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College responds to student pressure, alters counseling services policy

BY KATHERINE COBLE

Assistant News Editor

It takes a village to raise a child...or to change a health policy.

That's what Alison Renna '18 figured out over the year and a half she spent working to adjust the College's counseling payment plan. Renna, a remarkably articulate and tenacious junior from Spring Lake, New Jersey, is a licensed insurance professional. At the conclusion of her freshman year, Renna learned that Franklin & Marshall would be eliminating its unlimited free counseling policy and switching to a privatized system in which students received only one free session a year. The change, which occurred as part of the College's partnership with Lancaster General Health, angered and upset her.

"My first reaction was indignation," Renna explains, saying that it frustrated her that students would suddenly have to pay for a service they had previously received without payment. "I got mad. I was very, very angry." Renna used counseling services herself as a second semester freshman to help her balance her stressful F&M workload. She was concerned for



Photo courtesy of Alison Renna

Alison Renna '18 was integral in advocating for updates to counseling services. Administration recently announced an eightfree sessions per year plan for students.

the implications the policy change would have on her fellow students, particularly those without health insurance or without families understanding of mental health issues. Renna knew firsthand how useful counseling could be. Now she worried students that would benefit from counseling services wouldn't go at all - saving their one free session for after they were completely overwhelmed, not before.

Diplomatic Congress president Wyatt Behringer '18 expressed similar concerns as soon as he

heard of the changes during the HA training session in August of 2015. According to Behringer, the HAs were blown away and upset after the news was given to them in a presentation. "You could hear immediately the shift in the room when that was told to us. Students were pissed. They were asking questions, drilling the presenter. It was immediately a concern." Behringer says that during his first year at F&M, simply knowing that free counseling was available to him was comforting. Under the new policy, he could not offer that

ethos to his residents.

Dean of the College Margaret Hazlett says the process of partnering with Lancaster General Health began as soon as she took over the position of Dean in the summer of 2013. The privatization of the system was a sacrifice made in order to provide students with a wellness service with better resources for students. Some of these benefits listed by Hazlett included access to better medical practitioners, the ability to be a part of LGH's electronic medical system to ease the transfer of medical documents, and access to a greater network of providers.

"Nationally, students are coming to college today with more and more significant health issues and more complicated health issues," Dean Hazlett says. The partnership with LGH allows F&M to provide the best possible care for such students. Hazlett says that she knew students would be unhappy with the plan and the administration understood its consequences. "We knew this was going to be a change in culture, but we also saw the benefits."

Shortly after the 2015-16 school year got underway, Renna felt
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Sheldon Ruby receives prestigious Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship

BY BRIDGET JOHNSTON

News Editor

Senior Sheldon Ruby was recently named a 2017 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellow by the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University. This prestigious fellowship is awarded to only 30 students nationwide, and provides roughly \$95,000 towards tuition costs for its recipients.

The Rangel Fellowship is named in honor of U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, the second-longest serving member of the House of

Representatives. The fellowship was founded and designed in order to diversify Foreign Service, and it's known for highlighting the most promising students from across the country. The program provides funding for graduate school, an internship on Capitol Hill, and a placement in an American embassy anywhere in the world, all while covering living expenses and creating lasting contacts in Washington. After graduate school, all recipients commit to at least five years as a Foreign Service Officer and can be placed anywhere in the world.

As a Foreign Service Officer, Ruby will be one of countless individuals working hard hours to ensure that Americans abroad as well as American affairs are being taken care of. Ruby explains that he could be responsible for anything from tracking down a matching blood donor, to taking care of Americans in foreign prisons, to overseeing natural disaster relief efforts at the ground level.

Although Ruby admits that while at first glance he does not appear to be the picture of diversity, he's actually the first in his family to attend college. In fact, Ruby feels

that as a first-gen student, receiving such a prestigious fellowship only takes on added meaning.

Ruby explains, "With a lot of first-gen students, there's a constant push to verify that we belong or deserve to be [at F&M]. Winning this [fellowship] proves that I deserve to be here... It's a huge verification that I've done something great. It's a huge honor."

Following graduation in the spring, Ruby will spend his summer as an intern in Washington D.C. However he admits that his

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moved to take action and attempt to adjust the payment plan. At the advice of then-DipCon president Donnell Bailey '17, she joined the Health & Wellness Committee of the Diplomatic Congress and was appointed to sit on the Lancaster General Health/Franklin & Marshall Joint Operating Committee alongside Grace Brown '16.

As soon as the new plan went into effect, adjustments were made by the administration. Most notably, Dean Hazlett's office created a fund for students who couldn't afford the payment plan. In Behringer's words, the fund "obviously didn't cut it." He was concerned that the administration believed some funding was enough to resolve the issue and appease students. "I think Dean Hazlett's office assumed that [a fund] was a solution and that it was working. But I was very skeptical." Behringer felt that issues of confidentiality and access were still not taken care of. Renna, too, worried that even students that might qualify for funding would be unaware of the resources available to them because of the sometimes complicated, often daunting language of health-care policy. For students, the issue preserved.

All the while, Renna continued to sit on the Joint Operating Committee, growing increasingly more frustrated with inaction. She looks back on the meetings with disappointment. "It was always, 'We'll address it at the next meeting.'" The Committee stalled, unsure if the consequences of the policy change were concrete or anecdotal. They were largely unwilling to make any changes to the policy until Renna could show that the switch had a detrimental impact on students or that a significant portion of the student body wanted the policy to change. She sat on the committee for an entire

year. From her perspective, no progress was made.

"I thought, 'By the time this change happens, I'm going to graduate'," Renna recalls. For not the first time, she considered dropping the project altogether. But Renna also understood that she was in a unique position to push for an adjustment to the payment plan. After she graduated, there would be no F&M students left that remembered the free counseling plan. Renna worried that she would leave while the system remained. It was this possibility that pushed her to pursue her advocacy further.

When Renna returned to campus in September 2016, she was ready to take her project a step forward. With the help of faculty such as psychology professor Meredith Bashaw, she began composing an article for publication in The College Reporter and made a petition to accompany it. Renna was concerned that the administration would react to these methods in a defensive way.

"Something that I ardently believed then and continue to believe now is that standing in absolute opposition can be much more hurtful to progress than it can be helpful," Renna says. She understood that she and the administration both wanted the best for F&M and its students. They just had different ideas of how to accomplish that lofty goal. But because of backing from tenured faculty, Renna felt that she had enough to support to go through and punish the article.

Renna turned to the Diplomatic Congress to inform them of her decision. It took Behringer by surprise. He had not realized how stilted progress on the project had become. "Ali came to us and said that it was very clear this [change] was not going to happen. And at that point it became a major issue for DipCon." Renna and Behringer both feel the petition was a turn-

ing point in the quest to change the counseling payment plan. Renna credits its success to the support of Diplomatic Congress and their efforts to share the petition across campus. It ultimately reached more than 800 signatures.

"Communication was much more frequent and much more productive after the petition came out," Renna says. The administration, including Dr. Porterfield and Dean Hazlett, understood how widespread concern over the counseling policy was. They reached out to Renna and several others close to the project, including Wyatt Behringer, to inform them of a change. The College would begin to offer eight free counseling sessions a year, breaking down to four a semester. Notably, Dean Hazlett's funding will still be available for students that cannot afford to pay past the eight-session mark.

"Ultimately, I think counseling services should be free," Behringer insists. "But I think that this is a really good step and a really good sign of partnership with the administration that I am very happy with." Renna echoes this sentiment. "My ideal would be unlimited [counseling]," she says, "However, eight free sessions a year does eliminate the two major barriers I presented: accessibility and confidentiality."

On Tuesday, November 22, as F&M students began to leave campus for Thanksgiving break, Dean Hazlett sent an email informing the rest of the student body of the new 8-session plan. Renna says she was headed home at the time and found her phone flooded with messages of congratulations. "I had to put my phone on silent and drive home. And when I got home I opened my phone and was able to talk to everyone," Renna recalls happily. "It was really emotional because I knew a lot of people were going to benefit from this."

It is undoubtedly true that every-

one involved in the policy change will walk away from the experience knowing more than they did before. "It was quite a learning experience," Renna says, "Learning how change happens." Though Renna credits the support of her community for helping her accomplish her goals through patience, perseverance, and empathy, Behringer offers an additional takeaway: "I learned that one person can make a difference. Ali Renna made me believe this change was possible."

For now, Renna and the rest of Diplomatic Congress do not intend to pursue further negotiations over the counseling payment plan. They see the latest change as a success. Dean Hazlett, however, anticipates this discussion to be ongoing. "It'll be a constant review. We don't want to narrow access. We need to broaden access for our students... We need to think proactively about how we prevent issues while also recognizing the more significant mental health issues that are coming to campus."

Both Renna and Behringer feel that one of the most inspiring parts about this journey of negotiation was seeing how the Franklin & Marshall community can get behind an issue and find a solution. "I learned about this crazy fire in F&M students that I hadn't seen before," Renna enthuses. She sees this saga as an example of students with passion making a concrete difference in their community. Renna's tenacity will certainly serve as an example of what anyone at F&M can accomplish if they care about it enough.

"It's easy to think that you can't make a difference," Renna acknowledges. "I didn't think I could until a few weeks ago. So it's nice to know that we can."

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Fellowship: Ruby motivated to help those in need, hopes to attend Georgetown

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next steps depend largely on what graduate schools accept him, although hopes he will be able to attend Georgetown and enroll in their Masters program for Public Policy. In the meantime, Ruby is still waiting to hear back from a handful of additional Fulbright fellowship positions that would allow him to teach English in various countries around the globe.

Although these awards and opportunities seem impossible to achieve, Ruby explains that he is driven and motivated by a desire to help individuals who cannot necessarily defend themselves. Ruby says, "Where I come from,

there is a heavy emphasis on right and wrong, appropriate and not appropriate, so when I find something that I think is wrong or that I disagree with, such as an injustice against first-gen students or low-income students, I do not stop until I can bring that into the light."

During high school, Ruby participated in F&M's College Prep Program, which aims to help underrepresented students attend college, and he proudly says that he will be "eternally indebted to Dr. Porterfield for having faith that he can succeed and get a higher education." He explains that attending F&M and

the opportunities he has had here have truly shaped him as a student. In particular, he points to his freshman year connections course, "Understanding Terrorism," taught by Professor Kibbe, as well as Dr. Kollar's class on International Politics.

Ruby is currently resisting the urge to coast through to graduation. Instead, he intends to take a full course load in the spring, as well as becoming a preceptor for a connections course. He is also excited to finish out his final semester by once again taking one of Professor Kibbe's classes and hopes he will be able to take that as a chance to show just how much

he has grown since taking her connections course in his first year.

Ruby is one of the founding members of a first-generation support club on campus, as well as a Kappa Sigma brother, a tour guide, and a former member of Ware Parliament. Ruby encourages students interested in foreign affairs to reach out to the many supportive professors in the Government Department, as well as to make an appointment with Dr. Cable to find out what fellowships and opportunities are out there.

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Staff Writer Commentary

With Trump as president-elect, Democrats must step up their game

BY NICK RIEBEL

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I think liberals, progressives, and Democrats, can agree that we need better leaders of our party than Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Hillary Clinton. If you personally or politically like these people, I do not necessarily mean to say that you should not like them. I do have issues with them in terms of policies and personalities, but I take issue in this article with their failed strategies and tactics. And I would have said this even if Hillary Clinton had won.

Let us say that Hillary Clinton has narrowly squeaked out a victory. I suspect that we would continue to go along as if everything was going great (and I do not necessarily exclude myself, I thought the election of 2012 proved that Democrats were largely on the right track in terms of how to win elections in this country). I believe that if Clinton had won, we would have either narrowly won or lost the Senate (more likely won it than lost it, given the total absence of split-ticket voting in Senate races this year: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/11/17/is-split-ticket-voting-officially-dead](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/11/17/is-split-ticket-voting-officially-dead/?utm_term=.18ccb04c8fe6)

[/?utm_term=.18ccb04c8fe6](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/10/19/john-mccain-is-right-senate-republicans-could-block-a-clinton-supreme-court-indefinitely/?utm_term=.4cb93db11066)). We would likely not have re-taken the House, although we would have taken more seats than we did in reality (Darrell Issa would most likely have been defeated, for example, and he definitely does not deserve to serve in Congress. The party seems to have a habit of not doing a good job in recruiting for winnable races, or making sure races that are potentially winnable are won; they do much better in fundraising from Wall Street and the wealthy for themselves in their safe races, rather than helping progressive challengers to defeat vulnerable, conservative/Tea Party Republicans. Yet I digress). We would have still had a divided government, growing partisanship, and mounting voter frustration. We would have gotten little accomplished, and I will boldly go against conventional wisdom and argue this: even if Hillary Clinton had won the presidency, the Senate would have blocked or filibustered her Supreme Court nominee(s). We already had senators stating that they would do so, even if she won: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/10/19/john-mccain-is-right-senate-republicans-could-block-a-clinton-supreme-court-indefinitely/?utm_term=.4cb93db11066. (I will say here that Republicans blocking Merrick Garland was a nasty, cynical move, which is paying massive political dividends: perhaps Democrats can learn something from this, especially considering Hillary Clinton has won the popular vote somewhere between two to three million. But I digress again.)

I have argued with Democrats, of a largely establishment bent, that if we were to take similar measures as Republicans have done throughout President Obama's time in office, we would be just as bad as them. And perhaps their argument is valid. However, I think it's also dumb: say what you will about the Republicans, but what they've been doing has been working. If we truly want to govern, maybe we shouldn't be so nice to them as we have been. Remember how hard they attacked President Obama, just for doing reasonable, center to center-right policies? We need to hammer Trump and his Republican allies when they pass their ultra-conservative and "alt-right" agenda. What I predicted would happen under a Trump presidency is already happening Trump is assuming full control over everything. I do not say this with relish, or happiness at

being proven right about our future president again. Congress and the Supreme Court, the military and the media, are obviously not going to stand up to him. Foreign nations are not going to stand up to him (worse, they may just try to manipulate him, as he is gullible and not particularly intelligent).

Trump will be able to do whatever he wants. He has all the power in the world, including nuclear weapons, to do whatever he wants. I hope he does not launch any horrible wars, or unleash weapons of mass destruction. I fear he will. Democrats cannot be the "go-along-to-get-along" party. We have to stop our enemies, Trump and his conservative, Tea Party, Republican cult, once and for all. Compromise and negotiation would be possible if the other side was reasonable: President Trump is proof that the GOP and almost half the nation has lost their minds, and they need to be removed from power. I hope the Democrats decide to stop trying to be "elder statesmen and women" and actually fight as if the future of our nation and planet depend on it. Because it does.

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Sexual violence is unacceptable, especially in new, changing political atmosphere

BY ALEX PINSK

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I would rather not repeat all of the repressive comments that Donald Trump has made regarding women. You have all heard them. Some of you have thought about them. Many of you have shrugged them off with a simple, "oh well, no one is perfect." And about half of you have felt violated by them.

No, I would rather not repeat these vile statements, but I feel I need to. Physically objectifying women, Trump said male celebrities can "grab them [women] by the pussy... You can do anything" according to an Access Hollywood tape exposed on October 7th. Saying that it is okay to physically assault women is inappropriate and unacceptable. It is verbal harassment to women everywhere, and coming from our country's future leader, it is horrifying. However, the objectification aspect of his verbal harassment is only one element. Equally disturbing were his comments concerning Clinton's advantages in the election. According to Politico Magazine, in April of 2016 Trump said to a "crowd of his supporters" that "the only thing she's got going is the 'woman card'" about Hillary Clinton. Many would take this as him insinuating that Clinton has no other assets or strengths and would not be in the political position she is in were she not a woman is degrading

and false. Namely, it seems to me that he thinks that women are unintelligent and incapable of running for political office; they are only receiving votes because they are not men, i.e. because people want something new and radical. Thirdly, I would like to bring to your attention Trump's opinion that sexual assault is an inevitable consequence of our country permitting women to serve alongside men in the military. In a tweet that he posted on May 7, 2013, he says "26,000 unreported sexual assaults in the military-only 238 convictions. What did these geniuses expect when they put men & women together?" according to CNN News. I would interpret this opinion as Trump saying that women are objects and that sexual assault is going to happen no matter what, that rape is normal. Sexual assault is not normal, should not be normal, and cannot be considered normal if we intend to move forward as a country. How are we as people supposed to cultivate an equal society when our future president champions this "rape culture"?

According to the Rape Crisis Centre, in Emilie Buchwald's book, *Transforming a Rape Culture*, she describes rape culture as "a complex set of beliefs that encourage male sexual aggression and supports violence against women. It is a society where violence is seen as sexy and sexuality as violent. In a rape culture, women

perceive a continuum of threatened violence that ranges from sexual remarks to sexual touching to rape itself. A rape culture condones physical and emotional terrorism against women as the norm . . . In a rape culture both men and women assume that sexual violence is a fact of life, inevitable." Put simply, sexual violence is considered to be acceptable and there are rarely consequences for those who initiate this violence. We live in a society where rape is not uncommon. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, "[o]ne in five women...will be raped at some point in their lives..." "[o]ne in four girls... will be sexually abused before they turn 18", and... "[m]ore than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault." Though there are instances in which men are also the victims of rape, for the purposes of this article, I am writing solely about women. I do not think people quite understand these statistics. If you have 5 friends who are girls, about one of them have been or will be raped. This is an insufferably large percentage and downright unacceptable especially in the United States, in this progressive culture of which we claim to be a part of.

What is interesting, however, is that according to Emilie Buchwald, "much of what we accept as inevitable is in fact the expression of values and attitudes that can change." This

statement sounds like a positive one and may give some of you a sense of relief, thinking that our country can change. Alas, we elected a president who upholds this rape culture, whether he admits to it or not. So, yes, our "values and attitudes" may change, but the reality is that they are likely to change in a negative way. People presumably will notice that Trump is condoning an inappropriate and hurtful dialogue about sexual assault, verbal and physical, and assume that it is okay. When the leader of our country is acting in this way, it is unfortunately inevitable for others to follow his lead.

Why does this matter? It matters because it is our responsibility as people and as college-educated students to defend what we know is right, to understand how unacceptable sexual assault is, to be aware of the language we use, in order to support and respect women. Women need to look out for each other, and ensure that they receive the respect they deserve, and men need to be advocates for gender equality. No matter to what extent our country's dynamic may change over the next four years, no matter who we associate with, no matter who is in office, some things are never okay. Sexual assault of any kind is never okay, is never justified, ever.

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Campus Life

Katie Meyler, CEO of *More Than Me*, talks Liberian education, Ebola crisis

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ
Campus Life Editor

This Thursday's Common Hour, titled "Art & Aid: How Spoken Word, Instagram and Flash Mobs Helped Vulnerable Girls in School and Combat Ebola," was given by Katie Meyler, founder and CEO of *More Than Me*. The Common Hour was proposed by Sophia Das '19, and was co-sponsored by Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies programs.

Meyler has presented about her organization to multiple audiences, including a TEDx Talk and the United Nations. She has been highly praised in many major publications, including being declared a *TIME* person of the year in 2014.

Meyler told her personal story through performing spoken word poetry. She was poor for most of her life, but realized what real poverty was while visiting Haiti. She came to realize that she was privileged, because she did not have to struggle daily for basic human rights. Right out of college, an organization she was involved in sent her to Liberia, a West African country formed by freed slaves from the United States. Despite a civil war that had ruined the country's infrastructure, Meyler found Liberia to be a vibrant, beautiful place. While there, she befriended some children, and asked them, "If you could have anything in the world, what would it be?" They replied that they wanted to go to school, but it was too expensive. She decided to use social media to raise money to have them go to school. She started out using Myspace, but now uses Facebook and Instagram. Meyler quickly learned that the girls were more vulnerable than the boys, and began focusing on them.

People began suggesting to Meyler that she start an organization to help

the girls in Liberia. At first, she had doubts about whether she was qualified. According to Meyler, the best advice she received was, "Get over yourself." She continues to use this mantra, and reminds herself that what she is doing is not about her. To Meyler, it is important to "live for something bigger than yourself."

From these experiences, she started the organization *More Than Me*. The first female President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, got involved, and provided Meyler with a free government building. Still, Meyler had to raise funds to fix it up. Fortunately, she won one million dollars from the Chase Bank American Giving Awards, which she also used to make the organization more legitimate with a hired team. In September 2013, Meyler cut the ribbon with President Sirleaf, officially opening the first tuition-free all-girls school in Liberia. The school includes two free meals a day, access to technology, and a health center. The girls quickly skipped grade levels, and were doing well – until Ebola hit.

In the United States when the Ebola epidemic started, she quickly went back to Liberia. She asked Doctors Without Borders to train her and her team to help Liberians on the front lines. Meyler saw all different groups coming together to fight Ebola, but they lacked the resources. They would call an ambulance, and it would not come for four days. They eventually got their own ambulance that they drove around themselves. Although they saved many lives, still many people died. Meyler said when there was nothing left to do, they would sing, giving dignity to death. Helpers in the U.S., including Sophia Das, would collect supplies and ship them to Liberia.

Whole families would die, and there were children left without any immediate relatives still alive. Meyler



Photo by Emma Brown

Katie Meyler spoke at Common Hour on founding her organization, *More Than Me*, and building Liberia's education system and fighting the Ebola epidemic.

described a little girl who sat there crying while others were being released from a hospital, because she had no one left. Finally, they were able to release her to cousins. The broken systems in Liberia, to Meyler, were partly to blame for why Ebola broke out as bad as it did. She acknowledged the local people in the communities as the real heroes. While they did not have a choice but to fight, they did not give up either.

Meyler connected the problems of health and education in Liberia by saying that a country cannot build a proper health care system without a proper education system. When Meyler started out, there was no real education system in Liberia. Many families would give bribes to move their children up the grade levels and pass their final exams. Meyler is also working with Liberians to start more schools in different counties because there are currently few resources for education. Meyler hopes to make "the largest education reformation in a

country" with a project called Partnership Schools for Liberia. Meyler believes that education and basic health care are human rights.

Meyler believes that anyone can do the impossible. She ended her talk with another spoken word poem titled, "She is My Promise," about a Liberian girl named Abigail that when missing, and is likely living as a prostitute or sex slave.

Meyler noted, "We're all humanity, we're all people, and we all want what's best for our children." She encouraged the audience to find something they do not like and change it, because no one else is going to do it. She believes strongly that every child deserves basic human rights. She said, "Before I'm an American, I am a human being." To Meyler, everyone can aspire to live for something bigger than themselves.

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Panel discusses Trump's economic policy, effects on the future of America

BY SHIRA GOULD
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 29, the Economics Department hosted a panel discussion in the Brooks College House Great Room entitled, "Trumponomics: Trump Economic Policy and What it Means for You." The panel, consisting of professors and students, discussed Donald Trump's economic policies and the effects that his policies will have on the American economy. The stated goal was to answer the questions that concerned students first and foremost.

For elementary, middle and high school students, Trump's policies will likely lead to great school choice because he will likely focus on increasing funding for small charter schools.

In fact, Betsy DeVos, Trump's appointed secretary of education, openly stands for increased financial support for small charter schools.

Additionally, she is in favor of the Common Core curriculum which is in opposition to Trump's campaign stance. The panelists agreed that Trump's fluidity in his positions make it difficult to predict what his policies will entail, and if they will work. However, they were still able to make predictions.

In addition to increased support for small charter schools, Trump's college debt forgiveness plan entails paying 12.5% of one's income over the course of 15 years. He also wants to stop tax cuts on private universities who are not using their endowment for the students. In relation to inter-

national students, they indicated that Trump will likely try to raise the cost of international visas.

The panelists agreed that Trump's economic policies regarding the environment will be in correlation to his belief that the climate is not a priority. For example, he might back out of the Paris Climate Act, and he is in favor of fracking. Because of his ideologies, he might reduce funding for climate change research. Regarding healthcare, Trump has flipped his previous disdain Obamacare as a whole, and has confessed to liking parts of it. For example, he likes the fact that Obamacare allows for children to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26.

The panelists also discussed trade. They asserted that if his trade policies

are to go through, the prices on goods in America will likely go up.

In fact, many said that taxation on the Chinese specifically will increase their prices by 10%, which will likely lead to companies returning to America.

However, it was indicated that there are a few issues with this logic. First, Chinese exports have been diminishing and they move manufacturing to other countries.

Additionally, globalization is becoming more prevalent, and for every exporter there is also an importer. Lastly, international trade is tied to international policy, so it will need to be examined in the broader context of the world.

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Trump: Economic professors, students talk charter schools, Obamacare, taxes

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On the topic of taxes, the panelists discussed how Trump plans to cut the federal income tax by reducing the number of tax brackets. Many panelists discussed how most of his tax cutting benefits will go to the upper 1%, which would be less beneficial to the economy than if there were greater tax cuts to the lower and middle classes.

Some explained that people with greater space to save money will be more likely to put money into the economy, whereas wealthier people would spend a smaller percent of the money they make. The panel discussion provided students with important insights into the future of America’s economy.

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Debate team hosts safe spaces debate

BY SARAH FRAZER
Staff Writer

This past Tuesday, Franklin and Marshall’s debate team hosted a public debate, the topic of which was “Are Safe Spaces Good for F&M.” Arguing in favor of safe spaces was Lee Scaralia ’19, Emily Ritchey ’20, and Edwin Bogert ’17. Arguing in opposition to safe spaces was Alex Mericola ’19, Will Kay ’20, and Alicia Depler ’17. Scaralia spoke as a representative of SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance), while Mericola represented the College Republicans. Everyone else, including Mericola, was on the debate team. Before the debate began, Jesse Dean, a junior debater who introduced the event, noted that the views that would be expressed were not necessarily ones actually held by the debaters expressing them.

Both sides agreed on a common definition of safe spaces to use. That definition is as follows: One, in safe spaces, people provide trigger warnings in public events or classrooms for sensitive, possibly traumatizing material. Two, in such spaces, hate speech is censured. Three, discriminatory barriers within academic settings are eliminated and anonymous reporting systems to eliminate teacher bias are established. Four, these are individualized spaces for marginalized groups. Based on these terms, both sides, pro and against, argued that safe spaces were either good or bad for the F&M community. Each debater spoke once, and both sides alternated which one spoke when.

The pro went first; they had four main points. Firstly, the students argued that safe spaces enable students to focus better and are, thus, more open to learning. If students do not feel safe, they will not be willing to express their opinions, meaning that providing a safe space would, in effect, allow for more speech. Bogert went a step further, arguing that safe spaces lead to a greater diversity and amount of speech. There’s no tradeoff between safety and freedom, he said, and, in fact, limiting some speech will ultimately lead to a greater amount of speech.

Their second point was that hate speech limits communication. As Scaralia argued, hate speech “does not

allow students to engage with each other in meaningful ways.” People who are the subjects of hate speech feel personally attacked, which will make them respond defensively, Ritchey pointed out. In contrast, students in safe spaces can discuss a topic objectively and civilly, solving this problem. If students are able to speak to each other rationally, and are not the recipients of hate speech, then no echo chamber will be created. Safe spaces are intended to be open for everyone to be heard and, most importantly, not silenced by hate.

The third point expressed by the pro side is that safe spaces do not pose a threat to anyone’s speech, provided that he is not being discriminatory. In other words, this side argued, speakers or professors have nothing to worry about if they are acting, essentially, how they should act anyway. “Professors are here to teach students” and to serve them, Ritchey elaborated. She continued that students may feel unsafe by what a professor says, but if the classroom were a safe space, then they would not have to worry. Bogert, argued that even in non-safe spaces, people adjust what they say to make it productive and more conciliatory.

Finally, the students presenting the pro side contended that safe spaces do not cause individuals to be coddled. According to Scaralia, “the students who face discrimination could not possibly forget that hatred exists in the real world.” Rather, safe spaces are meant to level the playing field and to provide each student with an equal opportunity. Moreover, as Bogert contended, “not every discussion has to be about changing minds.” Safe spaces are for students in marginalized groups to discuss their problems or coping mechanisms, among other topics specific to that group.

To these points, the against side argued that safe spaces will limit more than just hate speech, since they will become echo chambers, Kay said. According to him, “when you create an echo chamber, you will have a warped view of what the other side believes.” Depler contended that the purpose of education is to engage with ideas, even those with which we disagree. Specifically for F&M, she said, there is “less of a need for safe space on an already pretty liberal campus.”

Sexual Misconduct: Questions and Answers

Each year in the Fall, a Forum is held to give students the opportunity to hear from Dean Hazlett, the Dean of the College, Mr. Pierce Buller, General Counsel to the College and Jan Masland, Title IX Coordinator about the process of handling sexual misconduct reports on our campus. Mark Harmon-Vaught has recorded these questions each year. Each week Jan Masland will address one of the questions.

- #25. Q. How does the police investigation work and intersect with the campus process.
- A. Students may file a complaint with the College alone, with the police alone or with the College and the police. If a student files a complaint with the College but not through DPS, the city police are not notified unless the student would like there to be a notification. If the student files a complaint directly with Public Safety the city police will be notified and an officer may come to Public Safety to interview the complainant. The complainant may decline to speak with the city police officer. If there is a city police investigation, the College will defer its investigation briefly while the police gather evidence and interview witnesses, however the College will begin its investigation, typically within three to ten calendar days, and is obligated to do so by Title IX. The exception to this is if the perpetrator is not an F&M student. In that case the role of the College is to support the victim but there is no obligation nor ability for the College to prosecute the perpetrator. If a student would like to file a complaint with the city it is strongly advised that they meet with a Public Safety officer who will usually accompany them to make the report. This is because the College’s DPS officers are aware of the support and accommodations that the College can offer student victims while the LCPD’s focus is on the investigation. It is important to note that if the victim does not file a complaint with the College but files directly with the city police and the College becomes aware of the allegation, the College will take steps to insure the safety of the victim and the College community which may entail a College investigation and hearing or administrative review.

The against-safe spaces side presented three primary points, the first of which is that safe spaces limit free speech. According to Mericola, “ideas in a college setting should be expressed freely in order to promote things like creativity.” Speaking at F&M in particular, Mericola contended that the “real purpose of going to college... is to learn things” and “have our world view changed.” Safe spaces prevent some ideas from being heard. In actuality, Kay argued, plenty of students will not feel safe in safe spaces, since safe spaces have an inherently liberal bias. People with a more conservative political ideology, a decent portion of this campus, will feel alienated in a safe space. Furthermore, “censorship is inherently bad,” Mericola said, since one cannot fight back against it. As an example, the College Republicans have repeatedly tried to get a conservative speaker to speak at Common Hour. However, they have not been able to, it would seem, because that speaker may say something that some would consider offensive.

Their second point is that safe spaces create echo chambers, a term that has been used frequently since the election and refers to a place where opposing viewpoints are not heard or engaged with. Mericola argued that these “create a distorted view of the opposition,” which triggers a terrible cycle in which people on one side never actually learn what the other side believes. Depler pointed out that “you can’t understand what you’ve never encountered.” They do not even see the same news stories. Addition-

ally, no one is saying hate speech is good, but it is important to encounter. As a few students mentioned, contact theory says that to change something, one must come into contact with it. Also, since college is meant to prepare us for the real world, should it not be modeled on the real world.

The third reason given that safe spaces are bad is that they will be misused. Professors are always going to worry about what they can say, meaning that they will not be able to teach effectively. According to the students on the against side, this fear is because one comment can force a professor to be fired, such as what happened with the Yale dean, who made a comment about cultural appropriation. Moreover, safe spaces will not foster dialogue between people with opposing views since people who disagree with those, who have created the safe space, are not going to choose to go.

In response, the pro side pointed to the fact that free speech is already limited by the Constitution, if that speech presents a clear and present danger. Ritchey argued that free speech is not all encompassing. Private institutions do not need to guarantee free speech under the Constitution, Bogert argued. The students said that racism and hatred are much different than conservatism, an ideology which would not be limited. According to Ritchey, speakers might be denied for good reason, because they might not contribute to productive discussion.

Sophomore Sarah Frazer is a staff writer. Her email is fgavin@fandm.edu.

Arts & Leisure

Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life *mini-series released on Netflix* *While overly nostalgic, the revival tackles complex, meaningful plotlines*

Television Show Review *Gilmore Girls Revival*

by Ellie Gavin

This month, *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*, was released on Netflix. The series, which consisted of four hour-and-a-half long episodes, was a revival of the original beloved series which has been off the air for nine years. The four installments followed Rory and Lorelai throughout a year in Star’s Hollow. Rory is returning home to live with her mother after hitting a bump in the road of her journalistic career. Lorelai, who has been living with long-term boyfriend Luke, and of course, beloved dog Paul Anka. The *Gilmore* ladies have been coping with the recent death of Lorelai’s father.

This revival, while entertaining and indulgent for those who have

been missing the show dearly for the last nine years, had some issues, especially regarding Rory’s character staying consistent with the person fans have come to know and love. Some of the story lines regarding her personal life seem to stray a little too far away from the kind, albeit flawed, person that we know Rory to be. Rory, along with her friends and family members, consistently forgets that her boyfriend exists. She is having a long-term affair with ex-boyfriend Logan Huntzberger, who lives in London and is engaged to be married.

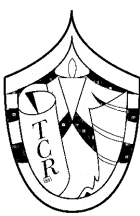
Rory has never been a perfect character, and she doesn’t need to be. Her flaws are what make her interesting. Throughout the original series, we have seen Rory make some pretty big ethical slip-ups, including losing her virginity to Dean while he is engaged to another woman, missing her

mother’s graduation to see her boyfriend, Jess, in New York, and stealing a boat. All of these mistakes show us that Rory, while a kind person with a good heart, is a human being who can be impulsive and maybe a little bit selfish at times. However, despite her mistakes, Rory has always been a character with a moral compass. Some of her actions in the revival, however, just make her seem callous, and are frankly out of character. It just didn’t feel like Rory.

At points, the revival wastes time on plot lines that seem pointless when it could be delving into more interesting issue: couldn’t they have spent more time focusing on Rory’s relationship with her father rather than dedicating twenty minutes to Sutton Foster singing about the history of Stars Hollow? It felt like a waste of time.

While admittedly overly nostalgic in some moments, the revival does a few things very well; all three of the *Gilmore* women are given interesting and complex plot lines, including the complexities of Lorelai’s relationship with her parents, specifically her mother, that resurface in the wake of Richard’s death, Rory’s struggle to find out exactly what she wants and who she is, both in her career and her personal life, and Emily’s struggle to find out who she is when she is no longer Richard’s wife after fifty years of marriage. Amid all of the seemingly silly and unrealistic aspects of life in Stars Hollow, it is the show’s handling of these issues that make the sugar-coated world of *Gilmore Girls* undeniably real.

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Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.
**THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT
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The College Reporter was formed in 1964, as a successor to *The Student Weekly*, which was formed in 1915 by the union of *The F&M Weekly*, founded 1891, and *The College Student*, founded 1881. The crest of *The College Reporter* was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.

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The College Reporter welcomes story ideas from the college community. If you have or your organization has an idea for a Reporter story, email it to us at reporter@fandm.edu with the subject heading “Campus Story Idea” by Monday at noon the week before publication. Story ideas will be accepted at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

The Onion Dip: The College Reporter’s new satirical column Struggling white upper-middle class student disproves white privilege

LANCASTER—Jenna Robertson, a junior pre-med student from Glastonbury, Connecticut, confided to her three best friends in her sorority that she doesn’t believe white privilege is real. Robertson continuously cited her difficult life as proof.

“Like, I’m working 8 hours a week plus I’m a full-time student at F&M.” said Jenna. “Honestly, I’m so stressed out I can barely function.” One of Jenna’s friends, Nicole, defended her friend saying, “Jenna is dealing with so much personal stuff right now. It’s hard to feel like you’re privileged when

you’re so mentally drained.”

Family issues, medical school applications, and organic chemistry have all contributed to Jenna’s struggles. It is reported that Jenna is strongly considering writing a courageous op-ed piece in the *Odyssey* to disprove the myth of white privilege.

When asked if she had any last words, Jenna said, “The struggle is real, which is why white privilege is not.”

Senior Kyle Huntzberry is a satirical columnist. His email is khuntzbe@fandm.edu.

Full Staff Opinion

Thank you for reading, writing, caring

We at The College Reporter have been absolutely overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of the article submissions we have received this semester. It is inspiring to see how engaged many of you have been in the community and how passionate you are about changing things for the better. We are glad that our Newspaper has been a part of making that happen. We believe that it is so important for the college community to have an outlet to voice their opinions, their grievances, and their ideas about how to better our community. We would like to thank all of you for your interest in reading and writing for TCR.

As the semester nears it’s end, and we all are busy studying and finishing up final papers, keep in mind the importance of speaking your mind, staying informed about the world around you, and disagreeing with each other in respectful, productive ways. We look forward to seeing your submissions next semester.

The F&M Men's Basketball team takes the win over Lebanon Valley. Read more below...


photo courtesy of logos.wikia.com

The College Football season has come to a close and the playoffs will be revealed soon. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

F&M Men's Basketball secures win over Lebanon Valley College

BY GABBY GOODWIN
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a good day for the Franklin & Marshall Men's Basketball team when they defeated Lebanon Valley 73-67 on Sunday, November 27 in their fourth game of the season.

F&M guard Brandon Federici scored a season-high 29 points to lead F&M to their victory, improving their record to 3-1 on the season. The Diplomats started off strong with an early 9-2 lead just three minutes into the game.

The Dutchmen, however, came within one of the Dips, down 13-12 with 13 minutes left in the first half.

F&M responded with four baskets, but couldn't maintain their lead. Lebanon Valley went after their opportunity and, with little less than two minutes remaining in the half, took a four-point lead over F&M, 35-31. F&M's Hunter Eggers came to the rescue, scoring five points in the final minute to put the Dips back on top.

Starting the second half off with a 38-37 lead, F&M scored six straight, and with the addition of a layup from F&M's Lior Levy, improved their score to 50-

41. A triple by F&M's Ignas Slyka brought F&M up to a 56-45 lead, which the Dips maintained at 65-55 with 8 minutes left. The Dutchmen put up a good battle, coming within five of the Diplomats, however, they weren't able to catch up to the Dips, who secured a strong defense.

Their momentum obtained previously did not transfer into the following game unfortunately. In a game against Ursinus this past Thursday, F&M Men's Basketball suffered a 102-86 loss, dropping

their record to 3-2.

While the Bears claimed the victory, Federici finished the game with a team-high of 26 points and, close behind him, F&M's Matthew Tate finished with 21.

The Dips face the Bears again on Wednesday, February 1. With all the hard work and preparation Men's Basketball has put into this season, they definitely have the ability to take home a victory against their rival team.

To finish out their week, the

team took on Haverford away on Saturday and won 70-63. They continue their tough stretch of schedule when they take on Johns Hopkins on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The Dips also play Albright at home on Saturday at 3 p.m. Come out and support F&M Men's Basketball following the Dodgeball Tournament to lead them on the path to victory.

First-year Gabby Goodwin is a assistant sports editor. Her email is ggoodwin@fandm.edu.



The F&M Men's Basketball team has had a tough stretch of schedule recently. They have managed to defeat Haverford and Lebanon Valley, while dropping a game to Ursinus. They continue their season against Johns Hopkins and Albright next week.

College Football playoff provides intrigue, intense debate among fans

BY JOE GIORDANO
Sports Editor

In a college football season filled with tons of drama, the last weekend of play certainly lacked the craziness the rest of the season was filled with. Going into the final week of the season, Alabama, Ohio State, Clemson, and Washington were ranked as the top four teams in the College Football Playoff rankings and all managed to avoid defeat in the last weekend of play. So it seems the selection committee has an easy time of selecting the top four teams who will enter the playoff. Not exactly.

While none of the top four teams lost, only three of the four played for their conference championships. Alabama, Clemson, and Washington all conquered their respective conference championships respectively, all but clinching their spots in the playoff. However, Ohio State, who is 11-1, did not qualify for the conference championship. They sat at home like the rest of us and watched the Penn State Nittany Lions take home the Big Ten Championship against 6th ranked Wisconsin. While, Penn State has 2

losses, they have made a very compelling argument for their inclusion in the playoff.

Not only did they win their conference championship, but they also beat Ohio State in a game this past October. This is where things get tricky. Ohio State only has one loss on their resume and that was a road game against Penn State. They also have three wins against top ten opponents. Penn State on the other hand has two top ten wins but also has two losses on their record. This is where the selection committee will have a difficult time deciding between the two Big Ten titans.

When the selection committee was first originated, its purpose was to ensure that the top four teams from around the country competed for a chance to win a National Championship. Their main points of emphasis when deciding between two teams were head to head wins and conference championships. This is where Penn State has the distinct edge. However, when looking at the eye test, Ohio State may seem as though they are the better option, with their lone loss coming on the road to a top five opponent.

In my opinion, a team who did

not win their conference championship and did not beat the conference champion on the field should not be in the College Football Playoff over the champion. This "eye test" compares teams based on a hypothetical "who would beat who if they played on the field". What better eye test do you need besides an actual matchup between the two teams on the field, in which Penn State won.

I realize this decision will be very difficult for the selection committee, as they have never been put

in this situation before. However, Penn State is the better option to represent the Big Ten if they only choose one Big Ten team. If they don't, the whole concept of Conference Championships is rendered pointless. This is why unless, they decide to drop Washington or Clemson out, Ohio State should be on the outside looking in when the bowls are selected for.

Junior Joe Giordano is the Sports Editor. His email is jgiordano1@fandm.edu.



Alabama has distanced themselves from the pack and emerged as the favorites to win the National Championship. The rest of the playoff field has been debated among fans.