

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Olin's unofficial,
student-run news
source.

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2013

FREE, AS IN BEER

Newspapers Require Writers

Lyra Silverwolf
Editor-in-Chief

Many of you probably don't know that *Frankly Speaking* was originally created three years ago as a means of fighting back against censorship by the Olin administration and promoting open dialog within the Olin community. As such a small school with a relatively small body of administrators as compared to the average college, it is not always easy for us, as students, to get our messages across to the right people. Often, I hear students expressing frustration about something without knowing any obvious path of remedying that frustration. *Frankly Speaking* hopes to bridge the divide between the students and the administration and to provide a forum for communication about issues facing our community.

In addition to helping resolve the divide, I am a part of *Frankly Speaking* for some slightly more selfish reasons. I love walking into the dining hall for breakfast on publication day and witnessing the characteristic hush that has fallen over everyone as they read the newest issue. The only thing better than

that hush is to hear that hush transformed into engaging conversation as students begin to discuss the issue with their friends and peers at their table. Sometimes the conversation is even revisited with professors, administrators, and classmates. This newspaper creates a common thread between everyone at Olin, including both faculty and students, which would not otherwise exist. Knowing that I had a hand in this connection is very empowering, to say the least.

Fortunately and unfortunately, *Frankly Speaking* cannot exist without staff and contributors. All of the content you see in this issue was created by your peers, who thought they could contribute ideas that would be relevant to you. I do not believe it is in the spirit of *Frankly Speaking* for me to simply write extra content to fill space just because I want to print a paper. Nor do I believe it is in the spirit of *Frankly Speaking* for me to pressure people into producing content.

I want you to choose to write because I know that you have something interesting to say. The content you contribute may take any

form, from personal stories to commentary, poems to drawings; there are so many great things to write about and so many manners in which you can contribute. Each and every one of you has unique passions and viewpoints. I'm sure that all of you could sit down for 20 minutes (the length of time you might spend procrastinating on Facebook or Reddit every day), get up on your soapbox, and write 500 words about something that you feel passionate about.

Write because you love it, write because you want to share, write because you want your friends to be discussing your awesome ideas – regardless of your reason, just write.

Article Ideas

Need something to write about? Here are some ideas.

- Personal stories
- Current events
- Olin reactions
- Updates on Olin events
- Interview anyone
 - Staff members!
 - Leaders of different organizations
- FWOP reviews
- Cool things everyone should know

The State of Politics in MA

Kat Brookshier
Contributor

Massachusetts held a special election this past June to fill the vacant Massachusetts senator position left by new Secretary of State John Kerry. Obama selected Kerry for the position after Hilary Clinton stepped down from her post at the end of January.

This marks the second time in the past four years that a long-held senate seat was up for election. Ted Kennedy and John Kerry served as Massachusetts senators for 47 years and 28 years, respectively.

Since Kennedy passed

away in 2009, his senate seat has been well contested; he was followed briefly by interim senator Paul Kirk, then Scott Brown and finally Elizabeth Warren today.

Kerry's ascension to Secretary of State meant that Massachusetts had an accelerated election cycle. The candidates started campaigning in January for the April primary. Ed Markey (Democrat) and Gabriel Gomez (Republican) were the chosen candidates for the June election; a third candidate from the Twelve Visions Party was also on the ballot.

During these campaigns, Mo Cowan served as interim senator for Massachusetts

just as Paul Kirk had for the late Kennedy.

Massachusetts radio and TV stations created a lot of buzz around the June election. In the polls, Markey was beating Gomez only by a slim margin, unusual for such a left-leaning state. Democrats have particularly low turnout for non-major elections, which meant that both had a fighting chance of winning the elections.

Voter turnout was just shy of 1.2 million, only a 27% turnout from the registered voters in Massachusetts.

The results? Markey won with 54.8% of the vote, Gomez took home 44.8% and Richard Heos from Twelve Visions received 0.4%. Gomez may have lost, but he gained a high percent of the vote given that registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans three to one in Massachusetts (as of October 2012).

Now that Markey has secured the position of senator, it will be interesting to see what he does over the next six years.

US Secretary of State



Hillary Clinton
Jan 2009 – Feb 2013



John Kerry
Feb 2013 – present

Massachusetts Senator



John Kerry
Democrat
Jan 1985 – Feb 2013



Mo Cowan
(interim senator)
Feb 2013 – July 2013



Ed Markey
Democrat
July 2013 – present

Boston Mayoral Election

Kat Brookshier
Contributor

Boston is looking to elect a new mayor in November. The current mayor, Mayor Thomas Menino has been in office since 1993 for five consecutive terms, and has decided not to run for a sixth.

In late March, Menino revealed his decision: "I'm here with the people I love, to tell the city I love that I will leave the job that I love."

Since this announcement, there has been a flurry of movement among potential mayoral candidates who would like to take Menino's seat. What kind of mayor will succeed Menino? He is known for being an excellent mayor, who developed many neighborhoods, touted pro-equality politics, created highly successful programs like "Boston Bikes," and turned "Beantown" into "Greentown."

Twelve non-partisan candidates successfully acquired enough signatures to run in the primary for the election, which was held last week on September 24th. The two candidates with the highest vote counts will now advance to the final election on Tuesday, November 5th.

Marty Walsh and John R. Connolly had the two largest percentages of votes from the contested primary, taking in 18% and 17%, respectively.

It is refreshing to see an election in which the candidates are not branding themselves with party affiliation, but rather with the issues

they stand for. The non-partisan stances give Walsh and Connolly more freedom to show the residents of Boston in what direction they each believe they could lead the city.

Marty Walsh has served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 1997 and "established himself as a leader on creating and protecting jobs, and growing the economy."

For this election, he has highlighted twelve key issues on his website, several of which set him apart from Connolly. First, he wants to address the commercial sex industries by giving support to women who are trying to leave prostitution, while refocusing enforcement on "enablers." Walsh sees another area of opportunity in workforce development; he believes that "living wages, health and social benefits, and safe working conditions" are key to having a healthy city fabric. Finally, Walsh wants to focus on access to affordable housing, which he believes is "essential to a thriving economy."

John Connolly has been a city councillor for Boston since 2007. In this role, he set himself apart with his focuses on education and environmentalism. He held meetings with students and parents to improve the public education system, and to benefit the environment he worked to fight climate change and promote the bike program that Mayor Menino started.

Connolly's key ideas that

separate him from Walsh include reducing homelessness by funding homeless shelters and expanding mental health services available. He would also like to increase the number of public events in parks, and add recycling to all parks in an effort to make Boston greener. A final idea that sets Connolly apart is his passion for the arts. He wants to support art in Boston by increasing art education, developing live-work spaces for artists, and even, creating a Boston-level department of arts and culture.

Both candidates indicate they care about public safety, education, greening the city, improving neighborhoods, making Boston a competitive job creation market, and bettering public transportation.

Given the strength of the two candidates, I believe that whichever is elected, Boston will have found a good new mayor.

Mayoral Candidates



Marty Walsh



John Connolly

A Writer's Rant on Gender

Kai Austin
Editor

When writing, one thing is consistently difficult: choosing a character's gender.

I mean, what are the factors to consider? We live in a world where diversity is demanded, and offending someone seems far too easy. Countless arguments persist in the media over how certain personas are portrayed as inaccurate or demeaning. And I, personally, am more than conscious of the push for equal gender balance, or "why are there no females?!" discussions.

But, in writing, there are a few things you may not realize. It is a ***ing formula. People use the same story types over and over and over. Why? Because they ***ing work. Yes, you need to have a protagonist. Sometimes, the story develops through more than one character's point of view (eg. Game of Thrones). Sometimes, the story will be told from the point of view of a bystander no one cares about (eg. Sherlock). But almost always, you will have the story centralized around your main character. And the gender of this character influences everyone else. Why? Because of the ***ing formulas.

How many of you are familiar with the protagonist + male friend + female friend? This is the most basic, overused trope that pops up in just about everything.

Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Avatar, Twilight, Pokemon, loosely Doctor Who.... But it works. If you want a love triangle, make the gender of both friends to opposite of the protagonist. If you want to narrow down to two char-

"We live in a world where diversity is demanded and offending someone seems far too easy."

acters, how about the BFF duo of the "reserved" protagonist and the "eccentric" side character (same gender). Alternatively, you could use the "why are we friends?" duo comprised of the "indifferent" protagonist and the "violently loyal" side character who will later become a love interest (opposite gender). Finally, on this list, there

"As soon as a female is introduced the interesting story line falls to pieces."

is the hero/rival duo. Same gender makes a blood bath of drama and revenge. If they are opposite, there is a lot of romantic tease, or disturbing and repulsive harassment.

You do not always pick just the gender of the pro-

tagonist. You pick a character set, and then diverge. Gender really only matters if there is more than one person.

When I have to pick, a huge factor of my choice is outright what I assume my reader's expectations of love will be. In the past, I actually outright changed my main character's gender because I did not want to deal with "romantic potential." I am not saying gay couples are not possible; I am saying society consistently fails to grasp the concept that guys and girls can be friends.

Additionally, female protagonists almost always condone emotional drama. If you have a female protagonist, then you probably have a love story. Think Hunger Games, where the movie version was butchered to be just that. If you have a male protagonist, there is action and adventure and mystery. Love usually does not come to later. But, as soon as a female is introduced the interesting story line falls to pieces.

I cannot stand love stories, and shipping characters is a major pet peeve. So my painful default I readily admit is male. I am not saying that female protagonists cannot be interesting characters. I actually have a diversity of short stories lying around with a female protagonist (and absolutely no males). I am saying that this whole idea of "love, love, love" has just been pounded into my head so much that all attempts to get my imagination

around it have failed.

Otherwise, I am extremely liberal when it comes gender. For one thing in trope trios, I am often, "You know what, *** gender." Behold: A race of 4th dimensional plants with 3 different genders that take on human form. Behold: A guy who somehow ended up in a girl's body arguing with a detective; A shape shifting hermaphrodite and the two other faces they carry; A female protagonist looking for love, asking dating advice from an aromantic-asexual, who is trailed by a bored gay guy. Okay, this last one is not really creative because it is based off a true story. But, you get the idea.

I do try to ensure there are as many females as there are males (and vice versa) without undermining or demeaning any gender representation. How do I do it? Absolute gender neutrality. And I mean I am brutal when it comes to this. What happens to a girl can happen to a guy. What happens to a guy can happen to a girl. Just because something is not "mainstream" does not mean it does not exist.

However, there are some writers who have their own moral standings on things, or strive for accuracy. Do you believe women should be allowed to fight in war? Do you believe it is strange for men to obsess with fashion without actually being gay? Is hitting a girl worse than hitting a guy? Can you even comprehend that some people are biologically half-man and half-woman? Realism

can make a story more relatable, but you cannot have balance there - how guys talk about girls, and how girls talk about guys behind one another's backs is different...and utterly despicable. Comedy itself relies on stereotypes for gags only to rip everything to pieces shortly thereafter. For more serious matters, you might have cultural imaging to deal with as well. Then, of course, there is

*"Comedy itself
relies on stereotypes
for gags."*

that whole love story thing.

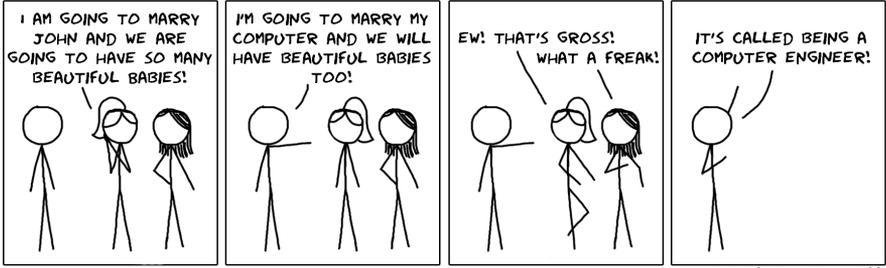
You cannot just choose to make someone a girl or a guy or a spawn from androgyny heaven just because you think there needs to be more gender balance. There is a give and take with everything. And unless you can portray a character really well, trying something new can be a complete flop. No matter what gender you

pick (or lack thereof), the writer still has to deal with the onslaught of expectations and stereotypes that go with it. How does this fit into the story? Does gender affect the relationship of the character with the other characters? Does the gender of the character affect how seriously the reader will take them?

I wish it did not. But it does. You do not need a name. You do not need a personality. You do not even need a description. Like parents asking the doctor what their child is, all you need to do is mention one word: 'male' or 'female.' The whole world collapses around it. Yes, you can make the argument how media is what affects our perception of gender in the first place. Yes, there are kinks to work out. But you only need to read the comment section of a serious YouTube video to know it is not that simple.

So you know what, *** gender. Until we get out of this chicken and egg loop, *** it.





(I REGRET NOTHING.)

Extremely Accurate and Serious Horoscopes

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22): Be careful to tell the truth in the upcoming weeks, because your lies will come back to haunt you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21): Mimic a trait you admire in others.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21): Be cautious of taking out your frustration on your friends. Remember they have your best interests at heart.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19): Go into Boston. It will be exceptionally easy this month. You will be able to enjoy the city in a new way.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18): Don't worry so much about your grades. You're doing fine. Find your passion instead.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20): Don't let the extra criticism get you down/ Use it as an opportunity to grow as an individual.

Aries (March 21 – April 19): Each task in your life is like a sheet of paper - it doesn't seem like much until you let it pile up and it stacks out of control.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): The dining hall will serve a food that you haven't tried but will love. Taste around.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20): Watch out for the Kissing Disease (aka. the freshmen plague) [aka. don't break the six week rule].

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): Reconnect with an old friend and look for opportunities to meet new people and enhance your social life.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22): Watch out for team conflict in the coming week.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22): The decision you made last Friday will turn out to have some negative repercussions. Try to head them off early.

MEET THE OLINER



Ian Hill

Class of 2017
From Northfield, New Hampshire

- Founded his own company, "Ian's Wicked Good Donuts," and ended up meeting lots of donut-loving politi-

cians.

- He invented a realistic country in middle school with his friends. They had currency!
- Part Scottish, Portuguese, and Australian. Can you see it in his face?

Jessica Diller
Columnist

Updates from the Illustrious SERV Board

Happy October from the SERV board! First, some good news - thanks to your votes, we have elected our two new general members from the first year class: Maddy Fort and Shrinidhi Thirumalai! We are super excited to have them join our team.

Now that the semester is well underway, we are looking for larger impact service projects that we can do over the course of the next few months. As always, if you have any ideas, let us know and we'll see what we can figure out!

Here's what we've been up to and what's on the horizon as we enter the fall season:

9/29 - Race for the Cure 5k. Continuing the Olin tradition, we had an awesome team of 19 students sign up to walk or run the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure this year.

10/4 - Kickball tournament! Our semi-annual kickball tournament for Kick-It, an organization working towards a cure for children's cancer, will be happening soon. Grab your friends and form a team! Registration is \$20 per team, 10 people per team. We are also looking for referees.

SERV T-shirts! We have a new t-shirt design this year (think giraffes!), and they are on sale. If you would like to order one,

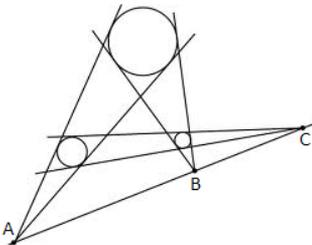
send an e-mail to serv@olin.edu with your preferred size.

We are also going to start tabling during lunch again, so stop by on your way through the dining hall to say hi and see what we're up to!

As always, SERV is here for you, and we are always open to your exciting new ideas! E-mail us at serv@olin.edu, join the CarpeSERV mailing list for updates about spontaneous community service opportunities, and follow us on Twitter [@olinserv](https://twitter.com/olinserv) to get the latest update on upcoming events. Have a great month!

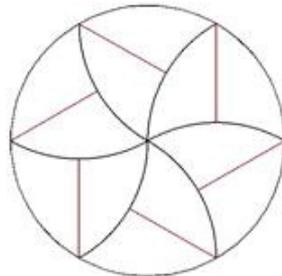
Ari Chae
Columnist

A Puzzle by Midnight Math

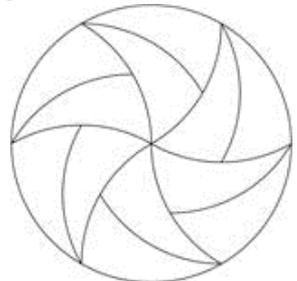


Monge's Theorem, stated informally, says that regardless of the size or location of the three circles depicted above, the points A, B, and C will form a straight line. Prove it.

Last Week's solution:
a slice of pizza with no finite crust



(Here are two of an infinite number of possible ways to produce a slice of pizza with no crust.)



Send your solutions to this problem (with proofs) to midnight.math@outlook.com. If you are correct, you will be given the highest of accolades: your name mentioned here, next issue.

Things Not-So-Well Known

On September 20th, *Frankly Speaking* posed to the student body of Olin the question: "What is 'not-so-well-known' that you think people should know more of? Can you tell us about it? Why is it important?" We received the following three fairly different responses:

I think the Olin bubble hurts us more than one may think. We are very uninformed about what goes on in the world around us. How can a college change the world if the students in the college don't even know what is going on in the world? We've become too focused on "how to make Olin better" rather than "how to make the world better." We should focus on the latter and the former will follow.

Anonymous
Contributor

I would say something that is "not-so-well-known" are the teachings of Jesus. The some of the world's major religions: Christianity,

Islam, Buddhism, Mormons, and more all recognize Jesus' teachings to some degree and seek to actively learn from them.

For example, one of the items that Jesus advocated was loving one's enemies:

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." - Matthew 5:43-48

Loving one's enemies is not something that comes naturally and going as far as praying for someone who

actively seeks to cause you harm is very much against human nature. Yet, Jesus seems to call people to that idea. Why does Jesus say such things? What benefit does that have?

Even though many don't consider the teachings of Jesus to hold much value in their own lives, I argue that everyone can find value in studying thoroughly what exactly Jesus had to say, regardless of religious affiliation.

Sarah Strohkorb
Contributor

You're not supposed to wash denim as frequently as other clothes. You only really need to wash them when they're stinky.

Anonymous
Contributor

Next month's question: What is one resource available to Olin students that is massively under utilized? Submit your response to any of the editors or via email to submit@franklyspeaking-news.com.

Want to write for Frankly Speaking?

Send us your articles at

SUBMIT@FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM

Write to the columnists

FSCOLUMN@GMAIL.COM

Or check out the website at

HTTP://FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM

Olin College of Engineering does not endorse and is not affiliated with Frankly Speaking.

Editor-in-Chief: Lyra Silverwolf

Editors: Kai Austin, Anne-Marie Buchenan, Pratool Gadtaula, Julianne Jorgensen

Staff Writers: Kai Austin, Columnists

Contributors: Kat Brookshier, Ari Chae, Jessica Diller, Kevin O'Toole, Sarah Strohkorb

Special thanks to Ian Hill and Victoria Coleman!