LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

MALCOLM DELL (ME '14)

As many of you already know, it was discovered on Monday, October 7th that the heated gardens on the roof of the foundation building were vandalized. The details concerning the extent of the vandalism have not yet been released to the public; however, we do know that more than half of the plants were torn from their beds and the remaining root systems were severely damaged. Soil was shoveled out and used to “Gardens of the Union”. The student built, thermally insulated beds were also damaged. This project represents a concerted seven-year effort by nearly 50 students both graduate and undergraduate, all of whom were working with Professor Dell. Students have worked on the heated gardens in Iceland for credit under the summer study-abroad program, which will be offered again in the summer of 2014. The student who was affected the most was William Foley, a Master’s Thesis candidate. He had been caring for these plants for a year under the advisement of Professor Dell and Professor Wu. William was trying to prove that there were other plant varieties than those previously tested which would be able to survive and produce crops in the winter. This would help to prove that the growing season can be year long. He was also investigating automated heating and irrigation systems. William Foley’s thesis and graduation have now been delayed for a year.

There are currently two other heated garden locations, one at the Agricultural University of Iceland and the other is the Kells Institute of Technology, both of which are located in Iceland. These experimental gardens utilize waste steam to heat the soil and promote plant growth. There is an average increase of 20% in plant growth and flowers can bloom in the snow. These gardens allow for crops to yield in cold-weather conditions which were previously considered inhospitable to many plants. In Iceland there are banana trees and an oak tree being grown outside, uncoored, and this summer there were tomatoes, zucchini, pea plants, and cress. This new agricultural technology offers a more economically profitable method of growing plants in prohibitively cold weather conditions, eliminating the need for green houses for at least a majority of the plant varieties which were tested. Sustainability is also addressed by utilizing steam-steam heat. In New York City alone, if this technology were to be implemented on the roofs of 30% of Consolidated Edison’s steam customers it would save more than 3 million cubic meters of drinking water per year. The drinking water would otherwise be used to cool the steam before it is released to the environment. This work has been recognized by ASME, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the New York City Economic Development Council and various other organizations and periodicals. The project was at a critical point where press coverage was increasing and commercial applications were being negotiated, all of which would have benefited our school.

Professor Dell has discussed rebuilding the gardens with members of the student body from any of the three schools and is thankful for the support he has received. Cooper alumnus Gene Tabach, who had also worked on the heated-garden project, set up an Indiegogo donation page to help the project get up and running again (http://igg.me/at/CUgardens). The administration has been aiding in resolving the issue and discovering the culprit(s). No other details are available at this time.

- Malcolm Dell (ME '14)

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

JOSEPH J. COLONIGE (EE '15)

On Sunday, September 29 the Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU hosted a talk in the Great Hall to coincide with the 65th General Assembly of the UN. At the General Assembly, 154 states in attendance mentioned the events that transpired in Syria this past August, with several states urging the need for accountability for the use of chemical weapons. According, the talk in the Great Hall focused on exactly posed yet highly contentious questions: Do the strong have an obligation to protect the weak? The full title of the talk points to the specifics of the discussion: “A Conversation with (continued on back)
The unique solution to the last issue’s puzzle is reproduced below. This puzzle contains only one solution, which will be released in the bolded shape made up of squares is the number you need to get by using the operation next to the number. For example, the combined with Kagame’s

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The evening concluded with

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FREEDOM CONCERT

CHAE, JEONG (BSE ’16)

On October 10, over a hundred Cooper students joined in on a fight for justice through the Freedom Con

The Freedom Concert was the last of a chain of
events that identified a cam

aign called “Price of Life” during the first two weeks of October.

Price of Life is a faith-inspired but not faith-required cam

aigns that happened within several campaigns throughout New York City in hopes of raising awareness and fundraising to fight human trafficking. From chain tattoos to scandalous posters that read “Sex Slaves for Sale” to t-shirts that were stamped “Abolitionist”, members of the student body worked to spread the word about modern-day slavery in the very city that they lived in.

“All members of the student body worked to spread the word about modern-day slavery in the very city that they lived in.”

The Cooper community was encouraged to come to events such as the screening of a film about sex and money, a film that is evocative of President Obama’s 2008 campaign rhetoric. While Rabbi Shmuley may not have claims of impartiality in fact he stated outright that he would not act as an unbiased moderator, remarks made suggesting that “Rwandans are the Jews of Africa” and “How can I not hate evil?” felt like an unnecessary deviation from the topic of discussion and seemed like an attempt to elicit quotes from Wiessl and Kagame to present to the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, Wiessl’s subdued charm and authenticity combined with Kagame’s measured and concise re

responses proved to level Rabbi Shmuley’s dynamism and of

ten provided beautiful insights to the human condition and how to approach situations like those that occurred in Syria. For example Kagame, in response to the question of what action should be taken in Syria said, “The situation is very complex. Poison gas should not be used against anyone. But we need to deal with the world that we live in. […] There has to be ac

countability, but this must be clarified and based on facts.” Responding later in the talk to a question concerning the need to hear witness to history, Wiessl suggested that the existence of Holocaust deniers stems not from malice but rather from the fact that “it is easier to believe that it didn’t happen; the event was so uniquely unique […]”

“Poison gas should not be used against anyone. But we need to deal with the world that we live in.”

Kagame’s sub

Rabbi Shmuley’s last question of the night, directed at Wi

eissl, asked why should we not hate evil. Wiessl responded “I don’t believe in hatred. Hatred is too easy. […]”

Hatred has a dynamic. Once someone starts hating, they do not stop. […] Once you hate hatred is not the answer, then what is the answer? And then I say, ok, let’s go and study.”

The evening concluded with


quotes-summary-1.pdf (shortened: gogo).JkY256)

SPORTS UPDATE

YARA ALBORGRO

(BSE ’14)

In the weekender starts to get colder, the athletes become more
dedicated to school and their teams. The women’s volleyball
team has its last game coming up in the next while while

the women’s and men’s basketball teams will have their first games

in a couple of weeks. Both the soccer and women’s tennis teams

are playing hard this season. The men’s volleyball and tennis

teams start their season up in the spring, but you can still find

them at the women’s practices helping out their fellow class

mates. You will find the scores from the previous soccer and

women’s tennis games listed below. 0

Soccer

Cooper Union

King’s College

Women’s Tennis

Cooper Union

College of New Rochelle

CRYPTOQUOTE

MARKUS MICHELEN, BSE ’14

A Cryptoquote is an encoded quote. It is encoded such that each and every occurrence of a letter is substituted with a different letter of the alphabet. Using clues such as frequency of occurrence and placement, the original quote can be found.

For instance, the word shibboleth could be deciphered to reveal the word LONGLYFELL.

"XQGQVX EX NORMER EX ZTR OQRXMX\n
QXRMNZEXGZ TNN MRNA ZTREM OVZTQKQSV\n
QM KRBRXAX - LXXNRXT NXXRM"

Last issue’s solution: “When I was young I thought that money was the most important thing in life; now that I am old I know that it is.” - Oscar Wilde

KENKEN

MARCUS MICHELEN, BSE ’14

KenKen is a Japanese paper puzzle by Tetsuya Miyamoto much like Sudoku, only it involves both math and logic. It roughly translates to “deviation-easymiseress.”

Instructions: Like Sudoku, each row and column must contain the numbers from 1 to 5. The number in the upper-left corner of the shaded shape made up of squares is the number you need to get by using the operation next to the number. For example, the “20x” rectangle in the bottom left corner can be filled in with a 5, 4, or a 2.5.

The unique solution to the last issue’s puzzle is reproduced below. This puzzle contains only one solution, which will be released in the next issue.

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