Inside the world of graphic narratives

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

Students gathered in Engleman Hall Room D253 on March 12 to explore the creative process behind graphic novels during a discussion led by author Jules Bakes and artist John Guillemette.

Graphic Novel Writing and Illustrating brought students together for a conversation about storytelling through both writing and visual art. The session showcased graphic novels as an accessible creative form while encouraging students to explore their own artistic voices.

"I hope they feel a little more empowered to pursue creative endeavors," Bakes, author of Sea Legs, said. "Admitting to my own relative inexperience helps people feel a little less intimidated by what is genuinely an accessible experience for many people."

Throughout the discussion, both speakers focused on creativity as a tool for personal growth and self-expression.

Bakes described graphic novels as a way to process experiences, explaining how storytelling can help individuals reflect on their lives and better understand the world around them.

"It is a good way to process," Bakes said. "It helped me unpack some of my own experience. It is just like a soul-builder, you know? It develops you as a person."

Guillemette expanded on this idea by focusing on the importance of access and community in creative work.

Drawing from his experience as a recent graduate, he pointed to the artistic environment in New Haven and the role the university plays in fostering creative opportunities for students.

He described the campus as a space where emerging creatives can find both inspiration and support.

"I feel like if I can do it, they can do it," Guillemette said. "I see a lot of creative ability in students."

He encouraged students to not overthink the process, emphasizing that many creative projects begin with uncertainty.

Rather than focusing on the final outcome, Guillemette said students should concentrate on simply beginning and allowing their ideas to develop naturally.

"I think momentum is a big thing," Guillemette said. "Starting and just trusting that you've begun is planning."

Both speakers also discussed why graphic novels are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among younger readers. Bakes noted that the format combines visual storytelling with literary depth, making it appealing to a wide audience.

"I think a lot of the value in a graphic novel is that you're getting the best of both worlds," Bakes said. "It has the artistic value of written work but also the artistic value of visual works like film and television."

Guillemette added that graphic novels can serve as an entry point for readers who may not typically engage with traditional texts. The combination of visuals and narrative, he said, can make stories more approachable while still offering meaningful content.

"I think some people perceive them as kind of like lowbrow or easy to get into," Guillemette said. "I view them as a gateway into reading."

As the event concluded, both speakers returned to the idea of taking initiative in creative work. They encouraged students to move past hesitation and embrace storytelling as a way to express themselves and connect with others.

"Don't worry about the final product," Guillemette said. "Just focus on the story."



PHOTO | VALENTINA TORO
Jules Bakes, author of Sea Legs, holding her book during the campus event.



John Guillemette, writer and artist, during the campus event.

Campus event features Sade concert film

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

Students gathered in the Adanti Student Center Theater on March 10 for a unique listening experience as WSIN Radio hosted a screening of "Sade Live," encouraging attendees to engage more intentionally with music.

The event, organized during Women's History Month, featured the 1993 concert film by Sade, blending smooth jazz and soul with a focus on mindful listening.

"We really wanted to encourage active listening when it comes to music," communication major Gerryiki Williams, a junior and general manager of WSIN Radio, said. "We've noticed that a lot of times people will throw on their headphones and let their music play in the background."

The screening brought students together through a shared appreciation of music while also celebrating the legacy of a prominent female artist.

Rather than treating music as background noise, the event encouraged attendees to slow down and fully absorb the performance.

By creating a collective viewing environment, organizers hoped students would pay closer attention to the lyrics and emotional depth of the music.

Sade, known for her distinctive blend of soul, jazz and pop, was chosen as the featured artist not only for her sound but also for her cultural impact.

Her music, often described as both soothing and powerful, has remained influential for decades, making her an ideal choice for an event centered on intentional listening.

"It's Women's History Month, so it's awesome to highlight an artist that's done a lot for women in the music industry," Williams said.

In addition to the screening, the event included opportunities for students to connect and learn more about the artist.

Before the film began, attendees were invited to socialize, enjoy snacks and participate in informal discussions about Sade's career and contributions to music.

Organizers also emphasized the importance of sound quality, ensuring that music could be experienced in a way that reflects the artist's intent.

"At the event tonight, we'll have a really good sound quality system to play Sade's music," Williams said. "We'll have snacks and a little social talk beforehand to kind of give history on Sade and how she's made such an impact."

The event was open to the broader campus community, welcoming both longtime fans of Sade and students who may not have been familiar with her work.

According to organizers, the goal was to create an inclusive space where anyone interested in music could participate and discover something new.

By encouraging students to engage with music in a more intentional way, WSIN Radio hopes to shift how people think about listening habits.

Instead of passively consuming music, events like this promote a deeper appreciation for the artistry behind each performance.

Beyond entertainment, the screening also served as a way to strengthen student engagement on campus.

Events that bring students together around shared interests, organizers said, help foster community and create meaningful experiences outside the classroom.

Looking ahead, WSIN Radio plans to continue building on the success of the event by hosting similar programs in the future.

The organization hopes to make concert film screenings a regular offering for students interested in music and media.

"We're hoping to have more concert screenings once a month for future semesters," Williams said.

Owls Decide: Spring or summer?

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor



PHOTOS | LILY RAND
**"Summer because you can go to the beach or go outside, and I also kind of like the humidity."
-Political science major Jacob Ilama, a junior**



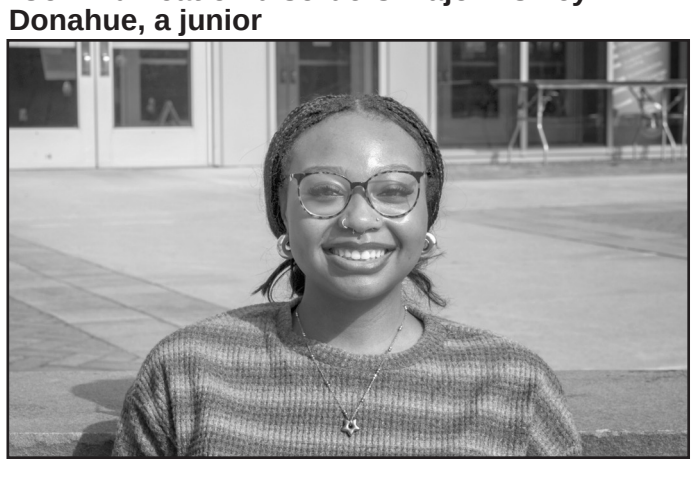
**"Summer; it's nicer to be out with friends and drive around with your windows down."
-Communication disorders major Ashley Donahue, a junior**



**"Summer because I don't have school and get to go to the beach."
-Nursing major Kylie Sevigny, a sophomore**



**"Summer because of the nice weather."
-Nursing major Cassie Wisneski, a sophomore**



**"Spring because summer gets too hot. Spring is perfect: not too hot, not too windy."
-Exploratory major Zhoey Blanc, a sophomore**



**"Spring, unless I get summer nights."
-Psychology major Saraiya Mack, a senior**