

Bands 'come together' at Filene

By Ethan Lenoff

On Thu, Dec 3, 2009

On Sunday, Nov. 22, more than 250 students, faculty, family and friends packed into Filene Recital Hall for the Ninth Annual Beatlemore Skidmania.

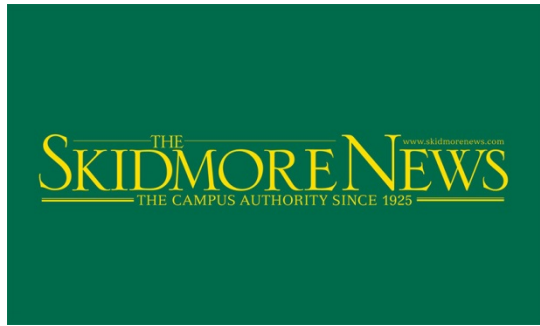
For the final year, Skidmore celebrated the accomplishments of The Beatles in Filene, and will next year relocate to the new Zankel Music Center, which will hold up to 600 people in its theater. The standing-room only crowd was treated to a revival of 1969, which among other Beatles' projects, included the release of "Abbey Road," one of the Beatles most celebrated albums. Students, alums and faculty alike all performed both straight covers of songs off the album as well as interpretations of various songs.

Music teacher and Founder of Beatlemore Skidmania Gordon Thompson was forced to, on several occasions, remind students that aisles must be cleared in order for the fire marshal to okay the program. Students waited in line at Filene as early as 1:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. show. The show began with Dan Fisher and Julia Nunes playing "Something" on ukuleles, an interesting way to start an even more interesting show. Other songs included "Oh Darling!" by the Bearded Rainbows, "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window" by The Deal, and more.

The audience was captivated by a student composition of "Across the Universe," which is not on "Abbey Road" but was also released in 1969. Other highlights included a capella performances by the Accents, Bandersnatchers, Drastic Measures and Dynamics including renditions of "She's So Heavy (I Want You)" and "Come Together," two famous tracks off "Abbey Road." Given the number of students interested in playing at Beatlemore Skidmania 2009, the set list included a number of repeated songs, a sure sign of the popularity of this event at Skidmore.

The final highlight of the show, as it always is, was the performance given by the Rust Brothers and Friends. The group features three faculty members: Gordon Thompson, Joel Brown and John Anzalone, as well as longtime friend Dave Maswick. The group came out to tremendous applause, as it does year after year, and delivered a performance of the famed medley that makes up the second half of "Abbey Road."

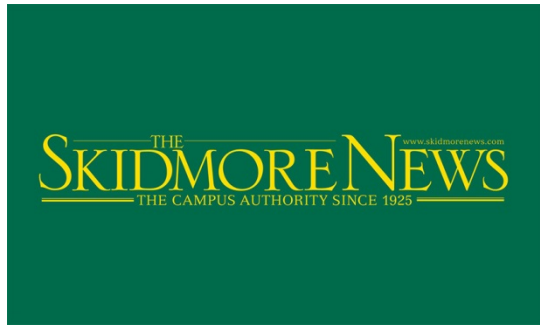
After finally completing the medley with "The End," a song that was played a number of times, the band invited all the other performing students to join them onstage for a sing-along finale, as is done every year. This year's song of choice, "Give Peace a Chance," had its lyrics tweaked to touch upon relevant



issues to Skidmore's world today. The show was once again a hit among students and others, with the crowd giving the performers a rousing ovation following the end of "Give Peace a Chance."

Though the finale did signal the end of the show's nine-year run in Filene, Thompson took the time to celebrate the history of Beatlemore Skidmania in Filene. The show has come a long way from being a request from a student in Thompson's Beatles Seminar to one of the most popular and well-attended shows on campus.

For those that were unable to attend this year and are afraid that they will not be able to find their way to the show next year, there is nothing to fear. In the spirit of the show, the performance next year in Zankel will only be a single road away.



Artist of the Week: Terence Praet

By Joanne Schwartzberg

On Thu, Dec 3, 2009

Terence Praet, class of 2012, is a radio host from Summit, NJ. Terence is planning to be a History/Philosophy double major. Terence is involved at WSPN, not only hosting his show, but also helping to organize events hosted by WSPN.

Skidmore News: What interested you in WSPN? Why did you decide to have a radio show?

Terence Praet: I remember hearing about it being on the Princeton Review's list for the top 20 college radio stations when I was applying here -- currently we are number 16, I believe -- and I thought to myself, "Radio? I could do that!"

SN: What types of music does your show focus on? Why did you choose such music?

TP: The show focuses on what I'd call -- with a painfully loose definition-- folk music. I play a lot of Fairport Convention, Anne Briggs, Neil Young and what not. But I also play songs by Gram Parsons and Okkervil River. Why did I choose folk music, though? It's just what I've been listening to most recently. Fall always seems like an appropriate time for folk music for some reason.

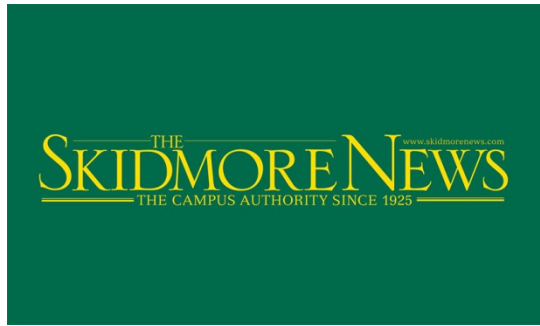
SN: Is it just radio that you're interested in or are there other forms of media that you'd like to branch out into?

TP: I haven't really thought terribly much about it. I suppose I wouldn't be opposed to something else but I wouldn't really want to audition for a SkidTV show or anything like that. With the radio, your voice can fade in and out between the music. While it's possible, I feel like it's harder to do that with other media, especially television.

SN: What's your favorite PSA?

TP: My favorite PSA? There are actually a few good ones. Bands sometimes send us PSAs or station IDs, and those tend to be fun. There's a particularly fear-mongering one about empty houses that I'm quite fond of. It makes unoccupied houses out to be these cesspools where drug dealers, homeless people and rowdy high-schoolers all do their best to undermine the moral order. So yeah, I suppose that one's my favorite.

SN: What else is going on at WSPN this semester that people should know about?



TP: We've actually had a lot of stuff going on this semester. Snakes Say Hiss! came a few weeks ago and people seemed to enjoy that. We're actually having elections for WSPN board members in a few weeks. Next semester, though, we're planning a few pretty big events that I think people will really like. We're trying to organize a big concert at the moment.

SN: What else is in the works for WSPN next semester?

TP: We've been trying to sponsor a tee-ball, so hopefully that will have gone through by next semester. People who went to Snakes Say Hiss! should know that because that was what the donation was for. For actual Skidmore students, we're going to have some other shows, I'm sure, and, of course, strong programming.

SN: What's this show I keep hearing about next semester?

TP: Next spring -- we're looking at doing it in early April -- WSPN is going to hold a big music festival with a lot of bands. We're looking at getting a few bigger ones and then having some bands from the area and from colleges around us. Skidmore and Wesleyan seem to have a pretty strong connection, at least on a student-to-student level, so I expect we'll probably have a number of bands from there. The date isn't set just yet, but keep on the lookout because it's going to be a big multi-day event.

SN: Do you plan on continuing your radio show throughout your college career?

TP: I plan to keep doing the radio show until I'm bored with it, so we'll see how long that takes.

SN: What's the best request you've gotten?

TP: The best request I've ever gotten was probably a call requesting that I stop reading and playing Public Service Announcements.

SN: Do you ever have any friends come to the studio and host shows together?

TP: Yeah, I have visitors in the station periodically. Doing a one-man show gets pretty tedious after a while so it's nice to have somebody else around.

SN: What is the name of your radio show and what time is your radio show, so we can all tune in?

TP: My show is "Dreams, Schemes, and Phonemes," and I'm on from 10 p.m. to midnight, Fridays.

Rap and rock converge

By Wyatt Erchak

On Thu, Dec 3, 2009

The fusion of rock music with hip-hop has an extensive history, instrumental in both diversifying what rap could be as well as who listened to it.

In 1986, Run-D.M.C. teamed up with Aerosmith to remake the latter's classic "Walk This Way." The song's popularity led to a larger white mainstream acceptance of, and interest in, hip-hop music. The mixture of the two genres led, in turn, to new types of music, manifesting itself in the new metal of Korn and Limp Bizkit, the heavy funk of Red Hot Chili Peppers and Living Colour and the rock-influenced hip-hop of Cypress Hill.

Into this tradition steps the Black Keys, an Ohio based blues rock band, and Damon Dash, co-founder of Roc-A-Fella Records. The Black Keys began wading in hip-hop's waters when the members hooked up with renowned producer Danger Mouse for their fifth album "Attack & Release" in 2008. Dash, who claims the Black Keys are his favorite band, reached out to the group along with Jim Jones to begin working on a collaboration album.

A myriad of artists eventually became involved with the record over the course of 2009, and the result was "Blakroc." The album was released to strong critical acclaim on Nov. 27th. Jangling, rusty guitars bounce off the slow rhythm of "Coochie." Ol' Dirty Bastard returns from beyond the grave to deliver very satisfying and raunchy verses, fitting nicely alongside Ludacris. The mood switches completely on the vaguely psychedelic "On The Vista." Mos Def rides the waves of pianos and guitar riffs with mystical lyrics segueing into a spoken word closing: "Dream what you like, but you dare not sleep/The lights on the riverbanks we just must reach." Though it is hard to make out exactly what his cryptic words are addressing, it fits the music perfectly. Injecting aggressive (and somewhat out-of-place) energy into the record, "Hope You're Happy" contains Q-Tip of A Tribe Called Quest, spitting a verse reminiscent of Beck.

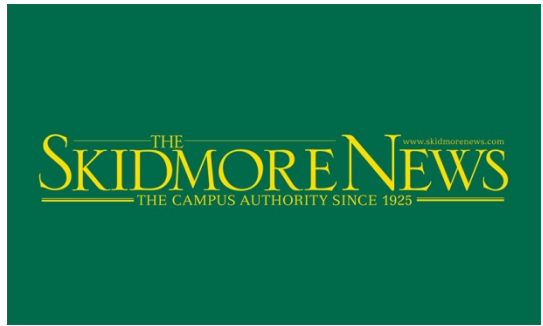
The subdued and soulful "Why Can't I Forget Him" sports nice touches of guitar and the smooth voice of R&B singer Nicole Wray. While it is definitely a song for the ladies, the music is dope. Returning to a hip-hop mood, "Stay Off The F**kin' Flowers" has Raekwon of the Wu-Tang Clan delivering signature streetwise storytelling verses. The ominous, descending bass and bluesy sound combine with the words to evoke the mood nicely. "Ain't Nothin' Like You (Hoochie Co)" features Mos Def crooning in his lazy tone, while Jim "We Fly High" Jones surprises in his deep lyrical verses. The aggression morphs into

confusion on the strange "Tellin' Me Things." Though the spiraling guitars and bass are cool, RZA's hoarse voice is irritating and repetitive in his verse about, well...something. It doesn't quite mesh in the context of the album.

Apparently Jim Jones, not known as the most lyrical fellow (see the aforementioned "We Fly High" for a taste), took a step up in his lyrical approach to this album. "What You Do To Me" sees him again surprising with his spoken word verses: "Cupid shoot arrows, but this girl makes my heart bleed/I swear to God/if I die, she could make my heart beat."

The album closes with soft/loud dynamics on the heavy yet breezy "Done Did It." NOE delivers great verses with a nice a cappella ending, finishing the record on a satisfying note. "Blakroc" succeeds on many levels. As a fusion of blues, rock, hip-hop and R&B, it is a triumph. The sounds of guitars and lively drums are a great fit for the various artists to recite their poetry. In terms of traditional rap music, some may be put off by its excursions outside of the comfort zone, and indeed there are parts that don't work so well. Overall, "Blakroc" is a great record for the sonically adventurous and hip-hop heads alike. Black, white and whatever other color keys can rock to this.

Wyatt Erchak is a sophomore and history major from upstate New York who knows the stakes are high.



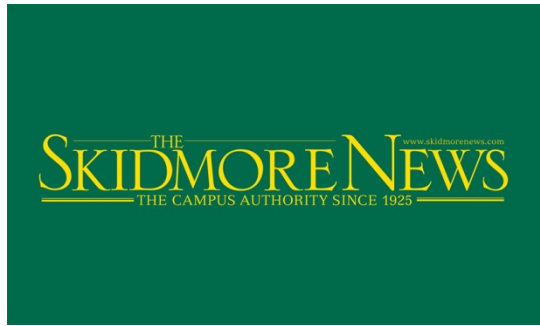
The Women' shows for one more weekend

By Joanne Schwartzberg

On Thu, Dec 3, 2009

"There is quite a lot of changing of spouses, both men and women cheating on one another and, most importantly, its effect on marriages, family and children. There are scenes that are surprisingly touching, especially between the characters who are related, like mother, sister and daughter." - Alma Becker, director of "The Women."

Contact the box office for tickets at 518-580-5439 or email at boxoffice@skidmore.edu.



Local media covers college layoffs

Administrators, president feels current reporting premature

By Andrew Cantor

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

On Dec. 1, local media outlets published reports of Skidmore's plan, announced in September, to cut 30 to 70 staff positions by February.

The Albany Times-Union first wrote the article after researching information on the college Web site. The newspaper published its article on Monday, with the Troy Record, Saratogian and CBS channel 6 WRGB Albany publishing similar articles on the same day. The Glens Falls Post Star and Foundation Endowment covered the same story on the following day.

The administration announced the estimated layoffs in September, but never formally released a press release, as its numbers were only estimates.

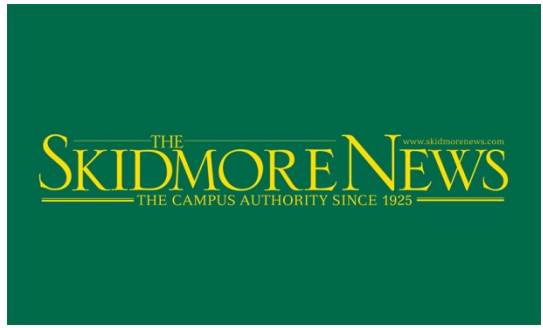
"We didn't initiate this," President Philip Glotzbach said. "We didn't think it was a story that needed to get out...We don't know for sure how many people will lose their jobs until we know who is participating in the Early Retirement Incentive Program."

On Sept. 9, Glotzbach sent out an e-mail announcing the voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program, offering 211 eligible faculty and staff members 125 percent of their annual salary and a health care plan in exchange for early retirement. The ERIP was designed to humanely reduce workforce in an effort to lessen a strain on the college budget.

The deadline for participation in the ERIP is Dec. 10, at which time the administration will plan a selective mandatory dismissal of staff. The college decided to implement the ERIP in September after losing 16 percent of the general endowment in financial markets, beginning in the summer of 2007.

The administration projected an approximate 10 percent involvement in the ERIP, and has already seen a greater percentage of participation, according to Glotzbach.

"These decisions have been thoughtful, responsible and strategic," Glotzbach said. "Once we have worked through this round of reductions, absent any further significant disruptions in the larger economy, we expect that the College will be on a sound financial footing."



The college will announce mandatory layoffs in February. The college's endowment rebounded from a low point at \$220 million this past February to an estimated \$260 million at the end of September.

Faculty share college stories

By Andrew Cantor

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

On Dec. 2, students gathered in Davis Auditorium to hear four professors share their tales from college.

The faculty members did not provide canonical tales of drunken revelry; rather, they informed students of their unique academic and extracurricular experiences at undergraduate institutions other than Skidmore.

The Student Government Association Academic Council sponsored the event, titled "We Were College Students Too," and Sarina Sheth '11, Elise Fariello '11, Danielle Rodino '11, Matthew Rothenberg '12, Adrian Texidor '10 and Rachel Fisher '12 specifically organized the panel. Jackie Murray, assistant professor of Classics, Winston Grady-Willis, professor of American Studies, Deborah Morris, visiting assistant professor of Studio Art, and Bernard Possidente, professor of Biology, spoke on the panel.

The professors were asked to describe their undergraduate curricula.

"In college at Wesleyan, it was a little less structured [than Skidmore]," Possidente said. "You had to complete 32 courses and a major and wear shoes in the dining hall and that was about it...If I had to do it again, I would do it the same way. I don't know that's the best thing for Skidmore."

Grady-Willis had a very different experience at Columbia College, Columbia University.

"My major was student activism," Willis, a history major, said. "I happened to be on a campus when student activism was inextricably tied to campus culture. The activism began to inform what was going on with my school work."

Grady-Willis criticized Columbia's emphasis on Western culture during his tenure at the school. Skidmore's core curriculum requires students to take a non-western diversity course before they graduate.

"When I checked back at the curriculum recently, they added in other, more international, broader courses," he said.

Professor Murray attended undergraduate school at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

"In Canada, there are universities. I chose to participate in their smaller liberal-arts program," she said.

After graduating, Murray worked for General Electric Capital, but still held her passion for classics. Her associates wanted her to continue working for G.E., but she wanted to follow her academic studies in graduate school.

"I had a lunch meeting with a team director from G.E.," Murray said. "She saw what I was reading and said, 'Oh Pindar! I love Pindar.' We got into this really exciting discussion about the classics. I then realized that I really like this so I went to graduate school."

At the end of the panel discussion, the professors entertained questions from the audience.

Galen Odell-Smedley '11 asked, "When did you decided that you wanted to teach?"

"I needed a way to make money so that I could work on my own art," Morris said. "I applied for jobs through the College Art Association and tutored, and I realized I had a passion for teaching."

"My professors had such an impact on me, I wanted to share that with other students," Grady-Willis said.

The panel ended with the professors offering final advice for Skidmore undergraduates.

"Get to know your professors, especially multiple ones in the same department," Murray said. "I ended up getting the same information from different teachers and it was completely different experience."

Senate plans cheap student rides to city

By Kat Kullman

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

On Dec. 1, the Student Government Association Senate discussed a plan to transport students to urban areas outside of Saratoga Springs.

Emma Blumer '10, vice president for Diversity Affairs, entertained a resolution to set operating codes for the Skidmore Urban Experience program.

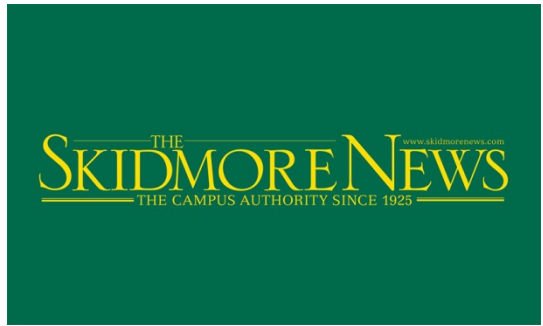
The SUE is designed to give Skidmore students an opportunity to explore the urban areas outside of Saratoga. The program would organize two bus trips a semester, one to New York City and one to Boston. The bus would cost only \$10 for students and the trip would be advertised well in advance to give students ample time to reserve a seat and to plan their academic schedules. Upon arrival in the city, each student would have the day to spend as he or she wishes.

"The goal is to offer students new experiences that they cannot gain in Saratoga Springs," Blumer said. "It would be irresponsible of us not to provide these opportunities."

The biggest concern in the program's resolution was whether to allow clubs and classes to take advantage of the program. Clubs receive their own budgets that could potentially be used to charter a bus to a city. However, while the program is geared towards individuals, the senators felt each student should be allowed an equal opportunity to participate in the trips, whether as part of a club or as a single person.

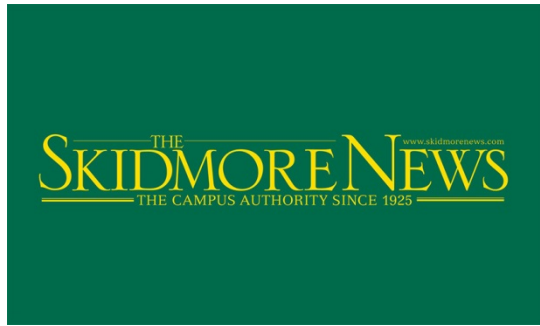
The Senate also discussed risk management during the trip. Skidmore would be responsible for the students and their actions while in the city. Additionally, students are not required to take the bus back to Skidmore at the end of the day, which presents a potential problem. To resolve this, the senators suggested requiring signatures from the students in order to help prevent the problems of liability.

Blumer will continue to reassess the codes and procedures for SUE in the coming weeks. She hopes the policy will be implemented in the spring semester.



In other news:

Several new students were appointed to the Integrity Board through the Willingness-to-Serve process. Additionally, there will be several vacant spots in the upcoming spring semester. More information about these open positions will be available later in the semester.



‘The Center’ should tone it down a bit

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

With good intentions come unintended consequences. The SGA-and administration-funded Center for Sex and Gender Relations is an important student resource, but it sometimes can compromise certain students’ values.

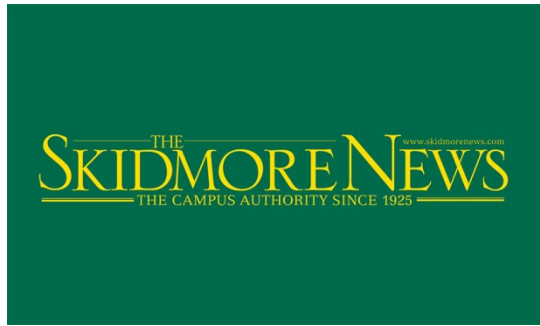
At the Center, which is discreetly located on the third floor of Case Center, students can casually discuss sex and relationships with a student peer advocate in a nonjudgmental "safe, confidential space." The peer advocates are all trained to inform students on a wide range of topics: sexual assaults, STDs, contraceptives and anything else that stimulates the mind. The Center is crucial for providing students with a comfortable environment to talk sex, and educate them as well. It should continue to receive funding.

Nevertheless, controversy lies in how visible the Center is in promoting sex education and its resources. The open sale of contraceptives (only condoms) and sex toys could make the abstinent and sexually inactive student population uncomfortable. Recently, the Center posted signs across campus advertising an event called "Misconceptions about Contraception," co-sponsored by Health Services. The Center was well-intentioned, as it wanted to clarify any confusion students may have about condoms, but other students may have shuddered at the sexual thoughts that are provoked from viewing such a sign.

While Skidmore is a politically and sexually liberal campus, those who possess rare moral values, such as abstinence and waiting until marriage, deserve consideration. For the strong majority on campus, there is nothing alarming about learning how to put on a condom or applying a sex toy on themselves. But not everyone is promiscuous.

Gemma Striker, the head peer advocate of the Center for Sex and Gender Relations, has a reasonable answer for why advertising contraceptives and sex toys is appropriate. Of course, condoms protect against STDs and STIs, and prevent pregnancy, so if students fornicate they should do so responsibly. And according to her, sexual assault victims use sex toys to regain a sense of power over their bodies.

I do not mean to downplay this productive use of sex toys, but many students who purchase them in the Center are solely in search of sexual pleasure. However, promoting sex toys for personal use due to sexual inactivity is healthy for the mind and body. Especially for the abstinent, or those remaining virgins until marriage, sex toys can be therapeutic.



The problem with speaking openly about condoms is the implication that students are going to have sex. Unlike a sex toy, condoms only work with a partner. While the jars of condoms for sale are closed off from plain sight in the Center's office, advertisements for the sale of them are not. In mid-November, the Center hosted a "Free Condom Day" in both Case Center and the Atrium, two highly frequented areas on campus.

The organization is proactive in encouraging the sexually active to play it safe, but what about those that are not? Handing out free condoms implies that virgins should join the fun, disregarding not only high moral values but also students' personal decisions of not being ready yet. Take yourself back to when you were less sexually experienced. When your background was shallow, weren't you uneasy when hearing about sex? Some here at college are at that same stage.

The most recent example of such discomfort came last month, when anonymous professors requested that the Center take down advertisements for a showing of the movie "Coming Soon." The fliers posted sexually explicit words that were inflammatory enough to offend adults.

The issue illustrates the Center's difficult role. While it remains low-key when it stays at the top of Case, if it extends beyond there, the organization risks offending some. The Center has to tightrope balance educating the student body and steering out of controversy. "It could be uncomfortable," Striker acknowledged.

Comfort is key in sexually educating the student body. The best way for the Center to remain both effective and unimposing is to keep its advertisements to minimum necessity (e-mail is less in-your-face than suggestive fliers). Students will walk up to the Center when they are ready, but being aggressive is a turn-off.

Michael Mandelkern is a right-leaning Republican from TriBeCa who loves to talk politics.

Don't deny existence of global warming

By Tyler Reny

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

On Feb. 18, 2005, Tim Barnett, researcher at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California stated that "the debate about whether there is a global warming signal now is over, at least for rational people." Of course, it's not actually over.

Unfortunately, it is becoming clear that there are many people in the gas, oil and manufacturing industries that stand to make a lot of money by ignoring the facts and misleading the public. By playing off people's fears and irrationalities, they can ensure that the public will turn a blind eye while they stuff their coffers and destroy the planet. If we don't do something to limit our carbon dioxide emissions, we will have to wear space suits when we go out to buy our Twinkies and bottle of Coke for that Sunday evening American Idol marathon.

It wasn't long ago that many conservatives, blinded by their rage that Al Gore invented the Internet, didn't even believe that global warming was occurring. Well, they eventually faced the undeniable fact that the planet is heating up and the polar ice caps are melting. But human beings couldn't have caused it, because that would be far too inconvenient. Oh yes, and because Al Gore says so.

Oil companies and conservative think tanks have also pooled their resources (money and fear) and set out full steam ahead to protect their interests. It seems funny, however, that conservatives' primary motivation, self-interest, is the same motivation that drives me to support robust climate change legislation. I don't want to have to explain to my kids that Antarctica was once covered in ice and that a great metropolis, New York City, once flourished as the financial and arts capital of the world.

Playing on traditional American fears of the higher taxes that might come with carbon reductions, the conservatives are gaining ground. A recent Rasmussen poll showed that nearly half (47 percent) of Americans believe that global warming is caused by normal planetary trends and not human activity. This is a significant increase over last year's polls. In April of 2008, a Rasmussen poll showed that only 34 percent believed the same. The deniers are winning the war of words.

The right-wing fringe has succeeded in painting the environmental cause as a bunch of flax-seed-eating, tie-dye-shirt-wearing, Prius-driving, Greenpeace-ass-kissing, effete liberals. Those that deny global climate change are the freedom-loving, Palin-supporting, Bud-Light-drinking, true Americans. Well, it's going to be pretty hard to love America when the whole Midwest turns into an arid desert, the Gulf

Coast is submerged and the majority of our population flees to Canada for its moderate climate, sensible health care system and poutain.

But not all is lost. On Dec. 7, representatives from 170 different countries will be gathering in Copenhagen to discuss green house emission reductions. President Barack Obama has pledged that the U.S. will reduce its emissions by 17 percent between 2005 and 2020. China has even agreed to build one less coal-fired plant every other day.

Skidmore, too, is fighting the good fight. We have an active Environmental Action Club, recycle some of our garbage and have capped dorm thermostats at 72 degrees (much to the chagrin of those who prefer to turn their single into a makeshift sauna to sweat out Saturday night's Keystone Light binge).

But the world outside of Skidmore's bubble is changing quickly and America must lead the global reduction in carbon emissions. Pretty soon a few billion Chinese and Indians will realize that the Ford Focus is a lot more comfortable than a twenty-year old rickshaw or a bicycle. At that point, we could be the leading producer and exporters of clean renewable energy. In the mean time, I will be working on inventing a car that runs on America's most abundant resource: high-fructose corn syrup.

Tyler Reny is a junior government major. He enjoys good food, jazz and politics.

Campus Celebrities

By Katie Vallas

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

On a campus overflowing with students excelling in everything from athletics to music, the idea of picking just nine winners seemed tough. Eighty-nine of you participated in our online poll, writing in a total of 145 nominees across nine categories. With the exception of two tied winners for theater, a single student won a majority in every single category.

Skidmore News sat down with your choices to hear their observations, experiences and words of wisdom. In the end, we thought they spoke for themselves better than we ever could, so we noted down a few of their insights to share with you.

ALEX FROST

Theater Celebrity

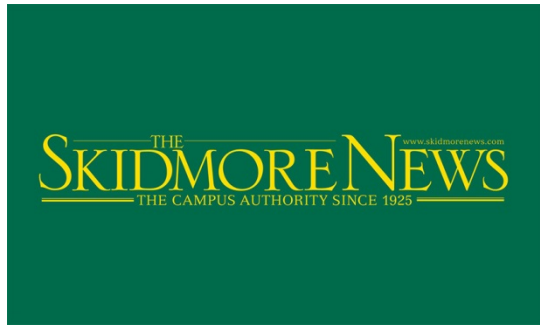
You may know him from: The Ad-Libs, Skidomedey, "Eurydice," "Under Milkwood," "Aloha, Say the Pretty Girls"

HE SAID: "I plan on being in Los Angeles by next September - I want to be involved in film and television, but I also never want to give up the art of live theater. I think that's important, it's a passion of mine.

"There's a bunch of former Ad-Libs who are out there doing comedy as well as film and television and writing their own stuff, and I want to get involved with them again. I think it's important for artists to be around other artists who inspire them. These guys were seniors when I was a sophomore, and I think that these are the funniest people I have ever met in my life. When I'm around them, I hold myself to a higher standard. 'Would Matt Chester find that funny?' 'Would Matt Schwartz find that funny?' 'Is that on-par, could I do better?'

"The more and more time I've spent in the theater, the more I'm able to see through theater beyond just a very practical and pragmatic way. It's not just checking off boxes ... I've noticed that you can tell when you're seeing a piece of theater whether or not the director and the people involved actually care about the piece and actually believe in it.

"The problem with student theater is that it can be a trap, in that you can tell yourself, 'Oh, it doesn't count, because it's just student theater,' 'If it doesn't work out, it doesn't matter, because it's student



theater.' It's that old cliché they apply to sports: 'Practice like a champion.' I try to apply that sensibility to it: 'Act like you're an actor.' As if this is your job.

CLAIRE SOLOMON

Academics Celebrity

You may know her from: SGA Academic Affairs

SHE SAID: "The size of the American Studies department demonstrates one thing I like about Skidmore, which is that many of our classes are small. You always feel like you have a voice inside the classroom. People really want to be here, and, for the most part, aren't taking their education for granted. When you can feel that in a classroom, when faculty and students really want to learn, it can contribute to the whole classroom experience.

"I've certainly learned more than I bargained for. I came here knowing I really liked words, thinking that I'd be an English major because I liked to write and to read and to think, and I think I'm leaving with a broader understanding of what it means to like those things. I think that is significant. I hope that happens to all of us: we come here with an idea and it transforms into something larger."

ALEX STARK

General Events and Culture Celebrity

You may know her from: Traditions Committee, SGA Residential Affairs

SHE SAID: "I know last year, when I was planning Oktoberfest and Spring Fling, we really tried to incorporate as many aspects of Skidmore culture as we could. We wanted to appeal to as many different people as possible, but also to showcase the talents of so many people at this school. It's about creating something that draws everyone in and gives them the opportunity to kick back and relax.

"Personally, I have made great friends, had so much fun and felt so much a part of Skidmore by planning and attending these events, getting to know everyone from the bands that play to my fellow council-members.

"Really, everyone has something to contribute. I have no talent whatsoever, so I do SGA."

ELLY SMOKLER

Theater Celebrity

You may know her from: The Sketchies, "The Insect Play," "The Metamorphosis," "The Vagina Monologues"

SHE SAID: "You know how most kids are like, "I want to be a ballerina," or "I want to be a firefighter," and then that shifts about 20 times? For me, it always was, "I want to be an actor." And that just never stopped.

"When I was looking at colleges, I wanted a strong theater program that wasn't cutthroat or elitist, and that's what this is. This theater community is a small one, but very welcoming. There's a lot of support and collaboration and determination. The faculty is wonderful -- I feel like they're my friends, not just my professors. And it's the same with the students -- they're my peers, but I see them as actors. We're really all here to learn, not to be perfect. Nobody's going to judge you if you don't judge yourself."

MELVIS LANGYINTUO

Sports Celebrity

You may know him from: Men's basketball, Class of 2012 Council

"Because we're a small campus and we're relatively new with most of the sports that we have - basketball is rebuilding - I feel like there's a growing commitment to helping our teams succeed. Because we're rebuilding and we have this core group of guys that we have now, it's bringing some excitement to Skidmore basketball.

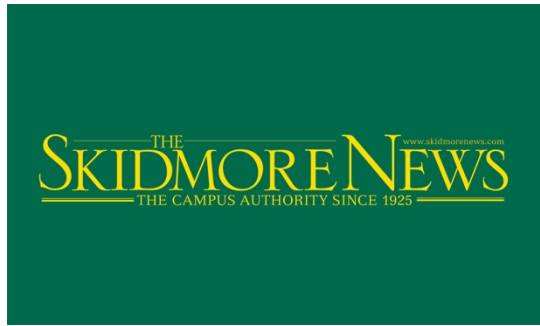
"Although we're a college with many differences between the arts and athletics, people still take the time to go to the events. Because we're small, word can get out. And because we're D-3, students can try out for sports and, if they don't make it, there are many intramural sports in which they can play. Some of the varsity athletes play in them, which makes it fun. The structure and size of Skidmore allows students to partake in anything that they've been interested in or thought about doing."

MOLLY KIDDER

Club Celebrity

You may know her from: Benef-Action, Liston in Malawi, Up 'Til Dawn

"It's always nice when you raise money for organizations and you know it's going to a good cause, but it's especially gratifying, and more exciting to me, when you know specifically who you're helping and you can put a face to the name. You can really feel that you're helping one person and know what you're doing for them.



"Benef-Action has always got something we're doing. I can't ever think of a time when there wasn't one thing going on, at least.

"But everyone does community service on campus, absolutely not just Benef-Action. We're just the club that's labeled 'the community service club,' but if you look around, you see the performance groups having fundraiser concerts, or the crew team doing its Row for Humanity or the Education Club volunteering to babysit. "

"There are all kinds of community service everywhere around us. People always need help, so never be afraid to ask."

CAMI LEDY

Visual Arts Celebrity

You may know her from: Metalsmithing, poster designs for SEC, Lively Lucy's and other clubs

"With the posters I do here, I want things to be eye-catching, I think simplicity is usually better. If there's something too cluttered, you don't really see it, you just pass it by. I usually do a lot of flatwork, and I like to focus on type a lot of the time. I'm a font nerd."

"And then with metalsmithing - it will change the way you look at everything. Working on such a small scale changes the way that you think of things. It's very satisfying to work with metal, to make something and know that you've made it. It's metal, it's solid, it's going to be there."

"But really, we have so many incredibly talented artists here. I love walking around the studio to what everyone is working on. People are doing things that you wouldn't even think of, which is really cool."

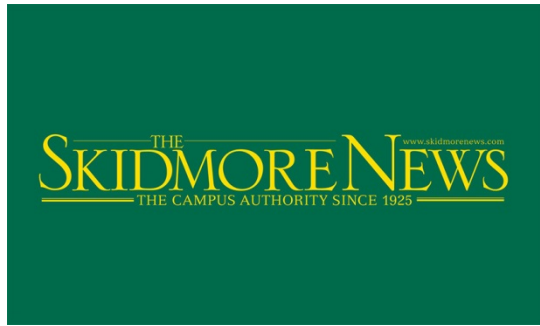
DAN PAPSON

Music Celebrity

You may know him from: Nat Osborne and the Free Radicals, The Blatant Sellouts, Lyle Divinsky and the Choice Kids, Jonny B. Goodman, The Skidmore Jazz Ensemble

"In high school, I approached jazz as if it was classical music, like, 'This is the correct way to play.' But I've been getting my mind around how playing jazz has its own musical language - it's not something where you worry about getting all the notes right, it's entirely about feeling and what you put into it."

"That's something that I've learned to really appreciate here. It's increased my ability to play jazz well, and to enjoy listening to music in general. I have an approach of just being organic and not trying to



over-think music before it happens, just letting it happen. You don't have to be afraid to fail here. It's a very supportive environment. "

"There are kids who I don't play with too much because they're classical, but I'm still friends with them through classes. We still have that shared love of music, even if it's not in the same context."

"Senior year, I hope that I'll be able to play stuff that's my own, whether it's something that I've written or my own project -- something that's not just me piggybacking on someone else. "

"I've played with some really awesome musicians here and I want to keep doing that, but now that I'll be a senior, I'll be able to be in the position of maybe some of the musicians I played with before."

JESSE KOVARSKY

Dance Celebrity

Jesse Kovarsky declined to be interviewed for this feature.

THE RUNNERS-UP

Club: Frank Cabrera

Academics: Zubin Mobedshahi

Sports: Ann Cascella

Theater: Nathaniel Moore

Music: Garrett Cook

Visual Art: Garrett Cook

Dance: Brendan Duggan

General Events and Culture: Raina Bretan

Rap and rock converge

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

The fusion of rock music with hip-hop has an extensive history, instrumental in both diversifying what rap could be as well as who listened to it. In 1986, Run-D.M.C. teamed up with Aerosmith to remake the latter's classic "Walk This Way." The song's popularity led to a larger white mainstream acceptance of, and interest in, hip-hop music.

The mixture of the two genres led, in turn, to new types of music, manifesting itself in the new metal of Korn and Limp Bizkit, the heavy funk of Red Hot Chili Peppers and Living Colour and the rock-influenced hip-hop of Cypress Hill.

Into this tradition steps the Black Keys, an Ohio based blues rock band, and Damon Dash, co-founder of Roc-A-Fella Records. The Black Keys began wading in hip-hop's waters when the members hooked up with renowned producer Danger Mouse for their fifth album "Attack & Release" in 2008.

Dash, who claims the Black Keys are his favorite band, reached out to the group along with Jim Jones to begin working on a collaboration album. A myriad of artists eventually became involved with the record over the course of 2009, and the result was "Blakroc." The album was released to strong critical acclaim on Nov. 27th.

Jangling, rusty guitars bounce off the slow rhythm of "Coochie." Ol' Dirty Bastard returns from beyond the grave to deliver very satisfying and raunchy verses, fitting nicely alongside Ludacris.

The mood switches completely on the vaguely psychedelic "On The Vista." Mos Def rides the waves of pianos and guitar riffs with mystical lyrics segueing into a spoken word closing: "Dream what you like, but you dare not sleep/The lights on the riverbanks we just must reach." Though it is hard to make out exactly what his cryptic words are addressing, it fits the music perfectly.

Injecting aggressive (and somewhat out-of-place) energy into the record, "Hope You're Happy" contains Q-Tip of A Tribe Called Quest, spitting a verse reminiscent of Beck.

The subdued and soulful "Why Can't I Forget Him" sports nice touches of guitar and the smooth voice of R&B singer Nicole Wray. While it is definitely a song for the ladies, the music is dope.

Returning to a hip-hop mood, "Stay Off The F**kin' Flowers" has Raekwon of the Wu-Tang Clan delivering signature streetwise storytelling verses. The ominous, descending bass and bluesy sound combine with the words to evoke the mood nicely.

"Ain't Nothin' Like You (Hoochie Coo)" features Mos Def crooning in his lazy tone, while Jim "We Fly High" Jones surprises in his deep lyrical verses.

The aggression morphs into confusion on the strange "Tellin' Me Things." Though the spiraling guitars and bass are cool, RZA's hoarse voice is irritating and repetitive in his verse about, well...something. It doesn't quite mesh in the context of the album.

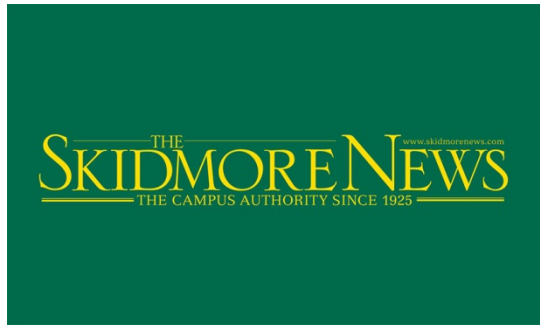
Apparently Jim Jones, not known as the most lyrical fellow (see the aforementioned "We Fly High" for a taste), took a step up in his lyrical approach to this album. "What You Do To Me" sees him again surprising with his spoken word verses: "Cupid shoot arrows, but this girl makes my heart bleed/I swear to God/if I die, she could make my heart beat."

The album closes with soft/loud dynamics on the heavy yet breezy "Done Did It." NOE delivers great verses with a nice a cappella ending, finishing the record on a satisfying note.

"Blakroc" succeeds on many levels. As a fusion of blues, rock, hip-hop and R&B, it is a triumph. The sounds of guitars and lively drums are a great fit for the various artists to recite their poetry.

In terms of traditional rap music, some may be put off by its excursions outside of the comfort zone, and indeed there are parts that don't work so well. Overall, "Blakroc" is a great record for the sonically adventurous and hip-hop heads alike. Black, white and whatever other color keys can rock to this.

Wyatt Erchak is a sophomore and history major from upstate New York who knows the stakes are high.



Editorial: Modernize the liberal arts

New Arts Administration program adds pragmatism to education

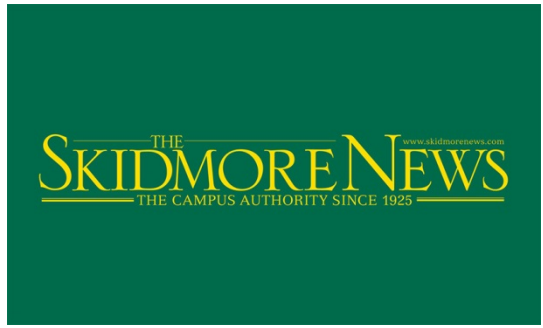
On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

Owing to a \$3 million stipulation in the bequest of the late Arthur Zankel, the college is in the process of creating an Arts Administration program. This unprecedented interdisciplinary program will incorporate subjects within the Management and Business, Studio Art and performing arts departments, and will be available to students as a minor in 2011. The introduction of this program not only benefits students seeking to combine their artistic passion with financial pragmatism, but it also represents a significant adaptation of the college's liberal arts philosophy and methodology to better accommodate students in an increasingly competitive world.

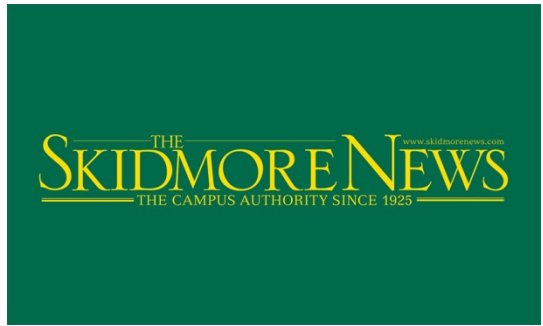
The Arts Administration program is geared mostly toward students who harbor a deep appreciation for the arts, yet recognize that they may be unable to make a living for themselves based solely on their own painting or dance, and that their passion might instead translate into owning or operating a gallery or performance space. This is not to say that artistic skills are not highly desired by employers. Many artistic abilities are appealing to employers, layout and design being nearly universally so. However, as is true for students of all disciplines, the ability to apply education sensibly is just as important as the education in itself.

The post-collegiate employment world does not value the knowledge gained in college as it once did. Just years ago, when it came to career options, a diploma would automatically put you ahead of most other people. That is no longer the case. As a greater number of people attend college and the undergraduate degree loses its value, it is integral to impart in students not only knowledge but the other skill sets required to apply that knowledge. Any program that does this constitutes a modernization of the liberal arts education and helps to keep it pertinent and economical in the 21st century.

For students who are passionate about art, the Arts Administration program will provide them with the means to carry their art from the classroom into the world, to make it not only a passion but a livelihood. If this program is successful, its basic formula of combining qualitative intellectual endeavor with relevant know-how could be applied to combine other disciplines and suit other students' interests as well. A Public Policy minor, for instance, could combine policy-making skills with political science and make students more marketable for jobs in Washington. Other programs similar to the Arts



Administration program will give students a more dynamic understanding of their disciplines and their disciplines applicability, eventually helping them better navigate the world with a sense of practicality.



The Women' shows one more weekend

By Joanne Schwartzberg

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

"There is quite a lot of changing of spouses, both men and women cheating on one another and, most importantly, its effect on marriages, family and children. There are scenes that are surprisingly touching, especially between the characters who are related, like mother, sister and daughter."- Alma Becker, director of "The Women"

Contact the box office for tickets at 518-580-5439 or email at boxoffice@skidmore.edu.

Basketball teams undefeated

Sports wrap: men and women both open seasons with perfect records

By Gabe Weintraub

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

Men's basketball:

With their 79-71 overtime win at Hartwick on Tuesday, Dec. 1, Skidmore's men's basketball team remains undefeated with a 5-0 record.

After opening the season with a win over SUNY Cobleskill, the Thoroughbreds went on to defeat New York University and Ferrum College at NYU's annual Tip Off Tournament. The Liberty League recognized the team's efforts in the tournament by awarding junior Jeff Altimar Co-Guard of the Week honors after he averaged 15.7 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.7 steals through the first three games. First year Sakhile Sithole was also recognized as Co-Rookie of the Week, averaging 14 points, 4.7 rebounds and 1 steal playing off the bench. Sithole had 20 points in 18 minutes in the win against NYU.

Sithole was received the honors again the next week after his 10 point, 5 rebound, 3 assist and 1 steal effort in the team's 110-58 win over Southern Vermont. Sophomore Melvis Langyintuo, who had 18 points on 8-of-10 shooting to go with 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals and a blocked shot, was co-guard of the week. Senior Jon Douglas was co-forward of the week after going 6-of-7 from beyond the arc to go with 3 assists.

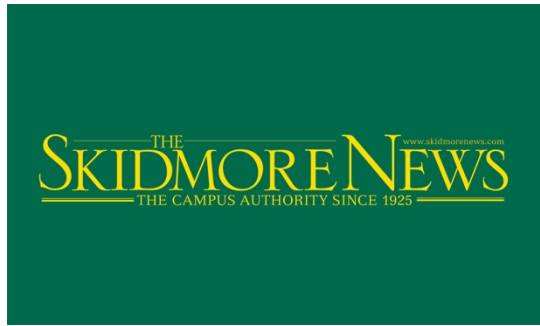
The team will host the Hilton Garden Inn Invitational on Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 5.

Women's basketball:

By beating Hartwick 55-53, the women's basketball team is also undefeated four games into its season.

The Thoroughbreds rattled off three wins in four days prior to Thanksgiving, defeating Elmira, St. John Fisher and Russel Sage on Dec. 21, 22 and 24 respectively. Senior Amber Kinsey was named Liberty League co-guard of the week with 14 points and 8 rebounds against Sage.

The Thoroughbreds will host NYU on Dec. 1 and will then play at SUNY Potsdam on Dec. 8.

**Ice hockey:**

A 5-2 win over the University of New England on Nov. 29 brought Skidmore's ice hockey team's record to 3-2. The win came in the consolation game of the Skidmore Invitational Tournament after the Thoroughbreds fell in overtime to Nichols the day before.

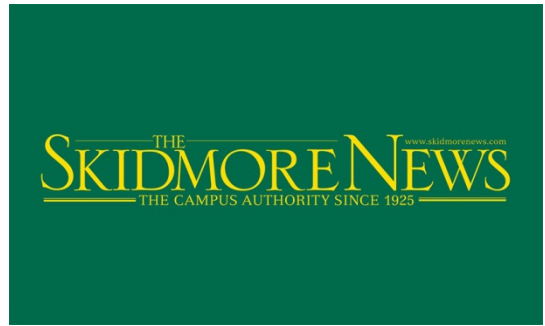
The team opened the season with an 8-6 win over New England College on Nov. 21 and followed it up with a 6-2 defeat of St. Anselm, both in conference rivals. The streak came to an end against SUNY Potsdam on Nov. 24, as the Bears beat the Thoroughbreds 4-1.

Skidmore next plays on Friday, Dec. 4 when the team travels to play Bowdoin.

Crew:

Every year, as part of their off season training regimen, Skidmore rowers participate in a marathon to raise money for both the team and charity. On Saturday, Dec. 5 every member of the team will row either a full marathon (42,195 meters) or a half marathon (21,097). The marathon will take place in the Spa, where the team will set up their indoor rowing machines or "ergs."

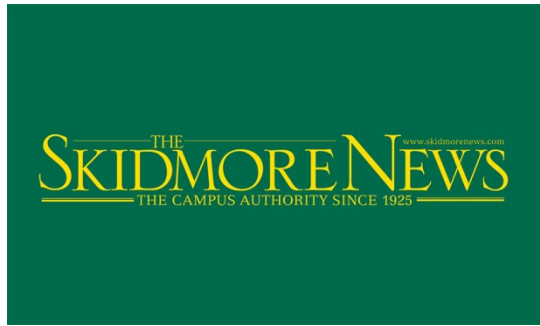
Part of the proceeds from the "ergathon" will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. The rest are used to fund the team's spring training trip to Oak Ridge, Tenn. over spring break.



Funnies!

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

Sketch, doodle, paint or draw? We'll print your work! E-mail skidnews@skidmore.edu.



Professor profiles: Rachael Roe-Dale

By Sophia Wasserwald

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

Professor Rachel Roe-Dale is an assistant professor of mathematics at the college. This academic year will be Roe-Dale's fifth year of enriching students in the world of mathematics.

Roe-Dale attended Maryville College for her undergraduate work, and continued her graduate education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, receiving a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a doctorate in Mathematics in 2005. She also has a master's in Applied Mathematics.

Skidmore News: What made you choose to teach at Skidmore College over other institutions?

Rachel Roe-Dale: Well, I was offered the position here at Skidmore, and I was very excited. I had been here for one year as a visiting faculty prior to being hired in the tenure track position.

So, during that year, I did job research, looked at schools, interviewed at them, and I had more than one offer. I chose to come to Skidmore because I really enjoyed interacting with the students I had met and the colleagues I had worked with, and I saw the potential here in this institution.

SN: What courses are you teaching this fall semester and what classes will you be teaching in the spring?

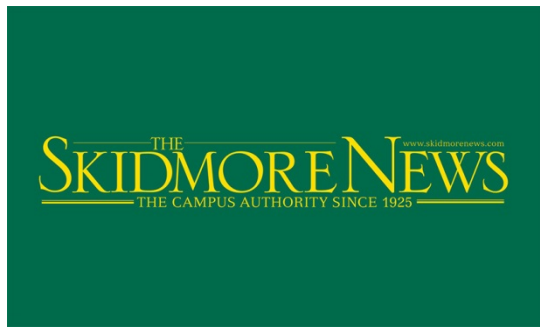
RR: This semester I have been teaching Linear Algebra and Calculus I. For the next semester, I will be teaching Statistics, Differential Equations and a mathematics senior seminar based on math modeling and applications.

SN: This year you are a part of the Health Profession Advising Committee. How do you feel being part of this committee?

RR: I enjoy working with the pre-professional students. I was asked to be a part of the committee, and then appointed by the dean of the faculty. I help advise students who are interested in medical, dental or veterinary schools, and I also participate in the HPAC committee interviews and recommendations.

It's fun for me to mentor and interact with students not only inside the classroom, but also outside during our leisure time as well. I get to know the students better, guiding them through the process to get into medical or veterinary school.

SN: What do you like best about Skidmore students?



RR: One of the things that I really enjoy about Skidmore students is they're very well-rounded. I have students who are very talented. I had a student who was extremely talented in mathematics, but was an art major! This brought a whole different perspective to the class.

The students here are intellectually mature, but they really shine through with their creativity.

SN: When you're not teaching, what do you do during your leisure time?

RR: I don't have very much free time anymore! But when I do have free time, I love cooking and reading.

When it's nice out, I enjoy hiking and gardening, and especially swimming. Swimming has been a big part of my life. And, of course, I enjoy spending time with my family.

SN: What is a motto or standard you live by?

RR: In Jerry McGuire, he says, "what is my mission statement?" It reminds me of a mission statement I learned when I worked in an outdoor program: "To change the world better, one person at a time." That sounds sort of clichéd, but there is some sort of truth found in that statement, which is partly why I enjoy my job so much.

It's really great, being in a profession I love and being able to share with others my experiences, teaching the next generation of society, not just the fundamentals of mathematics, but how those tools learned in class can be used in our everyday lives.

SN: What was your most memorable time in college?

RR: College was a great time in my life. And I think college was a time when I figured out who I truly am and what I wanted in life. I don't think I can give you a specific moment, but I loved how in college we were being taught to question and how to think critically. Like Skidmore's motto, "creative thought matters," but also critical thinking counts too!

SN: What advice can you give the current Skidmore students to help them enjoy college as much as possible?

RR: Life is about balancing. You need to do well, but also it's a time to have fun. College goes by so fast. Take the opportunities that the college offers, be happy, study abroad and be involved in something that is larger than yourself. Take the time to enjoy the experience and, at the same time, stay focused and be responsible. But, apart from being here for academic reasons, college is a place for you to grow and mature into well-educated adults, interacting with each other and, of course, having fun!

Allen Iverson's historic career is history

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

Allen Iverson, who has been struggling in the midst of his 13th season, is one of the most influential and exciting athletes the sports world has ever seen.

Iverson was undoubtedly one of the greatest scorers to have ever graced the NBA hardwood. At no taller than six feet, he was relentless, unforgiving, the most intimidating F-you player the NBA has seen since MJ, arrogant, influential, a trendsetter, selfish, a coach-killer, deadly with the ball in his hand and unforgettable.

Nobody in the history of basketball - other than Jordan - has what Iverson brought to the court in terms of sheer intensity.

Kevin Garnett has attempted to replicate the bug-eyed-flex-the-muscles-and-stare-at-the-ceiling look. Kobe has even gone as far as just basically copy everything Jordan- including the trademarked fish pump.

Few can copy Iverson. He was just a scary dude. When watching him play there was always a sense of violence in the air, like a pit bull that could snap at any moment, an alpha dog in the body of a poodle.

His on court play made opposing coaches throw their hands up. With a supporting cast of underachieving college stars, everyone knew Iverson was taking the shot, yet few could stop it.

His mother was once quoted in Sports Illustrated as saying that she became pregnant with her son without actually having sex. Even with this being scientifically impossible, it still matched his nature. Iverson couldn't possibly have been born or created. Rather, he just appeared, as if out of thin air. It was as if a mad scientist made him in a science lab: a quick little athlete with a mean streak that could only be compared to a combination of Jason Voorhees with Keiser Soze.

He was a trendsetter unlike any ever seen in sports. Would the NBA have ever experienced the gangster/hip-hop era without him? His entire body was covered with ink, he wrote terrible rap songs that glorified violence, wore baggy clothing and flat-brims and more platinum chains and earrings than Jacob the Jeweler.

As his career dwindles, people seem to forget what he was about. His last few years since being traded from Philadelphia to Denver and then to Detroit, and then spending a game or two in Memphis, have been disappointing.

A large part of the reason why Iverson is less effective is because his entire career was built on his speed driving to the basket. His quickness and agility allowed him to be nearly unstoppable.

In the NBA, most athletes start to lose strength and quickness around their 1,000th game. Once the legs are history, the career is history. Guards, often the quickest members of a basketball team, usually have shorter careers in the NBA because they are constantly driving to the hoop.

The reason why Jordan - and now Kobe - have such dominant careers after 1,000 games is because they are able to transfer their games into jump shots and high post moves.

Jordan, during his three-peat between '96 and '98 developed into one of the best high post players in the NBA. He was able to avoid nagging injuries by not putting his body through the daily abuse that is required to be a driving-get to the foul line type of guard.

Iverson is too small to transform his game with the post-moves required. He still has the speed to get to the basket, but his body is rapidly deteriorating. Even with the hand-check rules that are in place in today's NBA - a rule that puts any superstar on the charity stripe nearly every time he drives - his game has worn his body to an empty shell of what he was once.

AI will always be the constant staple in what made the 2000s decade in the NBA. He joins the short list of athletes who can never be copied, most of whom basketball fans can list by one name: Bird, Magic, Kareem, Barkley, Jordan, Russell... and now Iverson.

Bands 'Come Together' at Filene

By Ethan Lenoff

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

On Sunday, Nov. 22, more than 250 students, faculty, family and friends packed into Filene Recital Hall for the Ninth Annual Beatlemore Skidmania. For the final year, Skidmore celebrated the accomplishments of The Beatles in Filene, and will next year relocate to the new Zankel Music Center, which will hold up to 600 people in its theater.

The standing-room only crowd was treated to a revival of 1969, which among other Beatles' projects, included the release of "Abbey Road," one of the Beatles most celebrated albums. Students, alums and faculty alike all performed both straight covers of songs off the album as well as interpretations of various songs.

Music teacher and Founder of Beatlemore Skidmania Gordon Thompson was forced to, on several occasions, remind students that aisles must be cleared in order for the fire marshal to okay the program. Students waited in line at Filene as early as 1:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. show.

The show began with Dan Fisher and Julia Nunes playing "Something" on ukuleles, an interesting way to start an even more interesting show. Other songs included "Oh Darling!" by the Bearded Rainbows, "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window" by The Deal, and more. The audience was captivated by a student composition of "Across the Universe," which is not on "Abbey Road" but was also released in 1969.

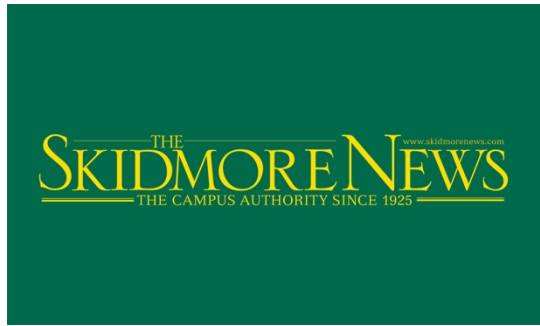
Other highlights included a capella performances by the Accents, Bandersnatchers, Drastic Measures and Dynamics including renditions of "She's So Heavy (I Want You)" and "Come Together," two famous tracks off "Abbey Road." Given the number of students interested in playing at Beatlemore Skidmania 2009, the set list included a number of repeated songs, a sure sign of the popularity of this event at Skidmore.

The final highlight of the show, as it always is, was the performance given by the Rust Brothers and Friends. The group features three faculty members: Gordon Thompson, Joel Brown and John Anzalone, as well as longtime friend Dave Maswick. The group came out to tremendous applause, as it does year after year, and delivered a performance of the famed medley that makes up the second half of "Abbey Road."

After finally completing the medley with "The End," a song that was played a number of times, the band invited all the other performing students to join them onstage for a sing-along finale, as is done every year. This year's song of choice, "Give Peace a Chance," had its lyrics tweaked to touch upon relevant issues to Skidmore's world today.

The show was once again a hit among students and others, with the crowd giving the performers a rousing ovation following the end of "Give Peace a Chance." Though the finale did signal the end of the show's nine-year run in Filene, Thompson took the time to celebrate the history of Beatlemore Skidmania in Filene.

The show has come a long way from being a request from a student in Thompson's Beatles Seminar to one of the most popular and well-attended shows on campus. For those that were unable to attend this year and are afraid that they will not be able to find their way to the show next year, there is nothing to fear. In the spirit of the show, the performance next year in Zankel will only be a single road away.



Artist of the Week: Terence Praet

By Ethan Lenoff

On Fri, Dec 4, 2009

Terence Praet, class of 2012, is a radio host from Summit, NJ. Terence is planning to be a History/Philosophy double major. Terence is involved at WSPN, not only hosting his show, but also helping to organize events hosted by WSPN.

Skidmore News: What interested you in WSPN? Why did you decide to have a radio show?

Terence Praet: I remember hearing about it being on the Princeton Review's list for the top 20 college radio stations when I was applying here -- currently we are number 16, I believe -- and I thought to myself, "Radio? I could do that!"

SN: What types of music does your show focus on? Why did you choose such music?

TP: The show focuses on what I'd call -- with a painfully loose definition -- folk music. I play a lot of Fairport Convention, Anne Briggs, Neil Young and what not. But I also play songs by Gram Parsons and Okkervil River. Why did I choose folk music, though? It's just what I've been listening to most recently. Fall always seems like an appropriate time for folk music for some reason.

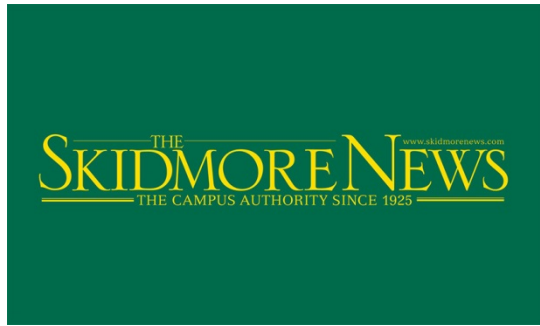
SN: Is it just radio that you're interested in or are there other forms of media that you'd like to branch out into?

TP: I haven't really thought terribly much about it. I suppose I wouldn't be opposed to something else but I wouldn't really want to audition for a SkidTV show or anything like that. With the radio, your voice can fade in and out between the music. While it's possible, I feel like it's harder to do that with other media, especially television.

SN: What's your favorite PSA?

TP: My favorite PSA? There are actually a few good ones. Bands sometimes send us PSAs or station IDs, and those tend to be fun. There's a particularly fear-mongering one about empty houses that I'm quite fond of. It makes unoccupied houses out to be these cesspools where drug dealers, homeless people and rowdy high-schoolers all do their best to undermine the moral order. So yeah, I suppose that one's my favorite.

SN: What else is going on at WSPN this semester that people should know about?



TP: We've actually had a lot of stuff going on this semester. Snakes Say Hiss! came a few weeks ago and people seemed to enjoy that. We're actually having elections for WSPN board members in a few weeks. Next semester, though, we're planning a few pretty big events that I think people will really like. We're trying to organize a big concert at the moment.

SN: What else is in the works for WSPN next semester?

TP: We've been trying to sponsor a tee-ball, so hopefully that will have gone through by next semester. People who went to Snakes Say Hiss! should know that because that was what the donation was for. For actual Skidmore students, we're going to have some other shows, I'm sure, and, of course, strong programming.

SN: What's this show I keep hearing about next semester?

TP: Next spring -- we're looking at doing it in early April -- WSPN is going to hold a big music festival with a lot of bands. We're looking at getting a few bigger ones and then having some bands from the area and from colleges around us. Skidmore and Wesleyan seem to have a pretty strong connection, at least on a student-to-student level, so I expect we'll probably have a number of bands from there. The date isn't set just yet, but keep on the lookout because it's going to be a big multi-day event.

SN: Do you plan on continuing your radio show throughout your college career?

TP: I plan to keep doing the radio show until I'm bored with it, so we'll see how long that takes.

SN: What's the best request you've gotten?

TP: The best request I've ever gotten was probably a call requesting that I stop reading and playing Public Service Announcements.

SN: Do you ever have any friends come to the studio and host shows together?

TP: Yeah, I have visitors in the station periodically. Doing a one-man show gets pretty tedious after a while so it's nice to have somebody else around.

SN: What is the name of your radio show and what time is your radio show, so we can all tune in?

TP: My show is "Dreams, Schemes, and Phonemes," and I'm on from 10 p.m. to midnight, Fridays.

College joins New York consortium

By Katie Vallas

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Earlier this year, the college joined six of its peer and aspirant institutions in forming a consortium called "The New York Six," which came together to address a series of collective programmatic and financial goals. This joins Skidmore with Vassar College, Colgate University, Union College, Hamilton College, Hobart & William Smith Colleges and St. Lawrence University.

As the academic year progresses, administrators across departments will be planning meetings with their consortium colleagues to discuss potential collaborations. According to Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives Barb Krause, working within The New York Six could help colleges see immediate financial benefits through new systems of consolidating purchasing and sharing costs.

The consortium also provides an opportunity for administrators to come together with their colleagues to discuss shared challenges and insights. "What are topics that we're all grappling with? How can we use this group to achieve our individual goals as well as our collective goals?" That's what we'll be asking," said Rochelle Calhoun, dean of Student Affairs

More broadly, the colleges and universities outlined interest in exploring purchasing of information technology goods and services, promoting sustainable institutional environments, maximizing student engagement, shaping the workforce and fostering intercultural literacy. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded the consortium through a \$100,000 grant that assisted in hiring Amy Doonan Cronin, who will oversee the project. Cronin previously helped in forming two consortia at the University of Virginia.

As administrators plan their first meetings with their counterparts from the other colleges and universities, President Glotzbach said he looks forward to sitting down with his colleagues. "There will be some time at those meetings for us to sit around as six presidents and just sort of say, 'What's keeping you up at night?'" he said. "Our problems are not all that different. You learn from your colleagues."

Architects, Senate draft dorm blueprint

By Kat Kullman

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

On Dec. 8, architects from QPK Design of Syracuse spoke with the Student Government Association Senate about plans to replace the ramshackle Scribner Village apartments.

The Scribner Village Replacement project is still in its preliminary planning stage. The college received a significant donation of \$12 million from the Sussman family to replace Scribner Village in hopes of increasing the number of beds on campus and improving facilities. The administrators hope to receive as much student input as possible.

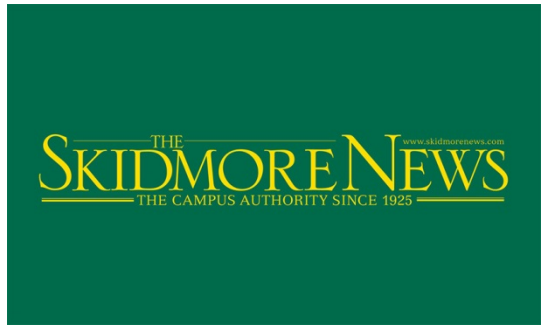
"The new residence hall committee began its work last year by surveying students and holding open meetings. Over 700 students took part in this survey. Tonight's preliminary designs are a chance to hear from you whether you think we are on the right track," said Don Hastings, associate dean of Student Affairs.

The planning for the new residence halls is only in draft stage, but the administrators and architects outlined several main objectives in their plan. The focus consisted of making the dorms environmental sustainable, de-tripling the first year students, and promoting upper and lower class interaction. In two separate construction phases, the college wishes to add 444 beds to the college campus, as well as several new social spaces within the new buildings. Skidmore hopes to replace Scribner Village with 69 four-bedroom townhouses, and add a new residence hall for freshmen that would contain 150 beds, as well as a new Health and Wellness Center.

Eugenia Brieva of QPK Design spoke about environmental sustainability in the new residence halls on campus.

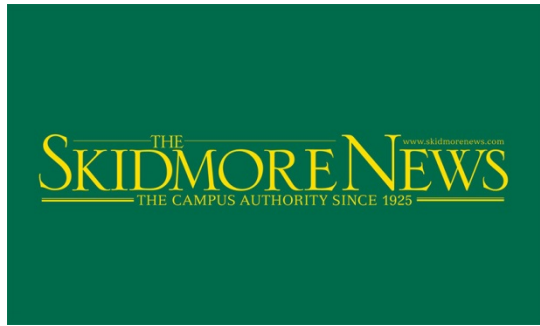
"There are guidelines that we are focusing on, which include the use of existing space that we already have, being as efficient as possible so we don't overbuild, having a compact footprint, grouping all the cars in a big lot, or putting parking in a place where there is already a road," Brieva said. "We are trying to use the geothermal heating and cooling system, and we are trying to do this within the budget while being as energy efficient as possible."

The senators had a chance to ask questions about the upcoming project. Questions ranged from changes in parking to the placement of the bathrooms in the new housing. When asked about further student input in the coming months, Mike West, vice president of Financial Affairs, answered, "As these



plans get further developed, we will have a site online, and, most likely, we will just continue to show students our ideas and get feedback."

The administrators and architects will be going to the Board of Trustees in February for approval and input.



Charity refuses club donation

By Andrew Cantor

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

On Dec. 8, the Make-A-Wish Foundation rejected the Photography Club's donation of approximately \$5,000 from fundraising sales of a near-nude calendar.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation informed Photography Club President Keith Petri '10 on Tuesday that they were no longer interested in receiving funds from the "Skidmore Spur" calendar because it included images they considered racy or sexually offensive. The charity grants wishes to children with terminal illnesses. The average cost of a wish is \$7,362, according to their financials.

Local media outlets covered the story on Tuesday, including the Glens Falls Post Star, the Albany Times-Union and NBC NewsChannel 14 television coverage.

"I don't necessarily agree with [the charity's decision]," Petri said on television. "I think that although it's coming from a provocative group of college students, it will be going to a good cause."

The Photo Club produced the "Skidmore Spur" in December, which features 12 college clubs, one for each month, with club members posing naked.

According to the Photo Club Web site, "All models are nude during the shoot and use objects related to their club's activity to strategically cover up any private parts (i.e. a frisbee covering a breast)."

"I think it's unfortunate that Make-a-Wish Foundation withdrew its support given how successful the sales of the calendar have been, though I recognize some of the photos may be construed as too risqué," said Raina Bretan '10, Student Government Association president. "Ultimately, this is a new, worthwhile and creative way to raise money and provide more visibility to a smaller SGA club. I have little doubt that Keith Petri will find a charity to accept the funds."

Petri originally had the idea of creating the calendar for charity, and he then shot the models in a 13-hour span on Nov. 21. The Photo Club sold the calendars in Case Center for \$10 beginning on Dec. 8. Petri expects to sell all the calendars by Dec. 25.

The "Skidmore Spur" is still on sale in Case Center, second floor, SGA office, and online at www.skidmore.edu.

Music policy creates noise

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

In early November Burgess Café employees were told they could not play music in their workspace from opening time until 8 p.m.

An anonymous student employee at Burgess, located in Case Center, told Bill Canney, director of Dining Services, he was bothered by the loud music his colleagues played through the sound system. Canney walked past Burgess the same day and agreed the noise level was too high. The following day he told the manager of Burgess to enforce the music procedure.

"It shouldn't have been played in the first place," Canney said.

The policy has been effective beginning halfway through the fall 2008 semester. The rule applies to student employees and full-time workers in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, the SPA, Atrium Café and Burgess Café

The regulation was created in response to Dining Hall employees in the dishwashing room and kitchen blaring music in the beginning of fall 2008. Under this work environment, employees sometimes failed to send the proper food to cooks or allocate enough kitchenware for cooking.

"Noise levels interfere with the communication required by us," Canney said.

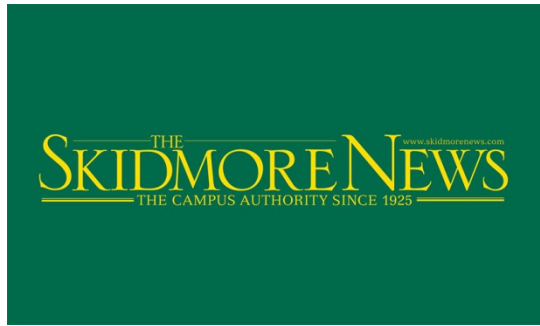
According to Canney, the incident at Burgess this past month was the first reported violation of his policy.

He became the director of Dining Services on July 7, 2008 and noticed over the summer that loud music sometimes decreased productivity, which could result in less adequate service for consumers.

"We operate in the best interests of the customer," Canney said.

Some student employees at Burgess claim they were never aware of the music procedure.

Douglas Pilawa '12, an employee at Burgess Cafe, did not know the policy existed, and is opposed to prohibiting music to any extent.



"I am so perturbed knowing that Skidmore, a liberal arts school with the slogan 'Creative Thought Matters,' would so easily forbid students from playing music," Pilawa said.

Others have not observed their colleagues blasting music.

"I've never heard the music get out of control and I've never heard complaints from fellow employees or customers," Gia Vaccarezza '13, another Burgess employee, noted.

Some employees consider music in the daytime fundamental to Burgess's atmosphere.

"It was really cool when someone liked what we were playing or knew the words and complimented us," Katie Humphreys '12 said.

"Burgess should be an exception to the policy since it is a café and the student employers have been reasonable about what types of music they should play," Rachel Kim '13 said.

Canney received a few complaints about the policy and, according to him, employees generally comply with the music rule.

He has allowed all Dining Services employees to play holiday music during all work hours from Dec. 5 to the end of the fall 2009 semester. He will monitor whether employees abuse the privilege and, if he is satisfied by his observations, will consider making Burgess an exception to the current Dining Services policy.

"I'm a fair, reasonable person," Canney said.

He will personally inform Dining Services employees next semester whether the music procedure will be altered.

Dining Services employs roughly 260 student workers and about 75 union employees.

Pregnancy clinic provides false information

By Andrew Cantor

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

In a recent investigation into local pregnancy resource centers, a center in Troy was discovered distributing false information about female health.

The Alight Center on 500 Federal St. in Troy, approximately 25 miles from the college, provided misinformation about the dangers of abortions during a crisis pregnancy phone call.

During the conversation, the counselor said an abortion doubles a woman's chances of breast cancer. She said first-time pregnancy abortions yield a higher risk of cancer.

The American Cancer Society claims on its Web site no link exists between an abortion and breast cancer. The ACS cites two studies, one from the 1990s in Denmark, which surveyed 1.5 million post-abortion women, and the other from 2007 at Harvard University, which surveyed 100,000 post-abortion women, with both studies finding no correlation between abortion and breast cancer.

"Scientific evidence does not support the notion that abortion of any kind raises the risk of breast cancer," the society said.

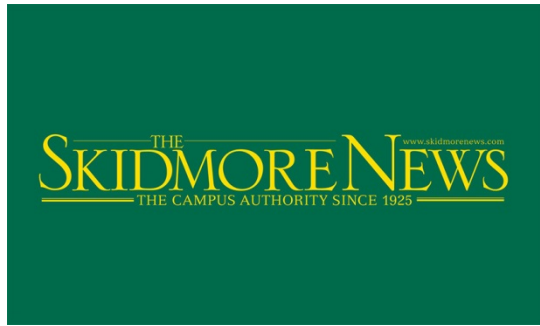
The Alight counselor also said abortions cause post-traumatic stress syndrome in women after the operation.

In 2008, an American Psychological Association task force researched mental health post-operation and determined abortions do not increase the risk of mental illness.

"Among adult women who have an unplanned pregnancy, the relative risk of mental health problems is no greater if they have a single elective first-trimester abortion or deliver that pregnancy," said Brenda Major, chair of the APA task force. "The evidence regarding the relative mental health risks associated with multiple abortions is more uncertain."

The Alight Center is affiliated with the anti-abortion Heartbeat International, an interdenominational Christian organization.

In 2006, the U.S. Congress investigated information provided by federally funded pregnancy resource centers. The investigation found 87 percent of centers provided false information to callers. The three



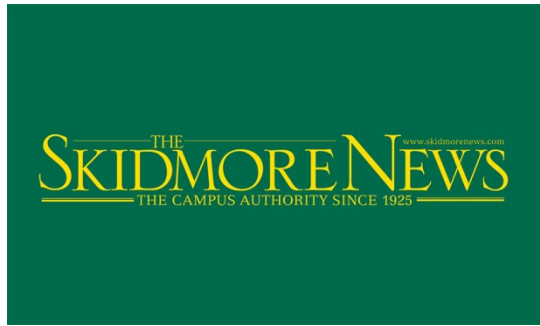
major areas of misinformation were the relationships between abortion and breast cancer, abortion and infertility and abortion and mental illness.

Birth Right, an anti-abortion clinic in Ballston Spa, located 7 miles from campus, was also investigated. The Birth Right clinic said the risk of breast cancer does not increase with an abortion. The clinic did say, however, there are possible unspecified mental health issues as a result of an abortion.

Birth Right is an independent organization unaffiliated with any religious or public group. It aids women with counseling, support and various resources throughout pregnancy and during and after childbirth.

Health Services does not provide contact information for abortion clinics or pregnancy centers.

"If you are going to continue the pregnancy, you should begin prenatal care as soon as possible, which will include a medical exam to make sure you are healthy and the pregnancy is normal," said the Health Services Web site. "If you are considering abortion, you should make your decision as soon as possible. Abortion is safe, but the risks increase the longer the pregnancy goes on."



Mandelkern's column misrepresents what 'The Center' does

By The Center for Sex and Gender Relations

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Dear Editors,

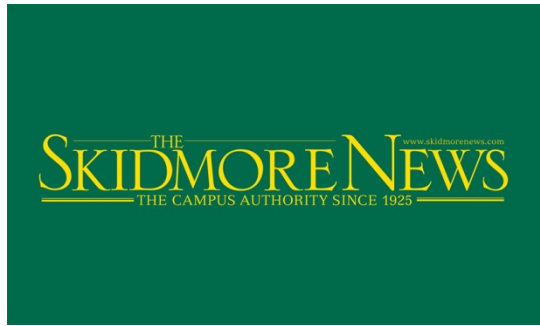
We are writing to correct misrepresentations in the recent Op-ed article written by Michael Mandelkern titled, "The Center' should tone it down a bit." The student body deserves accurate information about sexual education and the Center for Sex & Gender Relations' role on campus. We appreciate all opinions because the Center is a non-judgmental, apolitical group that supports all students and their decisions, but the article misinformed our campus and was potentially damaging to the Center's image. We hope Mandelkern's article does not deter students from using us as a resource.

The Peer Advocates never judge a student's decision to be sexually active or not. We continually reflect on our vision statement to ensure we recognize Skidmore students' sexual diversity. We are a diverse group of students representing a variety of different sexual expressions ourselves. Our role is to guide concerned students through their options in regards to their sexual lives as responsible adults. Our primary objective is to be a student-to-student resource for individuals who have been sexually assaulted.

An abstinent student or someone who is waiting until marriage is fully supported by the Center. In our programs, literature and training, we focus heavily on defining healthy and unhealthy relationships. Even if you're not currently sexually active, that does not mean you will never participate in sexual activities. Sometimes the point in time between when you are sexually inactive and active can change quickly, and we want students to be prepared with factual information and options when that time comes. We would also like to point out that a student's moral standing has nothing to do with his or her sexual status. Therefore, we find the negatively charged word "promiscuous" in this article misleading and insulting.

We provide comprehensive sex education because it has been repeatedly proven that abstinence-only education does not prevent unwanted pregnancies or STDs. Abstinence is a valid option within a comprehensive sexual education program. (An article in The Washington Post by Laura Stepp called "Study Casts Doubt on Abstinence-Only Programs" explains this in more detail.)

This brings us to the issue of Mandelkern's assertions about our advertisements. Students view ads every day that have the potential to make them feel uncomfortable. Like any other club, our posters are



factual and meant to attract the eye of those who may be interested. As Mandelkern's article posits, the Center is indeed "discreetly located," on the 3rd floor of Case. Therefore, we use advertisements to make those students who need us aware of our services when necessary. On a daily basis, students come in stating, "I wish I had known this existed sooner."

The idea that our advertisements also promote sex is similarly misguided. Research has concluded that condom promotion does not encourage sexual activity, only sexual health. By making condoms available to students, we are encouraging their sexual health and safety if they choose to participate in a sexual activity. (The American Journal of Public Health ran an article in June 2007 called "Association Between Condom Use at Sexual Debuts and Subsequent Sexual Trajectories: A Longitudinal Study Using Biomarkers," that drew this conclusion.)

Contraceptives are not only condoms, but also birth control pills, IUDs and other hormonal supplements. Birth control pills aren't taken only to prevent pregnancy. They are also prescribed for other medical concerns such as heavy menstrual bleeding. Non-sexually active men and women would benefit from the "Misconceptions about Contraception" program because they would learn information such as what to do if a woman misses a pill. The Center is unable to sell hormonal contraceptives because they must be prescribed by a doctor (see Health Services, ext 5550). The movie "Coming Soon" was shown on campus two years ago, and the fliers that Mandelkern called "sexually explicit" and "inflammatory" displayed slogans such as, "Oreos and Orgasms" and "Finger Food and Fondling."

Finally, the Center is not confidential, we are anonymous. We are required under federal law (the Clery Act) to report a sexual assault if a student comes forward. We only record what the student feels comfortable reporting, we must include the date of the incident and whether it occurred on or off campus. We would never ask for a student's name in the process. We provide students with this information upfront and supply contacts for confidential resources on and off campus.

We hope this has cleared up any confusion presented by Mandelkern's article. We thank Mandelkern for providing us with the opportunity to address the campus with accurate information about the Center, sex and abstinence. This is a great time to come by if you have any suggestions of how to better serve the abstinent population. We are always available to talk to the entire campus community on the third floor of Case Center and in our programs around campus. Please come visit us: Monday and Wednesday 1 - 8 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday 3 - 8 p.m.; Friday 1 - 5 p.m., Saturday 2 - 4 p.m. Our extension: 8255 (TALK); our weekend hotline: Thursdays 8 p.m. - Mondays at noon.

-The Center for Sex and Gender Relations

Redesigning Scribner Village

By Katie Vallas

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

In 1973, the college built Scribner Village as an experimental project to test the possibility of apartment-style on-campus living. More than three decades later, the 15 wood-frame apartments still stand. But with the aid of a trustee's donation, designs for apartment replacements are underway.

"A generous gift of \$12 million from the Sussman family has made it possible for us to make our preliminary design work of Scribner Village," said Don Hastings, associate dean for Student Affairs. With its lead donation in hand, the college approached QPK Design, the architecture firm responsible for the \$18.7 million Northwoods Apartments design, with the project.

On Dec. 8, three of the architects planning the Scribner replacement brought drafts of their plans to the college community. "We think we're at that golden point where there's enough that you should be able to understand what we're proposing, but we're not so far that we can't improve with the benefit of your input," said architect Steven Krause.

With the help of fellow QPK architects Eugenia Brieva and Paul Vaivoda, Krause's plans tackle the issue of insufficient first-year housing as well as the replacement of the battered houses of Scribner Village, which he thinks are on their last legs.

"They're old, they're tired. They've served Skidmore well - because they're wood-framed structures, they were very economical to construct. But they're just beyond the end of their useful lives and are getting too expensive to maintain," Krause said.

For months, the architects of QPK considered factors like slope angles, sun placement, pedestrian circulation and traffic patterns, as well as ecological influences like rock beds and forest growth. In the end, their plans - which they insist are still in the rough stages - reflected a far more ambitious plan than the existing Scribner Village for housing upperclassmen.

Sixty-nine four-bedroom and three two-bedroom wheelchair-accessible flats will provide housing for 282 upperclassmen. The townhouses will house students in single bedrooms spread out across three floors. "The first floor includes primarily the social spaces within each unit, while the second and third floors accommodate bedrooms and bathrooms," Vaivoda said.

The responses of about 700 students who participated in a survey over the course of the 2008-2009 academic year led to amenities including in-bedroom window seats, laundry facilities for every eight townhouses and split bathrooms separating showers and sinks.

This floor arrangement varies slightly with the addition of apartments that will line the main road, standing partially sunken into the slope leading down to Scribner Village. Because students will enter on the second floor, the architects placed communal areas there, with bedrooms and bathrooms above and below. "In this type of unit, the bedrooms will be placed to receive all the light from [the western] side," Brieva said.

Details like the presence of natural light can promise a more environmentally sustainable apartment complex. Brieva laid out plans that consider geothermal heating and cooling, water savings and minimal paving. "These are really incredibly powerful - simple, but very powerful - sustainable ideas that we want to carry on," she said.

The QPK architects look to tear down the existing structures and replace them with ones built with an eye toward these ideals of sustainable planning and long-lasting construction, all while leaving no student without housing during the construction period. "Here's how we're going to do it: we're going to build 444 beds in two different construction phases," Krause said.

The first phase includes the building of the steep-slope townhouses and flats, as well as the construction of a new residence hall to supply further housing for crowded first-years. "Too many freshmen are accommodated in rooms that are intended to be doubles, but temporarily have to be fitted up with an extra bed and an extra dresser and an extra desk because there just aren't enough rooms," Krause said.

The new four-floor residence hall, which will stand near Wiecking and Penfield Halls, will house underclassmen in 10 single rooms and 58 double rooms while providing four-bedroom suites that could potentially sprawl across two floors.

"What we're trying to do is bring this cross-integration of student classes by taking a more traditional dormitory approach with the singles and doubles, but then integrating the suite-style living as an advantage and attraction for upperclassmen," Vaivoda said.

As an added incentive, the architects are considering a potential Health and Wellness Initiative: an adjunct to the new residential hall that will house exercise facilities as well as relocated health-related resources like Health Services and the Counseling Center. "This is especially exciting because it's really trying something new," Vaivoda said. "It's looking at taking an aspect of Skidmore life - the fitness and health care and concerns there - and really integrating it into residential living."

In the second phase of construction, the college will tear down a few existing Scribner Village structures and build the four-bedroom townhouses in their place before finally demolishing the remaining '70s Scribner houses. Potential facilities for casual games of outdoor sports could be put up in their place.

While the architects provided graphics and floor plans, they emphasized that the project still remained firmly in the planning stages. "We've talked a lot about the plans here, but you don't know what these buildings look like. To be honest, we don't know what these buildings look like yet," Vaivoda said.

To move past just a design, the college relies on the continuing generosity of donors. "When this actually begins construction is largely contingent on the ability to raise additional funds, so we could complete the project," Hastings said.

In the meantime, the architects said student input would play a crucial role in shaping the designs of the townhouses, residential hall and health center. "It's all about making sure that we're delivering what the students of Skidmore want," Krause said.

He sees the success of Northwoods Apartments as an example for the fact that upperclassmen can be attracted to on-campus housing. "It's an indication that the demand is there, if the accommodation is right," Krause said.

Don't let winter get you down

By Paul Matteis

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Simply put, the winter at Skidmore is at times unbearable. Last semester I had a couple afternoon labs, and on those days, life felt like a constant battle. I'd wake up, hike through the snowy tundra, head to class for a bunch of hours and, by the time I got out, it'd already be dark. Needless to say, retaining my sanity through February and March was pretty difficult.

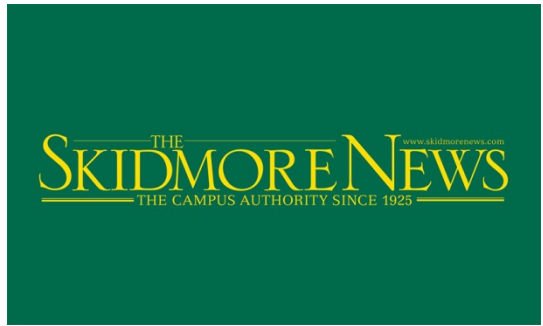
On some level, albeit not usually to a clinically problematic degree, Seasonal Affective Disorder affects almost anyone who endures the cold and dark Saratoga winter. To those who are unaware, Seasonal Affective Disorder is a form of depression that occurs in relation to different seasons, most commonly winter. Coupled with the fact that college-age students are for other reasons especially at risk for depression/anxiety related mental illnesses, it's important to have a few strategies on how to get out during the winter and avoid feeling like you're in hibernation.

While it's tough when it's really cold, getting outside to exercise or walk around during the day is an awesome idea. Sometimes it's just important for our bodies and brain to get some sunlight. When it starts getting dark at 4 p.m., it can be tough to see the sun when you have classes and other activities going on throughout the day. But instead of hopping in bed and watching 30 Rock on your laptop during that short break from 1 - 1:30 p.m., I guarantee that merely walking around outdoors will be far more energizing.

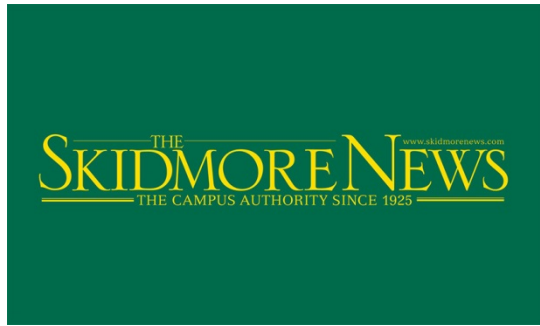
Another way to get out (that's probably more practice for the weekends) is doing some skiing, snowshoeing or sledding. Understandably, many college students avoid skiing because of how expensive it is. Yet, there are easier ways to get involved in this kind of stuff through the outing/ski clubs. There is also a way to rent ski/snowboarding stuff from the EMS in Wilton. Ski locations are only a few exits up on I-87, so something like that doesn't even have to take up your whole weekend.

But more important than focusing on specific activities or skiing excursions, it's the small things that can help you avoid feeling trapped in the wintry, dark Skidmore bubble. The energy has to come from within. Instead of going to Burgess, if you have a little time, make the extra effort and go to Starbucks. Just the act of being outdoors and getting off this campus can make you feel better.

Overall, I think we all just have to recognize what we're dealing with. While next semester is commonly referred to as "spring semester", it's insanely cold and dark for the first two months. That being said,



you can't let yourself become complacent to always remain indoors or in your room. The lighting in a dorm room is terrible. Even working in the library is better for your mind and body. If you can find a way to get out in the sun, leave campus for a bit, exercise, play some IM or go to NYC for a weekend, the winter will be far, far more bearable.



Take the press in stride

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

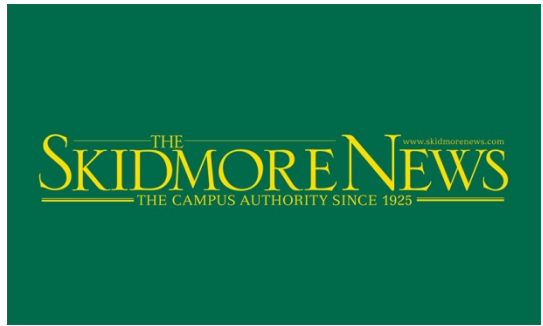
This past Monday, the college garnered media attention when the Make-A-Wish Foundation rescinded its acceptance of the proceeds from the sale of the Photography Club's Skidmore Spur calendar, which features different clubs posing with strategically placed objects to conceal their nudity. The Post-Star's coverage of this event marks yet another incidence in what has been a year of abundant press for the college. Though this most recent event was not given a slant, it ought to remind students that, though they should be aware of the press the student body gets as it will affect the college's reputation and the value of the degree, they should not allow media representations of the student body to hinder or dictate what they do.

This past year has been marked by frequent media attention for the college. While some was positive, the more memorable events have been negative. Last spring, The Saratogian reported on Skidmore students' participation in the marijuana holiday known as 420. The article, titled "Pot Party at Skidmore," cast Skidmore students as irresponsible stoners and the subsequent media fervor launched the school to No. 2 on Princeton Review's "Reefer Madness" ranking.

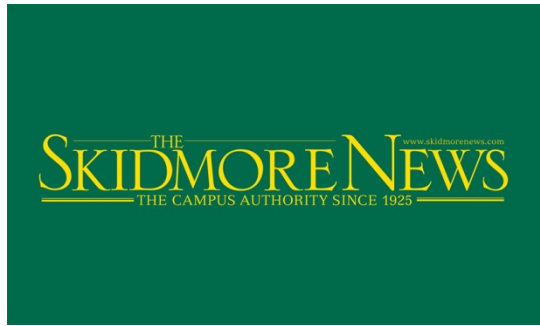
In the Sept. 18 issue of Skidmore News, we, the Editorial Board, urged students to let their own actions define the college rather than outside sources such as media. The highly accomplished career and unequivocal praise given to the late Skidmore alumna Anne Wexler upon her passing last summer is an example of how individual action can shine through and better define the college. In most cases, however, the press will report negatively, in accordance with the basic fact that bad news sells better than good news.

While the coverage of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's decision to reject the Photography Club's donation did not portray the student body in a negative light, this news is sure to garner mixed reactions and hold varied implications for the college's reputation. Some will view the calendar as yet another arrogant display of collegiate entitlement similar to the 420 spectacle, but others will hopefully view this as an instance in which college students threw their trademark apathy aside and got naked for a good cause. Regardless of how this is received, students should focus on and act according to the merit of their actions and not on their representation in the press.

Students must take in stride whatever attention the student body receives from the press, and not allow media representations to influence their actions. This most recent press event concerned students attempting to do something constructive with the most noble of intent. Whether that attempt was



acknowledged as such in the Post-Star's report, and regardless of any disagreement concerning how they went about it, the merit of that intent cannot be denied. Our reputation in the press is not nearly as important as the worth of our actions.



Fellini's odyssey through the mind

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

In Federico Fellini's "8 1/2" (1968), life isn't just a subject of what is in front of his characters. Rather, it's really what occupies their minds and their dreams. The director isn't just a shell of a man, because the viewer understands his desires, hopes and fears. The dream sequences aren't just jagged retellings of old and distant childhood memories, but they're information into why Guido (Marcello Mastroianni) feels the way he does and why his actions can be reasoned and understood.

Without Guido's dreams, this film would be as shallow and distant as Guido is to his colleagues in the film. Without a window into his mind, it would just be a struggle of a man who can't make a film and is dealing with the trials that infidelity in a marriage brings onto one's heart.

"8 1/2" reaches far beyond what a director had ever done with a camera. There is little suspense, and one can easily imagine from the opening shots of a suffocating Guido suffering inside of a locked car, that the result of this experience will be a tragic one.

Then how does Fellini keep the audience invested in the characters and in the story? He is able to illustrate his point through the use of his camera, how it dances through each scene and around the characters, and the subtle by powerful performances he is able to squeeze out of Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale and Anouk Aimee.

The film opens with a dream sequence that is both insanely frightening and a good pre-cursor to what will happen over the course of the next couple of hours. In the middle of a stalled traffic jam, a man (we assume Guido) is stuck in a car with all the doors and windows completely locked. The driver begins to panic as smoke starts to flow through the car, completely engulfing his body. He struggles to get out, to little avail at first, as passengers from the other vehicles watch him with stone faces.

The struggle inside the car is a metaphor for Guido's struggle with himself to make his next film. The passengers alongside him are the critics, quiet and studious as they watch him struggle underneath the weight of expectations that they have put him under. The passiveness of the other drivers is what separates 'the director' from his 'fans and critics' in the artistic sense and in the business sense. Although the critics will never know how it is to make a film, they will never hesitate to rip it to shreds once their time comes.

Although Guido had made popular films before, and is a well-known and important film director, his fans are still there clamoring for more. They only care about him when he can succeed in his art.

Finally, Guido breaks free from the confinements of the car, from out the ceiling window, and he floats through the air until we see a beautiful shot of a beach setting with Guido trying to be pulled down to the ground by a thick rope. The ones doing the pulling are his producers, as they are trying to reason with him to get his act together and to make another movie.

This entire opening dream sequence, only a couple minutes in life, represents the entire movie because throughout "8 1/2" Guido is completely sheltered from society, and then rushed around by his producers and writers so he can start the next film. He's given no time to breathe. It is only at the end of the film, his death, when he is able to grab the freedom for which he has been seeking.

Guido's one vice is women. This is not only clear from his affair with Claudia, but with the prostitute, Saraghina, and the guilt that he had to deal with as a young boy when he was punished in church.

The episodes with Saraghina are told in vivid flashback, and one of the most memorable scenes is her dancing on a lifeless beach that could have easily doubled for the beach at the beginning of the film.

When Guido is punished for his temptations by the church, he is told how wrong it is to be with a temptress like Saraghina, but never learns his lesson. His entire life is one large lie around women, and he is unable to exhibit his actual feelings towards any of them. We, the viewer, see his memories and his thoughts, but the woman, whether it is Carla or Luisa, is unable, so he's just an empty shell to them.

All of Guido's female desires are brought together in "The Harem Scene," where Guido imagines himself as the patriarch of a house (his childhood home) where all of women in his life live together in happiness and devotion to him. In this scene, Guido builds himself up as the leader and the master of this group of women.

The relationships are built on power and force, and the women are only there to take care of him and to compete for his attention and warmth. Although he is the dominating force, the women are just as passionate as he is. Eventually, the women turn and Guido is forced to fight them off. But there is his Luisa, his wife - peaceful, loving, conservative, content - and although he is under the pressure of all these other women, her goodness and love shines through even in his strange, twisted fantasies.

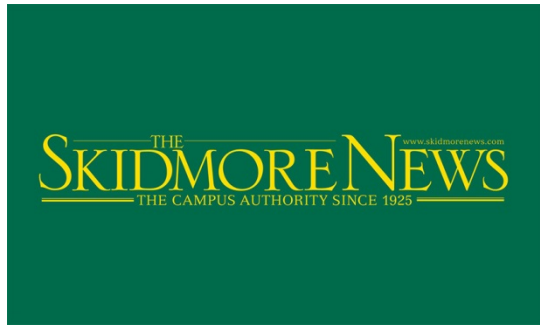
Paranoia is terrifying when there is no humor in it, and despite some of opinions of the film that there are comedic elements, this is not a comedy. The dream sequences are more frightening when one considers that all of these fantasies are actually being played out inside of a man's head.

In a different time, life can happen mean and fast. However, in Guido's world, life is slow and methodical and it leaves him dreaming of the past in order to awaken the present. Maybe a fast life would drive him over the edge earlier and with more energy - like a roller coaster to nowhere - but the slow, drawing out of the dreamlike life that Guido leads is a shrinking, painful death.

He is forced to live in a camp of compressed and constant fear, forced in like a prisoner, like in the beginning moments inside the small vehicle, with little chance at freedom. Maybe he was able to break through then, but in the end he couldn't go on for much longer. Guido could have reached his goal, but he doesn't, and the ending becomes Guido's failure; a life that ends in madness and a fatal gun shot.

This is no longer simply a movie, but 'Art' in a more universal sense of the word. It's Art in that it just IS, and has nothing to strive for or prove. Fellini is an insecure auteur who's trying consciously and hard to be profound, difficult, original, groundbreaking, and you can see his intent clearly, and detect the effort behind the artifice.

Nothing of this is anywhere to be perceived in "8 1/2," which makes creating masterpieces look incredibly easy. And so, Fellini, one of the few great cinematographic poets of our age, a poet who deals with the heart and the mind - at least in his most surrealist works - is able to work his story over many different sequences, but can still fit them together like a puzzle. His surrealism came in his direct prolongation of his stylist choice.



Old band makes leap

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

For a band that belongs to a genre generally associated with progressive song-structures and unpredictable dynamics, Chicago based instrument post-metal band Pelican has been remarkably consistent, if not predictable, over the course of its career.

With lengthy, sometimes ponderous songs defined by heavy riffing, some have come to consider Pelican something of a one-trick pony. "City of Echoes," its previous album, marked a self-conscious attempt by the band to prove that there was more to its sound than the aforementioned traits. However, Pelican's attempted reinvention failed to receive more than a lukewarm reception from critics.

With its latest offering, "What We All Come to Need," the band has taken a big leap forward, offering a great deal more variety in its dynamics. In addition, Pelican has taken a step out of post-metal pioneers Isis's playbook, placing a greater emphasis on melody and texture.

Guitarists Trevor de Brauw and Laurent Lebec, always the focal point of the band, have incorporated more guitar sounds into their previously limited oeuvre. Longtime fans have no cause to worry, however. Pelican has retained its characteristic heaviness and epic, doom metal influenced sprawl.

On top of greater variety, bassist Larry Herwig and his brother, drummer Bryan Herwig, have stepped up their game in the rhythm section, particularly the latter, who has received a great deal of criticism in the past for his lackluster timekeeping and overbearing fills.

Pelican's long-overdo progression is apparent in the album's first track, "Glimmer," which starts off in traditional territory before moving into a softer, atmospheric interlude.

Its successor, "The Creeper," has more in common with the band's older material, showing that Pelican, far from having grown insecure with its old sound, is intent on staying true to its roots.

It is hard to criticize the band for the occasional backslide into familiar territory when the songwriting is of such high quality. That being said, the album really hits its stride with "Specks of Light," a multi-sectioned epic that cycles back and forth from heavy riffing to soundscape several times, providing a visceral thrill every time the rhythm section kicks back in.

Although the later compositions (excluding the final track) are by no means inferior to the early ones, they are quite similar, which may bore listeners depending on how enamored they are with the band's style.

The last song, "Final Breath," delivers quite the surprise with vocals, a first for Pelican, as well as unusually melodic guitar playing. If "What We Have All Come to Need" had arrived earlier, in the late 1990s or even earlier on in '00s, it may well have been heralded as a post-metal classic in the same vein as Isis's 1997 release, "Oceanic." In 2009, however, the genre has long since developed a greater sense of dynamics and sounds, making Pelican's great stride more of a personal achievement than anything else. Still, it's hard to complain about an album as consistently enjoyable and well-crafted as "What We Have All Come to Need."

Eric is a sophomore who loves rock music in all its forms. You may see him around campus in a band T-Shirt listening to his iPod and looking unapproachable, but rest assured he is quite friendly and will usually only attack when provoked.

Skidmore shows off its 'Women'

By Joanne Schwartzberg

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

What do gossip, marriage and divorce have in common? These are all subjects of the Skidmore Theater's mainstage production of "The Women," a social comedy about the power of gossip and the things that women will do to maintain their pride and dignity.

In the beginning of the play, we are introduced to a group of Manhattan socialites in the 1930s. We learn about their "affairs" and how they manage their relationships with each other.

The play primarily centers on Mary Haines, played by Kim Brown. Fairly early in the story, Mary's best friend, Sylvia Fowler (Hannah Tamminen), finds out that Mary's husband is cheating on her with a woman who works behind the perfume counter at Sachs 5th Avenue, after getting a manicure. She spills the gossip to everyone except Mary, not wanting to hurt her. However, when Mary decides to get a manicure, she decides to use the same person as Sylvia, and finds out about her husband's affair.

Mary's mother (Julia Hansen) tries to give her advice and tells her to not say anything to her husband for risk of losing the marriage.

However, after a very public confrontation with her husband's mistress, Crystal Allen (Starry Krueger), in a dress shop, Mary decides to leave her husband and eventually they get a divorce. Then she leaves her family, including her daughter Little Mary (Emily Pintel) for a while to travel to Reno, Nevada with many of the other women who were recently divorced.

While there, she learns that her husband is planning on marrying Crystal after the divorce is finalized. However, through a series of circumstances, Mary finds out that while Crystal is married to her husband, she is having another affair with actor Buck Winston, husband of the Countess de Lave (Kate McCallister). After this comes out publicly at a party, it becomes clear that Crystal has lost and Mary has won her husband back.

The large cast of 21 women did a fantastic job. There was not a weak link in the bunch and I was engaged by the stories of all of the actors. I could tell that they all truly became their characters. My only criticism would be that some of them fell victim to over-acting.

Director Alma Becker did an excellent job of casting. I felt like each person fit her part very well and, while I was watching, I could see why each person was assigned the role (or roles) she was given.

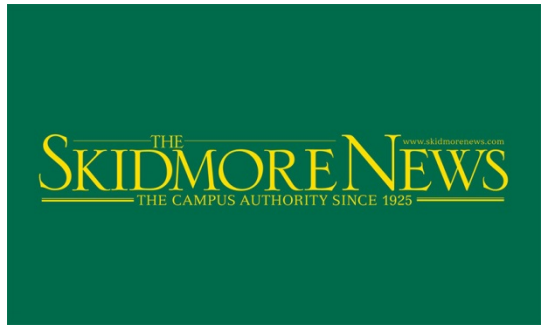
Designer Gary Wilson also did an outstanding job designing the set. I really felt transported back to the 1930s. The color palette was perfect for a 1930s drama and it all felt elegant and refined, as it was supposed to.

Also the attention to detail with the set and all of the set pieces was impressive. The molding around the edges of the set gave it a nice, 1930s feel, and all of the pieces that people were standing in, such as the bathtub, were well built as well.

The costumes, designed by faculty member Patty Pawliczak, were perfect for reflecting the time period. The costumes also did a good job of differentiating who was in the upper class and who was a member of the working class. From the simple maid's outfits to the elegant evening gowns, they all transported me back to the 1930s.

I could tell that all of the clothes were well-made and each piece fit its place in the play well. The costumes also made nice use of color. For example, in the party scene, there was a beautiful rainbow of color in all of the dresses and there were many interesting design styles on display as well.

"The Women" truly succeeded in transporting the audience back to the time of the 1930s. While the 2-hour and 30-minute running time was a little on the long side, one becomes so engrossed in the story that one does not even notice the time. The play was truly a joy to watch.



Dancing in a winter wonderland

By Sam Brook

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Dear Gators: cut your team or cut Urban Meyer

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

In 1995, Sports Illustrated published an open letter to Edward "Tad" Foote III, the president of the University of Miami, asking him to please drop its football program on charges of drug abuse, arrests and academic cheating. In that letter, SI referred to the program as "a disease, a cancer that is steadily devouring an institution."

If Miami is a cancer, then the University of Florida is a drug; a dirty, expensive Bolivian powder.

UF is on the top of the college football world after two NCAA championships in the last three years - based on the BCS system, it is either the best team or the 6th best team this year. The team fields a defense in which all 11 starters could be on NFL teams in the next three seasons, and it has Urban Meyer.

Meyer is essentially a crook. For a head coach who prides himself on supposed discipline and intensity, it's a joke that he is the leader of a team that has had over two dozen players arrested in his first four seasons at Florida.

Behind those beautifully crisp blue and orange uniforms, the program is a black hole on the college football scene. His rough exterior is just a blanket for a gooey center.

Name another coach who would allow players second and third chances after charges such as robbery or assault?

Meyer apparently looks up to notorious tough head coaches like Tom Landry and Ohio State's Woody Hayes - of course, Hayes was the same guy who notoriously punched a Clemson player in the throat after a late interception in the '78 Gator Bowl. Would either of these men have let notorious thugs like Jarvis Moss, who played this season despite failing drug tests, or Percy Harvin, the Florida standout who was banned from all Virginia High School sports after punching a ref, even step on the field?

The NFL wonders why it has had such a problem over the years with violence off the field. Players like Ray Lewis, Donte Stallworth, Adam "Pacman" Jones, Plaxico Burress and Matt Jones were all stellar college athletes who were given every chance to succeed.

Although the NFL has attempted to crack down, it's not a lie that Ray Lewis should be sitting in a jail cell now for his involvement in a 2001 shooting of two men after a Super Bowl party, or that Donte Stallworth deserved more than thirty days in prison after he killed a man while driving drunk in Miami Beach earlier this year.

The NFL is working hard to clean up its act, but the problem really starts with these powerful college programs. The University of Florida obviously values football victories over morality. Twenty-two year old kids know better.

Meyer might think he can get away with repeating over and over again that these kids are still young, or that "they are still finding their way," but he shouldn't. Even if you are recruiting from the local prison, every kid knows that it's bad to rob somebody, and that it's good when you don't.

Meyer thinks he's on top of the world. He coasts through his neat, little schedule with genuine ease as a benefit of recruiting some of the best high school players that a kind word - or a booster's "under the table" check - can buy, but he should have the foresight as an educator and a leader in the UF community to take care of this problem.

Is every good football player in the country a raging criminal? No. So why is Florida stacked full of them? The coaching is the reason, the leniency and the joke that is Florida's arrest record.

Yes, if Meyer keeps leading UF to 10-win seasons, then most will look the other way, but if he wants to be a respected member of the football community - like Joe Paterno or Mack Brown - then he must start laying down the law, instead of laying down in the sun while his players run wild beyond his grasps.

Saratoga restaurant guide

The perfect choice for the right occasion

By Robin Krosinsky

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Through the fall 2009 semester, Robin ate at more than a dozen restaurants in downtown Saratoga Springs and wrote a series of restaurant review columns for Skidmore News. After a semester of wining and dining, these are her favorite restaurants for each specific occasion.

Best restaurant for lunch

Scallions on Lake Avenue

The Scallions lunch menu is so good, it is hard to settle on a choice. That being said, it is also hard to be disappointed with whatever choice you make. The menu has many different choices for hot and cold appetizers, cold sandwiches and wraps, Panini and salads. My recommendations are the hummus appetizer, the grilled chicken and rice wrap and the souvlaka salad. The lunch menu is offered all day, so feel free to order these items for dinner as well.

Best bank for your bacon

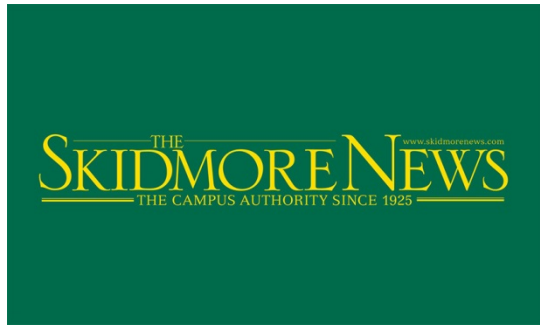
Four Seasons on Phila Street

Four Seasons is a natural foods market that serves a great vegan buffet until 8 p.m. The buffet is chock full of delicious, healthy (gasp!) hot and cold options. It gives veganism a good name. And it is a great deal because the price of the meal is done by the weight of your plate, so I have piled mine exponentially high in the past with somewhat lighter items and walked away feeling like a thief. A very well-fed thief.

Best restaurant for a date

Ravenous on Phila Street

It is easy to get the lost in the moment when eating at Ravenous, as the restaurant feels so much like a small Parisian café. The delicate lighting and intimate size make it an ideal location for a date. Not to mention it serves one of France's sexiest delicacies, the crepe. Ravenous only serves three things and it serves them well: pommes frites, savory crepes and sweet crepes. The food is all easy to eat, delicious and well-priced, making it the perfect date location.



The MVP award

Max London's on Broadway Street

Max London's wins the MVP award because it is a great all-around restaurant. The food is fresh and full of interesting flavor, the interior is tastefully decorated and the service is always impeccable. Open for lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch, Max London's is always a great spot to choose for a date, dinner with friends or a night out with the parents. The menu changes seasonally but some of the best staples include the chickpea-polenta fries, the beet salad and the margherita pizza.

Best place to go when the parents are in town

Chianti on Division Street

Chianti is an upscale restaurant that focuses on Northern Italian cuisine. The food is all exquisitely lavish, flavorful and comforting. The menu is quite large, as the choices range from appetizers, salads, carpaccio, vegetables, pastas, main dishes and desserts. One reason it is a great location for a visit from the parents is that fact that a student's budget cannot always afford more than one course. Chianti is definitely a place where one wants to indulge in multiple selections. I would recommend the Coccio appetizer, the Del Chianti carpaccio, the Capuleti risotto and the Branzino entrée.

Best restaurant to go with friends

Circus Cafe on Broadway Street

Circus Café is a fun restaurant with a menu that is broad enough to please any palate. It is a great place to go with a group of friends because even the pickiest of eaters will find something to enjoy. The setting is bright and colorful, and there is a great drink menu for those who can/choose to drink. For food I'd recommend the comforting, simple choices offered. This includes the bruschetta, the burger and the Cobb salad.

Basketball rebounds after loss

By Ethan Lenoff

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

After suffering its first loss of the season on Dec. 4 against Johnson State, Skidmore's men's basketball team quickly rebounded the next afternoon against Wells College.

The 77-67 defeat came in the first round of the Hilton Garden Inn Invitational, which Skidmore was hosting over the weekend. Johnson State was 1-5 coming into the contest, making its upset of Skidmore all the more surprising. Skidmore fought hard during the game but ultimately could not keep up, dropping its record to 5-1.

First year Sakhile Sithole finished with 14 points and 8 rebounds off the bench, sophomore Terron Victoria had 14 as well, and fellow sophomore Gerard O'Shea put up an impressive 10 points and 7 steals. In the first seven games this season, he has already compiled an astonishing 22 steals.

Skidmore did not rest on its laurels for long though, as the players came back strong the very next day in the consolation game against Wells College, winning 102-74. The bench performed particularly well, scoring 47 points.

The Thoroughbreds had as much as a 32-point lead in the game, which was never close, and the team quickly avenged the previous night's loss. Kyle Clark '12, Jeff Altimar '11, and Jon Douglas '10 continued their strong play in the win, with Douglas going a perfect 4-for-4 from the field.

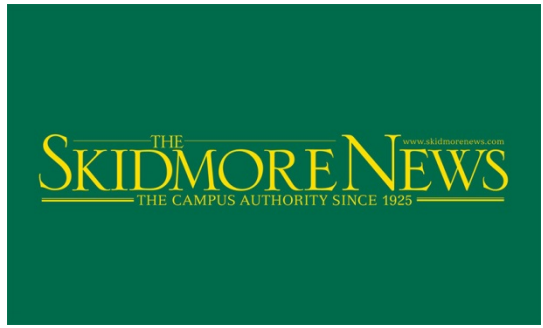
York College defeated Johnson State in the final to win the tournament. Even following the loss, Skidmore left with the best overall record of the four teams, finishing the tournament at 6-1 while tournament winner York climbed to 5-4 with the perfect weekend.

In other tournament news, O'Shea was awarded a place on the all-tournament team for his impressive weekend. Sithole was also awarded the Liberty League co-rookie of the week for his impressive role in leading the Thoroughbreds to a 6-1 record.

Through seven games, Sithole leads the team in points per game with 13.6, despite not starting a single game. He has played a key role in strengthening Skidmore's bench this season. Altimar, Clark, O'Shea and sophomore John Mantas have all excelled on defense, averaging over a steal per game. Sithole and Clark lead the team in rebounding with 5.4 and 4.1 rebounds per game respectively.

Skidmore's next game will be against Trinity College in Hartford on Dec. 11, before winter break begins. The team returns to action in the New Year on Jan. 3 when it travels to Vermont to take on Castleton State College.

Skidmore will begin Liberty League conference play against Union College on Jan. 12. The team will seek to improve on its disappointing conference campaign from a year ago. Based on the start of the season, the players can look forward to success.



Thoroughbreds in action

By Chris Weigl

On Fri, Dec 11, 2009

Basketball book puts up big (page) numbers

By Ethan Lenoff

On Sat, Dec 12, 2009

In his new book, "The Book of Basketball," Bill Simmons, an obvious diehard NBA fan, fills up 700-plus pages with anecdotes, statistics and, of course, his signature pop culture references that have made him not just any guy but 'The Sports Guy.'

A former writer for The Boston Herald, ESPN the Magazine, ESPN.com, the Man Show and the Jimmy Kimmel Show, Simmons shares his basketball experiences, good and bad. "The Book of Basketball," the follow up to Simmons' "Now I Can Die in Peace" is a delight from page 1 to page 697.

From the very beginning, "The Book of Basketball" offers key insight into the history of the NBA, the impact it has had on culture and how it has changed over time.

A foreword written by Malcolm Gladwell sets the tone for the entire book, as he describes Simmons' life as a sports/humor columnist and author, saying that he has opportunities in life that none of us sports fans will ever have. Simmons has an office filled with sports paraphernalia and overflowing boxes of NBA tapes, and has to go to "work" by writing about the sport that he has been interested in since a young age. Indeed, Gladwell is right about how nice it must be to be 'The Sports Guy.'

The book is divided into 13 chapters with an epilogue, and chronicles the life of The Sports Guy since he was a four-year-old sitting on his father's lap at Boston Celtics games.

If anything, this makes any current sports fan nostalgic for the days of dollar beers at games and five-dollar tickets, instead of the capitalist monstrosity (albeit a still very entertaining monstrosity) that we have today.

"The Book of Basketball" can be broken down into a summary of five major themes: a description of what Simmons dubs "The Secret," and how it determines the winners and losers in the NBA, the greatest teams of all time, the history of the league and how we got to where we are now, the NBA Hall of Fame and how it should be reconstructed, and finally, most importantly, the greatest basketball players of all time.

For the first of these themes, "The Secret", Simmons writes about how certain players throughout the history of the NBA, the Waltons, Russells, Jordans, Birds, etc. have had an implicit understanding of how

to win in the NBA. These guys got "The Secret" and were able to use it to take their teams to the Promised Land.

This separates them from the Chamberlains, Stocktons, Malones, Iversons and Ewings, who were all spectacular players in their own right, but did not have the understanding necessary to take their teams to a title. As Isiah Thomas, a longtime target of Simmons', recounts in his meeting with Simmons at a topless pool in Las Vegas, "The secret of basketball is that it's not about basketball."

Simmons then goes on to talk about the "What-If's" that percolate throughout NBA history and how they would have changed the league. Beyond the obvious questions of "What if Portland took Jordan over Bowie", "What if Bill Walton never got hurt", and "What if Magic Johnson's career wasn't cut short by HIV", he also delves into smaller and less common questions that NBA fans have pondered.

Finally, Simmons takes the entire second half of the book (and that's about 350 pages!) to discuss the idea of having a basketball "Pantheon Hall of Fame" and how each level of the Pantheon would distinguish itself from the other levels. In doing so, he assigns the 96 greatest players of all time, ranging from Tom Chambers at No. 96 to Michael Jordan at No. 1. Factors for placement within the pantheon include individual statistics, team statistics, championships and the effect that players had on the league.

A noted Boston homer throughout his career, the list is naturally chock-full of Celtics. This is not surprising, nor is it wrong, but it is entertaining and endearing to see Simmons' pride in the team that he considers HIS Celtics, and seeing how much he reveres and respects both the game's greatest players and the game itself.

Overall, if you are a diehard basketball fan, and I know that the diehard NBA fan is becoming an endangered species in modern times with the popularity of the league constantly dwindling, you will enjoy this book.

