

## Learning the business of art

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

The college provides many programs designed to aid art students in perfecting their craft and preparing them for future employment in the art industry. Two new courses were created last year to promote art as a career option.

These new courses, AA-201 "Foundations of Arts Administration" and AA-221 "Philanthropy and the Arts," are part of a new arts administration curriculum implemented by the college. David Howson, a visiting associate professor and Arthur Zankel director of Arts Administration has been working with representatives from the Tang Teaching Museum, Management & Business and other art departments to establish arts administration as a minor.

The field of arts administration combines a passion for the arts with the tools of business, including marketing, accounting and management, just to name a few. Legal issues are also explored and include contracts, labor relations and intellectual property, Howson said.

Students with various interests and backgrounds, not just those majoring in studio art, participated in the Foundations course last fall. Katie Lane '11, a theater and dance double major, found the course incredibly helpful. "I chose to take the arts administration course because working for the Skidmore theater department has allowed me to combine my passion for the arts with practical business knowledge, and I wanted to extend that into a more formal learning experience," Lane said.

The Foundations course featured many guest speakers who shared their real-world experiences with the business aspects of the art industry with students. "I really learned a lot from hearing the journeys and advice of real-life arts professionals and their presence allowed Professor Howson to extend the breadth of the course even further than his already vast knowledge of the arts industry," Lane said.

Lane has just begun a marketing internship at SPAC this semester, an accomplishment she attributes to the knowledge she gained from the arts administration course.

The arts administration curriculum prepares students like Lane for their future careers in the arts. "A major focus of the curriculum is on non-profit organizations, including both the performing arts and museums," Howson said. "Artists and arts organizations need creative people to help them navigate the real world and support their artistic vision."

According to Howson, the program is the result of the gift from the estate and family of Arthur Zankel, who supported the arts and the creation of a liberal arts program that would aid students in becoming leaders in their respective fields. The two courses, Howson hopes, are just the beginning of what may soon blossom into the curriculum Zankel envisioned.

In fall 2010 David Howson invited several speakers to his Foundations class to discuss issues ranging from being the chief executive officer of a large performing arts complex to writing arts reviews. Scott Mulligan, from Management & Business, discussed intellectual property and copyright and its relevance to students interested in any kind of arts enterprise. As an intellectual property lawyer, Mulligan spoke about the basic information students would need to know regarding contract negotiations involved in any kind of arts production.

Intellectual property is one of the most important 'intellectual commodities' . . . that we have in the U.S. today, Mulligan said, emphasizing the importance of protecting artistic ideas in the business world. His course, Intellectual Property in the Global Economy, touches on many different areas of people's lives where intellectual property is involved. "Imagine that this lawsuit is hanging over your head and affects your ability to fundraise . . . it affects the way a production might be valued [monetarily], in a Broadway or off-Broadway production." With the new arts administration, various people with different forms of experience can be brought in to teach students from a multiple-angle approach, Mulligan said.

Another important aspect of any art business is the ability to manage and maintain donor relations and fundraising, which is what Mary Solomons, director of donor relations at North Hall, talked about along with John Chaplin. "A key part of any arts organization is fundraising," she said, "that's how you're going to get resources in order to survive."

Solomons emphasized the importance of working with donors on a personal level, adding that according to the American Institute of Philanthropy, the cost of attaining new donors is 10 times more expensive than maintaining old ones. "I found the skills I developed in arts management have been very good for me in development," she said, adding that, "if you look at any large arts organization . . . ticket sales are not going to keep the lights on in places like SPAC or other arts administrations; they depend on the support of their patrons."

I think it's terrific that Skidmore's offering this type of art program, Solomons said. "It's a key part of the art, being able to oversee and manage a non-profit organization."

Penny Loretto, the interim director at Career Services, spoke about resumé preparation and how to target it to fit a specific position or employer. She also ran several resume workshops last November, which is one of the ways in which Career Services has provided resources to the Foundations class.



An effective, targeted resume helps students get interviews and a foot-in-the-door for an internship or a job, Loretto said, adding that Career Services will continue to work with arts administration students in the future.

Howson also anticipates several other guest speakers for his spring course, Philanthropy and the Arts, including Elizabeth Schlatter, deputy director of Harnett Museum at the University of Richmond, Judy Hansen, trustee of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and Bill Ladd, a Skidmore trustee. He hopes that the arts administration program will be a great help to students for years to come.

I look forward to seeing 'Skidmore College' on the resumés and in the bios of future arts leaders, he said. "Skidmore already has many alumni working in the field, so this program formalizes a field of study that students have already been crafting on their own."

Howson will host an information session before the fall registration for any students interested in the arts administration. He asks students to contact him directly at any time if they have questions regarding the program.

#1.1963546:3066792796.jpg AA-201

Photo courtesy of Nicholas Liu-Sontag '11





## Super Bowl Sunday: Apathy in Dining Hall

By Evan Owen, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

As a first year at Skidmore, I have become accustomed to waking up on Sunday with my hair in shambles and my eyes barely open, making my way to the dining hall so that I can eat. Late into the day already, I chow down on a muffin and enjoy the tranquil sounds of excessive grunting and bodies crunching together, otherwise known as a standard Sunday during football season.

The season started the Sunday after school began in the fall, and it had been there for students, including myself, every Sunday until the semester concluded in December. Along with the games, I had gotten used to seeing the same people watch the same teams on any given Sunday. The scattered fans from far away places such as California and Texas dotted the room, but always were dwarfed by students who hail from regions within driving distance of Saratoga, sporting the apparel of teams in the Northeast such as the Ravens, Jets, Giants and, especially, the Patriots. The season has ended and the culmination of the many Sundays of gridiron clashes emphasized by the appearance of this gaudy apparel is on next week (and hopefully being shown in D Hall) - the Super Bowl.

This year's round of playoffs has been a surprise for many, as lower ranked teams pulled David and Goliath-esque upsets to secure their spots deeper into the postseason and many top-seeded teams fell with relative ease. To the surprise and shock of many, the two teams that clashed in the Super Bowl last year, the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts, each lost to teams with losing records the Seattle Seahawks and the New York Jets, respectively.

As the postseason continued, both No. 1 seeds, the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots lost to wild card teams, the Green Bay Packers and the Jets (again). In the conference championships, the Jets' luck ran out against the always-consistent Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Packers, after having barely made the playoffs, found themselves beating their regional rivals, the Chicago Bears, and securing themselves a spot in the Super Bowl.

The competition this coming Sunday is in Arlington, Texas and is between the Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers. It aims to be a helmet-clashing Super Bowl between two teams that have consistently performed well during the regular season and especially in the postseason. Aaron Rodgers, a former backup quarterback to Brett Favre before he retired, then un-retired, switched teams and all other sorts of dramatic whiney nonsense, leads the Packers after a strong late season run to clinch a



wild card spot. The Steelers, on the other hand, are lead by the seasoned Ben Roethlisberger, who went to and won the Super Bowl merely three years prior.

Both teams are worthy of a Super Bowl title, and neither team is heavily favored. Fans revere the Packers for their offense and the Steelers for their defense, each team holding top rankings in the NFL in various categories.

As for the Skidmore population, I can't imagine that too many people will be interested in watching it since we have no football team ourselves and I've seen a bigger turnout at an a capella concert than at a sporting event. I will be watching the game in the dining hall come Sunday night, and I'll be sporting black and yellow while rooting for the Steelers.

## **1,000 career points for Altimar**

### **Sports Wrap**

By Julia Schwartz, Sports Editor

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Skidmore men's basketball returned from break and have competed hard to stand currently at 12-7 overall and 6-2 in Liberty League play.

Over the break, the Thoroughbreds celebrated an exciting mark on Jan. 21 when Jeff Altimar '11 reached 1,000 points in his playing career. He is the 13th player to reach this mark in Skidmore basketball history. Altimar added to his total with 13 points in a 65-57 win against Clarkson.

The Thoroughbreds were not so lucky in their next two games as they fell to league opponent St. Lawrence, who they lost to by eight despite Melvis Langyintuo '12 scoring 19 points.

After a two-game deficit, Skidmore came back to win three league games consecutively against Vassar, RPI and Union. Altimar started the Vassar game off with a three-pointer, which gave Skidmore the momentum to beat the Brewers 86-52 in a huge league win. Brian Lowry '12 had a standout week in league play being the high scorer in two out of three games for the Thoroughbreds, with 14 points against Vassar and 19 points against RPI.

### **Women's basketball**

Since break, the women's basketball team has been fighting to keep up with its fierce league competition. The team has played all league teams once now, waiting to compete against them all once again to improve their 4-4 record in league play. Skidmore's highlights in league play have been against William Smith, Hamilton, Clarkson and Vassar. Skidmore pulled away with a big win in overtime against William Smith on Jan. 14 with a score of 88-82. Megan Gaugler '12 stood out in the game with an outstanding 27 points.

Gaugler came through again in the clutch at the end of Skidmore's game against Hamilton on Jan. 15 with a game winning three-point shot. Other standouts in the game were Michela Ottati '14 and Jessie Kavana '12, who both contributed 11 points apiece to the winning score.

Skidmore's most recent standout league game was against Vassar, where they won the game 68-62. Skidmore was ahead by four at the end of the first half, and continued with their lead throughout the game to push through for a win. Christina Gargiso '12 scored 18 points and retrieved five rebounds.

The Thoroughbreds unfortunately were unable to carry over their winning spirit to the next game against Union on Feb. 1, losing a close game 67-64. Gargiso picked up Liberty League co-performer of the Week due to her 33-point weekend. Her shooting percentage of 7-9 on the floor against Vassar and her five three-point shots contributed to her acknowledgement. The Thoroughbreds look to advance their record when they continue league play Feb. 4 against Hamilton at home.

### **Ice hockey**

Men's hockey skated off with a win on Jan. 28 against Connecticut College with a score of 4-2. Contributing greatly to the game was rookie Tony Giacini '14, who scored a hat trick for the Thoroughbreds. Giacini broke the silence with his first goal on a power play with assistance from Nick Dupuis '12 and Alex Essaris '12. The rookie upped the ante in his next shift, scoring the next goal with assistance from Vlad Gavrik '14 and Jack Walsh '12. Giacini sealed the game in the third period for the Thoroughbreds when he scored off a perfect pass from teammate Alex Mykolenko '11. In goal for the Thoroughbreds was Andrew Ross '12, who had 21 saves, with an impressive 14 in the second period.

Skidmore extended their winning streak in the next game to four as they took a win over Tufts 6-2. The win extended their record to 6-5-2 in the ECAC East and 7-10-2 overall. Skidmore got off to a quick start with a goal from Mykolenko only 1:29 into the first period. After Tufts came back to tie the score, Essaris sealed the lead with his first goal of the season with assistance from goalie Colin Bessey '12. Tyler Doremus '12 then followed up to deepen the lead with another goal at 12:12, still in the first period. The second period provided back and forth scoring for both teams, bringing the score to 4-2.

The Thoroughbreds were able to seal the win in the third with two more goals from Doremus, his second of the game, and Chris Powers '14, his first goal of the season. For his efforts, Giacini nabbed ECAC east rookie of the week with a 5-goal weekend. Skidmore skates on to their next competition Feb. 4 at UNE.

### **Swimming & Diving**

While the rest of the school was unpacking from a long vacation, the swimming and diving teams traveled to Hartwick on Jan. 23 to compete. Standouts on the women's side included Kristen Stearns '13 and Krista Pelton '14. Stearns won first place in both the 1-meter and 3-meter dives, while first year Pelton finished second in the 1-meter. Carrie Koch '13, Katherine Kelloway '14 and Chelsea Halsor '11 all finished second in their respective swimming races and Sarah Shaw '14 finished in third in the 500 free.

Men's swimming came through in the same competitions with Taylor Best '14 in third place for the 50 free and Tucker Cambridge '14 in third for the 100 breast. The men's divers jumped into third place with Rob Zilinyi '11 performing both the 1-meter and the 3-meter dives.

Swimming and diving did not have as much luck when they went up against RPI as the Engineers came through with wins in both the women's and men's competition. Skidmore lost 136-74 in the women's division and 152-76 in the men's division. Despite the loss, Best and Peter Quattromani '14 both performed well finishing second in the 200 IM and the 1,000 Free, respectively.

As for the women, Koch came in second in the 200 Free with a career best time of 2:02.16, Shaw finished second in the 1000 free, and Stearns dove into second place for the Thoroughbreds in the diving competition. Skidmore hopes to swim to victory next on February 5 when the women host the Skidmore Sprint Invitational.

#1.1963540:1944488311.JPG Women's Basketball 3

Melissa Cohn/Skidmore News



## Limón adds contemporary twist

By Chloe Prasinós, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

It was apparent to most that these people were not students. Only the few dance students who returned to campus early this semester knew the identities of these intriguing adults clad in athletic wear and snow boots.

These were the members of the world-renowned Limón Dance Company who returned to Saratoga Springs on Jan. 9 to complete a three-week residency at the college.

You may have seen them around campus: 14 tall, elegant strangers with a subtle grace about them, even when they simply wait in line for some yogurt at the dining hall.

During the course of their stay, the company members held classes for advanced dance students and rehearsed in preparation for their performance "Masters and the Next Generation," which was performed at 8 p.m. on Jan. 28 in the Helen Filene Concert Hall at the Arthur Zankel Music Center.

Jose Limón, one of the most influential and innovative dancers of the 20th century, founded the company in 1946 with the legendary Doris Humphrey acting as the group's artistic director.

Since Limón's death in 1972, Carla Maxwell has devoted her life to the company, working tirelessly as artistic director to preserve the integrity of Limón's original vision.

Additionally, Maxwell sought contemporary choreographers who would highlight the strong, dynamic movement that characterizes the company's distinctive style.

Mary DiSanto-Rose, associate professor of dance and the Limón Residency coordinator, noted the three defining qualities of the group's movement as "the use of breath, repeated fall and recovery and a sense of suspension."

During their residency, the Limón Dance Company also held a lecture and demonstration on Jan. 25 at the Dance Theater, which was led by Clay Taliaferro, former principal dancer and assistant artistic director of the company.

The captivating and eloquent Taliaferro worked with the company's eight male dancers in a reconstruction of Limón's classic work, "Emperor Jones." Taliaferro coached the male dancers in the piece's two iconic roles, Emperor Jones and the white man.

This engaging evening offered students and members of the community a rare and coveted inside view of the company's creative process.

Student and dancer Anna Long '11, was mesmerized by the strong emphasis Taliaferro placed upon the importance of each dancer. "He was an individual, while still maintaining the integrity of the original piece. This was one of the best demonstrations I've seen here," Long said.

Following three weeks of rehearsal in the college's dance facilities, the Limón Dance Company concluded their residency with a sold-out show, becoming the first professional dance company to perform at Zankel.

The evening included two works from the company's historic repertoire, Jirí Kylián's "La Cathedrale Engloutie" (1975) and Jose Limón's "There Is A Time" (1956), as well as a contemporary piece by Jonathan Fredrickson entitled "Chrysalis" (2010).

Jeff Segrave, dean of special programs, welcomed the audience, a mix of students and members of the Saratoga Springs community, to an evening of dance. DiSanto-Rose expressed her admiration of Maxwell's work with the Limón Dance Company and thanked the community for making the residency possible.

Members of the audience seated in the back half of the orchestra section found they had to stretch out of their seats to see the dancers' feet as well as any floor work performed. However, those in the balcony and in the mezzanine received a fantastic view of the company as they performed with incredible energy and precision.

The program placed Frederickson's contemporary piece "Chrysalis," between two of the company's classic works, highlighting the difference between the time periods of the works.

Chrysalis featured the female dancers of the company clad in vibrant, flowing costumes, weaving in and out of linear formations around soloist Belinda McGuire. Throughout the movement, McGuire underwent a pronounced aesthetic metamorphosis.

This dynamic, exhilarating piece underlined the incredible sense of humanity and community in the other two pieces "La Cathedrale Engloutie" and "There Is A Time," proving why these works have ultimately withstood the test of time.

#1.1963517:1159115272.jpg Limon Dance 2

Photo courtesy of Hope Davis







## Home is where the hearth is

### Fanning the Flames of Communalty at Skidmore's South Quad (Part I)

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

If one walks from Case green to Wiecking Hall, one must pass through a length of covered walkway, which stretches from the stairs at Starbuck Center and eventually forks, leading in one direction to Kimball Hall and in the other direction to Penfield Hall. If one heads toward Penfield one must necessarily pass through the Chimney.

#### *Chimney*

- *noun (pl. chimneys) 1. a vertical pipe which conducts smoke and gases up from a fire or furnace.*

*-Oxford English Dictionary*

The Chimney is marked by two benches facing one another in an open air walkway underneath a curved roof and, depending on the time of day, one will understand how this area came to be named so.

The first genuinely sunny and warm day in spring, when the temperature rises above 75 degrees, is the Chimney-goer's answer to the Fourth of July. From about 5 p.m., when most classes get out, late into the evening, the two benches outside of Penfield and Kimball will be occupied, and the surrounding area buzzing with bright cheerful faces. People pass through the gentle mob wondering what obscure holiday is being celebrated. Unaware passersby start to assume that it is a tobacco festival of sorts, as plumes of smoke rise from the crowd and illustrate the area's namesake. Student tour guides lead groups of prospective students past Starbuck Center toward Case Green, and these students and their parents undoubtedly wonder what has spurred this gathering. Students and administrators alike pass by the crowd of chattering people and wonder "why?" But don't ask the Chimney-goers themselves, they couldn't tell you why they are here either. Their being at this spot is almost instinctive. So obvious to themselves is their presence at this area with these particular people that they couldn't begin to ponder that question. This area and the people who occupy it encompass the Chimney experience. All of the gatherers recognize each other as belonging to one another as long as they're in this spot.

At about 4:30 p.m. on such a warm sunny day I decided to stroll downstairs from Penfield and pay a visit to the Chimney. I sat down on one of the benches. The kids sitting around me were all engaged in a conversation regarding the taxation laws of New York State Indian reservations. A few were smoking

cigarettes and one guy who wore aviators was drinking a beer. The conversation juttet to and fro and eventually arrived at an entirely different topic, that of which states contain the highest concentration of wealth. The people sitting around the chimney kept at their conversation, drinking beer and smoking cigarettes all the while, and paid little attention to passersby. A tall athletic looking type in baggy jeans walked by with swagger of superiority that seemed almost visibly contrived for the express purpose of his Chimney passage. The folks in the chimney just sat and smoked.

Most of these fellows lived in Penfield, and it seemed at first that they were sitting out here purely out of convenience. I inquired as to why they were sitting out here rather than on Case green. One fellow named Friendan Ghastly replied that "The [Chimney] is a good central spot of south quad. Everyone knows where it is, it's really close to Penfield, really close to Kimball. Everyone knows where it is, it's easy to get to." The others agreed. "There aren't a lot of central points for south quad because we're kind of spread out," Ghastly continued, "but there are a couple spots where people congregate, this being the most renowned and/or used."

A few people walked by as we sat and talked. Small foreign students slinked past as did athletic types. The guys just kept chattering away, oblivious to those passing through. The only person that garnered a response from these fellows was a slender brunette. Her approach silenced the guys. As she strutted past, the conversation faded and the fellows leaned back and engaged themselves in preoccupied motions. One drew from a cigarette, Aviators sipped his beer and Ghastly hummed some obscure tune. As the girl walked away, the conversation carried on, in a very subdued manner with chatter that made little sense. Then, as soon as the girl was out of earshot, the fellows erupted with feigned and highly exaggerated blue-collar accents, saying things like, "Yeah, I'd like somma' dat," which is isolated from the others. Mansion lit a cigarette and then offered his ideas about the use of the Chimney...

*Read next week's newspaper for the conclusion of this article.*

#1.1963462:2983633044.JPG Chimney

Chimney folk "lighting up" on a typical winter afternoon.

Gabe Weintraub/Skidmore News



## Editorial

### The end of marsupial mayhem

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Students thought of the college's Ultimate Frisbee team as an unofficial campus fraternity. For 20 years, first-years had happily signed up for the Wombats' hazing, keg practices and raucous spring break team trip. So when the SGA Executive Board de-chartered the club for repeatedly and egregiously breaking the college's Honor Code, the words on everyone's lips should be not, "why?" but, really, "It's about time."

On their first day at the college, every student pledged to uphold the college's Honor Code; on their first night at the college, most students happily enjoyed their first Honor Code violation. But to create a club culture based on violating the Honor Code unapologetically and at every opportunity, as the Wombats have, is to understand that your club is vulnerable to the very first instance of those violations coming to administrative attention. At some point, the college can't look the other way.

The people who police our campus, from Campus Safety officers to our SGA representatives, have long kept a polite blind eye to the club's indiscretions. But when evidence of club-wide expellable offenses starts appearing in lecture halls and administrative inboxes, our campus leaders have no other recourse but to respond accordingly with disciplinary action.

As seen in the regulatory action taken toward other aspects of the college's campus life, from the community-affirming 4/20 to the drunken fun of Moorebid Ball, there comes a point at which a tacit tradition becomes too public to ignore.

The exploits of the Wombats have become a campus institution, a piece of what makes Skidmore unique. It's easy to understand why students might mourn the loss, but when it comes to assigning responsibility for the club's disbandment, the blame doesn't lie with the SGA officers who made the decision. It falls, instead, to the club members who made it impossible for their governing body to respond in any way but severely.

The members of the Wombats can still throw around a Frisbee on the green. But when they go on this year's annual spring break trip, it will be their own money that they're spending - not their piece of every student's tuition. We look forward to seeing a wiser Ultimate Frisbee team on campus next year.

## Student studies warblers

Sophomore biology major researches competitive mating in warblers

By Hannah Sherman, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

For common yellowthroat warbler males, mating season can be very competitive. In the Northeast, a male's best asset is his yellow patch, or - the bigger the better.

Kate Littrell '13, a biology major at Skidmore, has been doing research on female warbler preference in males for a year now and plans to continue until she graduates.

Associate biology professor Dr. Corey Freeman-Gallant designed a study that looks at why the female birds have such picky taste in males. Previous studies have already shown that males with larger bibs sire more offspring, which supports the notion that females prefer these males.

To find out the reason behind this preference, Freeman-Gallant and Littrell are studying the offspring of males with large, yellow bibs and comparing them to the offspring of males with smaller bibs. They are trying to discover whether or not the desirable, large-bibbed males father young that are actually healthier than those fathered by the small-bibbed birds.

The study we are doing now is one of the first studies to look at this: what do females get out of picking these sexier males? Intuitively, people think they will get better kids, but nobody has ever proven it. While Littrell is gaining valuable experience in research, she is also filling a gap in the scientific record.

Littrell started work on this project during her first-year. After taking a lecture class with Freeman-Gallant, she asked for special permission to be in a one-credit 275 research course almost exclusively populated by seniors. She got in.

Rather than creating her own project, as most students do, Littrell chose to join Freeman-Gallant in his research. When the semester was over, he asked if she wanted to continue the project as a summer intern. "I said I was very interested. I really wanted some field experience."

Last summer Freeman-Gallant's field assistants had to find yellowthroat warblers in the wild, catch them in nets, tag them and take blood and feather samples from them. This was not easy.

"Sometimes we had to charge through mud puddles and blackberry bushes and run like maniacs to scare them into the nets," Littrell said.

They also had to work countless hours in the fourth floor molecular ornithology lab in Dana Science Center, painstakingly preparing samples and running experiments.

“It can be miserable in the moment, but when you look back it’s actually a lot of fun. You put all this work into it and then you get this awesome result. It’s real science,” Littrell said.

Many students at Skidmore do research over the summer, but few start as early as Littrell and are as committed to one project.

“A lot of people hop from project to project, but I really wanted to stay with something. Eventually this is going to get published. It’s really exciting,” Littrell said.

Now, Littrell is doing a three-credit independent study where she is continuing Freeman-Gallant’s research. The team has weekly meetings, but Littrell is otherwise on her own.

After so long on the job, her professor trusts her to solve problems on her own. “Corey took the dean of Academic Advising job, so he is not really teaching anymore and he’s not in the lab. I am really taking over what he would normally do,” Littrell said.

Because of her dedication, Littrell will be listed as a co-author on her professor’s project once the paper is published. She also anticipates having a stronger voice in designing research in the future.

Most biology students choose to work on their own projects during their first-year and sophomore years.

This strategy has some advantages: students get full control of designing and executing their own experiments.

However they do not get the benefits that long-term research provides and they do not get the experience of working on a professional project.

“My favorite part of college is my research. It is really rewarding. It is not like class where you are given work to do. Even in a lab, you are supervised heavily. In here, I am on my own and sometimes I have to figure things out for myself. I do not have the luxury of just walking over to my professor and asking, ‘Can you tell me what to do?’ You really have to think on your feet,” Littrell said.



## Who is to blame when friends hook up?

What Would C. Do?

By C., Advice from an Anonymous Friend

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Welcome back to the snowdrifts of Saratoga Springs, where we are slipping, sliding and trying to pick up where we left off - and where was that exactly?

Some of us may have ended our first semester sex/love life or friendship with a question mark, exclamation point or the ever so annoying...

Fear not, oh sun-deprived one, I am back and ready to answer the questions that have your head and heart on thin ice.

*Dear C.,*

*If I hook up with my best friend and he has a girlfriend, who is the shittier person?*

*-It Takes Two 2 Tango*

Dear It Takes Two,

You are right: it does take two. However, it also takes someone to initiate the hook-up and another to either hesitate, or follow through immediately.

Once you are able to distinguish the role you play in the unfortunate, smelly situation, the easier it is to decipher the anal route you want to take.

Hesitating and not going through with the hook-up not only leaves you with a guiltless conscience, but also with a clean backside. You can try to talk it out with him and see what the deal is with his girlfriend.

You cannot make any decisions for him, so help by giving a girl's perspective on his issues. If you enjoy the odor of ordure, go for it.

Assess the consequences. If it is too late, expect to own up to them and take responsibility. It may strain the friendship, but if he is a true friend it should flow out as if nothing happened.

The question is not who is the shittier person but "how do I fix this?" By mentioning that both parties are "shit" indicates a guilty conscience on your part, which is key, as well as recognizing the fault in his actions.

If you do not experience guilt, I would question your motives and feelings toward your best friend. Does he mean more to you than you actually admit? Have you ever been sexually attracted to him? What are your feelings toward his girlfriend?

These questions, as well as analyzing and comparing your relationship to other friendships, may help decide whether you are considering hooking up because of your horn, his horn or your heart.

-Stars and hearts, C.

*I am a nonbiased, nonjudgmental third party (because I love parties). My aim is to advise, not to direct. The real question is what will you do? Email me at SkidWWCD@gmail.com with questions.*

*Privacy is guaranteed. Advice can remain unpublished upon request.*

## Scholars for change

Club aims to raise \$30,000 per semester

By Alex Brehm, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Max Bevan '12 and Kiyo Egashira '11 want to further African communities' economic and social development. To do so, they formed the Healthy Scholar Foundation (HSF).

The new campus club raises money for the Millennium Promise, a non-profit organization providing African people with basic necessities in order to equip them to work their way out of poverty.

Bevan and Egashira were inspired to start the club while abroad last semester in Edinburgh, Scotland.

While there, they took a development economics class and learned about issues of world poverty. After reading "The End of Poverty," by Jeffrey Sachs, the students decided to take decisive action and form the new club.

Sachs is a prominent researcher in poverty and economics and is director of the Earth Institute who started Millennium Promise.

The nongovernmental organization provides various services targeting the educational, medical and nutritional needs of developing communities.

The group trains local teachers and provides building materials for new schools, as well as immunizations and mosquito nets to prevent the spread of disease.

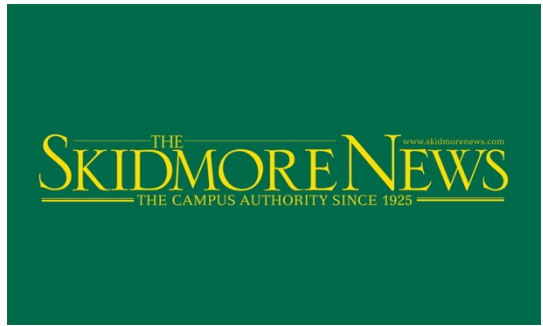
The organization attempts to minimize Western intervention into African communities and to equip African community members with tools and training to distribute within their own communities.

HSF will solicit donations through their "dollar a week" program.

With about 2,500 students on campus, Bevan and Egashira hope to raise about \$30,000 every semester.

They plan to reward large donations with T-shirts and mugs and expect to partner with the campus African poverty club Bicycles Against Poverty for a large fundraiser late in the semester.

Other plans include a "dollar a day" program. Participants live on a dollar a day in order to gain a better understanding of life in abject poverty.



*The Healthy Scholar Foundation can be found at [www.thehealthyscholar.org](http://www.thehealthyscholar.org), as well as on Facebook and Twitter accounts.*

*The club is currently soliciting résumés for several administrative roles: vice president of Finance, vice president of media and donor Relations, vice president of Marketing and secretary.*

## **A typical sandwich, an atypical author**

### **Stranger than Fiction**

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Every so often, when I become bored with the general grind of school, I return to the work of American author Charles Bukowski.

Although he was not an author widely noted by the American academic world as a genuine "writer," his work (nearly 80 volumes of poetry and prose) has been devoured by younger generations.

He wrote of dead-end jobs in terrible places like slaughterhouses and pickle company factories that involved the masculine, bravado character of Hank Chinanski (an alias for himself) in stories of desperation, alcohol abuse and violence.

No job lasted for more than a few weeks. He was always in motion. His nights were spent with a few bottles of wine at his desk. He wrote three or four short stories a week. Sometimes he would go out to a bar and pick up a prostitute or go off, rub someone the wrong way and get into a fistfight.

How did he get like this?

The answer is "Ham on Rye," Bukowski's memoir of his childhood.

It is his best work. It is a book that should be read by everyone who has ever lived a day on earth. Unfortunately, it is not required in high school. As high school students struggle through the cryptic prose of Faulkner and Virginia Woolf, they do not realize that "the world" can be explained in simpler ways.

It chronicles the author's first 20-odd years on earth, from his "first memory" as a child in Germany, to his growing up as a reclusive, deprived, abused child in America (he was brought over at the age of 2).

Bukowski was beaten nearly every day by his father from the age of 5 to 11 and he had his first alcoholic drink at the age of 13. Alcohol would come to manipulate the plot of his own life.

Although he came from a meager background, his parents still sent him to one of the wealthier Los Angeles high schools. They wanted their son to be perceived as wealthy. Stuck in between the rich boys and girls, he was an island.

To make matters worse, at the age of 15, he was struck with a scarring form of acne. Boils covered his entire body. The boils embellished his feelings of loneliness and fear. He was taken out of school and sent to the charity ward of the local hospital for daily treatments.

While in treatment, he fell in love with the older nurse who worked on him - she was the first person who showed him actual love.

Bukowski found new life in the Los Angeles Public Library in the books of D.H. Lawrence, Upton Sinclair and Ernest Hemingway. He began writing stories.

His first stories were of the adventures of a famous war hero, a pilot named Baron Von Himmlen who was admired by all people. He added another addiction - writing.

As he writes in his memoir: "it made me feel good to write about the Baron. A man needed somebody. There wasn't anybody around so you had to make up somebody, make him up to be like a man should be."

Bukowski was destined for a life as far removed from his generation as possible.

His stories soon crossed into wildness and debauchery. Earlier stories and drawings were found by his father and ripped to shreds. The drawings were of topless women and the stories were of perverse intention.

He left home soon after and roamed the country from LA to Philadelphia through Miami, Texas and back to California.

What is important to take note of about this journey throughout the country were his intentions on carrying through with it. This is not a man who has the freedom of a Kerouac or Cassidy. He does not go out for the adventure; he goes because he has nowhere else to go.

The title of the novel comes from the typical American sandwich that the typical American worker brings for his lunch everyday at his typical American job.

His father had one of these typical American jobs. The title is an inside joke. The only life that the author wanted to have was to never be a part of the American system, the nine - to - five days, and the houses in suburbia . . . everything that he grew up with and around he wanted to throw away.

## Tang fuels environmental thought

By Sarina Sheth, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

On Saturday Feb. 5, the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery will open a new exhibit. The exhibit, "Environment and Object in Recent African Art," features contemporary art that responds to environmental issues on the African continent.

Co-curators Lisa Aronson, associate professor of art history, and John Weber, director of the Tang Museum, have collaborated to bring this unique collection together.

Aronson, who has taught courses on African Art at the college since 1984, expressed excitement about the exhibit's emphasis on contemporary work.

It is an eye opener for students because it doesn't fit the paradigm about African art. It changes the western perspective, Aronson said.

Romuald Hazoumé's series of masks, created out of found or recycled materials, dialogues with preconceived notions about African art. The masks are vibrant and colorful, although composed of post-consumer products like containers and telephones.

Artist Bright Ugochukwu Eke has been working with four students to create an installation made almost entirely of water bottles from campus.

The large piece features the bottles in concentric circles suspended from the ceiling. The installation explores the idea of a ripple and "the things water and men do to each other," Eke said.

Environment and Object in Recent African Art forces viewers to confront environmental issues. Themes of oil exploitation and corrupt government are central in the exhibit.

Photographer George Osodi's prints present horrific scenes of oil field explosions in Nigeria. Another photographer, Barthélémy Togo, comments on environmental issues with less literal pieces such as his, "Stupid African President 2," which depicts a man with a chainsaw atop his head. His approach to deforestation uses humor to contrast with devastating reality.

Though the art focuses on the African continent, there is an element of universality and urgency to the exhibit. The political and ecological focus does not sacrifice beauty either.



El Anatsui's large piece, "Some Still Come Back," hangs iridescent in the gallery. The unusual piece is made up of liquor bottle caps and wire. The oddly beautiful wall hanging provokes reflection.

"It makes us think differently about things we throw away and our relationship to consumption," Weber said.

At 5 p.m. on Feb. 5, co-curators Aronson and Weber will moderate a dialogue in the Payne Room with artists Viyé Diba, Bright Ugochukwu Eke and Barthélémy Toguo, along with art historian Chika Okeke-Agulu of Princeton University prior to the exhibit's opening at 6 p.m.

Environment and Object in Recent African Art has both a surprising creative range and an overwhelming political force. It is a collection that forces viewers to reject inaccurate perceptions of African art and challenge their relationship to eminent global concerns.

#1.1963496:616201114.jpg Environment and Object in Recent African Art 1

Barthélémy Toguo, "Afrika Oil"

Photos courtesy of the Tang Museum



## Greg Allman brings it back with 'Low Country Blues'

### Let's Talk About Rock

By Eli Cohen, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

The tragic death of his older brother Duane led Gregg Allman, who was at one point a household name, to pursue an erratic and intermittent solo career.

The Hammond-playing rocker from Nashville, best known as the lead singer for the Allman Brothers, released his first album in nearly nine years "Low Country Blues," on Jan. 18. Legendary Los Angeles music-scene veteran T Bone Burnett produced the album, which features blues heavyweights such as Mack "Dr. John" Rebennack.

The album is comprised of blues classics, by artists ranging from Muddy Waters ("I Can't Be Satisfied") to 1930s blues icon Skip James ("Devil Got My Woman"), as well as one original track "Just Another Rider," which was co-written by Gov't Mule's Warren Haynes.

James is known for his classics "Hard Time Killing Floor Blues" and "I'm So Glad," which has been subsequently covered by both Eric Clapton's "Cream" and Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water" fame. Because of his unique writing style, it is not difficult to hear that James penned "Devil Got My Woman".

The album contains songs written anywhere between mid-1920s to the present. Because of the wide timeframe, many of the songs sound like definite throwbacks. "Little By Little" and "Please Accept My Love" sound like they come straight from the 1950s, while the album's ninth track, "Tears, Tears, Tears" features the horn section that Allman has become known for, making the song sound like a Las Vegas standard.

The 63-year-old Nashville native, boasting six different wives, five children and three grandchildren over the course of his life, clearly has a specific message in mind with this new album. With track titles such as "Devil Got My Woman," "My Love is Your Love" and "Please Accept My Love," there seems to be an overarching theme that is developed, possibly furthered by his history of substance abuse and addiction.

Allman finds a perfect refuge in the words of the old greats, where he seems to be right at home. His rich, southern voice, which was voted No. 76 on the Rolling Stone Magazine list of 100 Greatest Singers of All Time, carries out over the layers of guitar riffs and jazzy piano licks, courtesy of Dr. John.

At times this album gives off the impression of the run-of-the-mill, generic southern blues, especially with John Lee Hooker's "I Believe I'll Go Back Home," which seems unchanged from the original.

However, as is to be expected with the talent of Allman's magnitude, there are also many moments of pure brilliance. "My Love is Your Love" is an example of timeless blues. Allman's soulful voice blends perfectly with the blues riffs playing around him. The musical success of this song is interesting because it also sounds more like vintage Allman Brothers than any other track on the album.

Checking on My Baby is a beautiful song that opens with the lines, "Every day I look for sunshine, look for sunshine though it rains/Every time I check on my baby, she's checking up on another man." The classic blues riffs, as well as the steady, strong drumbeat, provide a forceful background to Allman's beautiful lamentations.

For all blues fans, whether they like Eric Clapton or Mississippi John Hurt, "Low Country Blues" proves to be one of the most promising blues albums released in years, done right by a man who has been a staple of the blues genre for over five decades.

*Eli Cohen is a sophomore music major from Middlebury, Vt.*

## Ensemble ACJW returns to campus

By Gia Vaccarezza, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Ensemble ACJW is back to grace the stage at the Arthur Zankel Music Center for the second time this year. The ensemble is comprised of 14 promising, young woodwind, brass and string musicians.

The members were selected and assembled by the Academy, a program of Carnegie Hall, the Julliard School and the Weill Music Institute. The group is a popular and regularly welcomed guest on campus and in Saratoga, and the group's service projects extend to students and town residents alike.

Artist-in-residence Michael Emery described the group as "professional and engaging, dedicated to creating music at the highest possible level and sharing it and its greater message with as many people as it can reach."

Last semester, two ACJW alumni played at the dedication of the Arthur Zankel Music Center, joined by Emanuel Ax, Emery and Filene Scholar Hanna Tonegawa '11.

As usual, the ensemble will be having many informal performances, "informances," around campus: in residence halls, Murray-Aikins Dining Hall and the Lucy Scribner Library. These miniperformances preview movements of the pieces the group will play on Feb. 4 on the main stage at Zankel.

Along with these performances, Ensemble ACJW will be working alongside music students. Members of the group will also host various sight-reading sessions and private lessons.

The college's string ensemble has worked closely with the musicians in the past. Students have benefited greatly from the private lessons offered as part of the service requirement of the trip.

The group will also perform student compositions on Saturday, Feb. 5, allowing student composers to hear their pieces played live, some for the first time. David Bruce, residency composer for the ACJW, will also be in attendance to give students feedback on their work.

During their weeklong stay, the ensemble will also give free student lessons and visit Saratoga Bridges and St. Clement's Elementary School. These visits usually include a music lesson based on the presentations that they have given to inner-city students in New York City.

Friday's show will be the premier performance of David Bruce's "Steampunk," a 22-minute octet featuring oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, violin, viola, cello and bass.



Along with "Steampunk," the players will also perform Beethoven's Septet in E-flat Major and Janacek's sextet, "Mládí." This line-up will be performed again at Carnegie Hall on Feb. 7.

Students have responded exceedingly well to the visits. "The group is amazing. The members are willing to work with us as well as hang out and just play music," Jessica Taffett '12 said.

Others found the player's outreach efforts inspiring, "It's really great to work first-hand with all these experienced players. It gives us an idea of what we could be doing in a few years," Jane Esterquest '13 said.

The full concert will be performed at Zankel on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. At 7 p.m. there will be a pre-concert discussion moderated by professor Thomas Denny that will feature composer Bruce and some of the performers.

*Concert tickets can be reserved through the box office or online at <http://skidmore.showclix.com>.*

#1.1692898:1677290328.jpg

Ensemble ACJW performs at the Arthur Zankel Music Center on Oct. 8.

Photo courtesy of Eric Jenks





## The hip-hop that made 2010

### Hip-Hop Weekly

By Jenna Postler, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

The year 2010 was an important one in hip-hop. More specifically, 2010 was an outstanding year for the freshman album. Fans were privileged with breakout albums from artists who had only previously been heard on remixes and mix tapes.

In looking at the year in review, one can pinpoint some of the best mainstream hip-hop albums of the year to such rookies as Drake, Nikki Minaj, B.o.B. and Big Boi.

You may find yourself asking why Big Boi and Drake would be considered rookies. The answer is simple: technically, 2010 saw the release of their debut albums.

Big Boi's stellar "Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty" was his first album without longtime OutKast member Andre 3000. The catchy album sports such tracks as "Tangerine" featuring T.I. and Khujo Goodie and "Shutterbugg" featuring Cutty.

While Drake has been abuzz for a while now, his debut album "Thank Me Later" dropped in mid-June, much to the delight of his eager fans. The record sold 447,000 copies in its first week, helping Drake reach No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album charts.

The mainstream breakout of the year belongs to rapper B.o.B., whose debut album "B.o.B. Presents: The Adventures of Bobby Ray" dropped on April 27.

The album featured poppy hits such as "Airplanes" featuring Haley Williams of Paramore and "Nothin' on You" featuring Bruno Mars. Success following the release of "Airplanes" was enormous, as demonstrated by the single's prevalence on the radio in 2010.

The year 2011 is shaping up to be a good year for rappers Wiz Khalifa, J. Cole, Jay Electronica and Lil' Wayne, among others.

Khalifa, a Pittsburgh native, can expect more success following his immensely popular single "Black and Yellow," in which he refers to the colors of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Khalifa's 2011 album, "Rolling Papers" is tentatively set to release on March 29 off of Atlantic Records.



Featured in hip-hop magazine XXL's 2010 list of Top 10 Freshmen, rapper J. Cole was the first artist signed to Jay-Z's Roc Nation record label.

The artist appeared on Jay-Z's "The Blueprint 3" as well as Wale's "Attention Deficit." J. Cole's most recent release was his third official mix tape "Friday Night Lights." His debut album can be expected to drop sometime this year.

A fellow member of Jay-Z's Roc Nation label, Jay Electronica, has been gaining popularity recently through his raps, which can be found solely online.

The artist is best known for his single "Exhibit C." While no announcements have confirmed a possible studio album for the rapper, fans can hope for more releases in 2011.

If 2011 follows along the same trajectory as 2010, we can expect greater acceptance and talent in the genre of alternative hip-hop.

In 2010, rap duos Das Racist and Chiddy Bang received much deserved acclaim. 2010 also saw the release of the Das Racist mix tapes, "Shut Up, Dude" and "Sit Down, Man." Rolling Stone magazine selected the group's song "hahahaha jk?" as one of the 50 best singles of 2010.

For the year 2011, I particularly anticipate the rise of hip-hop collective OFWGKTA (Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All), also known as Odd Future.

The group consists of at least 11 members who have just completed their first tour, which consisted of two stops. This promising group of young men is set to perform this spring at Coachella, a large stride that the group is making toward success.

Jenna Postler is a sophomore from rural Vermont who knows what's hip (hop).

## It's a one-sided story

### Practical Race and Diversity

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

I write today because I am concerned that the media coverage is inaccurate and biased.

According to the Saratogian "the four men charged with assault are all black or Hispanic." They mention the hometown of each student involved (three of whom are from New York City), emphasizing that these men are "outsiders." By identifying the accused solely by their urban background and as minorities (whose actual race was left vague), the Saratogian set the stage for the backlash that came from the Saratoga community.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, the police charged a Skidmore College sophomore with a felony hate crime following an assault at Compton's Restaurant. Proceedings on the case are not scheduled to begin until early to mid-January, and possibly later. The Saratogian and the New York Daily News - as well as many other media outlets - have reported on the arrest. It is reported that the crime took place at 5:30 a.m. and that the students involved may have been drinking underage. These are important community concerns that make the situation complicated. However, most coverage of the case overshadows these concerns by improperly framing the story. I write today because I am concerned that the media coverage is inaccurate and biased.

According to the Saratogian "the four men charged with assault are all black or Hispanic." They mention the hometown of each student involved (three of whom are from New York City), emphasizing that these men are "outsiders." By identifying the accused solely by their urban background and as minorities (whose actual race was left vague), the Saratogian set the stage for the backlash that came from the Saratoga community in the form of racist comments on their website:

brianjconway wrote on Dec. 21, 2010 6:21 a.m.:

I wonder what program they are attending Skidmore under? The RAP, the BAP, the ZAP? No difference, they are all publicly funded. Trying to educate people like that is like a hen trying to hatch a rock. 10,000 years, and it won't happen.

forafact wrote on Dec. 20, 2010 8:40 p.m.:

Can you say EOP?

Furthermore, the Associated Press identifies the perpetrator as black, though he is Hispanic. Clearly, there is a lot of confusion surrounding the incident and this false reporting isn't helping. Another take on the story by News10 of Albany shows how complicated the case really is. A minority student from Skidmore explains her opinion on the situation: that the "black people" from Skidmore who were involved are ridiculous for acting as they did, since they are given the opportunity to disprove racial stereotypes in the setting of a prestigious college. Her comments suggest the additional pressure faced by minority students at Skidmore when faced with ethical dilemmas (getting into a fight, drinking underage, etc.). Being a minority at Skidmore can be unsettling because of the primarily white student body. Minority students feel as if they have more to prove and thus face larger consequences if they happen to make a mistake. It is the white students at Skidmore who must challenge the stereotypes portrayed in unfair media coverage. We must acknowledge the pressures on minority students and ensure that we do our part in ensuring that they are portrayed fairly and equally.

#### The Missing Pieces

After reading and listening to the media coverage on the case, everyone should remember that these students have only been charged, not convicted, and that the accused have not given their perspectives and are unlikely to do so before they go to court. They are innocent until proven guilty. Skidmore students should not let what the police, those pressing charges and the media say stir up the same racially charged sentiments that the Saratoga community has already expressed in response to the Saratogian article.

Of course, I am not condoning the actions that may or may not have happened that morning at Compton's. I am simply concerned that prejudices against Hispanics and African-Americans seem to be prevalent in this community, and I hope that Skidmore students will rise above such misguided judgments. I hope that those interested in promoting social justice will meet together to discuss the many issues surrounding this case to clear up the confusion. We have an opportunity to challenge racial stereotypes and recollect ourselves as an open-minded liberal community. Let this case be a calling.

*Danny Pforte is a sophomore from Cambridge, Mass. who studies social work. He is inspired by Malcolm X, Jay-Z and Bernie Sanders.*

## Make your punishments uniform

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

There is an under-discussed problem at this school that the administration would like you not to think or talk about. The administration won't conduct town-hall meetings about this problem, and there will not be awareness drives to confront it. This problem is deeply rooted within the administration itself. It is the fallaciousness of our disciplinary system, which rears its ugly head to enforce a vicious double standard upon the student body. This problem has been increasingly infuriating me since my very first semester.

When I was a first-year, about two weeks into my college-career, two friends and I lit a newspaper on fire on the concrete staircase to Scribner Village and videotaped it. Several weeks later I accidentally misplaced my camera somewhere on campus while working on a documentary for my Scribner Seminar. When I went to Campus Safety, our acting lost and found, to retrieve it, I was ushered into the back of the office and began the first of a series of long discussions about my apparently "egregious" offense.

The discussions continued at the Office of Residential Life. My classmates and I were given a date to appear at the Integrity Board. We were told that our punishment would most likely come in the form of a letter of apology to the community we'd supposedly offended. Not understanding the severity of the situation, none of us prepared for the IB. Why should we? It was a childish act of vandalism at worst, a stunt borne of boredom and frustration with a cliquy social scene largely impenetrable for new students,

We sat through the humiliating IB meeting, at which we were told that our actions were "egregiously offensive" and "dangerous." After 3 hours of excruciating condemnation and assault upon our characters, we were told that we were suspended for one semester. This was about the most painful and confidence-shaking experience a new student can be subjected to. What better way is there to make new students feel unwelcome? In spite of all the cushiony rhetoric of the first-year experience program, we were now being suspended for lighting a campfire. We appealed and received 50 hours of community service in lieu of suspension.

Whatever confidence I had in the administration and our disciplinary system was shattered and has never been restored. Since that awful experience in my first semester, in which I was essentially suspended for a prank by an administration that claims to implement restorative justice, I have seen some things that just make me furious.

In my time at Skidmore, four Hockey players gang-beat another student after breaking into his house; they all finished the semester and graduated. Students who allegedly sexually assaulted their fellow students are still walking among us. Students selling pot were suspended for one semester while students who assaulted locals in downtown restaurants are defended and are likely to be welcomed back into the community. Members of a college club assailed other college's students with sexist chants, broke into their property, and are welcomed back to our campus.

There is a gaping and fundamental injustice in this community that nullifies and sullies every liberal value we claim to uphold, every discussion forum about equality, and every conversation between students about community. The inconsistency of the administration's disciplinary actions is this college's great stain.

## **Bias incidents are not "punchlines"**

Campus Banter

By Taylor Dafoe, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

A couple of days ago I heard someone tell a joke to a friend. The setup was normal - a couple of multiracial characters, maybe a blond girl saying something moronic - and the punch line even more predictable: the typical racist remark. But that wasn't the interesting part. After it was told, the joke-teller's friend responded by saying "bias incident," and they both laughed.

It's true, the phrase "bias incident" is becoming a staple one-liner on campus, a punchline to some awful, racist or sexist or anything-ist joke about people walking into a bar or something. But this is not a joke; this is serious.

The alleged events at the end of this past semester, whether true or not, brought to a climax an issue that had been stirring all semester. It's one that has been a part of campus conversations and stupid jokes and pictures of penises on whiteboards for months. It's a problem that's been overshadowed by bigger, well-publicized national events that have occurred recently.

And with the wide-reaching nature of this issue, our college campus is, of course, at the heart of it. But that in no way vindicates us here at Skidmore. In fact, we're very much at blame here. We're making national headlines again, this time for our bigotry. And it's starting to catch up with us. We're chopping away at the prestige of our school's name, turning it into a sort of joke itself and laughing the whole time. We're probably one of the "funniest" campuses in the country right now.

The definition of bias is certainly a little ambiguous - not to mention totally subjective - and it's something that's almost impossible to monitor. Realistically, telling people to not do or say things that might offend anybody would only prevent them from doing it in public. However, that's obviously not the problem (I would hope that most people would have the sensibility to not do so anyway). No, first it needs to stop at the source: the individuals responsible for such narrow-mindedness.

But that's not all we need to do. I think there's a bigger problem at play here: the general campus attitude toward "bias incidents." Maybe you've seen all the posters hung around campus talking about bias incidents, or heard about the countless clubs meant to address the issue. Maybe you've attended one of the teach-ins. But none of that really matters anymore. The irony of the issue is that, in a way, we're all responsible, even the victims.

It's the college. It's the community. It's a weird way of life that for some reason seems to be OK, even seems to be normal. But we need to change. We need to fix the outlook of the campus, and to condemn such an intolerant mindset. Our reputation is at stake now, teetering precariously on the edge of an issue that is much larger than our small school, its privileged students and the sleepy little town of Saratoga.

So let's head this one off at the pass, clean our minds, bite our tongues and restore our reputation as being open-minded. This has already been a rough year for Skidmore; let's not make it any worse.

*Taylor Dafoe is an undecided sophomore from Cheyenne, Wyoming.*



## Hate crime assault charges reduced

Additional witness testimony indicates slur was not racially charged

By Alex Brehm & Jean-Ann Kubler, Staff Writer & News Editor

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

At approximately 5:30 a.m on Dec. 18, 2010, four Skidmore students were charged with the assault of a Saratoga man at Compton's Restaurant on Broadway.

Though one student, Justin Tavarez '13, was originally charged with a felony hate crime assault, criminal possession of a weapon and criminal mischief, on Feb. 1 he pleaded guilty in exchange for a reduced charge.

In the spring Tavarez will face sentencing for third-degree assault, a misdemeanor.

The other three students, Sakhile Sithole '13, Elijah Johnston '14 and Korvin Vicente '13, were all charged with third-degree assault.

According to the Saratoga Police Department, the four students allegedly targeted two men eating together at the diner, one white and one black, with racial slurs.

Tavarez allegedly smashed a plate over the white customer's head, and punched and kicked him, according to witnesses.

The hate crime charges were dropped when new witness testimony confirmed that the use of the word "nigger" was not racially charged.

The original accusation of a hate crime prompted strong responses from the Saratoga and Skidmore communities.

Acting President Susan Kress pointed out in a campus-wide email, and again in an interview, that comments on websites and discussion boards were posted that were highly critical of students and college programs.

In her email to the campus, Kress reminded readers that the accused were to be presumed innocent until proven guilty of the alleged hate crime.

According to Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun, when a student is charged with a felony, it has been college practice to provisionally suspend the student until the resolution of the charge in court.

Afterward, the student may be subject to a hearing before the school Integrity Board.

“When a student is charged with a misdemeanor, the student is more commonly allowed to remain on campus while the charges are resolved in court, but this case may vary,” Calhoun said.

Students also responded to the alleged biased nature of the assault. Danny Pforte ‘13 published a letter in the Saratogian critical of the nature of the initial report of the incident.

Similar to Kress, Pforte pointed out issues of bias.

In his letter, Pforte argued that the paper reinforced racial and urban stereotypes with the line, "the four men charged with assault are all black or Hispanic," and listing three of the students as being from New York City.

To address town-gown relations in the wake of the incident and in general, Pforte is planning a public dialogue between leaders of the city and leaders of the college.

Members of Campus Safety declined to comment for this article.



## **SGA de-charters the Wombats**

Ultimate Frisbee team breaks Skidmore Honor Code resulting in one-year hiatus

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

On Dec. 7, 2010 the Executive Board of the SGA officially de-charted the Skidmore Wombats.

The Wombats, the college's Ultimate Frisbee team, would have celebrated their 20-year anniversary this year.

The Executive Board is comprised of SGA President Alex Stark '11, the SGA Executive Committee, Honor Code Commissioner Aaron Shifreen '13, class presidents and two senators.

During the fall semester, the SGA Executive Committee received information regarding alleged misconduct by the Wombats.

In November, college administrators met with members of the team and warned them that they were under investigation.

The Executive Board held a private meeting on Dec. 5, 2010. The captains were encouraged to speak on behalf of the Wombats and the allegations made against the team.

The five Wombat captains attended the Dec. 5 meeting. Following the meeting, the Executive Board deliberated and decided to disband the team.

According to the official statement from the SGA, "The Board deliberated and found that the club violated the Skidmore Honor Code on multiple counts - an agreement they were bound to uphold by signing the standard club renewal form. The sanction assigned for this violation was the de-chartering of the Skidmore Wombats."

Due to the confidentiality of Executive Board deliberations, it is unknown what sections of the honor code the Wombats violated.

Rumors regarding the disbandment have been focused on allegations of first-year hazing, the presence of beer kegs at Friday practices and misbehavior during a Frisbee tournament at Hampshire College.

In early November, the captains of the Hampshire Frisbee team, the Red Scare, wrote a letter to Skidmore Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun regarding the alleged incident.

The letter, which Calhoun forwarded to the SGA Executive Committee, claimed that the presence of the Wombats on Hampshire's campus had resulted in multiple complaints from students, faculty and campus safety.

We thought it necessary to bring to your attention the behavior of some of the Skidmore Frisbee team members while on our campus this past weekend, November 5th and 6th, in order to make you aware of how your institution is being represented, the Red Scare captains said in the letter.

The Red Scare's letter described alleged incidences of members of the Wombats unlocking bicycles and taking them for joy rides, trying to break into the Hampshire swimming pool and urinating in public.

However, the incident that the Hampshire team found most troubling, according to the letter, was the disturbance several members of the Wombats caused in the Hampshire residences.

The members of the Wombats were apparently invited to stay in an on-campus apartment, but were found in residences they were specifically told not to enter.

Several male [Wombats] were heard in the early morning attempting to open the doors to the rooms of female residents while muttering phrases that were construed to be sexual in nature ('There is no way I'm not going to get laid tonight' is what one of the female residents heard as someone tried to open her locked door), the Red Scare captains said.

A report filed by a Hampshire Campus Safety officer claims that four Skidmore students, three males and one female, were found in a residence that they were not allowed to be in.

The report says the names of the four students were determined when officers asked for identification.

The students' names are listed in the report. All students listed are members of the class of 2013.

Two male Skidmore students were purportedly found in an all-female residence and were asked to leave by a female Hampshire student.

The letter also describes an incident at a Frisbee tournament in Georgia last spring during which the Wombats allegedly started a prank war with the Red Scare that escalated to lit fireworks being thrown at members of the Hampshire team.

Additionally, the Red Scare claims the Wombats threw the team's furniture into a pool and broke into the house Hampshire students rented.

The Womabts allegedly vandalized and stole their property.



The former Wombat captains, commented jointly on the allegations of misconduct at Hampshire College and the disbanding of the team.

A misunderstanding during a tournament at Hampshire College led to allegations against the Skidmore Wombats. Although we felt we behaved appropriately on their campus, the actions of some individuals were misconstrued as inappropriate when they were in fact accidental, the captains said.

The captains said the de-chartering saddened the entire Wombat community.

We feel it is a disservice to the Skidmore community to deny an outlet for the Ultimate Frisbee sport and to deny this loving community to its current and future members.

In response to the disbanding, the Wombats attempted to appeal the decision.

The team appealed the Board's decision to a Senate Ad-Hoc Investigation Review Committee. The Review Committee found no adequate grounds for appeal and voted to uphold the Executive Board's decision, according to the SGA statement.

An Ultimate Frisbee team cannot reapply to charter a club for one year, according to SGA policy.

Though their appeal was unsuccessful, several members of the former Wombats have continued to practice.

Though we are no longer acknowledged by the college as a club, the Wombat family lives on through the memories and friendships it has forged and its dedication to the ideals of Ultimate Frisbee, the captain's statement concluded.

#1.1963357:1497069804.jpg

Wombats Disbanded

Gabe Weintraub/Skidmore News



## Senate hears proposal for coupon website

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, the SGA Senate convened for the first time this semester to view a presentation on a potential new website associated with the college.

Jacques Ward '11 and Senator Dan DeMartini '11 are the creators of the new website, which they brought to Senate for feedback.

The site, called 'Skrounge.com,' boasts a squirrel as its logo and provides Skidmore students access to deals and offers from local Saratoga merchants.

The available discounts and coupons from the shops are all consolidated onto the one website to help save students money.

"We were missing something on campus life in terms of websites," DeMartini said. "We wanted to enhance your time on campus as a community. The site helps you find the discounts on everything from food and transportation to storage lockers and hotels when your parents visit."

The site will also allow for a message board, which provides an outlet for students to give away or sell belongings at the end of the year.

Local merchants and vendors will be able to buy a spot on the website that will make the coupons available at any point in the semester.

The site will also offer "hot deals," which are discounts that last only for a few hours or for a set number of students.

In order to communicate easily with the site members, the creators are in the process of developing an iPhone application for Skrounge.com.

In order to become a member of the site, a verified Skidmore email address will be required.

The intention is to give the moderators a degree of control and protection and uphold the communal feeling of the site.

The site will also have a social media aspect to it, with a member picture and a message board to help students communicate easily.





Ward and DeMartini said they hope the website is a success at Skidmore because they hope to be able to look for other schools that might be interested in the concept.

"We wanted to start with Skidmore," DeMartini said. "Ultimately, our goal is to move to some other schools with the same sort of tight-knit communities in town settings."

It's taking all we love in Case Center ads and putting them together in one place, DeMartini said. "We're making it greener." Ward and DeMartini hope to have the website up and running by March of this year.

*In other news:*

The Senate unanimously approved a supplemental for students from the Asian Cultural Awareness club to attend the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference.

## **Scribner Library to house new Dining Services café**

By Tegan O'Neil, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

By the end of February, coffee and pastries will be available on the first floor of the Lucy Scribner Library. A new café formally known as "Lucy's", will serve Green Mountain Coffee, tea, juices, an assortment of bottled beverages, yogurt, fresh fruit, and freshly baked cookies, muffins, croissants, scones and donuts.

The newest dining location will be open between 8 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday and 8 p.m. and midnight Sunday through Thursday.

"Students have been asking for a café in the library forever," Director of Dining Services Bill Canney said.

According to Canney, the decision to add the café was partially influenced by a Skidmore News editorial, "Make library competitive," published on Dec. 3, 2010.

The library might even consider installing options for refreshments - be they as exciting as a late-night coffee bar or as mundane as a vending machine - to accommodate the hundreds of students studying late into the night, read the editorial.

Belson Design Architects designed the 160 square foot space that previously housed the copy and fax machines.

The copy room has been relocated to the ground floor of the library.

College Librarian Ruth Copans said she is thrilled about the project.

"I am beside myself with happiness and glee because I know this will make students really happy. It will be tiny, but it will be a little jewel," she said.

Copans said that she had wanted a small, convenient café in the library for a long time but never thought it was going to happen.

"It came down to a question of redundancy. Burgess is located close by and students have three other dining locations in a relatively close proximity," Copans said.

Bill Canney said he is confident that the new location will be serving a campus need. "I expect a steady flow of students," he said.

Leah Shorser '14 said, "Seeing that I'm there until one in the morning quite often, I think it is a good thing. I am always going to Burgess and that can be a pain when it's cold outside and I don't want to leave the library. It will certainly be convenient."

Other students expressed concerns about the increase in traffic and noise level on the first floor of the library.

"I think it will make the already noisy and crowded first floor even more noisy and crowded. I'm not opposed to it, but I can't see the major upside," Margaret Myers '13 said.

Dining Services has anticipated this concern and has decided to brew coffee using a Keurig single cup brewing system as a way to reduce the noise level.

Student workers will staff the café Sharon Foley, retail supervisor for Dining Services, said that students who have worked in Burgess Café will be most eligible to work in the new café.

Foley also said that upperclassmen will have priority and that she will determine which dining services workers will work in the library café based on their previous performance.

The library café will have a soft opening in order to "work out the kinks," Canney said.

After the first week, Dining Services will start marketing that the café is open by sending out e-mails and posting signs around campus.

So far, the space has been painted, fitted with a door and windows and is covered in slate flooring. "We are excited about it. We think it will be a positive move," Canney said.

## Mock draft produces mixed results

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

Men please report to these tables, ladies go right on through," Duke Fisher, a conflict mediator, said to students entering the atrium of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall on the evening of Jan. 31.

He proceeded to direct male students to a "Selective Service" table and women into the dining hall.

Four volunteers with laptop computers took the male students' names and class years, then handed each student a "draft card" designating their "Selective Service Classification."

The classifications informed the male students that they were "1-A...IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE for the DRAFT and military deployment," "2-S...deferred [from the draft] because of college study," "1-A-O... a conscientious objector... assigned to noncombatant military service" or "4-F...not acceptable for military service under the established physical mental or moral standards."

After receiving the "Selective Service Classification," the volunteers directed the male students to a second station where a volunteer handed out another card, providing further information about the "military draft."

This has been a mock military draft simulation. In the event of an actual draft, you would have been mandated to serve your country through military service, the card said.

Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Rick Chrisman planned the mock military draft as part of his year-long "Theater of War in a House of Peace" program.

The program attempts to foster campus-wide reflections on war through various art mediums.

Chrisman enlisted the help of Fisher to coordinate the staged military draft, as Fisher has experience in role-playing and live-acting.

A Campus Safety officer stepped into the atrium briefly to direct male students to the draft table, adding more reality to the event.

Student response to the theatrical event ranged from fear and alarm to laughter.

I wouldn't support a military draft...it's a negative thing, Ross Croffi '12 said after receiving a "1-A-O" card, meaning he would have to serve noncombatant military service in the event of a real draft.

I suppose if it was real I would be really pissed, Ross Waldron '14 said after receiving a "1-A" card, which would make him immediately eligible for military service. "This really made me think...the plausibility of a draft is real. I think this was a successful event."

"When I walked in the d-hall [Duke] said women should go right in. I'm doing this reading for a gender studies class, so it was sort of funny to watch this," Ariel Branden '14 said. "They just repealed the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, but no one's thinking about women."

According to Melissa Bennett '13, a volunteer in the simulation, several students received the first card, were alarmed that they were just "drafted," and left the atrium without receiving the second card.

Volunteers then had to chase down those students to tell them the draft was fake.

It was more powerful than I expected it to be, Bennett said. "It was interesting to see the responses of the students...When some students received a card saying they weren't eligible for the draft, they would ask why. If they got a regular draft card, meaning they are eligible, no questions were asked."

President Obama in the State of the Union address said campuses should be more open for drafters to come on campus and do these things, she said.

[Chrisman] wanted to show on the Skidmore campus that we are a nation at war and not a lot of people recognize that...The possibility of a draft doesn't receive as much attention as some other social movements on campus, Bennett said.

Chrisman supports a Universal National Service that would require all citizens from the ages of 18 to 22 to serve in "violence prevention, hospital service, urban education, homeless shelters, Peace Corps, Vista, Teach for America, the military" and more.

He said he believes a Universal National Service would alleviate the burden of war that befalls a small portion of the population.

## Close the gap between college and country

### Politics for the Upstate Student

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

College and military are meant to be separate entities - or aren't they? Barack Obama recently urged American colleges to open their doors to military recruitment officers and ROTC - or Reserve Officers' Training Corps - a program that helps students to finance their college education in return for a few years of military commitment after college. This follows Congress's repeal of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy in December of last year. The few colleges that have refused to allow students to pursue an ROTC program in the past did so in protest of the anti-gay and lesbian policy.

President Obama's January 25 State of the Union Address was given in a spirit of bipartisanship, and encouraged cooperation and compromise. The statement on ROTC and military recruiters in American colleges was nestled in between Obama's commitment to finalize and implement the repeal of DADT (note the characteristically stoic response from the joint chiefs of staff), and his reassuring statement that despite the messiness of our version of democracy "there isn't a person here who would trade places with any other nation on Earth." It was a good assumption, given that he was addressing a room full of U.S. government employees.

Until this point in Obama's speech, I had been half listening, half reading "The Prince." But Obama's one-line statement got me to throw Machiavelli aside in protest: "I call on all our college campuses to open their doors to our military recruiters and ROTC." Military recruiters and ROTC at Skidmore!?! It seems as though militarizing colleges would be like taking the arts, strapping them to a missile, launching it, spitting and then doing 500 victory push ups. Right?

Maybe not. Sure, college is about intellectual expansion, the pursuit of higher knowledge, the embrace of creativity. But does that mean we must attempt to be far removed from the concrete reality that is the military? Must we shun this reality from our campus in passive protest? Must we deny access to military recruiters because of our unease with the scope of the military?

In short: absolutely not. We should be aware, sometimes painfully so, of our nation's military endeavors. Our country's defense budget is the largest in the world, making up about 43 percent of worldwide military expenditures. About 1.5 million U.S. citizens serve actively in the military, with nearly another million in the reserves. The U.S. is fighting wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq and has troops stationed in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Obama's statement is a clear sign toward an extension of the olive branch, either from the armed forces to the colleges, or vice versa (or, hopefully, both). Of course, that doesn't mean we should simply approve of the military; we should be aware of the fact that our nation's military industrial complex has grown to a size that would have made Eisenhower vomit. We are all in some way part of the educated elite, and it is our responsibility to remain informed and awake. Our campus should, as Obama urges, open its doors to ROTC and military recruitment officers, so that the issue of the military can be part of our public discourse at Skidmore.

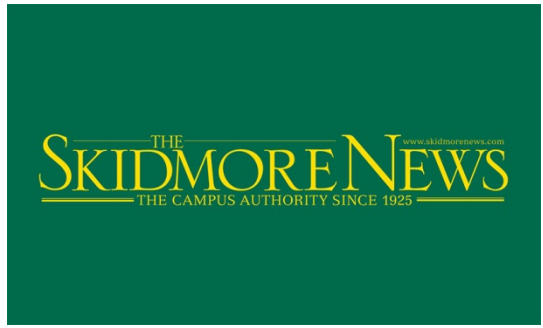
But most colleges' doors are already open to the ROTC. Even at Skidmore, a student can pursue ROTC if he or she chooses, although most of us are unaware of it. Skidmore students can cross-register with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) or Siena College, where there are ROTC centers. Only one current Skidmore student is in ROTC right now - she has taken classes at Siena and now does physical training at RPI - and there has been only one other Skidmore student to pursue an ROTC program in the past. The option to take part in ROTC is simply not a big draw for most Skidmore students: the majority of Skidmore students never really consider joining the armed forces.

And should they? Not if they don't want to, of course. But the divide between the highly educated elites of our nation and the military is as detrimental as it is long-standing. Both sectors hold prejudices against one another; neither sector really wants or knows how to co-exist with the other. Since the end of the draft in 1973, the gap between the military and everybody else has become dangerously large, and this divide may be biggest for our generation, which has never seen a draft. Other than the few people that most of us know who are actually involved in the military, we have essentially no direct exposure to the reality of it.

So who is really responsible for making ROTC more accessible? It is the military's responsibility, as well as colleges'. After the repeal of DADT, colleges have no more reason to reject recruiters and ROTC programs. However, the military also must step up its commitment to reach out to institutions of higher education. Since the military absorbs much of the cost of education for its ROTC students, it is (understandably) hesitant to open up programs at expensive schools, despite the schools' academic prestige and rigour.

However, if Obama is serious about improving relations between our soldiers and the nation's future policymakers and civilian commanders, he should acknowledge the double-sidedness to the relationship. The armed forces would be wise to embrace the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell as an opportunity to turn a new leaf and forge a stronger relationship with colleges, and our president would be wise to require that they do so.





*Julia Grigel is a senior government major who enjoys politics, especially when they're reactionary and/or German.*

## Everybody should serve

Invest your physical self in the mortal endeavours of your country

On Fri, Feb 4, 2011

While you were gone on break, we had four snowstorms here (made the skiers happy) and the zodiac was changed (made others way unhappy). This week makes the fifth snowstorm (more happy skiers). Also while you were gone, in Tuscon (as you know) 6 people were killed and 14 were seriously injured, including Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, in another irrational American shooting spree.

These and all events in the United States today, whether trivial or tragic, take place within a single envelope called "a nation at war," placing upon every action and activity the invisible but inescapable mark of war. Someone else is dying, perhaps at this very moment, while we are living on. Americans have been given no other role than to be by-standers while less than one half of one percent of our population does the hardest work. No matter what side of the war policy you're on, it's not a fair way to conduct any war. Until these wars end or are ended, don't we have to devise a way for all Americans to share this lop-sided burden? Otherwise, we occupy the seats reserved for "free riders."

Last Monday, with the help of some student volunteers and some expert support, the "Theater of War" staged a mock draft classification process in the atrium of the Murray-Aikins dining hall. I wanted to bring students a little closer to what it usually means to be a nation at war. This generation is the fortunate beneficiary of growing up in the age of the voluntary military. But by enjoying this de facto deferment from being drafted, the downside is that your stake in this country's policy and destiny has been reduced to practically nothing. And not just you, but all of us.

So I tried to focus students' sights on this unhealthy situation by dramatizing what if there actually were to be a draft (there won't, because the military does not want it) -how might you feel to be inducted into the military? Or rejected from it, for that matter? What if you were told your college days would be interrupted? A student or two complained about the inconvenience of being delayed for dinner. How inconvenient was that compared to the inconvenience of going to war?

In fact, you don't know for sure what our government will do when it needs more bodies for the military. This volunteer military, designed for short term purposes, has been able to fight two long-term wars only because so many re-enlist multiple times (again, how fair is that?). Sooner or later, you will be informed of another way more of you will share the sacrifice. We just heard Pres. Obama in the State of the Union Address last week actually urge institutions of higher education to open its campuses to

military recruiters. How do you feel about that? Is it a good thing, because more of you will carry the military burden, or a bad thing, because it provides only for the single option of military service?

What if you were given more service options, including civic and humanitarian service? Maybe it's time to start talking about Universal National Service, where all young people between the ages of 18 and 24 would be required to choose some kind of service, like Peace Corps, Vista, Teach for America, military or others. To talk this over, I invite you to come to a Universal National Service Study Group at 8 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the ICC (postponed from earlier this week due to storm). This very kind of thing is already done in a variety of ways in different countries. We might research the idea, adapt it, improve it, and then advocate for it. Who of you would like to get a national conversation going?!

Then, to bring more of our thoughts and feelings about this together, please consider attending an hour of "Reflection about Being a Nation at War" featuring poetry, song, dance, and image contributed or performed by your fellow members of the Skidmore community at 5 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11 in the Dance Theater.

Thoreau said he went to Walden Pond for two years simply to "front a fact," as he put it, to face the barest facts of life. Here's our chance to front another kind of fact, the mortal fact of being a nation at war. Only when we acknowledge where we are, can we go on to consider what our responsibilities as Americans today really should be.

*Rick Chrisman is director of Religious and Spiritual Life, teaches occasionally in the Religion and Philosophy departments and suspects art is the one true religion.*

## Schick showcases student works

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

On Feb. 3 eleven students were recognized for their artwork at the opening of the Schick Art Gallery 2011 Student Exhibition, the annual showcase that marked the first show of 2011.

The student exhibit displayed works that students created while enrolled in a studio art course at the college during the spring, summer or fall of 2010. Each individual could submit up to three original works.

This year, 233 individual works were submitted from 100 students. "It was quite large. I think it was our largest pool yet," said Peter Stake, director of the Schick Art Gallery.

Along with the great influx of art submissions, the exhibition received more than \$1000 in awards that were funded through donations made by the Schick, the Tang Museum and other community businesses including Soave Faire and Adirondack Trust.

Nine students received cash prizes and two other students were given honorable mentions at the exhibit's opening. "It's exciting to see people support the arts," Stake said.

Every year, the prize-winners are selected by an outside juror. This year's juror was Rachel Seligman, director of the Mandeville Gallery at Union College and Skidmore alumna '91.

Stake noted the importance in having an outside juror view and judge students' artworks with an impartial eye. "We always choose an outside juror for the exhibition because it gives students a different point of view to work with," he said.

An outside opinion also adds to the advice and criticisms already given to students by their professors. "Since they're working with the art department all the time, they already know what we think in terms of quality of work," Stake said.

Jesse Moy '11, who received the Renee Van Dewater Memorial Award in painting found that having the exhibit judged by Seligman was helpful.

"You might submit three paintings and the one you feel least confident about is shown. It's interesting to receive that outside curatorial perspective," Moy said.



The large number of submissions allowed for variety among the works. "Overall, the collection was eclectic and all incredibly skillful work," Jeremy Endo '14 said.

I think the show has a wide range of diversity. We have nine different media represented, Stake said. The exhibition features oil paintings, woodblock prints and various sculptures made of materials ranging from knit sweaters to bronze.

Aside from the various forms of artwork presented, the exhibition displayed diversity in the levels of artwork. "Some of the pieces are beginning levels and some are advanced," Stake explained. "It's not only the best overall, it represents many different levels."

Because students who are not necessarily studio art majors or minors can still be eligible to enter their work to the gallery, any student with an interest in art has the opportunity to present their artwork to the public.

As a minor it's nice to have the opportunity to show in a place like the Schick, which is formal as far as student gallery spaces are concerned, Moy said.

Everett Hoffman '11, winner of the Tang Teaching Museum Award, is neither an art major nor an art minor, but a history major who has taken four art classes during his time at the college.

This recognition has shown me that my work can be appreciated by those with substantially more artistic knowledge than myself, and has inspired me to keep on working hard and making sculptures that I think looks cool, Hoffman said.

The impact of the student exhibition at the Schick Art Gallery extends beyond the gallery's participants.

Not only does it highlight the next wave of student artists, but it also influences and allows others to see what their peers have been working on, Olivia Boone '13 said.

The display of student artwork gives anyone with an interest in studio art and idea of how they may develop their own skills and showcase their own work in the future.

Endo, a potential studio art major, stated, "Any underclassman can look at this gallery, and it's a great place to foster inspiration."

## Lee's unreachd potential

### Let's Talk About Rock

By Lee's unreachd potential, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Former Philadelphia middle-school teacher Amos Lee released his fourth studio album, "Mission Bell," which was produced by Calexico front man Joey Burns on Jan 25.

The album features appearances from legends of the country music industry such as Willie Nelson and Lucinda Williams. Sales of Lee's latest album have been boosted by the performance of his 2005 song "Dreaming," by Scott Dangerfield during the audition round of American Idol.

This led to Lee's first ever no. 1 on the Billboards, barely beating out Iron & Wine's "Kiss Each Other Clean."

According to Neilson Soundscape, however, the 40,478 copies that Lee sold represents the lowest ever number one debut, a record previously held by hipster icon, Cake.

Despite the honor of being a No. 1 record, "Mission Bell" has been the subject of much mixed reception.

However, this is not an indicator of a lack of talent on Lee's part.

It would be a stretch to call the album unpleasant to listen to - every song is beautiful and enjoyable. Sure, the songwriting could potentially be better, more insightful.

The song "Flower," especially sounds like a first draft that never got a final revision. "My heart is a flower/That blooms every hour/And I believe in the power/of love," Lee sings, although he does so pleasantly.

The true pattern of the shortcomings of this album lies in the category of unreachd potential. Despite working with a new producer, the music backing Lee's wonderful, constantly adapting voice is widely the same as in his previous albums.

Lee's collaborative track with Alternative Country icon Lucinda Williams, "Clear Blue Eyes," is, again, a nice song, but lacks anything to make it truly interesting or memorable.

That is not to say that the album is bad. It would be very difficult to support such a claim. There are many bright spots on the album, including the last track,



Behind Me Now/El Camino Reprise, which features the man, the myth and the stoner, Willie Nelson. Not only is this track heart-wrenchingly beautiful, but it also shows Lee's power of self-improvement.

The album opens with El Camino and ends with El Camino Reprise. Simple enough, right? But this nine minute revisit to the opening track fixes all the shortcomings of the original, mostly due to Willie Nelson's wizened old voice and a sense of better understanding of the track itself by Lee.

There are several other noteworthy tracks on the album. The first that comes to mind is the catchy soulfulness of "Windows Are Rolled Down," a song driven by a steady, unassuming drumbeat and a killer hook.

Violin and "Out of the Cold" are two other great achievements on the album, albeit for very different reasons. "Out of the Cold," with its eerie blues guitar riff and Lee's equally evocative vocal work, is a haunting song of deep introspection and the cold reality of war.

It's hard to argue with a bullet-proof vest/But you can't walk straight with a bullet in your chest/Another man down with a flag to fold/It takes a lot of loving coming out of the cold, Lee calmly sings.

The success of Lee's new album seems to indicate nothing less than a dramatic rise in popularity for this 33-year old singer-songwriter.

This is also indicated by the international tour Lee will begin in March with shows in Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam and London.

For American fans, however, there is no need to fear, for Lee will be touring all across the U.S. from now until May.

*Eli Cohen is a sophomore music major from Middlebury, Vt.*



## Zankel to host the Chestnut Brass Co.

By Jesse Shayne, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

After Ensemble ACJW's successful visit, the Arthur Zankel Music Center will be hosting another professional music group, the Chestnut Brass Company.

This Grammy Award-winning group will be performing at Zankel on Feb 11.

Hailing from Philadelphia, the Chestnut Brass Company is a five-member brass instrument group that formed as a street band in 1977.

The quintet has since performed all over the world and received much acclaim. The group has performed numerous original pieces and released multiple albums.

The Chestnut Brass Company will be performing some of their works at Zankel. They will demo some of the various instruments they play, including a baroque and period instrument class.

Members of the Chestnut Brass Company consist of Bruce Barrie and John Charles Thomas on trumpet, Marian Hesse on French horn, Jay Krush on tuba and Larry Zimmerman on trombone.

Like many other professional guest artists who have visited Zankel in the past, the Chestnut Brass Company will be teaching a master class on Feb 12.

During this workshop-styled class, students will perform in front of members of the Chestnut Brass Company who will provide them with feedback.

Its purpose is to help the participants and audience to understand certain aspects of playing depending on what they play and how they play. It's mostly constructive criticism, said the Music Department's Trumpet Lecturer, Eric Latini.

One of the defining characteristics of a master class is the informal level at which they are held.

Students can watch the guest artists perform up-close and comfortably ask questions and receive advice in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The master class is a good opportunity for individuals to get in front of their peers, play and learn, Latini said.



When they are not performing as a group, each member of the group teaches their given instrument in a collegiate setting, although they are all experienced at playing multiple brass instruments.

Some of the Chestnut Brass Board members have also performed in various distinguishable groups including the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Queens Symphony and the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra.

These visits from renowned groups provide a good opportunity for students to gain valuable, first-hand experience.

It's a great chance to hear a solid professional group perform, and be close to them on an instructional level, Latini said.

## **Braids explores texture pop with 'Native Speaker'**

### **Noteworthy Releases**

By Kara Clark, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

The Montreal-based four-member band, Braids, released their debut album, "Native Speaker," on Jan. 18. Both sonically compelling and potent, Native Speaker marks the start of Braids' career, one that can only be described as full of promise.

The album has a specific consistency, one that they have aptly titled "texture pop."

Native Speaker is a kaleidoscope of delay, reverb and loops. The title track and instrumental piece, "Little Hand" is layered and atmospheric, evoking images of lush, vibrant landscapes.

Still, this album should not be confused with psychedelic hippie jams; "Native Speaker" is surprisingly grounded, a feature that can be accredited to the band's pop sensibility.

Although the album's shortest song clocks in at four minutes and 30 seconds, the music retains drive and technique. "Lemonade" and "Plath Heart" oscillate with purpose, and are just as conducive to active listening as they may be to simply zoning out.

Lead singer Raphie Standell-Preston's voice is particularly captivating and her protean voice delivers on each track.

Native Speaker draws out many shades of Standell-Preston's voice; "Glass Deers" brings out her shrill cries and whispered lyrics, while "Same Mum" extracts sharp inflections and overall audacity.

Drummer Austin Tufts also adds another level of interest to the band's sound; his unconventional percussion is aurally captivating.

Despite its alluring sound, "Native Speaker's" fledgling reputation is not perfect; premature criticisms of the album have already begun to develop.

Some opinionated listeners expressed qualms, pointing out the band's similarity to Animal Collective. The comparison is by no means unfounded: tracks on "Native Speaker" are brazenly reminiscent of Animal Collective's "Feels."



However, "Native Speaker" possesses a depth, texture and range that "Feels" ultimately lacks. Braids simply takes the sound Animal Collective pioneered and further develops and explores it.

Liking bands with similar sounds is allowed: stubborn listeners should eliminate their so-called loyalties and get this album.

*Kara Clark is a sophomore English major who hopes to find a job after college.*

## Duenebier takes on Saratoga Springs

By Eli Cohen, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Saratoga Springs's historic Caffé Lena has had the honor of hosting some of the biggest names in folk music, as well as holding the title of being the oldest continually running coffee house in the U.S.

Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie and Emmylou Harris have all stood on that stage, the same stage upon which Don McLean debuted his legendary "American Pie."

While the name might have been somewhat lesser known (for now) and the crowd somewhat smaller, on Feb. 9, the audience was still greatly engaged.

Jonny Duenebier '13 entered fashionably late to the warm welcome of an enthusiastic crowd and immediately got down to business.

During the few moments between songs, Duenebier made friendly interactions with the crowd, but when the music started, his eyes were closed half the time and he never lost focus or looked away from the piano.

While commanding the room with his intensity, Duenebier played eleven songs in rapid order, including three covers and one jam.

The initial sound conveyed by Duenebier was that of a jazzier Ben Folds. In fact of the three songs that Duenebier covered, the Ben Folds song that more closely resembled his own style was "The Luckiest."

The next song he played was "88," the first song that Duenebier ever wrote. The performance was unchanged from the original until the featured guest, Duenebier's fellow class and suitemate, Daniel Fisher '13 entered on the drum set halfway through.

Fisher went on to play the next three songs with Duenebier, including "Ol' 55," a cover of one of Tom Waits's earliest songs. While it would seem that Duenebier, with his pop piano style and somewhat high-pitched clear voice, would not be able to pull off a Tom Waits song, he made it his own, so that it sounded like it was written for him.

Duenebier's third-to-last song, "For Lilah," was particularly captivating, especially with the introduction: "You might notice that the lyrics in this next song are particularly, um, good. And that's because I didn't write them. My sister did."



He then launched into a beautiful ballad that supports Duennebier's opinion of the quality of the words. The lyrics are good. Very good in fact.

Duennebier wrapped up his nearly hour-long show with a rocking rendition of "All Along the Watchtower" with Fisher, but that was not enough for the audience.

To the great satisfaction of the crowd, Duennebier leaned over to Fisher and chose a new song. He displayed his sense of humor and style by finishing with the 80's British pop band, The Outfield's "Your Love," consequently getting it stuck in the heads of everyone who left the show.

#1.1976808:80676634.jpeg Jonny Duennebier

Jonny Duennebier '13 and Daniel Fisher '13 perform at Caffè Lena.

Maddie Sullivan/The Skidmore News



## Ensemble ACJW blows off some 'Steam'

Guest artists end residency with debut of David Bruce's 'Steampunk'

By Gia Vaccarezza, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

At 8 p.m. on Feb. 4, the Arthur Zankel Music Center was packed with students, faculty and Saratoga Springs residents.

Ensemble ACJW delivered their second performance on the Zankel stage and their eighth performance at the college.

The audience awaited the world premiere of David Bruce's "Steampunk," a 22-minute, five-movement piece based on the Beethoven E-flat Major Septet, another piece that the Ensemble performed.

Janacek's wind sextet began with an Allegro that featured flowing harmonies in the upper octaves. The movement's quick notes created an overall lively spirit.

The Andante Sostenuto had a bass line that drew attention to the bassoon, an instrument that is not always at the forefront of compositions.

In the Vivace movement, the audience was introduced to a piccolo, played by flautist Yoobin Son. There was also a nice series of trios between the bassoon, oboe and clarinet.

Finally, the Allegro Animato began as a march, but transitioned into an exchange of sustained notes from all the players.

The ending was a series of short notes, of which the final one resonated throughout the hall thanks to the rich acoustics in Zankel.

The title, "Steampunk," does not necessarily create a strong image in one's head and leaves the audience not knowing what to expect.

This only added to the audience's surprise when each player graced the stage in different costumes. Various members of the group attached mechanical cog, or different types of gears, to their clothing.

The first movement, "Vigorous, fanfare-like," was full of energetic dissonance that resolved in harmonies that evoked images of "Sweeney Todd."



The movement that followed, "dark, brooding, mechanically menacing" featured the violist plucking chords like a ukulele, an interesting choice on the composer's part. The bassoon's low sustained notes helped create the dark, somber tone.

The "Misterioso e malinconico" began with each string player using harmonics. The bass also had notes in a higher octave, an unusual but interesting musical convention.

Toward the end of the violin had solemn, lamenting segments that had a dominant presence in this movement, but the movement sounded best when all the players comprehensively shared the melody.

The string section, which featured harmonics in the fourth movement, "light, comically" created the movement's lightness.

The Ensemble demonstrated their great ability to enter and cut-off notes together with accurate precision.

The fifth movement, "Desolato", opened with a call and response between the French Horn and bassoon.

The collective speeding up and slowing down of the tempo tested and proved the strength of the group's dynamics.

The climax of the piece had a jazz-like bass line that was backed by the other instruments' adrenaline-pumping melodies.

The piece then deconstructed into a largo section with a prominent violin line, which returned to all the instruments' voices, and then slowly quieted to a final oboe and bassoon duet. The final moments created a powerful, rollercoaster ending.

After a short intermission, the Ensemble ACJW began Beethoven's Septet in E-flat Major, the final performance piece.

## More than just food for thought

Student-only dialogue fosters discussion of diversity issues

By Julia Leef,

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

There have recently been a series of incidents on campus that have caused great controversy and bias. Both the administration and students alike have addressed these controversial events in the form of letters and open-forum discussions. Students are speaking out with regard to the "Food for Thought" posters that have provoked controversy on campus.

This past Wednesday night, from 8-10 p.m. in the second floor of Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, SGA hosted "The Talk We Need to Have," a completely student-run and participant based meeting that addressed the "Food for Thought" posters and the issues associated with them. SGA also invited several peer mediators and IGR facilitators to run the meeting.

SGA took the initiative to respond back, said Emmily De los Santos '11, one of the mediators at the event. "'Hey, Food for Thought, you got our attention, let's talk about this. Let's come together, next semester, we're going to have a meeting.'" And that was what sparked this dialogue."

According to SGA President Alex Stark '11, the posters were the starting point for the questions that have been brought up around campus. "SGA members felt that we should provide a venue for these conversations," she said. "We wanted to interact with people who felt this way, who felt that these conversations needed to happen, and to use our resources to . . . encourage this conversation between many groups of people and the entire community."

The meeting addressed a series of "Food for Thought" posters that were anonymously put up around campus last semester. The posters asked questions about race, class, gender and other social identities. These posters have been vandalized with negative comments and many have been ripped down.

While those posters were maybe the initial motivation, said Suzanne Finkel '11, an IGR facilitator, "I think it's been clear to a lot of us . . . that there are growing tensions on campus, that there is more than that, there's a lack of dialogue and communication."

I feel like the beautiful thing is that the posters brought to light something that had been under the radar for so long, said Ismatu Alison-Konteh '11, another facilitator, "and not just something that's been under the radar, but something that's been bubbling under the surface of the campus for a long time."

More than 130 students of all ethnicities attended the forum, filling the room so that even when extra chairs were brought in, many still had to sit on the floor or stand.

The mediators and facilitators emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to provide a neutral environment in which students could feel free to voice their opinions on the posters and the controversy the posters caused. A list of ground rules was established and the group was divided into four smaller groups that talked amongst themselves before rejoining for one last final discussion.

Generally, students seemed to approve of the posters and the questions that they raised. Students supported the fact that these posters challenged people to think about real issues and inspired further discussion.

If those posters were never created, asked Laverie Foster '11, a mediator of the event, "would we have had this dialogue here tonight? And it's a shame that something really big has to go down in order for someone to actually step up and take charge. Why can't we step up for all these things that actually happen and try to prevent them in the first place?"

I feel like being here really made me feel and learn a lot, said Chris Lord '12, a mediator. "I got a lot out of this, personally . . . when you're in this environment you really feel it. And when you feel it, that's what it's about."

Many students spoke about the need for even more people to become involved and express their own viewpoints outside of scheduled events. Even after the meeting was dismissed, students lingered to continue their discussions about these important issues.

I honestly think if we continue to make provocative statements, said Hugh James O'Kelly '13, "such as the ones that were made with the 'Food for Thought' posters, that can be one of the most direct and effective ways that this can happen."

I think the most important take-away point of this dialogue is that it's important for everyone's narratives to be heard, Frank Cabrera '11 said. "And my philosophy is that being silent is just as bad as committing any hate crime, because silence just reinforces the fact that what is happening is okay."

Some other students, however, felt that there was a limit to the effectiveness of the meeting.

I think that this dialogue went very well, Erin Richard '14, said. "But, at the same time, I feel that more people need to care more about these issues and then come to these events.

I feel that the dialogue was effective, but, as effective as it was, we have a long way to go, said Xavier Hatten, class of 2014 president. "The people who already care were the ones that showed up."

Even so, everyone seemed to enjoy that students had taken the initiative to begin this talk and to support the talks to come.

The thing for me that's important is that, while we may be students here for four years, we aren't just passing through, said Nick Hara '11, a mediator and co-president of the Conflict Resolution club. "To open up the dialogue the way that we have is something that is, like we've all said, a foot in the door, but, ultimately, we need to be talking about how we fit into this entire community."

As students, we have more control and power than we think we do, said Natalie Alvarez '11, a mediator. "As students, we need to be taking control of our education, our community and of ourselves, and turn this around into a place where we feel comfortable and safe and enjoy it."

For me, I love Skidmore, I think it's a great place, said Rachel Sotak '12, a mediator. "I think that everyone is privileged to be at Skidmore and everyone should get the opportunity to enjoy it and to get the full experience out of it."

## **Gaugler and Gargiso shoot for three**

### **Sports Wrap**

By Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

The men's basketball team broke even this week with a sizable win against Hamilton (71-55) and with a loss to league leader, Hobart. Friday night's victory against Hamilton was the final blow in Skidmore's clean sweep of the Continentals this season. Riding on a 1,000-point mark over break, Jeff Altimar '11 came back with his usual intensity and led the team to victory with a team-high of 16 points.

The game against Hobart the following day, however, produced poorer results. Skidmore started the game on a cold-streak, hitting just one of the first 20 shots. Though the Thoroughbreds managed to close the gap to five, the game's initial trend prevailed; the final score was 75-66.

Altimar received Liberty League Performer of the Week after averaging 13.3 points and 3 rebounds. The Thoroughbreds compete next on the road Feb. 11 against Rensselaer.

### **Women's basketball**

After a closely contested loss last week to Union, Skidmore returned with a vengeance this week to its home court, beating Hamilton and William Smith in two well-fought matches. Friday night's game against Hamilton started off with a bang when Megan Gaugler '12 and Christina Gargiso '12 collectively made five consecutive 3-pointers, putting Skidmore on a 15-0 run. Hamilton, however, held on, and managed to narrow the gap to one point in the final quarter. Though the tension was high, Skidmore's fundamentals kept them afloat in the final minutes as they shot five for six from the line to win 56-50.

Saturday's game also proved to be a success as the Thoroughbreds surged ahead in the second half with their 56-49 win against William Smith. Gaugler carried the team and put up a scintillating 20 points, 8 rebounds, 5 steals and 2 blocks. This win brings their record to 10-10 overall and 6-4 in the league.

Gaugler received Liberty League Performer of the Week for her efforts against both league competitors. She averaged 19 points and 8 rebounds for the week. Her standout performance played out against Union, where she recorded a double-double of 19 points and 10. Skidmore plays next Feb. 11 against RPI on the road.

### **Ice hockey**

The Skidmore hockey team went on the road this week, traveling to Maine where they edged out the University of New England 2-1, and lost to the University of Southern Maine 3-2. With 11:25 remaining in Friday night's battle against UNE, Brad Schuler '14 found the back of the net after a crisp pass from Dalton Weinstein '14, pushing Skidmore into a lead that held for the rest of the game. This was Skidmore's fifth consecutive win and the team hoped to maintain its momentum the following night.

Unfortunately, the USM goalie played like a brick wall Saturday, saving 35 of 37 shots on goal. Though the Thoroughbreds made every attempt to tie the game, their efforts were in vain. Despite ending their winning streak, the team hopes to find their footing once more in the upcoming home games Friday and Saturday night against St. Michael's and Norwich University.

### **Swimming and Diving**

While many were just waking up Saturday afternoon, the Skidmore Swimming and Diving team was already suited up and prepared to host Vassar and William Smith at the 2011 Skidmore Sprint Invitational.

Swimmer Carrie Koch '13 came in first in the 500 Free and stole second in the 200 Free, while Katherine Kelloway '14 won the 400 IM and managed third place in the 100 Free. As for the divers, Kristen Stearns '13 won the 1-meter and placed second in the 3-meter, while teammate Krista Pelton '14 came in third in both contests. Despite these efforts and many others, Skidmore placed third overall in the Invitational. William Smith won the meet with an impressive score of 271, followed by Vassar and then Skidmore.

### **Thoroughbred Society**

This week began by honoring 106 student athletes who have shown their commitment to excellence on and off the playing field. Students were recognized for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.67 or higher, or for helping their team to sustain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Among the recipients of this honor, there were four two-sport athletes and 9 other student-athletes who achieved academic perfection in addition to their significant athletic obligations. Our hats are off to each and every one of these talented and driven individuals.

## Super Bowl leaves students inquisitive

By Evan Owen, Sports Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

The Super Bowl in Arlington, Texas this past Sunday featured the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers and was simply a well played game, but nothing extraordinary.

Green Bay ended up triumphing over Pittsburgh with a score of 31-25 after a strong first half on the offensive end, and a second half effort that prevented the Steelers from snatching victory away in a last minute drive. Aaron Rodgers, the Packers' quarterback, was named the most valuable player of the game, and rightfully so; he threw for 300 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions.

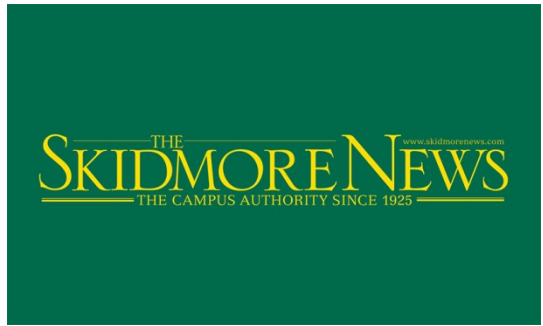
My viewing experience this year was definitely different from past years, as I had never been at college to watch the Super Bowl. The last time I was the most football savvy person in a room was when I watched a game alone with my dog one lonely Sunday afternoon.

The gender ratio of the crowd watching the game in my room matched our school's 60:40 liberal arts ratio, and the chatter in the room reflected it. I spent a decent portion of the viewing explaining the rules of the game and an even greater portion of time pointing out who was winning and saying "no" when asked if the game was over yet.

I was pleased with my first Super Bowl viewing experience at Skidmore, and it was oddly refreshing to answer questions about the game and attempt to answer questions that were beyond me. "Why are they playing in Texas?" Because it's warmer there I guess (even though the city was battered by ice and snow before the game). "Can they pull each other's hair? That one guy (Troy Polamalu on the Pittsburgh Steelers) has so much." I guess they can, I don't see why not. "Why are both teams wearing yellow pants?" Uhhhh...

Personally, I wasn't too invested in either of the teams since I'm from New York, but I was hopeful that the 45th installment of the Super Bowl would be entertaining at the very least. There wasn't anything wrong with the game per say, but there were very few exciting plays sans an interception returned for a touchdown by Green Bay's Nick Collins in the first half.

Frankly, it was not nearly as exciting as Super Bowls in years past. There was no David and Goliath story leading to a franchise's first Super Bowl title like last year when the Saints defeated the Colts, and there were no truly outstanding catches like Santonio Holmes' in 2009 or David Tyree's in 2008.



If anything, the game could be the start of a long career for the Packers' Aaron Rodgers, who now holds the same number of national titles as his predecessor and local legend, Brett Favre, after starting for only three years. Legend in the making? We'll just have to wait and see.



## A little too liberal arts

### Looking from the Left

By Kate Gill, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

My exposure to political conservatism has been limited, to say the least. I was raised in New York City and heavily insulated against all things Republican. In high school, my education remained on the left side of the political fence. Although I knew that Skidmore was liberally inclined, I anticipated that for the first time I might come into contact with students of a different political background. But I was wrong; the atmosphere at Skidmore is, for the most part, very liberal.

Yes, there is a Young Republicans Association (SYRA) on campus, but in general, Skidmore's conservative voices are muted. The SYRA's website refers to former alumni members - rather than current students - an indication that the club has been inactive in recent months. This is not to say that I expected an East Coast liberal arts school to be crawling with Republicans, but I did hope to encounter a more politically diverse student body. Skidmore is by no means at fault; it is no secret that most, if not all, North Eastern schools lean to the left. A lack of political diversity is not so much a crime as it is a shame.

The term "diversity" is a popular favorite on college campuses. Institutions throw the word around in hopes of improving their image - we have X many students of color and Y students of such and such nationality. Without question, racial diversity is a high-ranking priority for liberal arts administrations, and often for prospective students as well. But the concept of diversity should apply to more than just race. The past ten years have not been conducive to bipartisanship. In an age of such tense political polarization, individuals now identify not only as male or female, black or white, but also as either red or blue.

College is a period of exploration, isn't it? For four years we are given the license to figure out where we stand - why we believe what we do. College is, to a certain extent, an educational and social means to a political end. Many important lessons are learned outside of the classroom; teaching can be on a peer-to-peer basis. Yet at a predominantly liberal school, most students are merely preaching to the left wing political choir. It is unfortunate that the conservative population at Skidmore does not vocalize their opinions more often. Perhaps there are more Republicans than I am aware of. But I can imagine that being an outspoken conservative is not easy at a place like Skidmore, where there's a stigma against many right wing values.

Such a phenomenon is not limited to Skidmore College: at many North Eastern schools the student population is politically homogeneous. I grew up a liberal, and I will most likely remain one. But I find I learn best when I am forced to challenge the basis of my beliefs. As students, we should become involved with all aspects of the world in which we live. I would argue that when a school refers to itself as diverse, its political alignment should be a part of this title.

*Kate Gill is a liberal-minded first-year student from Manhattan.*

## The racial divide at Skidmore College

### Practical Race and Diversity

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

When I came to Skidmore, I had no idea what to expect. Throughout high school I was never encouraged much to attend college. But I was a good student, and my girlfriend at the time urged me to apply to prestigious colleges. And after much financial aid, Skidmore happened to be the one school I could afford.

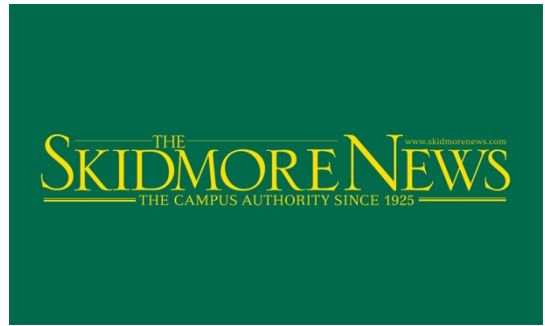
Skidmore was a shock from the beginning. I grew up in Cambridge, MA, a diverse community whose residents are of many different races and socioeconomic backgrounds. I am Asian and white, and I grew up in a lower income household. Before college, my friends reflected Cambridge's diversity. When I arrived at Skidmore, I quickly noticed that the student body consists mostly of upper-class white kids. At first, this made me feel uncomfortable.

As freshman year progressed, I befriended many students of color, and I hung out with them daily. Their companionship has taught me the importance of balancing one's social life with the rigorous academic expectations of our elite college. Furthermore, I think that their friendship has provided me with the opportunity to combat racial stereotypes that weigh so heavily upon American society.

But what I have noticed is that Skidmore does not provide the appropriate environment to foster these relationships. The white population is by far the majority, and it seems to me hypocritical that our school can advertise itself as being diverse and liberal when the reality is the opposite.

I think that the institution must further enact the diversity and liberalism that it pretends to embody. But as things stand, Skidmore's efforts to do so often don't help the situation at all. For example, only minority first-year students are invited to the diversity dinner a few days before the rest of the campus arrives. Excluding the white population from admission events such as this one - their first experience with the college - does nothing to promote a sense of community. Furthermore, singling out the minority students for special events could make them feel as though they were only admitted because of their race.

Both Skidmore faculty and students must work together to take action against the racial divide at our college. The few students and faculty working on this issue must be given our support. So if Skidmore wants a truly diverse student body, now is the time to make it a reality.



*Danny Pforte is a sophomore from Cambridge, Mass. who studies social work. He is inspired by Malcolm X, Jay-Z and Bernie Sanders.*

## Editorial

### It's hard to pass judgement

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

At the end of December most of us were far away from Skidmore slowly recovering from the unhealthy behaviors and demands of finals week, when we received an e-mail from Acting President Susan Kress informing us of an altercation involving four students at Compton's Restaurant on Dec 19. In her Dec. 22 e-mail, Kress, in a reserved manner, told the Skidmore community, "we do not yet have a full account of the incident and its aftermath." Unfortunately for an inquisitive, curious and intellectually rich student body, we still don't have the full account.

The facts first provided to us in the e-mail were "that three of the students were charged with misdemeanors. The fourth was charged with felony assault and a related hate crime stemming from his alleged use of a racial epithet during the incident." These were the facts to ponder, provided to us by our school, as we rang in the New Year. We anxiously awaited the courtroom appearances of the four students, hoping these would somehow clarify the incident over break. Then their hearing on Jan. 13 was adjourned until February.

Meanwhile, the incident assumed its role in the recent tradition of negative Skidmore press, with sensationalized reports in the community newspapers and chiding online comments from the Saratoga community.

The response from the community was at times ignorant and racist, depicting the students as "four drunken black teenage thugs," with some suggesting if "four white Skidmore students gang-[beat] a black man in Compton's, this would be headline news." Kress, in a letter to the campus on Jan. 20, wisely characterized these comments as "uncivil and biased in ways none of us should tolerate."

When we returned for the spring semester, we heard little from the administration, only to continue thinking about questions posited earlier by Kress.

Then on Feb. 6, several prominent and well-known faculty members sent a campus-wide e-mail pledging their full support of the four students, believing they were "repeatedly misrepresented, continually marginalized, and severely misunderstood." Their defense necessitates a justification based on new facts.

But the faculty members do not provide our much-desired information. They write, "legalities mandate that we refrain from sharing the specifics of the case...it is important to note that only one perspective has been reported by the media ...."

We, therefore, must trust our faculty members, who are academically and socially close to the four accused students, and assume they know new and relevant information regarding the incident that we do not, and that these students have indeed been treated unfairly. By trusting these faculty members, we are also supporting those four students.

If we cannot trust our faculty members, then we should make no judgment regarding the students, as there simply isn't enough information to do so. Even after the students are sentenced, we still may not have new information to make an informed opinion on the students' actions that Sunday morning at Compton's Restaurant.

While we need to support our peers if they have been treated unfairly in the media and judicial system due to their race, we should not be distracted from the violence perpetrated on either side of the altercation that evening. One student in the incident has already pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. We need to address this, because our administration has failed to do so.

Dialogue needs to continue about racial bias and violence, which still features prominently in the community. Currently this discussion seems limited exclusively to groups of friends and clubs. We need to speak about it as a college and as members of this city, because the morning of Dec. 19 affected not just a few students, but the entire community.

## Home is where the hearth is

### Fanning the Flames of Communalty at Skidmore's South Quad (Part II)

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

They all laughed and continued to emit funny blue-collar soundings and turns of phrase before letting out a few final chuckles and re-engaging in a conversation over the plight of a mutual acquaintance.

Two of the guys were smoking cigarettes and two weren't. I wondered aloud whether this spot is mostly used by smokers. "Obviously, it being outside, and called the Chimney, it's a smoking place," Ghastly piped up. "There are two ashtrays and two benches. If there were no benches here I doubt it would be as commonly used." The others, especially Aviators who was not smoking, expressed that the Chimney is not necessarily a spot solely for smokers. Aviators asserted that it is primarily a space for "chilling," and that "it's a good place to do it: You got sun, you're outside, its sheltered so if it's hot out or it's raining you can just sit under here and catch a nice breeze off of the south lawn."

As we sat there, another young man approached the group. He was immediately greeted by all of the guys who were sitting on the benches. He introduced himself as Mike Mansion and explained that he's a sophomore and lives in Wilmarth, a south quad dorm which is isolated from the others. Mansion lit a cigarette and then offered his ideas about the use of the Chimney.

I know there are people in Kimball, especially on the far side of Kimball close to D-hall who've never heard of the chimney, who rarely pass through here and use the side exit. I had to explain to someone what the chimney was about a week ago. But its not necessarily known as the chimney to everyone. It's "the benches outside of Penfield" to a lot of people. Largely the people I've met, who don't really know it by name, are non-smokers who don't go outside for cigarettes and don't seek the smoking community. Because when you smoke cigarettes, you wanna come outside or at least sit down and kind of have a cigarette, and if you wanna meet someone to have a cigarette, its great to have benches. Standing outside and having a cigarette is one thing, but having a place to sit down and have a couple cigarettes - that's the Chimney.

Mansion immediately launched into a conversation with the other fellows regarding the upcoming event called Fun Day, and seamlessly adopted to their style of conversation. They all seemed to speak at once about a slew of different subjects, which all somehow coalesced into a coherent conversation.

This particular day was the last day of classes, and while these boys chatted away their afternoon on these two benches, a young couple lay on a rock in each other's arms. They seemed unperturbed by the constant chatter of the Chimney boys, whose language was often foul and sexually explicit. The couple just lay there contently, and the fellows remained oblivious to their presence.

Often the Chimney talk surrounded other Chimney-goers. Sophomores frequently talk about the previous year and certain characters who embodied Chimney life for them in their freshmen years. They tell extravagant stories of these individuals' exploits, non-linear stories that were essentially just jumbled up quotes and facts, spewed in a rapid tone between wistful drags of the cigarette. The stories had no real beginning and no real end, but were instead just large references; the chimney dwellers seemed to live off of references. Conversations erupted and evolved which were comprised entirely of different references. They referenced movies, television shows, songs and most heavily, past happenings, past jokes and past references.

This group seemed to speak its own language. Acquaintances of some of these fellows would come up and a normal topical conversation would be started amongst that particular Chimney-dweller and his friend. Aviators, for instance, flagged down a girl with whom he was familiar and they carried on a brief talk about what their plans were for the night. Immediately after she left, however, the group once again broke into its stream of conscious style conversation.

I was clearly an outsider, and I sat there idly observing, unable to penetrate the rapid flow of chatter. At one point Ghastly noticed me and apparently decided to humor me some more. I said that I was bewildered by the way they all spoke to each other in a language that seemed entirely comprised of references to film and music. He elaborated more fully on the Chimney's role as a "village green." "It certainly is a place where people can drink, smoke, and those kinds of - cigarette talk, beer talk...If you're smoking weed, people smoke weed out here - you know, that all kind of leads to a certain kind of talk. It's not like walking to class talk or - you shoot the shit out here," explained Ghastly.

It became clear to me as I sat there, that I wasn't dealing with an ordinary group of friends, or with people who like to step outside for cigarettes and happened to know other smokers who did the same. These were Chimney-folk. Erikson writes that "[a] community of the sort we are talking about here derives from and depends on an almost perfect democracy of the spirit, where people are not only assumed to be equal in status but virtually identical in temperament and outlook. Classes of people may be differentiated for certain purposes - women from men, adults from children, whites from blacks, and so on - but individual persons are not distinguished from one another on the basis of rank, occupation, style of life, or even recreational habits" (Erikson, 1976: 192). Amongst Chimney folk, this principle of community is very noticeable. All of these people had different lives outside of the Chimney, they had different sets of friends who liked to do different things, they wore different clothing and used different



means of transportation, and their grade point averages almost certainly varied tremendously. And yet, when they are all together in the Chimney, they are closer than family, they speak an entirely different language, and hold either very strong or completely indifferent opinions about the people who are merely passing through the Chimney...

With regard to communality, Erikson writes that "...boundaries are drawn around whole groups of people, not around separate individuals with egos to protect and potentialities to realize; and a person's mental health is measured less by his capacity to express his inner self than by his capacity to submerge that self into a larger communal whole" (Erikson, 1976: 193). Chimney-folk apparently identify themselves in a similar manner...

As the sun slowly crawled across the sky, one-by-one the Chimney-folk rose to go inside. I'd been at this highly participatory observation for hours, and my head had begun to spin: partially from the beverages I'd consumed, and partially from the whirlwind of conversation that had kept strong for a good two hours. Aviators got up alongside me and we walked toward Penfield. As he held the door open for me, he removed his sunglasses, winked, and said, "its definitely partially proximity."

#1.1976695:3662827639.jpg Chimney 2

Chimney folk reminiscing after a smoke on a typical winter afternoon.

Gabe Weintraub/Skidmore News



## Senate discusses lack of food options on campus

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

On Feb. 8, the SGA Senate discussed an upcoming meeting with the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee, a Student Affairs Subcommittee that includes students as well as faculty. SGA president Alex Stark '11 and Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun chair the committee.

Like Senate, the committee reviews resolutions from student groups to improve the campus; if approved, the resolutions are often instated on the campus quickly.

Last year, members of the Pride Alliance brought forward a request for gender-neutral bathrooms around campus. The request was approved, and this semester Skidmore Facilities is taking steps to make sure that one bathroom in each building on campus is gender-neutral.

Calling for ideas from the student Senators, Stark said, "These issues do matter, and will get taken of."

One of the main issues that the Senators brought forward was the change they would like to see regarding food on campus.

One of the chief concerns was the lack of healthy dinner options for students who are not accommodated by Dining Hall operating hours and whose only choices are fried foods at Late Night.

The Senators also expressed concern that the food in the dining hall is not labeled with ingredients. For students with allergies, this creates a serious problem.

Many expressed concern with regard to the Dining Hall's hours of operation.

For student athletes who attend practices before the Dining Hall opens at 7 a.m. there are no breakfast possibilities; for student workers on weekend nights, dining options are limited.

One Senator suggested more boxed food options for students who are short on time.

Finally, another Senator reiterated the need for a composting plan for the dining hall, part of which is already in the works.

After the proposals were finished, Stark said, "Usually we take on one or two issues a semester," and suggested that the Senators themselves take on some of the concerns.

## Support statement received negatively

Public responds to faculty-signed statement regarding alleged assault

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

A statement of support for the four students involved in last semester's Compton's Restaurant incident is receiving negative responses from the public.

The statement, originally issued through the campus Student Announcements e-mail on Dec. 6, is signed by Associate Professor of American Studies and Director of Intercultural Affairs Winston Grady-Willis, Lisa Grady-Willis, a lecturer in the theater department, Mason Stokes, chair of the English department and Director of Student Diversity Programs Mariel Martin.

The four faculty members point out issues of bias, media harassment and negative public opinion regarding the alleged assault of a Saratoga Springs man on Dec. 18, 2010.

An article in the Albany Times Union titled "Skidmore professors call treatment of students unfair," republished the statement and has received a number of online comments calling the statement of support biased and misguided.

The statement alleges that the four students implicated in the assault, Justin Tavarez '13, Sakhile Sithole '13, Elijah Johnston '14 and Korvin Vicente '13, have been misrepresented by the media.

The statement also asserts that due to the constraints of the legal system, the students involved have not been allowed to speak out and the media narrative is one-sided as a result.

"Though legalities mandate that we refrain from sharing the specifics of the case, it is important to note that only one perspective has been reported by the media, and that perspective has focused on the notion of a hate crime," the statement said.

The hate crime status of the assault charge was dropped when a new witness testimony suggested the use of the word "nigger" during the alleged assault was not racially charged.

Despite the retraction of the hate crime charge, issues of race and socio-economic status still appear in media discussions of the alleged assault.

Those both inside and outside of our institution have called into question the significance of diversity initiatives in creating an unsafe climate. When you hear such iterations, we urge you to question the validity and severity of such indictments, proposes the statement of support.

A commenter on the Times-Union website named "Rob" pointed out a possible shortcoming in the statement of support.

"I guess I don't understand how you can plead guilty to assault and still be misrepresented, marginalized, and/or misunderstood...I just don't understand the point of this letter, particularly since it completely ignores the guilty plea."

Another commenter named "Kevin" said the statement is disingenuous because the faculty allege bias but do not offer any evidence.

Commenter "Prince of Ruins" said the students are being treated leniently, not with the bias the statement of support alleges.

Nowhere in the article does it mention that these students are part of the Skidmore basketball team. We all know that athletes are treated differently in the 'court of public opinion' as well as the criminal justice system, the comment states.

Further comments on the Times Union site allege that there is not only a problem with the statement of the support, but with the college as an institution.

"Like it or not Skidmore students now have a reputation for being thugs and now everyone will have to pay for it to a certain degree - even if that means guilty in the court of public opinion," said Joseph Cea in a comment on the article.

A comment from "LouHarv" stated "This whole incident, especially the school's response has tarnished Skidmore's reputation."

The college has responded to the issues of bias noted in the case with a series of on-campus discussions.

A teach-in was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2 but was postponed due to the college's snow day.

On Feb. 9, Peer Mediators and members of Inter-Group Relations led a student-only forum to discuss bias issues.



## Faculty awards University Without Walls degrees

By Alex Brehm, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

College faculty and administrators convened on Friday, Feb. 4 for the first faculty meeting of the semester. The faculty discussed issues of bias on campus, in addition to more regular business such as college finances, enrollment and college policy.

Vice President of Finance Mike West, announced that due to the construction of the new Scribner Village apartments the college had the opportunity to refinance its portfolio of bonds. By restructuring its finances, the college achieved a "positive net cash flow of \$700,000," he said.

The faculty voted to confer degrees to three University Without Walls (UWW) graduates and one graduate of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program.

Through UWW, Elizabeth Trever Buchinger and Sharon Lynne Clemmey earned Bachelor of Arts degrees and Julie Dianne Wray earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Ashley Lackovich earned a MALS degree.

An Admissions Office representative reported that the overall number of applications for enrollment at Skidmore is smaller this year than in recent years.

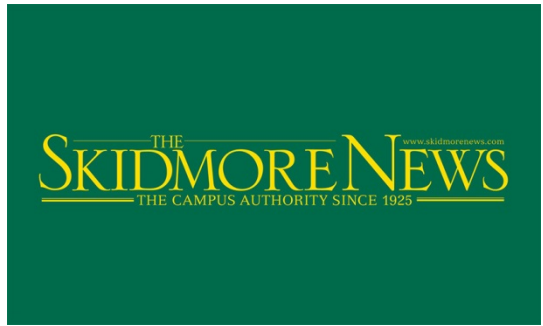
The representative reported that this trend is in keeping with the college's regular feeder states, which have begun to produce fewer high school graduates, she said. The rate of early decision enrollment is about the same as it has been in past years.

Like many interdepartmental majors before it, economics-sociology was flagged for removal from the college catalog. The faculty expressed the belief that interdepartmental majors do not serve students as well academically as a double major, or a major and a minor in the two associated fields.

President Kress gave a short account of the alleged assault at Compton's Restaurant in December in which four Skidmore students were implicated.

She moved on to say that she saw several biased or intolerant comments on various websites, a view she has expressed in a mass e-mail sent to students and faculty. She asked the faculty at the meeting to be cognizant of racial dynamics in the classroom.

Kress then opened the floor for general comments from faculty, ostensibly to hear more opinions about race, gender and other forms of bias on campus. One professor commented that the incident at



Compton's Restaurant was one in a series of episodes that had eroded relations between the college and the surrounding residents.



## **Scribner construction on schedule**

By Katie Vallas, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Students returned from winter break to see new progress in the Scribner Village construction project, which has been underway since last fall. After years of development and planning, the first structures will be completed as early as spring of next year.

The three phases of the construction project include an addition to Northwoods Apartments, the creation of new slope-side apartments alongside the perimeter road and a complete reconstruction of Scribner Village apartments, with eventual demolition of all existing structures in the complex.

With initial site work for the new Northwoods apartments ongoing since last fall, the three new Northwoods apartment buildings will be available for student housing by spring 2012.

Pending the college's receipt of building permits and selection of construction firms to helm the project, blasting at the site will soon give way to construction.

The heavy work is going to start relatively soon, which is going to be when they're really breaking ground on the Northwoods site, said Ryan Ballantine, community coordinator for Scribner Village.

The second phase of the project remains in the initial stages, with subcontractors starting to clear the slope-side apartments' site at the start of this year.

I think it's clearer to everyone how these apartments are going to fit into the project now, said Mike West, vice-president for Finance and Administration.

With most of the blasting at the slope-side site accomplished over the winter break, crews will continue to remove rock from the site during the coming weeks.

The project has been fueled by popular support at each planning stage, with administrators receiving unanimous approval from the college's Board of Trustees, Saratoga Springs' Planning Board and Saratoga Springs residents who live near the site.

Everyone in the community has been positive about the project and positive about the college, West said. "We think it's a great project for our students, for the college and for the town."



The Board of Trustees supported the project as the culmination of several decades of plans to replace the original Scribner Village, built in 1973 as an experiment to gauge student response to apartment-style on-campus living.

The eventual move forward with the project came as a result of trustee donations, including a \$12 million donation from the Sussman family and an additional \$5.5 million gift from an anonymous trustee.

While additional fundraising efforts for the project will run concurrently with its construction, West said these trustee donations ensured that the project's completion would not be contingent upon further giving.

We're striving to get additional gifts for the project, but these gifts mean we have substantial funding in place, he said.

He said he expects the project will be named in honor of the Sussman family's generosity.

It's highly likely that the name will be changed to honor the wonderful and generous gift, West said. "We wish to recognize their gift that has made the difference to be able to permit us to do this project for our students."

Administrators said they expect the completion of the project to act as a strong improvement over the existing Scribner Village.

The current Scribner is not the best environment for our students, especially compared to the other areas we have on campus, Ballantine said. "The whole idea that we're going to get new, fresh housing full of modern amenities is going to be a great thing for the students here."

But as construction continues, the project will necessarily inconvenience current students living in Northwoods and Scribner apartments, administrators said.

The buildings at the top of the hill are most likely going to cause some disruption, especially for the students who live in the buildings closest to the construction site in Scribner Village, Ballantine said.

Already, students in Northwoods Apartments have come forward with complaints about noise associated with the new apartments' construction. "The college has made an effort to keep a very strict time frame for when they can start work," Ballantine said, adding that crews have been asked not to begin work before 8 a.m.

As the project continues, administrators anticipate students experiencing further disruptions.

## Quiet the commentators

### Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

This is truly a difficult time in the college's history. A pall has been cast over the campus and Saratoga. Members of the community are struggling to make sense of the incident, the grey area of which seems to be unending, that occurred at the end of last semester. I suspect that somewhere, in between the racist banter of local commentators and the pontificating rhetoric of administrators and faculty, the truth lies. And I believe the truth is that these students made a mistake, and not an irreparable one. The true culprits in this maddening media escapade, the true antagonists, are the sensationalist local media and the dogmatic college administration and faculty.

We have all been deeply offended by the insensitive vitriol spewing from the regional press. Carl Strock's reference to the event as "the revenge of the diversity gods" strikes deeply at everything we hold true, and demeans all of us, especially Strock himself. Many local commentators have used this case to reinforce and fuel their latent racism. But college administrators and faculty are using these misguided outbursts to fuel their own righteous indignation.

In response to this, all our leadership has offered is garbled liberal arts jargon. Where the administration's words could have guided and comforted us, we were given wordy statements about diversity. Acting President Susan Kress wrote to the student body that, "Goal II of the College's Strategic Plan calls upon us to recognize the complexities of the multi-national, multi-racial, multi-cultural world we live in and "develop the intercultural skills necessary to affirm one another's humanity, no matter how different we might at first appear..." What are we to take away from this stock liberal arts response? How should this lofty rhetoric guide us as we attempt to make sense of this situation as it unfolds in real time downtown?

The conservative press is obfuscating the event with racially charged language, and our administration and faculty are merely deconstructing the symbolic underpinnings of the reports, and all the while the true issue, of whether or not these students will be offered the opportunity to redeem themselves, is ignored. The administration and college commentators are doing as much of a disservice to these students and our understanding of this event as the volatile press is. Danny Pforte we need not be reminded of the fundamental tenets of our judicial system. Of course they are innocent until proven guilty. But a guilty plea is a pretty good indication that they're not entirely innocent. And what about

this 'counter-narrative' that Professor Grady-Willis asserts will emerge in court? Are we meant to believe that there is some sort of conspiracy in motion with the goal of discrediting an entire institution, multicultural philosophy and race?

I hope most of us can agree that this is not simply a racially motivated railroading by a community incapable of exacting proper justice. And it certainly is not, as some racist commentators have suggested, a case of Skidmore's chickens coming home to roost. It is simply four students who made a mistake. What is truly deplorable here is the town and the college's use of these students' mistakes as a platform to continue talking past one another, to continue to exacerbate an already inflammatory town-gown relationship. They have hijacked these students' slip-up to reprimand and admonish the other, to assert their own agendas.

I have no problem accepting these students back into our community - as long as they demonstrate commitment to our values. I believe they made a mistake, but I also believe that they have the conviction and character to make amends for this mistake. They should be given a chance to learn from this and redeem themselves in the community, an opportunity of which they are being deprived, as faculty, students and administrators blindly support them in the name of countering prejudiced injustice.

So how should we respond to all of this? I believe we know exactly where we stand. We need not be reminded that we live in a multicultural world. True Skiddies live and breath our multicultural, multiracial creed. Those that demonstrate a disregard for our community's values are dealt with appropriately by our administration (some of the time). And we certainly reject the close-mindedness and racism of local commentators. I don't think there is any talk we need to have. Let's appropriate punishment as necessary, quiet the commentary, and get back to living that liberal arts philosophy.

*Brian Connor is a senior American studies major from Brooklyn who spends his summer nights at Siro's.*

## **C's rules and regulations for a proper hook-up**

### **What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend**

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Let me paint you a picture: it is late Saturday night, and by late I mean the parties have all been broken up, the Spa is closing and you are one horny minx.

You may not be blatantly horny, you may just want someone to cuddle with. You tell your friends your night is not over and decide to text a guy you have hooked up with for three consecutive weekends.

You text him. You wait for his response until you realize your buzz is not coming back. You bid adieu and conk out.

The next weekend comes and he texts you, giving you the hope that it becomes as regular as a menstrual cycle. He will not respond to you, but you will always respond to him, even if the response turns into rejection. This is not right.

If you are a male or female and you find yourself wanting a warm nightcap at the end of a Saturday night, please obey the following etiquette before performing a booty-call:

1. People that do not respond to texts concerning a booty-call are a booty-don't, especially if the hook-up has been consistent. Even if you are booty-don't, you must respond.

If you see the text and you are with someone else, have the courtesy to respond. Reply with an, "I'm busy," "No thank you," or even "I'm sleeping." A curt response is usually an obvious rejection.

Exceptions are: if you think the caller is obsessed with you, the caller sends more than one text in two-to-three minutes, you lose your phone, or you really are sleeping.

2. Do not be obsessive. Once you send an "I want you" text or the ever so obvious "sup?" at 1 a.m., do not send any more! If he or she does not respond, that person should be neutered (see above). If you do not care and just want to snuggle, shame on you. That is what body pillows are for!

3. This is not so much etiquette as it is a suggestion: do not, I repeat, do not become attached!

I know it is hard to see someone you are intimate with as just a naughty friend or an acquaintance, but sometimes that is just what he or she is.

There are some fairy-tale booty-calls that blossom into great sex - I mean, great relationships - but they are uncommon. Save your heart the trouble and think with the part of your body that is being stimulated the most.

As for Sunday mornings, smile as if you got some instead of wearing a frown of rejection. Hopefully this sheds more light than your phone screen does during those late night cravings.

Hearts and Stars, C.

*E-mail me at [SkidWWCD@gmail.com](mailto:SkidWWCD@gmail.com) with questions. Privacy is guaranteed. Advice can remain unpublished upon request.*

## Local restaurant extends hours

By Erin Dillon, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Beverly's Café, a gem of a restaurant nestled at 47 Phila Street, has been serving Saratogians breakfast for more than 20 years.

Beverly Reedy opened a specialty foods store and café in 1989. Though both were initially successful, within a decade, competition from other local specialty shops caused the café component of Beverly's to thrive instead.

Michael Bowman, Reedy's son, joined the team in 1999 and now owns the restaurant.

Beverly's is known for making the best breakfast around. Bowman's personal favorite is the Eggs Benedict.

The café also has a variety of fresh pastries baked by Beverly herself. Bowman emphasized the mission is to provide "a place in town where you can get a good, home-cooked breakfast for cheap."

Largely because of the reasonable prices and hearty food, Beverly's draws in quite a few Skidmore students.

There is even a breakfast named "The Skiddie," consisting of three pancakes, three eggs, home fries and breakfast meat. What hungry college student could turn that down?

Although Beverly's serves breakfast all day, the café also offers lunch items: sandwiches, wraps, soups and salads with homemade dressings.

Go ahead, order that stack of Pineapple Coconut Pancakes with your Curried Chicken and Apple Salad.

And why not top it all off with dinner? Beverly's now serves dinner from 5 - 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, in addition to its usual 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. hours.

The restaurant itself is pleasant and welcoming. "It's very casual; people come to catch up," Bowman said.

Despite the relaxed atmosphere, Beverly's dinners have a sophisticated, gourmet appeal. Chef Robert Cone designs a new dinner menu weekly.

Cone studied at the New England Culinary Institute and has worked everywhere from Nantucket to Los Angeles. Bowman is excited to have Cone as his chef and hopes he will "take Bev's to the next [level]."

The staff at Beverly's tries to use as many local, fresh ingredients as possible. When crafting each week's menu, Cone starts with the protein element then chooses sides to complement it.

The dishes, ranging from Blackened Hanger steak to Stuffed Shrimp with Crab and Goat Cheese, are surprisingly elaborate for Beverly's setting and exemplify Cone's expertise as a chef.

I ordered the cilantro lime-glazed quail, char-grilled. The quail, risotto cake and burgundy mushrooms were artistically plated and absolutely delicious, as was the appetizer: local dipping breads, hummus and refreshing green beans and red peppers.

Cone also whipped up a fabulous Banana Foster, which my hot date (Photo Editor Maddie Pelz) and I ravenously consumed, along with a cupcake freshly made by Beverly.

Beverly also has a cookbook, "Beverly's Best," for sale at the café. It includes recipes for her Wunderbar baked goods and countless other dishes served at the restaurant.

Robert, Beverly and Michael were very hospitable and fed us well. Maddie and I ate an embarrassingly large amount of food, but it was just so good we could not help ourselves.

The staff is fine with you grabbing a bottle of wine from the market down the street and enjoying it with your meal.

#1.1976761:2223538796.JPG Beverly's

Beverly's Quail Char Grill

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News







## Raymond Chandler's long goodbye

### Stranger Than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Phillip Marlowe, the tough minded, no-BS private investigator memorialized in the work of crime author Raymond Chandler, has long since been a character who lives out on the broken path, only coming into connection with society during the times he is the most needed.

Marlowe is not the modern-day cowboy on a white horse, riding into town on conviction and foundation of heroism, destined to save 'the innocents' from the means of corruption. The people that Marlowe gets tangled with are not innocent. They are people who see complete, unabashed pleasure in crime.

Marlowe has no friends. He is apprehensive of everyone he meets, and with good reason: there are no characters in this book that any reader would classify as 'good.'

There also seems to be something off about Marlowe himself.

With his curt way of speaking (Chandler was a master of dialogue) and the romantic way he toys with the hoodlums, criminals and detectives that he encounters, it is no surprise that this character has become the idol for modern crime fighters.

Chandler's 1953 novel "The Long Goodbye" is Marlowe's finest tale. Although hard-boiled, cynical characters and ruthless dialogue perfect the language, the plot is wildly confusing.

Like Marlowe, sometimes we do not know who is who, or where we are. It is difficult to give away even a small bit of the plot of this noir novel, as the story is constantly building upon itself - like that of a house of cards - so even one detail about the first sequence would ruin the story.

Alcoholism plays a large role in the novel. Two major characters are heavily influenced by alcohol.

One is Terry Lennox, the shabby husband of a wealthy heiress whose misdeeds jump-start the story.

The second is the intimidating writer Roger Wade. Wade is a giant man who has a habit of beating his wife and then disappearing for long stretches of time. One would think that Wade's wife, Eileen, would be a sympathetic character, but she is not. These characters rely heavily on liquor.

Marlowe, who only drinks on occasion, is able to comment on all the debauchery around him while still remaining civil in his head. Marlowe remarks on how disturbing it is to see men put down to the turf because of their alcoholism.

Chandler, who was a heavy drinker, knew much about the powerful temptation. Although the novel is littered with incidents in which drinkers find themselves near dead and forgotten, there is also something vaguely romantic about Chandler's version of the alcoholic.

There are comments made that idolize F. Scott Fitzgerald and link him with Wade; drunks are supremely categorized as "cunning" and "prideful."

One of the most quotable lines about the habit of alcohol comes from the mouth of Lennox, who says, "Alcohol is like love. The first kiss is magic, the second is intimate, the third is routine. After that you take the girl's clothes off."

As the plot thickens, Marlowe remains the tough-dog soldier on the outside looking in. He trusts no one and is convinced that even the surest of all statements and best poker faces are not the case. He is the ultimate outsider. He is someone who has not been pushed to the outside, but who has seen enough of "the world" to understand that he does not want anything to do with it.

I read that a "noir hero" is someone who is always able to act with nobility. The bad guys in crime books understand evil, know that they are bad and relish in the fact that they are so.

A noir hero is a good guy who has suffered a bit. There is not an ounce of tenderness in the way that Marlowe moves. He is constantly searching for the next criminal, the next villain, the next detective case.

Marlowe surely has suffered. Still, a reader questions if he has brought the pain upon himself.

## Breaking up has never tasted this good

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Ah, Valentine's Day, the only holiday yet to be corrupted and commercialized by the greeting card industry.

Having trouble thinking of what to get that special someone in your life? Fret not friends, lovers and nothings: clichés like flowers and heart-shaped candies will never go out of style.

However, one can argue that some homemade gifts, like a mix-tape full of mushy songs or a romantic dinner for two, are more heartfelt and meaningful.

Growing up in a large, Italian family, I often show my love through cooking for friends and family.

Though I am far from a relationship expert, I have had a few boyfriends. I cooked for all of them and have yet to really disappoint any with my cooking.

However, after years of dating there is one recipe that I will never make for a boyfriend again.

In retrospect, my three most serious beaus had many similarities: all were around the same height, all had blue eyes and dark hair, all played an instrument and all cheated on me.

Yes, I have been a spurned woman three times. But a strange similarity (and perhaps if I were less superstitious, simply a coincidence,) between these three exes is that I found out about the 'other women' within a week or two of making them a particular cookie recipe.

This cookie recipe is extremely simple and delicious. In reality, they are just a type of chocolate chip cookie, a family recipe that I have played with over the years. My friends love it, my family loves it and it was always a big hit at bake sales and such.

But all three relationships involving this particular recipe have ended terribly.

The first time I made them for a boyfriend was sophomore year of high school. He was my first "real boyfriend" and was considerably older. So cliché. But I was "so in love" and he did something noteworthy that escapes me at the moment, so I cooked for him to celebrate. The next week was Halloween, and at a party he hooked-up with several different girls. Heartbroken, I ended things then and there.

Next was junior year. I was, once again, completely infatuated with the guy I was dating. He was a friend of a friend and a drummer. He essentially lived at my house for a while. Then one day I cooked for him, cookies to be exact. The next week, I discovered he was seeing a friend of my brothers on the side. Done. Over. No thanks. I ended things.

The final time was for my senior year boyfriend. He was one of my best friends first and my most serious relationship to date. He loved when I cooked for him, so I cooked often. One day he wanted cookies, so I baked him a batch. Soon after, I saw him less and less. A mutual friend then told me that he was simultaneously dating a high school freshman, another girl in my grade and me. Ouch. I ended things.

Then got back with him, only to end things again when he, once again, started cheating.

As I stated before, this recipe is easy to make and a crowd pleaser. So with Valentine's Day right around the corner, make these cookies for your single friends as you listen to "Single Ladies," or some manly equivalent.

Make them and eat the entire batch alone as you cry and curse your happily committed friends.

Make them if you are looking for an easy, guilt-free way to dump someone; your beau will most likely soon be revealed as untrue.

But I warn you, if you are happy in a relationship and want to stay together, do not make these cookies!

Bon appetite!

1 stick softened butter

½ cup sugar

1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

1 large egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

1 cup raisins

**Recipe:**

Preheat your oven 350 degrees. In a large bowl sift together the flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate large bowl, cream the butter with both types of sugars until smooth. Add the egg and vanilla extract to the creamed mixture and mix well. Add the flour mixture and beat thoroughly. Mix in the chocolate chips and raisins. On an ungreased cookie sheet, put small balls of dough about an inch or so apart. Bake for eight to ten minutes.



## Professors outside the classroom

By Sandy Zhang, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Associate professor of Art History Mimi Hellman was raised in western Massachusetts and was educated at Smith College and Princeton University. Courses taught by Professor Hellman include "19th Century European Art", "Rococo Art" and "Design, Buzz: Visual Culture of Caffeine and Practices of Art History", her favorite course to teach.

*Skidmore News: Why did you choose teaching at Skidmore over working in an arts organization?*

Mimi Hellman: I have always loved teaching. I have two little sisters. When we were growing up we played school and I was always the teacher. That is why I wanted to be at Skidmore where teaching really matters.

*SN: Most professors do not share their resumes with students; why do you do this and why do you think it is important?*

MH: I think students should know where their professors come from intellectually. Students will have a much richer learning experience if they know about the scholarship activities that really shape what and how we teach. Our presence in the classroom is only a small part of who we are professionally.

*SN: You received your bachelor's degree in Religion and minored in Art History as an undergraduate student. What motivated you to concentrate on Art History in graduate school?*

MH: I took five years off between college and graduate school. I have always been interested in visual culture.

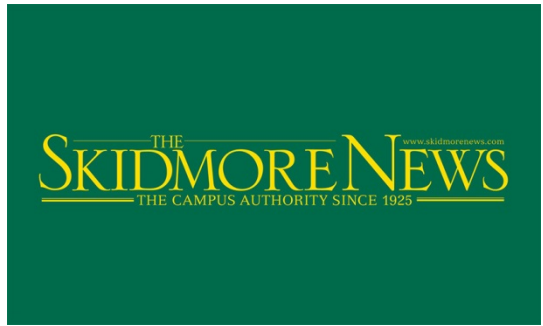
During that time I volunteered at the University of Massachusetts to teach continuing education classes about art. It was a breakthrough for me. I loved empowering students to feel knowledgeable about art.

*SN: Any words of advice to students who are hesitant about taking an art history course?*

MH: We live in a visually saturated world. I think it is powerful that you see the world in a different way when you learn skills in art history. Not only do you learn about art, but also I think it is more important that art history teaches you to look at things more critically. You become a savvy consumer of media.

#1.1976714:3410731580.jpg Mimi Hellman

2/11/2011 1.1976711



Professor Mimi Hellman

Sandy Zhang/The Skidmore News





## Mice found in dorms

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Students already know that due to overcrowding in the first-year class many students were put into triples. As if three was not already enough of a crowd, many students found shocking new additions to their rooms this semester.

Though they seem happy to have discovered clean and warm refuges from the harsh Saratoga Springs' winter, students are anything but pleased. The new additions to the campus community are mice.

Several students living in the Wiecking and Howe-Rounds dorms are alarmed to come back from break and find mice living in their rooms. Though the exact number of rooms that claim to have seen mice is unknown, it sparked speculation across campus.

Gabby Carboni '14, a Wiecking Hall resident, was not surprised to find a mouse in her room on the first week back from winter break.

"Some friends and other people who live on my floor had been talking about how they saw mice run across their rooms, so I figured that my room would probably follow. A few days later, my roommates saw a mouse and went to our R.A." Carboni said.

Wiecking residents claim that The Office of Residential Life will provide students with mousetraps if students suspect mice are living in their rooms.

Another Wiecking resident who wishes to remain anonymous states that after seeing a mouse in her room, she and her roommate went to the building's facilities services who provided mousetraps from the Residential Life.

Though contacted, Residential Life did not comment on the accusations of an infestation.

When asked how she was handling the mouse situation, Carboni said that she bought a mousetrap that would neither harm nor kill her pesky fourth roommate.

A life-long vegetarian and PETA hopeful, Carboni says she understands why Res Life would be giving out traps, but wishes that an alternative, non-violent trap would be offered.

“Regular mousetraps are a lot cheaper and maybe they just did not think of offering different types,” Carboni said. “I personally just wanted to get a different trap. Besides, no one is making [students who have seen mice] use it and mice in the dorms are unsanitary and dangerous to health.”

Students understand the gravity of the situation and hope for a more long-term solution. Several fear that mice are not a short-term issue and will not disappear over night. If claims of mice keep coming, students hope that the college will resort to a more serious response.

Carboni warns students to take precaution with food in their rooms. After all, if you give a mouse a cookie, he will want a glass of milk.

“People need to be careful. I think part of the problem is that people left food in their dorms over vacation. If it is cold outside and food is available, of course mice are going to come in,” Carboni said.

Any suspicions or sightings of mice in a room should immediately be reported and taken care of.

## **Lilly Pulitzer talk makes business fashionable**

Pink Paddock lecture attracts crowd of management majors and fashionistas

By Lauren Sager, Communications Director

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

On Wednesday, Feb. 9 the Department of Management and Business hosted an all-day event with two Lilly Pulitzer executives and Kim Burton, owner of the Pink Paddock, a Lilly Pulitzer retail outlet on Broadway.

Joanna Lee, director for merchandising and marketing, and Jennifer Raines, business development manager, gave students insight into marketing a high-end brand.

The event was coordinated by management and business lecturer Laura Finnerty Paul.

Lilly Pulitzer is a high-end brand, known for playful prints and bright colors. The brand was launched in 1959 when 21-year-old Lilly Pulitzer eloped with her husband Peter Pulitzer to Palm Beach.

While Peter ran the orange groves, Lilly opened a juice stand to occupy herself. To conceal juice stains, Lilly had dresses made for her in flamboyantly patterned dresses.

The brand really took off when Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was seen wearing Lilly Pulitzer in the 1960s. Today, the company features dresses, sportswear, accessories, home goods, men's clothing and children's clothing.

Throughout the day, Raines, Lee and Burton spoke to students in marketing classes and had lunch with about a dozen students. At 6:30 p.m. the department hosted "Learning Lilly: An Insider's Look at Managing a Compelling and Creative Brand and Career."

At the event, both executives shared their experiences working with Lilly Pulitzer and the fashion industry. Lee and Raines emphasized to students the importance of being passionate about their careers.

Burton then spoke about her experience as owner of the Pink Paddock. When Burton first opened the store, it resembled a bowling alley in size and was called "Sunshine on Broadway."

Later on, the store became a signature Lilly Pulitzer store, changed the name to the Pink Paddock and relocated to its current location. Since then, the Pink Paddock has been a great success in Saratoga Springs.



Burton credits the store's success to outstanding customer service, the location of the store and events hosted by the store.

Burton also credited the store's success to social media. She runs a "Find the Lilly Jeep" contest on Friday mornings in the summer. The first person to post a picture of themselves with the Lilly Pulitzer decorated Jeep wins a gift certificate to the Pink Paddock.

The event ended with a fashion show and giveaways.

## Steaming buns on a snowy day

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 11, 2011

Snow days are awesome.

They are especially awesome when you are 21-years old and your parents cannot make you put on a bright red snow suit and play outside for exactly one hour when you would rather be inside reading "The Boxcar Children".

I did not have any Boxcar Children books handy during last week's snow day.

But I did have some brown sugar. And some butter. And all those other things that when you mix them up, roll them out, roll them back up and stick them in the oven for a bit become gooey, sweet pockets of warm goodness.

True fact number one: I spent the entire snow day inside reading (homework) and eating (cinnamon rolls).

True fact number two: Other than when I went outside to dig my car out of a snow bank and failed, I did not leave my house.

Thanks stranger who helped me push my car out of the snow. You are as awesome as these cinnamon rolls.

In fact, these cinnamon rolls are pretty great. Traditionally, cinnamon rolls should use yeast and go through a whole long rising process.

But who has time for that before breakfast!?

Oh right: me on a snow day. But I took the shortcut and used a dough that functions more like a flaky biscuit. Insert some cinnamon and brown sugar and voila!

Next time I make these, though, I might cut down on the brown sugar filling and nix the white chocolate chips, all of which made for a bit of a sweet-overkill, if you can possibly imagine.

Maybe add some nuts...



*Recipe adapted from <http://www.bigredkitchen.com/>*

### **Cinnamon Rolls**

- 1 1/2 cups unbleached flour
- 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 tbsp white sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 cup butter, cut into small pieces
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 3 oz cream cheese (softened)
- 3 tbsp milk
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

In a large bowl mix together all the dry ingredients then cut in butter and mix until the dough is crumbly.

Add buttermilk or milk and mix until a nice dough forms.

Place dough on a floured surface, knead a little, and roll into a big rectangle about 1/4 inch thick.

Spread the butter all over the dough, and sprinkle the brown sugar, cinnamon, and chips all over.

Starting at the long end, carefully roll up the dough, keeping it relatively tight and pinching the edge to seal.

Cut into seven even rolls, and arrange in a greased round cake pan or 9 inch square baking dish.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Remove and ice immediately.

While baking, whisk together softened cream cheese and three tbsp of milk until smooth.

Stir in vanilla and then add sugar. Spread on top of warm buns. Eat warm buns on a cold winter day.

Giggle about eating warm buns on a cold winter day. Yum!

#1.1976705:4059537612.jpg

Cinnamon Buns

Katie Lane/Skidmore News



## God and peace on the streets of Egypt

Daydreams

By Rick Chrisman, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Wow, look at what Egypt just did! Do you suppose we could do something like that - a nonviolent revolution? M-m-m, it's doubtful. Not enough outrage, and not enough self-control.

Our Tea Partiers are definitely outraged, but they want to bring guns to their rallies! Imagine: all those men in Tahrir Square for 18 days, and without weapons. We aren't in Arizona any more, Toto.

The Muslim protesters in the Square prayed publicly 5 times a day, demonstrating what the fundamental tenets of religion advocate: nonviolence. If only organized religion could stick to the basics of God and peace, the world would be a better place.

Yes, a good religion is hard to find, but everybody needs one. Why? Because religion provides our spirituality with an outlet, gives some starch to good intentions and provides a community of support when things get rough. Most importantly, it replaces politics as our ultimate endeavor. But people shouldn't adopt religion for the sake of getting into heaven. They must do it for the sake of God and peace.

Consider what Gandhi accomplished through his religion. He managed to peaceably remove the British Empire from India. After a conventional Hindu upbringing, Gandhi eventually wove a faith out of his reinterpretation of the Bhagavad Gita. His religion could be summarized as a devotion to "Truth," and his faith that "Truth," which he equated with God, prevails.

But "Truth" can prevail only when we don't get in its way. In other words, we must not seek out conflict with our "enemies," but understand them and respect them as fellow people. As Gandhi asked "what barrier is there that love cannot break?"

Gandhi was averse to spiritual violence as much as he was to physical violence. He argued that self-abuse, hatred of others, anger and jealousy were qualities that could be shed with meditation. Gandhi took up practices that many of us would consider unrealistic (a strict vegetarian diet, fasting, celibacy, etc.), yet he showed us that peace is achieved only with some degree of self-restraint. He maintained these practices for their own merit, but they also empowered him with the will to topple an empire.



Gandhi was not a saint (there's a lot of evidence to this point), and he would not let anyone call him one. He wasn't motivated for the sake of being pious or virtuous, but to live as closely to the Truth as possible. His biographer Louis Fisher wrote that Gandhi tried "to establish a harmony between words, beliefs and acts." In this way, Gandhi was only "seeking the formula for mental health." Yet he liberated a whole country in the process. What a story. Could it be ours as well?

Gandhi's goal, in a word, was self-realization, which he didn't consider to be fulfillment or happiness, but self-improvement through service. He wanted people to know the freedom of self-reliance, which he called "the beauty self help." He was entirely devoted to serving the poor. In his words, "I made the religion of service my own, as God could only be realized through service." You could say he deprived himself of many material things, yet got something much greater in return.

Gandhi strove to be passion free, to "rise above the opposing currents of love and hatred, attachment and repulsion," as many in our society should. But that spirituality needed a religion whose discipline would get him to that point. In turn, he improved upon Hinduism and Christianity, and he knew God and peace.

That's all religion is: God and peace. Can't we use more of that? Find yourself a good religion. Turn the world upside down.

*Rick Chrisman is director of Religious and Spiritual Life, teaches occasionally in the Religion and Philosophy departments and suspects art is the one true religion.*

## Will gay marriage survive state legislature?

Politics for the Upstate Student

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Is 2011 the year for gay marriage in New York state? Governor Andrew Cuomo recently restated his commitment to see same-sex marriage legislation passed this year. But the chances of the bill succeeding are slim, since it will depend largely upon the decision of the Republican-controlled State Senate.

To clear things up, New York state legislature is simple: it's basically like the U.S. Congress. There are two houses: the Assembly and the Senate. Bills often die in one of the two houses. It is tiresome and frustrating, but, as Cuomo has said, when it functions well, it can be "beautiful."

But the beauty in this struggle has been hard to find. It's mostly been maddening. New Yorkers have been close to winning the marriage equality battle for almost five years. Since June 2007, a same-sex marriage bill has passed in the State Assembly three times, each time by a wide margin. But each time the Senate has rejected it, even back in 2009, when the Democrats had the majority. In the November 2010 elections, the Republicans won back the majority, and there was little turnover in Democratic senators.

The most important question is this: will some senators change their minds? It seems obvious that a senator who once voted "no" on an issue-based bill such as this one would probably vote "no" again. However, several factors might come into play this year to change the minds of senators who once opposed same-sex marriage.

The most important factor is the voice of the people, that strange concept upon which our democracy purports to stand. A recent Quinnipiac University poll indicated that New Yorkers support gay marriage by the highest margin ever recorded: 56-37. This is a complete reversal from 2004, when New Yorkers opposed gay marriage by 55 - 37.

The public's readiness to see a marriage equality bill might persuade some senators who were on the line in 2009. Also, increased pressure coming from Andrew Cuomo, as well as U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who sent personal letters to each State lawmaker earlier this month, might push some senators over the edge.

What would be crucial this time around is that a strong majority of the senate Democrats shows support in order to convince hesitant Republicans that casting a "yes" vote might be worth breaking party loyalties. Who knows how many Republicans voted "no" against their principles while under pressure from their peers last time? Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos has stated that, although he will personally oppose a gay-marriage bill, he will allow fellow Republican senators to vote according to their "conscience."

Despite signs that the public is more accepting of same-sex marriage than before, and despite the strong leadership of Cuomo and Gillibrand, the odds still look slim. Knowing what the New York state Senate is capable (or, rather, incapable) of, I'm not convinced that this year will bring anything new on the gay rights front.

Emotions run high when politics step into the realm of the family. In the summer of 2009, my oldest sister got married. This summer, my other sister will get married. And yet our parents remain unmarried because they are both women. I hope that by next summer we will be able to celebrate another marriage - this time, between two women in their 50s.

Of course people on both sides of the debate are angry. But frankly, I fail to understand why a third party would care about a marriage between two people of the same sex. It is, however, entirely understandable why people get angry about being denied a fundamental right.

Recent events in the Middle East have reminded us how lucky we are to have one of the basic rights we too often take for granted: freedom of speech. And in our democracy, we have the opportunity to use this right to demand additional rights. Gay rights advocacy groups tirelessly lobby in Albany, and will only continue to pressure their opponents as the debate heats up this year. And remember, we may always contact State senators by phone to voice our opinions - yes, they actually do take note of what you say!

The civil rights movement didn't end in the '60s; it is ongoing, and in a nation where 45 out of 50 states discriminate based on sexual orientation, it is far from over. In the words of State Senator Tom Duane, "There's sort of a paradox about this. The time is never right for civil rights. The economy, wars, etc. The troubles we've had here in the Senate. It's never ever the right time. But the paradox is that it's always the time to be on the right side of history." Duane has vowed to introduce a gay marriage bill this session. Whether the Senate will be "on the right side of history" remains to be seen.

*Julia Grigel is a senior government major who enjoys politics, especially when they're reactionary and/or German.*

## Above and beyond ambivalence

Equating liberalism with apathy leaves too many in silence

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Brian Connor, I understand your argument for the need to be apathetic. We live in an environment where the majority of students do not have an understanding of the world, of people who are discriminated against in our "liberal" and free country. Skidmore Unofficial makes it clear that some students are unafraid to go anonymous and state feelings of racism that are prevalent on campus. One student commented,

"I'm sick of these kind of attacks, if White people were doing this it would be all over the news. I love how the paper is at fault for publishing the race, which is relevant to the article because of the hate crime nature of this case. As if the behavior of the Blacks is excused because the paper published their race. How about Black people stop committing all the crime?"

Another student joked, "What do you call a black person in a three piece suit? The Defendant."

These comments are not reflective of a "liberal" environment that believes in seeking the truth before making judgments. Instead, they convey stereotypes and assumptions that we need to talk about to make this campus a more comfortable place for students of color.

So what about the vandalism of the "Food for Thought" posters? Did you attend the dialogue SGA sponsored to address campus climate? If you did, you would have heard the anguish and the struggle that students of color are experiencing due to the apathy, due to the lack of understanding and due to a conservative student body.

We also do not live and breathe multiculturalism, and, if we do, we must all have a great capacity for holding our breath. If you observed who participates in clubs and organizations under the OSDP (Office of Student Diversity Programs) umbrella, you would notice that the same students show up to sponsored events, participate in the clubs and promote the multiculturalism you seek. Where is the support from the rest of the student body? Our "liberal" environment is plagued by assumption, fear and discomfort around issues of race, class, sexuality, etc. that go unspoken about on campus. We cannot escape it and the "liberal" values that you speak of only work to avoid tackling these issues head on.



But you do make good points, such as the need to deconstruct Strock's hateful words. But I hope you understand that the media is powerful and it does bring out opinions that we would normally conceal. Skidmore Unofficial is a prime example, and I provide you and everyone who has not seen it with the link below. We must continue dialogue and search for this reality. Just like the larger society, our campus reflects issues of a declining nation drowning in inequality. It would serve well toward the notion of liberalism to address our discontents and set precedent for the change we need.

*The link to Skidmore Unofficial: <a href="http://bit.ly/hxVCAp">http://bit.ly/hxVCAp</a>*

*Danny Pforte is a sophomore from Cambridge, Massachusetts who studies social work. He is inspired by Malcolm X, Jay-Z and Bernie Sanders.*

## The rise and fall of Four Loko

### Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

The last Four Lokos flew off the shelves and the powers-that-be patted themselves on the back for quashing yet another moral epidemic. Teenagers and college students muttered their complaints as the season of the Four Loko came to a close. Now, as our bodega coolers are restocked with a less reprehensible version of the beverage, hindsight grants us an opportunity to better understand the rise and fall of Four Loko. What should we make of this fleeting phenomenon? Should we be mourning or celebrating its demise? Despite the hype, the beverage was an ugly one and we are all better off now that it is gone, but not for the reasons you were given by the television.

Looking back now, it seems it was inevitable all along. As soon as the press got wind of it, as soon as politicians recognized its value as a pointless attention-diverting wedge issue (which, I believe, also played upon border-crazy conservative Hispanophobia), the fate of this beverage was sealed.

The story of Four Loko is an old one. Like Icarus, Four Loko flew too high, grew too big. The beverage attained heights of popularity that made it easy prey for critics. And this criticism created more buzz than the drink itself; the drink was nothing without the media phenomenon that accompanied it. Even its detractors basked in the eerie glow of this star that grew too big. Brooklyn Assemblyman Felix Ortiz drank three of the 22.5oz, 12 percent alcohol-by-volume, highly caffeinated beverages in a publicity stunt veiled as a public service announcement. In order to understand how this cultural witch-hunt was started, it's necessary to take a look at the sociology of this particular drink.

What apparently hasn't crossed the minds of the disgruntled, righteously indignant masses of Four Loko fans, is that the same buzz is and has always been available. Irish Coffee (a drink so iconic and fundamentally appealing that its name now brings to mind an image of a functional alcoholic looking for a morning buzz more than it does a beverage option) has been offering the Four Loko kick in a much more palatable form ever since Ethiopian traders first crossed paths with Gaels. This drink is so pervasive that it has even spawned a more sophisticated spin-off, the Espresso Martini.

The people purchasing Four Lokos at the "ghetto" Getty (as it is known to students) are in search of the same buzz as the young professionals sipping Espresso Martinis at Max London's, yet one poses a threat to society, and the other seems to be a testament to our society's productivity and refinement. The people drinking at Max London's are paying upwards of \$10 for their cocktails, while those purchasing

Four Lokos are paying \$3. The distinction being drawn by the press and politicians between the cruder, cheaper substance and the more refined and cultured one, is reminiscent of the double standard applied to crack and cocaine, which has repugnant racial and class implications.

The Espresso Martini offers the exact same thing as Four Loko, but politicians and the press would never rally against Espresso Martinis. Surely, our collective cultural understandings would assure us, people who drink "Martinis" could never pose a threat to the status-quo - their ranks comprise the status-quo (despite the fact that "espresso martini" is a gigantically widespread misnomer, as is every other "blank'-Martini;" the word "Martini" refers to one particular mix of ingredients, 7 parts gin to 1 part dry vermouth).

When all the drinks are on the table, there are little to no differences to be observed in the effects. Yet Four Loko embodies, in the eyes of politicians and the media, a frightening lapse of control.

But the truth, the real evil behind Four Loko, is not its contents, but its degradation of a potentially wonderful and intellectually stimulating activity with a rich trans-national and multicultural history. Alcohol consumption reaches across all cultures, races, ethnicities, social classes and nationalities (with the exception of certain Islamic nations).

The use of alcohol is one of humankind's most shared and widespread characteristics, almost approaching basic bodily functions in its universality. Consequently, we are offered an almost endless multiplicity of culturally engaging means of consumption. From crude Vietnamese rice wine, to South African beer, to Dom Perignon, culturally engaging alcoholic beverages run the gamut in availability and price.

Despite the potentially culturally enriching experience that we might undertake in drinking, young people swarm to a sickly sweet and obnoxiously intoxicating, cheap, canned, energy drink. Four Loko, like Walmart or McDonalds, offers you the illusion of participating in something real, like shopping or eating, but instead gives you an obscene substitute, which leaves you queasy and reeling.

Those who lament the fall of Four Loko need only progress and forge their own mixological canon. The world of drinking is an exciting one, and Four Loko is an abomination of something that is meant to be fulfilling and curiosity-spurring. If you treat alcohol with respect and put the time and energy into making your own drink, that drink will reward you tenfold. Four Loko is gone, but you are left with much more as a result: you have your imaginations and your innate drive to experience alternative states of consciousness, and no one can take that away from you.

*Brian Connor is a senior American studies major from Brooklyn who spends his summer nights at Siro's.*



#1.2006036:1598411937.jpg

Four Loko

The Skidmore News







## Senate approves controversial funding for travel

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, SGA Senate approved a supplement for students hoping to attend a medical aid program in Honduras during spring break.

Kelsea Sanderfur '13 and Leela Chandrasekar '12 requested a \$1,760 supplemental for their trip with the VIDA.

This program is designed for pre-medical students, although no medical experience is necessary. The students stay in hospital dormitories and provide simple medical services at the understaffed facilities.

The students have the support of Skidmore's Responsible Citizens Task Force.

"The services we're providing there are for general public health, but the education is a two-way street. We'll be learning there, too. It's important and relevant for the Skidmore community because we can come back and teach the campus what we learned, and, if they're interested, how they can do the same," Chandrasekar said.

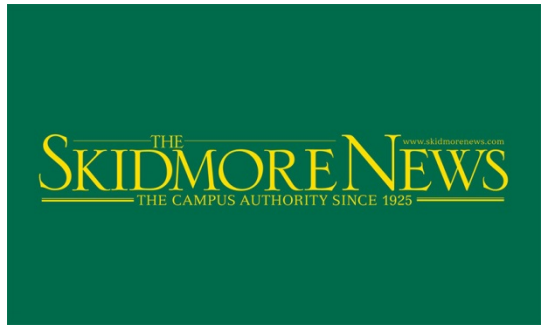
Many senators expressed concern because of the large amount of money the students requested from a relatively small group.

Their primary concern was larger groups who may want to do similar trips, but would no longer have the funds to do so. Senators also questioned whether such a small group would be able to represent Skidmore effectively abroad.

"It's about experiencing something we can't have here," Chandrasekar said. "It's about learning about global health care, a very pertinent issue today. It's taken us several years for this to gain support; we're traveling as individuals, but we're representing the community."

"What sets you guys apart is that you're here applying. Lots of kids on this campus want to save the world, but you've taken the steps to do it," Senator Dan Demartini '11 said.

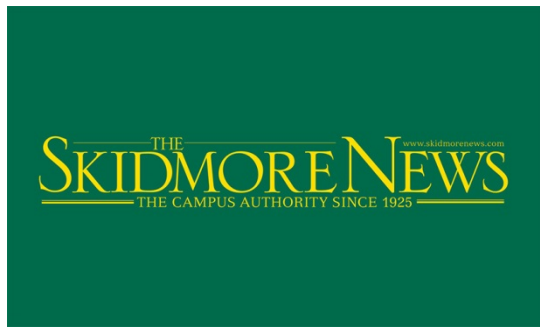
The supplemental was passed with 24 yays and seven nays. After the students return from Honduras they will give a presentation on their trip and provide information on potential future travels.



*In other news:*

Senate approved a \$1,850 supplemental for Bicycles Against Poverty to cover travel expenses and renting bikes.

Any students wishing to give suggestions for this year's Fun Day are welcome to attend an open meeting on Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. in Ladd 106.



## **FYE extension in the works**

College considers more focused sophomore year experience

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

The Office of Residential Life is collaborating with the First Year Experience and representatives from Student Affairs to create a program that combines critical aspects of sophomore-year academic and social life to make the transition out of FYE more gradual.

The program, which is in its nascent stages and does not yet have a formal title, is slated to debut in fall 2013.

Motivation for creating a sophomore-centric program came from a common opinion that sophomores lack the type of institutionalized direction associated with other class years.

For first-years, everything is new and exciting and they have FYE. Juniors are usually focused on going abroad, and seniors have graduation and careers to prepare for. Sophomores are often left thinking, 'Well, what do I do?' said Don Hastings, director of Residential Life and associate dean of student affairs.

Hastings is working closely with Associate Director of Residential Life Ann Marie Przywara, Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun, Director of the First Year Experience Beau Breslin, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Advising Corey Freeman-Gallant and Frank Cabrera '11, a senior who is writing his thesis on sophomore-centric programing.

Very few details of the potential program have been planned. The residential component, however, is more concrete.

The new slope-side apartments will be instrumental in combining the academic and social aspects of the sophomore year experience, Hastings said.

The slope-side apartments, part of the \$42 million Scribner Village Replacement Project, are tentatively slated to be finished in fall 2012. The two new apartment buildings will each house 56 students, separated into five-person apartments.

The five occupancy apartments, according to Hastings, can serve as a residential setting for students who wish to continue their FYE studies.

For example, if five students from an FYE seminar really enjoyed their topic and want to delve deeper, maybe they could apply for an apartment together, similar to the old system of themed housing, Hastings said.

Themed housing, which was phased out in 2005 when FYE was established, offered students the opportunity to apply for houses, suites and residence hall floors with specific themes. Wait and Wiecking Halls hosted honors floors, and houses in Scribner included gourmet cooking and multicultural themes.

Like the themed houses, FYE extension houses would likely be set up through an application process. Student applications would be reviewed by a committee before being approved for continued study and housing.

It has not yet been determined if students approved for continued FYE studies will be given preference in housing selection, or how class credits would be appropriated.

Some students do not feel the lack of direction during sophomore year is a problem. "I thought it was a good break. A lot of the application process for going abroad junior year happens when you're a sophomore, so it's good to have the free time," Katie Humphreys '12 said.

Current sophomores said a more structured year could help with selecting a major. "You're given a lot of freedom during sophomore year, but when it comes time to declare a major, the lack of structure becomes a problem," Dylan Lustrin '13 said.

Being forced to declare a major after a year without guidance makes the selection process complicated and stressful, Lustrin said.

The continued FYE studies would be completely optional for sophomores. If students are uninterested in continuing their seminar topics, or do not believe they need a more structured sophomore year, they will not be obligated to participate.

It would be much like the Survivor Series programs we run for first-year students. We think they're a good idea, but nothing is mandatory, Hastings said.

Residential Life is seeking more ideas for the new program. Any suggestions can be e-mailed to Hastings (dhasting@skidmore.edu) or Przywara (aprzwara@skidmore.edu).

There have only been two formal meetings, but there has been interest and a positive response so far. We're still working out all of the details, Hastings said.

#1.2006034:3911285619.JPG ResLife

Residential Life is working to integrate the social and academic aspects of sophomore year.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



## Office of Residential Life continues de-tripling process

By Rebecca Orbach & Pat Klimaszewski, Co-Editor-in-Chief & Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

The Office of Residential Life is continuing to de-triple first-year students in response to the over-enrollment of the class of 2014.

In August there were 184 triples, in January 156 and 108 as of Feb 17.

Residential Life is encouraging upperclassmen that are living in the dorms to move to Scribner Village, Northwoods Apartments or off-campus housing to make room for the First Year Experience London students and first-years who were previously living in triples.

All first-year students who spent their fall semester in London are currently being housed in single occupancy dorm rooms.

Enrolled students who were off-campus in the fall entered the housing system as "student studying off-campus," and were entered into the same algorithm as returning study-abroad participants.

Students in this housing category are typically juniors and are given preference for single rooms.

This year's room selection process is different than that of previous year's.

In the past, an e-mail was sent to students in triples asking if they wanted to be de-tripled.

This year, that e-mail was not sent and, instead, students were expected to confront Residential Life if they wanted to be de-tripled.

This change aimed to focus de-tripling efforts toward rooms with the most severe housing complaints, such as irreconcilable differences among roommates.

Many first-years are uncomfortable with living in triples, but it is impossible to accommodate every student's desire to live in a single or double room.

To alleviate space issues in triples, Residential Life suggests utilizing other spaces on campus such as the additional study rooms in the residence halls and the new game room in Case Center.

Next year will be a very similar situation with triples, said Associate Director of Residential Life Ann Marie Przywara.



## **Solomon presents terror theory at Ramsey lecture**

By Miles Mattison & Maximilian Ehrman, Business Manager & Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

On Tuesday Feb. 15, the 12th annual Jon Ramsey Honors Forum Lecture was held in Gannett Auditorium.

Professor Sheldon Solomon from the Psychology Department gave a lecture on his vocation titled, "The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness."

Gannett was at maximum capacity and a live video feed of Solomon's lecture was transmitted for viewers in Davis Auditorium.

Director of the Honors Forum and Mathematics Professor David Vella welcomed Solomon to the stage after speaking briefly about Jon Ramsey, whom the lecture is named after.

Solomon's lecture was a synopsis of his Terror Management Theory, which he began to develop during his years in graduate school.

Terror Management Theory seeks to explain the prevailing travesties experienced by humans since the beginning of recorded culture.

"The theory was sparked by the harsh realization that humanity's recorded history is plagued with genocide, tragedy and evil," Solomon said.

One unique feature of humans, according to Solomon, is that we are self-aware.

As a result of this self-awareness, humans are also conscious of an imminent mortality, which creates an incredible anxiety, Solomon said.

Solomon said culture is a human construct serving a death-denying function to deal with this anxiety.

When two people from different cultures meet and the thought of death is present, hostility is projected as a defense mechanism against the prevailing anxiety. These are the logistics of Terror Management Theory, Solomon said.

At the lecture, Solomon discussed an experiment he conducted during the 2004 election season.

Solomon separated registered voters from Rutgers University into a control and a manipulated group.

The control group read an article about a painful experience, while the manipulated group read an article featuring death.

Next, the voters were anonymously asked who they would vote for in the upcoming presidential elections.

The control group favored John Kerry's less aggressive war policies 4 - 1.

The manipulated group favored George Bush's more aggressive war policies 3 - 1.

The results confirmed Solomon's theory that when made aware of death, humans project hostility on to other cultures to suppress the anxiety of their own imminent mortality.

After the lecture, Solomon opted out of an audience to speaker question-and-answer session.

Instead, he met the audience for refreshments outside Gannett Auditorium to personally address any questions.

Honor Certificates were also distributed to the first-year High Honors and Honors.





## Anonymous confession board returns

By Sandy Zhang, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

The popular Skidmore Anonymous Confession Board (ACB) has been resurrected by a group of anonymous students. This group is unaffiliated with SkidmoreUnofficial.com, creator of the original ACB.

In a September 2008 post announcing its arrival, the executive editor of SkidmoreUnofficial expressed hope that the ACB would allow students "to participate in some honest-to-goodness anonymous campus focused discussion." By October 2010, these hopes were dashed and replaced with feelings of hatred and disgust toward the ACB.

The executive editor subsequently took down the ACB. In an interview with the executive editor, the board was described as "always something that had kind of been mean-spirited and pretty bad. It was just awful, the enmity and inanity of the conversations people would have. The Missed Connections thread was the most frustrating thing for me to watch in the world. In the end it was a personal decision: I took it down because I had watched it turn into this weird, festering mass of enmity and sentimentality and I didn't really want anything to do with that. It would be myopic for me to call it a success."

In response to the demise of the original ACB, a new one has been created. Hosted at SkidmoreACB.com, the new ACB features a green and white interface and, same as its predecessor, allows anyone to post anything anonymously.

In the first post, titled Rules & FAQ, the creators reveal a set of rules for the board. They also attempt to set a tone for the nature of future discussions on the board. The creators emphasize their hopes for minimal moderation, respect, the importance to reflect before posting and that bias against any groups or person will not be tolerated. The administrators of this site could not be reached for comment.

Some topics on the new ACB resemble those of the old: Missed Connections, Crushes and Things You Would Like to Say to People But Know Better. Other topics reflect current events, such as the planned coffee shop in Scribner Library, the past snow day and Skidmore's new e-mail hosted client. There are also threads on how to get to the roof of Case and where different social groups sit in the Dining Hall.

The mood of the discussions has not yet turned malicious or hateful. Conversely there has been encouragement and humor among the conversations on the board. One thread was dedicated to



helping students set up the new e-mail host on their phones. Another was to garner level of interest for an on-campus fencing club.

However, hints of hostility remain. Under the topic Things You Would Like to Say to People But Know Better, a post states, "None of your 'friends' actually like you. You are a horrible, selfish, immature person. It used to bother me until I realized that you are going no where..." Another post (and subsequent posts in response), laments the sizeable presence of sweatpants on campus.

Upon discovering the new ACB, the executive editor of SkidmoreUnofficial said, "It isn't like I'm staying up at night worrying about this new ACB but I don't think people realize just how nasty and silly the whole thing is. I kept ours running on the site because it brought in traffic and I was vain but at a certain point waking up in the morning and deleting comments an anonymous stranger made about the new hairstyle of another anonymous stranger became an incredibly disheartening chore."

The return of the Anonymous Confession Board shows that our community has grown to need a forum for anonymous outlet and discussion. How we approach and engage this forum is up to us.

## De-stress a hectic spring semester

By Mariel Kennedy, Feature Editor

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Even though we are a mere month into the spring semester, I am completely overwhelmed with massive amounts of work and am shamelessly behind in several of my classes.

Now I understand that going to a prestigious college entails some hard work and dedication. However, I get flustered that while I am in the library writing until my fingertips bleed and reading until my eyes pop from their weary sockets, my friends are in their pajamas watching entire seasons of "Gossip Girl" and going shopping.

Yes, I am completely jealous. I know I am not the only person here who is working like a dog.

Slowly ascending a mountain of books is hard enough as it is, but adding to it the bitter cold, chapped lips and grayness of an upstate New York winter is sadistic.

Class related stress and seasonal depression have got me wound up. I am, on my best day, overly anxious and somewhat neurotic, so my current stress level is softly killing me. If you get stressed as easily as I do, I want to help.

Do not just binge-drink your weekends away to relax - it is too many calories and no one wants to have to hold your hair back at the end of a hard night. Rather, it is time to find a good way to reduce stress.

I like to go to the gym when I get too stressed. I would usually suggest a nice, long run outside but it is cold and icy.

If you are not one for treadmills and exercise bikes, take one of the free spring fitness classes that are being offered weekly from February 14 through May 1. After all, IT'S FREE.

Classes are diverse and range from water aerobics to yoga and Pilates to kickboxing. Classes are offered on weekdays and weekends and are scheduled both during the afternoon and at night.

Interested students should sign up a week in advance at the front desk of Williamson Sports Center. Walk-ins are welcome provided that there is space. Spots are limited.

You can also take a yoga class. I religiously took weekly yoga classes for two years and wish I had the time to fit it in more often during the semester.

Conveniently, Skidmore offers Yoga Club each semester. Sessions are held Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the gym, Saturdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the dance studio and Sundays from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in the dance studio. Classes cost \$3 per class or \$35 for the entire semester.

Not interested in athletics or aerobics? Meditate. Though Skidmore tends to be lacking in religious practitioners, meditation (a large part of yoga) is always good for your body and mind.

I am not big into a lot of hippy-dippy, new age B.S., but meditation is actually really relaxing. Sometimes it is nice to just completely clear your head and forget everything.

Align your chakras weekly at Monday night meditation. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life offers meditation opportunities every Monday from 7:30 to 8 p.m. in Wilson Chapel.

My favorite method of relaxation is retail therapy. Bad days for me somehow always translate to a new pair of heels and that dress that I really cannot afford but want to wear out this weekend.

Downtown Saratoga Springs has a plethora of great places to spend money that you do not have.

I like to go to Speck, a cute little boutique next door to Starbucks. The owner is the sweetest woman imaginable and she gives a discount to Skidmore students. No matter how hard I try, I can never resist that shop.

If you are into this sort of thing, partake in Saratoga Spring's renowned spas. They are pricey but worth it.

Every time my parents find a need to come up and visit me, my mom (who likes to pretend to be a character in a Fitzgerald novel) will put on her poshest accent and go to the Roosevelt Spa and Mineral Baths and 'take in the waters.'

I sometimes manage to weasel myself into this trip and get a massage. The spa offers a wide range of services from massages to soaks to facials and other beauty treatments. They also offer really good deals at this time of year when Saratoga Springs is in its off-season.

## Student offers organic farming trip over break

By Bradley Morris, Staff Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Students from Skidmore College will soon volunteer at nearby organic farms during spring break from March 11 to March 18.

This farming program was set up by first-year student Anna Graves.

Most of the farming activities will occur in the morning. Organic farming is the main focus of the program but there will be other activities throughout the day.

Besides farming, the program offers skills such as cheesemaking with professional cheesemakers, learning yoga, working on nature trails, maple sugaring and taking tree sap and turning it into maple syrup.

Afternoons are different traditional skills for the mind and body, Graves said.

The farm Graves and her volunteers will be volunteering at is named "Full and By" in Essex, New York.

The deadline for filling out an application was on Friday, Feb. 11, but, by contacting Graves, it is still possible to get information about the trip.

The process for setting up this trip took a large amount of planning on Graves' part.

"I had to call a lot of people and talk to [cheesemakers]. [Right now I'm] trying to negotiate prices and services," Graves said.

Nine students confirmed they will be part of the trip and Graves said she has 25 applicants as of Thursday, Feb. 10.

Current pricing for the trip is \$250 per student along with a suggested donation, not only to help pay for the outing, but also to simply help out the farm. Graves said she is hoping to get some grant money to help pay for this trip and help out the farms.

Graves' inspiration to set up this trip came from her own interest in and experience at working on farms. Her interest in farming started about eight years ago after learning about the importance it has on our everyday lives.

"I worked on an organic farm in 2009. I was inspired to get people to work on farms. Organic farms need more people to work. They need free labor and that's essentially what [we're] giving to them," Graves said.

Her interest in farming made her content to see the amount of people who wanted to get involved with the local organic farm, after receiving all the applications.

"I'm amazed at how many people are interested. It is really important to foster a farm community here on campus," she said.

"It's great the school has a program like this to help people learn about how to grow their own food."

Graves' goal is to have students learn more about agriculture.

She wants every person to become more aware of his or her decisions about food, to have less of a dependence on technology and non-renewable resources and to gain a more sustainable lifestyle.

Graves hopes to see students bring these lessons back to campus after break and influence others to take interest in supporting their local farms.

"[I want them to] open their eyes to a different way of living...[and] make this a part of their lives and spread this to others," Graves said.

*Interested students should contact Anna Graves at [agraves@skidmore.edu](mailto:agraves@skidmore.edu) as soon as possible.*

## Overcome your S.A.D.ness

By Jake Rose, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Feeling S.A.D.? Have the winter blues? Lack of sunlight putting you down?

Depending on how severe and persistent your blues are, it might be better termed "seasonal affective disorder" (S.A.D.).

S.A.D. is recognized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as a possible indication of major depression.

To qualify as having S.A.D., you must experience depressive episodes habitually and exclusively in the winter months.

Symptoms usually take the form of oversleeping, overeating, lack of energy and withdrawal from social situations.

As the intensity of S.A.D. is directly related to weather, there are more reported cases in the northern states than in the southern ones.

One has to wonder if this effect can be seen throughout the college dorms and in those students who have been spending noticeably more time in the dining hall.

Here in snowy Saratoga it can be too easy to feel depressed because of the recent weather. The days are short, the sunlight is minimal and the temperatures aspire to be double digits.

Remember when it was -27 degrees? We were all a little sad about that.

These days it can even be hard to motivate yourself to walk from one building to the next.

Here is a quick do-it-yourself guide to staying happy in the midst of a grey winter.

First, equip your dorm room with a few winter survival essentials: tea, hot chocolate, real chocolate and appropriate indoor lighting.

Next, invite friends over to talk about how cold it is outside.

Not cured yet? Did you eat the chocolate?

Alright, maybe that was an overly simple solution. After all, S.A.D. is a real kind of depression that cannot be fixed by warm beverages and sweets alone.

Doctors suggest medicating with antidepressants, light therapy and exercise.

To get a better sense of how Skidmore students stay cheery during these cold months, I talked to Peter Johnston '14 and L.J. Combs '14.

"When it starts getting darker out earlier, I don't get seriously depressed, but I get more tired," Johnston said.

"I hang out with friends more, and getting exercise definitely helps. I can't go outside and play ultimate [Frisbee] or basketball, but it's good to run for half an hour. I still have a body and I'm not a hermit."

When asked what advice he would give to other students, Johnston replied, "Get out there and do something! Make an event for the day, even if it isn't something big or important. It could be taking a walk or watching a movie, but make time for it and hang out with friends."



## Editorial

### Ethnic diversity ends, and begins, with admissions

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

After a series of recent campus discussions, we are in consensus that the college has a diversity "crisis" - that we more or less have a racially homogenous student body.

From the moment we first step on campus, we can plainly see the college student body is predominately white.

This "crisis" is in part a result of our college's admissions process and the open house tours that segregate students of color from the rest of the incoming first-year class.

An obvious way to increase diversity on campus would be to simply admit more students of color into the college, but the solution is more complicated than this...

Our college admissions, unlike other peer schools like Hamilton College and Vassar College, considers whether a student can afford tuition as a part of his or her admission into the school; our college operates under "need-sensitive" admission, as opposed to "need-blind" admission.

For example, when two prospective students with the same racial backgrounds, test scores, grades and extracurriculars apply to Skidmore, the student who requests less financial aid will more likely be accepted.

This would seemingly yield a socioeconomically homogenous student body. However, according to Time Magazine's 2009 article on our admissions process, students of color "disproportionately apply for financial aid," so our admissions office accepts mostly non-minority students.

This is the unfortunate reality of our college's diversity, or lack thereof.

Ideally, Skidmore would have need-blind admissions; however, our endowment is not large enough to afford this luxury.

The college's endowment must double or triple before admissions can afford to offer need-blind admissions. Unfortunately, by the time this happens we all will have graduated. In the meantime, though, the college should focus on integrating incoming students of all races. The "Discovery Tour" in particular segregates incoming students.



Once prospective students of color are accepted, admissions invites them to the Discovery Tour, specifically for ALANA students (African American, Latino, Asian American and Native American).

On the tour, prospective students spend time almost exclusively with ALANA admissions officers, ALANA students, ALANA staff and ALANA faculty.

At the end of the Discovery Tour, ALANA students join other, mostly non-minority students, at an open house. When this ends, they are grouped back together in their ALANA group.

The Discovery Tour does not promote diversity at the college, but rather segregates students on our campus.

The first visit to college is a critical time to make new friends and relationships. We make some of our best friends at these admissions events. Separating the incoming and accepted students into groups based on race during the first visits to school is detrimental to the future diversity of campus.

We understand the intent of the Discovery Tour is to promote diversity, but diversity programs are useless unless attended by a heterogeneous group. Diversity is not defined solely by the percentage of racially diverse students on campus, but rather the degree to which students of different backgrounds interact with each other.

And these different backgrounds do not refer solely to race. Religious, intellectual, sexual and cultural diversity are of equal importance.

Thus, we propose a different type of diversity for admissions open houses and tours: academic diversity.

Students who are interested in specific disciplines and studies can go on unique tours with students who have similar interests. Prospective art students can visit the Tang Teaching and Art Museum, galleries downtown and Saisselin Art Building with primarily art students. Prospective government students can speak with Professor Beau Breslin, tour city hall and learn about government classes. The possibilities are truly limitless...

The Discovery Tour sets a bad precedent for students when they first enter this college - that students of color are separated from the rest of the student body. By eliminating this well-intentioned program, we can send a clear message to incoming students that this college promotes and fosters diversity - not just ethnic, but intellectual, sexual, etc.

Homogeneity and uniformity are antithetical to creativity, therefore if we want to live our ubiquitous college motto, we must diversify.

## What to do after hooking up with a good friend

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

As schoolwork begins to pick up again, we are reminded of our tired eyes and - after Valentine's Day - our tired hearts.

When stress begins to consume your soul and seems to be all you ever talk about, be reminded of the little things that add a bit of color to your aura.

Perhaps it was a rant about your loathing the opposite sex on Valentine's Day. Maybe you treated yourself to a red velvet cupcake just because a sweet is more dependable than a sweetie.

Even though we are seriously lacking the weather of Miami, utilize your vices to get through this slump-hump time of the year.

Be reminded: no one likes a person that complains more than he or she does - so please keep your woes and whines at a minimum. Your friends will thank you.

*Dear C.,*

*I hooked up with one of my good guy friends a few weeks ago. I feel as unsure about it as I'm sure he does. What would be the next step in figuring out whether we should rekindle our flame or toss it in the fire pit?*

*Dazed and Confused*

Dear Dazed and Confused,

Here is a thought: were there sparks at first sight or was this hook-up as temporary as a bonfire?

Has there always been a weird sexual attraction or an unmistakable chemistry between you two that has always been denied?

I hate to break the ice, but this could potentially be your ideal mate. I know it might be hard to admit it at first but take this time to recognize if you miss hanging out with him or you feel like encounters have an awkward air.

Whether it is yes or no, you should act like any other human being and talk to him. Acknowledge him and do not be a wussy, pussy. Meow (sorry, had to do it).

Do not blow away the embers before they become a flame. How do you know he feels weird about it?

Unless he has not been cracking his same lame jokes or he is acting like a different person, he is not the one who is unsure - it is all you.

Ask yourself why you hooked up in the first place.

Was it just the casual horn or was it something deeper?

Answering this question might help in your next course of action. Remember: he probably feels just as weird about everything. Give him some credit and throw him a log.

Act as normal as possible and try to warm up to the idea that it did not happen; I know it sounds weird but it works for me.

Hooking up with friends can make for awkward tension, but it does not always have to be that way - who knows, maybe this friction will ignite something very hot.

## Death and the insignificant man

### Stranger Than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Ivan Turgenev, in the tradition of the idolized Russian literary minds (Tolstoy, Gorky, Dostoevsky), wrote stories dealing with the soul.

His stories are often personal, attempting to connect his characters with feelings of love and happiness. Often his characters are unable to reach the great goal of happiness.

They are miserable beings directed through life by a clear mission in front of them: the love of a woman, a dedication to politics, etc

But even as the story concludes they are unable to realize their true goals.

Turgenev's novella "The Diary of the Superfluous Man" tells the story of a poor and meek clerk living in Russia. In the very first pages he informs readers that he is to die shortly.

The following story is his determination to make an impact on earth. He falls in love with a beautiful woman, embarrasses himself by ruining her and her fiancé and then dies alone as she dances away with another man.

The narrator is named Chulkaturin. He is given approximately a month to live.

As I have never been in a position where a doctor has given me a limited sentence on my life, I, at first, did not know how to approach the work. It seems to me that a two-week deadline would, ultimately, be liberating, as there would be little repercussions for any actions that you would take.

Chulkaturin does not seem to be afraid of death. He has already declared himself the "superfluous man," a title that provokes the image of a man who walks, lives and acts without anybody to notice him. He is not evil nor kind, not brilliant nor dull, not insistent nor weak - he is useless, a nothing, a leaf floating in the wind.

As the story unfolds, we meet Chulkaturin's love interest: a young girl named Liza.

Liza - as any girl would act toward a superfluous man - likes him enough to allow him to talk to her but has no real opinion on the matter. She is already in love with a dashing prince who has come to win her over.

Like a man who has been terrorized by a demented spirit, Chulkaturin overanalyzes every single movement and conversation detail he has with the lovely Liza until he is driven crazy. He knows in his heart she has no affection toward him but he is unable to accept this fact.

Is it true love he feels for the girl? Or is he simply a man driven crazy by a beautiful girl willing to talk to him? "Whenever I happened to be alone with her, my tongue would suddenly quit working, as if it were frozen stiff and both of us would sit there in silence waiting for a third party to come along," Chulkaturin states.

The reader is able to see that Turgenev's mission in plotting the romantic nature of Chulkaturin toward Liza is intended to show his lust toward the female rather than his love.

He is a man driven to his final legs with no place to turn. He is desperate for any affection thrown his way.

In a fit of undashing stupidity he challenges the prince to a duel. The prince accepts. Nobody dies; the prince is only slightly injured and chooses not to fire at Chulkaturin.

The disrespect of not firing shows the indifference people have toward his character - he is worth so little that it is more honorable not to slay him. With the duel he has succeeded in destroying the relationship between Liza and himself.

Oh, if you only knew how repulsive that Chulkaturin is to me, Liza proclaims.

He dies soon after.

The novella is expertly written and is one of the saddest pieces I have encountered.

Chulkaturin does not lead a happy life - the only happiness he acquires is the false happiness of lust over a girl whose only redeeming quality is her outward beauty.

## Local eatery serves French cuisine

By Erin Dillon, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Ravenous is the one and only crêperie in Saratoga Springs. Do not go to this local eatery expecting a run-of-the-mill French flapjack. Rather, prepare for a unique experience that will fulfill your wildest crêpe dreams.

The restaurant is family-run and has been open and thriving for more than a decade. Ravenous has definitely won over the crêpe-lovers of Saratoga. The place is hoppin' at all hours, especially weekend brunch.

Ravenous is open for lunch and dinner and for brunch on the weekends. Currently hours are 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, but check out the Ravenous Facebook page for updates.

At 21 Phila Street, it is easy to overlook the small and subtle Ravenous. But do not just walk by. A friendly and sweet-smelling environment waits right inside. Customers are seated quickly and provided with an attentive wait staff. The kitchen is partially open, so while you wait for your food the crêpe masters can wow you with their skills.

Ravenous offers a variety of both savory and sweet crêpes along with its famed pommes frites. After reading the menu, it is clear that Ravenous tries to use organic and local products whenever possible. Many of the savory crêpes come with an organic salad, and the sweet crêpes are served with a homemade whipped cream.

The varied menu makes Ravenous a great place for any casual occasion. I visited twice: once for a dinner date and again for brunch with the girls.

For dinner, I ordered the Ratatouille crêpe along with pommes frites. The filling of eggplant, sweet peppers, zucchini, yellow squash, fresh basil and Herbs de Provence was absolutely delicious, but more delectable was the crêpe itself. The chefs at Ravenous have mastered making a crêpe the star of the meal. The organic side salad was simple but also very good.

Now, do not get thrown off by all this 'French-sounding' stuff. Ravenous has crêpes with names like Taj Mahal and Chili Con Crêpe. Quite global!

Whether it is dessert or breakfast on your mind, sweet crêpes by Ravenous are sure to satisfy. An array of fillings, including berries, bananas, lemon curd and chocolate-hazelnut spread, make for crêpes more interesting than the ones you made in eighth grade home economics.

For Saturday brunch I had the Merry Berry crêpe, which is filled with raspberries, strawberries and blueberries. It was classic and certainly hit the spot. I also ordered organic apple juice. Yum!

Each meal I ate at Ravenous was fresh, quick and very tasty. The prices are not too high with most dishes costing between \$6 and \$13. And Ravenous has plenty of options for the vegetarian folks out there.

#1.2006059:4207157032.JPG Ravenous

Ravenous

Merry Berry Crepe

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News





## Put a new spin on your Valentine's chocolates

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Oh...Valentine's Day. You either love it or you hate it.

Some people delight in wearing every item of pink and red clothing they own and parading around with candy and cards and gushing about their hunky boyfriends.

Some people feel Valentine's Day is like rubbing salt into a wound if they are not currently glued to the hip of their very own sweeties.

I say leave all that to Hallmark. Personally, any holiday that centers around flowers, chocolate, homemade cards and sweet, sweet love is fine by me.

I used to make individual homemade valentines for every kid in my class when I was little. I would spend hours making each one individualized.

I was never a fan of those punch-out cards with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles wishing you a 'COWABUNGA VALENTINES!' I like a little personal touch.

I was short on heart stickers this year, so I decided to make edible valentines.

What better way to say, "I love you" than with sugar, butter and a whole lot of chocolate?

These little guys were incredibly easy to make and have a nice presentation value.

They look like candies and then - SURPRISE! - they have a fudgy brownie base. They can also be personalized, sprinkled and dolled up to your heart's delight.

So forget about all the baggage that comes along with Valentine's Day.

Whether you have a special someone or not, you can spread some love.

Love yourself. Love your friends. Love these brownie bites.

For more adventures in baking, visit me at [asprinkleintime.wordpress.com](http://asprinkleintime.wordpress.com).

## **V-Day Brownie Bites**

(adapted from mybakingaddiction.com)

Makes 30 bites

### *Ingredients:*

1/2 cup butter, melted

1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa

1/2 pound of candy wafers (available at AC Moore)

Decorations as desired

### *Directions*

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Line mini muffin tin with mini liners.
3. In a medium bowl combine melted butter and cocoa and stir until cocoa is dissolved.
4. Add sugar and mix well.
5. Add eggs one at a time and stir until well combined.
6. Stir in vanilla, flour and salt until you no longer see any flour (do not over-mix).
7. Spoon into muffin tin, filling 1/2 to 3/4 of the way. Bake for 13 to 15 minutes. Remove from pan and let cool.
8. Melt candy wafers according to the package instructions. Using a spoon or plastic squeeze bottle, fill the tops of the brownie bites with the melted chocolate.
9. Decorate immediately with sprinkles or other toppings.

#1.2006057:926114648.jpg V-Day Brownie Bites

V-Day Brownie Bites

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News



## Anticipation of All-Star's 60th Annual

By Evan Owen, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

This coming weekend marks the 60th playing of the NBA all-star game in Los Angeles - a star studded weekend with two games and many other head-to-head events such as slam dunk and three point contests. The highlight of the weekend is sure to be the actual all-star game itself, which takes place on Sunday, but other events are expected to draw some attention as well.

For readers who aren't NBA savvy, all-star weekend is just what it sounds like: a gathering of the league's best players for a trick and pony show of gargantuan men wielding basketballs. There are two games and four main contests. The first game is played on Friday and is a Rookies vs. Sophomore game where teams of rookies and second-year players square off to showcase the league's up and coming stars.

The second game is played on Sunday and is the regular all-star game: a battle between the best of the Eastern and Western conferences. The starting rosters for each side are relatively unsurprising.

The East's starters include LeBron James and Dwyane Wade from the Miami Heat, Derrick Rose from Chicago, Dwight Howard from Orlando and Amar'e Stoudemire from New York.

The West's starters are Kobe Bryant from L.A. (of course), Kevin Durant from Oklahoma, Carmelo Anthony from Denver (who might be playing in New York soon, fingers crossed), Chris Paul from New Orleans and Kevin Love from Minnesota who replaces Houston's Yao Ming who has been out for most of the season.

Each team also has a deep bench with powerful players from all over the country, but there are too many to list and the focus of the game will mostly be on the starters.

As for predicting the outcome of the game, I would have to side with the East this year. All of the East's starters have been having spectacular seasons, even with James and Stoudemire adjusting to new teams. The players' respective teams (including the bench players) are all from the top six teams in the East, meaning that the players are doing well both individually and with their teams.

The West's players are having decent seasons, but not nearly as good as their Eastern counterparts. Bryant and the reigning league champs have been sliding lately and many of the players' teams are in



the bottom half of the conference and, in Kevin Love's case, even in last place. All signs point toward the East winning again this year.

On Saturday, there are four main contests, which include: A shooting contest, a ball skills contest, a three-point shooting contest and, arguably the most famous and intriguing, a dunk contest. I usually only watch the latter two events, the three-point and dunk contest. This year, both of these contests have a bit of buzz about them.

Regarding the three-point contest, last week Boston Celtic's player Ray Allen passed former Indiana Pacer's star, Reggie Miller, for the most three pointers made in a career at 2560. He will be entering this year's contest as the king of 3's, and there will be a lot of focus and pressure on him. As for the dunk contest, rookie superstar for the L.A. Clippers, Blake Griffin, will be participating in his first dunk contest and first all star game as a reserve. He has dazzled the league with spectacular dunks throughout the first half of the season, dunking over and making fools of high caliber players throughout the country. Griffin is surely a reason to watch the dunk contest and will very likely be the star this year and for many years to come.

All-star weekend marks the halfway point in the NBA season, and fans can look forward to the rest of the season just about as much as the weekend itself. After this weekend's culmination of stars and spectacle, teams start to buckle down and get serious for late season pushes to the playoffs. We all have an exciting weekend (and rest of the season for that matter) to look forward to.

*Evan Owen is a first-year student from New York City who speaks English, Spanish, Hebrew and Mandarin, but enjoys writing about sports in English.*

## Hip-hop evolves to alternative form

### Hip-Hop Weekly

By Jenna Postler, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Hip-hop is, and forever will be, an evolving genre. Since its conception, the genre has centered around a sound that is focused on hard beats and rhymes.

Starting with artists like RUN-DMC and continuing through the period where gangster rap was mainstream, an emphasis was placed on not only production and lyrical quality, but also on rap as the genre of the oppressed and downtrodden.

Artists highlighted their social upbringing, seedy neighborhoods and illicit activities through lyrics that were raw and uncensored. Beats behind the lyrics in these forms of conventional rap are heavy and loud, often devoid of complexity.

Recently the genre has seen a shift into a new type of rap categorized as alternative hip-hop.

This deviation of hip-hop has been quite controversial, as its emphasis lies not in hard beats and rhymes, but in the melding of other genres and lyrical quality. Therefore, the question is asked, is alternative hip-hop good for the genre as a whole?

There are two schools of thought on the issue. One notes that it is a positive change and the other states that alternative hip-hop is not.

Critics of alternative hip-hop claim that the grimy roots and traditions that hip-hop is comprised of are forgotten through the new genre.

Alternative hip-hop artists may come from backgrounds that are not at all normal in hip-hop nature. Others fear that the alternative divergence will bring in listeners who do not care about the foundations of hip-hop.

Alternative hip-hop has the potential to appeal to more people, as alternative hip-hop audiences often sample other genres and have diverse fan bases.

Supporters may also be trying to steer away from traditional aspects of hip-hop to new hip-hop that is often more lyrically, socially and culturally aware.

Artists new on the alternative hip-hop scene include Little Brother, Das Racist, The Cool Kids and Kid Cudi.

Often unsatisfied with current hip-hop, these artists look toward the genres of indie rock, soul, reggae and folk for inspiration. This inspiration may be translated directly into production samples, featured artists or may come in the form of lyrics.

Alternative hip-hop has certainly helped rap become a more inclusive genre, branching out from its traditions in ways that can be positive.

By defying conventions inherent in traditional hip-hop, alternative artists are blazing a path toward new and uncharted territory, where no subject is off limits.

*Jenna Postler is a sophomore from rural Vt. who knows what's hip (hop) and can be heard from 2-4 a.m. every Friday morning on WSPN 91.1 FM.*





## Student bands defy expectations

### Noteworthy Releases

By Kara Clark, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Student bands can be categorized easily enough; we have our party bands, bands that "just jam" and a couple jazz-influenced groups.

But on Feb. 10 Lively Lucy's show proved that two bands on campus avoid this type of pigeonholing.

Bailiwick and The-Hand-Me-Downs have cemented their presence on campus, a presence they've defined on their own terms, respectively.

The Hand-Me-Downs kicked off the show, immediately inspiring the audience to dance and be at ease.

Lead singer Eli Dreyfus's vivacious energy, matched by the presence of 'The Emily's,' (Emily Barker and Emily Conner-Simmons) the Hand-Me-Downs additional vocalists, created a jubilant atmosphere.

The Hand-Me-Downs boasted a specific song set; Buried Treasure, Friendship and Zombie attacks are often referenced in the band's lyrics.

However, the Hand-Me-Downs did not appear to be infantile. The audience was more than willing to buy into whatever the Hand-Me-Downs chose to discuss in their songs.

Although the band's persona is a carefree one, the Hand-Me-Downs musicians are obviously skilled. The rhythm section of the band (Stephen Yell on Drums and Jake Mazur-Warren on the bass) kept the set steady while Sam Smith and Dreyfus clearly displayed mastery of the guitar.

The Hand-Me-Downs also teamed up with Bailiwick for one song, a cover of Neutral Milk Hotel's "Holland 1945." Both bands on stage together were truly an event, one that both bands clearly enjoyed.

Perhaps the audience thought the surge of energy exuded by the Hand-Me-Downs would be subdued by Bailiwick's acoustic set; this notion quickly vanished as the band began its first song.

The audience could easily forget that this set was unplugged; Bailiwick radiated an active energy that most acoustic bands fail to provide.



Due to the incorporation of three new songs and a seamless set, Bailiwick's portion of the show further legitimized every one of its performances to date, and simultaneously proved to its listeners that Bailiwick will always have something new to offer.

For this show, Bailiwick introduced several new elements to its performance, and further developed others that it had only lightly explored previously.

Bailiwick set provided more group vocal work, including rounds and more complex harmonies, giving violinists Jane Esterquest and Colin Manjoney as much singing opportunity as guitarists Ned Porter and Brett Hartman.

The band also implemented more percussion into its performance, twice calling Yell of the Hand-Me-Downs to the stage for assistance. For one song Ned Porter even produced a Glockenspiel.

By pairing skilled musicianship and atypical style, both bands have created a solid band foundation for themselves.

The Hand-Me-Downs and Bailiwick have set themselves up for success within the college community, or anywhere else they intend to take their music.

#1.2006062:1970569511.JPG Bailiwick

Bailiwick performs at Falstaffs for Lively Lucy's.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News





## Radicals as individuals in 'Night Catches Us'

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

It's black history month, and the film "Night Catches Us" is a stirring tribute to an important segment of black history - the Black Panther movement.

Written and directed by Tanya Hamilton, the film takes an interesting perspective: it follows the struggle of two former Black Panthers, Marcus (Anthony Mackie) and Patricia (Kerry Washington), as they attempt to integrate their tragically radical histories and their current lives in 1970's Philadelphia.

The main Panthers movement has come to an end, but that certainly does not mean that violence and racism have vanished, and the two former extremists find that return to a normal life will be difficult, if possible at all.

Patricia is forced to confront a host of painful memories when Marcus, a former Panther and old comrade of her dead husband's, comes back to town after his unexplained four-year disappearance.

Both have attempted to leave behind the chaos of the early 70s, but to no avail: they end up tangled in a newly kindled romance as well as in a new wave of violent revolt.

Hamilton's script leaves something to be desired - there is very little contextual explanation of the various aspects of the plot. There is even less room for character development. But the two leads, Washington and Mackie, deliver tremendous performances, and the audience is ever aware of their emotional wounds.

The supporting actors delivered solid performances, although their roles are not always clearly defined. The most important supporting character, Jimmy (Amari Cheatom), a young and reckless cousin of Patricia's, surprisingly, serves as the climax of the film.

A political frame surrounds the film: the opening credits are superimposed onto images of Black Power protesters, and blatant political references flood the beginning of the film. Hamilton, however, transcends the realm of politics, turning the film into a moving portrait of two humans.

The politics of Hamilton's film ironically lies in its apolitical nature: what we get is not a film about the Black Panther movement, but a film about individuals, a directorial decision made intentionally.

Hamilton draws attention to this period of black history, with the intention of emphasizing the fact that the people behind the Black Panther movement are people with the same daily struggles as anyone, regardless of race.

Not a lot of movies are made about black people just being people, she explained in a Washington Post interview. "I hope people can see the film and really connect to characters and take away the idea that humanity exists with people of color."

Sure, it would have been interesting to see a film about the Black Panther movement as a whole, but Hamilton gives us quite the opposite: she gives us individual lives in all of their brilliant tragedy.

And she does so without drugging us with a contrived, happy ending to go home with: she leaves us with a harsh, cold reality, with uncertainty and with the knowledge that overcoming past tragedies is, quite simply, really hard.

## **Chestnut Brass Co. performs with humor**

By Dale Obble, Op-Ed Editor

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Five dollars isn't much to ask to see a museum, a comedian or, for that matter, a group of professional musicians.

It's a shame, then, that hardly any students went to see the Chestnut Brass Company, whose show on Feb. 11 in Zankel combined elements from all of the above to make for a uniquely entertaining performance.

The Grammy-winning horn quintet began its show with an exhibition of its huge collection of antique brass instruments.

Some players were recognizable, while others looked like they were meant to be blown from the bow of a Viking warship cruising into battle or a shepherd from a hilltop in the Swiss Alps.

These assumptions weren't too farfetched. Some of the group's historical instruments - most of which had names like 'sacbut' and 'serpent horn' - dated back to the Renaissance.

But for those who were less interested in the musicological parts of the performance and were there to hear some foot-stompingly good music, the Chestnut Brass Company did not fail to deliver.

The group's diverse instrumentation allowed for an equally diverse repertoire of music, including both early and contemporary classical pieces, 19th century American brass band music, and at the end of the chronological journey, the jazz of Duke Ellington.

The Chestnut Brass Company opened their first set with the gospel song "This Little Light of Mine," making the Filene Auditorium feel like a street in New Orleans on a summer day.

Next the group played "Juanita," which was impressive, considering the song was originally intended for a mariachi band. Being a horn quintet didn't make a difference. To recreate the airy tone of Spanish guitars and the warbling vocals of a mariachi singer, the two trumpet players stuck the bells of their horns into the end of the tuba and played, while the tuba player sat back smiling and fiddled with his valves.

It was the quintet's collective enthusiasm and sense of humor in moments such as this one that made the show so engaging.



Both the group's music and its explanations of its history were well seasoned with humor.

For instance: while one trumpet player demonstrated the features of a Baroque trumpet with his grandiose hand gestures and a goofy grin, another snuck to the back of the auditorium, and together they surprised the audience with a surround sound red-faced blare.

It's understandable why not many students wanted to make the long, cold walk to Zankel on a Friday night.

The audience may have consisted mostly of Saratoga Springs' senior crowd - the group that frequents most of the college's great jazz shows - but there wasn't one white New Balance shoe in the house that wasn't energetically tapping out the rhythms that the Chestnut Brass Company had to throw at the audience.

The group put on a fun and truly innovative show, hopefully one of many Zankel events that will see a larger student turnout in the future.

#1.2006065:2113294354.JPGChesnut Brass

The Chesnut Brass Company performs at Zankel.

The Skidmore News







## Student groups open comedy festival

By Michelle Minick, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

On Friday Feb. 11 at the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, the college hosted the 22nd annual National College Comedy Festival.

The college's comedy groups, Ad-Libs, Sketchies and Skidomedey hosted and presented 20 college comedy groups and three professional comedic groups from all over the East Coast.

These groups gathered together to hone their craft, test their best material and perform a variety of uproarious comedic sketches and scenes.

The festival is an annual tradition at the college since its founding in 1990 by alumnus David Miner '91. Miner, a theater major, also started the college's first comedy troupe, the Ad-Liberal Artists.

Miner is now a talent manager and a Golden Globe-winning producer of television comedy shows, including NBC's Emmy Award-winning "30 Rock" and "Parks and Recreation."

Performing improvisational and sketch comedy live is not an easy feat, but the 10 comedic groups that performed thoroughly demonstrated a plethora of spontaneous, witty, humorous and even capricious assortments of comedic performances.

The line-up of college comedy groups for the first night included: Vassar's The Limit and Happily Ever After, Bates's Strange Bedfellows, Tufts' Major: Undecided and The Institute, Cornell's Whistling Shrimp and Skitz-O-Phrenics, Yale's Purple Crayon and the college's own Skidomedey and Sketchies.

Each comedy group took the audience on a journey; albeit, a journey filled with vivacious and eclectic characters, plots and original content.

The highlights from the first night included the following:

Vassar's The Limit showed a video sketch displaying physical comedy and real-life Barbie dolls attempting everyday activities.

Tufts' Major: Undecided showcased a young boy band, Boystown, which consisted of a mayor and distinctive personalities. Then they incorporated a sketch about the implications on impersonating Steve Martin and two clever elevator sketches about fathering a chair and racist bankers.

Skidomedey's Adam and Eve sketch featured Adam and Eve trying to sneak in some alone time despite Adam's cousin, Norman, interrupting multiple times. Their next sketch was about a test that allowed the audience to hear the inner thoughts and musings of each student. Through unique voice-overs, quirky personalities and vocal nuances, Skidomedey tickled the audience's funny bones.

Lastly, there was a hardcore remedy to the sketch, "Genital Harpalies," which included some graphic side effects of birthing eagle babies with lion claws.

Cornell's Whistling Shrimp featured an improvisational long-form scene about young men who were aspiring tambourine players by day and waiters at Denny's by night and their encounter with their tambourine idol.

Cornell's other group, Skitz-O- Phrenics, introduced a sketch that reversed the "theater dork" and "jock" politics, setting up a serious setback in the hierarchy of power.

The Sketchies had two sketches. The first was about an ex-couple, both early childhood educators who re-discover their love for each one another. The other sketch showcased a pair of friendly thieves who tried to befriend the man whose wallet they stole.

There are many key components and rules to follow in order for comedy to occur because comedy cannot make itself happen.

However, the audience could, at times, easily tell when groups were not pertaining to the rules of improvisational comedy. This led to a deficiency in constantly eliciting a response from the audience and ultimately ended in a few downfalls.

Some of the groups mistakenly broke commitment to their character, exhibited poor character development, conveyed parsimonious puns, inexperience with handling the audience, messing up games and bad scene partner chemistry.

Still, every comedic group succeeded in feeding the audience laugh after laugh and left everyone happily satisfied with a great evening of entertainment.

## Hockey game turns to shutout

### Sports Wrap

By Julia Schwartz, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

It was a close call this past Saturday as Skidmore fell short by two points to Rensselaer on the road with a final score of 65-63. Kevin Dahill '13 supported the team with 14:16 remaining, shortening the deficit to seven points. He and his teammates continued to shorten the deficit, as John Mantas '12 sank a three-point shot with 10:50 to go in the game. It looked like the game was over once the clock reached 1:34 because RPI had an 11-point lead.

However, the Thoroughbreds fought back as much as they could, and with baskets from Gerard O'Shea '12, Mantas and Sakhile Sithole '13, to bring the score to what would be the final one. Standouts in the game were juniors Terron Victoria, Melvis Langyintuo and Brian Lowry who all contributed 10 points apiece. Also to be recognized is Jeff Altimar, who had a game high of 10 rebounds.

After their loss on the road the previous day, the Thoroughbreds traveled farther south to score a win against Vassar 60-46. The win came as no surprise seeing as Skidmore had a huge win against Vassar in their last matchup, winning 86-52 on Jan. 28.

Both teams struggled to start their engines at the beginning of play, until the Thoroughbreds ran with the ball for seven minutes straight, scoring 14 points with none in return from Vassar. Skidmore kept the lead going for the rest of the game.

Altimar played outstandingly with 25 points, followed by guard Victoria who had two game highs, eight boards and five assists. As well, Kyle Clark '12 posted a game high of four blocks.

### Women's basketball

The women won opposing games against the same opponents this past weekend, winning big against league opponent RPI and falling to Vassar.

Skidmore had an excellent game against RPI, with four of its players scoring double digits. Megan Gaugler '12 lead the pack with 22 points, followed by Christina Gargiso '12, who had 14 points and eight rebounds. In addition, Christine Kemp '11 put up 12 points and Jordan Wartts '14 contributed 10.

The Thoroughbreds were trailing by eight points after the first half with a score of 31-23, but came back with a vengeance. As the game neared the end, Skidmore ran with the ball, scoring 12 points over the two scored by RPI, giving them an 11 point lead over the Engineers.

With only 57 seconds to go, Gargiso seamlessly threw up a pair of free-throws to secure the win. The Thoroughbreds had a 50-point second half, naturally contributing to their win against RPI 73-62.

The next afternoon, Skidmore was not as lucky as they fell short to Vassar 59-49. Skidmore held the shooting advantage from inside the arc 34-10 against Vassar, but unfortunately fell short, as they were only 3-21 from beyond the arc.

Contributions for the Thoroughbreds came from Gaugler, who shot 16 points in the game, while Gargiso had 11 points and six rebounds. Logan Frederick '13 also stood out for the Thoroughbreds, providing nine points and eight rebounds.

Because of her immense efforts on the court, Gaugler received honors as Liberty League Player of the Week this past week for the second week straight and the third time this season. She averaged 17.5 points for the week during the split performance for the Thoroughbreds.

Skidmore wraps up regulation play next week as they host St. Lawrence on Feb. 18 and Clarkson on Feb. 19.

### **Ice Hockey**

Skidmore hockey creamed St. Michael's this past Friday in a 7-0 win at home. Contributions to the win came from all around the rink. It was an exciting evening for Collin Bessey '12, who stopped 27 shots on goal for his first career shutout with the Thoroughbreds. It was also the first shutout the team has had since its 2007-2008 season.

Skidmore broke out in the first period with four goals. The first came 53 seconds into the game when Alex Radmin '13 scored on a breakaway from Brendan Cottam '13 and Philip Buonocore '14. The attack continued with three straight power-play goals from Nick Dupuis '12, Buonocore and Zach Menard '13.

The second period proved positive, adding two goals onto the scoreboard. The additions came within 18 seconds of each other, first with a goal from freshman Aaron Beck, his second of the season, assisted by Alex Essaris '12 and Tony Giacini '14. Joe Melnyk '11 then scored the second goal of the period with assists from Hunter Thayer '11 and Tyler Doremus '12. Beck scored the only goal of the third period to top off the high scoring game.

The next day the Thoroughbreds honored their six seniors for Hockey Senior Day at their last regular home game against Norwich. Honors took place before the game commending seniors Alex Mykolenko, Austin Sullivan, Kyle Montour, Corey Jarecki, Thayer and Melnyk, all joined by friends and family.

Despite their huge win over St. Michael's the previous day, Skidmore seemed unable to carry the momentum over to compete against Norwich. Vlad Gavrik '14 scored Skidmore's first and only goal of the game, assisted by Giacin, in the first period. Norwich scored two of their three goals of the game on powerplays, including the final goal with only eight seconds left on an empty goal. The final score was three-to-one. Skidmore finishes off the season Feb. 18 and Feb. 19 on the road against Middlebury and Williams.

### **Swimming**

Following the swimming event hosted by the women's team, men's swimmer Stephen Lento '11 broke his record from 2008 in the 1000 Freestyle. Lento's previous school record was 10:34.34, and he managed to break about 13 seconds off his record to post 10:21.40 in his time trial.

The event will kick off with the women's basketball team playing Clarkson at 2 p.m., followed by the men's basketball game against Clarkson at 4 p.m. Both Skidmore teams are 1-0 in their standings with Clarkson this season, but both games are sure to be hotly contested and otherwise filled with prizes, raffles and other entertainment. Admission is free, and the first 250 students that show up will receive either a t-shirt or a water bottle. And if this is not enough incentive, there will also be one 32-inch Sony Bravia flat screen TV given away.

Entertainment and materialism aside, this is also Skidmore's last chance to honor each team's senior athletes as they play in their final home games during the regular season as Thoroughbreds. Seniors will be honored before each game, so come early to support these athletes for the completion of their years of dedication. This will be the final push for both teams before they move into post-season play.

Sports #1.2006071:311611859.JPG Brehm Hockey

Tony Giacin '14 faces off for a puck drop against St. Michael's.

Alex Brehm/The Skidmore News





## Skidmore goes mobile

Wireless, mobile solutions proliferating across campus

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Feb 18, 2011

Last year, the Geographic Information Systems Center (GIS) published the Skidmore Campus Map, accessible to mobile devices, using Layar, an augmented reality platform that allowed GIS Center to create a "virtual campus" that people could view from their iPhones or Android phones. Augmented reality refers to views of a real-world's physical environment virtually generated by computer imagery.

### Skidmore Geographic Information System

Basically, the Augmented Reality campus buildings project was a pilot to test the feasibility of this type of technology on Skidmore's campus, said Alex Chaucer, GIS instructional technologist. "As a GIS specialist, I focus on maps and location-based technology, and applications of this type of technology in education."

The Skidmore Campus Map allows students to view various points of interest around the campus on their mobile phones, much in the same way they would take an online college tour through a computer. This technology is not only helpful to current students, but potentially to prospective ones as well who wish to get a visual representation of the campus.

The GIS Center used sources such as the New Media Consortium's Horizon Report (NMC) and the 2010 Horizon Report for information on new emerging technologies. They first began to look at augmented reality in Spring 2010.

Our goal was to look at all the available platforms, pick one with some promise and try to get some basic information about the campus up and running as a proof of concept, Chaucer said. "Our basic 'prototype' could then be shown to faculty and students for feedback and possible changes or additions, and could be used in brainstorming for classroom and research possibilities."

The GIS Center is currently working to put up a more advanced version of Layar, which would involve including local businesses in downtown Saratoga Springs. Although the project is a conceptual test, Chaucer hopes that the technology may soon be ready to test in a campus course.

For more information, go to <a

href="http://academics.skidmore.edu/blogs/onlocation/2010/10/21/augmenting-





reality/"><http://academics.skidmore.edu/blogs/onlocation/2010/10/21/augmenting-reality/> for an article written by Aaron Miller '12 on the subject, a GIS student assistant who has been working on the project as well.

### **Blackboard Mobile Learn**

This semester, students went on to the school website to find a brand new version of Blackboard (9.1 to be exact). Not only is this site a vast improvement over the original Blackboard 4 from 2002, but it is also available for iPhones and Android devices as well. According to Kelly Dempsey-Little, instructional technologist, "The biggest change [of Blackboard 9.1] is its utilizing web 2.0 technologies, and its offering the mobile platform as well."

Dempsey-Little said that, since research has shown that about 70 percent of college students own smartphones, the department decided to enable Blackboard for students to access course materials through their phones. She first learned about the Blackboard app through a Blackboard convention, and brought the information back to the college to have the application installed. She says that it has worked very well ever since, and is easy to use.

Students may download the Blackboard application, titled "Mobile Learn," from iTunes or the Android Market. This application is free and allows students to do everything they could on a computer. Although there are no short-term plans for new mobile-related upgrades, Dempsey-Little said that the department is looking at sources such as the 2011 Horizon Report to see what to expect for upcoming technologies.

We are really paying close attention to this, and we know that this is something that will be very important in the near future, she said.

To provide feedback on the new application, fill out a short survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNXMTS3>

### **Skidmore Urgent Notification System**

As many students are aware, Campus Safety has recently set up an emergency notification system, also known as the SUN system. "The SUN system consists of a multilayered communication program to inform and alert community member when serious incidents occur on campus," Lori Parks, Safety Systems Administrator, said. "Or when we need to distribute important information, such as a snow emergency."





The SUN system notifies students via texts, sirens, e-mails, the web, phone alerts, and personal contact. According to Parks, almost 2,000 students and employees have signed up for the text messaging service, which has been made available through the college's contract with e2Campus.

Campus Safety learned about the SUN system through their contacts with various organization that deal with Campus safety issues, and events from other colleges such as Virginia Tech influenced the college into quickly making this tool available on campus.

Students who are not signed up in the SUN system will still receive important e-mails, but Campus Safety encourages students to sign up so that all of the available ways of contact provided by the system will be at their disposal.

We feel the system is very effective, Parks said. "Especially during the latest rounds of snow we received. This was the most effective, efficient way of getting the word out to the Skidmore Community to clear lots for snow removal efforts."

Anyone who wishes to sign up for the SUN System should visit <a href="https://www2.skidmore.edu/e2campus/index.cfm">https://www2.skidmore.edu/e2campus/index.cfm</a>, and use their Skidmore username and password to begin the process. Any other questions may be addressed to Lori Parks or Terri Sanacore in Campus Safety at 518.580.5567.

## Hustvedt lectures on literary truth

By Noam Dagan & Jean-Ann Kubler, Contributing Writer & News Editor

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

At 8 p.m. on Feb. 22, prize-winning novelist and memoirist Siri Hustvedt presented a lecture and panel discussion titled "Memoir vs. Fiction," in Emerson Auditorium. The auditorium was above capacity and many were not able to find seating.

Hustvedt is the author of three critically acclaimed novels, and several books of memoirs. The New York Times Book Review praised her most recent work, "The Shaking Woman or a History of My Nerves."

English professor Robert Boyers introduced Hustvedt, who began her talk by addressing the contract between writers and readers of memoir and fiction.

Hustvedt spoke about the current public fascination with memoir, which is echoed in the popularity of reality television and celebrity gossip. Readers of memoir, according to Hustvedt, expect that writers are not openly deceiving them. There is no such expectation from the readers of fiction, Hustvedt said.

Although readers may not expect truth from fiction writers, Hustvedt said a good fiction writer does capture some form of the truth.

Some novels do lie, the good ones do not, Hustvedt said. The truth a fiction writer may tell is not held to the same standard as the truth told by memoirists because a memoir can be fact-checked, Hustvedt said.

We are not talking about truth with a capital 'T', she said. Rather, the importance is the truth of the feeling of the work, Hustvedt said.

Hustvedt spoke about the fallibility of human memory and how it is nearly impossible for any human to recall his or her experiences in full detail. For this reason, she said, dialogue in memoir is often true to the nature of a real conversation, but not necessarily a factual account.

Memory is inherently subjective, Hustvedt said, and no two people recollect the same events in exactly the same detail.

The difficulty of memory's subjectivity is scientifically documented, Hustvedt said, and the same parts of the brain control memory and imagination.

Hustvedt spoke about an example of memory's fallibility in her personal life. She said her husband and daughter have strikingly different accounts of when her daughter first decided to be a performer, and neither of their accounts are the same as Hustvedt's.

Following her lecture, Hustvedt asked for questions from the featured panel, which included Visiting Assistant professor of English Melora Wolf, Senior Writer-in-Residence Greg Hrbek and Boyers. All three panelists teach English courses related to non-fiction writing.

The panel members asked questions regarding intentional lies, misremembering and poetic license. They also asked Hustvedt to discuss the different discoveries a writer may make through fiction and through memoir.

Hustvedt said the freedom of fiction often allows her to be more open in her personal discoveries and unlock material from her unconscious.

Memoir, Hustvedt said, can limit the potential of personal discovery because the writer is often concerned with protecting a story's real-life subjects.

Hustvedt then asked for questions from the audience. Russell Banks, a notable author, was in the audience and contributed to the discussion.

## **Don't make Brooklyn a hipster 'clusterfuck'**

### Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Last October, an article appeared on Skidmore Unofficial titled "From 87 to the L: Demystifying the Skidmore Migration to Brooklyn." After a protracted, rambling introduction, the author, an alumna, attempts to weigh the pros and cons of moving to Brooklyn after graduation. The author then makes various assumptions, about which I have much to say.

During the Superbowl, the largest superficial display of consumerism in the U.S., one commercial aired had the rare quality of genuineness. The "Imported From Detroit" Chrysler commercial displayed brilliant shots of various iconic statues and buildings in Detroit, announcing the phoenix-like return of a city that's "been through hell and back." It was a statement of municipal pride that transcended the normal sports rivalry hoopla and challenged the motor city's detractors as "people who have never even been here, who don't know what we are capable of." Though its tone turns sentimental and corny as a solemn Eminem addresses us in front of a cliché African-American choir, the message of civic solidarity, of the need for a city to determine its own reputation and destiny, is one we should all take to heart.

Firstly, the article ignores the fact that many Skidmore students are from Brooklyn, a simple but still resoundingly inane omission. The author writes that, New York "is the city I have wanted to move to since fully grasping the meaning of suburb. And since most of you are likely from Massachusetts or the Tri-State area - with a dash of Midwest for novelty and San Fran for scruff - you will understand that sentiment." The reality is, Brooklyn, Bronx and the other outer boroughs are fairly well represented at Skidmore, and many of these students are from low-income and racially diverse backgrounds. This statement marginalizes an important sector of the student body.

Secondly, the article assumes its audience can afford to "migrate" to one of the most increasingly expensive areas in the U.S. (due in no small part to the influx of post-liberal arts college gentry, who drive up real estate prices, and force out low-income residents).

And finally, the author describes Brooklyn, albeit facetiously, as a "hipstered-out clusterfuck."

I sincerely hope I don't need to tell you that Brooklyn is much more than that. A borough of 2.5 million people, a borough which on its own ranks among the top five most populated cities in the U.S., Brooklyn is arguably the most ethnically and culturally diverse communities in the nation.

This article epitomizes the misrepresentation of Brooklyn I have observed in the words and behavior of young "migrants." These members of the Williamsburg liberal arts gentry believe they are pioneering and invigorating a thrilling new urban world, naturally grasping the subtleties of multicultural city life. What they don't realize is that they are turning much of Brooklyn into "New Connecticut," a bastion of upper-middle class white culture, replete with Indie bands, trendy bars, and expendable cash. Characterizations of cities by newcomers and outside commentators, such as that of Brooklyn as a "hipstered-out clusterfuck," necessitate a renewal of civic pride, a will to refute these misrepresentations.

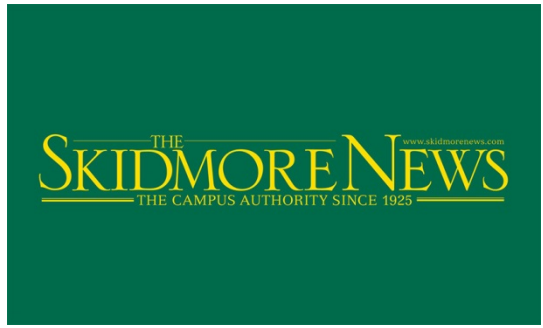
A lack of will on the part of inhabitants to determine their city's reputation, has led to commentary and municipal criticism such as this, as well as the use of a term that is in much need of analysis and criticism. Though the author doesn't use this term, her evaluation of Brooklyn smacks of that classist and ignorant label that is far too widely used: "that city is very 'livable.'"

This term, like most insults, has the opposite effect of its user's intention. It is often meant to convey cosmopolitanism. Its user aims to present him or herself as a citizen of the world. Instead it merely conveys its user's misconception that everyone is jet-set like him or herself and can afford to pick the locales in which they reside. It reveals its user's total ignorance for the reality that the working class, low-income peoples of the world, to say nothing of the starved and impoverished, are very much tied to their cities.

Let me demonstrate this word's obnoxiousness by paraphrasing its subtext. Phrase: "That city is very livable." Subtext: "I can find all of the amenities to which my white privileged background entitles me. Also, my expensive bachelor-of-arts degree has made me an expert on urban sociology and I feel entirely comfortable passing judgment on cities the world over."

The most odious implication of the "livable city" designation is that some cities are "unlivable." Phrase: "That city is unlivable." Subtext: "that city is a post-industrial wasteland in which lazy philistines have doomed themselves, by their inherent lack of worth, to toil away their days."

For these reasons, the Chrysler commercial's reclamation of Detroit's reputation is important. I imagined its declaration of civic pride to be aimed at the exact type of municipal marginalizing and disparaging that I refer to. It announces Detroit's indifference toward elitist detractors who would label it "unlivable," who would stigmatize it as a rust-belt "clusterfuck" of impoverishment. The Skidmore alumnus refers to "the stigma of moving to Brooklyn as a Skidmore grad". Well, future alumni, if your "migration" is stigmatized by Brooklynites, it won't be because your moving to a "hipstered-out clusterfuck;" it will be because you have no shame in characterizing our city as such.



*Brian Connor is a senior American studies major from Brooklyn who spends his summer nights at Siro's. He is a gourmand and an amateur Chinese Handball player.*



## Writing Center set to break record

By Gia Vaccarezza, Staff Writer

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

The college's Writing Center, in its 30th year of operation, is slated to reach a record number of appointments for the 2010-2011 academic year. Student and staff tutors conducted 1,113 tutoring sessions in the fall 2010 semester, more than half the total appointments during the 2009-2010 academic year, in which 2,171 sessions were logged.

The recent numbers are a dramatic increase from past years. In the 2005-2006 academic year, the staff recorded 738 appointments and Writing Center logs from previous years show similarly low attendance.

Phil Boshoff, associate professor of English, and English Department Lecturer Martha Wiseman direct the Writing Center staff, which is comprised of 38 student tutors.

All student tutors are required to complete the EN303H: Honors Peer Tutoring Project course and spend a semester as unpaid tutors-in-training prior to officially joining the staff.

Co-Head Tutor Annie Potish '11 said no single change in the Writing Center's approach explains the dramatic increase in student turnout, but she is pleased with the change.

"It's really nice to be part of something becoming so central in the Skidmore community," Potish said.

In Sept. 2010, English as a Second Language (ESL) specialist Thad Niles joined the Writing Center staff.

Niles works with student tutors to develop approaches to working with non-native English speakers, as they often have different needs than native speakers.

Niles holds office hours in the Writing Center and is available to work with ESL students who have been referred by student tutors throughout the week.

The Writing Center has increased its hours of operation to accommodate the increase in tutoring sessions.

The current hours of operation are noon-midnight Sunday through Thursday, and noon- 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



Additionally, for the first time, the Writing Center will have limited office hours during the second Summer 2011 academic session.

In an attempt to reach more students, Wiseman is leading grammar and style workshops outside of the Writing Center this semester.

Designed to teach writing basics such as punctuation, organization and narrative voice, the hour-long workshops are scheduled for Thursday and Friday afternoons throughout the semester and are open to the entire campus community.

The next workshop, titled "Beyond Evidence: Using and Integrating Secondary Sources," will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Mar. 10. in Bolton 103.

During the academic year the Writing Center staff encourages students to call and set up appointments in advance to ensure a tutoring session, though the staff tries to accommodate walk-ins as well.

Papers longer than five pages must be dropped off an hour before the appointment, and papers longer than 10 pages must be received via e-mail 24 hours prior to a scheduled appointment.

*Students can call the Writing Center at 518-580-8441 to make an appointment, or visit the office in Scribner Library room 440.*

#1.2019407:467643375.JPG Writing Center

Sarina Sheth '11, left, and Head Tutor Annie Potish '11 work on a paper.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





## Health care costs rise for union

Union employees now required to pay 4.15 percent of gross pay for health care

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Beginning March 11, unionized college employees in the Service Employees International Union Local 200United will pay 4.15 percent of their gross earnings each pay period to cover the increased cost of their health care plan.

Local 200United represents about 150 college Dining Services, mechanic, maintenance, facilities, post office and stable hand employees.

The college and the union negotiated a new contract, signed on Sept. 26, 2010, and retroactively effective from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2013, which did not include the 4.15 percent deduction to pay the health care 1199 SEIU Greater New York Benefit Fund.

At the end of 2010, the college and Local 200United did not finish negotiating a portion of the health care agreement.

An outside arbitrator then mediated the negotiations and decided unionized employees would pay 4.15 percent of their gross pay to cover increased health care plan costs, starting in February.

The college covered the increased health care costs for February, and employees will begin to pay them on March 11.

We sympathize with our employees, said Barbara Beck, director of Human Resources at the college. "The increased costs are substantial."

In addition to the 4.15 percent gross pay deduction, employees of less than five years and more than five years will have to pay a health care premium of about \$60 per week and \$30 per week for a spouse, respectively.

The health care plan covers employees' children without any additional premium.

Ian Putnick, a union representative for the employees, notified employees of the pay deduction in a letter dated Jan. 17.

Employees claim they were unaware of the arbitrator's negotiations, and were surprised to find Putnick's letter.

Putnick did not respond to a phone call by press time on Feb. 24. "We didn't see this coming," said Thomas Baylor, a college postal employee. "It's awful. It's just awful."

"It's the fact that we didn't know about it that bothered me," baker Matt Littrell said. "We would have negotiated a higher pay raise in our contract if we knew this was coming."

We should have known this was going on, Joanne Dugan, a short order cook, customer attendant and vice chairperson of the union, said. "It's not the college's fault...We should have been informed about the arbitration by our union."

In the agreement between the union and the college, employees can research an alternative health care plan and vote to switch plans.

Warren Desjardins, a cook and shop steward in the Dining Hall, is researching other health care plans. He posted a signup sheet in the Dining Hall asking employees to sign their names and pledge to research new health care plans.

Only two employees have signed their names.

I'm looking for other options, Desjardins said. "But you have to realize how long this takes. We'd have to research a new plan, then go into negotiations with all the employees. We all have different shifts and schedules, so it's so hard to organize."

It could have been a lot worse, Dugan said. "I've been an employee of the college since 1994. We haven't paid for health care [premiums] yet really until this year... We had to see this coming."



## Uncontested SGA election yields large student turnout

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

On Feb. 22 about 80 students packed into the SPA to hear Thomas Rivera '13 campaign for a seat on the SGA executive committee.

Logan Brenner '12, former vice president for Academic Affairs, is studying abroad this semester in Turks and Caicos, which created a vacancy for the position.

Rivera '13 ran uncontested for vice president for Academic Affairs, an executive board position, and won the position with 280 votes. There were 37 abstentions and 15 no confidence votes.

"It's a very tough position, honestly," Alex Stark '11, SGA president, said. "Especially midway though the semester, it's hard to find people running for that. The fact that we got someone very qualified for the job is even better."

Rivera was not required to give a speech for the election because it was uncontested.

I didn't have to do this, Rivera said. "I didn't have to give the speech and put up posters. I told everyone to come out tonight because we have to make a shift from apathy to action."

"Currently student power is in the hands of a few students...Some of us forget that SGA represents the student body and a lot of us are simply giving up this power by not voting," he said.

Rivera launched a Facebook group named "Bridging the Gap between Apathy and Empowerment" where students can voice their ideas about how to shape academic affairs. His goal is to make SGA more transparent and accessible.

Rivera, in his new role as vice president for Academic Affairs, plans to have a dinner where students and faculty members from every department can meet and speak informally.

As a business major I've never had the opportunity to speak with a biology professor, Rivera said. "It's important we speak to faculty members in other disciplines...and it's important they speak with different students."

Rivera also wants to alter the major fair and change the event venue from one large room with multiple majors represented at tables, to separate classrooms for each major. He said this is more conducive for an intimate atmosphere, giving prospective majors a better idea of each department.

In his speech, Rivera spoke about the need to be less apathetic in school affairs. The large student presence in the SPA on Monday night seemed to indicate, especially for an uncontested election, student interest in campus policy.

"We didn't even serve pizza on Monday night," Alex Stark '11, SGA president, said. "We usually feel pizza is a big draw for these things."

#1.2019403:2223639686.JPG SGA Election

About 80 students packed into the Spa to for an SGA special election Speech Night.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





## Calhoun, Senate evaluate Career Services

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun met with SGA Senate on Feb. 22 to present a draft of a document outlining how the college can best help students use a liberal arts education after graduation.

The document, titled "Transitions and Transformations," focuses on increasing high-impact opportunities such as internships.

The committee that wrote the document is made up of 14 administrators and faculty members, which allows a cross-divisional collaborative team to address the issue.

Calhoun said the idea for a document addressing the utility of a liberal arts degree came from the town hall meetings, a part of the college's Strategic Plan, which occurred over the past year.

A recurring question from the meetings was 'what is the value of a liberal arts education?' Calhoun said. "This isn't just about your transition out of college, it's every step of the way. We want the Skidmore education to be transformational."

These high-impact experiences will be more readily available and abundant, and will help Skidmore students leverage their education after graduation.

The changes would be geared toward underclassmen, especially sophomores, so that ideally every student would have had one high impact experience by junior year.

"We want these opportunities to be almost unavoidable, and to create an experience for all Skidmore students regardless of money," Calhoun said. "We need to provide resources and access for these things."

Changes outlined in the document include restructuring of Career Services, which includes the creation of new positions.

The new Career Services coordinator position will be a faculty position, the goal of which is to add more communication between the administration and faculty to sustain the internship program.

"We already do some of this work, but we want to develop the idea that experiential learning comes from curricular and co-curricular learning," Calhoun said.



“The new coordinator would also be more external, focusing on networking with employers and other schools,” Calhoun said.

A senator asked why Career Services seems to only direct students to websites that leave most of the work to the students.

“We can’t avoid students doing some of the work, but our work needs to come from these sites knowing that you’re special because you’re from Skidmore. It’s about creating the right balance of student initiative and institutional support,” Calhoun said.

To increase networking ability and the possibility of future employment, many senators suggested 1-credit business etiquette classes, internship coordinators for each department and a wider range of internship opportunities not necessarily dependent on majors.

The draft of this document will continue to be evaluated, and a survey will be sent to the Skidmore community to gain feedback about Career Services.

*In other news:*

Senate passed a supplemental to allocate money from Program Support to fund the Environmental Action Club’s trip to this year’s Power Shift conference in Washington, D.C.

The supplemental was unanimously approved for \$3,000. Sixty students will attend.



## Fall in love with fresh baked bread

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Attention everyone: I have fallen in love - head-over-heels in love.

I am in love with baking bread.

First, there is the heavenly smell of rising yeast that fills every inch of the house and welcomes you home with a big, bready hug as soon as you walk in the door.

Second, there is the endless variety of bread-making options. Rye, wheat, white, swirled, loafs, rolls - it never ends! I bet you could make a different type of bread every day of the year.

Third, there is the undeniable comfort that comes from eating a large hunk of carbs. All toasty warm. Slathered with a nice pat of butter.

Do you know how cool the process of making bread can be?

I am not talking 'toss some flour and yeast in a bread machine and call it a night.' I am talking about stirring, kneading, rising, punching, steaming, baking. I am talking about enzymes and glutens and fermentation. I am talking about flour and water and muscle and patience.

Okay, I am not sure if there is such a thing as a bread nerd ... but I would like to be one.

As a New Year's present to myself, I bought Peter Reinhart's "The Bread Bakers Apprentice." It is a one-way ticket to bread obsession, let me just say that. My older brother and I are baking through the entire book one recipe at a time.

I read through the 100+ pages of introduction - all about the science, technique and history behind bread making before diving in to any recipes.

I thought, like a good college girl, that studying up would make bread-baking a cinch. Not quite.

I am here to tell you that bread is hard work.

After 10 minutes of kneading a tough blob of gluten, I start to get a little sweaty - I will not lie! But the satisfaction of opening the oven and pulling out a beautiful golden loaf of cinnamon raisin walnut goodness is worth it.

I have only made a couple recipes so far but each time I just feel extra proud - more so than I ever would with a plain old batch of brownies or cookies. There is something just complex enough yet still always comforting that makes bread a fascinating and rewarding art.

So if you want to fall in love, take a Saturday afternoon and spend some time getting to know bread.

*For more yummy kitchen adventures, visit me at <http://asprinkleintime.wordpress.com/>!*

### **Cinnamon Raisin Walnut Bread**

Recipe adapted from "The Bread Baker's Apprentice" by Peter Reinhart (note: there are a lot of extra skills and tips that I will not be publishing here - you have to buy the book!)

1 1/4 tsp cinnamon

1 large egg, slightly beaten

2 tbs shortening or butter, melted

1/2 cup buttermilk or whole milk

3/4 cup water, room temperature

1 1/2 cups raisins

1 cup chopped walnuts

1. Stir together flour, sugar, salt, yeast and cinnamon in a mixing bowl. Add egg, shortening, buttermilk and water. Stir together until ingredients come together to form a ball. Add flour/water if the dough seems too stick/dry.

2. Turn dough onto floured counter and knead for approximately 10 minutes. The dough should be soft and pliable, tacky but not sticky. Sprinkle in the raisins and walnuts during the final two minutes of kneading. Lightly oil a large bowl and transfer dough to the bowl, rolling to coat with oil. Cover bowl with plastic wrap.
3. Let rise for two hours, or until dough doubles in size.
4. Divide dough into two equal pieces and roll each out to a 5x8 rectangle. Stir together 1/2 cup sugar and two tbs cinnamon and sprinkle over rectangle. Roll up from short end, pinching ends together. Place each loaf in a lightly oiled loaf pan, mist the tops with oil, cover with plastic wrap.
5. Let rise at room temperature for 60 to 90 minutes or until the dough crests the top of the loaves and is nearly doubled in size.
6. Preheat the oven to 350°F and place loaves on sheet pan.
7. Bake for about 20 minutes. Rotate pan and bake another 20 to 30 minutes or until the bread is golden brown on top and makes a hollow sound when thumped on the bottom.
8. Immediately remove the bread from their pan. If desired, brush tops with butter and roll in cinnamon sugar. Cool on a rack for at least one to two hours before slicing.

#1.2019419:3412542102.jpg Cinnamon Raisin Walnut Bread

Cinnamon Raisin Walnut Bread

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News



## Editorial

### The Skidmore Shop just 'gets it'

By the Editorial Board,  
On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Campus stores sell overpriced books, car decals and too many T-shirts. Our campus store brings students free food from downtown businesses, organizes raffles and makes convenient every item students might need in their four years at the college, from toothbrushes to party balloons. The Skidmore Shop might also sell overpriced books, but we won't hold that against it.

Follow the Skidmore Shop Twitter or fan the store's Facebook page and see daily discounts, giveaways and promotions all geared toward making items as accessible to students as possible. When paired with the SkidShop's popular new trend of bringing free food from local restaurants to campus every week, it's clear that the college's store seeks to be more than a pricey alternative to Amazon.com.

Where offices all over campus competently serve students' needs, the Skidmore Shop seems genuinely in tune with student life. Realizing students' frustration with unpredictable buy-back prices, the store made some books for a set rental fee. When students mentioned they would drop by after business hours, the SkidShop extended its hours to 7 p.m. three days a week. In countless other ways, and to no small degree aided by their strong online presence, the store's friendly staff does their best to make the best experience for every student who might walk in.

Despite the employees' best efforts, everyone has a story about the time they left the Skidmore Shop frustrated, disappointed and broke. But students should remember that when they sigh over a marked-up price tag or groan at seeing the final bill for a semester's worth of textbooks that the extra money pays for convenience.

The store makes accessible every item that students might need for classes, dorm living and the occasional care package. More than that, employees do their best to make those amenities available to students at discounts - or for free! - whenever they can. Students should consider that the exorbitant price tags they associate with our campus store might lie out of the hands of its friendly staff.

But even when employees can't bring down high textbook prices, they should consider ways to help students make the best spending decisions at the start of every semester. When they know that a course's books will soon be replaced by new editions, staff should let enrolled students know they might consider a textbook rental rather than leave them disappointed come buy-back time. If they see

students struggling to navigate new and used book prices when buying textbooks online, the SkidShop could consider updating a poorly organized website that seems outmoded next to the store's ambitious social network and marketing program.

Improvements like these would continue the Skidmore Shop's habit of staying in tune with students' needs at every step of the way. Hopefully, college administrators will soon recognize that the store has taken on a role far surpassing just a campus store and look to expanding its facilities beyond its now-crowded corner of Case Center. A larger space would allow the staff to stock items prohibited by the current cramped conditions, opening up possibilities like a much-needed grocery section offering organic produce right on campus.

But even with its current limited space and inability to lower rising textbook prices, we applaud how the store has tried at every stage to become a real resource to students. Already offering students convenience and easy accessibility, the Skidmore Shop has gone well beyond its role as a campus store to become an extension of student life.

## Faculty and students bring weight loss program to campus

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Have Thanksgiving turkey, Christmas cookies, Valentine's candies and all those trips to late night this semester taken their toll on your body?

Are you not loving your winter love handles?

Spring break is right around the corner and - if you are like me and plan to be spending some time at the shore - you are already dreading swimsuit season, which is looming ominously over the horizon.

If you are looking to shed weight along with your puffy winter coats and clunky snow boots, you are in luck. A group of students and faculty are attempting to restart a Weight Watchers group on campus this semester. This is not the first time that Weight Watchers has been brought to Skidmore's campus.

According to the organization's official website, Weight Watchers is "an integrated approach that combines smarter eating, healthy habits, exercise and a supportive environment."

The program, which started more than 45 years ago, "guides you toward nutritious eating choices, and helps you lose and maintain a healthy weight" through watching caloric and fat intake and weekly support meetings.

Patricia Poirier, coordinator of Biographical Records, is behind the group this semester.

Though she states they "won't be having a group for awhile" due to a lack of participants (there is a 15 person minimum required), all one has to do to join is respond to one of the many membership appeal e-mails Poirier sent out.

According to Poirier, the group started because "several of us wanted to lose weight and a couple people had experience with Weight Watchers and liked the idea of meeting here at work during the lunch hour."

Poirier states the group is dedicated to helping members feel better, look better and be healthier in general. Weight Watchers claims to help members adopt healthier lifestyles and thus be able to keep off lost weight. "[Weight Watchers] is a very supportive group and leader. No chastising if you don't lose weight, but lots of encouragement," Poirier explains.

When speaking of the meetings, held at noon on Thursdays in North Hall Large Conference room. Poirier states, "The leaders are exceptional and very encouraging. We exchange ideas of how we handle different situations to stay on track. We have had several lifetime members during our years on campus including myself."

From vegetarians to brides, nursing mothers and families to manly men, Weight Watchers online states that it has a plan - including recipes and tips - for everyone.

*For more information on the program, go to [www.weightwatchers.com](http://www.weightwatchers.com), which gives thorough and informative answers to many questions regarding the program, its values and its goals.*

*Students who are interested in a Weight Watchers program on campus should notify Poirier at [ppoirier@skidmore.edu](mailto:ppoirier@skidmore.edu).*



## The need to pop the Skidmore bubble

### Practical Race and Diversity

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Ah, our great democracy...our free and equal country. Will anyone address the fact that 1 percent of our nation's population holds more than a quarter of the wealth (by the way, the government doesn't tax this bunch anymore), leading to more than a third of our nation struggling to survive? How about the increasing disparities that plague people of color in terms of poverty and incarceration? Any talk of equal pay for women being shot down in a recent congressional session? These issues are a few that often go unspoken about.

So as we enter a period of increasing inequality based on differences in race, class, gender, etc., our community faces a problem that is ingrained in our culture. The term the Skidmore "bubble" troubles me because it impairs our vision of the problems we face in our community. Students actually believe that our campus is special in that it goes against the ideals and practices of the larger society. But this is simply not true.

Issues in the broader world are salient on our campus. The majority of students come from an upper middle class background. Most are white. Increased inequality has seeped into our education system, leaving for the most part only the privileged to attain one of our most cherished resources. With privilege comes apathy. An apathetic campus has resulted from the facade of the Skidmore "bubble," leaving many students uninformed of issues that impact all of us, all of the time.

However, although relatively small in number, students of different backgrounds do exist. Many of them, including myself, possess frustration of mistreatment and discomfort. A lack of understanding of those who embody identities that are discriminated by society's structure is evident on campus. At times, I feel as if my experiences would not be understood by a majority of students here. So I keep quiet, but not anymore.

Many students on this campus share this same sentiment. With recent events, such as the dialogue addressing campus climate and the student reaction to the Compton's incident, students who do not fit into the majority do not feel as comfortable as they should, or as safe. And this is what inequality does to society. This is what it has done to our community. So as we walk around, invisible in a sea of sameness, try to understand why that is. Understand our concerns are as important as yours. We are



acting and we will continue to fight against the invisible oppression on our campus and in our society. I hope you pay attention, and burst the "bubble" that is suffocating our community.

*Danny Pforte is a sophomore from Cambridge, Massachusetts who studies social work. He is inspired by Malcolm X, Jay-Z and Bernie Sanders.*

## Letter: Perspective in a position of privilege

By Matt Cowe

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Humans are a tribal species. We like people who look, speak and act like we do. This may be because our brains evolved to categorize, to associate certain things with "good" or "bad," "safe" or "dangerous." This instinct is advantageous in the wild: I've never seen a tiger other than on TV, but if I see one in person, I'll run for my life.

Unfortunately, our societies evolve much faster than our brains do. If I had grown up in an all white neighborhood and my only exposure to racial minorities was through the biased eyes of the media, my instincts might take precedence, and I probably wouldn't be able to make any legitimate assumptions about them.

Yes, there has been a trend toward a more positive portrayal of minorities; I can think of at least three cartoons with highly intelligent black characters. But these shows are designed too shallowly to undermine the overwhelming amount of negative stereotypes: the murderers, the rapists, the high school drop-outs, the freeloaders who suck "our" country dry because they are on welfare. Remember that there is a difference between the idea that "stereotypes have to come from somewhere" and this endless recycling of narrow-minded dehumanizing caricatures.

As embarrassing as it may be, I admit to having prejudices of my own. It's reflexive, and although it's okay if the subject is a tiger, the same isn't true if it's a human being with all the same needs and frailties that I share. Passively absorbing these prejudices took no effort, but seeing beyond them requires constant vigilance.

I am privileged in many ways, being a white, male, native English speaker who attends a prestigious liberal arts college. But I am also unprivileged in several ways, being gay and from the only family on welfare in a town of mansions. As a result, I find myself caught in between.

Those who know nothing but privilege aggravate me. I have felt attacked without cause, and blamed for crimes I can't recall committing. I'm frustrated when the wealthy conflate their social status with personal achievement. I have been frustrated with heterosexuals who take their families' acceptance for granted, and who don't know what it is like to be the subject of constant political debate. It gets old hearing people

I argue whether people like you should be granted equal rights.

I have been on both sides of the conflict between the privileged and the unprivileged with fists and teeth clenched. But my anger isn't helping. It clouds my thinking.

Tension is mounting on campus. And although diversity discussions must be held, people don't take the time to breathe. Arguments become heated - which is understandable, given the gravity of the issue - but they need not become overly personal. There can be arrogance from both parties, an attitude that "I know all about, I'm right, you're wrong, and you are stupid and ignorant for disagreeing with me." And when this attitude emerges, it is far too easy to forget our common goal: a diverse and equitable student body.

Discrimination is dehumanizing in two ways: just as the abused gay kid is lowered to animal status by an attacker, so too does the attacker become an inhuman monster in the eyes of the victim. During these discussions, if we think of the other side as a bunch of ignorant wolves, then they will reciprocate this prejudice. If we keep our egos out of it, these discussions would be far more productive.

Finally, for those in privileged positions, have compassion for yourselves. It doesn't make you a bad person to be born into a position of power, to be frustrated by discussions on diversity or even to be ignorant to another culture or way of life. Sometimes the underprivileged don't handle these issues respectfully and will go out of their way to malign you. Some people are sensitive and are quick to get hostile. But don't get offended in turn; it's unfair, but that does not necessarily invalidate their position.

Embrace humility. Do not dismiss someone's ideas because he or she is hostile. Demand respect and patience and return it ten-fold. Read the literature. Broaden your understanding of discrimination and how it affects the lives of your peers. Go to lectures and meetings on the topic. But most importantly, set your ego aside and stop to think about what others have to say and what you can do to counteract inequality. Remember, fellow humans, remember to breathe. Deeply, and constantly.

*Matt Cowe is a senior neuroscience major from Massachusetts.*

## **A distressed community confronts administrators**

By Julia Leef, Cover Story Editor

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Throughout the past few weeks, Skidmore has shown its ability and willingness to gather together as a community in response to the ongoing events and issues concerning diversity and inclusiveness on campus. Last Friday, the community came together again in Gannett Auditorium for an open forum discussion between students, faculty and members of the community.

Acting President Susan Kress and the members of the president's Cabinet led the dialogue. More than 300 people came to the event, filling up the auditorium so that some people had to listen to a simulcast in both Davis and Emerson. Even after the meeting started, more people continued to file in.

Kress began the discussion by speaking about the incidents that have occurred on campus recently, including the vandalism of the Sex and Gender Relations bulletin board, the Graffiti on the controversial "Food for Thought" posters and the recent Compton's Restaurant incident and the subsequent media response.

"We stand by our fundamental commitment to support a diverse community," Kress said.

There is work for every single one of us to do.

Kress invited the crowd to share their feelings, opinions and suggestions concerning the aforementioned issues. In addition, a question box was placed outside during the meeting for people who had additional concerns.

Although the majority of the people in attendance were older members of the community and faculty, a sampling of students also voiced their opinions that afternoon.

Students from various grades and backgrounds, such as Frank Cabrera '11, Rebecca Drago '11 and Danny Pforte '13, said that action needed to be taken to create a dialogue with the greater Saratoga community.

Many, such as Thomas Rivera '13, said that there have been too many conversations and not enough action. He also suggested bringing students and faculty together, by adding courses to the curriculum that would address such issues.



"In order to make this environment better," Riviera said, "there needs to be an understanding on both sides, students and faculty . . . we need to see you there."

Other students expressed their dismay at the racially charged comments made online in response to articles published in the Saratogian and the Schenectady Daily Gazette.

"It's bringing to the surface underlying tensions of racism," Angie Tucker '13 said, "comments such as the ones regarding the Compton's Incident were directed at minorities in general, not just at the four students involved."

The group repeatedly mentioned the Inter-Group Relations, or IGR, and applauded the opportunity that it offers people to speak about diversity and to become more involved in the community. Several workshops, such as the one currently scheduled for the summer, are open to both students and faculty, and many of those who spoke on Friday encouraged everyone to attend.

Sarah Finkle '11 and Yasmin Hormozi '11, who helped run the recent SGA sponsored student dialogue, "The Talk We Need to Have," are both IGR facilitators and were both present at the open community meeting. Both stressed the importance of involving more people, starting as early as the First-Year Experience. Hormozi also brought up the suggestion, which was echoed by several other speakers, that there should be a requirement to attend these discussions.

Kristie Ford, assistant professor of Sociology, spoke about an upcoming faculty and staff workshop in May, an annual IGR workshop where faculty could come together over the course of three days to learn about race and diversity related issues on campus. Following the workshop, participants are encouraged to share their knowledge by overseeing peer-facilitated dialogues, running a follow-up workshop or meeting and hosting a staff dialogue.

In addition, Ford also taught several IGR courses, including this semester's course "Race and Power". The college also offers peer-facilitated dialogues.

The dialogue cumulated with members of the Cabinet each making a brief statement on the actions their area is currently taking to make this a more inclusive campus. Some of those actions involved incorporating dialogues into summer programs and orientations, as Jeff Segrave, dean of Special Programs, said.

Mike West, vice president for Finance and Administration and Pat Rubio, acting dean of the Faculty, spoke about the ongoing effort to recruit and keep faculty members of color. West also mentioned using college resources to create more faculty diversity programs and workshops. Michael Casey, vice

president for Advancement, said that his department was currently working with alumni to address these issues and to reach out to members of the community and the press.

Even after the meeting officially ended, more than 80 people remained another hour to continue the dialogue with each other. This gave participants an opportunity to share personal anecdotes about diversity on campus.

"Diversity does not just mean race," Rebecca Drago '11 said, "one kind of oppression means all kinds of oppression."

In an interview following the event, Susan Kress expressed the importance of continuing dialogues such as the one on Friday.

"Dialogue is a part of action," she said. "I think having an opportunity for people to listen to one another, for people to hear particularly the experiences of our students and particularly the experiences of our students as students of color...I think that's a very important piece of this work that we are doing."

#1.2019458:1065244568.JPG Susan Kress Dialogue

A crowd of students and faculty filled Gannett Auditorium for the dialogue.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News

#1.2019461:1045321579.jpg Susan Kress 2

Panel members from the President's Cabinet, from left to right: Dean of Special Programs Jeffrey Segrave, Dean of Admissions Mary Lou Bates, Vice President for Finance and Administration Mike West, Vice President for Advancement Michael Casey, Dean of Faculty Pat Rubio, Vice President for Academic Affairs Muriel Poston and Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News







## James Blake offers idiosyncratic musical blend

### Noteworthy Releases

By Kara Clark, Columnist

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

James Blake's first full-length and self-titled album, "James Blake" is running rampant on-campus via word-of-mouth.

Released on Feb. 8 in the U.S., this London native's album offers an idiosyncratic musical blend.

Blake has released EPs and singles prior to this album, since the spring of 2010. These songs were more electronically oriented with hints of soulfulness Blake would later develop.

His work caught the attention of BBC Radio 1, and, since then, Blake has been pinpointed as an artist to watch.

Blake's curious mixture of electronic, acoustic and R&B style is immediately captivating.

The album sounds like what Bon Iver and Kanye West could have delved into with their track on West's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy."

Kick drum, piano and acoustic guitar echo behind Blake's soulful, heavily auto-tuned vocals, which are placed especially high in the mix.

The track "Unluck" starts the album off with ominous synth and a simple beat, eventually morphing into a complex percussion pattern that feigns erraticism. Blake laments, "I wouldn't like you, playing, falling, there."

The album boasts plenty of excellent moments. "Wilhelm Scream" and "I Never Learned To Share" epitomize the beauty that can be found in emptiness, not only due to Blake's pained voice, but also because of the scarcity of sound in both songs.

However, these tracks manage to avoid stagnancy, due to an intense sonic catharsis toward their ends. "To Care Like You" and "Lindisfarne (I and II)" follow the same vein.



The weaker selections of the album tend to be tracks that feature piano and vocals alone. Songs like these have been done before, and without the electronic spin that Blake executes on his other songs, they're inevitably boring.

Several critics have labeled this release as a "dubstep album," a conclusion that is questionable at best. This album differs entirely from the music that plays at dubstep parties in Scribner Village on the weekends.

Blake will more likely inspire thought rather than movement. The album is certainly influenced by dubstep, but the overall album cannot be considered a good example of the genre.

The album is good, but not as great as most will claim it to be. Blake has created a few outstanding songs, but they are all enticing for the same reasons.

This album may need a different kind of diversity than what Blake has provided.

Instead of the simple and complex songs, this album calls for a further exploration of the stylistic blending that Blake obviously does well.

His more laid-back dubstep beats garner more interest and will hopefully be featured more in his future works.

*Kara Clark is a sophomore English major who hopes to find a job after college.*

## Gaydar debuts album on iTunes

Album features acoustic indie-folk songs written over winter break

By Gia Vaccarezza, Staff Writer

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

The college's campus is home to many talented students. Matt Gaydar '14 is no exception. He recently released an album on iTunes, "Tastes Like Wintergreen."

Gaydar's debut album features nine tracks that focus on acoustic guitar, indie-folk melodies and catchy lyrics. Gaydar has been playing guitar since he was in fourth grade and started singing during his sophomore year in high school.

At the end of his high school career, he made the decision to compile all his songs and write new ones in hopes of creating an album.

While his first attempt did not succeed, Gaydar realized over winter break that he had written more songs during his time at the college and recorded them in his basement. He then distributed his album to the iTunes store and TuneCore.com.

Having done a project during his first-year seminar on how music labels for upcoming artists are no longer necessary for an artist's success, he was confident in his endeavors.

However, he still had to go through the strenuous and stressful process of copyrighting each song.

Gaydar attributes his inspirations to musicians like YouTube sensation Jeff Pianki, Jeremy Messersmith and The Tallest Man on Earth.

When Gaydar first encountered Messersmith, he was taken by the fact that Messersmith is not a high profile musician who enjoys playing locally and interacting with his fans.

The name for the album came about when Gaydar needed one more song and quickly wrote the title track, "Tastes Like Wintergreen."

He described the process as natural. "To me, songwriting comes from the five senses," he said.

The rest of the tracks have a mix of MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) tracks and Gaydar on the guitar, piano and melodica. The album also features tracks that he previously recorded with his high school friends.



So far, the album has received good reviews from the listening community.

In an iTunes review of the album, a sideline critic wrote, "This freshman album from 19-years-old Matt Gaydar captures the diverse talent of this young artist."

Gaydar won't know the financial benefits until two months after the album's release date, but so far he has been content with getting feedback.

As for future recording plans, Gaydar looks to record another album this summer that features more collaboration with friends, more female voices and other instruments.

He looks forward to seeing how fast he can "crank out the next one." Gaydar's current album, "Tastes Like Wintergreen," can be found on iTunes for \$8.91 and features album artwork by Gabriella Carboni '14.

## **Sports Wrap: Men's hockey and basketball advance**

By Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editor

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

The men's basketball team secured their spot in the playoffs last Friday with their win against St. Lawrence. Though the final spread was a 13-point margin, 82-69, the Thoroughbreds had to work for every bit of their lead. After dominating the first half, Skidmore went to the locker rooms with a 46-19 lead; they had connected consistently from beyond the arc and were moving the ball around successfully. Jeff Altimar '11 led the team at the half with 13 points.

St. Lawrence, however, did not throw in the towel and came back in the second half with a nearly impenetrable zone-defense and a much stronger offense. With just seven minutes to play, St. Lawrence had closed the 27-point gap to 7, and Skidmore's self-assurance from the first half had all but faded.

But they held on and maintained a tenuous lead through the end of the game, largely due to a high outside shooting percentage. Melvis Langyintuo '12 scored 18 points for Skidmore and shot 4 for 5 from beyond the arc, while Brian Lowry '12 put up 15 points off the bench. With a hard-won victory in their minds, they looked forward to Saturday's game at The Big Green Scream.

There was an electric feel in the gym on Saturday when Skidmore went up against Clarkson in the final game of the day's events. The Big Green Scream brought in a much larger crowd than usual to support the team in its final regular season game.

Though off to a shaky start, Skidmore started hitting its stride and went up by 17 at the end of the half. There was no question after that who would come out on top with Skidmore leading by as much as 27 in the second half.

Skidmore's bench outscored that of their opponent's 39-14; Gerard O'Shea '12 and Lowry each scored 14 points; and Langyintuo put up 12 points and brought down a team-high of eight rebounds.

Altimar scored 9 points, and, as the only senior, was also recognized by the coach, family and fans for his four years of dedication to Skidmore's basketball team.

As the No. 3 seed in the playoffs, Skidmore will face Rensselaer, the No. 2, Friday, Feb. 25 at Hobart; the winner of the four team playoff will move on to the NCAA Division III tournament.

### **Women's basketball**

The women's basketball team also hosted St. Lawrence on Friday in what turned out to be well-fought loss for the Thoroughbreds, 49-47.

In the final second of Friday night's game, St. Lawrence's Kelly Legg put back a clutch offensive board to put her team up by two; this buzzer beater put St. Lawrence just ahead as the final fractions of a second ticked off the clock. On the whole, this was a low-scoring game and was close throughout - neither team lead by more than six at any point.

With two minutes remaining, Christine Kemp '11 scored a three pointer to tie the game at 47, pushing her overall contribution up to 15 points. Megan Gaugler '12 finished with 9 points, while Jordyn Wartts '14 put up eight. It was a tough loss, but they hoped to rally at Saturday's Big Green Scream.

Their hopes became reality in the Williamson Sports Center the next day in their 55-41 victory against Clarkson. This was also their final game of the season, and the crowd rolled in at 2 p.m. to watch the team's final moments of glory, and particularly the seniors on the team.

Gaugler led the team with 10 points, 8 rebounds and four assists; teammate Christine Kemp '11 followed with 9 points, 7 assists and two steals. Both of these women, along with Ismatu Alison-Konteh '11 and Cyrida Felton '11, were recognized for their long standing commitment to the women's basketball team and were assured that their presence and their contributions over the years would be sorely missed.

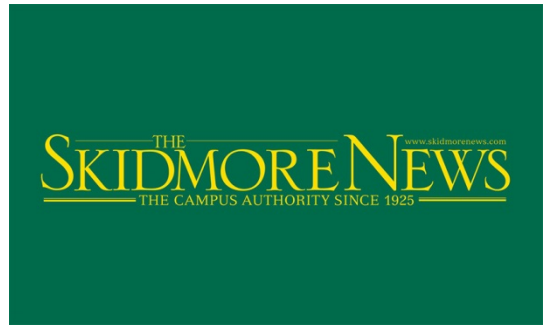
### **Ice hockey**

The hockey team went on the road for its last two games of the season, travelling to Middlebury and Williams College. Skidmore held on in their battle against Middlebury, which ended in a 3-3 tie.

Though the score was even, Middlebury outshot Skidmore 36-16; Skidmore's saving grace was its goalie Colin Bessey '12 who saved 33 shots throughout the course of the game. Hunter Thayer '11 scored one goal from the right with a wrist flick, while Alex Essaris '12 led the team with two goals.

Skidmore's game against Williams College the following night at their rink was a blowout; the Thoroughbreds scored just two to Williams' seven. Tony Giacini '14 and Nick Dupuis '12 were the lone scorers for Skidmore.

Despite the loss, Skidmore will still advance to post season play, maintaining 4th place in the ECAC East. They will face Babson College on home ice at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26 in the Saratoga Springs City Rink.



#1.2019455:595798820.JPG Big Green Scream 2

The men's basketball team came back to win on Saturday after a shaky start. The Thoroughbred bench outscored Clarkson's 39-14. Pictured: Kyle Clark reaches for the ball at the top of the key.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News







## **A double success at the Big Green Scream**

By Evan Owen, Columnist

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

This past weekend, Skidmore College hosted Clarkson College in both men's and women's basketball for their final home games of the season. The event itself, known as the Big Green Scream, drew a huge crowd that came for the games and various prizes like shirts, water bottles and (most importantly) a 32-inch flat screen television.

The lady Thoroughbreds, coming into the game with a record of 11-12, played the first game of the day. Before the game, they held a ceremony for the squad's three graduating seniors, Christine Kemp, Cyrida Felton and Ismatu Alison, all of who will be missed on the floor.

The Thoroughbreds and the Clarkson College Golden Knights began the game relatively even. Skidmore attacked with hard cuts inside combined with good rebounding and put back shots, while Clarkson shot almost all of their shots from the perimeter. After trailing by two points at the half, the Thoroughbreds kicked into high gear in the second half, limiting Clarkson to only 12 points in the entire second half. In the end, the whole team contributed to a strong 55-41 win, bringing their overall record to an even 12-12 and their liberty league record to 8-6.

The men's team experienced the same success on Sunday, also playing Clarkson College and winning by a commanding 20 points. The game marked the last home game for the team's lone senior, Jeff Altimar, who has consistently performed well at Skidmore College for all four years.

The game started off a bit rocky for the Thoroughbreds when they fell behind Clarkson early on by as many as 10 points. However, in the middle of the first half, spectacular outside shooting by juniors Gerard O'Shea and Brian Lowry contributed to a 23-9 point run, allowing Skidmore to end the first half with an impressive 17 point lead. From that point on, there was no doubt that the Thoroughbreds would emerge victorious. Strong performances by Langyintuo and Altimar contributed to the overwhelming victory with 12 and 9 points, respectively. The final score was 83-63, and the win secured Skidmore's third seed spot in the Liberty League tournament next week at Hobart College in Geneva, NY.

The Big Green Scream was both entertaining for the students of Skidmore College, with games and prizes, and successful for both basketball teams, each recording victories in their final home games.

## Hide/Seek' pushes boundaries

Art lecture centers around recent exhibition controversy

By Sandy Zhang, Staff Writer

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Censorship in art has always been a controversial issue in the U.S., a country that prides itself in the freedom of speech and the liberty of expression.

In an effort to bring this controversial issue onto the college campus, Jonathan Katz, co-curator of the "Hide/Seek" exhibit, spoke on Friday Feb. 18 in the Payne Room at the Tang Museum.

The issue of censorship recently surfaced last December with the opening of the "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" exhibit of the National Portrait Gallery, an art gallery administered by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Hide/Seek is the first major exhibit in an American museum to pioneer and explore visual representations of queerness and differences in sexuality, gender and sexual desire.

On Dec. 1, secretary of the Smithsonian, Wayne Clough, succumbed to political pressures from the right and pulled a four-minute excerpt of David Wojnarowicz's film "A Fire In My Belly" from the exhibit.

The Catholic League, a Catholic civil rights organization, along with congressional Representatives John Boehner and Eric Cantor, condemned a scene in the video that showed ants crawling on a crucifix and asked that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees reconsider the federal funding of the museum if it was going to house what they considered to be an anti-Christian fare.

John Weber, director of the Tang, introduced Katz and opened the lecture saying, "We think it's an issue for the whole country, obviously it should be an issue for Skidmore as well. It's an issue that has to do with accepting differing points of view and understandings of artworks, and public discourse."

He stressed the importance of holding such lectures and drawing attention to the issue. "We felt very strongly that Wojnarowicz's video should not have been removed from the exhibition. We wanted to add our voices to the many art and museum communities around the country that are protesting and lamenting that decision," he said

"What we're trying to do here is try to learn more about what happened and the context for it, and then we can decide what it means for the future," said Ian Berry, chief curator of the Tang.



Katz started the event with a presentation of the other selected pieces that were a part of the "Hide/Seek" exhibition.

The presentation featured works by George Belloys, Jasper Johns, Romaine Brooks, Andy Warhol and other 20th century artists. Katz discussed the historical contexts of the works, the backgrounds of the artists and the different representations of queerness, gender and sexual desire.

The highlight and focus of the event, however, was the screening of both Wojnarowicz's unedited 13-minute "A Fire in My Belly" and the condensed four-minute version edited by Katz.

Both versions include graphic portrayals of fire, blood, flesh and the controversial crucifix. Katz was forced to cut down the film to meet the gallery's screen-time standard.

A discussion between Katz and Berry followed the presentation and screening. Katz claimed that the Catholic League used the crucifix scene in the video as a red herring to attack the exhibit as a whole.

Katz also shared that Clough immediately made the decision to remove the video without consulting the curators of the exhibit or considering the alternative options offered by the museum.

Additionally, congressional Republicans threatened to cut \$100 million from the budget of the Smithsonian if Wojnarowicz's film was not removed.

The conversation also took on a tone of regret at the general unwillingness of American museums to openly explore and discuss the role of sexual desire that is clearly present in the artists and the works they produce.

Katz stated that even if larger American museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art display works by queer artists and works about queerness, they refuse to talk about these themes.

#1.2019435:457538339.JPG Hide/Seek

Jonathan Katz and Ian Berry discuss the issue of censorship.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



## **RawHead & BloodyBones' haunt audience**

By Melissa Cohn & Lauren Sager, Photo Editor & Communications Manager

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

From Feb. 20 through Feb. 22 in Studio A at the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, nine female students performed the student-run production, "RawHead & BloodyBones."

The workshop was directed by Jeremy Ohringer '13 and Grace Troxell '13 and was managed by Rebecca McCourt '14.

The performance combined theater, art and music. It did not, however, contain any spoken dialogue. This unconventional characteristic itself was a large point of interest.

The 30-minute play was entirely movement-based and the absence of speech did not take anything away from the play, but rather managed to captivate and hold the audience's attention.

Based on an American folktale, "RawHead & BloodyBones" tells the story of two sisters from a dysfunctional family. The sisters embark on separate journeys of self-realization.

One of the sisters is sent on an impossible journey to the end of the world by her evil stepmother. When she finally reaches what initially seemed to be an impossible destination, she encounters RawHead and BloodyBones - two creatures who have been abandoned by their own families.

These creatures have never been shown love and threaten the protagonist. When the girl shows them compassion, RawHead and BloodyBones bestow good fortune upon her.

The evil stepmother then sends the other step-sister on the same journey. Upon meeting RawHead and BloodyBones, the second sister is cruel to them, and, in turn, becomes one of them.

Throughout the performance, the nine actresses engaged the audience with their frightening gestures accompanied by their frightening, eerie masks that were created by director Grace Troxell '13.

RawHead & BloodyBones, performed by Kelsey Hull '14, Brittany Singer '14, Beth Svenningsen '13 and Alexia Zarras '14, controlled the movement of the other characters.

Dressed in all black and wearing makeup to match the masks, RawHead and BloodyBones stealthily prowled around the entire stage with their haunting movements.



The actresses used ujjayi breathing, a breath technique used in Hindu and Taoist yoga practices to emulate the sound of the ocean, to set a dramatic mood.

The first sister and step-mother were both played by two actresses each. Each pair of actresses manipulated the paper mache masks and the other body parts.

The first sister was played by Julia Bilbao '13 and Kathryn Rickman '13, and the evil step-mother was played by Laura Cornachio '14 and Adrienne Shaffler '13.

The directors did a phenomenal job of selecting moving and appropriate music. "Twice" by Little Dragon was by far the most fitting song. It was used in a scene where the first girl embarks upon her journey.

The lighting, done by Kelsey Lawler '13, was beautifully designed. The angles and colors set the tone for an emotionally compelling artistic display.

While the production was beautifully done and elicited a positive and emotional response from the audience, the performance was quite complex and seemingly detached from the audience.

Many might feel lost in the plot if they did not read the synopsis beforehand. The captivating masks and performances, however, managed to keep the audience's full attention.

However, the hard work of all who were involved in the "RawHead & BloodyBones" production could clearly be seen through every actress's moving, haunting and entirely captivating artistic display.

#1.2019433:1189233577.JPG RawHead & BloodyBones

Students perform in 'RawHead & BloodyBones.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





## Local woman helps fight cancer

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

Dinner is done. Dishes are clean. Kids are okay. Mission accomplished.

Lisa Morahan, founder of the for-profit organization Floyd Warriors, has taken on the mission to "help families cope with cancer one household at a time."

Morahan was diagnosed with Stage Three Breast Cancer two years ago; her tumor was eight centimeters and 11 out of 16 lymph nodes were affected.

Upon hearing that she had cancer, Morahan says on her website, [www.floydwarriors.com](http://www.floydwarriors.com), her initial concern was who would take care of her home and family while she underwent intensive treatment. Her doctor told her about several support groups, but none that cleaned, cooked and cared for a cancer patient's family. Morahan decided it was up to her to start such an organization.

When I was first diagnosed I was completely overwhelmed, Morahan said. "Then one night as I was lying in bed, I put up my faith and said, 'I'll do what I can so long as I have the health and body to do it.'"

Through any and all means - family, friends, neighbors, organizations, businesses and everyday citizens - Floyd Warriors hopes to "link all available help with families newly diagnosed," so they can get through the hard first months of diagnosis and treatment.

Floyd Warriors started basically as a community resource to enable newly diagnosed patients to be inspired and to document my journey as it was happening to give a new perspective to the diagnosed people, Morahan said.

Morahan wants to help newly diagnosed patients achieve her (and many patients') goal: "to live through cancer diagnosis and treatment and move on."

Morahan also hopes to show the newly diagnosed patients that they do not need to have the persona of a chemo patient or take on the "typical look." Morahan said that at first, she was worried about her looks and losing her hair, rather than her health.

"Embrace it. Take control of your own life in the midst of cancer. I want to get across the message that you can do great things after diagnosis," Morahan said.



People interested in receiving or giving help through Floyd Warriors should contact Morahan through her website; she is always looking for more help, be it through donations or manual services.

Upcoming events are currently being organized and will be announced on the website shortly.

When asked what a Floyd Warrior is, Morahan describes her inspiration and quintessential Floyd Warrior: her mother, who lived every day to its fullest, despite her cancer diagnosis.

She describes Floyd Warriors as those who are "strong, in charge and in control. They are the ones steering the ship. They call their own shots, live life despite any diagnosis and live to inspire others. Floyd Warriors live with a twinkle in their eye," Morahan said.

The community has responded incredibly to the group since its creation. Floyd Warriors has received a lot of attention from the media and has recently been awarded a grant from the Saratoga Travel and Tourism Bureau, which will be used to keep the organization running smoothly.

She also used her experience to educate others about cancer. Education is a key part of Morahan's mission.

There is a lot of education as far as detection goes, Morahan said. "The problem is that we are detecting it because we have it."

A main part of education to Morahan is knowing what we put on and in our bodies; she stresses that the skin is the largest organ of the body and substances absorbed through the skin flow directly into the bloodstream.

Morahan is a founding consultant for Ava Anderson Non-Toxic in Upstate New York.

The same year Morahan was diagnosed, 14-year-old Anderson saw a report "on a study about hazardous chemicals in the bloodstream of teens commonly found in cosmetics and skincare products."

Team Ava in Upstate New York is currently being organized by Morahan. Interested parties should contact her directly at (518) 429-0461, or by e-mail at [info@floydwarriors.com](mailto:info@floydwarriors.com). Likewise, people interested in hosting Ava Anderson parties or purchasing products should go to [www.avaandersonnontoxic.com](http://www.avaandersonnontoxic.com).

Morahan urges young women to take control of their health, reminding them that it is not up to doctors or others to take care of them.

She says, "Watch out for yourself. Even if you feel young and invincible, there are still many things you can do to better your health, educate yourselves and do differently to ensure wellness. You cannot do everything but you should do what you can."

*Anyone interested in getting involved with Floyd Warriors should go to [www.floydwarriors.com](http://www.floydwarriors.com) or personally contact Morahan at [info@floydwarriors.com](mailto:info@floydwarriors.com).*

#1.2019421:1263776037.JPG Lisa Morahan

Lisa Morahan during her fight against breast cancer.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Morahan



## **One-man play recounts Baldwin's life**

By Rachel Kim & Derek Liakos, A&E Editor & Contributing Writer

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

On Feb. 18 in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, Staged Dreams presented "James Baldwin - Down from the Mountaintop" an original solo play written and performed by Calvin Levels.

The play takes the audience through the life of James Baldwin, who was a novelist, playwright and human rights activist.

James Baldwin - Down from the Mountaintop guided the audience through many major points of Baldwin's life, including the publication of his first novel, "Go Tell It On the Mountain," his stay in Paris, and when he joined Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement.

At the start of the play, Levels emerged from the audience and graced the stage. This opening gesture reminded audience members that Baldwin was just like any other individual and transformed this historically important figure into a close, personal form.

Levels spoke in the voice of Baldwin, an act that would naturally be assumed by the audience, but was self-referential and claimed, in the voice of Baldwin, that he had possessed the physical being of an actor to share his story.

The set was composed of an armchair, a coffee table with books and a liquor bottle and side tables with lamps and photographs. This simple set allowed members of the audience to concentrate their focus on Baldwin's story.

From the start of the play, there were projections that showed drawings and paintings of Baldwin.

The images changed as Levels continued telling Baldwin's story. Photos of Baldwin's family, his milestones and even an unsettling photo of a lynching were portrayed on the screen.

The visuals and accompanying music were present throughout the entire production, but never detracted from Level's performance and kept the audience's attention.

Various texts that questioned and dealt with issues of racial equality and sexuality were also projected onto the screen.



The overall show itself was a monologue, but Levels often addressed the audience and even reacted to their presence and reactions.

His monologue established and defined the role of the writer, especially during a time like the Civil Rights Movement, as the disturber of peace.

The audience was able to see the connection between the political turmoil that inspired Baldwin's works such as his play, "Blues for Mister Charlie" (1964).

Although this 75-minute performance only featured one actor, the narrative structure worked well because of Levels's engaging performance and swift movement through the important events of Baldwin's life.

A question-and-answer session followed the performance and Levels eagerly responded to the active audience response and feedback.

He shared his personal history with Baldwin and claimed that Baldwin would be a role that he would play for the rest of his life.

Levels is a member of the Actors Studio and is a New York Drama Desk and Tony Award nominee.

The event was sponsored by the Black Faculty Staff Group, Intercultural Studies, the Office of Student Diversity Programs, Religious & Spiritual Life and the English and Theater Departments.

## Indie student play displays creativity

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

On March 4 the Theater Department will open the annual spring Black Box Seminar Production, "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams" at the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater.

The play, written by Nilo Cruz, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, centers around siblings Luca and Luciana whose lives are affected by their move from Havana to U.S. in 1961.

The two go through an emotional journey as they return to Cuba to search for their missing childhood and trace their roots.

Luciana finds refuge and is taken in by Hortensia, a woman who opens up a world of love, warmth and miracles with the Museum of Dreams.

As they go through this emotional journey, the characters learn to come to terms with their own personal past and ultimately challenge the audience's capability to hope, love and forgive.

Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams is directed by Ilanna Saltzman '11, who has had prior experience with directing and working with her peers in this kind of setting.

Saltzman previously directed student-written and student-run "Pegasus" last semester, which was well received and commended for its thought-provoking quality.

Like "Pegasus," "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams" is a student-run production, an experience that proves to be valuable and beneficial to all the students involved.

The student influence is not limited to directing and acting and extends to management and all other aspects of design.

Through excellent mentoring by our faculty, students are able to learn about the theatrical process in a very hands-on way, said Katie Lane '11, publicity manager of college's Theater Department.

Student-run productions like "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams" receive support and guidance from the department, but are also able to give students the freedom to explore and discover their responsibility and individual creativity.



In "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams" in particular, we have students taking charge in nearly every single area - directing, acting, set, lighting and costume design and even management which is incredibly exciting," Lane said.

Performances of "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams" will be held at the Black Box Studio in the JKB Theater until March 9. General admission tickets cost \$12 and student and senior citizen tickets cost \$8.

## Joan of Arc: martyred saint or moody teen?

### Stranger than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

The story of Joan of Arc, a Catholic saint who was burned for heresy and witchcraft in the mid-15th century, has been told and re-told many times by diverse authors.

One of the more original reimagining's of the story is the 1923 play, *Saint Joan*, by the renowned Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. If you are a reader who appreciates drama without seeing it on stage, run to the nearest library. This is one of the best and most interesting plays I have read.

The legend of Saint Joan has an admirable legacy. Joan is a pure and honest female warrior who leads men into battle, a woman who struggles against the powerful Catholic Church, a long-time political symbol for nationalism during the time of Napoleon, a martyr and, at the very core, a saint.

Shaw does not believe in that image and instead originates the character of Joan as an immature girl who is condemned by the Catholic Church and "judiciously burnt" by the English.

Joan's actions were of her own accord and her execution was based on the much practiced law of the society and of the time.

As Shaw states, "There are no villains in the piece . . . they are judicial murders, pious murders . . . the angels may weep at the murder, but the gods laugh at the murders."

The character of Joan is a raw, egotistical and ignorant child. She is not a blasphemer, a harlot or a witch. Still her apparent 'crimes' would be deemed destructive under 15th century legal proximities and her execution was an appropriate conclusion to her trial.

Although she is respected by a small group of 'followers,' one must also note how quickly these followers turn on her once she is brought to trial.

One of these followers is an army officer named Dunois with whom Joan becomes colleagues. Joan's relationship to Dunois is important in explaining how the English found it justifiable to execute her.

Although their relationship is strong in spirit, Dunois quickly turns on her when the Church pressures her.

In their first encounter, a raging Joan criticizes Dunois's rulings on battle. This arrogance on the battlefield combined with the disrespect that she shows the fellow officer - who is a senior and more experienced - leads to her capture.

She treats him like an idiot; he treats her in the way that a parent would treat a young, unruly child. They quarrel and eventually become colleagues.

Joan's dismissal of the authority of a commanding officer foreshadows Dunois's own dismissal of Joan when she is brought up in front of the court later in the play. Even with Dunois' loyalty to Joan, he cannot disagree with others on the subject of her immaturity.

Joan lives by her own hand and, in doing so, she dies by another. Although Dunois desires to stand beside her and help, he refuses to do so if she does not improve her arrogant beliefs.

At the end of Scene V, Joan attempts to instate her dominance in front of the court as it turns on her.

Dunois says, "If she fell into the Loire I would jump in, in full armor to fish her out. But if she plays the fool at Compiègne [the trial location] and gets caught, I must leave her to her doom."

Dunois is Joan's most distinguished follower and friend, but even he has no choice but to turn on her.

Thus, Bernard Shaw suggests that Joan's eventual execution is her own doing. It is her foolishness and egotism that gets the people to turn on her and, ultimately, to allow her to burn.

In Act IV, we are introduced to the judges - in other versions of the story, these would be the villains of the story - who order the death of Joan.

These men are not villains; they are people who represent the social and political conscience of the 15th century. Their disagreement with Joan is not written by Shaw as a ridiculous, over calculation of a troubled youth.

Joan is neither villain nor hero, and the reader is not to have ruthless opinions on her accusers.



## Students plan lobbying trip to D.C.

By Tegan O’neill, Staff Writer

On Sat, Feb 26, 2011

This April more than 10,000 youths will make their way to Washington D.C. to shake things up and make noise about important environmental issues at Power Shift 2011.

The Skidmore Power Shift coordinators, Anna Graves ‘14 and Annie Bruckner ‘11, hope to send about 60 students to this exciting convergence.

Students from all disciplines are encouraged to take part in the weekend-long conference from Apr. 15 to 18.

Students from all majors and all class years are encouraged to attend. The coordinators are looking to bring a good representation of the entire student body to the conference.

Power Shift is "boot camp for students to help them learn how to take initiative, whether that be on a personal, local or national level," said Rachel Chalot ‘12, the coordinator of fundraising.

According to the organization’s website, "the last two Power Shifts were the largest convergences of young environmental and social justice activists in U.S. history."

Power Shift is a conference run by young activists for young activists.

While at Power Shift, the activists will attend workshops, listen to lecturers and learn about grassroots projects. After the first two days of conferencing, the third day will be spent lobbying Congress.

"At Power Shift you are actually given the tools to get up and do something," Chalot said.

The conference is an opportunity for students to partake in political action, network for internships and jobs and meet other youths from around the country with similar beliefs and concerns.

By participating in the event, Skidmore students who attend the conference will be able to bring back what they have learned and spread awareness throughout the rest of the school.

"The conference is really all about starting the conversation," Chalot said.

In 2009, about 50 students attended the conference and brought back with them the idea for a rain garden, which was then established near the Tang Museum.



The rain garden is just one way in which the knowledge gained at the Power Shift conference has benefited the community as a whole.

The kick-off interest meeting took place on Wednesday, Feb. 23. The first round of registration will be completed on Friday, Feb. 25.

The downpayment to attend the conference is \$25.

Chalat and the other students organizing the event are currently working on grant and scholarship applications to defray the costs of going to the conference.

Chalat said that the cost will not exceed \$50. This price includes transportation to and from the event and lodging.

The price of the trip could be lower depending on the amount of money awarded and funds raised.

#1.2019424:934777380.png Power Shift

Photo courtesy of Skidmore Power Shift



**POWER  
SHIFT 2011**