New Protesting Policy Raises Concern Among Students

By Stephen Winkler

Mindful of images of tents filling Harvard Yard and streams of orange pepper spray to the faces of defiant students at UC Davis, the Administration is telling would-be protesters they can avoid trouble by seeking permission before taking organized action on campus.

"People in Student Affairs are talking about the Occupy movement and the impact on college campuses," said Vice President of Student Affairs Patricia Rissmeyer. Toward the end of last semester, Rissmeyer said schools in the Colleges of the Fenway began discussing their protocol on campus protests. The result of those discussions at Emmanuel is a new policy that would allow demonstrations as long as they conform to regulations similar to those listed in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

The new policy would also require students to fill out a form and submit it to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs two business days before the activity. But some students aren't too happy with the idea of seeking permission to express their ideas.

"If this becomes an official document, it turns student demonstration into a campus event that must be preapproved by the institution," Sam Nickerson '13 said, "and that is illogical and undemocratic."

However, Rissmeyer doesn't believe Emmanuel is out of line with this proposal. She cited several other higher education institutions – Georgetown, College of the Holy Cross, and Boston College – that have policies on campus demonstrations. Rissmeyer also stressed that the purpose is not to silence students, but to provide clear guidelines that allow demonstration without disrupting college activities.

"The mission of the college is academic," Rissmeyer said, "and we would stand pretty strongly against any activities that would interfere with other students' ability to learn and faculty members' ability to teach."

Instead, Rissmeyer says she would prefer to hear student concerns in a different format. "I'm much more of a sit at the table, look each other in the eye person," she said.

Summer community service fellowships build on Emmanuel mission

By Joelyn Kryn Rodriguez

The Center of Mission and Spirituality and the Jean Yawkey Center for Community Leadership this year is opening six community service fellowships to the Emmanuel community. Applicants for the fellowships met last semester with Dendre Bradeley-Turner and Mark Harrington of Campus Ministry. The meeting included an informal discussion about the student's interest in the programs, and the student would receive an application for conveying strong dedication towards a noted program or a specific non-profit community service project. From there, a student would review the list of the six programs, two of which were full-time commitments of 40 hours a week, and focus on the program they wanted to pursue.

One particular full-time fellowship, The St. Julie Billiart Fellowship, requires that the selected student work hand in hand specifically with the Sisters of Notre Dame organization, which is an amazing opportunity that allows others to "become aware of the SND organization while allowing the student to make money," states Professor Laurie Johnson of the Theology Department.

As Dr. Johnston explains the attributes the board is looking for, she pin points how, "a sense of leadership and spontaneity" are key to an ideal community service leader. She further elaborates, rather enthusiastically, on the amount of time a student is expected to work for all the fellowships, which run from May 20th through August 4th. She is also looking forward to the students' long term impact in the community whilst expressing Emmanuel College's mission.

Aside from the obvious opportunity to build interpersonal connections with the Center for Mission and Spirituality and expand resumes, students can expect such benefits as free housing for both part-time and full-time students in an effort to form a living/learning community, a $2000 stipend for those working full time and a $500 stipend for those working part-time.

Catholics, Contraception and Controversy

By Eric Donnelly

Religion has played a vital role in society for many generations as it has served as the moral code for many Americans, influencing much of our society. A recent mandate under the Affordable Care Act has re-manifested the crucial debate over the separation of church and state because it requires employers, including Catholic institutions such as hospitals and universities, to provide healthcare coverage that includes contraception.

The media has relayed a tornado of emotions since the Department of Health and Human Services enacted this mandate last month. As a part of the comprehensive Health-care reform, the law not only requires employers to include contraception in their health coverage, but it also requires them to provide it with no co-pay. When asked about the recent debate, Father John Donnelly of Emmanuel College explained that the Catholic Church is a pro-life institution. He stated that, "there are rules in the Church regarding acceptable sexual activity: marriage, and leaving the act open to the possibility of children." If contraception were allowed, it would violate one of the core beliefs of the Catholic Church.

The mandate was meant to lower costs and increase coverage because contraception in the private sector is very expensive. This provides people for more choices and possibilities...it's more about universal healthcare," stated Professor of English Dan DeGooyer. "Lots of people have to follow laws that they don't believe in."

But what about when a law goes against your core set of values, a set of values to which 1.18 billion people allegedly adhere? "Religious institutions should be able to practice their beliefs outside of government," stated Professor of English Dr. Lisa Favel. She elucidated by saying, "(the mandate) is unfair for women, but there needs to be a balance between rights and religious beliefs."

Students on campus have had a strong reaction to the new federal law. "No matter what your religious affiliation, it can't hurt to have the option. Also, just because you work for a Catholic institution does not mean that you practice," said Sara Antinelli '13. Others didn't share the same view. "It's hypocritical if you're a devout Catholic. Practice what you preach," declared Danielle Burton '14.

CONTINUED ON PG. 2
Despite Lack of a Home, Emmanuel Theater Shines

By Sarah Ribeiro

While many Emmanuel students are expressing frustration over campus construction, Emmanuel’s Performing Arts department is hoping for the best—a dedicated space for actors to practice their craft. The Performing Arts department is currently displaced due to the construction and has no theater on campus to practice and perform.

“We are trusting that the administration understands the needs of its students,” said Associate Professor of Theater Scott Gagnon. Meredith Wahlberg ’14, a strong contributor to the theater department’s technical team, said she is proud of how the department is taking the current inconveniences posed by construction—in stride.

“Everybody seems to be working very well together in dealing with the consequences of the construction,” she said. “It seems to have created a unity with all of the members of the Performing Arts Department to work toward the greater picture of creating our shows.”

But the department’s successes are not only internal. This past January, the Emmanuel Theater Department participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Six students were nominated for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship, and last spring’s musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, was nominated for Best College Production in the New England Area (Region One).

For the first time, KCACTF did not recognize an individual winner for best production, so being nominated means that Spelling Bee was awarded the highest honor a production could possibly achieve. Douglas Dame ’13 received a nomination for the Richard Maltby award for his work in Spelling Bee. As a musical theater nominee, Dame sang two songs in concert with about 25 other honorees, and attended a two-day musical theater intensive workshop with professionals in the field.

Of all the students in the region, Dame placed second overall. According to Wahlberg, successes like Dame’s “reflect well on the entire Performing Arts Department” in comparison to larger programs.

The Kennedy Center has also awarded a Region One Merit Award for Outstanding Technical Design. Properties to this past fall’s production of Sleepy Hollow

Emmanuel College: Past, Present and Future

By Melissa Mecchi

At Planning Day on Sunday, January 22, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Patricia Rissmeyer revealed that only ten years ago there were 500 students on campus, and now, that number has more than tripled to over 1,750 students.

In recent years, Emmanuel has been a center of growth and development. The college has developed markedly through construction projects, such as the Maureen Murphy Wilkins Science Center and restoration of Clemente Field in 2006, and through the new addition of the men’s and women’s residence halls. These projects have come in response to student body changes that began with the first co-educational class of 2005.

According to Rissmeyer, Emmanuel College’s infrastructure was built to accommodate the school’s growing number of students, which today has reached a size similar to that of the 1970s and 1980s. During the 1990s, however, the school was underpopulated in terms of housing, as female high school students no longer desired to attend an all-female institution. During this time, Emmanuel leased several residence halls to other area colleges, such as Boston University and Northeastern University, and sold Julie Hall to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

A major turning point for Emmanuel was the decision to change the school to a co-educational institution. According to Rissmeyer, another turning point was the repurchase and renovation of Julie Hall, which is named after the founder of the Sisters of Notre Dame. According to Associate Vice President of Marketing Communications Molly Honan, Emmanuel’s growth is also due to the school’s accommodation of students’ needs and interests, as well as the college’s complementary size for providing those needs.

Statistics from Admissions show that the incoming freshmen class of 2000, when Emmanuel was still an all-female college, consisted of 610 applicants; 499 of those applicants were accepted but only 192 enrolled. For the most recent group of freshmen, 6,990 students applied, 3,931 were accepted and 589 chose to be Emmanuel College’s Class of 2015.

To accommodate the growing number of applicants, Emmanuel will host two Accepted Students days this spring. The first Accepted Students Day was held February 26 for students who were accepted either as Early Action or Early Decision. The number of Early Action and Early decision applicants has grown over the last few years, according to Honan.

Also, those who attend the first Accepted Students Day will be able to attend the general admission Accepted Students Day, which will take place on March 31.

ATTENTION ALL TRANSFER STUDENTS!

THERE WILL BE A TRANSFER STUDENT ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING Every Other Thursday 6:00 in SAC 140

CATHOLICS DON’T FOREGO: 1

“I feel that this new proposition infringes on constitutional rights. This is the government interfering with the workings of the Church. I don’t feel the two should be mixed so I don’t think that President Obama has a right to demand the people of his country to change their beliefs,” said Lindsey Rogers ’14.

The contraception debate remains a minor issue compared to the line that needs to be drawn between the separation of church and state. Father Spencer tackled this issue by bringing up the relationship the Church has with the government.

“What has happened is that the Church and the U.S. government have entered into a relationship where the Church accepts federal money...and by accepting federal money they must abide by federal law,” stated Spencer.

The Church needs to clarify where the line needs to be drawn as well as the current status of their involvement with the U.S. government. When asked if he felt that this mandate was an ideological attack against religious groups, Spencer stated, “No. Not at all.” It seems that this issue will only be solved once a bigger picture has been established.

Tokers stink up St. Joe’s Hall

By Maria J. Karantouzidou

At least one pothead at St. Joseph’s Hall could learn a thing or two about masking the smell of their stash.

Since winter break, RAs and many sixth-floor residents have noticed the smell of marijuana growing stronger. This problem had persisted through the Fall 2011 semester, and the RAs are starting to take action. Resident Advisors Brenna Hunt and Maggie MacKay have put out the word that the potent smell is unwelcome.

“It’s whatever,” said Emily Alvarez ’14, a sixth-floor resident. “I think if people have a problem with it they need to go to the RAs and have them do something about it.”

When questioned, Hunt had no comment.

The marijuana aroma has hovered in the right wing of the hallway where the elevators are located. Although this wing has the strongest scent, residents in the left wing have also expressed concerns.

An anonymous resident said, “Whether or not someones complain, it’s the RA’s responsibility to take action.” If RAs or RDs smell questionable aromas coming from a room, they have the right to search the room for the source.

For students living in residence halls, there are two routine room checks during each semester. During the check, an RA and the RD enter the room to ensure residents are respecting residence hall rules.

Time will tell if residents comply or risk getting kicked out.
Studio Ghibli delivers with Secret World of Arietty

By Mary Gilcoine and Mark Prokes

There are few film and animation fans who have yet to hear of Hayao Miyazaki and his now legendary team at Studio Ghibli. This month he returns to the big screen, as screenwriter, to bring his fans of the show. The Secret World of Arietty tells the tale of Arietty (voice of Bridgit Mendler), a determined 14-year-old girl who only stands four inches tall. Her world exists below the floorboards where she lives with her family. In fear of being seen, Arietty and her father only venture out at night while all the "beasts" sleep. They survive by "borrowing" little bits of food and discarded trinkets that one would scarcely notice gone. However, this miniature world becomes exposed when Shawa (voice of David Henne), a 12-year-old human boy who comes to stay in the home, uncovers Arietty and her world. An unlikely but genuine friendship soon blossoms as Arietty and Shawa struggle to keep the Borrowers' existence a secret.

Studio Ghibli's beautiful artwork is on full display and abso­lutely steals the show. The details in the characters models and movements not only sell the believability of the world but also add depth to the more action oriented scenes. Ghibli is also able to take locations that at first seem mundane to the average viewer and expertly show how these places are viewed through the miniscule eyes of Arietty. The localization can be spot­ty at times, with occasional lapses in the lip syncing, but the cast pulls their weight admirably and overcome the editors. On the whole, The Secret World of Arietty is a joy to watch and deserves to be seen by film fans of all ages.

The film is distributed internationally by Walt Disney Pictures and premiered February 17, 2012.

Project X aims for party realism

By Eric Donnelly

Thousands of the coolest people, copious amounts of alcohol, and an explicit gar­den gnome filled with ecstasy: sounds like the perfect party right? In the upcoming movie Project X, set for release on March 2, three gawky high school seniors seek to put themselves atop the social hi­erarchy of their high school in order to finally have a chance with all the girls about which they could only dream. The R-rated film aims to portray the typical, high school college student house party fantasy gone crazy: the documentary style cinematography adds to the success of this portrayal.

In our society today, it could not be more apparent that the media has embraced the "party" lifestyle. With shows like Jersey Shore and movies like The Hangover, it has become clear that drink­ing is a popular and glamor­ized trend. Why might this be so accepted? It is probably because is the partying and drinking themes are very relatable for a lot of people, especially college students. Project X earned its "R" rating for, "crude and sexual content throughout, nudity, drugs, drinking, pervasive language, reckless behavior and mayhem - all involving teens." The movie success­fully appeals to its main target audience, late high school/college age students, by creating the ultimate house party fantasy: two DJs, end­less amounts of alcohol, and all the topless girls you can wear your virgin mind around. Because many people have been through the typical, although pervasive social experiment that we call high school, re-living the desire to be the coolest kid on the block attracts all ages of graduates.

While interviewing the three main actors, Thomas Mann, Oliver Cooper, and Jonathan Daniel Brown, the one question they had to ask us was if we felt there was too much nudity. Even though the flashing scenes of shirtless women seem to be endless, it played into the storyline of the movie quite well. Even though you may expect only to expe­rience dry sex humor in this type of movie, the writers did an effective job of expanding beyond these expectations. The sassy remarks and wily attitudes of the lead charac­ters allowed for the viewers to draw parallels with their own lives. Most people can relate to at least one of the lead characters.

Although the movie had an R rating, it is not always susceptible to change, improvisational comedy did occur in some scenes. The lead actors said the movie was roughly seventy-to-thirty script to improv. "We worked with the dialogue on the fly," stated lead actor Jonathan Daniel Brown, "it was naturalistic, enjoyable, and it gave a real feeling."

A popular trend of the movie promotion seemed to encompass distancing this film from its close cousin The Hangover. However, once you see the movie for yourself you can agree that Project X is in a league of its own, despite commonalities.

The Grey: Smarts and Strength Make for an Intense and Interesting Winter Flick

By Matt Mainone

If Joe Carnahan's The Grey was a test based on intel­lect, quick thinking and gen­eral survival skills, then John Ottway ( Liam Neeson) is a combination of Albert Einstein, Pit Partel and Batman. The Grey is a gripping thriller about a downed plane crew in Alaska who left on an oil expedition. Surrounding them are two things: a harsh and unrelenting expanse of snowy terrain and a pack of wolves upon whose territory they are now infringing. This sets the stage for what man­ages to merge the traditional group comedy movies like Beethoven with moments of intense horror that made me feel like I was watching a dark Silent Hill movie. The atmosphere leaves one completely unprepared for the wolves' inevitable arrival, and it doesn't feel like the film is grasping at low hanging fruit by the end to get the kind of scares with which the audi­ence has become familiar. In case you can't tell, The Grey is a good movie. But the primary reason it's good is because it goes above and beyond what could have been expected of a movie made with a similar premise, if it had been shaped by a worse director.

All of the survivors in The Grey are the kind of super­macho men you would expect to fit the description of the lineup for The Expendables, and what's more is that most of them (with the exception of Neeson and Ottway) are just not well to compete with the wolves and the terrain, but with each other as well. Diaz ( Frank Grillo) is especially out of his league here, and his acting, to say the least, is lacking. But before Ottway's advocate against Ottway: Ordinarily, a movie where all the charac­ters compete with each other wouldn't do well as a survival movie. In their drive to com­pete, all the survivors except Ottway would have tried to prove themselves to the oth­ers and the entire group, and consequently would have died within the first day or two. Not only does Ottway manage to retain his composure, but most of them make it through a few days.

Even though the wolves are only defending them­selves from invaders and don't understand the humans' life or death situation (hell, even people don't understand plane crashes - how must the wolves feel?). sympathies are aligned with the survivors through the characteriza­tion of their back­grounds. This is especially true for Talget ( Dermot Mulroney) who has just lost his daughter, and for Ottway when his post-crash self is compared with his pre-board­ing portrayal as an incredibly weak-minded man who leaves a bar, goes into an alley and sticks the barrel of his rifle in his mouth, contemplating joining his now-deceased wife ( Anne Opserhan).

Joe Carnahan took a ma­cho bro movie and combined it with something akin to Friday the 13th. Lightning struck. The Grey is superb. If you see it though, make sure to stay past the credits. You will be sur­prised.
New Crop of Voters for 2012 Presidential Elections

By Colleen Morasty

Most students at Emmanuel today weren't old enough to vote in the 2008 election. This year, however, these same students' votes will count toward making change in the country. One of the central concerns is the economy and the job outlook after graduation.

Candidates like Ron Paul, Barack Obama, Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, and Rick Santorum have offered their proposed solutions, yet students are still questioning which candidate should get their vote.

Mary Gilmore '14 states, "I am looking for the candidate who is concerned about fixing the economy. Ron Paul has been promoting the economic downfall for years and no one listened. He has now a plan to fix it, I think that it is time we started listening."

The campaign website for Ron Paul gives a three point plan that "will lead the way out of this crisis by: Voting to reduce the minimum wage, sending to his desk. Refusing to further raise the debt ceiling so politicians have to act responsibly, reckless and. Fighting to fully audit (and then end) the Federal Reserve System, which has enabled over $38 trillion in the reduction of what our dollar can buy and continues to create money out of thin air to finance future debt."

Lauren Mullet '15 asserts, "I would rather have a president who is compassionate and in making small mistakes than somebody who is an unkil fool who will set us back a decade. I feel that the current Republican candidates would not accomplish as much as Obama."

President Obama's campaign consists of "protecting our jobs, repairing our economy, investing in American manufacturing, and supporting small business."

"Also, he maintains it is important 'to level the playing field for American businesses and workers' and has 'signed trade agreements with South Korea, Columbia, and Panama. Together, the agreements are estimated to lead to exports by over $1 billion and support over 70,000 American jobs."

Matthew Maimone '14 states, "I say Mitt Romney is under the belief that in theory, we need to get education and the economy back on track. The former Florida Governor, Marco Rubio, knows how to get those two done."

Mitt Romney's campaign website states the candidate "seeks to reduce taxes, spending, regulation, and govern­ment programs. It seeks to increase trade, energy produc­tion, human capital, and labor flexibility."

So the question then boils down to a simple who are you going to vote for?


Lastly, Rick Santorum's campaign states that the candidate "is committed to reviving our economy, restor­ing economic growth, and creating jobs in America again by unleashing innovation and entrepreneurship through fewer and simpler taxes, less American businesses, work­ers, and families. He also will roll back job killing regulations, restrain our spending by living within our means, and unleash our domestic manufacturing and energy potential."

Ad libbed slap rattles competition

By Doug Dame

FITCHBURG- The Kennedy Center and the Theater Region Festival takes place within the scope of a large campus. With a few hundred students occupying the whole of two halls, the close quarters, and concerns, and for gossip amongst many of the students, it comes as no surprise that news spreads fast at ACTF. So when the Emmanuel College presentation of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee featured a gay father slapping his young daughter across the face, it was a shot heard around the world for all those at the festival.

"I think the slap provided my character, and the two fathers, with means of character development. It gave our relationship a chance to grow and change," said Sarah Tortora, who played the young girl.

The slap, which was not present in the original production by Tony Kushner, was added to make the ACTF version more original, was done as a simple sight gag, but sparked anger because of the implications of the abusive nature of the slap and the father.

John McNamara, the actor who played the father, explains that the homosexuality was the real crux of the issue. "If it had been a mother who slapped her son instead of a gay dad and his daughter there would have been far less 'controversy,'" he said. McNamara is only one of many who students thought the slap was. A production manager explained that the slap was "too much focus was put on the gay father being abusive," said Meredith Wahlberg, who was also at ACTF, which is the performance of Bee. The "whole idea of the show is that it's wrong to push your kids for nothing but, what was supposed to show her dad push her too hard, not that gay parents hit their kids."

Scott Gagnon, who directed the show, says that "the slap was a line in a song called "Woe is Me" that's all about how all little girls live for nothing but to win this spelling bee, it was supposed to show that her dad push her too hard, not that gay parents hit their kids." Others disagree that the joke was even offensive. "It was just funny," said Jackie Kempe, "14, "who was (a technical production manager for an acting award nomination, and was in disbelief that a theater going audience would be so upset about a show known for its borderline offensive humor."

"I thought of a group of theater kids would get it," she said, "but I guess not."

In his interview, Professor Gagnon emphasized how important the slap was in the grand scheme of the piece. "The show has received an overwhelmingly positive reception," he said, "he said, "standing ovation from over 400 people, an exemplary review by the respondents, and of course, the honor of selection itself."

"That's, I think, the real story here, and it would be a shame if something like this would be overshadowed by that."