

Hip-Hop Filmmaker Visits

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

At 7 p.m. on March 27 in Gannett Auditorium, director Matt Ruskin presented his critically acclaimed documentary film, "The Hip Hop Project," before ceding the floor to attendees for questions.

The film, released in 2006 to rave reviews after winning 16 film festival awards, centers around the youth outreach program of the same name.

After surviving a childhood on the streets and orphanages of the Bahamas, Chris "Kazi" Rolle made it his mission to help African American youths in similar situations find a creative outlet rather than turning to crime.

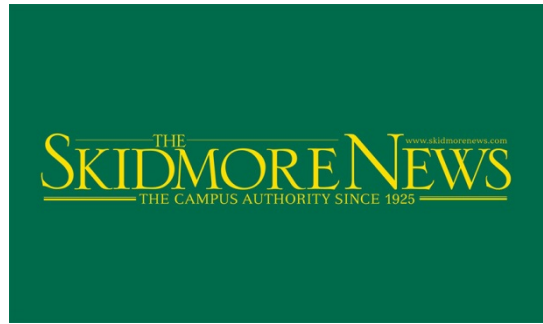
The outlet he had in mind was hip-hop. Countering the charge leveled by many cultural critics that the rap culture is inherently negative, Kazi refused to tolerate misogyny and glamorization of the "thug life."

Ruskin documents the Project as they set out to release a CD that captures their individual and collective experiences.

Along the way, the audience learns about the various individuals involved in the project, watching as they develop strong familial bonds, both with each other and relatives with whom they have bad relationships, something Kazi actively encourages.

For example, Christopher "Cannon" Map reconciles with his mother as she enters the final stages of multiple sclerosis. The film features guest appearances by producer Bruce Willis and Russell Simons, who donated a studio to the Project.

The "Hip Hop Project" is available on DVD.



Skidmore bikes toward a greener future

By Audrey Nelson
On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

Green Bikes, a subcommittee of the Environmental Action Club, has recently received a large shipment of bicycles for the college's Green Bikes Program.

Some of the bicycles will go to the college's Green Bikes program and some will go to aid in the Haiti relief effort.

Green Bikes, a program that began in 2007, allows students to sign out bikes for the day in hopes of reducing the amount of carbon monoxide emissions from cars.

Campus safety and Green Bikes run a sign-in/sign-out sheet for the bikes and organize a safety waiver binder for students.

"The Skidmore program was fully restocked with yellow cruiser bicycles, which are very fun to ride," said Jakob Schenker '10, vice president of the EAC.

The newest influx of bikes donated to the Skidmore Green Bikes program comes from the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council and the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network, who received the bikes from the Navy.

The Green Bikes subcommittee has worked closely with EOC and SHTN in the past.

"We donate to lower income families and provide kids and adults with fully functional bicycles, helmets, locks and bicycle safety lessons. These two organizations run this bicycle program out of the St. Peters Church basement off of Broadway," Schenker said.

Members of Green Bikes can also volunteer with these programs in order to repair bikes and participate in donation programs during the winter and spring holidays.

The subcommittee also hopes to start a non-profit bike cooperative for the Saratoga Springs community.

A surplus of bicycles in the recent donation prompted Ben Harkins '10 to initiate a program that will deliver 50 bikes to help the relief effort in Haiti. The bikes will be driven in a U-Haul truck to New Jersey where they will be transported via cargo ship to Haiti.

"[The bikes] will help in the relief by providing basic transportation to the people. These will be a great donation because they are industrial bicycles meant to carry supplies. They are also very simple and easy to repair," Schenker said.

Lecture considers definition of terror

Best and Brown educate students on effects of counter-terrorism

By Rachel Kim

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

Steve Best, from the University of Texas - El Paso and Bill Brown, founder, author and editor of online magazine NOT BORED! led the panel "We are All Terrorists" on March 25 in Gannett Auditorium. Many students gathered to hear the speakers talk about terrorism and its effects on society in the recent years.

Several laws have been passed through Congress that prioritize the security of citizens over their freedom. Government surveillance has increased due to alarming events and rebel groups such as the Tarnac 9.

The Tarnac 9 case involved nine anarchists who were forced out of their community on the basis of reported terrorist activity. The politically radical group was tried, arrested and treated as terrorists for holding radical views.

Sophie Dolto, a visiting Skidmore student, organized this panel. She got in contact with the two speakers while she was looking for an American support group for the Tarnac 9. "I realized that a lot of similar things were happening in the U.S. It's hard to be an activist here," Dolto said.

Brown is an anti-surveillance activist. "Some of the things that we do are not illegal, but nobody's business," Brown said.

Brown is skeptical of the government's use of surveillance. "Instead of looking at the city, the city looks back with more eyes than ever," Brown said.

Best emphasized the common misuse of the word "terrorism."

"What's been declared to be wrong, which is dissent or critical thinking, has become so broad and vague. Whatever constitutional liberties we ever had are being systematically lost piece-by-piece," Best said.

The speakers then turned to issues of animal activism and environmental activism. Groups of activists have been heavily targeted by government surveillance.

"This isn't something just abstract. You get called a terrorist if you are supporting a cause that is controversial, or if you support a dissenting opinion," Best said.

"Many western, so-called democracies, are on the same page when it comes to using terrorism as a way of keeping their control over society," Brown said.

There are many connections between large corporations and the government. This may be one explanation of the repression of environmental and animal rights activists. The speakers called the movement the "Green Scare."

As opposed to the "Red Scare" of the 1950s, which targeted Communists, the Green Scare threatens animal and environmental activists whose goals oppose the interests of large corporations.

Both speakers argued the importance of informing students about these issues. "College students are very important people to reach. Not only are they young and impressionable, but also they have the time to research and it's very important to use the educational resources to fully educate yourselves," Brown said.

"Students have historically played an important role for overall advancing the ideas of social liberty and freedom of speech," Best said.

The speakers stressed the danger of citizens' indifference to government surveillance "We have an obligation to speak out against anything wrong when we see it, and we need to have the freedom to do that. People are fearful, they're afraid of speaking out. You've got to get over that fear," Best said.

Dining hall cooks up relief for Haiti

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

Thursday night's Caribbean-themed dinner at the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall was more than a departure from the daily Dining Hall food: its main purpose was a fund-raiser for the Fowanda University in Haiti.

On Thursday morning, decorative palm tree posters were already hanging on the Dining Hall walls and the Caribbean atmosphere was complete by the time dinner began.

Students rushed into the Dining Hall and by 5:30 p.m. the Dining Hall was already filled with hungry students. "It was so crowded we couldn't find seats," Sarah Page '12 said.

"The idea originally came up quickly after the first meeting of a campus group that wanted to spearhead dialogue about and relief efforts for the victims of the January earthquake," said Darren Drabek, Skidmore academic counselor.

The dinner was a collaborative effort between Dining Services and a group of students led by Elana Hazghia '10.

"Bonniesue Rolon was great about rearranging already planned theme dinners to allow for the Caribbean-themed dinner in March," Drabek said.

The menu featured items such as Dominican roasted chicken, Calypso pasta salad and rum banana fosters with ice cream. Students scoured the dining hall for sorbet served in fruit shaped shells.

The crowds made it difficult to maneuver through the Dining Hall and get food quickly, but there was no shortage of Caribbean cuisine.

"I'm going to give it an eight out of 10. I didn't like the huge lines, but there was a lot of variety. I'm on a food high," Nick Eng '12 said.

The event was open to the public for \$10.50 and there were sales and opportunities for donations throughout the night. "Elana worked with some student clubs to organize student help on the night of the event," Drabek said.

"Through one of my leads, Elana found an online supplier of RARA products that Random Acts of Craft agreed to help order and sell at the dinner and in Case later," Drabek said. RARA products include purses, shoes and bags that are made by Haitian artisans using recycled materials.

Over \$200 was raised in RARA sales and over \$100 was donated. "Between Jordana Dym, Michelle Hubbs and myself, we decided to direct any donations from this event to the University of Fowanda," Drabek said.

A group in Albany is focusing donations toward the Fowanda University. "Our contributions will go toward the group's goal of raising enough money to send a cargo container filled with donations to the University. The container itself is like a modular room that, once in Haiti, will be converted to a classroom," Drabek said.

Director confronts rape in the Congo

Lisa Jackson presents her documentary on subject and life experience

By Emma Caruso

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

At 8 p.m. on March 29 the Center for Sex and Gender Relations screened the documentary, "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo" followed by a discussion with its creator, Lisa F. Jackson.

A rape victim herself, Jackson traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo to tell her story and help break the silence under the United Nations in May 2007.

The documentary won a special jury prize at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. It was filmed around Bukavu on the border of Rwanda and portrayed the grief and torture endured by Congolese women who are victims of rape.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has had a history of political unrest and, recently, it has only gotten worse.

The country holds 80 percent of the world's supply of coltan, which is an important resource for manufacturing electronics. There is an economic incentive for surrounding countries, such as Rwanda, to cross the border and illegally steal this resource for their own benefit.

The documentary focuses on the effects the war has on the nation's women. As warfare breeds a hostile environment, these women suffer assaults by soldiers, from both foreign and their own armies.

These soldiers either kill the women's husbands or force them to flee. The women are then left to defend themselves against what the documentary describes as "mutilations and humiliations," typically succumbing to the abuse.

Soldiers often use wood or guns to damage their ability to have children. Only very few women can be treated for their injuries in a hospital - most are left to suffer with injuries, some pregnant or HIV positive.

Girls as young as 2 years old and women as old as 80 can be victims of rape and face discrimination from their families and villages, living in the middle of a battleground.

According to the film, "It is rare to find a raped woman who gets a second chance." They are seen as damaged goods that brought rape and abuse upon themselves. This often evokes a sense of self-hatred and blame that these women must live with every day.

Justice is rare, for there are very few officers to deal with sex crimes, or shelters to provide the assistance needed; there are simply not enough resources.

Men blame their own suffering for the pain they inflict on women. "We have been suffering in the forest ... that is why we rape women," said one soldier who was interviewed for the documentary.

They abuse women in order to release tension that they cannot find an outlet for in the war zone.

Many soldiers feel no regret or remorse because, as they say in the film, they believe "abiding by the conditions of the magic potion" will help them to win and protect themselves in this battle.

The soldiers who were interviewed feel that, by allowing themselves to be raped, the women are being patriotic, for they are "helping the Congo."

Jackson, who has earned five Emmy nominations in her career, displayed the shame and grief felt by these women, who often feel very forlorn in their situations. It is estimated that over 100,000 women have been raped within the past 10 years.

In her discussion after the film, she explained the situation in Congo has only gotten worse. She went into great depth on her opinions of possible solutions for the "femicide," as well as underlining the severity of the situation.

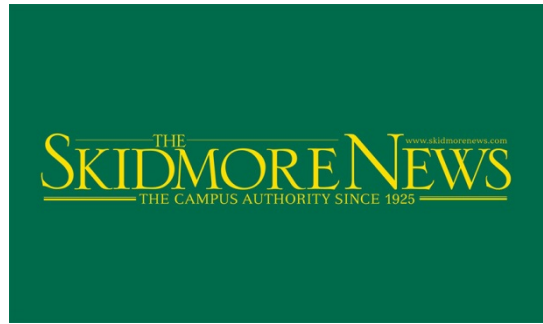
The U.N. recently passed a resolution to declare rape as a security issue, rather than just a humanitarian issue. This would initiate the sending of troops, though there has been little result.

Additionally, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently promised millions of dollars in aid after a trip to the Congo, but nothing has been sent as of yet.

Jackson echoed the need for immediate help in any form. "We all have the blood of Congolese women on our cell phones," Jackson said.

"Greed and men have provoked a war, but it is women who have paid the highest price," Jackson said.

Jackson informed the audience that the women of the Congo are beginning to take hold of their futures, seeking help that is available and "redefining grace."



Threads and gold behind hip-hop

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

For most people outside of the genre, this strange term, "hip-hop fashion," means baggy clothes, large diamond necklaces and expensive shoes. And although that might have been somewhat true in terms of some hip-hop music, the truth is that fashion is constantly changing.

First, a quick history:

Originally, baggy clothes were introduced into hip-hop in the early days because the music was first built around dancing, and one needs large clothes for better movement; larger, comfortable sneakers were also added. The colorful jerseys were in order to push that party atmosphere.

Run-DMC brought in gold chains and black leather - they were all about looking cool and looking tough. With the rise of A Tribe Called Quest, De La Soul and the Jungle Brothers, the style changed to reflect more African influences: red, green and black colors, dreadlocks, head dresses - a style that was brought on by Black Nationalism.

The "gangsta" groups exploded in the early '90s. NWA, with its Oakland Raiders hats, Chuck Taylor's and flannel, inspired the West Coast gangster movement.

As hip-hop moved into the new millennium, there became more of an emphasis on expensive clothing. Although the bagginess was still there, the clothing companies being presented were Tommy Hilfiger and Polo Ralph Lauren.

Not only that, but rappers became businessmen. Jay-Z, Outkast, the Wu-Tang Clan and 50 Cent all began opening up their own companies, establishing wealth and power along with their music. Now, what do we have? A complete merge of all the different styles.

On one side, we still have Lil Wayne and Eminem with their pseudo-gangster images, still with their flat-brimmed hats and wife-beaters and pants three or four sizes too big.

On the other hand there is Kanye West, a rapper who prides himself on his style and wears more Lacoste than the bad boy in an '80s movie.

The nice clothing is a result of why most hip-hop lyrics are about acquiring wealth. Even though there are the few "conscious rappers" - Common and Lupe Fiasco, for example - most of the music is still about making money and buying diamonds and nice clothing. Of course it's then a little odd seeing Lil

Wayne receiving a million in hard cash for his birthday, and then walking around in an outfit that would only be appropriate if he were a grave digger.

Both sides of hip-hop fashion have been criticized. The gangster image has received the most negativity, especially with its connection to the NBA. When Allen Iverson broke out in '96, he not only brought his jump shot, but also a new generation of baggy clothes and big chains.

Before long, Tracy McGrady, Stephon Marbury and other popular players followed suit. David Stern, the commissioner of the NBA, freaked at this new "hip-hop culture," and banned it from the league in favor of mandatory suits and ties.

On the other side, all of the nice clothes have also been criticized - the Adidas and Nike basketball shoes, the throwback jerseys, the diamonds grills and chains, the Mafioso suits - basically Kanye West's entire wardrobe.

Because rap music is very popular among the inner-city community, there are unimaginable expectations among listeners to improve their style so that they can emulate their favorite musicians.

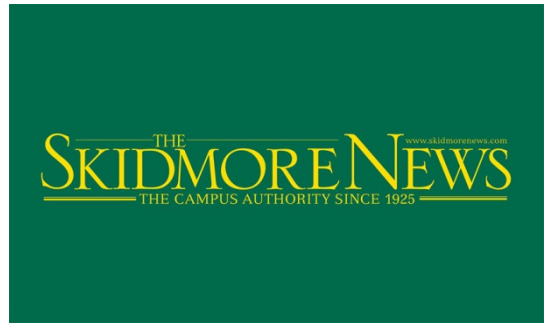
In America, one's wealth is shown by, to put it bluntly, how much "stuff" you have. That is why we always see rappers talking about their cars or about their diamonds. It's a lot easier to show that you're on top by just wearing a fancy chain, rather than by explaining how much money you have in various Swedish banks.

Whether it's through grills or necklaces or rings, every rapper has to do something a little extra to shine and sparkle.

Although it will be rare if there is ever a day where all this gold will be considered out of touch, one can still dream; remember, people once thought MC Hammer's flamboyant billowing leather pants were also a good idea, so anything can happen.

The Hip-Hop Alliance chooses to reflect the overall consensus of club members, without a specific author.

General meetings are every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the ICC (Case 202).



Opinion Cartoon

By Savannah Grier
On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

About to Drop

Upcoming and New Releases

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

"When You're Strange" - April 9

The Doors don't get a lot of love these days when compared to other 1960s bands. Sure, they have a devoted cult following and have sold a bazillion albums, but hipsters and some critics increasingly have nothing but not-so-flattering things to say about Jim Morrison and the "I'm a poet and shaman" posturing for which he's become known.

Oliver Stone's mythological portrayal of Morrison in his 1991 biopic "The Doors," coupled with Val Kilmer's over-the-top performance, played a major role in turning people off of one of the greatest rock n' roll bands of all time.

In the world of rock criticism, there's good pretentiousness and bad pretentiousness, and the aforementioned film trafficked in heaping piles of the latter.

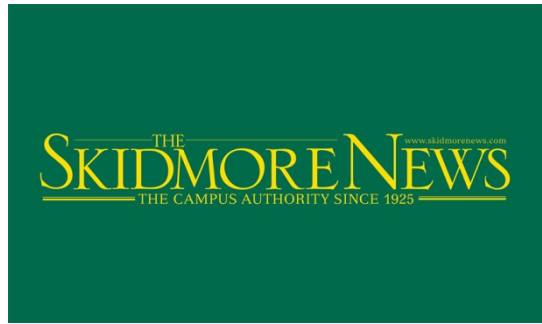
It may have, by nearly all informed accounts, been an inaccurate portrayal of the band, but it did some major damage to Morrison's reputation nonetheless. "When You're Strange," an upcoming documentary directed by Tim DiCillo, sets out to get the story right.

With luck, a realistic depiction of The Doors' story with minimal hero worship and fabrication will go a long way toward restoring the band to acclaim. Then again, it doesn't have a big budget, so it seems likely that only fans will see it, unless narration by Johnny Depp is enough to attract a mainstream audience.

"Splinter Cell: Conviction" - April 13

Doesn't it seem like only yesterday when the adventures of badass government agent Sam Fisher dropped as often as yearly sports titles like "Madden" and "FIFA?"

Alas, this has not been the case since 2006. Now, or rather, in a couple of weeks, after a roughly four-year hiatus, "Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Conviction" is poised to end the drought - for those with an Xbox 360 or high-end PC, that is.



New features? You bet, but they may not sound too exciting to those who aren't already familiar with the finer points of the series.

One addition is a "Mark and Execute" feature, which allows the player to target an enemy or object shortly before it bursts into the room.

Another is "Last Known Position," which provides a visual indication of where a guard thinks Sam is based on the last time he was spotted.

An interrogation system and a new ability to blend into a crowd "Assassin's Creed" style round out an impressive, if not particularly flashy, array of new features for a single player.

Co-op returns, this time with its own 6-hour campaign and unique story and characters. It is clear that Ubisoft Montreal has opted not to reinvent the wheel here, but longtime fans of the series have ample reason to be excited.

MGMT - "Congratulations" - April 13

MGMT is surely one of the first bands that anyone who's anyone (a.k.a college students and young adults who read Pitchfork and/or similar publications) thinks of when it comes to indie rock crossover success stories.

Their debut LP, "Oracular Spectacular," received rave reviews, sold well and won many a prestigious award. Who hasn't heard the three singles "Time to Pretend," "Electric Feel," and "Kids?" (well, probably a whole lot of the Earth's population... but no one who counts!)

They were even recognized in the notoriously unhip Grammy Awards. Now, like Vampire Weekend's "Contra," MGMT's upcoming sophomore album, "Congratulations," is getting more buzz than a swarm of bees singing back-up vocals on a Robert Pollard album.

Band member Ben Martin Goldwasser told NME that MGMT's main goal was to put out an LP that would be appreciated as a whole, rather than just for its singles. But will it hold up in a musical environment where so many listeners just download singles?

The day of reckoning is fast approaching. Critics are already more than satisfied, but it remains to be seen whether its reception will be as overwhelming this time around.

"Iron Man 2" - May 7

OK, so one can argue that the sequel to Marvel's 2008 critically acclaimed summer blockbuster is not literally about to drop. But its release is close enough to set comic book fans hairs on end, and that's what's important.

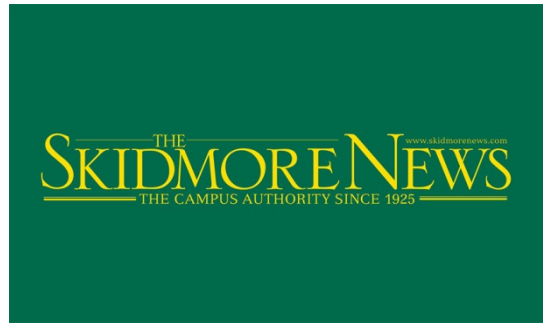
Jon Favreau remains at the helm and Robert Downey Jr. reprises his role as Tony Stark/Iron Man. The villain this time around is Micky Rourke as the golden avenger's antagonist, Whiplash, whose powers are pretty self-explanatory.

Scarlett Johansson plays femme fatale Black Widow, a sexy spy who is sure to give Gwyneth Paltrow's Pepper Potts a run for her money as Stark's love interest.

Samuel L. Jackson returns, hopefully for more than a cameo this time, as Nick Fury, director of top-secret government organization S.H.I.E.L.D., whose role in the Marvel movie universe is still not entirely clear.

Most exciting of all, Don Cheadle, as Stark's buddy Lt. Colonel James "Rhodey" Rhodes is set to don his War Machine armor this time around.

For those who don't know, War Machine is basically another armored hero, arguably even more awesome than Iron Man himself. He has big guns.



Make Falstaff's a bar

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

With the dissolution of Pavilion Corp. pending, the college should take the opportunity to make Falstaff's a distinctive social space in the form of a bar.

Due to a shockingly low participation in the vote to dissolve the Pavilion Corp. last semester, it seems that there is a general indifference to Falstaff's within the college community. Although it is a regular host for student bands performances, dances and other club functions, the space is not being utilized to its maximum potential. Originally intended to be a pub, Falstaff's should be reestablished as a bar and eatery to congregate students of all ages under one roof.

By turning Falstaff's into an on-campus bar, the college would be getting a wider range of use out of a space that has been very limited for the previous 20 years. A bar on campus would not only bring a stronger community atmosphere onto campus, but it would also provide a safer alternative to college students partaking in drunken mischief in the on-campus housing facilities or off-campus house parties. It would also relieve the risk of driving while intoxicated because students could easily walk back to their dorms or housing.

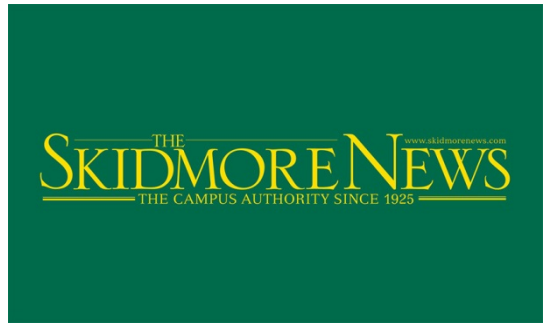
There are currently few places for students to socialize on campus. The Dining Hall is one, but people mostly leave after eating, and it closes early on weekend nights. The library is for work and Case Center offers little beyond coffee, couches and computers. There is no definitive social space on this campus.

Although it would be nice to pick up Falstaff's and transport it onto Case Green, that clearly isn't going to happen. As it sits, isolated among the trees, Falstaff's must be changed so that students feel the urge to go there. The best way to do that is to make it an attractive bar and coffee shop where seniors and first years alike can socialize.

To be sure, Falstaff's should not devolve into a permanent drinking hole where every student on this campus can drink, regardless of age. ID cards would have to be swiped before entering the bar area, and alcohol consumption would need to be carefully monitored. During the day, the space could be a coffee shop setting with tables and couches where students could go and relax either between classes, or at the end of a long day. Clubs could still use the space to host events, and the new style potentially could increase the attendance of these events.

This type of social space is not without precedent either. Other schools in our peer group, including Vassar and Connecticut College, have similar setups that are hugely popular among students of all years.

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If executed well, Falstaff's could become a social Mecca, where students could interact and relax with a hot cup o' Joe or a cold beer.

Tennis defeated in Fab 5 tourney

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

Despite two tough losses this weekend, the women's tennis team put up a good fight at the Fab Five tournament this past weekend.

The Division III tournament was held in Fredericksburg, Virginia and was hosted by the University of Mary Washington. The top teams in the country competed in the tournament. The Thoroughbreds, ranked No. 24, first played the No. 6 Washington and Lee Generals. The Thoroughbreds were defeated 7-2 by the Generals.

Senior Danika Robison and first year Nataly Mendoza won first doubles and junior Rachel Loeb won at second singles. Senior Laura Attley and first year Brittany Trimble also lost two single matches in the third set. "We lost 2-7, but it seemed a lot closer than that," Attley said. "We lost But it was a good match, everybody fought!" Mendoza said.

The Thoroughbreds next match was against the host Eagles, ranked No. 13. Skidmore lost 5-4 in a tough match. Trimble and Loeb won third doubles and Loeb second singles, Mendoza fourth singles and Trimble sixth singles won their matches.

Danika Robison was enthusiastic about the tournament. "Our team has been working really hard this year so it was exciting to see how far we've come, we proved that we are right there with some of the best D-III teams. It was a great opportunity this past weekend to play these teams, and we are excited to go into the toughest part of the season."

Sports wrap: Baseball team strikes out Vassar

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

Men's lacrosse

On March 24, the men's lacrosse team lost 15-9 to No. 9 Tufts in a game at Hofstra University.

At the end of the first quarter, senior attack Rob Lutin, senior middle Ernie Economidies and junior attack Matt Levesque scored one goal each in the last 37 seconds, giving Skidmore a 6-2 lead.

At the half, Skidmore was leading 9-7. However, once Tufts switched goalies at the half, Skidmore was unable to score again.

Lutin and Levesque both finished with three goals each. Senior Corey Barkoff finished with two goals and two assists. Senior goalie Flip Bonngaerts had nine saves.

Against Rensselaer on March 31, the Thoroughbreds lost 10-15.

The men's lacrosse team now holds a 4-3 record and will take on St. Lawrence University on April 3 at home.

Women's lacrosse

On March 28, the No. 6 Trinity defeated the women's lacrosse team 18-9 in Hartford, Conn.

The team's record now falls to 3-2.

The Bantams quickly stole a 2-point lead in the first half.

Over a 5-minute stretch, the Thoroughbreds answered back with three consecutive goals. After, Trinity went on a 9-0 run and trapped Skidmore.

Junior attack Lauren McCarthy contributed three goals and sophomore Lauren Madden contributed two. Skidmore goalkeeper sophomore Rachel Klein had eight saves.

The Thoroughbreds will host Union College on April 6 in Saratoga Springs.

Baseball

The men's baseball team won both games in a doubleheader against Vassar on March 28. The Thoroughbreds are now 10-4 overall and 3-2 in the Liberty League.

In the first game, Skidmore took a 1-point lead in the first inning. Vassar retaliated in the second inning with a pair of runs.

Scoring runs in the fourth and fifth innings, the Thoroughbreds held a 3-2 leads.

In the sixth, Vassar tied 3-3 with a two-out double and scored on a single.

In the bottom of the sixth, Skidmore scored three runs.

Senior Spencer Marcus improved to 4-0 with three runs on seven hits. Senior Anthony Ferri finished 3-3.

In the second game, Vassar stole a 2-0 lead in the fourth.

In the sixth, junior Zach Brown scored a two-out RBI triple to score sophomore Zack Rudman.

In the seventh, the Brewers improved to 3-1.

Senior Adam Cornachione scored a two-run double to tie the score in the eighth inning.

After Rudman was hit with a pitch in the ninth, first year Leejay Pollacchi came into pitch and stole the second. With a single to left center, first year Matty Tatkov gave the Thoroughbreds a 4-3 win.

Softball

In a non-conference double header against Utica College on March 28, the softball team lost the first game 2-3 and the second game 8-6.

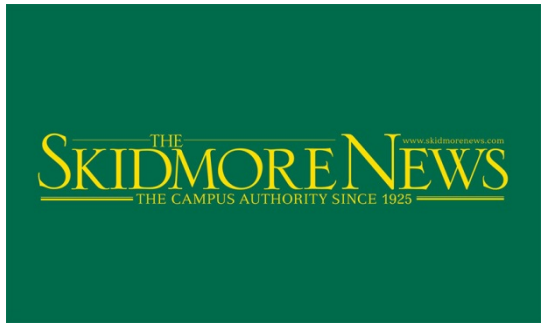
In the first game, both the Thoroughbreds and the Pioneers were scoreless for the first seven innings.

In the eighth inning, Utica put the score up to 2-0. Skidmore answered back when junior Derrin Jarvis walked to load the bases with two outs. Then, senior Lauren Dinsdale drove a single to center. Sophomore Christina Gargiso and first year Carol Brown tied the score 2-2.

In the tenth, the Pioneers took a 3-2 lead. For the rest of the game, Utica held on the close victory.

In the second game, the Pioneers took a 2-0 lead at the top of the first.

Skidmore then stole the lead 3-2 when Gargiso singled a home and Lauren Dinsdale and first year Julia Schwartz scored on an error.

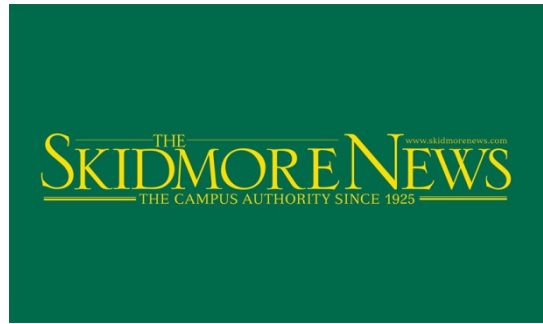


The Thoroughbreds scored a run in each of the next two innings.

Utica tied the score in the fifth inning with a RBI ground out. The Pioneers progressed to increase the score to 8-5.

At the bottom of the fifth, Jarvis contributed an RBI double.

After splitting a double header against Middlebury on March 31, the softball team now holds an 8-8 record.



How the healthcare bill affects you

What all students need to know about the recent legislation

By Adam Cohen

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

A new healthcare bill has been passed for the U.S., and in the spirit of bringing health-related news, I write this article.

Now, whether you support or oppose this new bill, there is at least one provision in the bill that most every college student should be pretty happy about. In Division A, Title 1, Section 105 of the bill, the provision states that healthcare of children who are dependents in their parents plans must be covered until the age of 26. This means that if we are currently covered under our parents' healthcare, we will automatically, by law, be covered by their healthcare plans until we hit the age of 27, when we will have to provide our own healthcare plans.

That's some pretty good news for us college students, who undoubtedly are swamped with other things to think about - schoolwork, internships and summer jobs, housing for next year and upcoming finals. This provision allows us to breathe a sigh of relief, although that sigh will only last us a few more years, until we have to become real people. But until then we should enjoy the fact that at least we've been spared this one burden, despite the politics attached.

Oh, and I almost forgot to mention another monumental part of this bill that is much less discussed - the education part! Provisions in the bill actually change the student loan process - another win for students. As a result, there is a restructuring of how student loans are handled by government. Basically, the new method streamlines the loan process by taking out the bank's role as middleman and puts the government in charge of federal student loans. This change is supposed to save more than \$60 billion over the next 10 years. I believe another sigh of relief is in order here.

So whether you like or dislike this bill as a whole, it's important to know at least two parts that directly affect a majority of college students nationwide. So when the going gets rough, as I'm sure it will in the near future, just remember that your physical and academic health, if nothing else, is being taken care of.

Abroad journal: musings from a London freshman

By Jazz Adam

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

I would argue that once one goes abroad, there is no way that he or she can ever truly come back. As soon as my abroad experience began, I was forced to recognize that my life would never be the same.

The most difficult immediate transitions were the time change and the food. The British are known for their cuisine - and not in a good way. But, to be honest, it wasn't as bad as people say. The problem with British food is the blandness - most of the food lacks flavor and variety, which is probably why it has such a bad reputation.

However, if not for London and its bland cuisine, I would have never tried Indian food. Indian food has basically become the national cuisine of London. There is a very visible population of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi citizens in London, and the influence makes dining in the city an enjoyable and eye-opening experience.

Though the food was easy to get used to, not every transition was simple. One phrase heard constantly during the London semester was "culture shock." I understand culture shock to mean that the new place you are in is an environment so different from your normal one that it freaks you out.

One of the most difficult aspects of the London culture shock was transportation. The language of the London commute can only be learned through experience. There is close to no conversation between passengers; the only sound heard is the roar of the engine, the computerized announcements and the occasional loud iPod headphones. The silence could be deafening, but it got easier as time went on.

In the long term, getting acclimated was actually much harder. One thing all London freshmen eventually had to realize was that we were studying in London - it was not just a school-sponsored vacation. Although I had visited London before, I was merely a tourist on a week-long adventure. The thought of being a citizen anywhere other than my hometown was incredibly foreign to me. However, the 30 of us had to learn how to be residents of London, and not just visitors.

Although we really did want to experience all that we could in our very short three month stay, it was nearly impossible as full-time students. It was hard for me to come to terms with the fact that I needed to sleep in some weekends instead of going out and experiencing the city. When it all came down to it, my academics had to take precedent over my cultural immersion.

Educationally, we were truly enriched by the amount we learned on site. In one class, we learned about the history of ethnicity in Britain. In the classroom, we learned about how ethnicity has influenced British politics, culture and society. However, as an added bonus, we took several field trips to different ethnic neighborhoods in London. These field trips were another incredible highlight of the trip.

There were so many mandatory field trips during the semester that we were almost forced to discover London. I remember the day we visited Stonehenge. It was a rainy Friday, and I remember thinking it was ridiculous for the faculty to expect us to go to Stonehenge during our weekend, especially given the inclement weather. Even though a hailstorm ensued, and I was under-dressed and exhausted, the bonding experience was priceless. I remember us all taking awkward pictures of each other struggling to pose in front of that famous monument. That was definitely the most fun I had, and will ever have, in a hailstorm.

After three months abroad, coming home took almost as much adjustment as the first few weeks in London did. I felt like we were very suddenly ripped out of London, even though the last day seemed to be looming for weeks. Though I had been homesick, and I knew it was time to leave, I couldn't help but think my life would never be the same.

Coming to Skidmore was difficult at first. There was so much pressure to branch out and, at the same time, there was pressure for the London freshmen to stick together. However, I have taken it day by day and, as the months have passed, I've grown to love Skidmore.

Whenever I see my London friends in the Dining Hall, or when we hang out in my room and talk about our days, and weeks and lives, they are casual reminders of how proud I am to have taken a leap of faith by sending myself out of the country for my first semester of college.

Students fated to a failing grade stand a chance

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Apr 2, 2010

The Committee on Educational Policy and Planning, along with additional committees, students, faculty and administration, has been discussing a revision to the college's grade appeal policy. After over two years talk, the faculty will vote on April 9 on a policy that would allow students to appeal a final failing grade that they believe was unfairly assigned.

Conflicting messages about whether final failing grades can be changed led to these discussions concerning the grade appeal policy. The Faculty Handbook states that a final failing grade may only be changed if a computational error has occurred. The Student Handbook outlines the same policy, but adds that if a student objects to a final failing grade he or she may lodge a complaint with the Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR). Although a student may bring a complaint to CAFR, the committee does not have the authority to change the grade.

"What I want to make very clear is that this is not the result of a rise in capricious grades or complaints," said CEPP chairwoman, Professor Erica Bastress-Dukehart.

On March 29, a draft of the Policy to Appeal a Final Failing Grade was sent to the student body through e-mail by Claire Solomon '10, Student Government Association vice-president for Academic Affairs and CEPP student representative. The main points of the policy state that if a student receives a final failing grade that he or she believes to be unfair, he or she has until two weeks after the start of the following semester to submit a written request to the faculty member. The student and faculty member should then meet to discuss the final grade.

If the student is unsatisfied with the conversation, he or she may move forward with the appeal process. The student must provide evidence of one or more of the following conditions to defend his or her appeal: "The instructor used inappropriate criteria in determining a final failing grade. The instructor assigned a grade on some basis other than performance in the course. The instructor did not adhere to stated procedures or grading standards."

The student must report the grievance in writing to the department chair or program director. If the department chair also happens to be the faculty member that the complaint is being lodged against, this step in the appeal process would be omitted. If the department chair or program director decides that

there is a case, the appeal is brought to the dean of Faculty Advising and the associate dean for Faculty Advising.

"The policy gives students a lot of time to think about whether they want to bring a complaint, because we know that it's a scary thing to lodge a complaint. It also gives them time to have a conversation with faculty. Our hope is, of course, that that's where it will end. That the faculty can explain the grade and that the student and faculty can have a conversation. If it doesn't end there, then the process moves pretty quickly to make sure that the student's complaint is heard and that the faculty is heard," Bastress-Dukehart said.

If the appeal process is fully carried out, the faculty members of the CAS may vote on whether or not to change the grade to a Satisfactory. The majority of CAS must vote in favor of changing the final failing grade in order for the change to happen.

Collaboration has been a key aspect in drafting the proposal, bringing the motion to the faculty in March, and calling the vote. "It's a good example of shared governance between faculty, administration and students," Solomon said.

CEPP has engaged in communication with administration, department chairs, the Skidmore Legal Council and the SGA Academic Council, as well as other committees, organizations and individuals. "We have tried to collaborate with every group that has an interest in this policy. Every single group that we've spoken to has helped us to shape this," Bastress-Dukehart said.

Students have also had a role in shaping this proposal. Student concerns about how the appeal process would work if they study abroad or if their faculty member went on leave are both addressed in the policy proposal. "Students have been engaged with this process from the very beginning. They're thoughtful, they're interested, they've helped us to rethink some issues," Bastress-Dukehart said.

On March 29, CEPP held an open forum inviting students to discuss the proposed policy. Approximately 22 students were in attendance, including members of the Academic Council. "There could have been a bigger turn out, but good questions were asked," said Rob Campbell '10, an Academic Council member.

Opinions on the proposed policy differ amongst students and faculty. "I think that the policy is really good. I was pretty appalled that we didn't have anything already in place. It doesn't go as far as it could, but it's a good step toward more student academic rights. I also see how it protects faculty from having outrageous claims made against them," Campbell '10 said.

Some faculty members are skeptical as to whether the policy will have enough votes to pass on April 9. "It's a big change for Skidmore. It's a big change for us to have a policy that could potentially lead to a

faculty member's grade being changed by another faculty committee. I certainly hope that it will go through. I think it's good for Skidmore. I think it's good for everyone, but I'm not going to say that it is or isn't going to happen on Friday," Bastress-Dukehart said. If the policy is passed on April 9, it will be put into effect for the fall.

There are hopes that passing the Policy to Appeal a Final Failing Grade will increase communication between students and faculty. "We hope that students will see this policy as a last resort, but that it will also give them confidence to talk to their faculty about how they're doing in their classes. Our biggest hope is that this policy never gets used, that no student at Skidmore is ever graded unfairly," Bastress-Dukehart said.

A gene, a disease, a lawsuit

By Alex Brehm

On Sat, Apr 3, 2010

On Monday, a federal judge ruled that Myriad Genetics, a pharmaceutical company, can no longer hold its patents on human genes BRCA1 and BRCA2.

Various companies already hold patents on about 20 percent of human genes, but with the new ruling, patents on any sort of gene may soon be annulled.

Step back for a moment. Scratch your arm. Run your tongue between your teeth and your cheek. Consider the cells that flaked off of your arms or rubbed onto your tongue. Consider every cell in your body - skin, liver, heart, brain, blood coursing through your vessels, nerve cells firing electricity and spewing message chemicals.

Inside each is your DNA, your most profound fingerprint, demarking you from any other living organism, directing your life and growth since you were, essentially, a single cell in your mother's womb.

According to American patent law, pharmaceutical companies own a fifth of the DNA in every human being.

The components of your full set of DNA are your genes; every gene specifies some trait you possess, which are usually observable: eye color, height, metabolism, disease. Pharmaceutical companies patent genes because the patents give them exclusive rights to experiment with the genes and develop new medicines. As long as the companies can demonstrate a process that isolates the gene from the human body's other DNA, U.S. patent offices will generally grant them the patent.

The genes that code for disease are the ones that get attention. Statistical research has established that certain genes greatly increase your risk for diseases. They are designated by a codename of letters and numbers. One, called ApoE (pronounced ay-poh-EE) has a variant, ApoE 4, that increases your risk for Alzheimer's disease. The genes in the Myriad Genetics case, BRCA1 and BRCA2, increase your risk of breast cancer.

You inherit genes in pairs, one from your mother and one from your father. It's possible, for example, to inherit ApoE4 from one parent and not the other. Such people will have about a 65 percent chance of getting Alzheimer's.

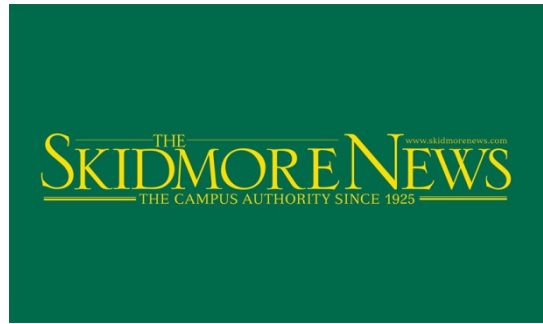
However, if you have two ApoE4 genes, one from each parent, you instead have a 95 percent chance of Alzheimer's and a 95 percent chance of heart disease. Women who have either BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations have an 85 percent chance of getting breast cancer.

Recently, several companies began offering genetic decoding services to the public, telling you what genes you have and whether they indicate any diseases; deCODEme, for example, asks you to swab your cheek and send the sample in the mail. (\$500 for a cardio scan, \$500 dollars for a cancer scan, \$2,000 for a complete scan including neurological conditions. Another business, 23andMe, offers a health scan for about \$400.) After the tests, the company sends you back a full report on the genes it examined. If your test comes back positive, for instance, for two genes of ApoE4, you're 95 percent likely to get Alzheimer's. Simple as that.

Consider the power of that information. Parents in their 40s who mail out the cheek swab and wait 30 business days could find out that they have 30 years before they won't remember the faces of their children. In the meantime, they can worry about whether their children have the genes, too. Would you want to get tested knowing that might be your result?

Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies actually own these segments of our DNA, preventing anyone but them from studying the genes or designing treatments for their effects - decoding services do not violate the patents. The recent case, detailed on Tuesday in the New York Times, is a major decision. It gives lawyers a case to stand upon when arguing for the repeal of patents on genes. That means we can all feel a little freer, and we can expect to see numerous laboratories get to work on fighting genetic diseases.

Alex Brehm is sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.



Car accident on campus

Official statement from Dean of Student Affairs

On Sun, Apr 4, 2010

To the Campus Community:

I am writing to let you know of a car accident that occurred on campus on Saturday night, April 3, at approximately 11:30. Two Skidmore students struck a guardrail on the road leading to the Northwoods Apartments, causing their car to flip and roll over. One student was taken to Saratoga Hospital and the other to Albany Memorial Hospital. Despite the severity of the car wreck, neither of the students received life-threatening injuries, and we are thankful for that.

I want to extend special thanks to our Campus Safety, Residential Life, and Health Services personnel and to the Saratoga Springs Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services. Their timely response and expertise were crucial to handling the situation in the most effective way possible.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Calhoun

Dean of Student Affairs

The anniversary of relativity

By Alex Brehm

On Thu, Apr 8, 2010

This Saturday, April 11, is the 105th anniversary of Albert Einstein first revealing his Theory of Special Relativity.

At the beginning of the 20th century, scientists mostly thought that physics, as a science, was complete. All of the major fields of study of that time had been finished: the motion of the planets had been worked out, ideas of mechanics like friction and kinetic energy were clearly defined and measured, electricity had been harnessed, quantified and applied in lighting and heating. Physics was pretty much done. From then on, physicists thought their only research would be to get better and better estimates of nature's features, like Earth's gravitational pull or the speed of light.

But they were wrong. As scientists studied light's speed, they found it didn't follow their predictions. That led to the Theory of Special Relativity, which led to much of the Between the 16th and 19th centuries, it was thought that light traveled through the "luminiferous ether." The ether supposedly carried light as air carries sound: light is given off from some source, is carried by the ether and shines over wherever it ends up.

Physicists thought that light would obey a basic law of relative motion: If you move towards a light source, you'll measure light's speed as a little faster. If you move away, your measurement will be slower. If you throw a ball from a moving train, it flies faster than it would if you threw it while standing still - it's the same idea. But light always traveled at the same speed. Whether researchers measured light from a lamp standing still, a lamp on a train going 80 mph, or light reflected from a nearby planet, it was always moving at 300 million meters per second, or 670 million mph. This shouldn't be.

Why does light break the rules? Einstein was the first to begin answering the question. The Theory of Special Relativity is based on the idea of reference frames. If you're moving at a certain speed, you're in one frame of reference, and if you're moving at a different speed, you're in another. Reference frames are based on your motion. Relativity is based on two postulates.

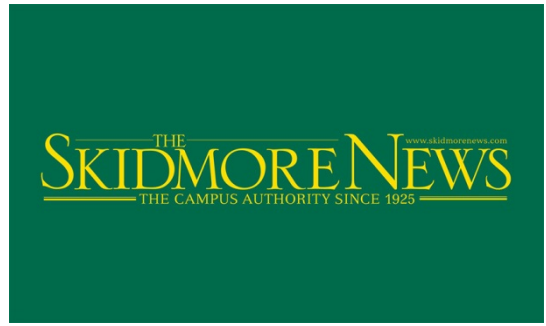
First, objects traveling in the same reference frame will observe the same phenomena, but objects traveling in different reference frames will observe them differently. For example, say there are two race cars on a track, and you're standing still to measure their speed. To you, No. 1 is traveling at 100 mph, and No. 2 is traveling at 200 mph. But if Car 2 measures you, standing still, and Car 1, and if Car 2

compares your speeds, it will say Car 1 is only traveling at 99 mph. As you move faster and approach light speed, objects moving slower than you seem to move even slower. Second, light travels at the same speed, regardless of reference frame. It doesn't follow the same rules as the race cars. And if Cars 1 and 2 each had sensors to measure the speed of a beam of light on the track, they'd all get the same reading.

As you move faster, time and distance change for you. Distances get shorter, and time gets longer. This is why one car gets a different reading for the other's speed, though no one has produced a decent reason for it. At high speeds, time and distance change so radically that they stop you from reaching light speed. (Not to disappoint Star Trek fans.)

Einstein's theory opened up new doors on the study of light. By extending his postulates, physicists observed the structure of the atom, discovered light was carried by particles they called photons and explained the photoelectric effect, the theory behind solar panels. Relativity is the reason for ideas of nuclear fission and fusion. It's behind our latest concepts of time travel and the atomic bomb. The text of "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies" is available at <http://www.fourmilab.ch/etexts/einstein/specrel/www/>

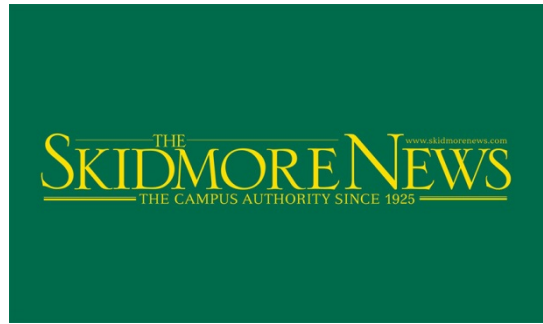
Alex Brehm is sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.



Weekend on the Green

By Lauren Elsner

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010



Indie band to play Red Square, Albany

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

On April 14, Surprise Me Mr. Davis will play at the Red Square in Albany, the second show of a two-week tour that starts in Boston and ends in New Orleans.

Surprise Me Mr. Davis formed out of the wings of indie avant-rock band The Slip and folk-rock band The MuseMeant in 2003.

The Slip, featuring guitarist Brad Barr, bassist Marc Friedman and drummer Andrew Barr, formed in Boston in 1996. Slowly, over the course of 10 years, the band became one of the definitive indie avant-rock acts, playing with the likes of My Morning Jacket, festivals like Bonnaroo and even making an appearance on Conan.

The Slip evolved its sound during those 10 years, going from a purely post-rock and jazzy mix to something more akin to the angular and atmospheric rock of bands like Spoon and Broken Social Scene.

The MuseMeant, a Portland based band featuring an acoustic roots sound spun in earthy psychedelic overtones, features lead singer Nathan Moore.

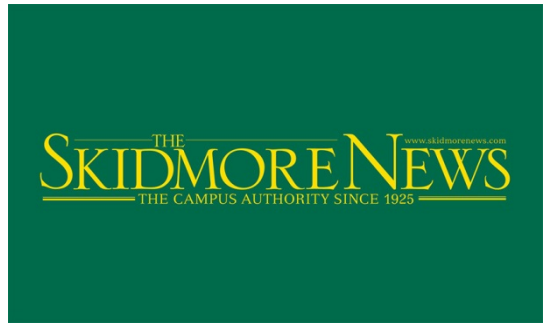
Also a solo artist in his own right, it was when the directors of the High Sierra Music Festival decided to host a show of Nathan Moore backed by The Slip, that Surprise Me Mr. Davis was born.

Later in the year, Moore visited the members of The Slip in Boston, getting snowed in during a massive blizzard. The fledgling group decided to make the best of things and started laying down the home demos that would become its debut EP, "Only in Montreal."

Now the four (Natham Moore and the three members of The Slip) have been joined by the tremendous talent of keyboardist Marco Benevento and form a formidable five piece.

Not surprisingly, the band has elements of its members' other projects. The more subdued folk of Moore's playing is lifted and expanded by The Slip's full body sound, though the members do strip things down as on the country ballad "Sleepyhead."

New single "I'm No Good At All" actually starts like a punk song, before morphing into a country rocker built on drum-line snare rolls. This kind of buoyancy is a common thread in the band's music.

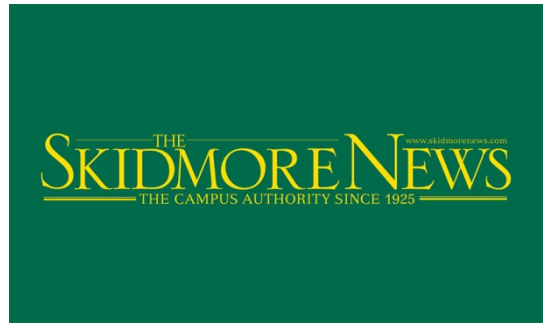


The band has a highly versatile sound. Minor hit, "I Hate Love," finds Nathan Moore sounding vocally like a cross between the countryman warble of Tom Petty and the delivery of Van Morrison on a track that carries the wide-eyed sing-along of late '60s and early '70s feel good rock with a modern indie sensibility.

The song represents the best combination of each member's strengths, towing the perfect line between some more experimental flourishes and classic four-chord songwriting.

The tour is in support of the band's new EP, "That Man Eats Morning for Breakfast," which is the first to feature Benevento.

The group will also play a slew of summer dates across the U.S., including the High Sierra Music Festival, where it first came together seven years ago.



Child in need, a friend in deed

By Jean-Ann Kubler

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

Saturday afternoons in the Case Center's Saratoga Room are often bursting with people who seem just a little too young to be on a college campus. These youngsters are participants in "Saturdays at Skidmore," and are part of an ongoing collaboration between the campus and Saratoga Mentoring.

Saturdays at Skidmore began in 2006, but the relationship between the college community and the mentoring program has been alive since Saratoga Mentoring was established 18 years ago.

The Saturday program was instituted as a response to an overwhelming amount of student interest in becoming mentors to local children in need. Many of the interested students did not have cars on campus, so getting to the home of a mentee or taking him or her out was nearly impossible.

To remedy the transportation problem, the heads of Saratoga Mentoring and the Skidmore Community Service office worked together to bring the mentees to the mentors once a week.

The on-campus program runs from noon to 3 p.m. Students are dropped at Case Center along with staff from Saratoga mentoring. Group activities like arts and crafts are set up in the Saratoga Room, but the mentors also have the chance to show the kids around the campus, bring them to campus events or just hang out with them on the green when it's nice out.

Dining Services also helps support the program by providing free meals to mentees while they are on campus.

"Everyone on campus is incredibly supportive," said Michelle Hubbs, director of Community Service Programs, "For many of the kids, the meals they eat in the Dining Hall on Saturdays are the best they have all week."

The main goal of the mentoring program is to provide local children with role models and opportunities that they would not have without their mentors' help.

Every child involved in the program must be somehow in need. This often means financial need; many of the participants live below the poverty line and are from single parent households.

Sometimes, however, there is no financial need in the home, but the family has five or six children, so extra help is needed to give the children the attention they deserves.

There has also been an increase in children whose primary guardians are their grandparents. When grandparents are raising young children, it can often be difficult to do simple things that younger guardians would be able to do with them, such as going to playgrounds.

The common thread between the situations of all children involved in the program is that there is a void that needs to be filled, and Skidmore mentors are more than willing to help, if just for a few hours each week.

Matt Cowe '11 has worked with his mentee Gavin since January 2009, and has found the experience worthwhile and rewarding.

"The objective is to be a role model for him, and to let him relax and have fun. He teaches me about Star Wars and how to make castles out of mats, and I try to get him into neuroscience and art. It works sometimes," Cowe said.

To become a mentor, there is a thorough screening process which includes an application, interview and criminal background check.

"We also Google everyone," said Saratoga Mentoring Director Brenda Schin. "Just in case something comes up that's suspicious. We cover all of our bases."

The process may seem a little tedious, but most mentors are approved quickly and put on the waiting list for a mentee.

Not every mentor from the college is involved through the Saturdays at Skidmore program. Students able to provide their own transportation often become mentors and meet with their mentee on their own time.

Many classes offer service learning credit to students who become mentors, and social work majors often have internships with the program. Members of Honors Forum also frequently complete their citizenship projects through Saratoga Mentoring.

There are currently 22 Skidmore students working with Saratoga Mentoring.

There's a one year commitment required from anyone interested in becoming a mentor. Most students end up maintaining relationships with their mentees for longer than the contract requires.

"We have lots of students who become mentors when they're freshman, and keep the same mentee until they graduate four years later," Schin said. "When the relationships do end, it is often because of circumstances out of the hands of the mentor or mentee."

The retention rate is not surprising to the current mentors, who find the experience to be as much a gift to them as it is to the mentees.

"The girls and boys in this program do not enjoy the fruits of privilege like many here at Skidmore. In that sense, it is equally valuable for the mentors. Engaging a child or a teenager, even for three hours a week, is an ongoing lesson in patience and empathy," Cowe said.

Though being a mentor is a challenge and a huge commitment, it's worth the energy, according to Cowe. "I usually have to take a nap after Gavin leaves, but it's challenging and rewarding and a lot of kids could use a buddy."

To become involved with Saratoga Mentoring, contact Michelle Hubbs (mhubbs@skidmore.edu) or visit their Web site at www.saratogamentoring.org

'Mass Effect 2' hits 360

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

"Mass Effect," released in May of 2008, took the Bioware formula, which consists of nuanced interaction with NPCs, light role playing elements and fighting, all in service to a great story, to a whole new level.

Set in an original sci-fi universe, Mass Effect took the best elements of past Bioware titles and spliced them together into an epic experience on par with Star Wars in its ability to evoke a sense of wonder.

That being said, it was also plagued by many of the problems that the developer is known for: generic combat, various bugs/crashes and, worst of all, ill-conceived features thrown in for the sake of variety, which serve to bog down an otherwise top-notch gaming experience.

Mass Effect 2 does a great deal to remedy these problems, especially the shooting mechanics, which now involve a cover system similar to that found in "Gears of War," and better enemy A.I. Biotics (put simply: powers) and special abilities are significantly more varied and easy to upgrade.

Sidequests vary significantly in quality, but this time around they are more fleshed out than simply walking into a room and blasting enemies.

Some gamers have griped that Bioware has toned down the RPG elements present in the first "Mass Effect."

While a lack of customization options, such as the ability to outfit Shepard and his squad with weapons and armor, is slightly disappointing, it is arguably consistent with the spirit of Mass Effect and Bioware in general, which places a greater emphasis on making moral choices and interacting with characters more than the looting and leveling found in other RPGs.

Still, a slew of flaws continue to mar an otherwise superb experience. Many gamers took issue with the mundane planetary exploration in the original Mass Effect, which involved cruising around monotonous locales in an ill-controlling vehicle called the MAKO to harvest patches of minerals for no real purpose.

The MAKO has now been replaced with a slightly less tedious system in which the player drags a cursor over a planet's surface and periodically launches probes from Shepard's ship, the Normandy, to harvest mineral deposits. While tolerable at first, the player is forced to spend big chunks of time doing this in order to purchase necessary upgrades for the Normandy.

If Bioware cannot come up with a way to make resource-gathering fun, then perhaps they should leave it out of "Mass Effect 3."

If Mass Effect was an epic space opera in the vein of Star Wars, Mass Effect 2 is structurally much more akin to a sci-fi series like "Star Trek."

After dying a heroic death when his ship is attacked by a mysterious vessel, the protagonist, commander Shepard, is brought back to life by Cerberus, a clandestine paramilitary group devoted to representing the interests of humanity above all else, even if doing so entails some less-than-moral practices.

The organization's leader, the Illusive Man, informs Shepard that in the time since his "death," the Alliance and the Council (basically the government) have denied the existence of the Reapers, a race of sentient ships that emerge periodically from black space to harvest all sentient life.

Worse, The Collectors, responsible for the destruction of Shepard's ship, have begun to abduct entire human colonies at the behest of the Reapers for some unknown.

Truth be told, the "main story" in Mass Effect 2 is rather pedestrian, lacking the compelling villains and exciting twists of its predecessor. If the player chooses only to undertake mandatory missions, he or she will miss out on the best the game has to offer.

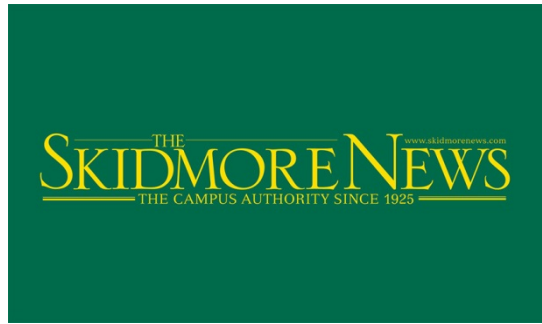
Each of your squad members, provided you take the time to converse with them aboard "The Normandy," has a distinctive personality and an intriguing backstory. Spend enough time getting to know them and they will request your assistance in a personal matter.

These self-contained loyalty missions all culminate in a difficult moral choice that you, as squad leader, must make. The choices, while fun at first, get a bit repetitive, but the stories and dialogue maintain a consistently high level of quality. Each character has enough depth and potential for his or her own story.

As Shepard assists his companions, he and the player will become better acquainted with the various locales, species and events of the Mass Effect Universe.

Mass Effect 2, like its predecessor, is a must-buy for fans of the first title and RPGs in general. It is also action-packed enough to appeal to shooter fans who have the patience and interest to appreciate its superb plot, characters and backstory.

If Bioware combines the strengths of the first two Mass Effects, in terms of both plot and features, then the final installment in the trilogy may well deserve the distinction "best action-RPG of all time."



The Gorillaz storm the shores with new release

By Wyatt Erchak,
On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

What is to be said of the concept of a virtual band? Is it a fascinating form of artistic expression, a detached form of popular entertainment or both?

The idea is not a new one; novelty acts and TV groups have been around for quite some time. Stretching back to the 1950s with Alvin and the Chipmunks, and later with Josie and the Pussycats, the term also has connections to such acts as The Monkees. But it didn't become a popular designation until the formation of the British group Gorillaz.

Created in 1998 when Damon Albarn of influential, multi-platinum Britpop band Blur met comic artist Jamie Hewlett, the two created a cartoon band as a way to comment on the lack of substance in pop music.

Joining forces with a bevy of artists such as rapper Del tha Funkee Homosapien, they released their self-titled debut album in 2001. The album quickly became popular, driven by hit singles such as "Clint Eastwood," going on to sell millions of copies worldwide.

A collection of B-sides, aptly titled G-Sides, was released later the same year, and the group embarked on touring and studio work for the next few years. In 2005 the group released Demon Days, its second studio album. While selling slightly less than its debut, the album was still immensely popular, again driven by huge singles like "Feel Good Inc."

The success of the band's music so far led to a worldwide tour featuring holographic images of the band. In 2007, Gorillaz began working on its next project titled Carousel, which would become its third studio album Plastic Beach. The LP, which deals loosely with ecological themes, was released March 3.

Opening with a beautiful orchestral piece, which indeed evokes the image of a futuristic beach, the record truly begins on "Welcome to the World of the Plastic Beach." Ambient and thick slow trance flows along as Snoop Dogg delivers a cool spoken word verse: "The revolution will be televised/and the pollution from the ocean/now with devotion/push peace and keep it in motion."

"White Flag" begins and ends with wonderful Middle Eastern instrumentation (courtesy of the Lebanese National Orchestra). However the middle is simplistic hip-hop, sporting only a few beeps and blips.

Bouncy, light guitars pluck away among the synths on "Rhinestone Eyes," where Albarn's vocals are the spotlight and the music picks up energy as it goes on.

"Stylo," a danceable synth-pop number, includes cluttered but great singing by Bobby Womack, and a minimalist Mos Def. The strange and choppy "Superfast Jellyfish" sees the return of De La Soul, who appeared on Gorillaz second album. The song's point is hard to decipher, but it's fun nonetheless.

Beautiful and whimsical, "Empire Ants" is a true standout. Guitars and pianos fall like a soft rain over an ethereal soundscape, later turning into a lush and overpowering pop march. Albarn displays some of his best singing here, his lyrics imaginatively obscure and trippy: "And if the whole world is crashing down on you/fall through space out of mind again/where the emptiness we leave behind on warm air rising/lose all the shadows far away."

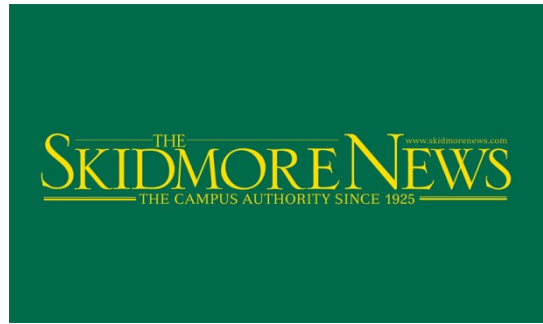
The energetic, wavy electronic noise of "Glitter Freeze" contains vocals from The Fall's Mark Smith, though his contributions are unnecessary, the schizophrenic song being better suited as an instrumental. Minimalism reigns supreme on "Some Kind of Nature," where a half-asleep Lou Reed drags the song to an early death. "On Melancholy Hill," ironically, is a cheery and full pop song, and Albarn's muffled voice sounds as if it is emanating from underneath the ocean.

Spooky and dragging organs form a perfect backdrop for a haunted Albarn on "Broken." His lyrics are appropriately unsettling: "Distant stars come in black or red/I've seen their worlds/inside my head." Messy and offbeat, "Sweepstakes" is ignorable, with Mos Def spouting seemingly meaningless words. The awesomely layered, brilliantly sung and lofty-sounding title track serves to recapture lost momentum

The relaxed pop of "To Binge" sees Albarn's vocals take a more melancholy turn: "I'm caught again in the mystery/you're by my side but are you still with me?"

Ambience again returns on "Cloud of Unknowing," long sections of gorgeous instrumentation providing a perfect segue into the closing track, "Pirate Jet." It's a steady and off-kilter stomp, and Albarn ends the album with deadpan environmental lyrics: "It's all good news now/because we left the taps running for a hundred years." It's an odd way to end a somewhat odd album, but it works. Despite some weak songs and sporadic inconsistency, "Plastic Beach" succeeds as yet another quirky and creative Gorillaz album.

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



At The Drive-In, everybody knows your name

Local movie rental store offers a cheers-esque environment

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

In the mid-1990s, a 6-year-old me would often head over to the local movie rental spot with the folks, usually to rent a game or two on the weekends. Others would use the store for their "Land Before Time" slumber parties. Regardless of the varied purposes, the store was usually the same: The Drive-In.

One of the few constant businesses operating on the strip of shops in the oft-overlooked section of Broadway past the intersection of Crescent Street, it has been a staple of local folks since it first opened in 1990.

Its commercials were notoriously goofy, and the phrase, "I'm heading to the Drive-In," was frequent on Friday and Saturday nights. But those were the good old days, and now I'm renting season DVDs of "The Wire" at the humble shop located at 170 South Broadway, which continues chugging along in the age of downloads and Netflix.

Entering the cinema-style movie poster adorned shop, you'll likely hear and see the amiable chatter of customers and staff. One man, a regular, was somewhat crazily explaining his scientific gambling strategies while scratching away at a lottery ticket, as the Assistant Manager David Wright chuckled.

"We pride ourselves on getting to know our customers firsthand," Wright said.

It shows. Friendly and familiar customers come in and out, some just to say hi, which Dave actively encourages, explaining the store's goal of being a place where everyone knows your name, a la "Cheers."

The Drive-In offers rentals of all sorts of movies, old and new alike, as well as more adult-themed pictures and (of course) video games and consoles. It also sells pre-viewed and new movies, the latter of which have seen an increase in business lately.

While it began as just a movie-rental store, the business now serves multiple purposes. From popcorn, hats and snacks, to drinks, shirts and cigarettes, "The Drive-In" functions as a sort of bodega-style store in the community.

Special offers are its specialty; on Monday and Tuesday, you can get two new releases for five days and five nights. If the releases aren't new, then you can rent one and get a second free.

Additionally, the store can order movies for you, and it accepts all competitors' coupons, even if they are expired. Speaking of competitors: the Drive-In is soon to be Spa City's only movie rental spot, with Hollywood Video going out of business and Blockbuster being located out in Wilton.

The store's (and the rental industry in general's) main competition is inevitably services such as Netflix, which offers unlimited rentals for a monthly flat-fee, and downloads from the ceaselessly amazing and ever-expanding Internet. Wright, who appreciates Netflix, stressed that it just doesn't provide the same kind of interaction or immediate satisfaction that a store provides its customers.

"You don't get the lovely people to talk to," remarked Eric Brown, a regular at the store, adding, "I like helping local business...I have an interest in helping the community."

Fortunately for the store, and perhaps indicative of a new trend, it's seeing a lot of new customers and old regulars returning. "We want to stay open for the customers," Wright proudly told me.

Instead of downloading movies for free, head down to the Drive-In. It's cheap, friendly and, most of all, will never let you down. While it's possible the store may not have the specific movie you're looking for, in all likelihood it will and you will have a good time picking it up. Of interest to Skiddies is the added fact that the shop carries many movies relative to class subjects, and it takes the SkidCard.

Do yourself a favor and make the trip; you have nothing to lose, and will likely regain that nostalgic feeling of renting a movie for the night.

The Drive-In is open from 9:30 a.m. until midnight, seven days a week.

Sports Wrap: Men's lax breaks St. Lawrence's 32-game league winning streak

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

Women's tennis

On April 4, the women's tennis team fell 6-3 to the College of New Jersey and took a 6-3 win over Swarthmore.

Against TCNJ, junior Rachel Loeb, senior Laura Attley and sophomore Tory Engros won all of their singles matches.

Against Swarthmore, Loeb won 6-0, 6-4 in No. 2 doubles. Engros picked up a 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 5 singles. In No. 2 doubles, Engros and Attley won 8-2.

Loeb and first year Brittany Trimble won 8-6 No. 3 doubles. In the two matches, Loeb and Engros both finished 3-1.

The women's tennis team will host St. Lawrence on April 10 and Vassar on April 11.

Men's Tennis

On Saturday, the men's tennis team beat Hobart 8-1 in Geneva.

At No. 1 singles, sophomore Luke Granger won 6-2, 7-6. Granger and sophomore Max Beavan combined to win 8-2 in No. 2 doubles.

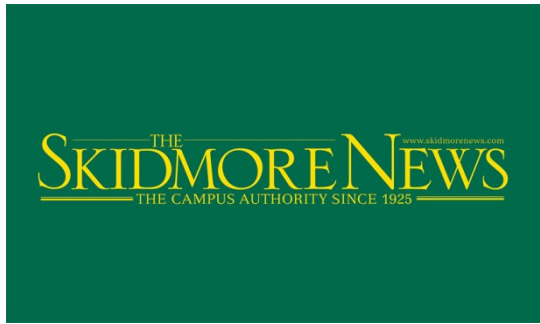
At No. 1 doubles, juniors Spencer Cheng and Lorenzo Cabrera won 9-8. In No. 2 singles, Cheng won 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. At No. 3 singles, Cabrera was victorious 7-6, 2-6, 6-3.

On April 10, the men's tennis team will host St. Lawrence.

Men's lacrosse

On April 3, the men's lacrosse team defeated St. Lawrence, breaking their 32-game league win streak.

The Thoroughbreds improve to 5-3 overall and 1-1 in the Liberty League.



Skidmore dominated the Saints with four goals in the first quarter and one in the second quarter. Senior Rob Lutin had two goals and two assists, and first year Bryan Connolly and sophomore Sam Dickey both scored as well.

In the second half, St. Lawrence was able to get on the board. Skidmore responded with goals from first year Mike Holden and junior Matt Levesque. St. Lawrence scored within 3 minutes, putting the score at 7-2.

At 8:26, the score was 9-7. Connolly contributed his third goal of the game to give Skidmore a 3-point lead.

In the final minutes, Skidmore's defense loosened, and St. Lawrence managed to score two more.

With 16 seconds left, senior goalie Flip Bongaerts stopped a shot from the Saint's Scott Smith to leave the final score at 10-9.

On April 13, Skidmore will take on Middlebury College.

Golf

In the Yale Invitational on Sunday, April 4, the golf team placed sixth of 12 teams. Skidmore played Division I teams in the 36-hole, one day tournament.

After the first 18 holes, Skidmore was second behind Sacred Heart by two strokes. Shooting a 73-72-145, senior Chris DeJohn came in sixth place. Senior Brendan Singleton tied for 16th shooting a 73-76-149.

This weekend, Skidmore will host the Palamountain Invitational at Saratoga National on Sunday and at McGregor Links on Monday.

Women's lacrosse

On April 6, the women's lacrosse team fell to No. 13 Union in a tight 14-12 game. Skidmore is 4-3 overall and 0-1 in league play.

Late in the first half, the Dutchwomen took a 5-2 lead, before junior Kimberly Segalas scored twice in 27 seconds to cut the lead to 5-4.

Union started the second half with two more goals. Junior Lindsay Stavola cut the deficit to three at 23:46. Then at 18:50, sophomore Lauren Madden scored a goal to put the score at 8-6. Union scored six more goals to give themselves a 14-8 lead with 8:32 left.

The Thoroughbreds got back in the game scoring four straight goals. The Dutchwomen, however, were able to run out the clock and secure the win.

On April 9, Skidmore will play Rensselaer at home.

Softball

On Wednesday afternoon, the softball team swept Sage College 3-0, 7-5. The Thoroughbreds improved their record to 10-8.

In the first game, the Thoroughbreds earned all three runs in the bottom of the first. Sophomore pitcher Sam Crose fanned 12 and scattered four hits.

First year Julia Schwartz scored the first run on an RBI double for the Thoroughbreds. Skidmore gained two more on a two-RBI double from Cora Crafts.

In the second game, Sage opened up a 3-0 lead in the top of the first.

In the top of the second, the Gators earned another run. Skidmore then got a pair of runs in the bottom of the second. Sage got another run and took a 5-2 lead. At the bottom of the fourth inning, the Thoroughbreds tied the score at 5-5.

The tie was broken in the bottom of the sixth with two RBI singles to give the Skidmore the win.

The softball team will return to action on April 9 in a non-conference doubleheader against SUNY Cobleskill.

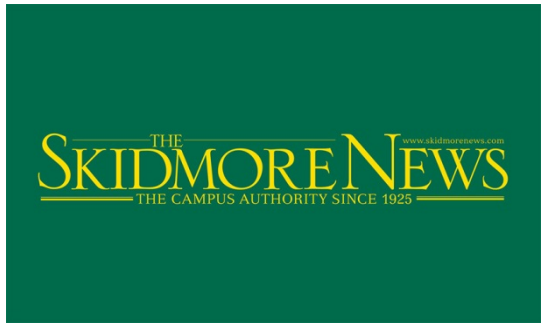
Baseball

On April 3, the baseball team took a 2-0, 2-1 sweep over Clarkson. In the first game, senior Spencer Marcus tossed a two-hit shut out in the victory. With 15 career victories, he became Skidmore's all-time win leader.

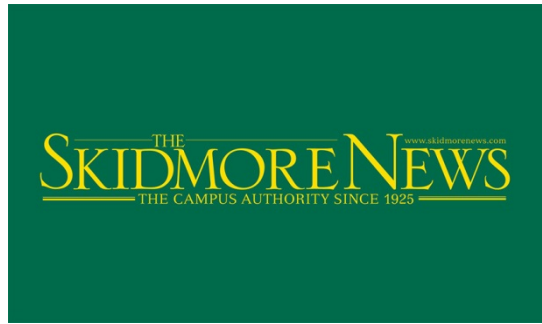
First year Leejay Pollacchi scored the game's first run on a balk, and sophomore Brian Lowry plated senior Jake Mendell on a sacrifice fly.

In the second game, Derek Stork allowed only three hits. Senior Matt Pisani score two runs to get the 2-1 victory.

The men's baseball team will host St. Lawrence at 1 p.m. on April 10.



Compiled by Lauren Sager



'L-Word' star shines for Skidmore Pride Alliance lecture

By Jean-Ann Kubler

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

On April 5, "The L-Word" star Daniela Sea addressed an audience in Gannett Auditorium regarding transgender issues.

"Daniela Sea is a self-declared weirdo," said the Skidmore Pride Alliance representative who introduced her.

The lecture was entitled "Vagabond Expressions: Explorations in Gender, Acting, and Activism." After the introduction, Sea came out from behind the video screen, placed a blanket on the stage and kneeled on it. She proceeded to take a few trinkets out of a box and arranged them on a stool next to her.

"These are tokens and keepsakes from my life and my travels. Taking them with me makes everywhere feel a little more like home," Sea said.

Sea explained that she is very shy. "One of my least favorite things to do is talk about myself, but it's important sometimes and not always egotistical," Sea said.

Reflecting on her childhood, Sea talked about her ostracism from those who lived in the extremely capitalist, Reagan-era Los Angeles.

While playing a slideshow of pictures from her youth, Sea said, "I felt that my differences had a lot more to do with my experiences of the world than it did with just being a tomboy."

Flipping through pictures on the projector, Sea stopped at one of her and her brother dressed up as California gold miners playing in the backyard of her childhood home. "I always expressed myself through characters and I guess that has never stopped. The lines between reality and fantasy are pretty blurry in my mind," Sea said.

Not fitting in and having the desire to be someone she couldn't be in Los Angeles prompted Sea to leave home at the age of 16. She moved to San Francisco where she lived with her boyfriend at the time.

While in San Francisco, she began playing with a punk band and developed an interest in activism. "I was 19 and punk rock was incredibly influential in finding myself and in being able to come to terms with my sexuality and come out," Sea said.

Sea began living communally with her band while on tour in Europe. "For me, activism was always about bringing communities together, and there's something very ancient and natural about using the dregs of life to create something great and sustainable. At a certain point I became very feral," she said.

While abroad, Sea spent most of her time in Poland and Eastern Europe where she dressed as a man to avoid discrimination while holding hands with her girlfriend.

Sea also spent time in India where she also passed herself off as a man. "It was a decision I made because I wanted more freedom in that society. It was really a necessity," she said. Sea eventually had to return to the U.S. to take care of a sick family member.

The question and answer session brought more of a focus toward Sea's role as the transgender character Max on the hit Showtime series "The L-Word."

"My friends were surprised that I would do such a mainstream show, but for me it was just another adventure. Sometimes it feels like I've lived five lives, and being Max was just one of them, but I also knew that representing the trans community was important," Sea said.

An audience member's question about the fear of being discovered while passing as a man prompted an emotional story from Sea.

While in Europe, a man Sea and her girlfriend were traveling with realized that she was a woman and attempted to force himself on her. Though Sea managed to escape, the story clearly shook her up and she quickly asked if anyone had any lighter questions.

Sea ended the lecture by thanking the students who showed her around campus. "I felt very welcome here," she said.

The lecture was sponsored by Skidmore Pride Alliance, Speaker's Bureau, and the Office of Student Diversity Programs.

Press Release: \$569,000 grant for Exercise Science dept.

By Rebecca Orbach

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

SCHUMER, MURPHY ANNOUNCE SKIDMORE COLLEGE AWARDED NEARLY \$570,000 TO STUDY FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Washington, DC - U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and Congressman Scott Murphy (NY-20) have announced that the Skidmore College Department of Health and Exercise Sciences will receive \$569,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to study the health risks that threaten the firefighters' safety. The funding is part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG).

"Our firefighters are true heroes who deserve not only our unending respect, but the very best safety resources we can offer," Schumer said. "Skidmore College will do valuable research with this funding. By advancing the field and by putting our best minds to work, we can ensure that the men and women who put their lives on the line to keep their communities safe are secure in their own jobs and can keep doing their jobs well."

"Providing funding to study and develop new life-saving measures and technology is not only a smart use of taxpayer money, but also a responsible way to ensure that our men and women firefighters are adequately protected and prepared when they are in the field," Murphy said. "By continuing to fund Professor Smith's work in cardiovascular health and heat stress at Skidmore, we will be protecting the very best our communities have to offer."

Skidmore researchers will use the funding to investigate thermal and cardiovascular strain associated with firefighting.

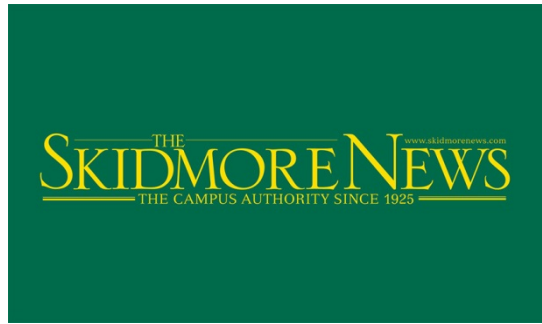
Each year, approximately 45 percent of firefighter line-of-duty deaths are due to sudden cardiac events. Firefighters wear heavy, fire resistant protective turnout gear to protect themselves from burn injury. The protective clothing itself can weigh over 25-pounds. Paradoxically, this protective clothing adds to the thermal and cardiovascular strain experienced by the firefighter and hence may add to the risk of sudden cardiac events. This project may update the turnout gear worn by every firefighter in the country.

"This is a truly exciting project because it may lead to a new 'integrated systems approach' to designing protective clothing which could ultimately increase firefighter work performance and decrease risk of injury and death on the fire ground," said Dr. Denise Smith, one the lead researchers.

This is the second Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant awarded to the Department of Health and Exercises Sciences at Skidmore College. This grant will allow researchers to continue their ground-breaking work studying the cardiovascular strain associated with firefighting activity and strategies to mitigate that strain.

Professors Denise Smith and Patricia Fehling will continue to work closely with local firefighters and Globe Fire Suits, the largest manufacturer of firefighting gear in the country.

Submitted by the office of Congressman Scott Murphy (NY-20).



Get off the back of hip-hop music

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

Although it is easy to perpetuate hip-hop/rap as music that only serves to boast the self-esteem of its performers, that isn't the entire truth by any means.

A large portion of the genre - although completely ignored by the talking heads on television - tells a different story, a story about struggle, determination and the oppression that comes with either being a minority in this country, or for being someone like Eminem, who is a minority in his own musical community.

For whatever reason, some people really enjoy piling up on rap music. They really, really love it. They love it so much that they can never pass up a chance to throw Lil Wayne under the bus for going to prison, or for Cam'ron's aggressive lyrics, or for Eminem's drug abuse or for T.I.'s weapon charges, so on and so forth.

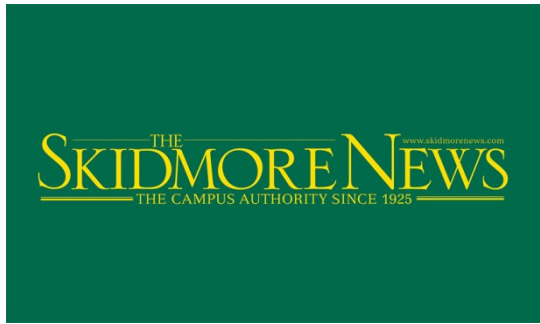
Like Bill Maher complaining about religion, this petty criticism is only there because the target's easy and the follower's are plenty.

For instance, Lil Wayne's song "Georgia...Bush" is dedicated to his New Orleans neighborhood post-Katrina. Is this song commonly brought up when people discuss Lil Wayne's career? Maybe among his hardcore fan base, but most people ignore it, and then condemn his other bubblegum rhymes instead. It's easier.

Throwing the entire genre under this negative umbrella destroys every single person in the hip-hop community, especially the ones who have no interest in violent lyrics yet are still ridiculed and lectured every single day for being a harmful influence upon the youth.

It's simple to turn on MTV, see some Soulja Boy video, and then write off the entire world. It's much harder to listen to the content, and to understand where these rappers came from, as well as exactly what they're talking about. Most of this music is a promotion of verbal wordplay, African-American (or African) culture and activism; it goes far unnoticed.

Some people might not like the music, and that is fine. But by simply labeling it as destructive without listening to the actual content is wrong.



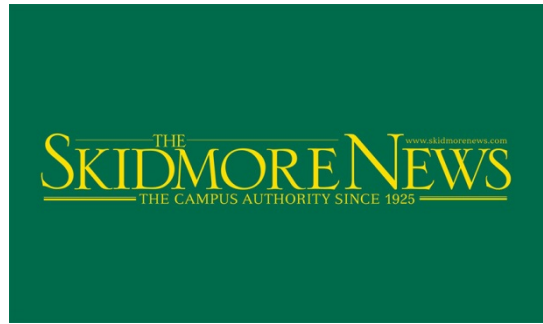
Then again, most won't care. Some white audiences hear a black voice criticizing the government on a song and tune out.

Some raps can be as powerful as any of Bob Dylan's poetry. In terms of misogynistic content, there isn't too much difference between Lil Wayne and Mick Jagger.

Both Bruce Springsteen and N.W.A. wrote songs defaming political figures, and guess which one got a letter from the FBI?

It's obvious that rap music is not popular in some circles. People lambast it for violence and anti-female content. Some of the music does encourage violence. Most doesn't.

This piece is provided by the Hip-Hop Alliance, which is a club that celebrates hip-hop music and culture.



Century Project is a positive force

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

Dear Editors,

After reading this week's editorial [Support Honest Photography, 3/26/2010] I had to learn more about Dr. John Foubert.

Just a quick search of his name on the Internet led me to multiple articles highlighting his opposition to the Frank Cordelle's Century Project. Foubert's hateful remarks toward Cordelle are shocking. Although I cannot even guess what his beef is, Foubert has it in for a genuinely engaging, pleasant and thoughtful artist.

I think that it is unnecessary - as a progressive, inclusive college community - to even argue against such a closed-minded individual.

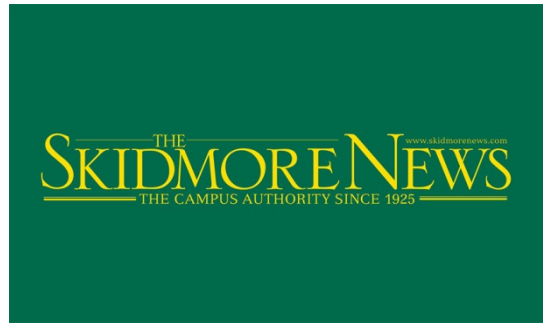
The Century Project is pornographic and harms women? Clearly Foubert needs to take off his overly sexualized glasses and look at the exhibit for what our campus knows it is: a beautiful chronicle of the bodies and minds of women.

Let's all hope Professor Foubert finds something more important to fight against like, oh, I don't know, child porn Internet sites, kiddie beauty pageants, the media's portrayal of eating disorders as acceptable - something that actually hurts women.

By the way, check out this article: (<http://www.dogstreetjournal.com/story/4428>).

- Aviva Ariel, '10,

Chair of the Speakers Bureau (a proud co-sponsor of the Century Project)



Editorial: Change the appeal policy

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

The college should allow students to appeal a failing grade if they believe it to be unfairly assigned. Our current grading policy does not allow for such an appeal; grades can only be changed if a professor makes a calculation error. Under the new policy proposed by SGA, over which the faculty will vote on April 9, if students feel that their final failing grade was unfairly assigned then they have the opportunity to appeal and have the grade changed to satisfactory.

The goal of this new policy is not to undercut the authority of professors, nor does it suggest that unfair grading is regularly an issue. It is simply important to acknowledge the possibility of such a situation and to plan accordingly. The process that the policy lays out is intentionally arduous so as to discourage its use except when absolutely necessary; grade appeals are to remain the exception, not the norm.

A failing grade is an enormously significant matter in a student's collegiate career. The ramifications can be enormous, particularly for upperclassmen. Therefore, if students genuinely feel as though a failing grade was wrongfully assigned, then they ought to have the right to have that grade reviewed.

If professors truly believe in the legitimacy and fairness of their grading, then there should be no complaint against having to stand behind those decisions in front of a committee of their peers. Therein lies one key protection in the new policy. The final appeal is conducted in front of the Committee on Academic Standing. The policy, however, specifically restricts the decision to the faculty members of the committee, excusing the two student members from the proceedings; any grade change would be made by the professor's equals.

Additionally, the new policy does not offer a lot of potential for abuse. It only applies to failing grades; it would not open the floodgates of students begging to have their B+ boosted to an A-. Failing grades are relatively rare, and a much smaller number warrant an appeal. Even those that are contested will not necessarily make it before a committee; other administrators, including the respective department chairman or chairwoman and the dean of Faculty Advising both must determine that the grade warrants review before the appeal goes to a hearing. The policy is really there as a last resort for students to be heard, not an easy loophole to take advantage of.

Ultimately, this policy benefits the entire college community, including professors and those of us who will never fail a class. Having this check in place keeps everyone honest. It might never even need to be used, but enacting this policy still represents a positive step toward a balanced academic community.

Solving nature's Rubik's Cube

By Olivia Morrow & Sarah Rosenblatt

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

The Vagina: Nature's Rubik's Cube.

Family Guy adequately represents popular thought about female sexuality in this loaded joke. We have defined the vagina as an unsolvable mystery, an unhygienic calamity, an evolutionary mishap, and we have come up with myriad slang terms to avoid discussing it altogether. This dissonance around female genitalia manifests itself in a disproportionate amount of sexual pleasure between women and men.

We all know the sexual script: after the male explosion he rolls over, panting heavily, deeming the sex O-V-E-R. For years, people have excused the male-centered purpose of sex as 'biological.' There is no evolutionary need for the female orgasm.

But let's get real. How much sex do we really have for making babies? Every time we put on a condom, swallow a special pill, go down on a lesbian and have anal sex, we actively reject any notion of furthering the human race.

Therefore, because our motivations for being sexual are hardly reproductive - in fact they mostly concern matters of pleasure - female pleasure should be as fundamental as male pleasure.

Even though not all sex should necessarily end/begin with orgasms, the fact that many women do not have orgasms is problematic and socially relevant. In a shoddy attempt to demystify nature's "Rubik's cube," men's magazines and Web sites have tried to offer solutions to the complicated enigma, otherwise known as the vagina.

Vaginas are seen as black holes, unknown mysteries of outer space that may or may not swallow you up and spit you out five years in the future. Diagrams, videos and laundry lists of sex tips, all portray the vagina as a problem to be solved, as opposed to looking at it as a natural part of the female body. All of these things justify the lack of female orgasm in a sexual encounter because it is something that is difficult to "achieve."

We don't need any more petty articles focused on improving men's sexual techniques for pleasuring women. We need to be able to look at vaginas, talk about vaginas or, as a start, be able to proudly say the word vagina.

A problem that further silences women's pleasure is the epidemic of "faking it." Faking an orgasm is the pinnacle of male-centered sexuality within the boundaries of a consensual and "normal" relationship.

With the "oohs and ahhs," of porn and mainstream media freshly embedded in a woman's mind, the active portrayal of orgasm saves her from the embarrassment of being sexually incompetent. Faking an orgasm avoids the potentially embarrassing and uncomfortably intimate conversation of what pleases her.

This conversation might be awkward not only because the partners are not close enough, but also because she might not know what feels good. Shame that hides this woman from herself disables her from exploring sexual possibilities.

The feigned orgasm saves men from the shame of not being able to achieve their masculine role. This is threatening to the andocentric model of sexuality as we know it.

The idea of faking pleasure to please someone else cuts across variations of sexuality. Wherever there is shame about vaginas, there will be fake orgasms.

That being said, in communities in which the vagina is less stigmatized, perhaps among queer women or feminist men, it is safe to say that there will be more sexual liberation and, therefore, more orgasms.

Olivia Morrow and Sarah Rosenblatt are either two arbitrary ladies seeking an outlet for sexual frustration, or two enlightened gender scholars looking to change this school. Or both.

Student garden sprouts harvest

EAC garden provides food for Dining Hall

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

The garden subcommittee of the Environmental Action Club will begin the first harvest of the season on April 11.

The EAC has extended an invitation to any volunteer who would like to participate in planting, cleaning up and expanding the beds. "In addition, [the volunteers] will learn more about the garden and hopefully be inspired to participate more," said EAC member Gabby Stern '13.

Seeds will be purchased from the local store Sunnyside Gardens. For the season, subcommittee members plan to continue to plant carrots, squash, broccoli, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes and parsnips. Stern said that they will also introduce herbs around the border of the garden to act as a natural pesticide.

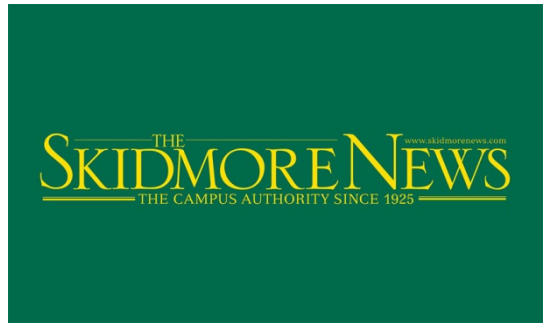
"The garden should be a living example of what community and health mean and the importance of the environment in our local community. As agriculture and food studies become important parts of the Environmental Science program, it's vital to have a sustainable example of that within the school," Stern said.

"Local food is better for the Earth because it travels less miles than the food in the supermarket, which means less waste on packaging and fuel. By purchasing local food, you are supporting the local economy and your body benefits from the freshness of the food," Meredith Mayer '13 said.

The food grown in the garden is used in the college's Dining Hall. "We have been working closely with Dining Services so that what is harvested in the garden can be most beneficial to the Dining Hall," Stern said.

Last year, the produce was donated, but now Dining Services is purchasing the food. For this reason, members of the subcommittee are hoping to spread more awareness of the benefits of local food.

They also plan to indicate in the Dining Hall which meals are made with the garden's produce, which should increase awareness. "Hopefully by this September, more signage will be available to label clearly which dishes have been prepared with food from the garden," Stern said.



Establishing relationships between students, the garden and Dining Services is one of the garden subcommittee's main goals. The members hope to form these relationships through a common effort to promote local, organic produce. "Dining Services has been making fantastic efforts to incorporate local foods in its meals and we should all applaud the workers," Stern said.

Panel brings together international students and faculty for discussion

By Rachel Kim

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

On April 7, several international students and faculty members gathered to speak about their experiences living in the U.S. and at the college.

The panel was made up of seven people: Darren Drabek, the international student coordinator; Hedi Jaouad, a French professor; Mehmet Odekon, an economics professor; Una Bray, a mathematics professor; and international students Rohini Alamgir '12 and Alex Golcher Stone. Two other international student, Prince Moses '13 and Kubra Komek '10, led the discussion.

This year, the college had 112 international students: a big jump from the 21 international students the college had in 2005.

Komek, from Turkey, began the panel with a question. "Are we sure we know how to deal with international students and how to accommodate?"

With the increasing number of international students, the topics of culture shock, tolerance of different cultures and racial stereotyping became important issues that were extensively discussed.

Stone, a student from El Salvador, argued in favor of cultural differences. "One of the things that I like is this whole idea of celebrating differences. Americans are very open to people being different," Stone said.

Odekon reflected on the difference in societal structure. "I think one of the unique characteristics is individualism," Odekon said.

Members of the faculty and students shared memories of their first times in America. These anecdotes included both the enjoyable new experiences and the confrontations with stereotypes.

Jaouad of Tunisia recalled her experience. "What shocked me the first time was the space and how huge this country is. Suddenly you can breath. People give you space in every sense of the word and I find that relaxing," Jaouad said.

Alamgir, from Bangladesh, remembered the questions she was frequently asked. "Are you Indian? Do you speak English fluently?" They would ask, but I realized that I would do the same thing," Alamgir said. "So I just talk and tell them. The best thing is that everyone's interested when you start to explain," Alamgir said.

While discussing stereotypes, the issue of retaining and holding onto one's own culture while being immersed into another country was raised. Bray, of Ireland, shared her experiences with the stereotypes she faced and her reactions to them.

"My biggest problem was being in a neighborhood with both Irish and those who made fun of the Irish. I learned quickly to lose my accent at a young age," Bray said.

The panel then talked about the possible problems and situations that international students at the college could encounter. "Normally, you will feel alienated and feel in between two cultures. It's inevitable. One should feel at ease with oneself and not demand too much from his or her environment," Odekon said.

"What's great about the American education system is the accessibility of the faculty," Jouard said. "It's like a give and take process," Stone said.

Moses claimed that it is also the students' responsibility to breach the separation between international students and their peers. "We are all ambassadors and it's our responsibility to teach our colleagues," Stone said.

How influential are drivers under the influence?

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

On April 3, two students struck a guardrail on the road leading to the Northwoods apartments causing the car to flip and roll over. The driver, Denise Garofalo '13, was charged with failure to keep right and driving while intoxicated. Though this incident was shocking and rare, the accident puts into question to what degree is reckless, drunk driving an issue on the college campus.

"Alcohol is probably the primary health risk, and when you combine that with driving that really magnifies the dangers," said Dennis Conway, director of Campus Safety. Data collected from students last month showed that within the past year 11.5 percent of students drove a car after consuming alcohol and less than 1 percent reported that they were arrested for a DUI. "Students were surveyed last month and just over 500 responded so it is a fairly good sample of the student body," said Jennifer Burden, director of Health Promotions.

Several preventative measures have been taken by the college to deter students from driving recklessly or driving while intoxicated. Campus Safety gives orientations to students that inform them about driving while intoxicated, and informs them of zero tolerance laws in NY state, and underage drinking, among other things. Health Promotions also educates students about alcohol abuse through student programming, one-on-one consultation and health assessments.

Speed bumps line the roads running through campus to reduce the driving speed. "If you have any respect for your vehicle you won't go over those too fast. We think they've been pretty effective in reducing speed," Conway said.

The college also has a free taxi service available for students. Every day from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. students are able to receive a free ride back to campus through Saratoga Taxi. "I think most students get the message about drinking and driving. Most of them will take cabs. That's been a very effective program at reducing the opportunity for people to drink and drive," Conway said.

Campus Safety also offers a defensive driving course for members of the Skidmore community two to three times a year. The course is available to students, employees, faculty, significant others and family members at a discounted price of \$30. It is given either as two 3-hour sessions or one 6-hour session. Refreshments are provided. Completing the course reduces license points and insurance cost.

In case these preventative measures prove ineffective, Campus Safety is able to ticket on campus drivers for reckless driving. "We've actually called the police on people. We've had some people do stupid things, like hop on the top of the car while someone is driving. If we see that we will take action. We will take people to the Integrity Board for reckless driving if people don't follow the rules," Conway said.

Campus Safety also invites the Saratoga Police Department to patrol the campus. During Senior Week and other popular events, Campus Safety asks the local police, state police and Sheriff Department to do extra DWI patrols in the vicinity. Campus Safety informs students of these precautions beforehand. "We don't want to trick them, we're not trying to catch them. We tell them that we are asking for the police to be more active because we don't want people to drink and drive. We don't want people to get injured or kill somebody else," Conway said.

Although the college has taken preventative measures to deter students from driving recklessly or while intoxicated, these things still take place on campus. Pedestrians on campus should therefore take the initiative to protect themselves from becoming victims. The campus safety Web site has a section dedicated to safety tips for joggers. The tips include:

- Face traffic while jogging,
- Do not jog with headphones
- Avoid jogging alone at night
- Wear reflective clothing
- Let someone know your route

"If you combine reckless driving with somebody that's inattentive, facing the wrong way, listening to music, wearing dark clothes and running at night the potential for serious injury or death is magnified. Alcohol plus youth, plus speed, plus weather conditions - all these things are multipliers that make things more dangerous," Conway said.

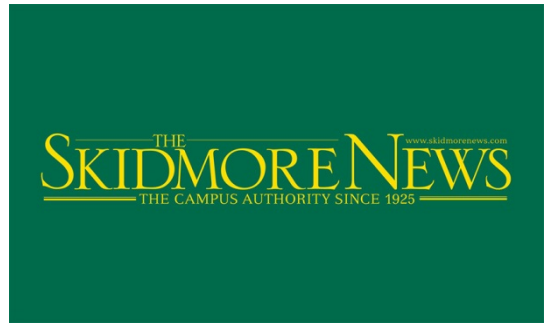
Instead of jogging on roads with a small shoulder, such a Clinton, joggers are advised by Campus Safety to use the footpaths on campus and sidewalks on North Broadway. By using the footpaths alone, joggers are able to chart out a 5K path without jogging on busy streets. "Just go for a ride around here, down Clinton, around campus and you're going to see that at least half the joggers are jogging on the wrong side of the road and they're wearing their ear buds and they pose a huge danger to themselves. Just be aware of your surroundings, we try to press that issue for everybody," Conway said.

But even if individuals are careful, accidents are still bound to happen. On April 3, Campus Safety officers were at the site of the crash within minutes of the accident. Campus Safety has a direct hotline phone that goes to the dispatch office of Saratoga Springs. By using this hotline, Campus Safety immediately

contacted Emergency Medical Services and the fire department. A medevac helicopter was also on campus prepared to transport the injured students to Albany Medical Center Hospital. Campus Police kept the students calm until they could be removed from the vehicle.

Aside from physical endangerment, the consequences for driving recklessly or while intoxicated on campus include both judicial response and Integrity Board sanctions. "Being on campus does not give immunity for anyone violating any law. As a matter of fact, I think we're more critical because not only will they face criminal sanctions or violations of vehicle-traffic law, they're also facing possibly sanctions by the school," Conway said.

Despite the recent car accident, Conway claims that reckless, drunk driving is not a primary safety concern on campus. "We've had a couple of bad accidents in the last couple years. It is somewhat of an issue, but not an over-riding issue. Generally speaking, we haven't had that many problems with reckless driving," Conway said.



Illustrations of the third kind

On Fri, Apr 9, 2010

10 Big Show is a triple-header

By Katie Bennett

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

At 7 p.m. on April 24 in the gym, the Student Entertainment Committee's "big show" will take place.

Rather than spending an extravagant sum of money on one high-profile band, as has been the case in past semesters, the SEC has opted to assemble three lesser-known bands for the sake of more musical diversity.

First, there's NYC's "The Postelles." Called a "Band to Watch" by Rolling Stone in 2009, the band members grew up pouring over their parents' '50s and '60s rock albums including Buddy Holly, Sam Cooke, The Rolling Stones and the Beatles.

Sporting tight black pants and flashy fedoras, they specialize in bouncy, upbeat alt-rock tunes. Listening to them, one is reminded of the days when The Strokes reigned supreme over indie rock.

Albert Hammond Jr. even produced their track "123 stop." Their latest EP, "White Night," serves up tons of catchy, danceable riffs.

Formed in 2000, The Walkmen have been gaining prominence in the rock press ever since, particularly for its use of vintage instruments such as the upright piano.

The Walkmen craft entertaining, listenable, pop-y songs even your grandmother could nod her head to.

The dream-like quality of lead singer Hamilton Leithauser's echoey, passionate vibrato differentiates the band from other alt-rock acts.

Finally, there's Toronto-based dance deity Jesse F. Keeler of MSTKRFT (pronounced master-craft) who, along with electro wiz Al P, dedicates his life to assembling the ultimate party playlist.

With computerized beats and drum machines, he creates unstoppable jams, remixing songs from groups like Justice, Bloc Party, The Kills and Wolfmother.

Sports Wrap: Baseball team sweeps Southern Vermont

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

Baseball

The baseball team won 22-3 against Southern Vermont on April 13.

With three runs and two RBI, first year Leejay Pollacchi was 4-6. First year Troy Scott went 4-5 with a double and three runs.

First year Casey Quinn went 1-3 and first year Geoff Green went 3-3 with a double and two RBI.

In the first five innings, junior Nick Laracuente pitched, allowing three runs on five hits.

The baseball team will play two doubleheaders against St. Lawrence over the course of the 17th and 18th.

Women's lacrosse On April 10, the women's lacrosse team took a 13-12 win against Vassar.

Early in the first half, Skidmore had a 5-2 lead, but Vassar then responded with four straight goals to take a 6-5 lead with 6:53 left. Skidmore regained the lead with a goal from sophomore Lauren Madden at 3:10 and a goal from junior Lauren McCarthy at 1:31. With 12 seconds remaining in the half, the Brewers scored to tie the score 7-7.

In the second half, Vassar took its final lead of the game at 29:31. The Thoroughbreds had a 11-8 advantage after four straight goals were scored by Madden, first year Ceilidh MacNeill and senior Abbie Klaus.

The Brewers put the score at 11-10 at 11:27. Klaus contributed another goal to put the score at 12-11 at 11:07. Again the score was tied at 12-12 after two Vassar goals. With less than two minutes left, junior Kimberly Segalas scored the game-winner.

On Wednesday, No. 15 Williams defeated Skidmore 15-11.

Early on, Skidmore took a 4-1 lead. But the Ephs then used an 11-0 run to break the game open to 12-4. The Thoroughbreds scored six of the final seven goals of the game.

The women's lacrosse team will play the University of Rochester on Saturday, April 17.

Softball In a doubleheader on April 13 against Green Mountain College, the softball team took an 8-0 victory in the first and a 13-9 victory in the second.

In the top of the first, Skidmore took a lead when first year Carol Brown tripled and scored off a single from senior Lauren Dinsdale. A Julia Schwartz double put runners on second and third, and Dinsdale then scored an error.

In the third, the Thoroughbreds picked up five runs on five hits.

Finishing with 3-3 and two triples, sophomore Christina Gargiso was 2-3 at the plate and scored three of the eight runs. On the mound, sophomore Sam Crose yielded three hits in five innings and struck out four to pick up the win.

Skidmore took a big lead early in the second game, scoring five runs in the first, two in the second and third and four in the fourth to hold a 13-3 lead. But, in the last three and a half innings, Skidmore was scoreless while Green Mountain had six more runs.

In the second game, senior Michelle Anderson led for with three runs and collecting three hits. Crose snatched the save for Skidmore, and sophomore Molly Canavan picked up the win.

On Friday, April 16, the softball team will host Cazenovia College.

Men's lacrosse

No. 17 Middlebury defeated the men's lacrosse team 11-9 on Tuesday, April 13.

After the first quarter, the Panthers held a 3-0 lead.

In the second quarter, the Thoroughbreds decreased the lead to 4-2 at 9:56. With 4:33 left, the opponent squeezed in three more goals. Junior Matt Levesque made a goal for the Thoroughbreds. Then, Barkoff cut Middlebury's lead to 7-4 with a goal at 3:15.

In the third quarter, Middlebury upped its score at 10:30. Skidmore then made three goals to decrease the lead to 8-7. At 14:00, the Panthers increased their lead to 10-7 before it was cut to 10-9 with goals from Barkoff and Levesque. Before the game ended, Middlebury scored one more goal.

The men's lacrosse team plays Union in Schenectady on Saturday, April 17.

Riding

At the ISHA, Zone II Championships at Centenary College on April 10, the riding team dominated, finishing with 50 points. Centenary finished second with 38 points, Cazenovia finished third with 36 points.

Senior Elizabeth Kigin and first year Flavia D'Urso rode in Individual Over Fences. D'Urso advanced to nationals after winning reserve champion. Skidmore took its first win of the day when Kigin competed in Team Over Fences. Sophomore Kelly Campbell won sixth place in individual Intermediate Team Over Fences and added seven points to the Thoroughbred's score.

In the Individual Open Flat, Campbell and Kigin placed first and third; they will both go on to Nationals. In the individual Intermediate Open Flat, senior Grier Filley placed second and will go on to Nationals as well. Jones won the individual Intermediate Team Flat. Junior Hanae Kimura won the Team Novice Flat, junior Alexandra McGuire won the individual Walk Trot Canter and junior Maria Lorenc came in third.

Riders will compete at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington against 19 other teams for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National title.

Compiled by Lauren Sager

Racetrack, research and SPAC

As spring term winds down, some students choose to stay on campus

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

As finals and graduation rapidly approach and the scramble for summer jobs begins, some students and faculty are looking past the end of the spring term and focusing on summer in Saratoga.

Approximately 200 students remain at the college each summer, not including those who stay in town but not on campus.

Students choose to stay for summer term classes, employment opportunities and student-faculty research.

The curriculum consists mainly of introductory courses, but there are some advanced courses available.

"Students take courses for different reasons. Some are looking to lighten their course load, some need to get ahead to go abroad, others are trying to graduate early" said James Chansky, dean of Special Programs.

Summer term also offers faculty an opportunity to teach classes that aren't offered during the year and to try out new ideas for classes.

"Faculty can teach classes that they cannot offer during the regular year because of other commitments" Chansky said.

Tuition for summer classes is \$600 per credit hour.

The college attempts to make its housing affordable during the summer. However, only those involved in some aspect of a summer at Skidmore program or on-campus employment are eligible for housing.

Room and board are funded by the school for research assistants. Students working on campus receive a discounted housing rate. Students who live in Scribner Village can also opt out of a meal plan, which can help cut costs. The price of housing ranges from \$60 a month for employees to \$175 for students who only take classes.

The number of students who remain at the college for summer term has grown over the past few years. "The cap is basically the number of beds we have available, but we've never had to turn someone away who had a reason to be on campus," Chansky said.

The atmosphere and variety of people change during the summer months. The college's summer programs have grown beyond just Skidmore students - writing, theater and jazz institutes also find a home on campus in between the spring and fall semesters.

"Skidmore's summer institutes bring in internationally recognized people in different fields," Chansky said.

Classes are also open to rising high school students looking to get ahead on college classes.

While the percentage of Skidmore students decreases during the summer, the campus atmosphere remains vibrant.

"It's quieter in the sense that there's only about 200 Skidmore students on campus but, in July, our busiest month, there are over 1,000 people on campus," Chansky said.

Performances occur nightly while the institutes are on campus, and the events are open to the public as well as to Skidmore students.

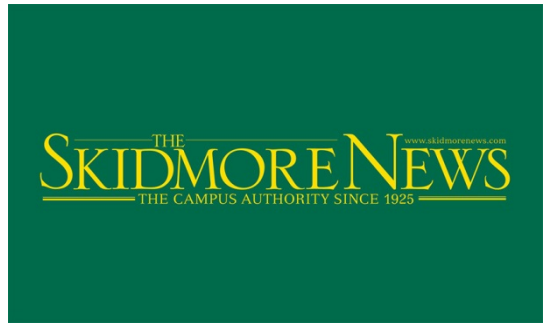
Student-faculty research is a big component of the summer term at the college. Professors from several departments conduct research with student assistants during the summer, and, while the majority of the research is based in the sciences, many other departments also have research opportunities.

"At the end of the summer term groups do presentations of their work. It's really interesting to see what's been done," Chansky said.

Off campus, Saratoga Springs offers its own unique experience in the summer. "There are a lot of cats around in the summer which I didn't expect. They come out of the woodwork," Caitlin Mahony '11 commented on the Saratoga atmosphere.

The concerts available at SPAC are a big draw for many students. "I lived on Granite Street and worked at Putnam market. I sold food at SPAC so I got to go to all the concerts. It's like school without the school," Mahony said.

The town floods with people during the summer months. "The town is a year round cultural Mecca. Saratoga is even better than it is right now, and the campus is really beautiful during the summer," Chansky said.



Students are already anxious to start their summer terms on campus.

"I'm excited to explore all the things the town and community has to offer that I don't get to see during the year because I'm focused on academics. The summer is the peak season for Saratoga Springs. I wanted to get that experience for at least one summer," Lizzy Kennedy '12 said.

Registration for classes opened in February and there are still openings available.

The applications for summer housing and summer term are available on Skidmore's Web site, and are due at the end of April and beginning of May.

When ticks attack, PHEs fight back

By Adam Cohen

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

If your new favorite extracurricular is relaxing on the green, and playing Frisbee or doing some leisurely reading, my advice to you is to watch out for UV rays and put on sunscreen.

If that's not your thing, or if you decide to become more adventurous (like I did a few weekends ago) and go for a walk or hike in Northwoods, I believe some more extreme warnings are in order.

On my most recent trip to Northwoods, I went for a hike with a few friends, and unexpectedly decided to go off the trails a little bit. With the beautiful weather, we were all wearing shorts and T-shirts - bad idea in the woods.

It turns out I was bitten by a tick, which was a first for me, and I had to figure out how to handle it.

Before I tell you more about ticks, here's my first suggestion: if you're in the woods, always try to at least wear pants and some bug repellent if you can find it. Those are the easiest things you can do to avoid ticks, and other nuisances like mosquitoes.

After any activities in wooded areas, always do a thorough body check for ticks. Look for small, black or brown bugs, about the size of a sesame seed, all over your body. Checking just exposed areas won't do, seeing as my little buddy was partial to my lower back.

If you happen to find a tick, don't freak out. The dreaded Lyme disease is pretty rare, especially if you find the tick quickly, and remove it properly within a few hours of the bite.

To properly remove a tick, you're going to need to ensure you remove the whole bug and not just the majority of it.

Don't try a quick fix and grab it with your fingers. Some ticks can transmit diseases through mucous membranes and skin. Additionally, if a part of the tick is left in the skin, it can lead to infection.

Instead, get a pair of dull tweezers and either wear rubber gloves or use a tissue to avoid making any contact with the tick.

You're going to want to grab the tick as close to the skin as possible, don't crush it, but grasp firmly, and pull the tick out straight. Don't twist it or rip it out quickly; remember that the key is full removal.

Once the tick is removed, be sure to thoroughly disinfect the area. Use rubbing alcohol and clean the bitten area. Washing your hands afterwards is also very important.

If you can, try to save the tick for identification purposes, just in case you do get sick from the bite. You can put the tick in a container with rubbing alcohol to preserve it.

If you feel a little squeamish about removing the tick, go to Health Services. They'd be more than happy to help, and they definitely know what they're doing.

In most cases, once you remove the tick you should be fine. However, if you develop a rash where you were bitten, body aches, fever, chills, fatigue or headaches within the first few days or weeks, go to Health Services immediately.

Lyme disease is known to be hard to diagnose as it has flu-like symptoms that sometimes don't show for a few weeks, so if you feel sick at all get it checked out.

While my little buddy is gone now, and I hope I never meet any of his friends, it definitely would have been helpful to know the proper way to avoid becoming acquainted with him in the first place.

Learn from my mistakes; remember the preventative methods first and foremost, but don't be afraid to enjoy the outdoors and the beautiful weather!

Adam Cohen is a sophomore Peer Health Educator who knows more about your body than you do.

Rock, the western and American cultural undeath

By John Maher

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

Everything our parents' generation held as noble is dying.

On Wednesday evening, I was in Albany at WAMC's Performing Art Studio - affectionately called the Linda - for a Hold Steady concert.

The Hold Steady are based in the hipster haven of Brooklyn, and are a band that seem fated to breathe some life into the dying rock 'n' roll genre.

They play because they love to play, tour because they love to tour - on stage, singer Craig Finn's face remained locked in an expression of sheer amazement and joy that he was really up there.

The band's integrity is as unquestionable as its love of music. During a brief power outage, Finn and lead guitarist Tad Kubler played the few quiet songs the band has as a duet.

When they seemed to run out of acoustic-friendly songs, the audience started screaming out the inevitable suggestions: "Free Bird!" "Born to Run!"

Kubler responded quickly. "Hey. Hey! We're still gonna play our own f-ing songs, alright?"

But The Hold Steady is one of few exceptions. Rock 'n' roll does not seem to be here to stay.

Due to an insistence on mining the same now-barren veins that once gave birth to fascinating new genres from post-punk to dream pop, bands today - be they the Counting Crows or Passion Pit - have decided to wallow in a hedonistic pit of rehashing and self-absorption.

These bands no longer do what rock bands have done, whether wittingly or not, since the creation of the genre at the hands of the boys at Memphis' Sun Records, in that they rarely define anything, nor do they point toward something greater.

For this same reason, by the time Larry McMurtry's gorgeous epic "Lonesome Dove" was adapted into an equally gorgeous and epic TV miniseries in 1989 - starring, by the way, the inimitable Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones - nearly all critics had officially declared the television Western dead.

Three years later, at the release of Clint Eastwood's dark and brilliant "Unforgiven," one critic noted that the movie was a "fitting epitaph for the Western" - indeed, Eastwood himself declared that it would be the last Western film he would ever direct.

Why? Because, like so many others, Eastwood felt that the genre had been used up. What more was there to say?

American kids no longer sat on their parents' laps on Sunday nights to watch John Wayne flicks.

Original Westerns are barely being made anymore - even the perennially brilliant Cohen Brothers' next project is a remake of 1969's True Grit.

We've seen every damsel saved, every villain hanged. What more is there to say?

We've heard every chord that could possibly be invented, clapped along to every riff, heard the screams from Elvis to Daltrey to Springsteen to Cobain. What more is there to say?

As far as I'm concerned, plenty. We are a culture of archivists. We still collect vinyl, which the conventional wisdom held as superseded by the CD until recently.

We spend millions of dollars on first-edition Superman and Batman comics; we are the generation that popularized steam punk! We still find beauty and merit in these things, despite their age and supposed obsolescence.

Writers have spent hundreds of years creating new things by worshipping, imitating and building upon the works of other writers. Jazz musicians do the same thing. Why, then, do we insist that we should not do something similar with rock n' roll and the Western?

There is still beauty in the Western, with its stark moralities and subtle romances, its blood-red sunsets and insistence that we must continue to move and explore and live.

There is still beauty in rock n' roll, with its spirit and forward movement, its sheer intensity and its ability to convey emotion in a way critics never thought it could.

There is plenty left to say. The real problem, however, is a much more dire one indeed.

In the wake of John Ford and John Wayne, of Elvis Presley and Elvis Costello, how the hell do we say it?

John Maher is an aspiring poet who wishes he could live on a ranch in Montana and gaze forever at the evening sun setting in the west.

The evolution of sexiness

By Alex Brehm

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

Steph Wein '10 spent the past summer rising before the sun and trudging through the forest and the swamp to snap elastic bands onto the legs of songbirds and collect their blood.

"We're looking at sexual ornamentation in birds," she says, while walking back to her Northwoods apartment. Her research, carried out with Brittany Berdie ('10) and Joel Amidon ('10), centers around how birds choose their mates.

Wein picks the red-colored cardinal as a good example. Male cardinals are very red, while females are very pale. When females begin examining characteristics in potential mates, the redder the better.

Wein's research is similar, but looks at a different species. "We're examining the common yellowthroat, which, well, it has a bright yellow throat." In this case, the goal is to determine why female yellowthroats are attracted to males with a more brightly colored throat.

Susan Tsang '09 determined in previous research that females do, in fact, choose males that have brightly colored throats. Her research was similar to Wein's—early mornings spent tagging birds and collecting blood samples.

Genes from parents and offspring were compared and it was found that offspring exhibited traits similar to brightly colored fathers, not the pale ones.

Wein now wants to determine why females choose their mates the way they do. Her theory centers around antioxidants, the same chemicals that have us chugging acai and pomegranate juice. Specifically, she's looking at antioxidants called 'carotenoids.'

When a male has to use energy to fight for his territory or flee from a predator, his metabolism increases and he releases free radicals that damage his cells. His body will then release carotenoids to counteract the free radicals. Not only can carotenoids prevent cell damage, they're also a dye responsible for coloring the birds' throats yellow.

"We have what's called the 'oxidative stress hypothesis.' If the males have brightly colored throats, it shows that they can use all these carotenoids to color their throats instead of protecting their body."

Wein says it's similar to birds that can design complicated songs. "It takes so much neurological energy to design a complex, beautiful song, which could be spent gathering food." A male that can sing well is sending a signal to females that he's king of his domain-food gathering isn't a problem, defending against predators is no big deal and this bird can afford to spend his time just devising the best song.

So far, Wein's research appears to support these hypotheses. While she was tagging birds, she was also measuring the size and brightness of the males' throats.

She took her blood samples back to the lab and examined the genes for cellular damage. The males with the biggest, brightest throats also had the least damage.

It seems males with bright throats aren't lying-they really do get off easier than paler males, and females do well to choose the yellowest mates they can.

It's tempting to compare these birds to the James Bond types of the human species-kicking ass and taking names and looking suave while doing it. Or compare these birds to our Andrew Birds, each species' songwriters winning the hearts of teenage females. But Wein turns livid at the thought that her research can be extrapolated to humans.

"We have these huge critical periods, that in part define for each person what is attractive, and if you look across cultures, what is sexy changes," Wein said.

"Look how complicated it is to study this one species of birds," she said. "Look at all the years of research and experiments that have gone into studying this one, simple trait."

Wein and other senior biology students are presenting their research projects at 4:30 p.m. on April 21 in Dana 241.

Alex Brehm is sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.

Anne Wisan sings capstone

By Bradley Morris

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

On April 9, Anne Wisan '10, accompanied on piano by Patte Hetfield, performed for her senior capstone recital at Zankel Music Center in the Helen Ladd Concert Hall.

Wisan was one of the many seniors who auditioned for the annual capstone performance at the end of last December to perform this Spring.

"They [the judges] tell you right on the spot. I've had this planned since December," Wisan said. The first half of the performance consisted of Wisan singing songs in German by Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms.

In the second half, Wisan moved on to English-speaking composers and artists, such as songs from "Songs of Perfect Propriety" by Seymour Barab and "Love for Sale" by Cole Porter.

After the performance, family and friends swarmed Wisan with congratulations in the lobby.

Wisan, a music major at the college, has been studying music and practicing singing for about 10 years. Wisan cited her older sister, also a singer, as one of her biggest inspirations. "I wanted to like the things she liked. It's been a passion of mine and became more of one for me than for her," Wisan said.

Wisan participates in many other musical endeavors. She is a member of the Acapella group the Drastic Measures, the Skidmore chorus and several small jazz ensembles, and a musical director of an Acapella group.

Wisan considers music a source of both stress and relaxation in her life. "It's one of the largest sources of stress in my life, while at the same time being one of my biggest releases. It's a little bit my meditation in one hand, yet a taxing art form that takes so much out of me," she said.

Wisan also participates in non-musical community activities. She is a participant in the Saratoga mentoring program and was also a peer leader for the first-year Pre-orientation program.

"I developed a very close relation to my mentee and peer advising has been a very important thing for me to do," Wisan said. This was one of Wisan's last performances before graduation and she has been very pleased with her time at the college.

"I would definitely love to maintain a connection with Skidmore College, with friends and with the community in general," she said.

Regarding her future plans, Wisan said, "I'm planning on taking time off, then grad school." She intends to enroll in a program to learn more about performance and education.

"I'm passionate about singing and I want that to be in my future, as well," Wisan said.

Why do white kids like hip-hop?

By Hip-Hop Alliance
On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

Why in the hell do white kids like hip-hop?

It's a music that comes right out of heartache and despair, gang violence and watching people inflicted by drug abuse. It comes out of the emptiness that people feel when the realization comes that their government could not care less about them.

Not to say that white kids have no concept of drugs or violence, but it's rather odd that suburban kids could be so influenced by a world that they have never experienced.

Is it just basic curiosity?

That could be it. For suburban whites that have no concept of living off of food stamps or dealing drugs in order to eat, there is a sense of danger and excitement that is connected to rap. Just like the obsession that many have with the movie gangsters: Pacino's Scarface or Quentin Tarantino movies.

There is a certain appeal to someone like 2Pac or Biggie; two men who became famous not only because of catchy rhymes, but also because they represented a small portion of Black America that became famous even though they were born into impoverished families.

It would make perfect sense for somebody born into poverty to look at those two men with glowing eyes.

But here at this college, a pre-dominantly white campus, there are many dorm rooms that are lined with Biggie or N.W.A. posters. What's their connection?

N.W.A is great and they are one of the biggest musical acts of the last 30 years. But Nirvana and the Smashing Pumpkins are also two huge musical groups that have sprouted out in the same time, and how many times have one seen video of ghetto kids rocking along to "Come as You Are?"

One reason why hip-hop appeals to so many people in this country, regardless of skin color, is because of the rebellious nature of the music.

In nearly every influential rap album that has ever come out, most of the same descriptive terms would apply: thuggish, anti-social, anti-government, anarchistic and violent. There is so much power behind

every song. There is also the "we got money" bragging that always applies to young people, no matter if they have money or not.

There is also a heavy emphasis on lyrics. There are few hip-hop songs that are only music. Because every song is so wordy, they are much more fun to listen to and to memorize. It's much easier to throw caution to the wind and rap along with "Insane in the Membrane," then it is to explain the musical "ingenuity" behind a random Radiohead song.

It's just so easy to listen to hip-hop records, and so much more fun. Everybody on the record is acting like they are having a great time; they're talking about sex and drugs without much consequence, it seems like there is a terminal party rocking in the background and people are cracking jokes and doing wild skits.

It's the perfect party music. The Rolling Stones have a great image, made rocking music and did a great amount of drugs, but even their music hasn't crossed over races. And, as popular as indie rock has been over the past few years, Vampire Weekend is rarely played beyond a casual suit-and-tie mixer; nobody gets pumped up listening to The Cure or Bright Eyes, unless they're getting pumped up to inject heroin.

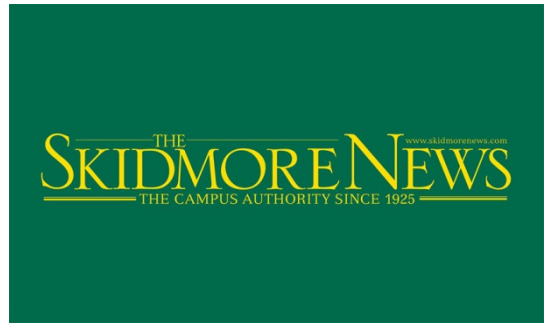
It's the perfect "cool down" music - just put on Mos Def's "Black on Both Sides" or The Fugees' "The Score" if you want to relax at the end of the day.

White kids love it just because it's good. It can fill nearly every need that somebody has when they want to listen music. It can get people excited (A Tribe Called Quest), or sad (Wyclef Jean) or angry (Dead Prez). It can even make people laugh (Cypress Hill) or make them calm (Common).

The reason isn't attached to capitalism, or to a reverse-racism philosophy. There are white kids who love rap but are still racist (shades of John Turturro's character in "Do the Right Thing," in which he loved Magic Johnson and Eddie Murphy but still exhibits racism), and there are kids who respect the culture and everybody that's involved.

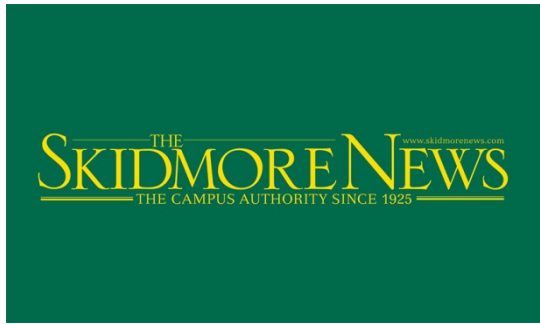
There is always so much confusion on why a white kid should ever like music that represents an unfamiliar culture. But the truth is that it's just good music that anyone can get into.

This piece is provided by the Hip-Hop Alliance, which is a club that celebrates hip-hop music and culture. General meetings are at 7 p.m. every Tuesday.



Illustrations of the third kind

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010



Goodell teaches how to cool planet

Students learn how geo-engineering can solve climate change

By Emma Caruso

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

At 7 p.m. on April 14, journalist and author Jeff Goodell gave a lecture on his newest book "How to Cool the Planet," based on the controversial issue of using geo-engineering in order to solve the crisis of the increasing climate.

Geo-engineering refers to the intentional manipulation of the Earth's climate to counteract the effects of global warming from greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2006, Rolling Stone interviewed Goodell about his controversial thoughts on how to solve the issue of global warming. At this time, very few people knew about the theory of geo-engineering, or, as Goodell put it, "the tailoring of local climates."

In his article, "Can Dr. Evil Save the World?" Goodell discussed American astrophysicist Lowell Wood's idea of placing sulfur particles in the atmosphere to deflect the reflection of sun, which causes immense warming of the earth.

Wood was not alone in these types of ideas. One researcher mentioned dumping the drug Ketamine into the ocean, which could change reflectivity and feed the fish.

Another suggested putting mirrors into space, and yet another came up with the invention of machines that can take in carbon dioxide from the air and concentrate and bury it underground.

It was because of ideas like these that Goodell decided to write a new book, which sought to answer the question, "Are these guys crazy?"

Goodell's lecture addressed how realistic these ideas are. "This could really happen in the future," said Goodell, who also acknowledged that there could also be great risks involved.

"This changes the whole relationship between us and nature. Is nature something that is 'out there?' Or is it something we can learn about and manipulate?" Goodell said.

He addressed the fact that many may view these solutions as quick fixes that allow them to continue their extravagant lifestyles. "People like diet pills rather than exercise. We like taking the easy way out of

everything. This is not just about throwing some sulfur up in the air and getting back to our Lexuses," Goodell said.

Goodell understands the controversy of the geo-engineering solution. "I'm not a proponent of this. I'm not an advocate. I see my job as bringing it to discussion and outlining the issues. We're acting like rational humans recognizing the problems. But that doesn't mean someone won't do it," Goodell said.

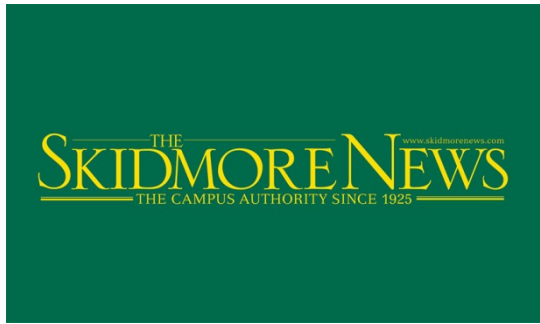
The best way for these theories to truly have future success is with extensive, open conversation and research. Just because the simple measures of geo-engineering could be taken on by anyone with a reasonably lucrative income does not mean it is something to be taken lightly.

Reflecting light away from the planet is something that could be done that would have relatively quick effects. "In theory, we could start seeing more ice in the Arctic tomorrow," Goodell said.

Despite possible issues that could result from drastic engineering, such as ocean acidification and shifts in precipitation levels, Goodell believes that some of these seemingly radical ideas may have a future. However, geo-engineering will have no effect unless the general public begins to understand the effect that it has on the degradation of the environment.

"We are trashing the planet right now, not purposely, but not unconsciously either. Is there a way this geo-engineering stuff might reduce the risks of what we have done? Maybe this can be a better way to manipulate the planet than we already are. Active partnership with nature is a beautiful thing. Learning about how to play with the system is a very important conversation to have. We control the planet now. Do we want to heat this place?" Goodell said.

He concluded by summing up the central issue in just one sentence: "The greatest danger is not technological hubris, but human apathy." Scientists will continuously find possibilities to help this planet, but without the accountability and participation of the public, the largest problems of this time will go unsolved.



Alex Stark '11 voted SGA president

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

The results of the SGA elections were announced today by SGA president Raina Bretan '10. They are as follows:

Voters: 524 in this election

Class of 2011 President:

Libby Gronquist = 66

Jess Coons = 49

Frank Cabrera = 48

Abstain = 5

No confidence = 1

Howe-Rounds President:

Aaron Shifreen = 361

Abstain = 119

No confidence = 8

Penfield Hall President:

Evan Friedler = 361

Abstain = 126

No confidence = 7

President of Weicking Hall:

Jovanny Andujar = 367

Abstain = 118

No confidence = 12

SGA President:

Alexandra Stark = 417

Abstain = 73

No confidence = 16

Vice President for Academic Affairs:

Logan Brenner = 412

Abstain = 77

No confidence = 17

Vice President for Club Affairs:

Alex Bland = 389

Abstain = 91

No confidence = 16

Vice President for Communications and Outreach:

Jenny Snow = 398

Abstain = 85

No confidence = 20

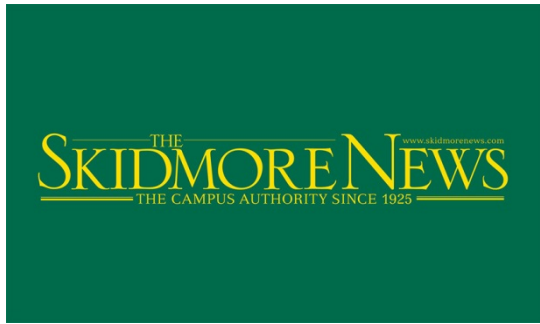
Vice President for Diversity Affairs:

Sulin Ngo = 217

Abstain = 165

Jared Lai = 97

No confidence = 11



Vice President for Financial Affairs:

Jonathan Zeidan = 228

Andrew Lichtenberg = 171

abstain = 103

no confidence = 6

Vice President for Residential Affairs:

Ali Drucker = 399

Abstain = 65

No confidence = 30

Vice President of Howe-Rounds:

Angus Welch = 372

Abstain = 116

No confidence = 7

Vice President of Wait Hall:

Orli Handmaker = 360

Abstain = 125

No confidence = 11

Speaker offers zen teachings on fear of death, meaning in life

By Amira Chichakly
On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

Gannett auditorium was overflowing at 7 p.m. on April 13 with those interested in learning about Zen Buddhism. Konrad Kyrushin Marchaj, Sensei and Abbot of the Zen Mountain Monastery, spoke about the modern application of spirituality.

"Spiritual practice is electrifying," Ryushin Sensei said.

Zen Buddhism is a practice, roughly 2,500 years old, rooted in the ways of the Buddha. It uses a form of meditation called Zazen that enables individuals to work through problems, locate a spiritual wisdom and strive toward inner peace. It is a means through which one can discover the self.

Ryushin Sensei discussed the fundamental principles that he teaches. He mentioned, however, that he almost feels embarrassed discussing his practice outside of the ZMM. "The teachings would not begin this way at the Monastery," he said. "Normally the practice is shown before it is explained."

Zen Buddhism is about confronting suffering and delusions. Ryushin Sensei described the process of self-discovery and the challenges of adopting Zen Buddhism through the words of existentialist philosopher Paul Tillich, quoting: "The courage to be is rooted in the God who appears when God has disappeared in anxiety of doubt."

The conversation then transitioned into how Zen Buddhism relates to dealing with everyday anxieties. He used Facebook as his primary example. "Facebook is used to share our personal anxieties as a substitute for actually solving the problems those anxieties arise from," he said. He called this distraction from concrete emotions "the Band-aid method."

The lecture turned into a discussion of the anxiety of impermanence, the fear of death and the need to find meaning in everyday life. "No matter how good things are, we are still afraid or dissatisfied," he said. He described his solution of practicing Zen Buddhism, saying, "If you make contact with the teachings, it's like coming home."

Ryushin Sensei talked about how the brain interprets information and challenges perception. "You're receiving my words through a filter of what those words mean to you," he said. "What does it mean to see a thought?" He made it clear that his practice is merely what has worked for him.

"Remember, I said this is an experiment, there is no certainty. Buddhism is asking you to be completely comfortable with the unknown," Ryushin Sensei said.

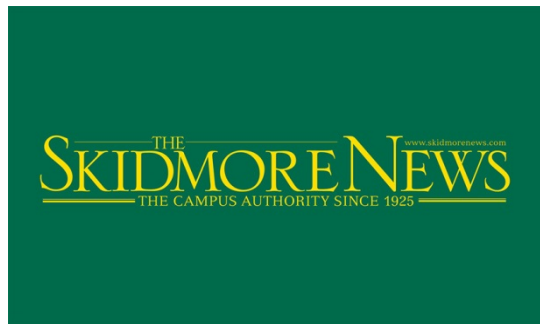
An audience member challenged Ryushin Sensei's inner peace. She asked if he could claim to have reached enlightenment. He immediately responded that this would be impossible to know. "That would mean there is a piece of my brain monitoring inner peace which means I really do not have inner peace," he said.

Buddhism is about letting go of judgment, whereas judgment would be needed to determine a state of enlightenment.

After the lecture, Ryushin Sensei invited members of the audience to stay and participate in a meditation session for 15 minutes of complete silence. Almost half of the audience stayed.

Before this session began, he went into more depth about his beliefs and life at the Zen Mountain Monastery. He concluded with a sense of determination to eliminate delusions and open up to the unknown. "You are touching the edge of the mysterious but it's not that fuzzy," he said.

To learn more about the ZMM, visit: www.mro.org/zmm/



Expert to educate on sexual assault

Calhoun responds to Albany Times Union article and reassures students

By Rebecca Orbach

On Fri, Apr 16, 2010

On April 11, Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun sent an e-mail addressing the college's commitment to treating cases of sexual assault on campus. The e-mail was prompted by an article in the Albany Times Union, which challenged the college's hearing process concerning sexual assault.

Unrelated to the publication of the article, the college has already been taking steps to reevaluate the hearing process since September.

The college has invited national expert on sexual assault Saunie Schuster to appear on May 26 for a day of training to educate Health Services, Res-Life, Campus Safety and anyone else who is interested on the proper conduct for sexual assault hearings.

"She will help us think through whether or not we need to make any changes to our structure," Calhoun said.

The college's hearing process follows standard procedure among many colleges. "This process takes you through from the moment the complainant brings a charge in to the moment the respondent responds to that charge," Calhoun said.

The Administrative Hearing Board works in conjunction with faculty, victims and offenders, where they discuss an issue to determine fault and "repair the harm," according to the student handbook.

"Everything we do is set in the context of education," said Philip Glotzbach, Skidmore College president. "A court of law has different rules, regulations, standards, outcomes and objectives - some overlap, but there really is a difference. What we are doing here is within the context of trying to help students learn. Obviously, we're interested in justice and in fairness and I believe our system is designed to achieve that as much as any human system can do," Glotzbach said.

Both the complainant and the respondent have the opportunity to pick a member of the college community to support and represent them in the hearing.

"When you're traumatized you can't hear people giving you all your options, so you need a person to keep telling you all of your choices," Calhoun said.

Both parties have the option to submit a personal statement in lieu of a public appearance, but the college is looking into new options.

"With the advent of technology, we are looking at institutions that are using Skype or video, which gives us an opportunity to support an individual who determines that he or she wants to speak to the board without actually being there," Calhoun said.

The article cited an investigation by the Center for Public Integrity, which found that school disciplinary hearings rarely result in attackers leaving campus, even when they are found guilty.

Glotzbach insists this is not the case at Skidmore. "Students get held responsible with fines. All kinds of punishments can be imposed up to and including suspension and even expulsion in certain cases," Glotzbach said.

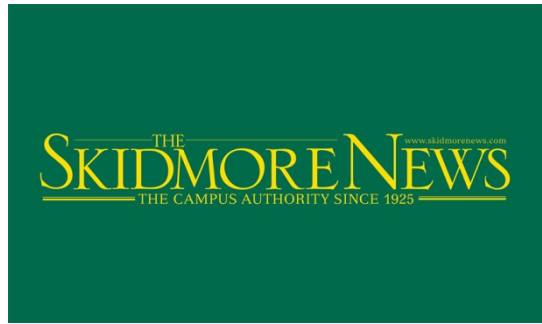
Though a sensitive topic, the Hearing Board must remain unbiased and fair in a case of potential sexual assault. "In this society, we make a fundamental commitment to the principle that one is innocent until proven guilty, in the courts and on campus," Glotzbach said.

The faculty members who appear on the Hearing Board during sexual assault cases are not trained specifically on how to treat the issue. "They are trained very extensively in our Hearing Board process and not on sexual assault. In fact, that's one of the things we're addressing," Calhoun said.

One of the college's goals is to make the process more comprehensive so that people feel that they can come forward to deal with their issues and not silence them. Calhoun addressed this issue in particular in her e-mail.

"What my letter was trying to address was that articles that depict the avenues that are in place for addressing and redressing certain things like this, that depict an assumption of unfairness, make an underreported crime even more silent. When that happens, we all lose because it is important for us to have systems that give voice to what is often a faceless crime, so anything that happens that makes that tougher is a loss for us," Calhoun said.

"Our first goal as an educational institution is to help students be smart and not get into situations where things can get out of control, where there can be misunderstanding or where there can be violence or assault," Glotzbach said.



Editorial: Stand up to sexual assault

On Sat, Apr 17, 2010

Sexual assault is a heinous crime that, when committed on a college campus, cannot be effectively treated within an educational context and must be taken to the court of law.

An article published in the Albany Times Union on April 11 challenged Skidmore's hearing process in dealing with cases of sexual assault.

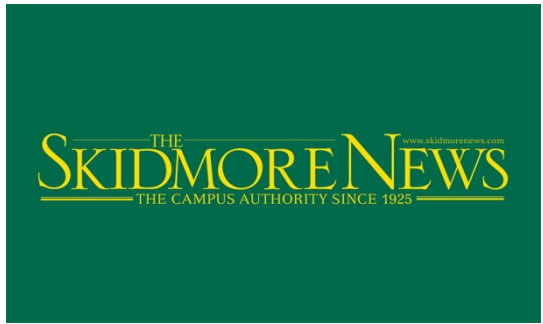
The article paints an unflattering portrait of the college's disciplinary process, particularly critiquing the committee's qualifications and the fact that a sexual assault hearing was conducted in the same manner as one for a lesser offense.

The college's policies on how to handle such cases are somewhat flawed, but not as much as the article portrays. It is the college's right and responsibility to pursue disciplinary action in response to incidents where campus rules are violated. A disciplinary hearing is not a court of law, nor does it pretend to be. The hearings are convened to administer over college-related issues. Even in instances where there has been no legal action, it is the college's prerogative to conduct its own investigation and hearing in regards to issues solely under its rules and jurisdiction.

Sexual assault cases can be extremely difficult to resolve in court, as there often is no conclusive evidence beyond he-said-she-said testimony. The college's disciplinary board is even less equipped to handle them and, more importantly, has no legal authority to determine guilt of such a crime. That reality severely limits how the college may respond to such a case and how much justice a student can really achieve.

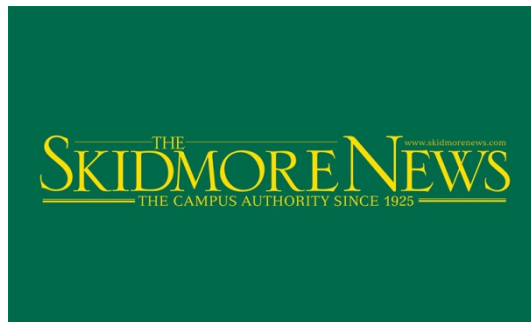
A disciplinary hearing, therefore, should not be misconstrued as an appropriate substitute for criminal justice. Without a judicial ruling, the college finds itself in a very tenuous position and likely unable to make any significant decisions against the accused. With that in mind, the college needs to make every effort to effectively communicate the situation to victims and help guide them to a legal outlet for their grievances.

Furthermore, when such matters do come before the committee, special precautions must be in place. The trauma involved in sexual assault is hard for anyone who has not experienced it to truly grasp. Discussing the incident can be hard enough; doing so across a table from one's attacker is often too much to ask. Victims should be offered alternative means to present their case like video capabilities;



sometimes, a written statement is not enough. Likewise, all persons involved in administering the hearing must receive special training in handling sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a disgusting crime, one made all the more infuriating by the difficulties it presents during the judicial process. Students must be made aware from their initial cry for help that the college can only do so much for them in the educational context. In the event a disciplinary hearing does arise, it is critical that the college provides a qualified support system that can guide students toward seeking the justice they can only truly find in a court of law.



Anticipating and preparing for 420

By Kristin Travagline
On Mon, Apr 19, 2010

As April 20 approaches, the college faces the unofficial marijuana-related holiday: 420. In response to last year's events, closed tents that could conceal illicit activities will be prohibited.

"We want to make it clear this year what we intend on doing is enforcing our college policies and also the laws of the state. Anybody that possesses marijuana or is smoking in public view is guilty of a crime in New York state. It is a misdemeanor. If we do find someone violating the laws and policies, we will take action up to and including arrest," Conway said.

"A small group of students gathered at the pond in recognition of 420," said Rochelle Calhoun, dean of Student Affairs. Smoking marijuana on April 20 has become an unofficial holiday celebrating marijuana use, otherwise illegal in the U.S, though decriminalized in numerous states, including N.Y. Neither Campus Safety nor the city police broke up the gathering.

The incident gained significant public attention after The Saratogian published a story about the event and included a photograph of students smoking marijuana from a homemade papier mâché bong shaped like an octopus. "The article caused a good deal of concern on and off campus. These kinds of events are publicity magnets and it is easy for people reading about them to draw conclusions. People read into these things," Calhoun said.

Both Calhoun and Skidmore College President Philip Glotzbach said The Saratogian article and photo misrepresented the situation and the college. The Saratogian estimated that 100 people gathered by the pond. Calhoun said Campus Safety never saw more than 20 students and did not witness anyone smoking marijuana. "We thought it was a very modest gathering and it is unfair for the actions of a few to be representative for the entire community," Calhoun said.

In response to the incident, the college has been engaging in a dialogue between the Skidmore community and larger Saratoga community. One meeting was held last spring, and two were held this fall, with representatives from both parties.

Those present at the meetings included the Saratoga Prevention Council, law enforcement and college representatives including Jennifer Burden, director of Health Promotions, Jack Sandler, head coach of the men's lacrosse team and three members of the Student Government Association. "Both meetings

this year focused on how to deal with the upcoming 420 and the continued partnership in addressing issues of drugs in our communities," Calhoun said.

Glotzbach pointed out how last year's events provided an opportunity for Calhoun to engage the students about drug and alcohol issues. Conway expressed the same opinion. "It did spark a dialogue. We talk about programming and it leads to programming, so that was the good part," Conway said.

In preparation for the upcoming date, Calhoun will send a preemptory letter to the college community this week. There will also be additional Campus Safety staff on campus on April 20.

Last year, Campus Safety did not have probable cause to search closed tents that were set up on the campus lawn.

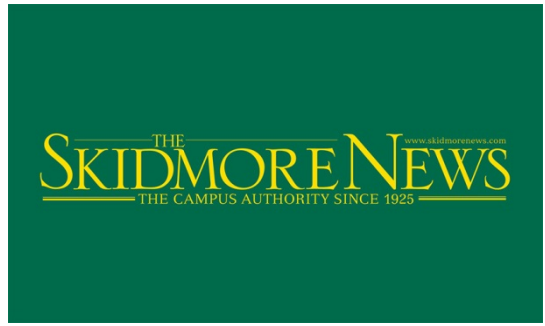
"There will be a lot of attention directed toward the campus this year," Glotzbach said. Even in light of last year's media attention, the college will not prevent the press from reporting on the upcoming April 20. "We have never closed the campus to the press. We can't protect you from how you might be represented in the press," Glotzbach said.

Glotzbach described how individuals sometimes view smoking marijuana in public as a form of protest against anti-marijuana laws. "Civil disobedience is the willingness to put one's self at the mercy of the legal system. If one wishes to commit civil disobedience, it is inconsistent for them to think that the college should protect them from the legal consequences," Glotzbach said.

Conway expressed a similar stance. "It's all about free choice and free will. The kids here understand that it's all about their own personal responsibility and that they are held accountable. What I would suggest for people who oppose the current situation is to get politically active. If you want to change things it doesn't help you by breaking the law, but by changing the law," Conway said.

Glotzbach said the incident changed the Saratoga Springs community's perception of the college. "The publicity the college received negatively affected our standing in the community. Skidmore is a very positive presence in this community and the good work that many people do can be undone in an instant by one bad article. Photographs can be misleading," Glotzbach said.

Glotzbach suggested incidents like what happened on April 20 could provoke feelings in Saratoga Springs community members that the college is more of a problem than a benefit. Officials who work in the Saratoga Springs middle schools and high schools are concerned that the April 20 incident at the college has been detrimental to anti-drug and alcohol efforts. "Like it or not, the kids in middle school and high school see Skidmore students as role models," Calhoun said.



Calhoun described the frustration that educators face in keeping the attention of high school students focused on the negative effects of drugs and alcohol. "Their stress is compounded when the college looks like it is celebrating drug use," Calhoun said.

Glotzbach urged students to think about their actions on April 20 in terms of responsible citizenship. "The Skidmore community is embedded in a larger web of community and we have a responsibility to the others whom we are connected to," Glotzbach said.

Five artists display work at Schick

By Melissa Cohn

On Mon, Apr 19, 2010

Until June 27, *The Figure Five Ways*, an exhibit featuring the works of five established artists, will be on display at the Schick Gallery.

The exhibit includes works by Michael Ferris, Jr., Susan Jamison, Hugo Crosthwaite and Sophie Jodin.

Michael Ferris Jr.'s work, entitled 'Artist's Sketches' was extremely colorful and detailed.

He also displayed 3D wood sculptures of figures that were equally as colorful and had the same detail and pattern usage. In the sketches, Ferris Jr. also used mark making, with hatching and cross hatching, as well as varied line usage, to create his figures.

Susan Jamison's works included 'Perfect Moment,' 'Forget Me Not,' 'Curious Bloom' and 'Avian Couture.'

Her inking on wooden panels was abstract, yet realistic in the figure. She used mark making and patterns to give the painting a texture-like feeling. Her images are naked and raw.

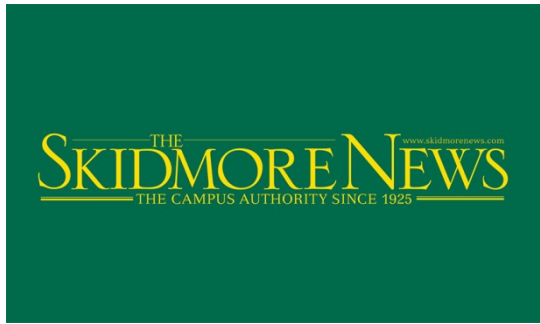
Hugo Crosthwaite's pieces included 'Bereft,' 'Lion Hunt' and 'Exotica.' Hugo is a draftsman; he draws with pencil and charcoal in a fairly detailed way, achieving a contemporary feel.

During his lecture Hugo explained that he was from Tijuana, a city that grows organically, much like his paintings. He used a lot of mark making in his pieces and his use of blacks, whites and grays add intensity to the images.

Jodin's 14 works on display were titled 'Small Dramas and Little Nothings', which use negative space to emphasize the figures.

There isn't much in the way of ground in the pieces. The figures seem to just be floating in space, but it works with the composition of all the pieces put together.

Jodin also felt that the way you present you work has a big impact. From her lecture it was apparent that she liked to make many small pieces in a series and then hang them up in rows.



EAC campaigns for change to fluorescent light bulbs

By Audrey Nelson

On Mon, Apr 19, 2010

A campaign conducted by Davide Gill-Austern '11 and Wylie Brown '12 of the Cool Cities subcommittee of the Environmental Action Club will urge Saratoga Springs citizens to switch from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs.

The goal of the campaign is to reduce the community's environmental footprint as well as save families and businesses money on their utility bills.

In the prospectus, they write, "The Community CFL Challenge is a multi-tiered campaign that seeks to build community-wide engagement around the procurement of more energy efficient lighting. Our goal is to market a win-win proposition for all stakeholders that participate-local commerce benefits, individuals save money, we lessen our individual and collective environmental footprint and, perhaps, more importantly, we act together as neighbors toward a common good."

CFLs are both more energy and savings efficient as they last longer than incandescent bulbs while using less energy.

Though last fall the mayor of Saratoga Springs signed on to the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement under the Cool Cities Campaign, Gill-Austern and Brown believe it alone is only one piece of the puzzle. "When Jonathan Greene, Skidmore Alum '07 and past EAC member, came to us with an idea to target energy use in the residential community, Wylie and I were excited to jump on as partners," Gill-Austern said.

The campaign is composed of two branches: the business outreach and the resident outreach. The latter's project design is based on an organizing model called the Eco-Team model, created by David Gershon, founder and CEO of the Empowerment Institute.

With a neighbor-to-neighbor approach, the strategy employs block leaders, who will volunteer to go door-to-door asking their block neighbors if they would be interested in switching to CFLs.

A college faculty member has offered to create a mapping and database management system for the campaign to plot the block leaders. "Our hope is that this mapping function will be integrated into the Web site to visually show potential and existing volunteers their physical placement," Brown said.

The campaign also calls for neighborhood managers who will communicate with 10 block leaders, manage the leaders' results and, if possible, deliver the CFLs. Gill-Austern and Brown are seeking Skidmore community members interested in taking a neighborhood manager position.

While it is not required for neighborhood managers to be in Saratoga Springs through the end of the campaign on June 15, they would be integral to organizing and communicating with the block leaders.

Likewise, Gill-Austern and Brown are searching for block leaders whether they are faculty, staff or students, to reach the greatest amount of potential participants.

Student participants would further fortify a bond between the college and the Saratoga Springs community, Gill-Austern explained. "Any endeavor that Skidmore students are involved in to make Saratoga Springs a better place to live will inherently strengthen bonds between the college and the city," he said.

The business division of the campaign began this past month, urging business owners to switch their light sources to CFL light bulbs. Allerdice Hardware held a chamber event that educated businesses on their lighting options, which spread awareness of the campaign, Gill-Austern and Brown said. Allerdice is also offering discounted CFLs to business owners.

"The campaign is spearheaded by the Local Living Guide, which is eager to share the benefits and responsibilities with business, non-profit, volunteer groups and individuals. So far, Allerdice Hardware, the Sustainability Challenge Working Committee at Skidmore, and a number of individuals have put forth their commitment," Gill-Austern said.

At the end, the Local Living Guide will calculate the total cost savings and reduction in carbon emissions. "After both the residential and business campaigns have wrapped up, if we are happy with the participation, we can do a major media push to share the results," Brown said.

Life and flight on Saturn's moon

By Alex Brehm

On Thu, Apr 22, 2010

If there are aliens on Saturn's moons, one Skidmore student will be the first to tell you how they fly.

Theo Gordon '10 is a physics major researching aerodynamics. He's trying to figure out the mathematics of air flow around planes' wings. It's difficult because the curved surface of any wing is hard to model with math. But he keeps it interesting because of his end goal: he wants to find out how planes would fly on the surface of Titan, one of Saturn's moons.

Titan is the largest of Saturn's moons. It's important to scientists and science fiction writers alike because, of all the planets and moons in our solar system, it is one of the more likely places to have alien life.

Whenever astronomers look for extraterrestrial life, they look for hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbons are molecules that contain hydrogen atoms and carbon atoms.

Every life form that we know of contains hydrocarbons in the molecules of its cells - from bacteria to humans. So, if astronomers see evidence of hydrocarbons on another planet or moon, it's accepted as a sign of possible life.

Researchers also have shown that Titan has a very thick atmosphere, 1.4 times thicker than Earth's. That means that if you were standing on Titan and tried to walk or even move your arms, you'd feel more resistance - more like you were moving your arms in water.

Titan's atmosphere is mostly made up of nitrogen, with a little bit of methane, which could potentially support microscopic forms of life.

Titan also has much weaker gravity than Earth - about one eighth the strength. The atmosphere on Titan is so thick, and the gravity so weak, that if you were standing on the surface of Titan you could flap your hands up and down and fly.

That's where Gordon got interested. Given Titan's gravity and atmosphere, how would a plane behave? The question has at least one clear application: sending a probe to study Titan's surface.

In 2004, NASA did just that, however the surface is solid ground. Gordon's notion is an aerial probe, giving an eagle-eye view of the ground and studying properties of the moon's higher atmosphere.

So far, Gordon has studied simple two-dimensional models of airplane wings. "You have to start out with 2-D models," Gordon says, "because 3-D models mean so much more math and take up so much more computing power."

Gordon studies cross-sections of wings - tapered ovals dotted with arrows to indicate air flow bouncing off the surface. But to study a curved surface would still be very complex. "You have to break it up into sections," says Gordon. "It's called 'discretizing.'"

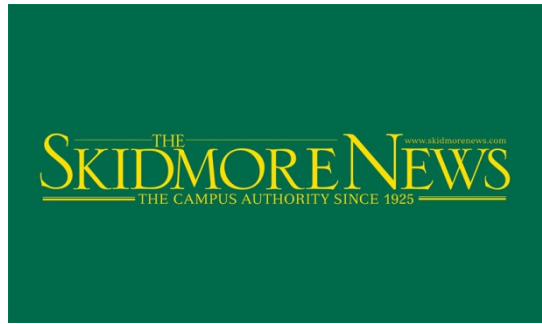
This breaks up the oval into planes and corners, leaving Gordon with a 35-sided polygon. This makes it much easier to understand the behavior of air around the wing, if you can call a system of 35 equations easy to understand. In this simplified model, air bounces off of each one of the wing's 35 sides and affects the direction of the air bouncing off of the other sides.

Each equation describes the direction of air bouncing off of one of the sides. Once those equations are worked out, much of the hard work is done. Knowing the direction of air flows tells you about air pressure around the wing, which tells you how much lift the wing generates.

Which brings us back to Titan. Because its gravity is so weak, you need very little lift to fly. But the soupy nature of Titan's atmosphere also causes what Gordon calls "boundary conditions." It makes it harder to predict how air behaves around the wing.

Gordon will be presenting his research May 4 in Dana 277, along with all physics student researchers.

Alex Brehm is sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.



Students live the Greek life

By Sarah Barry

On Thu, Apr 22, 2010

The college may not have a Greek system, but some Grecian fun came to campus this weekend in the form of "Greekend." The sophomore class council planned togas, games and concerts to entertain this year's student body during spring fling.

The Olympic games were moved from the original location of Case green to the Case walkway because of the weather.

The games were intended to foster dorm pride. "I felt that during the weekend, we should have an event that encouraged students from the various dorms to participate," said Melvis Langyintuo, 2012 class president. Cheering and music emanated from the green throughout the event.

Midnight Kickball on Thursday night and the originally outdoor Chiddy Bang concert were moved due to the weather, but Langyintuo felt that, despite original setbacks, the events were a success.

"Initially, the weather made me extremely frustrated and nervous about the outcome of our events. But eventually, I made up my mind to be positive and led my class council to forget about the negatives and just focus on what we could control and let the uncontrollable factors just play out," Langyintuo said.

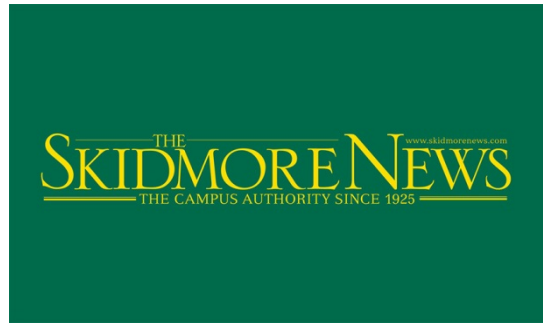
The Greekend idea came from Langyintuo, and SGA was supportive of the spring fling theme.

"All the events were planned strategically to welcome the spring season with fun activities, but as the weekend drew closer, the rain and cold weather caused us to think creatively about re-organizing and re-locating the events," Langyintuo said.

Cool weather didn't seem to affect the Toga party on Friday night. Students danced shirtless and some dressed for the theme with the gold Grecian crowns provided by the council.

The sophomore class council was positive about the attendance and success of Greekend. SGA agreed to fund the proposed concert and aided the sophomore class in weekend events.

"With a successful weekend like this, students can appreciate our hard work a little bit more, and an event such as the concert showcases how ICC and SGA listens and implements the ideas of the student body," Langyintuo said.



Put a stop to sexual abuse

By Olivia Morrow & Sarah Rosenblatt

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

We can all agree that the spirit of this year's 420 reflected a cultural change at the college; tie-dye T-shirts have been replaced by law enforcement uniforms, guitars with news cameras.

Due to the bad press in The Saratogian last year regarding the holiday, the inboxes of the college's students have been recently flooded with warnings.

The message is loud and clear: pot smoking is not and will not be tolerated here. The threats of trouble for using marijuana this year are not empty; the multiple arrests of students selling weed last year demonstrate that the administration is not afraid to launch a war on drugs.

While the policing of pot raged on, last week, another 'bad press' incident took place when the Albany Times Union revealed that there could be significantly worse crimes that are going unpunished.

In the article, former Skidmore student Mary Johnson came forward and professed her disgust with the college's response to her allegations that another student raped her. In her intra-campus trial, the college set up a process in which she endured the trauma of sitting across from her assailant while trying to prove her own victimization.

In the end, despite the pictures of her bruised body and bloody lip documented at the hospital, the administration deemed there was insufficient evidence, and suggested that a mere apology would suffice.

After the alleged rapist was allowed to remain on campus with no consequences, Johnson found that the only way to console herself and to gain her livelihood back was to leave the college.

What's wrong with this picture? While we must acknowledge the responsibility of the college to punish any student who breaks the law, we must ask ourselves why there is a disproportionate amount of energy focused on some crimes over others.

Why do we see immense precautionary measures taken against students for lightin' up a doobie, while very little is done to prevent sexual violence? The presence of weed in most situations cannot compare to the trauma that accompanies sexual violence.

Safety alerts via e-mails and petty neon fliers are prime examples of how sexual violence is treated. We are ambiguously informed with passive phrases like "a women was assaulted late last night" and subsequently are expected to avoid "dangerous" areas and people.

But why is it the woman's responsibility to avoid becoming a victim? Why isn't the responsibility of avoiding rape being put on the potential perpetrators?

Furthermore, the students who are aware of the danger of sexual assault mostly perceive it in stereotypical and inaccurate terms.

Studies have shown time and time again that rape mostly occurs between acquaintances, and yet we are socialized to misplace our fear to the "dark stranger" in an alley with more than one phallic weapon.

As an educational institution, the college has a responsibility to inform its students about the realities of safety.

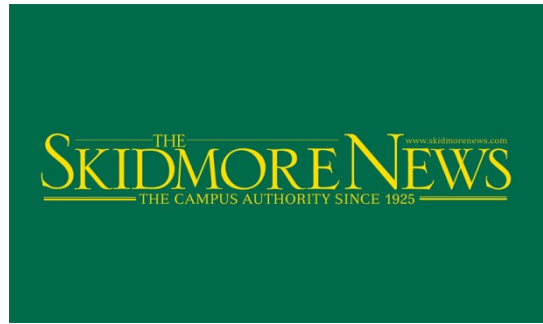
Of course, the college's judicial system does not come from a thoroughly bred vacuum, but rather reflects greater social mores about sexual violence.

Under a patriarchy, rape is the only crime in which a victim has to prove him or herself a victim.

The college should be able to be a source of activism and prove that it doesn't condone rape under any circumstance. Skidmore students and the administration must not simply react to, but actively prevent sexual violence.

Because a community's values are demonstrated in the way it polices behavior, the college's reactions to and measures against these two issues essentially state that the recreational use of pot is a more punishable crime than sexual assault. The judicial loophole and culture of misplaced fear will not be tolerated any longer.

Olivia Morrow and Sarah Rosenblatt are either two arbitrary ladies seeking an outlet for sexual frustration, or two enlightened gender scholars looking to change this school. Or both.



Editorial: Don't be passive about 420

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

If students are going to choose to publicly smoke marijuana on 420, they should acknowledge that historically, the day is one of civil disobedience. Instead of taking a passive approach, students participating in 420 should be actively advocating the decriminalization of cannabis.

Prior to April 20, Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun e-mailed the student body, discouraging the use of marijuana and outlining the repercussions of being caught smoking on campus. Although there has been some debate within the student body over what Calhoun's e-mail might be insinuating about the student body's collective morality, we must recognize the positive, protective quality of the letter.

Calhoun's e-mail was a gracious gesture on the part of the administration and, rather than trying to read between the lines, we should just read the lines. Calhoun clearly stated that smoking marijuana would be considered a misdemeanor, tents would be prohibited and, as always, Campus Safety officers would be patrolling. By transparently articulating the administration's expectations and intentions, Calhoun made no specific accusations or threats, but did make sure that students were entirely aware of the potential consequences of their actions.

In contrast, the students attending Boulder University in Colorado received warnings that the administration would take incriminating photos of them on 420; our college has made no such threat. We have been given the opportunity by the college not only to think about smoking marijuana, but also to think about the purpose of 420. Students who choose to smoke publicly on 420 should consider their actions civil disobedience rather than a leisurely holiday. Furthermore, beyond protesting, the college is a good environment to engage in constructive, intellectual discourse on the issue of decriminalization. Student-run panels about the history of 420 could offer insightful debates about the benefits of cannabis and the political purpose of 420 as civil disobedience.

The presence of reporters on campus this past 420 speaks to the fascination Saratoga Springs has with the day. While the green was relatively empty this year, students interested in the purpose of 420 could host demonstrations about the decriminalization of cannabis and educate the town through the press for those uncomfortable with breaking the law. Students should not feel pressured to smoke marijuana to be a part of the movement of 420, even if there are students who would purposefully break the law. We hold the potential to make a positive statement about 420 in both respects.

Calhoun expressed her concern with how the actions of a few become representative of a whole. But if those actions were not that of the passive pot-smoker but rather the knowledgeable protestor, the student body could bring recognition to the cause, regardless of whether others agree. Students who choose to smoke marijuana publicly on 420 should treat the day within the educational context we are all a part of. It is unfortunate when students against the idea of 420 are categorized together with students that do smoke publicly. By establishing an active form of civil disobedience, students who smoke publicly on 420 can make a name for themselves without making a name for others.

Japanese hip-hop and its shining star

A history of j-rap and a review of a late pioneer's opus

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

Hip-hop can be formed and adapted to speak to virtually anyone in any place, changing its sound and style as it moves. Yet it remained an American genre, indeed as American as jazz, well into the 1980s.

As the years went by and the decade jumped to the 1990s, hip-hop began to crawl out from the underground worldwide.

From Romania, where rappers drew parallels between American ghettos and Communist era apartment blocks, to Britain, where hip-hop culture is now as entrenched as any other.

Rap had only found a limited audience in early 1980s Japan, even as Run DMC and contemporaries were in the process of making hip-hop commercially viable. However, the commercial interests of America didn't make it across the Pacific.

Instead, record companies ignored hip-hop, causing it to develop locally and almost entirely underground.

Hideaki Ishi, known worldwide as DJ Krush, began recording around the mid-1980s during the rise of DJing in Japan.

Originally, it was assumed that production would be central to Japanese hip-hop, since the conventional wisdom considered the Japanese language difficult to rap in.

However, MCs in Japan proliferated underground and in hip-hop clubs that began to open in the late '80s and early '90s. It wasn't until the middle of the 1990s that hip-hop in Japan became commercially successful.

The commercialization of hip-hop spawned a fusion of rap and pop known as J-rap, which has sparked some debate over its authenticity.

Nonetheless, J-rap's popularity grew to the point where, in the early 2000s, Japanese rap records began to outsell those of the United States.

Growing parallel to its mainstream explosion was the diversification of topics dealt with in the music.

What was once an imitation of U.S. rap culture and a form of party music became much more varied, with lyrics tackling everything from anti-government sentiments and romance to spoken word poetry.

The music itself has evolved too, incorporating elements from rock, jazz and techno, and even sounds taken from nature.

Nujabes, real name Jun Seba, was one of the premier producers of Japanese hip-hop in the 1990s and 2000s.

Owning record stores in Tokyo and collaborating with diverse artists from around the world, Nujabes gained international recognition for his prolific work on the soundtrack of popular anime "Samurai Champloo," which itself blended traditional culture and hip-hop.

However, just as his star was really beginning to shine, Nujabes died at age 36 in a traffic accident in the greater Tokyo area on February 26.

His label, Hydeout Productions, has announced plans to release his unheard material posthumously.

For now, the world is left with four studio albums and numerous collaborations. One of those albums, "Hydeout Productions 2nd Collection," was released in 2007 and remains a fan favorite, as well as one of my own.

"2nd Collection" begins with "Voice of Autumn," a beautiful track containing a surreal piano seemingly emanating from underneath water at the same time as it's dancing above.

The following track, "Sky Is Falling," is aptly named, its title being a good description of the way jazzy horns cascade around skippy drums. Brisk and lively, the piano and drums mix with horns to create cool momentum in "Waltz for Life Will Born."

The haunting "Imaginary Folklore" is a standout with light vocals and music contributed by Japanese trio Clammbon. The piano steps downward into a sonic abyss, merging into a sweet keyboard-laced song.

"Hikari" is a dreamy waltz of strings and romantic wordplay by Maryland MC Substantial.

Nujabes' unofficial signature song, "Counting Stars," is a captivating mixture of multilayered guitar-driven melodies.

The rolling beauty of the pianos on "Another Reflection" is sublime and soothing.

Part of a series of tracks, "Luv (Sic) (Modal Soul remix)" is straight boom bap and scratches with graceful pianos on top.

Japanese-American MC Shing02 spits existential hip-hop knowledge: "Haven't you heard the news lately?/Seems we've been living for some time/in a Purgatory."

The breezy "Windspeaks" is a brisk jazz tune, with Nujabes' spiritual successor, multi-instrumentalist Uyama Hiroto, contributing substantially. Floating flutes flutter along like the wind over the thumping of the beat.

"2nd Collection" closes with "After Hanabi (Listen To My Beats)." "Hanabi" means fireworks in Japanese, and on the track sounds of fireworks can be heard amidst excitement and laughter.

The submerged piano makes a triumphant return; the atmosphere of the song is a perfect way to end the record. An aural masterpiece, "2nd Collection" deserves a listen from any fan of music in general.

The thing about Nujabes' music is that it creates images as soon as it penetrates your ears. You are granted a window into his state of mind when he created them.

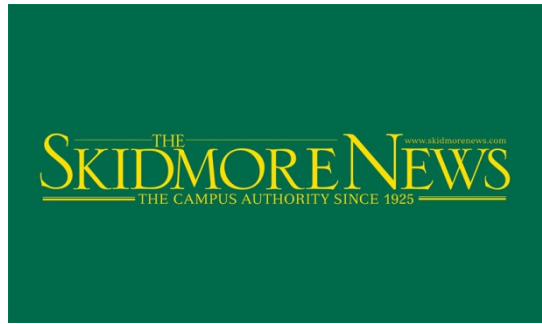
The joy, the serenity and the love are palpable in every accentuation and dip. That's what makes his creations special. They are a reflection of what it is to be human.

In listening to "Counting Stars," I am reminded of the scene in "The Lion King" where Mufasa shows Simba the countless stars and explains how they were all kings of the animal kingdom at one point.

Nujabes, to me, is among them, shining brightly along with legends such as Gang Starr's Guru, who slipped into a coma two days after Nujabes' death, succumbing to cancer April 19 of this year.

Rest in peace, Nujabes and Guru. A moment of silence for hip-hop.

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



Earth Day will feed the mind and the stomach

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

Although the national date to celebrate Earth Day is April 22, the college will be celebrating April 24 on Case Green.

Bands such as Big Tree, The Sanctuaries, Matthew Carefully, Mallory, Earnest Hem'n'haw and the Shotgun Republic, Fluffy Lumbers, Pop Winds, Skeletons in the Piano, Tony Castles, Motel Motel and Mokaad and the Flexpoints, will play from noon to 10 p.m.

The barbeque will include veggie burgers, vegetable kabobs made from the farmer's market and local vegetables, organic chips, locally baked cookies from the Four Seasons, homemade organic potato and pasta salad, a keg of root beer from the Saratoga Brewery and kegs of organic beer from Wolavers, all served on biodegradable plates, forks, cups and napkins.

"Our main goal is to raise awareness about things happening on campus including composting the local food we already get in the Dining Hall, the student-run garden and how people can get involved," said Aurora Pinkey-Drobnis, treasurer of the Environmental Action Club.

"I personally think the most important thing we are trying to do is to let people know the things they can do on campus and in their community such as eating local foods, turning off the lights and recycling," Pinkey-Drobnis said.

In addition to food and music, tables will be set up for various activities including tie-dying T-shirts and potting plants, herbs and vegetables. There will also be a clothing swap. There will be a table selling reusable mugs with profits going to Haiti, a table selling handmade crafts and various tables informing the college community about sustainability initiatives and projects going on around campus.

"This is going to be an amazingly fun event, but we have a message that is so important: sit back, relax, listen to some music, eat some local and delicious food, but also take a moment to reflect on how your actions affect the environment," Pinkey-Drobnis said.

The Campus Environment Committee recently completed the college's first Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which calculates the school's greenhouse gas footprint.

Greenhouse gases are released through the use of carbon-based fuels. "A greenhouse gas permits the sun's rays to reach the earth, but prevents infrared radiation from escaping back into space," Pinkey-Drobnis said.

"Excess greenhouse gases in the atmosphere interfere with the mechanism through which the planetary temperature is regulated," the report reads.

The research, which took approximately one year to complete, is divided into three sections: scope one, scope two and scope three.

"Scope one includes direct emissions from sources that are owned and controlled by the College. Scope two includes indirect emissions resulting from the generation of produced energy, for example, electricity. Scope three includes indirect emissions that are a result of activities related to the college, but are not owned or controlled by the college. For example, employee commuting," the report reads.

For example, between scopes one and two, the main contributors to greenhouse gases are "the big three," which are electricity, natural gas and fuel oil. Electricity contributes the most at 9203 metric tonnes of CDE (MTCDE). In scope three, the largest contributor to greenhouse gasses is study abroad air travel, using approximately 2606 MTCDE.

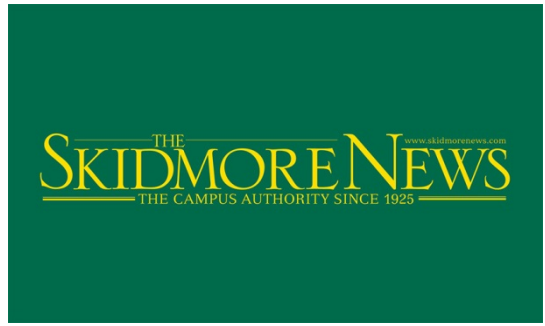
The greenhouse gas inventory provides the research necessary to begin reducing the school's carbon emissions. The CEC is currently investigating which projects are feasible and most effective to achieve this goal.

"We wanted the report to serve as a baseline, so that we can work on creating a commitment of greenhouse gas reduction by a certain date. Creating a climate action plan is how we get to that goal," said Kim Marsella, professor and chair of the CEC.

The committee aims to have developed an action plan by this fall. They also want to use the report as a way to communicate with students, faculty and staff. "We're really interested in using the report as a dialogue piece to involve the community as much as we can. We want to use their suggestions," Marsella said.

Particularly with scope three, the section that calculates greenhouse gas emissions outside of the college's control, the CEC wants to reach out to the community to reduce individual carbon footprints.

In comparison to the results of similar universities and institutions, Skidmore's results fall in the middle. "Between 15 schools, where halfway is 7.5, we came in 8th. We're right in the middle," Marsella said.



The CEC intends to conduct another greenhouse gas inventory in two years to check the progress of its action plan.

Investigating Campus Safety

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

When most students think of Campus Safety, they might focus on the times they encountered officers breaking up parties. Others could remember the time an officer unlocked their door. However, the 32 officers comprising the department are responsible for much more than that.

"There is an awful lot that goes on that most people don't see. Our role is to enforce the policies of the school and provide a safe, secure environment where students can get a quality education," said Dennis Conway, director of Campus Safety.

In order to provide that environment, officers undergo extensive training.

"We do probably four to five times more training than what's required by the law," Conway said. In the coming weeks, Conway is sending two of the college's Campus Safety officers to the New York State Police Sex Offenders Seminar. This seminar entails a full week of training, 40 hours, regarding procedures, evidence and the psychology involved in responding to sexual offenses. When these two officers return from the seminar, all of the college's full time Campus Safety officers will have completed this training.

Campus Safety also uses training techniques known as tabletop exercises. During these drills, the officers develop an emergency scenario in a class- room setting and role-play their reaction to that crisis. The scenario can range in topic from severe weather to sexual assault.

In tabletop exercises, the parties that would be involved in handling an aspect of the crisis discuss how they would respond to the situation. In the past, Campus Safety did a table- top exercises focused on sexual assault and brought in the local police, district attorney's office, rape counselors from the Saratoga community, on-campus advocates, the administration, Health Services and the Counseling Center, among others. Formal procedures develop from these discussions. "The first time there's a true emergency, it's not the first time we're reacting to it," Conway said.

One of the most elaborate tabletop exercises that Campus Safety has completed took place five years ago. Campus Safety organized a drill simulating an attack on campus involving weapons of mass destruction. The simulation involved numerous agencies, including the National Guard, the FBI and the Saratoga County HAZMAT Team. "We had students play victims. They showed how they would be

triaged and how they would be hot washed after being exposed to a chemical agent, things like that," Conway said.

Aside from experience and training, Campus Safety officers must also have excellent people skills. "Our model for hiring officers is that we want them to have very good people skills. We're not as reactive as the police are. We are much more service-oriented," Conway said.

The typical day of a Campus Safety officer involves responding to calls and completing quality of life procedures, which means officers can spend their time on a variety of issues, ranging from helping students who have locked themselves out of their rooms to responding to medical emergencies.

Quality of life procedures often entail preemptive efforts on the part of the Campus Safety Officers. "We're in the [residential] halls a lot. We try to go in there prior to any incidents going on to try to get to know the students on a first name basis. We're not trying to catch anyone doing anything wrong. We're just trying to get them to respond and be responsible as citizens," Conway said.

The majority of service calls that Campus Safety responds to come from the students themselves. "90 percent of our service calls, we've looked at the statistics, come from other students. If students are studying, they will call us if there is a loud party going on. Today's student is more studious, more respectful and more engaged in learning. I think you can see that. Students don't want to be bothered when they are trying to do what they want to do with their education," Conway said.

However, service requests also come from college employees. It is not uncommon for Campus Safety to conduct internal investigations when issues arise between faculty members, including theft and sexual assault.

Campus Safety also receives requests from individuals to investigate the wellbeing of a student that they believe to be in crisis, known as welfare checks.

When a student is in crisis, a Campus Safety officer will physically walk the student to the Counseling Center or Health

Services.

The job of a Campus Safety officer also includes tasks that are less obvious to the campus community. Lori Parks is the safety system administrator for Campus Safety. Her job entails managing the Campus Safety computer systems, the communications desk, the training of Campus Safety officers and the records and statistics, as well as keeping track of sick time and vacation time, among other things.

As Parks recalled her first night managing the Campus Safety office alone, it was difficult for her to believe that she has been a Campus Safety officer for about 25 years. "My first night alone was probably in December and there was a major snowstorm. The power went out and there were candles lit in every room, people were sliding off roads in their vehicles. I remember sitting there and, at the end of the night, thinking, 'I don't know if I can handle this.' But, what was supposed to be a 'get me through to the next job position' became something that I love to do. I can't imagine ever leaving here," Parks said.

Conway said he hopes students feel comfortable using all of the services that Campus Safety provides. "We've heard from the different offices, whether it's the Counseling Center or Health Services or Residential Life, that most people feel very comfortable dealing with our staff and I think a lot of that has to do with the character and quality of the people we have on our staff," Conway said.

Speaker 'picks up the pieces' of feminist thought in times of war

By Rachel Kim

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

On April 19, Cynthia Eloe, a research professor at Clark University, gave the sixth annual Karen L. Coburn '63 Endowed Lecture in women's studies.

Her lecture, titled, "Picking up the Pieces: Using a Feminist Curiosity to Tally the Real Costs of the Iraq War," is a part of the Coburn lectures designed to enrich the women's studies curriculum.

Many students and faculty members gathered in Gannett Auditorium to listen to Eloe's perspectives and insight on the reality of the cost of war.

Eloe started her lecture by sharing her personal experience with feminist political thought. She noted the danger of ignorance by sharing her own initial unawareness of feminist thought.

Eloe recalled the beginning of her political science career at Berkeley. "There was no feminist curiosity and I didn't notice. So I spent all my years at Berkeley and my dissertation field research time out in Southeast Asia and my first years of teaching not paying any attention to women's lives," Eloe said.

Eloe specifically drew attention to the effects of war that she had not initially realized. "I now realize that what I was naïve about was that I underestimated the costs of war," Eloe said. She then shared the stories of two women whose lives were both changed permanently by the war.

The first story centered on the now 18-year-old Iraqi girl, Safa, and the effect the war had on her. In November 2005, when she was 13 years old, she witnessed a massacre at Haditha, a small Iraqi village.

Safa was from a family that lived through the Iran-Iraq War from 1980 to 1988 and the Gulf War in 1991.

Post-traumatic stress disorder was labeled as a disease that only affected American soldiers. It was not considered to have an effect on Iraqis, not even the children like Safa, who witnessed the Haditha killings and survived the war.

Today, Safa is eligible to partake in voting. "How did Safa vote? What did she think of? What about her experience? How is that affecting whether she voted, whether she thinks it's worth voting, who she's voting for, how she sees herself as a citizen?" Eloe asked the audience.

Eloe drew attention to the economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and their possible effects on the Iraqis, more specifically, Iraqi women.

"Nobody thought to do a gender analysis of these economic sanctions," Eloe said.

These economic sanctions first affected state jobs and employment. Gender analysis would have noted that Iraqi women took most state jobs.

In the Iraqi culture, state jobs were considered more appropriate for women. The negative effects of the economic sanctions would influence many more women than men.

Eloe then spoke about the effects of the war on women like Kim Gorski, wife of Mike Gorski, a member of the National Guard who was sent to Iraq in 2003.

This changed not only Mike's life, but also Kim's. She became a military wife who had to take care of other military wives; she became heavily involved with, and devoted a lot of her time and energy to, volunteer work.

The war impacts not only the soldiers, but also their wives. "Kim became her husband's rank in terms of responsibilities. For Kim, it's finding herself not treated like a civilian, but as an extension of the military," Eloe said.

The war affects not only the Iraqi and American soldiers, but also the children of Iraq and the wives of soldiers.

"Wars continue way beyond when the peace treaty is signed, way beyond when the last combat troops will leave Iraq. Wars go on for a long time and we don't think enough about all that they cost," Eloe said.

Students responsible on 420

By Rebecca Orbach

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

Reporters were spotted on campus April 20 interviewing students and covering any signs of students smoking marijuana publicly, celebrating 420.

In light of The Saratogian's article covering last year's 420 activities on the college's campus, Rochelle Calhoun, dean of Student Affairs, sent out an e-mail last week in order to deter students from recreating the "Pot Party" that occurred on April 20, 2009.

In her letter, Calhoun warned students that smoking marijuana in public could result in arrest. "It is a crime (B misdemeanor) to smoke any amount of marijuana or to have any amount in public view," Calhoun said.

Reporters from The Saratogian, Channel 9 News and a Time-Warner camera crew arrived on the college's green to witness and report students smoking marijuana publicly at 4:20 p.m. "No students smoked marijuana, at least not within view of the camera," said Erin Vannella of Your News Now.

Calhoun's e-mail had an effect on students and no arrests were made, according to campus safety.

In Calhoun's e-mail, she made it clear that tents and other enclosures would not be allowed on the green this year. Six students sat inside of an open structure made of large sticks.

"Quite honestly, they're all indoors," said Andy Garlick '11, one of the students sitting in the open structure.

Students abided by college officials' requests to act as ambassadors and represent the college in a positive way, unlike the students last year who publicly smoked from a homemade paper mâché bong.

"Even given our collective positive impact on the greater Saratoga Springs community, the actions of a small number of individuals were able to undermine our standing. The experience of last year is a good reminder that - even when we do not intend it - we represent the communities to which we belong," Calhoun said.

Many students, however, find it upsetting that their actions on a day designated to the public use of marijuana have such a profound effect on the school's reputation.

"It's unfortunate that it seems to be about the reputation and what prospective students think about the school and what their parents will think, rather than the experience of being a Skidmore student," Rosalind Elliot '10 said.

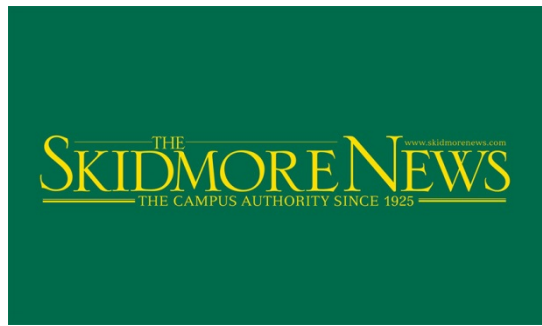
While Calhoun's e-mail seemed to deter students from smoking publicly, it did not stop students from enjoying the holiday altogether.

"Everyone is still smoking, but it's just that no one's out here because the Campus Safety to student ratio is pretty high," Elliot said.

While many students were disturbed by the college's efforts to minimize the publicity of 420, college officials were happy with the way the event panned out.

Dennis Conway, director of Campus Safety, referred to this year's 420 celebration as a "non-story."

"It was nice to see Skidmore students acting responsibly on 420. My letter to the student body stirred some good e-mail conversation about the role of student activism, which I support, and the difference between encouraging responsible citizenship and stifling student voice," Calhoun said.



Redman, Mehdau dazzle sold-out Zankel

By Gabe Weintraub
On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

Splashing raindrops lit up the night sky behind the giant windows at the front of the Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall April 16, as Joshua Redman and Brad Mehdau performed in front of a packed house at the Arthur Zankel Music Center.

The duo, featuring Redman on tenor saxophone and Mehdau on piano, stood alone at the center of a stage big enough for a full symphony orchestra, where they played an assortment of songs by both artists, opening with "The Falcon Will Fly Again," off of Mehdau's new album "Highway Rider." They also interspersed a number of covers, including "Cheryl," by jazz-great Charlie Parker, and a surprising interpretation of "Interstate Love Song" by the Stone Temple Pilots. "I might have messed up the lyrics," quipped Redman, whose lungs were otherwise occupied by his saxophone. For their encore, the pair dug further into the grunge cannon for a dark, nearly unrecognizable rendition of Nirvana's "Smell's Like Teen Spirit."

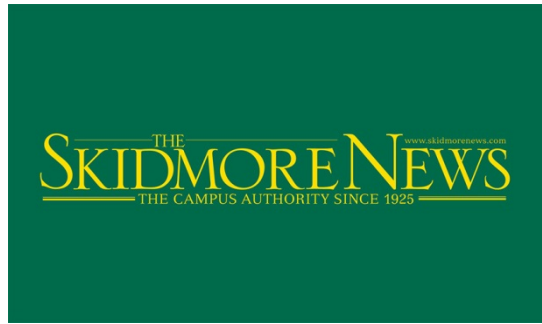
Both musicians took their turns soloing, and Redman even joked that jazz is inherently self-indulgent for artists, before launching into the appropriately titled "Note to Self." For the most part though, there was no showboating, and the two soared the highest when they flew in tandem.

Redman also switched to soprano saxophone for a few songs, extracting supple notes from the delicate instrument, before returning to the warm, gentle crooning of his tenor. Mehdau, opposite Redman on a Steinway grand, wove in and out with aplomb, toying with harmony and adding a light contrast to Redman's smoky, often percussive intonations.

Between songs, Redman told the crowd that he considered the college a "home away from home," fondly recalling his time at the college as a McCormack Visiting Artist-Scholar in the fall of 2004.

Redman and Mehdau have both performed at the college multiple times, this being Mehdau's fourth appearance in the last few years. The two artists have also collaborated many times and are frequently featured in each other's recordings. Only recently, however, have they begun touring together, with stops including the National Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C. this November. President Barack Obama and his family attended the performance.

The concert was part of the Filene Concert Series, celebrating its inaugural year in Zankel. Both artists had high praise for the new auditorium, calling it a beautiful facility and marveling at its acoustics.



Show resurrects French shock theater

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

A whirlwind of blood, screams, limbs and disembodied laughter has arrived at the college.

At 8 p.m. April 23 and 24 and 2 p.m. April 25, the theater department will perform its mainstage production of "The Grand Guignol" in the Janet Kinghorn Bernard Theater. The show, directed by alumni Yehuda Duenyas '96, played to packed audiences on April 16, 17 and 18.

"We've sold out for two shows so far, which is pretty unheard of for a mainstage show," said Elizabeth Karp '11, box office manger for the theater department.

She attributes this success in part to the fact that two side sections are closed off. However, she describes overall response to the show as "overwhelmingly positive."

As of April 22, tickets are available for all of the remaining dates except April 24.

The production takes its name from the now-defunct le Theatre du Grand-Guignol, which operated in Paris from 1897 to 1962, functioning as an homage of sorts to its blend of grizzly horror and black comedy.

"The Grand Guignol" is a double feature, consisting of two plays.

The first, "Le Baiser dans la nuit ('A Kiss in the Night')," a rendition of the 1912 original, tells the story of a man who is forced to have his face wrapped in bandages after his spurned fiancé douses his face in acid.

It is not particularly memorable, but serves nonetheless to set the tone for what's going to come.

Following a brief comedic interlude in which the entirety of the production's sizeable cast participates, "Nunky Gruel or a Stranger is as the Dew," an original work written by Normandy Raven Sherwood, make a bid for the audiences' last meal.

The plot revolves around an all-girl boarding school whose residents are subjected to horrific experiments by a mad scientist and his depraved assistants.

The play synthesizes the over-the-top shock horror characteristic of the Theatre du Grand Guignol with a modern pop culture consciousness, culminating in a bloody spectacle that will leave audience members either vomiting or rolling in the aisles, depending on their constitution.

"Nunky Gruel" is without a doubt the highlight of the whole blood-soaked affair. The plot is hardly memorable, but then that is hardly the point.

Rather, Sherwood capably lampoons the gross-out horror genre in an entertaining and occasionally revealing manner.

He and Duenyas approach their satire with an enthusiast's eye for detail and authenticity, calling to mind less the trashy schtick of the "Scary Movie" franchise and more the painstaking craft and self-awareness Quentin Tarantino's riveting genre exercises.

One is particularly reminded of the aforementioned director's 2007 film "Grindhouse," with its unabashedly voyeuristic take on the form of theater from which it takes its name.

Like Tarantino, Sherwood peppers his script with pop cultural references. Interspersed with whirlwinds of gory slapstick, soundtrack selections call attention to the similarity between the forms of vicarious pleasure we take in watching blood spatter and celebrities debauching themselves for our amusement.

If there is any overall point to the latter play in "The Grand Guignol" beyond historical resurrection, it is to point out this similarity.

Otherwise, "Nunky Gruel" is an exceptionally well executed but largely insular genre exercise. Whether this is good or bad depends on one's interest in what the founders of le Theatre du Grand Guignol termed "naturalistic horror."

You'd best not eat a heavy meal before this show. And don't take small children. They will be scarred for life.

Smoke & Fire...and art

Smoke shop doubles as art gallery, supports local glass blowers

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

This year, 420 on campus passed without much ado about marijuana; the group of students on the green on Tuesday chose to smoke cigarettes instead of joints. Likewise, this is not an article about marijuana, and the shop in question does not sell any products intended for use with illegal substances.

Located at 42 Caroline Street across from D'Andrea's Pizza and Clancy's Tavern is the humble grooviness that is Smoke & Fire.

The shop began as Manifest Station back in June of 1999, and quickly became a local staple for smokers from all walks of life. Manifest had a good 10-year run, eventually closing in June 2009.

Theresa Sheffer, one of the owners of Smoke & Fire, previously worked at Manifest, which was run by her sister. Seeing an opportunity to reopen anew, she decided to start a new store in the same space, opening its doors in December 2009.

The shop offers any and everything you would need to smoke with. Hookahs and shisha (a mixture of tobacco and syrup for hookah smoking), pipes and glass pipes and rolling papers of all sorts - the list goes on and on.

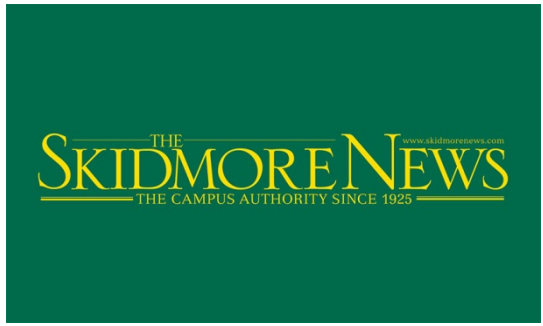
Beyond smoking utilities, the store sells clothing and hemp products (many found exclusively at Smoke & Fire), incense and crystals. Just a casual look at the selection and you, like Sheffer, would probably describe the place as simply awesome.

In addition to being the place to pick up your smoking gadgets, the shop also doubles as an amateur art gallery.

The store displays a tremendous variety of eclectic water pipe designs. Most of the pieces are glass designs created by local artists.

"We support local glass blowers," Sheffer told me, and the commitment to the ethos is evident. They boast the largest collection of locally blown glass in the capital region.

The store also hosted a successful grand opening party earlier in the week. The celebrations featured special discounts on purchases, raffles, giveaways, live music and an interactive drum circle.



As a family-run business, it doesn't get more down to earth than Smoke & Fire. The chill music playing and the friendly people create positive vibes all around.

If you choose to smoke, don't go to the gas station. If possible, trek on down to Smoke & Fire and let yourself be lit up by its charms.

Smoke & Fire is open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and Sunday noon - 6 p.m.

Sailing club 5th at MAISA regatta

By Melissa Cohn

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

The sailing club sails on the western shore of Saratoga Lake at the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club. The club has become competitive with the assistance of the Student Government Association, The Adirondack Trust Company, and other private donors. Throughout the course of each semester, the sailing club competes in a number of Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (MAISA) regattas.

Recently, the sailing club competed in a regatta against ten other colleges, most of which were large universities. Skidmore's sailing club finished in fifth place, competing against colleges and universities such as Fordham, Columbia, Hamilton and West Point. Sophomore Benjamin Brown is the president of the sailing club and is welcoming anyone and everyone to join the sailing club. No previous experience is necessary. The club provides opportunities to learn how to sail as well as to compete at the intercollegiate level.

The sailing club has three 420 racing boats as well as a day sailer, which is a bigger boat that the club can cruise on. The club encourages anyone to join, as they will teach new members how to sail. Brown says that the sailing club is going to be revamping its image to get more recruits. If interested in joining the sailing club next semester, contact Brown for more information.

Men's lacrosse crushes Hamilton

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Apr 23, 2010

Men's lacrosse

On Wednesday, April 21, the men's lacrosse team took a big league win at home against Hamilton.

In the first quarter, the Thoroughbreds took a 5-0 lead. First year J.P. Sullivan contributed the first goal. First year Mike Holden, sophomore Ryan Paradis, and senior Corey Barkoff scored the next five goals.

At 10:41 of the second quarter, junior Matt Levesque put the score at 6-0. Hamilton scored its only goal of the first half at 7:43. With an assist from senior Tom Howley at 1:10, Sullivan earned another goal for the Thoroughbreds to put the score at 7-1.

The Continentals made the score 7-2 at 7:35 of the third quarter. Skidmore then responded with a goal from junior Jeremy Herrmann at 5:40. With 14 seconds left in the third quarter, Hamilton scored and put the score at 8-3.

Skidmore dominated in the fourth quarter, scoring three more goals to make the final score 11-3.

The men's lacrosse team improves to 2-2 in the Liberty League and 6-5 overall. The team will host Vassar on Saturday, April 24.

Men's tennis

In the Liberty League Men's Tennis Championships semifinals, St. Lawrence swept the Thoroughbreds 5-2 in doubles at Vassar. In the quarterfinals, Skidmore won over Rensselaer 7-0.

In the first match against Rensselaer, sophomore Luke Granger defeated Matt Asher 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 singles. Paired with sophomore Max Bevan, the Thoroughbreds won 8-3 at No. 2 doubles. Junior Lorenzo Cabrera won 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles and won 9-8 at No. 1 doubles with Spencer Cheng.

At No. 2 singles, Cheng won 3-6, 6-1, 6-2. At No. 5 singles, first year Alex Fromson won 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 and took the win for the Thoroughbreds.

On Sunday, the Thoroughbreds defeated Hobart 7-2 and finished third in the tournament.

At. No. 1 singles, Granger won 7-5, 6-3. A pair of Granger and Bevan took an easy 8-1 win at No. 2 doubles. At No. 2 singles, Cheng won 6-2, 6-1 and held onto a tight No. 1 doubles match with Cabrera.

The tennis team will finish its season at home against Middlebury on Friday, April 23 and a match against Amherst on the 24th.

Women's lacrosse

On April 20, No. 19 Amherst took a 13-7 non-conference win against the women's lacrosse team

Early on, the Thoroughbreds took a 2-0 lead with goals from junior Kimberly Segalas and sophomore Lauren Madden. Amherst responded with three goals to put the score at 3-2. In the end of the half, junior Lauren McCarthy scored to tie the score 3-3, but then Amherst scored again to leave the score at 4-3 into the second half.

The second half began with a McCarthy goal at 28:49. Amherst scored the next five goals, taking a 9-4 lead. At 15:27, McCarthy contributed another goal, but the Thoroughbreds were scoreless for the remainder of the game.

On Friday, the women's lacrosse team will host St. Lawrence at 4 p.m.

Women's crew

The women's crew varsity eight finished in first in a five-team race on Sunday hosted by Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The winning Skidmore boat consisted of coxswain Katie Kenny, a junior, senior Elissa Nadworny, senior Maddie Demanche, first year Rachel Hutchins, junior Libby Gronquist, junior Dani VanDevoorde, first year Riley Johnson, sophomore Jenny Kaufman, and junior Korena Burgio.

The Thoroughbreds finished at 7:08.6. The team defeated No. 12 William Smith. Tufts finished third at 7:11; WPI finished fourth at 7:16.89, and RIT came in last at 7:09.43.

On April 24, the women's crew team will host the Liberty League Tournament at Fish Creek.

Men's crew

On April 18, the men's crew team hosted a four team event at Fish Creek with UVM, Middlebury, and Albany.

The Thoroughbreds came in third ahead of Albany. Middlebury came in first four seconds ahead of UVM.

On April 24, the men's crew team will host the Liberty League Championships at Fish Creek. The races will start at 8 a.m.

Softball

In the Liberty League opener on Saturday, the Skidmore fell to the University of Rochester 8-1, 4-0.

In the first game, the Yellowjackets scored eight runs on 12 hits. In the fourth, Rochester put the score to 4-0. In the fifth, Rochester improved its score to 7-0. With a run in the sixth, Rochester added another point to make the score 8-0.

First year Julia Schwartz doubled and scored on a Cora Crafts single to get the Thoroughbreds onto the board.

In the second game, Rochester got onto the board early. Rochester's Sara Hutchinson held the Thoroughbreds, and the team took a 4-0 victory.

Early on, the opponent took a 1-0 lead.

Rochester scored another run in the third, and then made it 4-0 in the sixth with a RBI on a bases-loaded infield single.

To complete the game victory, Hutchinson improved to 10-6.

The softball team will return to action on April 24 with a doubleheader against Union in Saratoga Springs.

Compiled by Lauren Sager

Senator informs about autism

By Sarah Barry

On Mon, Apr 26, 2010

The odds of a child being born with autism have been steadily rising in the past several years. The college's autism awareness events aim to inform students about the effects of autism on individuals and the community.

Since April 14, in conjunction with autism awareness, the college has hosted several speakers and events about autism.

The projects started as an assignment for the psychology class Adult Developmental Disabilities and Autism, and were aimed to better inform students on developmental diseases, as well as offer opportunities to get involved.

"There were three objectives for the event: first, to raise awareness, second, to address some of the controversies and myths surrounding autism and third, to explore how autism affects people as individuals," said Rachel Mann-Rosan, the professor of the class.

On April 19, N.Y. state Senator Roy McDonald visited the college to talk to students. McDonald has two grandchildren who were diagnosed with autism and the personal connection led him to become active in issues concerning the disability.

"I don't stand here as a senator, I stand here as a grandfather," McDonald said.

McDonald explained that the odds of a child having autism have risen from one out of 150 to one out of 90 for females and one out of 70 for males. The rapid increase has made it a far more prominent issue.

"These are people, not statistics. It is getting to the point where the days of saying you don't know anyone with these disabilities is over," McDonald said.

"Proper facilities and aid for the developmentally disabled is a constant struggle. This is the time when people are supposed to come together. I think it is simple: no child left behind and no adult left behind," McDonald said.

Julie Marks and Deborah Garrets from ASPIRe NY, Inc. also visited the college. The psychology class showed "Autism: the Musical" in the Tang.

The two final events included a talk with Paul A.H Partridge, Ph.D., about the medical aspects and treatment of autism and an awareness fair, both April 22.

"I think the events have been received enthusiastically; students in the class are proud, as they should be, and I've received e-mails from community members," Mann-Rosan said.

Saratoga Bridges is one local community-based home for people with developmental disabilities. Mann-Rosan worked with Saratoga Bridges before starting as a visiting professor at the college. She has continued her work there.

Some students are already involved in the program, but Mann-Rosan explained there are many ways to help.

"It's becoming such a pervasive issue in our society and people in any discipline could make a difference," Mann-Rosan said.

College is complete, now what?

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

In today's world, it takes more than a full-college education before one can get swept into the great movement we call the American work force.

When I went back to my hometown and saw the kids who were in college when I was in high school, I felt a grim mixture of sadness and nervousness. Some of them were very smart and some of them weren't, but the point remains that most have nothing to do now with their post-college lives.

Their time is just spent sitting in their parent's house (yes, cliché) or working in a coffee shop with a bunch of wannabe musicians or trying to scrounge up enough money to go to graduate school.

While talking to them, it was like speaking to characters who had escaped from an older Hemingway novel: young and weary and angry and dejected. Not completely depressed, but beginning to understand what hard work is.

One told a story about how he was going to graduate school but he decided not to so he could follow a girlfriend out of state. When they broke up, all he ended up doing was moving back home.

Another kid is still trying to get enough money so she can go to school to become a teacher. Another traveled for a bit, and now he's just wondering and wandering and waiting for what's going to come after.

These are people that have lost their conviction. They are strangely separate from political activities and demonstrations. They don't complain about the government or about the president. They still have some sense of religion, but it's dwindling; they don't believe in God. They have a bleak and ungrateful outlook on the future ahead.

It's strange to think about how, when we graduate high school, we look toward college not as a luxury, but as a logical next step in our future. Just like how high school comes after middle school, college comes after high school, which is most likely followed by graduate school and then a profession (hopefully bringing in close to a healthy 80 grand a year).

But by looking at all these graduates, now back home harassed and unemployed, I have to ask myself: What's the point anymore?

Is college really some great next step? Or is it just something that delays the inevitable?

What's the problem with graduating from high school and getting an honest job?

What's the point of going through four or six years of college and going through at least another decade of paying back tuition loans and breaking heads trying to get enough money to pay for additional graduate schooling?

Sometimes, I'm confused in what exactly my parents are paying for when they send me here. I could easily get the same books taught here and do my studying on my own time. If I want to go to Europe for six months, I don't need an abroad program to do it. I can just get on an airplane and go figure things out when I get there.

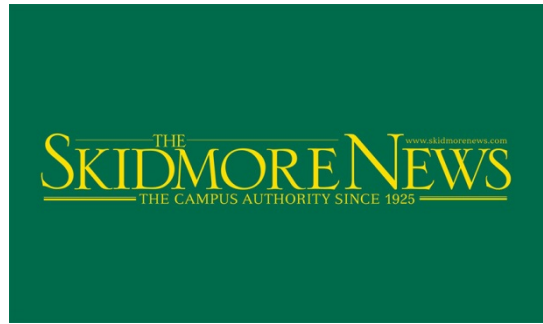
Granted, I'm paying for that piece of paper that says, "I graduated." But for most, that piece of paper doesn't mean too much anymore.

College prepares students for some things, and the education can be very good. But the original point of going to a school like this is to organize and perfect one's life to be prepared for what comes ahead in the later years.

In college, most of our only "chaos" comes during a night with two term papers and a test the next morning.

What college refuses to do is to prepare us for not only when we have actual chaos in our lives, but also when that chaos is increasing.

Hunter Prichard enjoys the music of TV on the Radio.



New SGA executive board members talk change

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

As the spring semester ends, the new Student Government Association Executive Board members are outlining their plans for the 2010-2011 school year.

Alex Stark '11 was recently elected SGA president. Stark has held several different SGA positions. Stark was the president of Jonsson Tower, vice president for Residential Affairs, class president, and a member of the Traditions Committee, among other positions. Stark also likes to attend Random Acts of Craft meetings when she is feeling stressed. "My laundry list of previous experience with SGA is admittedly lame, but being so involved is what has made me so happy to be a Skiddie," Stark said.

Initially, Stark was not sure that she wanted to run for SGA president. "Deciding to run for SGA president was a toss up for a while, but, in the end, I realized that being an integral part of an organization I love and hopefully making a positive impact on campus is how I want to spend my senior year," Stark said.

Stark has several undertakings in mind that she plans on pursuing during the next academic year. "Honestly, I feel like this next year will be one of maintenance. There are a lot of fantastic programs and necessary discussions already in the works that I feel are essential to upkeep," Stark said.

The Responsible Citizenships Internship Award (RCIA) is one of these programs that Starks describes as requiring maintenance. RCIA is a fund that allows students completing unpaid summer internships to apply for a stipend through SGA. "I am a huge proponent of the RCIA fund to help students take jobs that will help them in the future without having to worry about pay," Stark said.

Stark also said that she wants to continue discussions concerning the Sexual Assault Task Force. She also hopes to keep the Safe Rides program running even if the school must find an alternative means of transportation that does not include taxis. "As always, spreading the word better and getting more students involved in these important issues is a goal, and I am hoping to encourage as much open communication between the students, SGA officers and the administration as possible," Stark said.

In addition to maintaining these programs, Stark hopes to bring back the Skidmore tradition of Wafflefest. Wafflefest was a tradition, recently discontinued, that the college ran during finals week. During Wafflefest the college served breakfast foods in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall late at night.

"Administrative budget cuts are unfortunate but necessary, but I feel that it is the job of the student government to use our own resources to make sure that the traditions that make Skidmore unique, and by which we will truly remember our college years, stick around. Sometimes maintenance of what we love is just as important as changing what's not as great," Stark said.

Logan Brenner '12 was also elected to the SGA Executive Board as vice president for Academic Affairs. During her freshman year, Brenner was the Freshman Class Social Chair. During this academic year she was the Sophomore class president, the Geo-Sciences representative on Academic Council and an SGA senator at large, as well as other positions.

Brenner's interest in academics led her to run for this position. "When I first joined SGA I just wanted to keep moving up and experience different positions. I really enjoy the academics here at Skidmore and I want to do as much as I can to enhance the relationship between the students and academics. This seemed like the best position with which to do so," Brenner said.

During this academic year one of the sub committees for Academic Panel was titled Faculty Panel. A group of students from this sub committee chose faculty members to sit on a panel and speak to students about a particular topic. The panel held this year involved the faculty discussing what they did before becoming professors. Brenner plans on continuing the panel and improving publicity for the event. "It was such a great experience. I think it's something that should continue because you can learn a lot about your professors outside of the classroom also," Brenner said.

The faculty panel will be held once a semester. Brenner has not chosen any potential topics for the faculty panel yet. "I would like to talk to the Academic Council and see what the members want the topics to be because a lot of what we do on Academic Council is talking to all the different representatives, getting input from everyone and then synthesizing it," Brenner said.

Brenner also plans on working with the Committee on Educational Policy and Planning to attribute a more uniform presence to the Honor Code. "I personally think it's a privilege that we have an Honor Code, but a lot of students don't fully understand what it means to have an Honor Code or what our school would be like without an Honor Code," Brenner said.

Brenner pointed out how the Honor Code is used in different ways by different professors. Some professors ask students to sign their exams, other professors require that students rewrite the Honor Code statement. In other instances, professors do not request a signature or written statement. Brenner suggested that teachers review the Honor Code with their students at the beginning of the school year when they present their syllabus.

Sulin Ngo '11 was also elected to the SGA Executive Board as vice president for Diversity Affairs. "I really wanted to be in this position because it's an opportunity to put my experiences to work in creating something positive that I can share with people. I wanted to be in a position where I could help facilitate communication between people and bring discrimination down," Ngo said.

Ngo has held SGA positions as the president of Wait Hall, a member of the Interhall Board, a member of the Committee on Diversity Affairs and a member of the Senate, as well as other positions.

During the next academic year Ngo hopes to unify the clubs and organizations on campus that deal with issues of diversity and discrimination, including Project Unity, the Bias Response Team and the college's committee on diversity affairs, among other groups. "There needs to be one voice, one very clear voice with one very clear message in order for anyone to listen, so I think it's important to be in sync with each other because otherwise it gets very confusing," Ngo said.

Ngo plans on hosting a cultural food festival in celebration of cultural diversity. "I've wanted to do a cultural food festival for a very long time because I am a total gastro-fan and because I think whenever people celebrate, they bring food and different kinds of food depending on the occasion," Ngo said.

In a larger sense, Ngo hopes to change the way that Skidmore students think about diversity. "The biggest thing that I want to change is Skidmore's perception that the word 'diversity' belongs to students who make up a minority. The fact is, even students who associate themselves with the majority, myself included, have something to contribute and celebrate because we're all not the same," Ngo said.

Ngo's goals for next year exemplify the overall desire for improved communication on campus voiced by several of the upcoming SGA executive members. "My personal vision of a utopia is one where everyone communicates clearly, like really, really clearly, because that's what I see as the ultimate peacekeeper, communication. And I know utopias are unrealistic by definition but that doesn't mean we can't strive toward it. There isn't peace on campus yet," Ngo said.

Class of 2014 breaks records

147 prospective students attend college's discovery tour

By Bradley Morris

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

By May 1, prospective students for the class of 2014 must have sent in their responses to the college's letter of intent. Once all the letters have been received, the class of 2014 will solidify.

Acceptance letters were sent to 2,468 students out of the 6,042 that applied March 26. More than 1,000 students have been offered a spot on the waitlist.

"It was a huge process to print, sign and check 2,468 letters. It took from March 12 to March 25 to print, sign and check all the decision letters," said Mary Lou Bates, dean of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Waitlisted students must indicate whether or not they wish to remain on the waitlist by late April. "If we have places available in classes in early May, we offer spots at Skidmore to students who want to be a part of Skidmore the most," Bates said.

The incoming first-year class is projected to have 640 students on campus and 36 in London. The accepted students for the class of 2014 are from 47 states, Washington D.C., the Virgin Islands and 55 international countries.

"We had a record number of students attend the accepted students open house and they were in the beautiful new Zankel Music center," Bates said.

Bates said that, as of April 22, 25 of the 36 spaces for first-year students in the London program were already filled. Based on the number of students who expressed interest in studying in London, Bates said, it is unlikely that all of the incoming first-year students who want to will receive the opportunity to study abroad for the first semester.

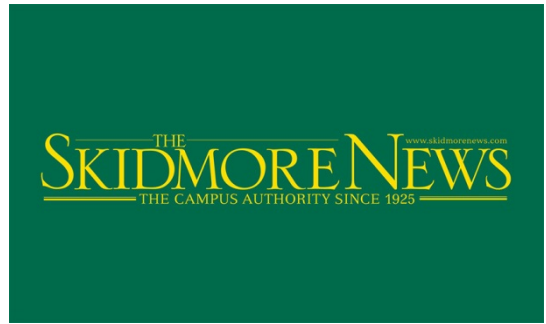
"We did London different this year. The supplement application had an option that asked if students would like to study abroad in London. Out of the 2,468 we admitted, about 380 were interested, but we only have 36 places in London and they may fill up before the May deadline," Bates said.

The class of 2014 also set a record for the number of students who attended the college's diversity tour. "Our largest number of students was 91, but this year we had 147 students attend," Bates said.

The Discovery Tour is a special program that showcases academic and student life, diversity and interculturalism on the college's campus.

"Because we had a record number of students attend the discovery program, we expect an even more diverse group, and since more international students were admitted we are hopeful that more will enroll. We hope this year's total students will be 676," Bates said.

Looking ahead at the class of 2015, a record has been broken for students that have attended open houses in February, March and April. There has been a large increase of students visiting campus since previous years.



Illustrations of the third kind

By Savannah Grier

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Editorial: Judge Fun Day with accuracy

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Fun Day cannot be seen as a valid comparison to 420, and thus, outlines a greater hypocrisy within the college. While 420 is, historically, a day of civil disobedience, Fun Day is a school-sanctioned event promoting the well-being of students.

For better or for worse, 420 was a fairly average day on campus. A small group of students milled about on the green, but no one was found openly smoking marijuana, and the assembled reporters found themselves with little to report.

Prior to the "holiday," however, several students attempted to arrange an organized demonstration in support of the legalization of cannabis and in protest of the college's claim that 420 tarnishes our reputation. In particular, they pointed to the fact that, while 420 has earned media attention and condemnation from the college, the school-sponsored Fun Day garners no such criticism despite featuring what they consider to be a great deal more debauchery.

To be sure, Fun Day does not always present students at their finest. The combination of music, sun, carnival games and yes, alcohol, can lead to some rambunctious behavior over the course of the day.

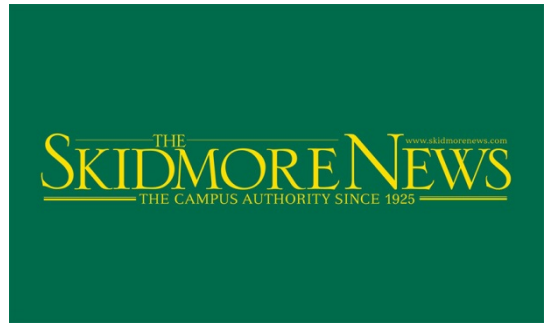
There are valid comparisons to be drawn between 420 and Fun Day. Those similarities, however, are outweighed by the fundamental differences between the two days. 420 entered the vernacular as a reference to a time of day to smoke marijuana; the event itself is a day of civil disobedience to protest drug laws. 420 is inherently and inextricably linked to recreational marijuana use, which, regardless of moral stance, remains a criminal offense.

Fun Day, in contrast, is a college-sanctioned event dedicated to good, old-fashioned fun. It celebrates the approach of summer, and gives students an opportunity to take a break from the intense workload that comes with the end of the semester, giving the community a day of recuperation before the last push through finals. That students choose to drink is, while not insignificant, not the fundamental issue at hand when discussing Fun Day.

Colleges can be a breeding ground for social change, and with that in mind, those who believe strongly about legalization can and should speak up. However, they must also recognize what they are up against. Although research may indicate that marijuana is potentially less dangerous than alcohol, the latter remains much more socially acceptable throughout the country and the world. That may be a double standard, but it is also reality.

Our college, the one that affords us all the opportunity to live in a progressive community where we can push the boundaries of conventional thought, might let us live in a bubble, but it has to exist firmly in the real world. Marijuana laws may be wrong, but they are the law. Those who practice civil disobedience must act prepared to incur the full penalty of the law they are violating. The college is right in saying that the actions of a few tarnish the reputations of the whole. The penalties of civil disobedience can extend to the college itself, and when that happens, our entire community suffers. At that point, 420 ceases to be a moral issue. It is one's right to invoke the wrath of the law upon oneself in the name of an ideal, but not upon one's neighbors.

Fun Day may not be without flaw, but its ramifications for our community are far less severe than 420. The morality of the status quo may be questionable, but it is the reality we must live in for the time being. For now, let's not let smoke cloud our judgment.



Illustrations of the third kind

By Savannah Grier

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Meet your new SGA president

President-elect Alexandra Stark explains online campaign, plans for future

By Emma Caruso

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Newly elected Student Government Association president, Alexandra Stark '11, found her inspiration to run for the position in one of the most unlikely places: studying abroad in South Africa this semester.

"The revelation came a few weeks ago when I was swimming in the ocean and suddenly got bitten by a shark. As I watched my foot detach and my life flash before my eyes, I realized my one regret in life was never having been SGA President," she explained.

Hyperboles aside, Stark decided to run for the leadership position because of her love for the college.

"I wasn't going to let being 8,000 miles from home deter my ambitions. Being abroad simply reminded me of my devotion to CTM and how much being a Skiddie has shaped the global citizen I am today," Stark said.

Stark lived up to the college mantra of "Creative Thought Matters" through her innovative method of campaigning.

Because she was abroad, she could not return to deliver her speech and gain support on campus. So she turned to the next best thing: Youtube.

She delivered her seven minute speech via a video-sharing Web site in order to bolster interest back on campus. Her speech outlined her plans for the upcoming year, as well as the legacy she hopes to leave as SGA president.

Stark has been involved with SGA since the beginning of her first year.

"Planning events, writing legislation and engaging in pointless arguments over minute grammatical resolutions - this is what I live for. I've found SGA to be a fantastic way to make friends and connections, both with fellow officers and with the hundreds of people on campus you either co-sponsor events with or to whom you sell a Spring Fling ticket."

Having been so positively affected by her involvement with student government, Stark is eager to continue to nurture this type of environment.

"I wanted to serve as SGA president because it seemed like the next logical step in my slow, but steady climb toward being the empress of the world, but also because I kind of really enjoy running stuff in SGA and have a lot of obtainable ideas for improvement, as dorky as that is," Stark said.

Opening up SGA to include as many students as possible is one of Stark's goals for the future. "I want to continue to make the exclusive dictatorship regime of SGA a little more accessible to the public and get a lot more people involved," Stark said.

Despite her sense of humor, the SGA president-elect has a serious plan of action to put in motion for the upcoming semester.

Stark wants to bring back Wafflefest to help calm stressed-out students before finals week.

She also wants to bring more comfortable seating to Case Center to promote its use as an enjoyable space for students to meet, as well as bouncy castles for the student-loved Fun Day.

Stark also plans to tackle the issue of space for musicians and bands to practice on campus, and assist in the upkeep of student efforts for education outside the classroom.

Stark has set a large agenda for her presidency, and she is excited to get started.

"I am both impressed and intimidated by the amount of student talent at Skidmore and I would love to see that continually used to create unity on campus and to raise awareness and money for good causes. Most importantly, I'm all about hearing everyone's ideas and being as inclusive and supportive as possible."

Stark plans to implement as many forums as possible to get the voices of students heard, such as comment boxes and town hall meetings, as well as online surveys.

Stark is well aware that she needs the help of the student population to achieve any of these goals.

"I can't say immediately those plans and goals will be implemented. I am a procrastinator just like you all, but utilize the soapboxes and keep me on my toes. We'll get some good stuff done," Stark said.

Senate meets weekly at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays in Ladd 307.

Spring sports in home stretch

Baseball team falls to Middlebury, lacrosse victorious against Vassar

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Men's lacrosse

On Saturday April 24, the men's lacrosse team earned a 13-7 Liberty League win over Vassar College at Wachenheim Field. Early in the first quarter, the teams were tied 2-2. At the end of the first and start of the second, senior Cory Barkoff contributed three straight goals and had one assist, to give the Thoroughbreds a 6-2 lead. Vassar was then able to decrease Skidmore's lead to 6-4, Skidmore responded when first year Mike Holden, junior Jon Bubier, senior Rob Lutin and Barkoff each scored to take a 10-4 lead at the start of the third quarter. In the game, Lutin contributed four goals and two assists, and Holden had two goals and one assist. Junior Matt Levesque and first year Sam Lawfer scored one goal each. Senior goalie Flip Bongaerts had six saves for the Thoroughbreds. Sophomore Ryan Paradis had seven ground balls, senior Scott Grillo had six, and junior Scott Madison had four. On Saturday, May 1, the men's lacrosse team will take on Clarkson in Postdam.

Baseball

In a non-league game on Wednesday, April 28, the baseball team lost to Middlebury College, 9-7. Skidmore is now 22-9, and the Panthers are now 9-13. Middlebury took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. The Thoroughbreds answered back in the second when senior Matt Pisani scored on a sacrifice ground out to the pitcher. Middlebury increased its lead to 5-1 off of a two-run double in the third inning and a solo homer in the fourth. A fifth inning pinch-hit three-run homer by sophomore Brian Lowry cut Middlebury's lead to 5-4. The Panthers increased the score to 9-4 in the sixth with four runs. The Thoroughbreds then scored when Pisani singled and scored on a Zach Brown sacrifice fly. In the seventh, sophomore Lowry hit a two-run homer, making the final score 9-7. On Saturday, May 1, Skidmore's baseball team will play Union at home.

Women's lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team lost to Middlebury College 17-6 on Wednesday night at Wachenheim Field in non-League play. While the Panthers improve to 7-6, the Thoroughbreds drop to 7-8. Early on, Middlebury took a 2-0 lead. At the 22:54 mark, junior Kimberly Segalas decreased the lead with her 40th goal of the season, but the Panthers then responded with another goal to put the score at 5-1. With

goals from junior Lauren McCarthy and senior Abbie Klaus, the Thoroughbreds came within two of Middlebury. After the Panthers scored two more, sophomore Lauren Madden made the score 7-4 with 4:49 remaining. The half was finished with two more Panther goals. Early in the second half, six different Middlebury players contributed seven consecutive goals to put the score to 14-4. The Thoroughbreds were never able to come back, and Middlebury won the game 17-6. Skidmore's women's lacrosse team will finish off its season with games against Hamilton on Friday, April 30 and against William Smith on Saturday, May 1.

Softball

In Saturday's Liberty League doubleheader against Union College, the softball team split the wins. The Thoroughbreds defeated Union 5-4 in the first game, and the Dutchwomen won 6-0 in the second game. In the first game, Skidmore grabbed a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to take a 2-1 lead. At the top of the fifth, Union came back to tie the score. Next, the Thoroughbreds answered back when senior Michelle Anderson tagged up on a fly ball and scored on an errant throw from the outfield. In the eighth inning, senior Arielle Manstein hit a walk-off two-run double to lead the Thoroughbreds to a 5-4 victory. In the second game, both the Dutchwomen and Thoroughbreds were scoreless for the first four innings. After two back-to-back singles in the fifth inning, Union put the score to 2-0. Then, three more runs were made in the fifth to give Union a five-point lead. On a throwing error in the sixth inning, the Dutchwomen put the final score at 6-0. Sophomore Abby Fuhrman took the loss for the Thoroughbreds, allowing five runs on five hits. Skidmore now holds a 19-11 overall record and a 1-3 Liberty League record. Union is 20-8 overall and 3-1 in Liberty League play. On Saturday, May 1, the softball team will take on St. Lawrence in a doubleheader in Canton.

Compiled by Lauren Sager

Measuring the speed of acid

By Alex Brehm

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Hours in a dank laboratory, focusing a turquoise-colored laser beam and sending chemicals through a tube 95 micrometers thick, hunched back, squinting eyes over paper and eraser rubbings, trying to tease your lists of data into a simple mathematical function: such is the life of a student chemical researcher.

It's worth it, though, when you know your work may pay off in birthing new technologies and defining new mathematical formulas that engineers across the world might use.

Emi Lipcsey Magyar '10 and Katherine Roguski '11 are working together to collect data and make a mathematical formula that predicts the motion of chemicals in small glass tubes referred to as capillaries. The goal is to understand a process called electroosmotic flow, the flow of the chemicals through the capillary, and see it applied to technologies like electrophoresis, which separates complex chemicals such as DNA into their components.

In trying to explain the process, Emi can't resort to mere words. She takes the pen and pencil from my hand and starts to trace out graphs. "The walls of the capillaries have a negative electric charge. The chemicals being piped through the capillaries possess positively- and negatively-charged ions. Opposites attract and the positives get pulled out to the walls," she says.

There's a second electric charge, positive at one end of the capillary, negative at the other, that makes the layer of ions at the walls begin to move like a conveyor belt. It pulls the whole solution through the tube. Electricity causes the movement of fluid through the tube - hence, "electroosmosis."

It's by using the motion of fluid through the tube that the experiment is possible. Katherine measures the speed with which the chemical moves through the tube. She does it using two laser beams - one beam flashes once every four seconds, bleaching a section of the chemicals. Then, the second acts as an electronic eye, recording when the bleached section passes by.

Katherine pipes one acidic chemical through the capillary for about four minutes then quickly switches it with a second basic chemical. The idea is to observe how the chemicals affect each others' speed through the tube. The basic chemical runs through the pipe for about 10 minutes, until Katherine switches it for the acid again. While the base is in the tube, the chemicals slow down dramatically.

The experiment takes about half an hour. Once finished, there are hundreds of data points on the graph, tracing a symmetric line that curves gracefully downward, representing slower speed, before curving back up.

Emi's job is to make a mathematical equation that, given the information on the chemicals' acidity and the strength of the electric charge, predicts how quickly the fluids will flow.

It's difficult to create: based on little else but the shape of the graph, she needs to guess exactly what relation the variables have to one another - for example, whether they should be added together, multiplied or whether one should be raised as an exponent of the other.

Emi finally found that a biexponential model, which takes the properties of each chemical, represents each as an exponent of a constant, and adds them together, seems to closely match the data. It best represents the effects of the two chemicals on each other.

Once the students work out a full model of electroosmotic flow, they will be able to apply it to technology. The research has the chance to dramatically change gel electrophoresis, the technology currently used to separate DNA and identify humans based on their individual genetic makeup. As Katherine put it, "Everything in chemistry is trying to do everything smaller and faster."

Gel electrophoresis currently takes an hour or more to separate genetic material. The students' hope is that, because of their work, small chips could be designed that would do the same job in a matter of seconds, making identification of people much faster and simpler.

Alex Brehm is sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.

The National poised to conquer

Critically-acclaimed indie band delivers with rich, varied LP

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

The National has nicely cap-ended my time at Skidmore. The band's critically acclaimed album, "Boxer," came out at the tail-end of my freshman year.

The murkier, orchestral sound, was, at the time, somewhat of a departure from the band's usual blend of explosive and moody rock, and fit right in with my burgeoning sophomore slump.

The band's new album, "High Violet," streamed on the New York Times website from April 23 through April 27 and will hit stores May 11.

In contrast to "Boxer," in which the band restrained itself behind sheets of gloomy brass and swooning strings, "High Violet" finds it unleashing things a little bit, just as I find myself on the brink of entering the real world.

Matt Berninger, known for his lounge-act baritone, allows his voice to stretch and expand, especially on songs like the cathartic album closer, "Vanderlyle Crybaby Geeks."

He also manages to make lines like, "I'll explain everything to the geeks" sound profound and lines like "hanging from chandeliers, send small wolves at your heels" sound uplifting in the context of a vibrant string orchestration and a chorus of backing voices.

The album opens on the wrong foot, with a slightly lumbering and ineffectual version of "Terrible Love." Anyone who saw the band's Jimmy Fallon performance March 24 knows the song has the potential to really fly and explode.

The album version, in contrast, spends so much time warming up that when the furious distorted riff and vicious drumming spur the song into exciting territory in the song's last 30 seconds, it feels like an afterthought rather than the real focus.

Things pick up from there, even as they mellow out. "Sorrow" floats along, anchored by Bryan Devendorf's strong beat. One of the best drummers in indie rock today, his playing, though less front-and-center than it was on "Boxer," still propels "High Violet" in many places.

"Anyone's Ghost," a cold dancefloor number, feels like something out of The Strokes' sinister back catalogue. "Afraid of Everyone," featuring some creepy warbles from Sufjan Stevens, moves to a crescendo that matches the title's manic and panicked implications.

By the middle of the album, though, these forays into a mellower, darker territory become quite depressing. Luckily, as always, The National has a few anthems in its back-pocket.

Lead single "Bloodbuzz, Ohio" occupies the same territory as "Mistaken for Stranger" and "Mr. November," off of "Boxer" and 2005's "Alligator," respectively.

Devendorf's trademark snapping snare fires like gunshots as huge horns and power chord riffs billow around, but never quite reach the same intensity as on some of the band's earlier stadium rockers.

The next track, "Lemonworld," follows with some of the best and strangest lyrics of the band's career.

Berninger follows the lines, "I used to be comfortable as a kid, I don't think about it much anymore," with a reference to a "summer lovin' torture party."

It's musical and lyrical juxtapositions like these that make The National's music worth coming back to again and again.

The back half slows down again, to even stronger effect. "Conversation 16" winds through plaintive keyboard sighs and quietly chugging vibrato guitars, while Berninger admits that he is evil.

"Conversation 16," combined with the following track, "England," makes it clear that The National is capable of successfully nudging outside of its comfort zone.

Berninger has accurately stated that, although slightly longer than "Boxer," "High Violet" feels shorter. Part of this has to do with the more optimistic and slightly up-tempo feel of the album.

Although it may not have as many highs as "Boxer" or "Alligator," this tendency toward movement helps the album earn its place in the band's ever-expanding and increasingly impressive catalogue.

Harry Brown' rides into town

Michael Caine stars in violent, thought-provoking British thriller

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

"Harry Brown" seems intended as an indignant reply to the shades of gray that have descended on Hollywood and the popular media like a fog.

It is no longer acceptable for a "serious" film or work of art to portray unadulterated evil with a straight face, as in the Westerns from which screenwriter Gary Young and director Daniel Barber clearly draw their inspiration.

Granted, a willingness on the part of Hollywood to view morality in all its complexity can hardly be considered a bad thing.

Still, it is growing more and more common to hear the foul deeds of every criminal explained away with amateur psychology and sociology 101, in everything from "serious dramas" to superhero flicks.

In recent years, perhaps in part as a response to the cowboy posturing of our last president and his followers, Hollywood has taken to wallowing in pools of moral ambiguity that, while ostensibly indicative of greater sophistication, has become wretchedly cliché.

Screenwriters have taken to bating critics, the academy and audiences with spectacles of self-flagellation, liberal guilt and moral relativism. Shows like "The Wire," "The Sopranos" and "Deadwood," despite their undeniable artistic value, have humanized evil.

Other, less sophisticated works have followed suit, contributing to a common, politically correct consensus that criminals automatically deserve sympathy rather than condemnation.

It is healthy to accept ambiguity. It is unhealthy to forget that evil exists, and its perpetrators are sometimes driven by no more than the viciousness of the human condition.

With his body afflicted by emphysema and his mind haunted by the ghosts of his past, protagonist Harry Brown, a pensioner living in an impoverished council estate in South London, does not initially come across as your typical crime fighter. It takes the death of his wife from natural causes and the murder of his best friend by a local youth gang to rouse him from his stupor.

A former veteran traumatized during his stint in Northern Ireland, Brown has more rage than your grandpa when your parents tried to put him in a home. Unfortunately for the bad guys, he also has the instincts of a trained killer, acquired during his stint as a soldier in Northern Ireland.

Once he begins his vigilante career, this old man doesn't waste time pondering moral dilemmas, wallowing in self-doubt and trying to rehabilitate criminals.

No, he has a clear sense of right and wrong, and those who violate it are, for the most part, shown no mercy. Indeed, his one moment of empathy is rewarded with a gunshot. Harry Brown knows how to fight crime: like a cowboy.

Law enforcement, on the other hand, is portrayed as mostly ineffectual. The police, in one of the most powerful scenes in the film, show admirable restraint in dealing with a crowd of rioters. A hail of debris and Molotov cocktails are their reward.

As the pigs are literally forced back by an advancing wall of fire and hoodlums, their riot shields are the only thing standing between them and grievous harm but they don't so much as squeeze off a warning shot (perhaps for fear of lawsuits and/or the British equivalent of Al Sharpton?) Quite a powerful metaphor.

And just what motivates inner city youth to behave so badly? The sheer fun of it, apparently. That, and depravity passed on from generation to generation.

Terrible living conditions and a collective sense of hopelessness are overlooked as factors. But "Harry Brown" isn't overly concerned with such questions. Small-minded? Perhaps. Refreshing? Absolutely.

Causes be damned, Harry Brown, portrayed with typical aplomb by Michael Caine, is concerned with solutions. No more apologetic dilly-dallying. No more wasting rivers of ink on examining the criminal mind as police officers and harmless old men are left in harms way.

Break out yo gats! Torture and vigilantism are perfectly effective methods of ridding your neighborhood of criminal scum. Tellingly, the film ends with Brown confidently striding through an underpass that, earlier in the film, was inhabited by a pack of vicious drug dealers.

The protagonist, played with typical aplomb by Michael Caine, is an anachronism, a man lost in the modern world. One scene particularly illustrative of this fact is when he must ask a youth he is holding at gunpoint to play a video on his cell phone.

Even more out of place is his absolutist sense of morality. "Harry Brown" offers little criticism of its main character's brutal methods and lack of remorse. For this reason, it is sure to be one of the pinkest elephants in theaters this year.

The film will likely offend folks of various political persuasions, from law and order conservatives, with its unflinchingly negative portrayal of law enforcement officials, to bleeding-heart liberals, with its unapologetic portrayal of urban-youth crime.

However, "Harry Brown" ultimately fails as a serious political statement. It is as shallow in its message as its more standard intellectual equivalents.

It succeeds, however, as top-notch entertainment that challenges viewers to think about a major problem in a different way. Personally, I'll take that any day over the same old rhetoric from filmmakers that hawk the status quo.

Prospective students discover Skidmore

Annual Discovery Tour helps financially disadvantaged students visit campus

By Rachel Kim

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

Each spring, the college hosts the annual Discovery Tour, which was held this year from April 14 to April 16 and hosted 146 students.

This number was a dramatic increase in comparison to last year's 98 attendees.

About 68 percent of last year's prospective Discovery Tour students enrolled at Skidmore.

In the last three years, the average number of attending prospective students ranged from 60 to 70 students. In the decade before, only 35 to 40 students attended each tour.

"We've had an incredible growth over even just the last two years and it's partly because of a shift in our program from more social to more academic," said Jacob Navarrete '08, an assistant director of admissions.

"The major role of the Discovery Tour, like our Accepted Candidates days, is to provide accepted students the opportunity to get a comprehensive view of Skidmore College."

The Discovery Tour, which is designed to give visiting students a realistic view of life at the college, allows students to attend a class, meet and talk with the faculty and students and socialize with other prospective students.

Marcos Luna '13 attended last year's Discovery Tour, which played an important part in his decision to enroll.

"During the tour, staying overnight really helped me get to know the college better. It's not something that a lot of the other colleges that I applied to did," he said.

Navarrete, a college alumnus, was also influenced by the tour. "When I came to Skidmore, it was one of those instances that completely changed everything for me. I decided to come to Skidmore based on my Discovery Tour," he said.

The Discovery Tour integrates students as hosts for the prospective students.

"One of the things that we try very hard to do is to make sure that the student hosts are as diverse as the Skidmore community so that our guests will have a realistic viewpoint of Skidmore," Navarette explained.

Gia Vaccarezza, who did not attend the Discovery Tour, but hosted an accepted student for this past Discovery Tour said, "I liked that I was able to answer questions and ease the worries of the prospective students."

With the increase of attendees and attention given to the Discovery Tour, comments have been made about the program being potentially exclusive in racial and cultural aspects.

Navaratte responded to this claim. "When you look at national data, just demographically speaking, students of color are often the least likely to visit a college before they enroll and the least likely to have had an opportunity to visit the colleges that they've applied to. Although it is geared toward students of color and cultural diversity, it's not only for people of color in that sense."

By offering a paid overnight trip to the college, especially during times of an economic recession, the Admissions Office conveniently provides accepted candidates with a free college visit, leaving them with a good impression of the college's intentions to give students an honest, realistic portrayal of both the social and academic aspects of campus life.

"We see Discovery Tour as an access program more than anything else. This program really is good and students may not realize how much of our community is based on this tour," Navarette said.

The future of Red Watch Band

First semester proves successful for new program

By Adam Cohen

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010

On May 7, a dinner and award ceremony was held for the newest Red Watch Band members on campus.

The ceremony was held to thank these students for their commitment to the program, their willingness to care for others and their help in making the Red Watch Band a success at the college.

The newly inducted members received certificates of recognition, as well as their red watches and CPR certification cards.

The attendance of the Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun, Clinical Director of Health Services Patty Bosen, Director of Health Promotion Jen Burden, Health Educator Kate Child and Prevention Coordinator Kate Bobseine spoke to the college's recognition of the positive impact of this program on campus.

The Red Watch Band was a success in its first semester at Skidmore. Two separate training sessions were held, and both were well attended by students of all years and varied interests.

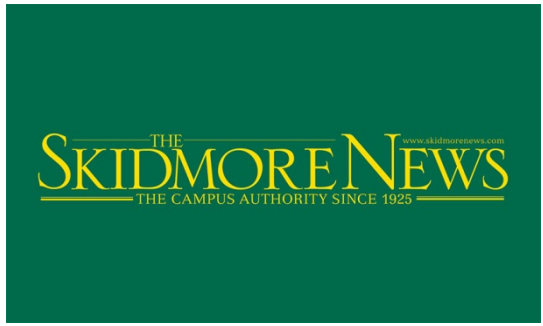
Because I, as a trained Red Watch Band program teacher, attended and participated in teaching the sessions, I can honestly say that each group of students was engaged in and interested in the program for different reasons, but all had the intention of becoming not only Red Watch Band members, but also responsible and caring members of the college community.

Overall, 31 members were trained this semester alone, and all of these members participated voluntarily.

There is definitely a bright future for the Red Watch Band here at the college, which has been demonstrated from the strong interest in the first semester.

There are more training sessions planned for the future, so if you are interested in becoming a member of the Skidmore chapter, keep a lookout for the next training session next semester. And keep a lookout for the Red Watch Band members, easily identifiable by their iconic red watches and T-shirts!

For more information, visit: http://cms.skidmore.edu/health_promotions/rwb.cfm



Adam Cohen is a sophomore Peer Health Educator who knows more about your body than you do.