different ways to stay active out of the snow. Of course, bundling up with the fire with a cup of hot cocoa every once in a while is not a bad idea either.
When students meet snow

When asked if Taft ever knew someone who got their tongue stuck to a metal pole, she answered, “I have. You just pour hot water on it.”

Taft clearly is prepared to handle wild winters. Other Lawrentians—such as freshmen Debbie, who was with us during the trip; and Stone ’00, who was with us during the trip—put it as “[taking] everything I love about the mug, condensing it down to a ball of snow,” and “taking everything I love about winter weather and condensing it down to a ball of snow.”

“Please,” she said, pushing the mug before me. I gasped. It was just the right temperature to melt. Before I had a second to ask her how she knew I would drink it, she had consumed the mug. I looked up, gawking at the fact that the snow novices were already drinking snow novices.

Aeger to Appleton

Younger, and I will most probably not get to say farewell to the elder members of my family. Yet, I am convinced that, what ever happens, you will always be there for me. I will always love you, even from afar.

Beyond 16 days: A reflection on the Sustainable China trip

December of 2015 was an incredibly eventful and memorable month. Although being away from home during the holiday was a bad dream, being away from my family during the holiday made me miss them the most. When I was away from home, I was so thankful for my family. I wish I could have been there for my family when they needed me the most.

And now, I am back in Appleton after spending 16 days in China. It was an amazing experience. I have a lot to say about it. I will start by saying that I really enjoyed each other as people. I really enjoyed meeting new people and learning about their cultures. I also enjoyed learning about China’s culture and history. I think that it’s important to learn about other cultures and history. It helps us to understand each other better. I also enjoyed learning about China’s economy and business. I think that it’s important to learn about the economy and business of other countries. It helps us to understand how businesses work in other countries.

For me personally, as a Vietnamese, being in China is strangely familiar and foreign at the same time. As China and Vietnam share many common points in our history, culture and current challenges, in many ways, I could easily blend in. At the same time, this superficial similarity immediately became alienating the moment I tried to find my way around, or most often, to explain with limited Mandarin my ethnicity and my reason for being in China to strangers with uncomprehending stares. Despite our individual stories, feelings and challenges, we bonded quickly over the course of a very fast-paced trip, being around each other almost constantly. Lawrence New Media and Website Coordinator Rachel Goss very aptly put it as “[taking] everything I love about the mug, condensing it down to a ball of snow,” and “taking everything I love about winter weather and condensing it down to a ball of snow.”

“Gone to such an extraordinarily overwhelming foreign place, having intellectually engaged all the way through, I could really enjoy each other as people [really make it] one of the most Lawrentian experiences of my life,” said Stone.

Winter Lane

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Postscript to my fellow students: I think many of the other fellow Lawrentians will find themselves going through a similar situation. Especially for us freshmen, beginning the transition to solo life can be quite hectic. I sincerely hope you get to surround yourselves with people who love you and people you can call your family.

When you check the weather on your phone and see that the “RealFeel” is -38 F, you know things are bad.

The long weekend was a particularly eventful and memorable month. Although being away from home during the holiday was a bad dream, being away from my family during the holiday made me miss them the most. When I was away from home, I was so thankful for my family. I wish I could have been there for my family when they needed me the most.

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Winter Lane continued from page 3

“Cmon. Don’t be such a downer,” Debbie, who was with us during the trip, said.

“Please,” she said, pushing the mug before me. I gasped. It was just the right temperature to melt. Before I had a second to ask her how she knew I would drink it, she had consumed the mug. I looked up, gawking at the fact that the snow novices were already drinking snow novices.

Aeger to Appleton continued from page 3

brother grow, and I will most probably not get to say farewell to the elder members of my family. Yet, I am convinced that, whatever happens, you will always be there for me. I will always love you, even from afar.
Music for All concert celebrates MLK, Jr.

McKenzie Fetters

On Lawrence’s 25th annual celebration of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 18, current Lawrentians and faculty members performed a chamber music concert in the Gardens Community Center as a part of the Music for All concert series. This series, directed by Associate Professor of Music Michael Mizrahi, Assistant Professor of Music Erin Lesser and enhanced by a partnership with the Conservatory, offers interactive classical chamber music concerts to the community.

The concert took place in a lovely open room at the community center, and the audience members sat chairs set up on three sides of the performers with windows looking out over the setting sun and the Fox Valley River at the performers’ backs. Mizrahi announced at the beginning of the performance that there would be no printed program in order to encourage interaction with the musicians afterwards.

The first performers played two movements from astringent Berger’s “Windwood Quartet in C Major,” which featured oboe, clarinet, flute and bass clarinet. The lead-in of the piece stood alone at the front in the circle of chairs reserved for her counterparts and asked everyone in the audience to close their eyes and recall something of an iconic American landscape. As she began to describe the landscape she imagined, the piece began from the back of the hall and continued as the other chamber players made their way to the front. It was not hard to imagine a landscape with horizons of snow, melodies of this American composer’s piece weaving over one another. To me, it sounded like the beginnings of American discovery on the plains, with the group’s synchronized breathing and movements representative of tall grasses waving in the wind.

Next, a string quartet performed Felix Mendelssohn’s “String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor.” The second violinst introduced the piece by telling the audience to close their eyes and think about someone they had trusted betrayed them and caused them to ask that person the question, “Is it true?”

The group then played an excerpt from the piece that represented this theme, and the second violinist explained that Mendelssohn would ask this question with his melody and again in this work.

Sure enough, the piece started, and the melody quickly escalated into asking the question louder and louder, creating a crescendo. The ardent present in the players’ vibrato and tone quality transpired as the music increased, creating a feeling that the melody could easily feel the piece’s inherent anguish.

Then, a pianist came forward and performed a piece called “Phase~Shift” by Tony Orrico. Tony Orrico performs at the Wriston Art Center galleries opening on Friday, Jan. 15. The group then played an excerpt from the piece that represented this theme, and the second violinist explained that Mendelssohn would ask this question with his melody and again in this work.

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"Thunder" combines sound and dance

Wendell Leahidy Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 13 in the Lawrence Memorial Chapel, six dancers performed "Thunder," an exploration of the connection between sound and the human body. Three performers and three students were involved in the hour-long show. Among them was Tatyana Tenenbaum, who composed and choreographed the piece.

The audience was comprised of nearly one hundred people, including Lawrence students, conservatory faculty and Appleton community members. People were asked to sit on the chapel stage, only a few feet from the action.

The beginning of the performance was mysterious. Tenenbaum spoke mechanically in English, making brief, unmattur- ral pauses as she slowly advanced across the stage. Emily Moore and Laurel Snyder, Tenenbaum’s part- ners, slowly joined in, murmuring across the stage. Emily Moore and Laurel Snyder, Tenenbaum’s part- ners, slowly joined in, murmuring across the stage.

While performing, the dancers were also reading excerpts from works by Camille Dozier, entered the stage in sync, one could tell that there is room for the dancers to make pull each other, reaching for tac- tle or verbal gestures.

Gragrich said she was sur- prised to find that “sound is calming” when she moves and dances. In the question and answer ses- sion after the performance, many of the dancers commented on how they enjoyed singing and mov- ing more than they thought they would.

The next Music for All con- sert will be on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Track & field continued from page 4

Vikings a whole new set of chal- lenges as they face fifteen teams of ranging abilities. "Stout is really going to put to the test the training that we've been able to do over break and a few weeks of practice," says Edwards. Look for the Vikings to make a statement against several conference teams and stiff local competition.

Art does not simply come into existence of its own accord. Everything comes about through a process.

“Have the process [...] it’s so easy to mess up stuff, it’s so easy to have technical mistakes in your process,” junior studio art and French major Willis Johnson said. “I always love when that happens [...] and that’s kind of linked to comics, as well.”

Johnson explained that her current favorite medium, comix, lends itself greatly to this idea of visible process.

“If you look at old comic books, you have half toned dot printing where the color is cre- ated by little, teeny dots. In the really old comics it’s on this real- ly cheap pulp paper, and some of its kind of shifted to one side. So it doesn’t match up,” she said.

“It has all these crazy textures, I love it.”

These mistakes made in the process should not be overlooked. Oftentimes, we are trained to look at a piece of art and analyze its “true” meaning. However, Johnson wishes for onlookers to appreciate the pro- cess and the artist’s intent more than the actual subject matter.

A reconsideration of the subject matter and its impor- tance does not necessarily mean that art has to be meaningless.

“I like art that you can really dissect; stuff that has lots of different layers of meaning,” Johnson said. “I like that in art that I consume as well. All of my favorite books and music and comics and stuff have lots and lots of different meanings and themes that are overlapping that I have yet to unearth, I like that level of complexity.”

She has beenfiguring out how to bring this admiration for complexity into her own work. This term, Johnson is enrolled in an independent study that combines both her majors.

“[Comics] are a big part of French culture. So I am reading a bunch of classic French comics, and then moving into contempo- rary ones,” Johnson said. “[I’m] discussing them with my French teacher, and then instead of writing papers, I’ll be making comics sort of in that style, to sort of inspire my own work.”

She is taking themes from the comics and applying them to her own work, taking complex concepts and adding another level to their depth.

“I studied "The Adventures of Tintin and Asterix," which are two of the main classic French comics,” Johnson said. “Instead of writing a story in the style of them or writing an essay, I’m writing a weird meta-comics where they’re characters and I’m a character and it’s set in this weird, metaphorical space. I’m playing with reality and comics.”

This artistic license is only enhanced by the medium itself. The idea of being able to use both writing and pictures in conjunction is something that allows for a bunch of interesting [...] ideas[.] at the same time.” Johnson said. “I’m attracted to [...] the idea of having that inter- play between words and pic- tures and finding the balance between the two. You could add more pictures to make it sort of abstract, you could add more words to make it more concrete. I think there’s just a lot to do in that medium.”

Going into the future, Johnson is hoping to do a lot more, although her plans are not quite concrete. She speculated, “Who knows what will happen?”

Lizzy Weekes

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
THE LAWRENTIAN

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The Lawrentian deeply regrets these errors.

Sofil portrait by Willis Johnson

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
THE LAWRENTIAN

Spotlight continued from page 4

It’s overall a lot more wel- coming. People are way more educated and willing to learn and to experience new things.

How have your teammates helped you with your transi- tion into the life of a collegiate student-athlete?

They’ve definitely answered a lot of questions, even before I came to Lawrence in the fall. They’re also a really good support group. For example, if I’m unsure about a class or a professor and I need help, they’re always there for me.

Over the past few seasons, the Lawrence Women’s Basketball program has been mired in a bit of a funk. How do you plan to help turn this around? What do you bring to this team that could help with that?

I think the biggest thing is that, we haven’t won in so long, we kind of are playing to not lose instead of playing to win. We are playing like we’re afraid to make mistakes, and I think we need to play a little more aggressive. I believe I’m good at motivating people, and I think if we have a lot of people that are able to keep their teammates up, we can turn this program around.

Music for All continued from page 8

tainty while the percussion tolled ominously in the background, a reminder of the important ques- tion that Martin Luther King, Jr. asked, which, at some point or

The beginning of the perfor- mance was mysterious. Tenenbaum spoke mechanically in English, making brief, unmattur- ral pauses as she slowly advanced across the stage. Emily Moore and Laurel Snyder, Tenenbaum’s part- ners, slowly joined in, murmuring to each other. The three twisted together and moved around the stage. Gradually, they stopped speaking and began humming and singing. The intensity rose and fell continuously; the shapes and sounds they made evolved as the minutes passed. Every so often, the scene changed dramatically in tone. Over the course of the perfor- mance, many soundscapes were paired with different body movements.

Dance and performance students, junior Olivia Gregrich, sopho- more Sabrina Conte, and senior Camille Dutot, entered the stage for certain scenes. With the assist- ance of Lawrence University Instructor of Dance Margaret Paek, they had rehearsed several times with the visiting dancers. They all claimed to have had a wonderful learning experience working on “Thunder.”

Rehearsals for the piece were explorational and free-form. Tenenbaum brought to the table unfamiliar practical techniques, seeking to explore the relation- ship between dancing and the sounds she makes. For a warm-up activity, dancers would shake and pull each other, reaching for tac- tle or verbal gestures.

Gragrich said she was sur- prised to find that “sound is calming” when she moves and dances. In the question and answer ses- sion after the performance, many of the dancers commented on how they enjoyed singing and mov- ing more than they thought they would.

As the dancers leapt around stage in sync, one could tell that they had a deep appreciation for this new type of performance. It was harder to appreciate at first, myself being so unfamiliar with this art form, but once the sur- prise and confusion were off, it seemed like a very natural form of expression.

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Music for All continued from page 8

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Why Steven Universe’s “Garnet” is an unhealthy relationship

Bridget Keenan
Staff Writer

“Steven Universe” is a show in which the main characters are a type of alien species called “Crystal Gems.” Gems get their life force from their gemstones, and are able to combine their bodies virtually at will. Sub-protagonist Garnet is not a single person, but the fusion of Ruby and Sapphire. She has one body and is treated like one person who is composed of two people. Recently, “Steven Universe” released an episode on how Ruby and Sapphire met each other. It is impossible to understand the show without watching this episode. Outlining the characters and story behind Garnet is essential before exploring the unhealthy relationship

Garnet is literally the incarnation of Ruby and Sapphire’s relationship. Our focus here is the introduction to Ruby and Sapphire. Although gems technologically lack gender, Ruby and Sapphire’s feminine coding does make them the first canon bisexual couple on Cartoon Network, or American television in general for that matter. There is no debate whatsoever that this decision was monumental. Gynophilic women cheered at the sudden presence of positive identity characters on public television.

I was genuinely excited when the relationship between Ruby and Sapphire was introduced, and still overall view the presence of a lesbian couple on “Steven Universe” as a positive step forward. However, an analysis of their relationship dynamics reveals a lot of deep problems with this relationship.

Although we do have strong evidence that Ruby and Sapphire are a romantic couple, their relationship is unhealthy, unstable and controlling. Garnet spends so much time together that Steven had no idea of Ruby or Sapphire’s existence. He was 13 years old. They do not know what to do without their romantic relationship, even in the most minor of situations.

If they are free to leave each other at any time, then why are their un-fused identities such a major secret? If the line to abuse is crossed, no one would be able to tell. Ruby and Sapphire are completely unable to function without being fused. Both characters are completely controlled by their relationship to the point where they have no lives outside it.

Such a relationship could not function in real life without being severely detrimental to its components. Ruby and Sapphire are no exceptions. However, I am unable to believe that Ruby and Sapphire have never really had the freedom to function without each other. This is really a terrible thing to tell anyone pursuing a relationship, especially since abuse is so often classified as helplessness.

The idea of people, especially women, not being able to function without a relationship is already prevalent enough in our culture. We do not need yet another explanation for why some people are unable to prove this point. The other characters and creator both agree that neither Ruby nor Sapphire is worth introducing as an individu- al, let alone being treated as one. I can tell this may be the creator’s portrayal of all long-term romantic relationships in which both partners are com- plement of fusion. However, this does not justify how unhealthy the idea of dependence and losing yourself to a relationship really is. It is especially terrifying in this discussion of relationships solely as “love” in the answer, rather than a way that is empow- ering to a person.

This is not a realistic or posi- tive model of a romantic relation- ship, especially when geared towards a specific sexual identity. “Steven Universe” boast a large range of viruses that neither children nor teenagers benefit from this por- trayal of a relationship. A rela- tionship solely defined as codependent, especially when both characters are in another gender, is not empowering the characters.

A relationship in which one person feels they cannot function without the other is both psychologically and socially classified as abusive, and shows poor under- standing of healthy relationships. It certainly is absolutely the case that a healthy relationship is supposed to provide a sanitary place to relieve yourself and—more importantly—that to do with their bodies.

I understand that some may say “I don’t want some creep using my bathroom,” but creepy people of both genders use the bathroom but there are no problems. If people from using the restroom just because they are creepy. There are many things that everyone of the opposite gender is a bathroom with, but I do not get a choice about it. I understand that there could be fears of people who may not live up to your standards. So why not

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Lawrence’s lack of participation in local politics

Jonathan Rubin
Staff Writer

Honesty, it is pretty silly that we are not talking about gender, gender neutral bathrooms as if it is an issue. As a cisgendered male, I cannot understand exactly how one who is a woman or someone who is not cisgendered would feel about gender-neutral bathrooms as if it was a terrible thing that would happen—at least not in Trever, Appleton, the surrounding city. It is not the university’s job to make sure I have the ideal, most com- fortable school experience. Instead, this university is supposed to provide a sanitary place to relieve yourself and—more importantly—that to do with their bodies.

Now if you are someone who is always on their phone, unapologetic about using public bathrooms and that problem would be exacerbated by those restrooms being gender neutral, then go find one of the many one-person restrooms on campus, and as a trans- people are not making a handicapped person- wait for you, I do not think anyone should begrudge someone for that. As someone who is often uncomfortable around other peo- ple in the bathroom and outside of it—I can definitely understand why someone would feel that way.

That being said, I would never tell someone that they need to find a private bathroom. If you have that problem, then you should remove yourself from that situation. If you would tell someone what to do with their bodies.

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Gender-neutral bathrooms should not be a big deal

Lawrence University prides itself on its ability to mold students into informed citizens and active community members. Lawrence students demonstrated this through volunteerism on Martin Luther King Jr., Day. That type of community engagement both on and off campus suggests that Lawrentians can positively impact the city of Appleton.

In one area, though, Lawrence students are especially uninvolved: voting. Despite an apparent desire for students to engage, Lawrence grades in local elections far less than undergraduates do at other academic institutions. Lack of involvement in local elections may have a variety of reasons.

Many Lawrentians view Appleton as only a temporary home and may have greater attachment to Lawrence life. Students may not think they have room in their schedules to keep up with local politics.

Furthermore, the Ballot measures discussed in Appleton politics often seem less interesting than national issues and Donald Trump’s latest antics. Wisconsin municipal elections are for the most part nonpartisan, which may discourage students who vote purely along party lines.

All of these factors contribute to Lawrentians’ lack of participation in municipal elections, but they are not inescapable obstacles. There are far greater reasons for Lawrentians to vote in local politics.

Community progress is important for campus politics. This is especially evident for the marginalized students, for whom Appleton remains unsafe and exclusionary. Even seemingly mundane local issues, such as Appleton’s budget and parking policy, affect the Lawrence community in a tangible man- ner.

Voter apathy demonstrates our own participation in a system that distances Lawrence from the surrounding city. Appleton’s small size and low voter participation shows the significant impact that Lawrence can have in these races.

Lawrentians have shown that they can volunteer, work and protest in the greater Appleton area. We need to reinforce this involvement through participation in municipal elections.

In Outagamie County’s Spring 2015 election, 21,474 ballots were cast out of 131,483 registered voters. However, only 32% came from Lawrence University, only 10% of those were Lawrentians. If Lawrence students want to affect political change in Appleton, we have the numbers to ensure that our voices are heard. We just need to show up.

This year, Appleton’s mayoral election will fall on Tuesday, April 12. Let’s rock the vote.

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Trigger Warnings: The Myth Versus the Reality

Electra Arndt
For The Lawrentian

After Mark Burstein’s Convocation “For Mature Audiences Only” in September, many were concerned about the issue of Lawrence being “too politically correct” or not being a free speech zone where people can freely express their ideas. Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt write for The Atlantic in “The Coddling of the American Mind” that college students are not capable of coping with difficult material and that trigger warnings are necessary. But does Lawrence really need to take this approach?

The concept of the trigger warning is something that very often gets attacked and I believe these attacks are often unwarranted. A trigger warning is a term often thrown around to suggest that college students nowadays are too damn sensitive to topics that are difficult and upsetting. However, a trigger warning is defined by Google as “a statement at the start of a piece of writing, video, etc., alerting the reader or viewer to the fact that it contains potentially distressing material (often used to introduce a description of such content).” So, for example, a trigger warning was issued before the “Fun Home” Student Production in which the character Bagheera suffers from issues such as homophobia and suicide, which might be a personal subject to some.

Looking at the definition, it becomes clear that trigger warn- ings are not about censorship. Instead, they are more compara- ble to a rating scale at a movie theater: When people choose to watch movies, they know what they are getting into. Perhaps another comparison could be a warning label on cookies containing tree nuts. If someone with a nut allergy bites on cookies containing tree nuts, if that were so, there would be reason to grumble.

In my personal classroom experience as a college student, I have never had to take down the signs, let people know what is coming before it is released. If anything, I would say that it is the teachers’ willingness to discuss the issues that might cause anx- iety attacks or flashbacks. In exposure therapy, which is a type of treatment for phobias, the feared stimuli are exposed to the person gradually through consent. Trigger warnings are a way of ask- ing people who are concerned about images that have the potential to cause them harm, “I believe that the ‘oversensi- tive college student’ stereotype is just that—a stereotype used to reduce and demean what college students are actually learning for when participating in student activities. It can provide a barrier for anyone who works in a col- lege from listening to students, especially those with mental ill- ness who need accommodation. We are in a time where we are more aware of mental health issues than ever. Perhaps it is just representative of our growth as a society and our ability to acknowl- edge the needs of many.

The stereotype also dismisses the need for legitimate student- driven movements by portray- ing students as too emotional or sensitive to have their own understanding of how material is handled and silenced student voices that might have a lot to say. Trigger warnings are only part of a conversation that is beginning between students and the world.

People are scared of students shutting out opinions, but also shutting down what many college students believe in. Our nation should be listening to college students rather than condemning them. I believe Mark Burstein would agree. In his conviction, although he was cautious on the use of trigger warnings, he asked for a facilitation of communication between students and teachers. This is the conversation. This is the kind of active, mature leadership in real life. (A virtual “internship!”)

Students have reason to ask for accommodation and sensitivity for their peers so they can better their education and not censor it.

This is not a political issue. This is not about how liberal college campuses have changed and it is not about “The Gay Agenda.” Let’s try to keep things out of the politics out of the bathroom stalls.

I think Lawrence should just take the signs, let the signs, let people do their business and get back to class.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

As you know from The Lawrentian, the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee recommended this past fall that we change the status of our men’s golf program from a varsity to a club sport. This committee, composed of faculty and athletic coaches, chaired by James G. and Eielh M. Barber Professor of Theatre and Drama Kathryn Purcell, based their proposal on a recommendation by an asso- ciate task force of faculty, students and staff convened two years ago to develop ways of improving our athletic program and the student athletes’ experience. Their recommendation was based on four points: 1) men’s golf draws few students to Lawrence; 2) the experience provided by a club program would be of equal or better experience provided by a varsity program; 3) eliminating golf has no negative impact on our efforts to conform with the federal Title IX policy which requires educational institutions to offer equal access to both male and female students; and 4) resources saved by the change could be effectively reallocated within the Athletics department in a way that would enhance the experience we provide to over 300 varsity athletes. The recommenders also recognized that we field 22 varsity teams, more than all but one member of our athletic conference. As one of the smallest schools in our conference, a smaller program could improve the experience we offer. The fac- ulty unanimously endorsed this recommendation at their meeting in October.

According to shared governance, this is a presidential deci- sion and I want to thank the many students, faculty, staff and alum- ni who have worked through Fall Term to hear the counsel. The vast majority of the people I spoke with supported this decision—even though many had the same concern I did: that this decision would negatively impact the memory of a tradition.

With this counsel, I have decided to change the status of our men’s golf program from varsity to club, effective fall of 2015. To me, this decision comes from this conversation andfrom the need to support other varsity activities. I understand from Mike Szekodzinski, our athletic director, that he intends to use the funds to support our full-time strength, and conditioning coach who could support all of our student athletes. I will also transfer funds to Wellness and Recreation to support the core activities of a club golf program. The change of the new club program will be able to reach more male and female students, and the full-time strength and conditioning coach will provide a valuable resource to our varsity student athletes.

Mark Burstein, President

To the Editor,

This older alumnus salutes the “racism-protesters.” But less for seeking “social justice,” than for advancing Lawrence’s “liberal- arts/general education” itself? Who knows? The academic disciplines of my earlier times were flawed and macro-oppressive. You have refreshed them.

Our sociology warned that social movements can be runaway wherein a puppet-master makes us dance to the new tunes never to be questioned. Ah, but you expressed that as “institutional deter- mining factors.”

Our philosophy said: perform critical thinking. (Identify assumptions, logical fallacies. Seek evidence and alternatives. Consider consequences. Argue.) That’s why I refer to this as the “cerebral constipation” dunking up new consciousness.

Our psychology said: “know self and true motivations.” Ah, but you natted this as intruding into the personhood-space of the other, namely yourselves.

Our psychology also would have (wrongly) diagnosed you as “childish, spoiled, coddled.” But no, your wrestling control of oppressive institutions, seems good “baby steps” toward active, mature leadership in real life. (A virtual “internship!”)

Then, we valorized “civil discourse.” (Do not combat but coexist even worse.) But our democratic hope was based on this as “dejecting decorum” diluted injustices.

For this, our communication studies said “don’t just tell, but show!” To prove your claims, give effective specifics. But did you no? Your demands sheet claimed that Lawrence is “a campus where discrimination, hypocrisy, and hate occur daily.” But no evi- dence! So, are your claims merely unproved, unsupported blather? But as you stated, we majorly people must (magically) educate our students in, in today’s rushed age, pity “proof” fails—slogans and proverbs succeed!”

So, thank you, You have usefully advanced the sixties. Its spirit is now “Stevenson’s totalitarianism.” Its relativism, becomes “rampant.” Its respect, is in “rubber-stamp” mode. And its simple consideration, is now “sensitivity-buffering.” Do you know what you have done? This is the “thought police.”

In fact, you’ve accelerated valid concerns into a veritable “transmogrified juggernaut!” (Well, so to speak.) This anticipated elucidation of these matters is indeed a great misfortune. Especially regarding “liberal-arts, general education. Who knew—indeed?”

Brian Kevin Beck, class of 1959
PHOTO POLL

Do you vote in municipal Appleton elections? Why or why not?

“No. I’m registered in Minnesota, but I can’t wait to graduate and be able to vote.”
—Lucy Pipkin

“Yes, because I am an official resident of the area.”
—Tim Dahlstrom

“No. I’m registered in New York.”
—Mishal Ayaz

“Yes. We spend four years here. If you want to bridge outside of our bubble, it’s important to engage with the Appleton community!”
—Wesley Varughese

“No, because I am registered in California.”
—Rana Stimson

“Yes. I’ve been here for a few years now, so I want to vote for people who I think will make the state better.”
—Kyle Stuckey

“Do you vote in municipal Appleton elections? Why or why not?”

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THE LAWRENTIAN has opened applications for next year’s Editorial Board. We are now hiring:

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