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student contributors

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an idealist’s challenge

From an Unknown

Be careful of me. I am an idealist; I believe in the impossible, in the goodness and passion of people. I wish I could say that my faith is rewarded. It often is not. Be careful of me. I am a dreamer, I am a student. I am young and passionate, bold and rash. I am ignorant, because I know too much and too little. My head is filled with wonderful ideas, and too little experience. They tell me to wait, to slow down. But why? What is there to wait for except tomorrow? Why slow down, when tomorrow will come at its own pace? You ask me why I rush ahead. I cannot tell you why... I am young and I believe in today. When I am older, maybe I will believe in tomorrow. But I do believe in tomorrow, as the day that will see the fulfillment of the dreams I hatch and the actions I take today. Today is just more important, because I am young and I prefer action. I was told to love so that I would not go mad, but I may go mad from loving too many things. I am young and I love everything, and I hate everything, and I don’t understand why I can’t change things. Any they tell me I can change the world, if I only wait for tomorrow. I don’t want to wait. I want things to change today. And you? What do you want? Do you know, do you care, are you listening? I hope you are. I think you are young like me, young and frustrated. They call us lazy. Did you know that? You probably did, they call us lazy all the time. They say we ignorant and foolish and all kinds of things. They pat us on the head and say, “Good grades, good job, but don’t try too hard. Try hard tomorrow.” What does that mean? Does that mean that tomorrow is the day we face the world of work, mortgages, bills, elections, stock market crashes? Is this not reality? I think it is. This is reality. This is not some bubble, but part of that scary world that they try to shield us from. I have to work hard enough to get through the day, and they call me lazy. I am not, nor are you. We are smart, we are strong, we are passionate.
when anchormen attack

Media Issues

Aurbey Thomas
Class of 2009
Copy Editor

On September 24, author and media critic Jennifer L. Pozner came to Colby-Sawyer College with her multi-media lecture, “When Anchormen Attack: Gender, Race & Media in the 2008 Elections.” With this lecture, Pozner exposed how sexism and racism has been prominent in the media coverage for the upcoming election in hopes of educating college students on the impact of subliminal prejudices that affect us in our decisions.

Pozner said that media play a large role in shaping politics; therefore, media literacy is our strongest tool. According to her, media often give the public biased distraction and fluff. Pozner showed numerous clips that portrayed instances when sexism and racism were either obvious or inferred. Donny Deutsch said on his show, “[Hillary] Clinton is a sexy woman... [she’s] feisty... a lesson to women in business: don’t try to be a man, be a lioness!” He mentions why this is important. “This is the new feminist ideal; Hillary lost because she didn’t put a skirt on.” He continues, “I trust [Hillary]. I want her watching my kids; I want to be lying in bed with her!” Instead of focusing on the issues, and her proposals to fix them, he talks about her as a woman, and his comfort with how she appears and sounds. This issue was exemplified when Clinton wore a shirt that showed the slight hint of cleavage, so instead of talking about her speech, there was uproar in the media on her indecency in public.

“[The] underlying assumption is that white men are natural in politics, and everyone else cannot understand politics as easily.”

Barack Obama has received racist comments that may not be noticeable to the average viewer. Often, the media called him an “elitist,” which Pozner says is because the media don’t assume that black people can be successful or educated. Some white men on television would say that Obama cannot relate to “average” Americans; Pozner says, “Code word: white.” It seems that white men are often considered as default leaders, and everyone else has to “prove” that they’re capable human beings.

At the Meet the Press roundtable in July 2007, Bob Novak tells the other white males sitting with him that the Democrats have already lost because they only have a woman and a black man; his underlying assumption is that white men are natural in politics, and everyone else cannot understand politics as easily. Media often bog women and minorities down with assumptions and stereotypes, using words such as “a scolding mother” and “domestic insurgent.” Of course, unless the viewer realizes that these words, focuses, and arguments are not well balanced, thoughtful, or important, the viewer will simply follow the media and agree with them on what’s important.

It is important to be aware of how media shape our views on what’s going on around us. In this time of a very important election, it’s even more important to find out the true facts and issues that will educate our decisions in November.

Publicity photo, Colby-Sawyer College website, 2008.

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motivated, and we believe in impossible dreams. We can do anything we set our minds to. Those dreams and goals you have, they are not crystal baubles to hold in your hand and secretly admire, they are not stars to be wished upon. They are treasures sure enough, but they are to be shared, explored, and grown upon. They are not tomorrows, but todays; they are actions waiting to happen. So, this is my challenge to you: Make them happen. Try, just once, please. I bet you will be surprised at what will happen. I don’t know what that is, but I bet neither do you. So try, I bet others will stand up and follow you. There are more of us than you know. So try, they might tell you that it can’t be done, but you won’t know until you try. Try, just once, please. That is my challenge to you. Be the face you see in your crystal ball. Be the body, the mind, and the spirit that you see there. Be the you of tomorrow, but be that you, that person full of enthusiasm, passion, and possibilities today. Today! Don’t waste a day, an hour, a minute. Don’t waste time worrying about how you’ll be perceived. Don’t waste a moment in the realm of regrets. You are infinite. I am infinite. Let’s be infinite together.

- Niamh
Travel Log

Ireland, the Emerald Isle, has long attracted visitors with its rolling fields, friendly people, and fences made of stone. That was the image of Ireland that captivated my imagination as a child. That Ireland still exists, but so does another. Like any nation, Ireland has many faces. It is a culture and a people with a long and complex history that is often ignored. Like many post-colonial nations, Ireland suffers under long-established stereotypes. This was the Ireland I found myself immersed in and enchanted by all over again this summer.

I spent four weeks in Luimmigh (Limerick) studying the visual culture of Ireland. The artists of Ireland have long been under-represented in the History of Art, though their skill ranks them with any of the great artists of Europe. Like their people, these artists continuously struggle with their national identity. Under British rule, they had to cater to the patronage of the wealthy English, who preferred a picturesque view of the impoverished land. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, artists depicted images of the revolution that was brewing among the people. Beginning in 1916, artists had to come to grips with the suffering and destruction taking place around them following the revolution and civil war. Their visions form a vivid tapestry of the way in which the Irish people see themselves.

The University provided plenty of opportunities for me to travel around to Cork, co. Clare, co. Limerick, and Dublin. I was able to see the vast differences between the modern, urban centers and the vast rural areas. Many Irish people still live off the land, much as their ancestors did, while cities like Dublin, Cork, and Luimmigh have become globalized. The Irish people want to establish their presence as a modern nation that has not forgotten its roots. They are highly sympathetic to young nations or those struggling for independence.

Although the Irish have a hard time defining who they are as a separate nation, they believe in their progress. I left Ireland with a different perspective of my own heritage and the art that I study.

from the Editors

We are seeking feedback from you. The newsletter is still relatively new in the program and we are hoping to make it an interesting publication that you find informative and enjoyable and not just an annoying piece of paper in your mailbox. Every publication asks itself, “What do the readers want?” So we ask you, “What do you want?”

We are a relatively small group and there is no reason why the newsletter cannot reflect the interests of all the students. Remember, this publication is for you, not just the administration, faculty, and alumni. With that in mind please send feedback, ideas, and articles to whonorsnewsletter@gmail.com.

by Professor Ann Page Stecker

Our very long and playful and beloved motto for the Wesson Honors Program should give a pretty good idea that we are about minds-at-play, minds stretching and expanding, and looping backward and forward across rangy academic terrains. A friend of mine outside the college, who has heard me describe what I love about teaching here and what I love being involved with the honors program observed recently: “Ann Page, I think you like to remove the shrink-wrap from student’s minds.”

She’s right, I do, even when students resist and always as they grapple so amiably and creatively with new ideas and new challenges.
## the wesson honors program

### 2008-2009 Participants

#### class of 2012 Firstyears

- Natalia Broulidakis
- Daniel Buck
- Ashley Cormiea
- Erica Cornellier
- Molly Csere
- Lyndsay French
- Amanda Gibbons
- Ryan Gillan
- Jeffrey Gosselin
- Kimberly Grindle
- Yuan Gu
- Kara Gulezian
- Wei Guo
- Meghan Hardiman
- Madison Hawkins
- Spencer Hazzard
- James Heide
- Nora Hollingworth
- Michael Lepore
- Maria Loera Chavez Barrera
- Mansi Luo
- Ian McClure
- Kameron Mertz
- Charles Moak
- Nicole Moyer
- Brianna Poulin
- Samantha St. Onge
- Katherine Staiger
- Ernest Tabiri
- Christopher Thompson
- Karrie Wessing
- Owen Worden

#### class of 2011 Sophomores

- Sherrie Applewhite
- Sara Bawtinheimer
- Aimee Cates
- Jennifer Creasey
- Jake Daniele
- Georgia Fiorentino
- Kayleigh Flynn
- Deborah MacEachern
- Cassandra Monahan
- Nicole Morin
- Samantha Ray
- Meghan Steele
- Caitlin Thornton
- Averie Zdon

#### class of 2010 Juniors

- Alicia Foss
- Amy Hebert
- Ashley Jones
- Jamie Koravos
- Ryan Martin
- David Mikita
- Megan Ruggiero
- Rachael Smith

#### class of 2009 Seniors

- Sarah Breault
- John Bristol
- Elizabeth Cortis
- Abigail Cramer
- Joseph Doud
- Nicole Farnham
- Taylor Forsberg
- Renot Lopes
- Samuel Moore
- Allison Morey
- Chantalle Pelletier
- Nicolas Richard
- Noah Richard
- Elizabeth Ryan
- Kristina Stalnaker
- Aubrey Thomas
- Kara Walker
- Kimberly Walleston