

Lucy's Café opens to mixed reviews

By Max Siegelbaum, Contributing Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Lucy's Café, on the first floor of the Scribner Library, opened on Feb. 25 to mixed reviews from the campus.

The new café is located across from the circulation desk in the room that used to house the library's copy and fax machines.

Lucy's is designed in a similar fashion to the Burgess and Atrium cafés, with earth toned Formica plastic and glossy stained wood. Students, primarily upperclassmen, staff the café.

While bags of green mountain coffee line the walls, coffee is prepared from small capsules in a brand new Keurig single serving coffee dispenser. The café also offers assorted pastries, fruit, juice and bottled organic tea.

Students have expressed mixed opinions about the necessity and convenience of a café in the library.

"[The café is] awesome. I don't have to go outside to get coffee," Courtenay Jagel '11, said.

Nadia Arcese '11 said she believes the café has promise, but worries that it might lead to a crowded and noisy first floor.

Other students expressed concern about the café.

"[The café] sounds unnecessary and wasteful unless they bring something different than Burgess," Sarah Rosenblatt '12 said. She suggested that Lucy's might consider importing food from the local farmer's market.

Tommy Wagner '13 said the café is unnecessary and a waste of resources. "I don't mind walking an extra two minutes down a covered walkway to get my coffee. We already have 3 food establishments all in minutes of each other."

A post on the website Skidmore Unofficial pointed out another negative aspect of the café: coffee from Lucy's is more expensive per ounce than coffee at any other campus café.

One Keurig K-Cup brews about 8 ounces of watery coffee and will set you back \$1.25. says the Skidmore Unofficial post. A 12-ounce cup at Burgess, the Atrium, or the Spa is the same price.



Students also described the coffee at Lucy's as bland and watery.

Despite some negative response, a member of the Scribner Library staff, who declined to have her name published, said she is "cautiously optimistic" about the future of Lucy's.

Lucy's is open from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, and from 8 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday.

#1.2067340:654332796.JPG Lucy's Café

Kevin Dahill '13 visits Scribner Library's new Lucy's Café

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





Dining Services food preparation gloves spur controversy

By Alex Brehm, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

A Dining Services worker has recently expressed concern regarding boxes of food preparation gloves with a label that reads, "WARNING: These vinyl gloves contain a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm."

Stickers from manufacturing company, Food Handlers, conceal the warning labels on these boxes. One of the stickers says, "Learn more about Food Handler's sustainable glove and bag options: www.foodhandler.com."

The dining hall worker, who declined to have his name printed, said he first noticed the stickers covering the warning labels one year ago. He said he had posted the labels and the health warnings on the Dining Hall's suggestion board twice, but got no response.

When another worker posted asking about the labels he received a response that said Dining Hall managers cared about the safety of the workers and the issue had been investigated.

A representative from Food Handler said that the warning was placed on the gloves due to the presence of DEHP, a plasticizer that is used to make glove material more flexible, and which is found in other brands, not only Food Handler.

Under the state of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, the company was forced to include the warning on its packaging as long as its product contained DEHP, the representative said.

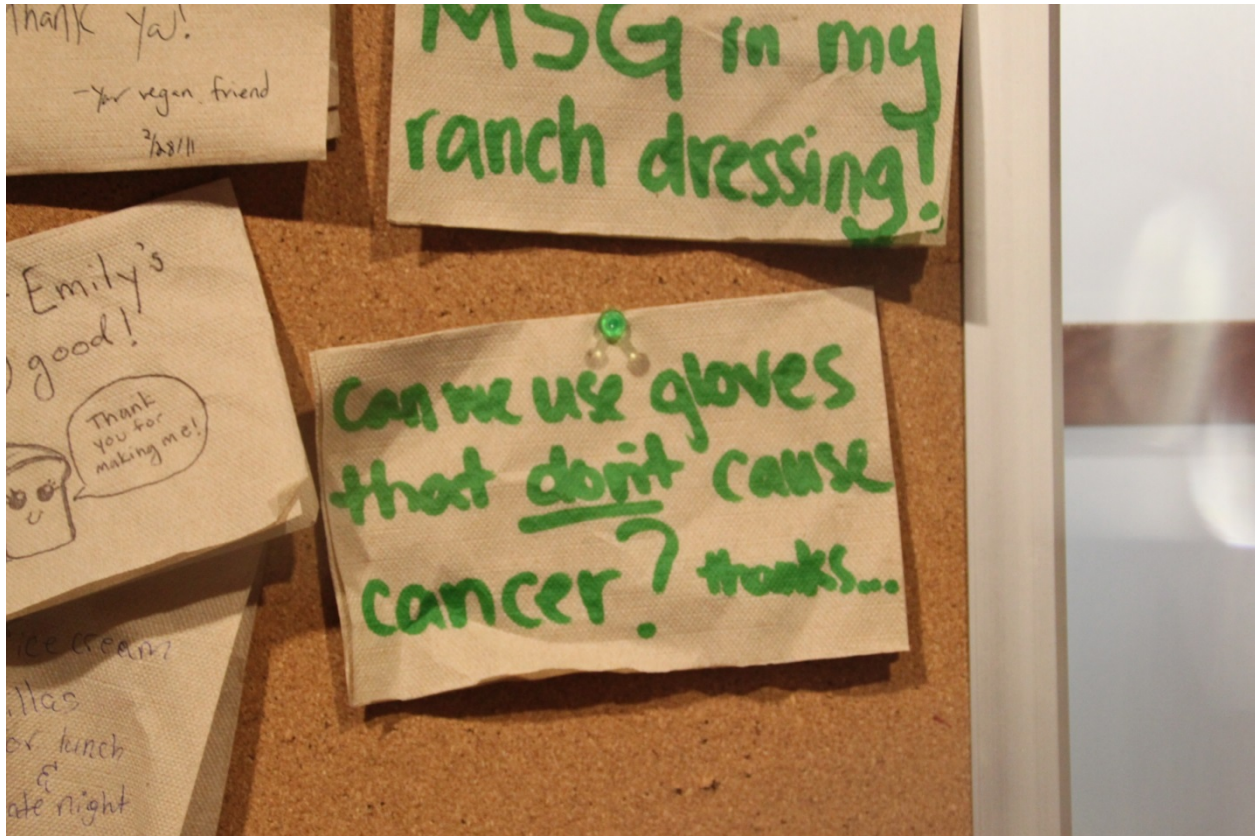
Food Handler began including "strict requirements that eliminate DEHP completely" from the gloves. The representative said that the company had extra packaging containing the warning, and covered it with a sticker instead of switching immediately to a new package design.

Managers at Dining Services were not available for comment by press time on March 3.

News #1.2067337:4079292633.JPG Gloves

Workers expressed outrage over gloves.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Intersections' addresses nationality

By Max Siegelbaum, Contributing Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

On March 1 the Committee on Intercultural & Global Understanding (CIGU), the Bias Response Group and the SGA Committee on Diversity Affairs held the penultimate installment of the Intersections panel series with a focus on nationality. About 60 members of the campus community attended the panel, which was held in Davis Auditorium.

Hosted by Director of Intercultural Studies and American Studies Professor Winston Grady-Willis, a panel of three professors and one student discussed ideas of the nation, nationalism and national identity. The three professors explored the idea of the nation in relation to their own academic studies.

Jordana Dym, an associate professor in the history department, discussed the process of building a "geobody" in the country where she conducts her research, Guatemala.

Dym described the different depictions cartographers and artists drew of Guatemala in the early 19th century and how they affect the public perception of the country, saying the process of turning the nation from a relatively isolated group of different indigenous groups and immigrants into a unified state is complex but necessary.

Maria Fernanda Lander, associate professor of Spanish, followed Dym with a presentation on the connection between nation, gender and drugs. She opened with a quote from the French author Ernest Renan who wrote a description of the nation as a "soul, a spiritual principle constituted by a rich legacy of memories." She also quoted Renan, saying that nationalism is "the will to perpetuate the value of that heritage."

Lander said these ideals relate to the war on drugs in Mexico and the U.S. in the 1930s. During this period, Lander said, the U.S. government used this conflict to stir up xenophobia against the Mexico by posing the idea that Mexicans are ruining the American nation with the steady influx of drugs.

Yasmin Hormozi '11 followed Professor Lander with a personal account of what the nation means to her and how nationalism pertains to her life. She said she feels a strong sense of national pride, but has also faced prejudices because of her physical appearance and Indian heritage. She also spoke about racial archetypes and how they have affected her identity.



She ended by saying that the campus should not forget the distinctly American privilege that we hold to be able to criticize the country we live in.

Pushkala Prasad, a business professor, ended the lecture with an account of how national identity can bleed into the business world.

She spoke about the purchase of the New York City area, Rockefeller Plaza by the Japanese Sony Corporation and the widespread panic that followed because many Americans believed that the Japanese were encroaching on the nation.

Prasad also said there is a distinct need to be vigilant of American corporations abroad and that often the perception of America is colored by the interactions between the local population and the corporation.

The session ended with a question-and-answer session, where several of the audience members shared their own viewpoints about the nation and their experiences with national identity.

The final intersections lecture will be held on April 7 with the eminent Princeton professor Cornell West as the keynote speaker.

#1.2067335:3510413673.JPG Intersections

Professors and students discussed personal experiences with nationality.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





Senate approves new SGA digital coordinator position

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

On March 1, the SGA Senate met to discuss a resolution to establish an official SGA digital coordinator.

The resolution to create an SGA digital coordinator stems from the senators' desire to make the actions and decisions of Senate more quickly publicized.

Senator Randy Abreu '11 created the resolution and suggested that becoming more involved in social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter would allow information to get to the students faster.

The digital coordinator would update these sites during the weekly Senate meetings.

It started off from talking to people who wanted to know about what goes on in Senate, but more in real time, Abreu said. "I realized that Skidmore kids are always on their smartphones, and that this could be a way to get the information to them instantly."

Abreu cited the 100 free tickets to a recent hockey game as an example of how getting the news out faster would have been more effective.

Not many students took advantage of the opportunity for free tickets, likely because of ineffective advertisement.

The resolution was unanimously approved, thereby creating a new step-up position in the Senate body.

In other news:

- Senate approved a resolution to allocate funding from program support to the Drastic Measures. Bryce Klatsky, president of the Drastics, approached Senate to request \$100 for posters to advertise the group's charity concert on March 21. The money raised from the concert will go to a charity for autistic children.
- Senate approved a resolution to allocate funding to SkidTV. Mike Forbes '12, president, and Mike Levin '11, treasurer, requested \$8,000 for new video cameras that are based on flash drives, not tapes. Senate unanimously approved the request. The cameras will be available to the Skidmore community, but only after a training process.

Teach-in confronts Compton's incident

By Alex Brehm, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

At 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 24 more than 200 students and faculty members attended a teach-in organized to address the Dec. 2010 assault at Compton's restaurant and its aftermath.

The event was held in the Spa and was organized by professor Winston Grady-Willis of the American studies department.

Several members of the college community spoke at the teach-in and presented various perspectives on the incident at Compton's Restaurant.

In late December, four students were arrested and charged with varying counts of assault after an incident at Compton's Restaurant in Saratoga Springs.

One student was charged with a hate crime, which was later dropped after the county District Attorney found the charge to be without substance.

Speakers discussed the history of racism in the U.S., presenting the idea that the hate crime charge in the Compton's incident was an example of racial prejudice and misunderstanding.

Janet Casey, a professor in the English department, began the teach-in with a description of anonymous blog posts and comments on the Internet, and the vitriolic nature they have taken. She noted specific comments on Food for Thought posters and Skidmore Unofficial.

Casey said that though students and professors might conclude that they cannot control other people's words, students could take responsibility for their own speech and ensure that it is part of a respectable dialogue.

Director of Student Diversity Programs Mariel Martin spoke about many issues that make students feel marginalized on campus, including issues of culture, language and accessibility. She also spoke about the challenges of navigating dominant and non-dominant groups on campus.

Mason Stokes, chair of the English department, spoke about the dilemma of acting without sufficient facts and information. In cases where facts must be withheld, he said, it is necessary to wait for better information, though such waiting can lead to a lack of community action.

Stokes said he could safely assume that police reports were not always true, and that young men of color and low socio-economic status cannot always be assured the same access to representation in the justice system as white, wealthier defendants.

The issue of 'white flight' and ethnicity in urban areas was addressed next. Professor Jon Zibbell of the anthropology department said that unequal access to mortgages in the 1950s led racial minorities to be forced to live in high-density urban areas.

"What, do black folks just like cement? And white folks just like picket fences and single-family homes?" No. Zibbell said.

"Police treat people of different races differently when at the scene of a criminal investigation," Zibbell said, and the development of the suburbs, as well as behavior of police, could lead consumers of the media to be immediately skeptical of accounts of such events as the Compton's incident.

Guest speaker Gaspar Castillo, a defense attorney from Albany, spoke about the prejudices he witnesses when he works with defendants of different races.

Castillo said that when defending an African America man for a murder charge he first pointed the jury's attention to his client's race and urged them not to try him solely on the color of his skin. Castillo also spoke about his experiences growing up as a Latino man.

Castillo asked the audience some basic civil rights questions, leading to a tense moment when students in attendance were unable to describe the 1857 landmark Supreme Court case Dred Scott v. Sandford that determined slaves were not citizens.

Theater lecturer Lisa Grady-Willis closed the teach-in. "What does it take to be visible, to be respected, to have a presence?" she asked.

Professor re-evaluates financial aid

By Sandy Zhang, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

A recent study conducted by Sandy Baum, professor emerita of economics, found that in many public institutions, financial aid is often used as a means to influence accepted students' decisions instead of a means to provide low-and moderate-income students an opportunity to attend college.

Baum is in the midst of critical work on the intersection of college endowments, financial aid and student enrollment. Her work explores the increasingly competitive college admissions process and looks for ways to ease the level of competition.

One of the primary goals of her research is to find ways to diminish financial barriers (also known as barriers to access) that prevent many students from attending college.

The most recent study on institutional aid patterns shows that in public colleges and universities, about 50 percent of financial aid goes toward students who need the funds, while the rest are used to sway students' decisions to enroll.

For example, an accepted student able to afford the tuition with high SAT scores will be awarded aid (often called a scholarship) simply because of his or her high scores, according to Baum.

Baum has also recently begun exploring ways to relieve the competitive admissions process. One of her proposed solutions for decreasing the intense level of competition for acceptance in prestigious institutions is to increase enrollment.

Baum says that considering the hefty endowments of prestigious colleges, they should be able to enroll significantly more students without sacrificing the quality of the educations they offer.

"If [the wealthiest, most selective colleges] were to increase the size of their undergraduate student bodies by some percentage, say half, virtually all of them would still be at the top of the list of institutions ranked by wealth per student, and their admissions queues would still be out the door," said Baum in a statement with her research partner Michael McPherson. McPherson is president of the Spencer Foundation, which provides grants for educational improvement research.

Baum started researching financial aid about 25 years ago, just before she joined the Skidmore faculty in 1987.

Her background as an economist and her interest in public policy led her to think about the relationship between the government's policies and the prospects for reducing inequality in America.

"I started looking at the government's role in reducing inequality in access to educational opportunities," Baum said.

Baum said the college has handled financial aid allocation well. Skidmore's approach to financial aid is need-based; meaning aid is awarded almost exclusively to accepted students who truly need financial assistance.

"The need for innovative solutions to these challenges is more urgent than ever," Baum said, as both students and parents grapple with the increasingly extreme competition that comes with application to highly selective colleges and the financial barriers that stand in the way once acceptance is offered.

In summary of her research and work, Baum said, "The most important issues in the realm of college access are assuring that low-and-moderate-income students have the elementary and secondary education they need to be prepared to do college work and that they do not face insurmountable financial barriers to enrolling and succeeding in college."

"The issue goes beyond simply assuring less advantaged students have access to higher education," Baum said.

But we should also address the question of admissions to highly selective colleges. The current process not only excludes many qualified students from low-income backgrounds - it also does intellectual and psychological damage to many of the students who actively compete for admission.



Kings of Limbs' is worth a listen

Let's Talk About Rock

By Eli Cohen, Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

On Feb. 18, revolutionary alt-rock band Radiohead released its eighth studio album, "The King of Limbs," and received overwhelmingly positive reviews from critics all over the world.

The album was originally scheduled for a Feb. 19 release, but for reasons unknown the band decided to push the drop date forward one day.

The first reactions from many Radiohead fans were uniform. A general satisfaction seemed to be the consensus among fans on campus.

The eight-track album, which wraps up at 37 minutes of total playtime, has already provoked a plethora of wide-ranging conspiracy theories, as only Radiohead has been able to do for years now.

One of the only musicians better at inspiring conspiracy theories is Robert Johnson, the man notorious for allegedly selling his soul to the devil at the Crossroads in exchange for his supernatural guitar-playing ability.

Another musical group that, like Radiohead, rivaled its ability to prompt such theories was The Beatles, the band that managed to convince an entire generation that its bassist, Sir Paul McCartney, was dead.

There are two most agreed-upon (and rational) theories revolving around "King of Limbs": it was either released with the intent that there would be a follow-up album released not far in the future, or that it was released as a remix album.

What exactly is a remix album? This is a good question, especially in the era of dubstep and hip-hop remixes.

No one is suggesting that Kanye is going to be sampling this album. This conspiracy theory directly correlates with another Radiohead conspiracy: the "01-10" theory, which combines their albums "OK, Computer" and "In Rainbows."

The first song from "OK, Computer" is followed by the first song on "In Rainbows" and this pattern continues throughout both albums.



But enough about conspiracies. Let's get to the actual music. Despite the praise given in critics' reviews, many listeners have ended up unimpressed by the album.

Now, there is no way to claim that a band as talented and groundbreaking as Radiohead released a bad album, and one who would say such a thing would be isolated from the world of music.

However, "Kings of Limbs" is a far cry from Radiohead's previous works.

Kings of Limbs does not really hit its stride until "Lotus Flower," the album's fifth track that falls past the halfway point of the album.

The opening song, "Bloom," as well as "Feral" are interesting, but they seem almost a little too experimental, although some fans may not agree.

From "Lotus Flower" on, the songs begin to take more of a clear shape, and the album becomes an absolute delight to listen to.

This is especially true for "Codex," the track directly following "Lotus Flower", and "Seperator," the dramatic conclusion to the album.

Radiohead fans will tell anyone who will listen that any of their albums is absolutely worth having, and "King of Limbs" is no exception.

Keeping that in mind, fans should not build this album past its potential. It is without a doubt a great album, but not one of Radiohead's best.

In the end, whether listeners will enjoy this album depends on how willing they will be to get past the first couple of rough patches. If so, they will find the album intensely gratifying to listen to.

Eli Cohen is a sophomore Music major from Middlebury, Vt.

Hashtag trend robs artists' powerful lyricism

Hip-Hop Weekly

By Jenna Postler, Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Do you ever struggle to make comparisons in your speech and accidentally leave the 'like,' or 'as' out of your metaphors and similes?

Let's say you're trying to explain that something is expensive. Would you say, "prices steep...stairs?" You probably wouldn't. It just doesn't sound right.

Although in colloquial English, this might sound strange, as of late, it has become quite common in hip-hop.

This phenomenon of leaving out the crucial "like" or "as" from a simile or metaphor has a term within the hip-hop community: hashtag rap.

During a Nov. 2 interview with Funkmaster Flex on the radio station Hot 97, rapper Kanye West claimed to have started the fad.

West proposed that hashtag rap spawned from his 2007 song, "Barry Bonds."

On the chorus of the track, West raps, "Here's another hit...Barry Bonds," leaving out a connecting word between the noun and the baseball player.

While West claims to have started this style, examples of hashtag rap can be traced as far back as 2002.

Whether its true conception came from West's "Barry Bonds" or a previous song, hashtag rap has really taken off with the rise of popular rappers like Drake and Nicki Minaj.

Examples of hashtag rap in popular music include, "Swimmin' in the money, come and find me...Nemo," and "Hang it up...Flatscreen," rapped by Drake and Minaj, respectively.

Despite the varying opinions on these immensely popular artists, many agree that this style of rapping does nothing to further the genre.



Instead of becoming progressively more complex and talent-filled, the fad of hashtag rap robs artists' lyrics of their potential. By removing words from metaphors, hip-hop artists are making themselves look and sound ridiculous.

Essentially, hashtag rap serves only to dumb down the genre, discrediting rap as a form of expression.

The hashtag trend is quickly turning a genre once known for its powerful lyricism into a simple stream of words.

One can only hope that the fad of hashtag rap is only that - a fad - and not a permanently disfiguring presence within hip-hop that will leave 'em scarred...leprosy.

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 mornng on WSPN.

Not your average deli sandwich

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

On a snowy Saratoga night, sometimes the best thing to do is eat a good sandwich, especially one made by the lovely folks at Legends Café.

Michael McQuatters and Christine Lloyd own Legends and have definitely succeeded in creating a hospitable restaurant where the customer is appreciated. The anything-but-basic menu items are named after Hollywood and sports legends. Top sellers include The Tiger, The Bradshaw and The Friends Salad.

Located at 102 Congress Street, the restaurant is a walk from the bus stop, but the food is well worth the journey. Legends is more than an average deli. The menu offers a variety of subs, wraps, sandwiches, soups and salads. Legends has recently introduced burgers and paninis to the menu, which have been a big hit.

Additionally, there are ever-changing soup and sub specials; special are listed on Legends' Facebook page.

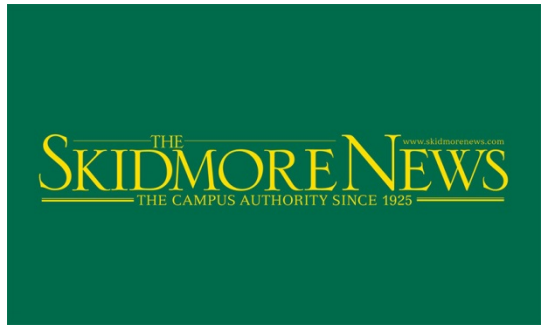
McQuatters' emphasized Legends' use of fresh, local ingredients.

What separates us from [most] places is that we make everything [ourselves], McQuatters said. He explained that "We [Legends] don't deal with national food chains. You won't be eating chicken from Nebraska." That is, Legends uses fresh, never frozen, ingredients.

I certainly detected the freshness in my dinner. The Angelina Panini, made with mozzarella, spinach, roasted red peppers, tomatoes and a balsamic vinaigrette was very tasty and perfectly portioned. As a vegetarian, I appreciated Legends' extensive menu. Sure, they have sandwiches with heaping piles of three types of meat, but they also maintain an exciting selection for the vegetarians out there.

One great component of the menu is the Create Your Own Salad option, which completely allows customers to be in charge of their meal. You can choose from an array of lettuces, veggies, meats, dressings and other toppings. Legends is all about you.

Though the café itself appears plain, the service is genuine and the food delicious. Legends is all about convenience, and offer take-out and delivery options. In fact, delivery is 40 percent of sales.



The owners also pay special attention to the goings-on at Skidmore and anticipate events like Fun Day when delivery is usually in high demand. A sweet touch to your meal: Legends accepts your Skid Card.

Last Friday McQuatters brightened my day with this compliment to Skidmore: "Our best interactions are with Skidmore." Legends openly relies on the business that Skidmore brings. Unlike other restaurants on Broadway, Legends is busiest in the off-season, while school is in session.

#1.2067352:2182637971.jpg Legend's

Legend's Angelina Panini

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Toys are no longer just for children

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

One more week of the roughest, toughest times of the year when our souls are waiting to be thawed out from the winter tundra.

It is a difficult time for all, even if you see people having a jolly ol' time. We all are struggling to finish work and finally pull out our favorite spring apparel.

Let's hope things pick up when we get back looking (semi) toned, (maybe) tanned, fit and ready to go out in a pretty dress sans tights and snow boots.

Dear C,

I won a vibrator at the 'sex toy bingo' the other week, but haven't used it yet. I'm almost nervous to use it because I never have before and I'm jealous of my friend who loves playing with sex toys.

-In Need of Some Good Vibrations

Dear In Need of Some Good Vibrations,

This is probably the best prize you could have won; it not only makes you feel good but also makes hook ups that much better.

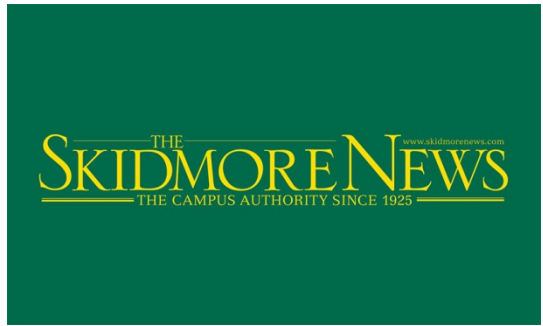
In high school, my friends and I did not understand masturbation and even looked down upon it. When I came (ha!) here, I was very open with my friends in talking about it and really changed my opinions.

I was extremely nervous, but one of my good friends was a pro; she told me what to expect and what to do. I was so nervous, I made an "o" playlist, which of course included John Mayer's "Your Body is a Wonderland."

Well, it worked.

It took a bit to get used to, but once you get the gist you will see why your friend loves playing with her toys so much.

Do not too timid to ask your friend, or even look up "how-to's" on the internet.



Have fun, and perhaps listen to Usher and you'll be going, "Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, Oh my gosh!"

Have an ah-mazing break!

Stars and Hearts,

C.

FAN stages 'Vagina Monologues'

By Tegan O'Neill, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

From Feb. 25 to Feb. 27 was flooded with emotion as 11 women performing in "The Vagina Monologues" spilled their hearts and souls into their roles and spoke out about sex, masturbation, orgasm, birth and rape.

The Feminist Action Network, otherwise known as FAN, staged three performances of Eve Ensler's episodic play to raise money for the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County.

Of the proceeds raised, 10 percent will go to a charity chosen by the V-Day movement's Spotlight Campaign. V-Day is a global activist movement for the stopping of violence against women and girls.

This year, funds will go to the Women and Girls of Haiti to help ensure safety for women left in post-earthquake Haiti and to establish three safe houses for survivors of violence.

V-Season lasts from Feb. 1 to April 30 during which "The Vagina Monologues" is staged across the world to celebrate the female body and raise awareness about violence against women.

Eve Ensler wrote the monologues in 1994 after conducting 200 interviews with women about such topics as sex and relationships.

Ensler gives out the rights to the show with the expectations and hopes that all of the proceeds will be donated to causes serving the empower of women.

It started out as a celebration of the female body, but has since taken on a much larger role.

"It has become more of a movement than a play," said Grady Shea '13, who directed the most recent performance.

Although Ensler mandates that all those cast in the show be female, there are no stipulations about the sex of the director.

Shea was chosen by the FAN to direct the play. He noted that from this experience he has learned a great deal about himself, "as an artist, a man and a human being."



Enslar encourages both males and females to support the show. "You can be male or female to be a feminist," Shea explained.

Eliza Straim '11 and Sarah Elwell '11, co-presidents of FAN, produced the show. "I was in the show my sophomore year and I have loved it ever since," Elwell said.

The annual nature of the show makes it possible for students to attend each year and see how different women bring their own flair to the monologues.

"Older Skidmore students can see how it has changed over the years," Elwell explained.

For Straim, it was the connection between the audience and the performers that made "The Vagina Monologues" special.

"There is an incredible sense of community during the show. Everyone present is bonded in that moment," Straim said.

To heighten this sense of community, the chairs in Falstaff's were arranged in a configuration that had audience members facing each other so that they could direct their attention toward multiple spotlights throughout the show. Throughout the performance, the actresses weaved in between rows of the audience.

The effect was appropriately intimate for the issues raised by "The Vagina Monologues." The monologues are provocative and raise issues that are usually ignored or generally deemed unsuitable for everyday conversation.

Issues were varied and included social and political topics like rape in war-torn countries, the varying decibel levels of female orgasm and the ridiculousness of thong underwear.

"It is a wonderful production and an important one to put on," Shea said.

PIRGs fight for cheaper books

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

According to College Board, the national average cost of textbooks at a four-year public college is \$1,137.

The Student Public Interest Research Groups - self-described as "a national network of non-profit, non-partisan student advocacy groups - respond to the high and rising costs of textbooks with the creation of the Make Textbooks Affordable Junior Advocate Program. According to PIRGs' website, the program intends to "train and empower students to take action on campuses across the country."

PIRGs explains the program as "the first student-led marketing campaign of its kind and represents a major turning point in the movement for more affordable textbooks."

In addition to the amount of money the average student spends on textbooks, the site claims that prices have risen to more than quadruple the rate of inflation and that "publishers release frequent new editions to limit used books, conceal price information from faculty and bundle textbooks with 'bells and whistles' to inflate costs."

To decrease the amount spent by students, PIRGs are pushing for a new form of textbooks called "open textbooks."

PIRGs define open textbooks as "college texts offered online under a license that allows free digital access and low-cost printing." Open textbooks are unlike "conventional e-books," as they can be found online for free and hard copies can be accessed at a rate of about \$20 to \$40.

Open textbooks are gaining popularity across the country. PIRGs state that making the switch to open textbooks allows professors to "save their students up to \$20,000 per class" and "have the potential to reduce costs by up to 80 percent."

Despite that more than a thousand classes in the U.S. have made the switch to open textbooks, PIRGs state that a majority of professors have never heard of the books. Thus, the Junior Advocate Program was created.

Junior Advocates are currently creating and presenting campaigns that market open textbooks on their campuses. Methods used are similar to those used by big-budget publishing companies and include "one-on-one conversations, group presentations, online promotion and media outreach."

Rather than focusing on the availability of used books and book rentals, the Junior Advocate Program works "to change the dynamics of the textbooks market by challenging traditional publishing models."

Joanne Schwartzberg '12 is currently studying off-campus in the Washington Semester Program through American University. Part of her program is an internship, which she is fulfilling by becoming a Junior Advocate.

"Open source textbooks are important because they are the wave of the future. Everything is going to become digitalized eventually, including textbooks, and we should jump on the bandwagon now," Schwartzberg said.

PIRGs' main goal is not just to save students money, but to also send the message to publishing companies that "professors will stop using books if they get too expensive...[leaving companies] no choice but to lower their prices and make textbooks affordable."

Schwartzberg also feels that open textbooks will ultimately benefit the country. "Textbook affordability is a large way we can make higher education in general affordable for more people ... It will lead to more success and a stronger workforce for America and who can argue with that," Schwartzberg said.

After a spring break trip to New York City to talk to faculty members at New York University and Columbia University, Schwartzberg will be bringing the message of open textbooks to the Skidmore campus.

"We're already paying \$50,000 a year to go here; textbooks should not be what break our banks," Schwartzberg said.

PIRGs are campaigning for sustainable campuses, affordable higher education, truth about credit and more.

They also offer many internships and volunteer opportunities to interested students.



Editorial

Students must look beyond the number

By the Editorial Board

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Our college is 41. According to "U.S. News and World Report," this number encompasses everything that prospective students need to know about the campus we call home. From that, applicants should be able to understand our professors' engagement, our classes' difficulty and the overall value of a diploma with "Skidmore College" stamped across the top.

The magazine heads its list of college rankings with a disingenuous disclaimer: "These rankings provide one tool for selecting a college." But for many families, the "U.S. News and World Report" list stands as an authoritative guide for where to spend tuition dollars. Whether it acts as a one-stop mailing list for where to ship off a Common Application, or just a quiet source of doubt for high school seniors already second-guessing their own ideas of where they might be happy, the list's influence on students' college search is poisonous and pervasive.

Criticisms of the rankings' methodology and undue influence have been around almost since the magazine initially published its first Best Colleges issue in 1983. Outlets from the "San Francisco Chronicle" to "The New Yorker" have published condemnations of the list, claiming it maintains a status quo of high-endowment colleges dominating the top spots, leaving unrecognized the forward momentum of other schools repeatedly relegated to the middle of the pack.

No one means to denigrate the comprehensive research conducted by "U.S. News and World Report" every year. The data collected is significant: reputation among educators, class sizes and acceptance rates should, without question, play an influential role in students' assessment of potential colleges. But by combining these varied factors under one monolithic heading, "The Best," the magazine suggests that picking a college should be literally as simple as 1-2-3.

U.S. News and World Report might do better by its readership by promoting separate lists for each of the factors that now play a fractional role in a college's overall ranking: "Schools with the Smallest Class Sizes," "Schools Highest-Rated Among College Presidents," "Schools with the Greatest Financial Resources." By allowing students to mix and match among several lists, rather than allowing one list to overshadow specific criteria, the magazine would encourage more applicants to think critically about the college qualities most important to them.

As much flak as "The Princeton Review" deserves for its unabashedly unscientific methods for categorizing schools, it gets some of the college application process right. The website gained attention for rankings reflecting specific criteria important to students: from "Great College Towns" to "Most Politically Active Students," the review guide makes sure that prospective students know exactly what qualities are being ranked when they see numbers lined up on a page. These lists' popularity shows that students don't just want to be told what school is "the best" - they want to find out what school is right for them.

We appreciate that our college understands prospective students' difficulties in finding the college best-suited for their needs and that they remain sensitive to how the "U.S. News and World Report" list is ill-suited to helping students through that process. In 2007, President Glotzbach condemned the magazine's rankings for misleading students, going on to pledge that Skidmore would refuse to participate in the "U.S. News and World Report" reputational surveys that play a significant role in the formation of the "Best Colleges." The college is also notable in the absence of those rankings appearing in the college's promotional material, in a deliberate choice that we applaud.

Glotzbach understands, just as any student who has endured the college process does, that deciding where to attend college is a difficult process, one made no easier by the misleading numbers game of "U.S. News and World Report." As we pass prospective students visiting the campus this spring, we empathize with the challenges they face. Regardless of whether potential applicants like what they see at our college, we hope they see Skidmore's particular strengths and opportunities - ones that can't be enumerated.

Our private college is also public

Daydreams

By Rick Chrisman, Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

I was taken by surprise at the community meeting about race the week before last, although I shouldn't have been. The highly emotional outpouring by students of color about their mistreatment and resultant misery at Skidmore was sobering for me, who believed that things were much better than that.

But then I remembered where we are: America! Most of us are Americans, having grown up in a society that faces persistent racism (though there are some exceptions). We brought this racial tension to Skidmore with us from our hometowns and, in doing so, we perpetuate this sort of society. But there's hope.

At the meeting, the calls for action were heartfelt, and promises were made to come back with good proposals for action. Yes, some people were dismayed that they had heard this conversation before at Skidmore. A Skidmore News clipping from 1994 recently posted over a water fountain read "Race Relations at Skidmore One Year Later: is it getting any better?" Apparently not, but the upside is that the conversation has been renewed.

So, we ask, who's to blame? Who is responsible for the ongoing racial hostility here? Can't more be done to prevent this unnecessary pain? We are overdue to "pop the bubble," as Danny Pforte said in his article last week.

But the bubble that I blame for our distress is not one of whiteness, privilege, affluence or ignorance alone, although these factors aren't totally irrelevant. The real problem is one of self-control. Skidmore students seem to see themselves in a "domestic bubble" - in other words, to imagine their college campus as being their big comfy living room.

The reality, of course, is that they have left home and now occupy a larger public space where the rules of communication are much stricter. Students must remember that public discourse is far more limited than private. This rule applies to both to college life and the work world.

Apparently, many students haven't adjusted to this new reality. Back in their living rooms at home, where they are accepted by everybody under that roof no matter how they behave, they are



accustomed to exhaling their opinions and fulminations. And that's what private space is for. In the larger community, however, the rules of etiquette change.

Here at Skidmore, we are suddenly met with relationships that differ greatly from those we had at home. They are public relationships, friendships between strangers. Everyone you meet is a candidate for friendship; everyone in the dorm, the dining hall, on the team and in class. In joining this liberal institution, we suddenly become equal-opportunity friends motivated collectively by curiosity, empathy, a passion for learning and what I would call a kind of communal love.

Danielle S. Allen says that such friendship "is not an emotion, but a practice, a set of hard-won, complicated habits that are used to bridge trouble, difficulty and differences of personality, experience and aspiration." She calls this "the citizenship of trust-building." If this mindset were to overtake the Skidmore campus, it would eliminate everything from anonymous racial slurs to more overt harassment. But that's a big "if."

The distinction between the private and public spheres is common sense, but to many students, the boundary of the public sphere is unclear. As far as they are concerned, the discourse appropriate within the private sphere carries over indefinitely, thus invading the invisible public one. And this is how the pain begins.

During the performance after the community meeting that Friday, James Baldwin looked out at the audience and lovingly exhorted them: "Take care of each other, protect each other." It was beautifully said, and it's not that hard to do.

Skidstyle: What are they wearing?

By Faith Nicholas, Contributing Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

A conservative striped skirt topped with an embellished leather jacket. A proper sweater, khakis and combed hair offset by rugged boots. A sporty anorak covers a floral dress.

Are these designer fashions currently being sent down the runway? No. These are typical outfits seen on Skidmore's campus.

Take any model off the runways of the fall 2011 ready-to-wear shows in New York and he or she would fit perfectly into the Skidmore style world. Though the shows covered a range of different styles from classic to rugged to bohemian, the majority of shows this season were eclectic.

Patterns weighed heavily in the collections of Marc Jacobs and Proenza Schouler, while Libertine played with clashing prints and haphazard silhouettes. Thakoon Panichgul of Thakoon received inspiration from the costumes of Versailles and the clothes of Kenyan tribes.

Similarly an eclectic look represents the overall 'Skidstyle.'

At Skidmore, style is about personal expression rather than just fashion.

A Sept. 16, 2010 post from the blog of the school's style photographer, the Skidtorialist, reads, "And what is fall fashion? Who the eff cares. With a little bit of aplomb, you can pull off anything."

Confidence pulls an assorted look together, whether the look is "fashionable," or not.

Harvesting a personal style is more important than being a slave of designer-declared fashion.

Outfits often pull from a range of inspirations. Wardrobes consist of items that do not 'match' but still look good together.

Recycling clothes is popular on campus. Some pieces are bought at thrift stores, while some have been passed down from parents, relatives or friends. Almost all secondhand pieces tell a story.

Clothing swaps have been held by the Skidtorialist and the Environmental Action Club while the Freecycle table in Case Center allows students to leave unwanted clothing or pick up some 'new' items.



An element of humor also runs through the student style, as can be seen in the ubiquitous knit hat resembling a lion, zebra or other animal.

Students pull from movies, television and the occasional runway show as well.

Looks appear unintentionally stylish and fresh.

Gina Doherty '14, said, "There is a definite vibe to clothing here, but it is hard to define. People do not look like they try too hard."

Some disagree with this statement. Tera Johnson '14, said Skidmore style can be split into three styles - the student 'straight out of an Urban Outfitters catalog,' the one ready to go hiking after class and the jock. Male students spoken to believe some girls "dress like grandmothers."

While all these assumptions may be true in one way or another, one cannot deny that there are a wide variety of looks and styles on campus.

At its core Skidmore does not have one definitive style. Rather, it is a mix of elements that reflect personalities, interests, backgrounds and luck. Not everyone is blessed with the gift of shopping.

Skidmore students appear to be ahead of the curve fashion-wise. The fall runways were laden with models in Skidmore-esque outfits, which is admittedly pretty cool.

What is even cooler is that Skidmore students could care less whether they are in vogue. They are just dressing in what they like and what will keep them the warmest.



Alumnus lecturer helps hook-ups and nonprofits

By Alex Brehm, Staff Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Few students know about it but the once-popular internet service for Skidmore students, Hookup (student.skidmore.edu/hookup), is still available to match up Skidmore students to their secret admirers.

After logging in to the website, students can enter the usernames of students in they are romantically interested in. If the interest has done the same to them, Hookup will send both students a message telling them that they have been matched.

The website allows students to find out about their crushes without risking rejection.

Hookup was designed by Andrew Cencini '01, a computer science and classics alumnus who has returned for a semester to lecture in the computer science department.

"It's funny that it's called Hookup, actually, because the site was designed as a way to avoid the hookup culture on campus," Cencini said. "It's meant to connect students romantically."

Cencini is currently teaching an introductory computer science course, as well as "Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems," a class about large-scale computer services such as Google, Facebook, BitTorrent and other large computer networks.

Before teaching at the college, Cencini ran his own software development business, designing software for managing data centers. Before his business, Cencini worked at Microsoft, producing structural programming for the Internet search engine Bing.

While he was a student, Cencini took on a number of other programming projects, such as designing the online SGA voting system.

"Before that, it was all paper ballots," he said. "You'd line up in the Dining Hall to vote."

Cencini also designed the Student Announcements email program. His name is visible at the bottom of the Announcements website along with the names of other students who have updated the service since he graduated.



Cencini is currently working on a new project called Technology 4 Good. He is collaborating with other programmers in the Saratoga area to design technological tools for nonprofit and charitable organizations.

One of the group's plans is to start a website providing used goods to nonprofits. Instead of throwing out old equipment, such as a lawn mower or a computer, homes and businesses could post the good to the website, allowing a local nonprofit to use it.

"It's like the Freecycle table in Case Center," Cencini said.

Like Hookup, Cencini hopes that Technology 4 Good serves to connect people - in this case through social and environmental justice rather than romance.

Cencini is looking for interested students to help out in the projects and gain experience in programming and working with charities.

Charlie Sheen wins hearts, blows minds

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Not in recent history has an episode of celebrity sensationalism struck so deeply at the underpinnings of the American cultural psyche. Charlie Sheen's wild drug and prostitute-riddled escapades are the latest product of our culture's celebrity mania. He went off the deep-end, TMZ and major news agencies tell us. And now he must pay. Our capitalist overlords who created him now demand that he submit himself to a public shaming, that he shrink into rehab and await exoneration.

Our culture builds up celebrities and destroys them, in an endless cycle of exploitation. Sheen, however, is attempting to break that cycle and reclaim his life from the capitalist puppet-masters of our society who are determined to dictate his destiny. And he's winning.

Charlie Sheen, after several news-making incidents of debauchery involving prostitutes and cocaine binges, has for the past few days been making the rounds on television shows preaching his newfound gospel of freedom. He has spoken erratically, at great length, about "waging a war" and "winning," bizarrely asserting his identity as a "Vatican assassin" with "tiger blood and Adonis DNA," as an "F-18, bro." But throughout his strange rants a theme emerges. Beneath his meandering wordplay is an indictment of our society and its judgments and a reclamation of his right to self-determine his own image and life.

Chris Hedges, known for his war correspondence in the Middle East, gave a lecture this past fall as a part of Rick Chrisman's "Theater of War in a House of Peace" lecture series. Hedges delivered an exposé of our current cultural and political predicament, in which celebrity worship serves as a glamorous façade for our twisted moral and economic ambitions, defining and justifying our "Empire of Illusion."

Michael Jackson, he argued, was the personification of our warped cultural values and priorities. "In celebrity culture we destroy what we worship. The commercial exploitation of Michael Jackson's death was orchestrated by the corporate forces that rendered Jackson insane," Hedges said. Sheen appears to be the next victim, a discredited celebrity whose fall from stardom is being exploited with equal attention and relish as his rise.

Sheen's "insanity," his incoherent declarations of selfdom, are ridiculed, endlessly parodied and mocked. Internet memes, celebrity gossip blogs and major news agencies are all given purpose in destroying him.



His outlandish behavior is treated as equally important as foundation-shattering democratic uprisings in Northern Africa.

All the gears of our merciless media are fused into an unstoppable cultural monster that aspires to dictate his behavior, to judge and mock his every word, to reclaim control of his life, to rehabilitate him and reeducate him to the rules of celebrity and remind him that he belongs to us, that we created him and we can destroy him, that he is ours to judge and embrace and ridicule.

His highly personal rants are dismissed as insane by "authoritative and professional" media personalities. His oddly employed baseball analogies, bizarre proclamations of war and instantaneous recovery from drug addiction are detached from reality, we are told. Yet when seen in the broader context of this gross media carnival of human commoditization that is our consumer culture, Sheen's proclamations of war and assertions that he is "winning" appear utterly sane, utterly truthful.

Who are we, Sheen is brutally, confrontationally asking, who are the media, who are the celebrity rehab doctors, who are the "news" anchors on major networks, who are the producers of his films and television shows, who are the puppet-masters of our corporate society, to dictate how he should live his life?

Sheen is refusing to submit to the cycle of use and abuse, the commoditization of his humanity, which his corporate bosses are imposing upon him. There is something inspirational about his resistance to his detractors, his "winning" attitude.

Sheen's outspokenness in the face of imminent and imposed cultural humiliation and exploitation is reminiscent of Howard Beale's, the prophetic news anchor in Sidney Lumet's 1976 film *Network*. A low-level newscaster, Beale begins to "lose his mind." He goes on a rant on live TV and decries the dehumanizing consumerism of modern life epitomized and perpetuated by network television, in which products and wealth are made the balm for existential fear and the executors of happiness. He ends his rant with the words "I'm a human being, goddammit! My life has value!" and urges his viewers to declare that "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!" His mantra of resistance ultimately becomes a meaningless commercial jingle, a parody of its former meaning, as the powers he means to confront ultimately commoditize his radicalism and then destroy him.

In the climactic scene of the film, Beale is confronted by Arthur Jensen, the uppermost corporate executive, who speaks with a divine aura of authority and omniscience, telling Beale, "you get up on your little 21 inch screen and howl about America and democracy. There is no America. There is no democracy. There is only IBM and ITT and AT&T and DuPont, Dow, Union Carbide and Exxon ... The world is a college of corporations ... one vast and ecumenical holding company in which all men will hold



a share of stock, all necessities provided, all anxieties tranquilized, all boredom amused." Beale, realizing the futility of combating such a pernicious and entrenched capitalist system, abandons his radicalism and complies with the corporate will.

If the powers-that-be have their way, Sheen's story will be turned into a faux-moralistic one. They will ruin him, destroy him and essentially present his life as a model of what not to do. In a culture that has been hijacked to worship celebrities, to believe that celebrity is the one true trophy of success, Sheen's story will be presented as a case of a fallen star, a washed up celebrity. What he really did was challenge the corporately sponsored rule of law that we are all instructed to abide by.

His "winning" mantra, what commentators would have us believe is the pathetic delusions of an over the hill Hollywood actor, actually makes sense in the vicious system of oppressive delusion in which we all exist. He is "winning" the war over his soul, resisting submission to the forces that shape

Hedges writes that, "the fame of celebrities masks the identities of those who possess true power - corporations and the oligarchic elite ... The fantasy of celebrity culture is not designed simply to entertain. It is designed to drain us emotionally, confuse us about our identity, make us blame ourselves for our predicament, condition us to chase illusions of fame and happiness and keep us from fighting back."

Politicians inspire us with fear and hatred for one another to advance corporate agendas. Giant corporations seek to encroach upon and determine our lives, keep us entertained as our natural environment is pillaged and our working class is economically raped. Their news organs instill us with fear, and their advertising teaches us that buying their products and living according to their rules is the only way to avoid public shame and ensure wealth, celebrity and happiness. Facebook launches us into cyber-reality in which we can determine our appearance down to the slightest minutiae, meticulously calculate how we are presented to the people around us, and thereby shirk meaningful social interaction. The battle for our souls is taking place each and everyday. Charlie Sheen is winning. What are you doing about it?



Letter: The problem is a lack of respect

By Anonymous,
On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

After the "Food for Thought" posters, the community meetings, the teach-in hosted by the college administration and manifold articles in The Skidmore News about diversity, it is clear that the college is facing the breakdown of its attempts to create a stable, diverse environment.

Theories have come from every direction as to why the college's formula has not worked; students and faculty alike are trying to figure out what went wrong and how to fix it. This writer would like to pose a theory that he has not heard yet: the current problems on campus have their root in a lack of respect and good-will overall at Skidmore.

Recall the student-led community meeting that took place as a result of the "Food for Thought" posters. If you were in the room, something would've become clear to you as you hear the students speak: everyone present had been the target of some ridicule, extreme or mild, during their college career. A discussion that focused on prejudice against Skidmore's minority groups revealed that people of all statuses have dealt with malicious jokes, slander and hateful actions at this college. This is a problem that members of every group, from minorities to the majorities, have clearly experienced.

It is definitely regrettable that the recent bias incidents and diversity problems were what it took to make this problem apparent to us. In following the college's second strategic goal, the administration has taken various steps - like diversifying the student and faculty population - to simulate our world's diversity inside the campus's borders. But what Skidmore has failed to realize is that a diverse community without the core value of respect for others (especially for individuals with different backgrounds than our own) will not succeed. Indeed, it cannot.

What the recent diversity tensions have shown us is that the college community greatly lacks moral development. There is currently no emphasis on teaching students how to be honorable, upright and respectful individuals. Though the Skidmore administration teaches multiculturalism and diversity, it has sincerely failed at providing the lessons of compassion and tolerance where are co - if not pre - requisite. Because of the college's deficiency in instilling such values, Skidmore has turned into a place which one student who attended the meeting described as "very bitter."

No community can survive if there is not respect and good-will toward one's neighbor, least of all a diverse community where we may have little in common.

To repair the situation on campus, as it is imperative that we do, I challenge the college administration and the students to push for a greater emphasis on the moral values that have recently been neglected. We, the students, must realize that even the smallest remark of arrogance, hatred or disrespect has enough power to destroy the whole college, since at some point we will have to choose between kindness and hatred. We must also remember that our personal values will eventually shape the community, and if we push to be a kinder people, then we will build a more compassionate campus.

The administration must equally uphold these lessons. It is not enough to push for academic success, diversity, informed citizenship and independence of resources, the college's current strategic goals.

If we go to a college where values of respect and benevolence toward others are not in the forefront of our education, then we've already lost.

The writer of this letter is a member of the class of 2012, and asked to remain anonymous.

Defense is not always our best offense

Practical Race and Diversity

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Two weeks ago, students and faculty met to suggest to the administration measures that would alleviate the tension on campus that has recently made students of color feel uncomfortable and even unsafe. Some suggestions included institutionalizing IGR (Intergroup Relations), reworking the First Year Experience (FYE) program with the goal of fostering more interaction between different social groups in mind and reevaluating the methods and practices of the Discovery Tour. Although the administration claimed to be interested in making changes, many of their responses to these suggestions made them seem reluctant.

When students called for FYE to take a more rigorous approach to encouraging interaction between minority students and the more privileged majority, Beau Breslin responded by asking students to give him suggestions as to how he should do so. He explained that additions to the program will result in subtraction as well. The dean of Special Programs (among other administrators) summarized what his role is in the college's mission for diversity. Mary Lou Bates defended the Discovery Tour, explaining its effectiveness in bringing a diverse student body to Skidmore's campus.

The Discovery Tour may bring more students of color to campus, but it doesn't ensure that they will be comfortable upon arrival. Simply having a more diverse student body does little to alter peoples' narrow view of those of us who are and have been marginalized because of our identities. A former student argued that interaction between student groups needs to be forced. Otherwise, our campus climate will only worsen.

Furthermore, when needs are expressed to people in a position of power, they should not be met with defensiveness. This attitude defeats the purpose of these discussions and slows the process of resolving this issue. Breslin asked for suggestions from students on how to make FYE more effective in convincing students to "check privilege at the door," but this responsibility cannot be thrown back at the group requesting change. If we are going to promote interaction between student groups, FYE would be a great place to start, since it is one of the few required programs for freshmen.

Also, the administration needs not remind us of their job. We should know their purpose from the moment we step onto campus for the first time. If there was a general consensus that the administration was doing a good job at dealing with campus climate issues regarding diversity, then a community meeting wouldn't have been necessary in the first place.

As individuals of a college community and a complex society, it is time for us to be creative. I have coined the term "action listening" to describe something that I believe needs to be practiced if serious change is going to happen at Skidmore and in the larger society. Action listening is the opposite of the defensive and sometimes indifferent attitude that concerned students were met with at the meeting.

Action listening also means that when needs are expressed by members of the community, everyone listens and attempts to find a common opinion that will lead to productive action. Solutions go awry when the argument consists of upholding the norm, or the societal and institutional inequalities that minority students must deal with everyday of their lives. Without steps toward tangible action, the social tensions underlying our campus will remain. As Social Work professor Peter McCarthy stated at the forum, we were having these same conversations 30 years ago.

Fed up with the lack of progress, a few students stood up and voiced the personal struggles that they as students of color have faced on this campus. These struggles are real, and they are not going away without listening coupled with action. I hope that both those at the forum and those reading this feel the same way.

Re-evaluate the power of the political party

Politics for the Upstate Student

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Something is clearly not right: Jimmy McMillan ("The Rent is 2 Damn High" guy) is going to run for president. Better yet, he's doing it as a Republican.

In case you missed him in last fall's gubernatorial race (or the rest of the New York State elections that he's been a part of since 1993), he was the one with two curiously round tufts of silver hair for a beard, ridiculous mutton chops and black gloves that he attributes to over-exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals in Vietnam. He ran on "The Rent is 2 Damn High" ticket (the party platform is self-explanatory) in the 2010 elections for governor of NY. Now he has his sights set higher.

Although he ran on "The Rent is 2 Damn High" ticket, McMillan was a registered Democrat. But those days are over: he will run his presidential campaign as a Republican to avoid facing Obama in a Democratic primary. Besides, "the Democratic Party sucked," said McMillan of his sudden turnaround. Hey, I at least give him props for his honesty - it's not easy to come by in politics.

He recently attended the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., where he coozied up to Republicans and waved his shoe around in support of "our brothers and sisters in Egypt." It seems that McMillan now has a "thing" for shoes - when asked whether or not he would support gay marriage in 2010, he explained that if somebody wanted to marry a shoe, he'd support that.

Okay, so Jimmy McMillan is a funny dude. But the implication of his presence at the Conservative Political Action Conference for politics in general is that our system has become confused and downright messed up. The fact that a single-issue candidate must choose one of two political parties to represent his values speaks quite poorly of our party system.

It seems illiberal to have a system in which "popular sovereignty" refers to the right to choose between two parties. Especially when both parties are confused about what they really stand for because they are so busy trying to please the majority. A majority who - can you blame them? - don't understand what these glossy political euphemisms actually mean in the first place.

Third parties tend to get a lot of negative press because they just don't have a place in our voting system. The fact that so many people were mad at Nader for campaigning in 2000 and "stealing" the

election from Gore is an insult to the tenets of democracy. A Nader ought to be able to run in every election. The two-party system simply doesn't cut it when so many people want to see a progressive agenda.

Will we ever see a multi-party democracy in the U.S.? It's doubtful. We've had two parties since before Washington warned against having two parties. It's tradition. It's what we're used to. It makes watching elections feel like watching football.

In order to change the party system we'd need to change the voting system. First, we would have to do away with the Electoral College (and as we know from our fifth grade social studies class, changing the constitution is tough). To give third parties a fighting chance, we'd also need to abandon the winner-takes-all method of voting, which goes hand in hand with a two-party system.

The grand flourish to this idealistic sequence of changes would be a switch to a runoff voting system in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, thus preventing a third party from "stealing" votes from another candidate who might otherwise win. In turn, a runoff voting system would allow for more candidates -like McMillan!

For some instructive (albeit radical) thoughts on the ills of democracies such as ours, it's often helpful to look at the villainous dictator of the day for his constructive criticism. And indeed, we can find some interesting wisdom on the problems of the party system in dear old Quaddafi's 1980 manifesto, "The Green Book."

Perhaps with some inspiration from Marx, Quaddafi informs us that "all political systems in the world today are a product of the struggle for power between the instruments of government." He goes on to say that "a party's aim is to achieve power under the pretext of carrying out its program democratically."

So here we have a power-hungry dictator telling us that a democracy's party politics are essentially a fight for power and control. We certainly don't need to read his denunciation of party-based democracy to make our own judgments. Quaddafi was obviously a little crazy back in 1980, and by now has totally gone off his rocker.

But, if nothing else, his brazen criticism of party politics serves as food for thought. And even the presence of McMillan in politics, as he pushes a fringe issue from within the Republican Party, makes us think about what our parties really stand for. The chance of seeing any significant reform is unlikely, but it's worth hoping for.

Sports Wrap: Men's basketball heads to 'Big Dance'

By Julia Schwartz, Co-Sports Editor

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Skidmore basketball returned to the Liberty League tournament for the second year in a row. They finished regulation play posting a 16-9 overall and 10-4 league record. The team tied a program record for regular season wins and set a new program record for Liberty League wins.

The tournament began with a game against Rensselaer Engineers. The Thoroughbreds and Engineers were 1-1 against one another this season with each team winning on its home court.

The Thoroughbreds struggled at the beginning of the first half, but Terron Victoria '12 threw up two three-point shots in order to start a 16-0 run after the 10:53 mark. The Engineers held the lead at the end of the first half, with a score of 38-34. Within the first half there were 11 lead changes, a remarkable amount matched by the competitive nature of the rivalry of the two teams.

When the second tip off began, Skidmore aggressed toward the opponents basket, scoring the first 9 points of the half. With the five-point lead from their expedient start, Skidmore kept pushing and never gave up the lead for the rest of the game. Every time the Engineers would attempt to push ahead, the Thoroughbreds matched their efforts. The lead never dropped below three points.

Standouts in the game were Victoria, who led the Thoroughbreds in double figures with 17 points, followed by Gerard O'Shea '12 with 12 points, and Kyle Clark '12 and Melvis Langyintuo '12 both had 11 points and 9 rebounds.

Skidmore came out the next day to perform in its first Liberty League championship the following day. Riding off the win from the previous day, they swept their tournament play to prevail in the Liberty League. The win came with not only the team's first Liberty League title, but also an invitation to the NCAA tournament starting Mar. 4. at Worchester Polytechnic Institute, when Skidmore competes against Amherst.

Skidmore accelerated in the first half with 9 three-pointers, four of them coming from the hands of Langyintuo. With the team on fire, the Thoroughbreds took the lead at the end of the first half, with a score of 33-19.

The second half began when Skidmore increased their lead out to 20 points, after back-to-back three pointers from Jeff Altimar '11.

Skidmore never lost a double-digits lead as the team controlled rhythm of the game to obtain a final score of 68-52. Langyintuo led all scorers in the game with 20 points, while O'Shea added 10 points and four assists.

Following their high performance in the Liberty League tournament, juniors Langyintuo, O'Shea and Victoria all received the honor of Performers of the Week after their selection for Liberty League All-Tournament Team. Langyintuo was named Tournament MVP after scoring a total of 31 points in both games and shooting 6-8 from three-point range. O'Shea scored in double figures during both Liberty League games and played without a single turnover. Victoria led the Thoroughbreds in their game against RPI with 17 put up eight points and four assists in the championship game.

With the win, Skidmore advanced to the final game of the tournament against Hamilton the following day. The tournament begins with three first-round games between the lowest seeded-six teams. The three first-round winners move on to play one of three number one seeds on Saturday. After dwindling down from more than 400 schools in Division III men's basketball, Skidmore begins play in one of 13 four-team groupings against number 9 seed Amherst at Worcester Polytechnic Institute Mar. 4.

Ice Hockey

After scoring a spot in the ECAC East semifinals, Skidmore lost in a shutout game against Babson Feb. 26. The Thoroughbreds end the season at 9-14-3. The game ended with six chances missed on the power play, while Babson was able to convert on two of four chances.

Two goalies swapped chances during the game to help defend, but came out with five allowed goals, from both Colin Bessey '12, who had 16 saves and Andrew Ross '12, who had 17 saves throughout the final 30:11.

Men's Lacrosse

After a change in location due to a blast from the persistent winter weather, Skidmore lacrosse came out on top with a score of 9-8 against Babson on the road. It was the season opening game for both teams. J.P. Sullivan '13 provided the first early lead for the Thoroughbreds with 5:34 left in the first quarter, to bring the score to 2-1.

During the second quarter, Babson attempted to gain the lead back, but Skidmore prevailed and ended the half with a 5-4 lead.

While the teams managed to bring the score to a tie in the third quarter, Sullivan converted an assist from Mike Holden '13 with just under 11 minutes left in play. Sullivan then scored the insurance goal, his fourth of the game, to provide Skidmore with an absolute win with 2:44 left in regulation.

Skidmore lacrosse continues to battle the cold and the snow next on Mar. 5 at home against Western Connecticut State at 3:30.

Student-organized trip sends 30 to Planned Parenthood rally

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

Background

Thirty students boarded a bus from Case Center on the morning of Feb. 26, traveled to New York City and joined 5,000 other activists to protest recent legislation that would cut funding for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates.

Planned Parenthood, in coalition with other reproductive rights and health organizations, coordinated "The Rally to Stand Up for Women's Health" in response to an amendment passed in the House Feb. 18 that would cut "Title X" funding for Planned Parenthood.

The Title X Family Planning program - or Public Law 91-572 - allocates federal funding for preventive health services, like education about sexually transmitted infections and screenings for breast and cervical cancers, but prohibits federal funding for abortions. In 2010, the federal government gave \$363 million to Planned Parenthood, according to the organization's website.

The Title X program helps fund 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's operations, the majority of which are preventative health efforts. Abortions make up about three percent of the organization's efforts, according to its website. In this past year, Title X funding provided 360,492 STI tests, 67,957 breast exams and 70,490 pap tests to women at Planned Parenthood facilities in New York.

After the House approved the recent legislation with a vote of 240-185, sponsor Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., said, "It's morally wrong to take taxpayers' dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use [them] to fund organizations that provide and promote abortion like Planned Parenthood of America."

The legislation will now go to the Senate for approval.

During the rally this past Saturday, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY, made clear he would do whatever possible to prevent the Senate from passing the legislation.

"I come from the United States Senate and I bring you good news. These dangerous cuts that have passed the House are dead on arrival in the United States Senate," Schumer said. "And I speak for my colleague [Sen.] Kirsten Gillibrand [D-N.Y.] as well."

While it is unlikely that the Democrat-majority Senate will pass the legislation, students protested Saturday to draw local and national attention to women's rights and women's health.

Planning

Emily Zahn '11, a social work major, interns with Family Planning Advocates of New York State as part of her capstone project. She helped charter a bus for activists going to the New York rally from Albany, and later helped organize a bus from Skidmore.

"We coordinated a bus for people from Albany, but I also knew there were Skidmore students interested in going to the rally," Zahn said. "I know students at the school who have used Planned Parenthood services, so obviously the rally was appealing to them."

Sarah Rosenblatt '12, co-president of BARE - the self-identified Skidmore "sex publication" - found out about the rally from a guest speaker in a religion course taught by Mary Stange, professor of Gender Studies and Religion.

Stange invited Nancy Weber, a practicing pagan, to speak to her RE330 "Goddesses and Amazons" class. Weber's discussion with the class was relevant to its multifaceted study of female empowerment, and she explained her own values of community and activism. She also mentioned the upcoming rally in New York City.

Rosenblatt, inspired by Weber's talk, decided to gather a group of students passionate about the women's issues to attend the rally. Rosenblatt contacted Zahn to charter a bus directly from Skidmore to New York.

The chartered 56-seat coach bus from Skidmore to New York cost about \$1600 dollars. Students paid only \$10 dollars for a seat on the bus, and Family Planning of New York subsidized the rest of the cost.

Most of the Skidmore students who attended agreed that the event was generally a success.

"The rally was so enthusiastic," Zahn said. "There was just an attitude of happiness and joy."

Rosenblatt expressed similar sentiment, noting in particular the diverse types of people that the event drew.

"It was great," Rosenblatt said. "It was a very active crowd... very diverse in terms of age, race, color and sexually."

Victoria Manganiello '12 was also struck by the types of people who were at the event.

"I think the speakers were powerful," Victoria Manganiello '12 said. "A pastor spoke in favor of Planned Parenthood and their efforts. Normally people equate anti-choice with Christianity... It was good hearing this wasn't necessarily true."

A few students thought event planners could have improved the rally with a more diverse speakers list.

"While it was good to hear a lot of politicians speak, I also don't feel that they're representative of the people who actually use Planned Parenthood's services," Rosenblatt said.

Victoria's sister, Lily Manganiello '14, also noted the overuse of politicians as speakers.

"I didn't necessarily relate to a lot of the speakers," Manganiello said. "Although it was good to hear the politicians speak, because they're the ones directly changing the law."

Students who attended the rally were clearly frustrated with legislation passed in the house, particularly the way they feel it misrepresents fact.

"I'm bothered that people are misinterpreting where Title X funds are going," the younger Manganiello said. "Our tax dollars aren't going to abortions... They're going to birth controls and other preventative measures."

Olivia Morrow '12 lamented the fact that she feels politicians formulate opinions on such matters in accordance with political allegiances.

"It's unfortunate now where politics have gotten to the point where being a Republican means being pro-life," Morrow said. "Politicians are voting on party lines on these very serious issues to women's health."

Zahn plans to continue to support women's health with a rally outside of U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson's, R-Kinderhook, office Friday afternoon on Broadway, in Saratoga Springs.

"We still need to put pressure on our legislators," she said. "We still need a lot of visibility."

Prof. Stange, who attended the rally, said she grew up thinking political action "could work," pointing to the Civil Rights Movement, the women's rights movement, the environmentalism movement and the Vietnam War protests as examples. But now, she said, "It seems almost [as if] change can sometimes seem impossible."

"But I think students here and elsewhere are starting to take to social change," she said.

#1.2067380:2351239388.JPG Rally 1

A group of Skidmore students protest for women's rights in downtown Manhattan.

Photo courtesy of Casey Baird.



Benefit concert boosts donations

By Jessica Strasser, Contributing Writer

On Sat, Mar 5, 2011

On Thurs. Feb. 24, Falstaff's was filled with the sounds of goodwill.

Lively Lucy's hosted the Orphanage Outreach Benefit Concert to support a group of student volunteers who will be going on a service trip during spring break.

The group of student volunteers will be traveling to Monte Cristi, a province in the Dominican Republic.

The trip was made possible by Orphanage Outreach, an organization through which volunteers serve to educate orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children.

The student volunteers believe that through principles such as selflessness and 'serving, not helping,' impact can be made not only in the lives of the children, but in all those in the community.

The service trip was organized in part by Sara Mae Hickey '12, who "had wanted to do a service trip," one of the main organizers of the concert Sarah Dinkleacker '14 said.

Through the International Affairs Club, Student Announcements and word of mouth, the trip brought together 19 volunteers.

The group will be going to the Hope of a Child Orphanage in Monte Cristi. Dinkelacker explained students will "go to the school and teach the kids ... the importance of boiling water, washing your hands, brushing teeth and how to prevent cholera."

Cholera prevention is especially key, as Monte Cristi is near Haiti, where many are currently struggling with a large cholera outbreak.

"We don't know everything we are going to have to do at the orphanage yet. The program really emphasizes flexibility and doing whatever task is needed of you at the time," Dinkelacker said.

The concert came about as a means of fundraising. The student volunteers had a short amount of time to collect a multitude of items, including shampoo and conditioner, cold medicine, school supplies and clothing.



Holding a benefit concert at Falstaff's was "the best way to get the things we needed ... and make it known what we were doing," Dinkelacker said.

Holding the concert would give the group an open forum to explain exactly what its mission was in a more interactive matter.

The benefit concert also allowed those who donated to know exactly what their money was supporting.

"I know whenever I am going to give to a charity I prefer it to be one where I know exactly what [the money] is going to," Dinkelacker said.

The concert filled Falstaff's with students who came to donate and listen to the sounds of many of the college's performance groups.

After a beginning set from DJ Franny Unicorn, the stage was graced with the presence of Lift Every Voice, the Accents, Skidaiko, the Drastic Measures, Joanna Schubert, Matt Gaydar, the Dynamics and the debut performance of the Treblemakers, the college's new all-inclusive a capella group.

Each group performed two pieces and many of the a capella groups premiered new songs to the excitement of a full house.

Student bands MaryLeigh and the Fauves and Weekend Girlfriend closed the show to a dancing, engaged crowd.

The orderly rows of chairs were cleared out to create a dance floor and the crowd took advantage of the opportunity to dance the night away.

In addition, donations and supplies were collected at the door and a bake sale and raffle for items such as a Plum Dandy gift card and calendars were held.

EAC composting audit tallies college waste

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

When you finish a meal at the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, dishes go in the accumulator, napkins go in the trash and silverware goes in the tubs. This past week, students added an extra step to their post-meal routines, depositing all excess food into large, plastic tubs. The question is, why?

The Environmental Action Club Composting subcommittee along with Talia Arnow '13, Margot Reisner '14 and Sarah Arndt '14, student interns in the Environmental Studies Program, conducted a food waste audit program to determine if a composting system would benefit the college. Part of that program was to collect pre and post-consumer waste in the dining hall from Feb. 27 to March 5. Students scraped their excess food into one of four bins in the accumulator area, which 50 student volunteers from the EAC monitored and then weighed. The results revealed that in one week, with a total weight of 6986.50 pounds, the college wastes about a half-ton per day in pre and post-consumer food, which could be used for composting.

"We really had no idea how much waste we were going to get," Arnow, said who is also the co-vice president of the EAC. "And we were so surprised that the numbers were so consistent."

Kate Brittenham '14 was one of the student volunteers who monitored the collection of food scraps in the dining hall. She said that while people told her the location of the bins was inconvenient, especially during "rush hour," overall the reception was warm.

I thought it went really well and people's general attitude toward the audit and composting in general was really very positive, Brittenham said.

Going into the program, Arnow said the primary focus was to determine the quantity of food waste that could be turned into soil, and that awareness and behavioral changes in the students wasn't a thought at first. "We were simply wanting to collect data for what is the amount of food that we deal with that could go toward a composting program," she said. However, from the start of the program in the dining hall, students began asking questions and showing interest in the club's work. "I think it did promote conversation in the dining hall about food waste," Arnow said. "I think people were almost monitoring each other, and monitoring themselves more."

Riley Neugebauer, campus sustainability coordinator, helps bridge the gap between the students and the administration and acts as the on-campus supervisor for the three interns. According to Riley, Arnow

came to her with the idea for a composting program this past semester. The two then met with William Coffey '10, who completed an Environmental Studies Capstone project with Nadine Dodge '10 that focused on the feasibility of a large-scale composting system at the college. They used the data from a food waste audit conducted in 2009 by Sarah Whateley '09 over a period of two days. Several faculty members also attended the meeting, including Karen Kellogg of ES Faculty, Kim Marsella, ES program coordinator and lecturer, Dan Rodecker, director of facilities, and Michael Hall, director of financial planning and budgeting. Neugebauer said she decided to hire interns to research the different aspects of this project, such as how much labor would be needed and what finances would be spent on it, as well as how much money could potentially be saved by using a composting system, whose tentative location is behind the college stables on Daniels Rd.

"We are obtaining additional data and talking with the key stakeholders on campus about what it might look like to start composting at Skidmore," she said, "which would take the dining hall food waste, the horse manure from the stables and grass clippings and leaves from Grounds, and turn it into a valuable soil amendment for our campus, including the student garden."

"We're trying to take the community's concerns into account, and write as much of that as we can into the report," Neugebauer said, adding that the committee spoke with the dining hall staff as well as the workers in the stables, both of whom will be affected by a composting system.

The next step for the committee is to write a recommendation using the data to explain why a composting program would benefit the college, which will be presented at the Academic Festival at the end of the semester. Arnow hopes the administration will realize the importance of composting and support the project.

Neugebauer said the committee would need to make a solid proposal to the capital budget for the next fiscal year, taking financial costs into account. She predicted the site preparation costs would be the largest, but with proper planning, the project will begin to pay for itself.

Composting will continue in the form of a Northwoods project, which was planned by the committee this past semester. In an all student volunteer-run event, EAC members delivered buckets this past weekend to the Northwoods apartments, where the student residents will designate their leftover food for composting instead of throwing it away. Arnow hopes this will prove to be a scale model of the future program, and she said participation is necessary to make the project a success.

Facilities helped construct and pay for the food compost bin, while the subcommittee obtained funding needed to buy the two gallon buckets for each apartment, as well as 10 gallon buckets students will



empty their own buckets into. Student volunteers will then empty these 10 gallon buckets into the compost bin.

It's a great partnership between the Sustainable Skidmore Office and EAC to help bring a student project to reality, Neugebauer said. The interns will gather participation data in Northwoods and the weight of the food obtained and its rate of decomposition in the bin.

Arnow thanks all of the people involved in the program, including the student volunteers, Riley Neugebauer, the student body and the dining hall staff, without whom nothing could have been done. Neugebauer expressed her pleasure in being able to work with students.

"I love it," she said. "It's part of the reason that I like this job so much. To do project-based learning and experiential learning and community organizing, those are things that are my favorite things to do, and with young people in particular." She also encourages the community to give her feedback concerning the composting program. She can be reached by e-mail at rneugeba@skidmore.edu.

"The larger goal here is to help highlight why composting is a good project for Skidmore College," Neugebauer said. "We generate this food waste which can then be not waste at all, but instead an input into something else."

#1.2105524:2002849485.jpg Compost 1

Handwritten reminders were scattered around the Dining Hall, encouraging diners to dispose of their food appropriately.

Photo courtesy of Riley Neugebauer

#1.2105525:29331688.jpg Compost 2

The placement of the compost bins, directly in front of the dish accumulator, provoked some negative feedback from students.

Photo courtesy of Riley Neugebauer

#1.2105527:3517500041.jpg Composters

From left: Sarah Arndt '14, Margot Reisner '14 and Talia Arnow '13.

Photo courtesy of Riley Neugebauer







Men's basketball: a season to remember

By Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

For a long time now, Skidmore has been highly competitive on the tennis court, the baseball field and, predominately, on horseback-hence the name. Throughout the past season there was a new arena where the Thoroughbreds made their name and rode to victory. The men's basketball team moved boldly out of obscurity and into the limelight with an overall record of 18-10 and a Liberty League championship title to boot.

Just three years ago, the team's overall record was 6-19, with just one win in league play. The team had never won a championship, and was consistently far off the mark. The year after that did not see much improvement; the 2008-09 overall record improved to just 8-17.

Last year, Skidmore really stepped up their game, finishing with a winning record of 16-10 and advancing to the Liberty League tournament where they lost a close game to Hobart in the first round. It became clear that Skidmore was starting to put together a promising team that would need to be reckoned with thereafter.

Following the steady arc of improvement, the team brought their game to a whole new level this winter with new blood and fresh administration.

Senior Jeff Altimar '11 summed up his four years playing for Skidmore when he said "after finishing in last place my freshmen year, the team has come a long way to finally win a Liberty League Championship for the first time in school history."

This year was truly anomalous and is definitely a step in the right direction for the basketball team. Continuing his reflection on the season, Altimar said "We received national recognition with our NCAA record tying seven overtime game against Southern Vermont and broke the previous school record for total wins."

In another interview, coach Joseph Burke commented on the same highly publicized game: "The amount of national attention [that] the players and the school received is beyond anything the school has ever seen before... From a team perspective I thought that particular game allowed us to grow and come together as a group. It was early and I was the new coach, I believe we learned to trust one another in that game and it allowed our relationship to grow quicker than I ever expected."

The fateful game came very early in the season and set the tone for the rest of the season. After emerging victorious from the nationally covered event, Skidmore was almost ready to take their newfound confidence to every game that followed.

Coming back from winter break, Skidmore went out flat-footed in the game against Norwich, leading to a 81-72 loss. This did not seem representative of the work the team had put in prior to the break and Coach Burke encouraged them to find that stride that had been treating them so well before: "After that game, I challenged the guys and basically called them out. To be a championship team, you can't pick and choose when you want to play hard, it has to be consistent... from that game forward we were focused every time we took the court."

Skidmore advanced to the Liberty League tournament for the second year running, but this year, they improved on the year before, beating RPI and then Hamilton to win their first ever championship title.

Unfortunately, the team's momentum did not hold up in the final game of the season against Amherst College. This was the first round of the NCAA Division III tournament, a competition that has never before seen Skidmore in its bracket. Skidmore did not bring its A-game, and went down 79-39 in their biggest loss of the season.

Altimar was quick to assure me though that "this final game does not reflect the kind of season this group had." The team simply did not show up with the same enthusiasm that carried them through the Liberty League tournament, shooting just 2 for 21 from beyond the arc, making many turnovers and struggling on both offensive and defensive boards. It's tough to end on a note like that, but it in no way belittles their incredible achievements this year as a team.

Going forward, Coach Burke is confident that Skidmore will field another competitive team. He elaborated by noting, "We obviously lose Jeff Altimar who was very important to our success this year. However, we have everyone else coming back so I am excited because I believe we can be very good. That being said, we are not sneaking up on anybody next year, we certainly will be the team everyone is shooting to beat. It will be our responsibility to get better in the off-season and have a great pre-season so that we are ready to handle all the challenges that are ahead."

The implication is that Skidmore will have to work even harder in the coming year to defend its title, but Burke is confident that the team is up to the challenge.

Altimar, the only graduating senior on the team, joined the ranks of a select few Skidmore basketball players when he hit his 1,000-point mark this season. He was a strong contributor to the team, and scored the most points many games throughout the winter.

After the final game of the season, Altimar commented, "This was a special group with great team chemistry who I had a lot of fun with this year. I am definitely going to miss being a part of the team, all of whom are coming back next year."

Despite this loss, things look good for the basketball team in the future; all but one of this year's championship team will be returning next season. The Thoroughbreds have pushed their way into the NCAA Division III playoffs this year, and will look to make their presence known in that bracket by the time next season rolls around.

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Big Green Scream 1

The Big Green Scream brought a lively crowd to Skidmore's sports center on Saturday to watch the men's basketball team beat St. Lawrence 82-69. Pictured: Melvis Langyintuo puts up an open three while teammates look on. Langyintuo scored 12 points and recorded team-high 8 rebounds.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Hortensia' showcases student talent

By Francis Henares, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

From March 4 to 9 in the Black Box Theater, the college's Theater department presented the season's first major production, "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams."

Written by Cuban-American playwright Nilo Cruz in 2001, "Hortensia" tells the story of two siblings who return to Cuba after living in the U.S. for more than three decades.

Luca, played by Zac Uslianer '14, and Luciana, played by Julie Dietz '11, were products of "Operation Peter Pan" in which thousands of Cuban children were sent to the U.S. for protection against the tense and volatile atmosphere of the Cold War.

Luca and Luciana return with the hopes of resolving their turbulent pasts, and in the process, meet a range of characters that expose them to the different facets of Cuban culture.

The play itself, directed by Ilanna Saltzman '11, was put together entirely by students. It is one of two major productions for the spring 2011 Black Box Seminar. It had a successful run with sold-out performances on all six days.

One of the highlights of the production was the set, designed by Andy Nice '11, which evoked a sense of rustic colonial charm that proved to be a pleasing, yet unobtrusive backdrop to the production.

A careful attention to detail was evident, from the louvered windows to the peculiar cupboard that housed Hortensia's innumerable collection of "miracles."

The layout of the small theater was also successful in bringing the audience closer to the action, with rows of seating between the two sides of the stage.

The seven-person cast was equally impressive, effectively communicating feelings of uncertainty, longing and desire that are so prevalent in the play.

Zazie Beetz '13, takes on the titular character of Hortensia, a passionate and spiritual woman who longs for the world to experience her "museum of dreams" - a communist-friendly euphemism for the miraculous trinkets she collects.

Beetz effortlessly portrayed the role of the quintessential Cuban mother - loving, deeply religious and uncompromising to anyone that threatens her authority.

At Hortensia's side are her two sons, Samuel and Basilio, played by Billy Berger-Bailey '13 and Brandon O'Sullivan '11, respectively.

Their strong performances as mischievous adolescents provided much of the humor in the play, and were a welcome respite from the melancholy narratives of Luciana.

Theater Julie Dietz '11 was expectedly compelling as Luciana, possessing a voice that powerfully delivered the sentiments of a character struggling to grapple with events of her past.

Likewise, newcomer Zac Uslianer '14 effectively embodied Luca, a brother trying to reach out to his distant sister, while desperately attempting to experience the Cuba that was taken away from him at such a young age.

Not to be forgotten are Alex Greaves '12 and Chelsea Niven '11 who played a variety of characters, but were particularly impressive as General Viamonte and Delita, respectively.

In playing General Viamonte, Greaves portrayed a callous Cuban loyalist who scoffs at the sight of Hortensia's miracles and will stop at nothing to suppress and eliminate anti-Communist ideals.

Delita, on the other hand, is a free-spirited Havana girl seduces Luca, giving us a glimpse of the liberal youth that exist alongside hardliners like Viamonte.

Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams is a powerful and poignant production that successfully showcases the ability of both the cast and crew involved.

Its ultimate message of reconciliation as a means to overcome anguish was beautifully conveyed, and it was clear that this message resonated deeply with the audience long after the play's conclusion.

Kondabolu provokes audience

Comic uses humor to raise cultural, racial and environmental issues

By Gia Vaccarezza, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On March 4, stand-up comedian Hari Kondabolu entertained the crowd at the Spa in Case Center as a part of HAYAT's comedy fest.

Kondabolu is not just your average Indian comedian talking about rice and curry. He has been on Comedy Central and "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

His stand-up routine began with a short video about a fictionalized comic, "Manoj," whose jokes were self-deprecating.

One of the funny segments included a list of "Hin-dos and Hin-don'ts."

Manoj explained, "Sex after marriage is a Hin-do, eating a beef sandwich is a Hin-don't."

He made many references to Hindu culture including the goddess Durga. "I just flew in from India and boy are my 8 arms tired," the fictionalized Manoj said.

There were interviews with Manoj fans that were followed by a commentary given by Kondabolu himself. He criticized and reprimanded Manoj for making jokes at the expense of his culture.

When the film ended, Kondabolu stepped onto the stage and revealed to the audience that he played both Manoj and himself.

He then continued his routine by asking the large crowd in front of him, "So I'm guessing there wasn't anything else going on tonight?"

Kondabolu instantly brought up the controversial Racy Reader concerning masturbation and self-love.

He spoke of his confusion when hearing that the flyer made a college employee feel uncomfortable. Kondabolu asked, "What's a more suitable place to put a poster about masturbation than a bathroom?"

"I've read about the things that go on at Skidmore. Get the fuck out, masturbation only scratches the surface!" he said.

Kondabolu's focus shifted from light-hearted comedy to jokes that made political statements.



When he encountered negative feedback after making a joke about wealth and religion at college, he recovered by responding, "Sure you were fine when I made bad jokes about race, but insult my college? Oh hell no."

The topics in his material covered a wide range. "We're treating the planet like it's second semester senior year," he said raising the issue of environmental concern.

He included other matters like immigration. "I don't see anyone trying to deport Superman. He's an actual alien, And he's taking all of our jobs! For free," Kondalobu said.

Kondabolu identified contemporary culture's obsession with ethnicity and its ties to food. He reminded the audience that just because a person being Indian will not necessarily mean that they will know about the Indian restaurant down the street.

About halfway through the show, Kondabolu paused and directly addressed the audience, asking why they weren't laughing so hard. From the upper level of Case, a male voice yelled, "Tell a joke man, you fucking suck!"

A silence followed while Kondabolu gathered himself. He then responded with full force, calling out this anonymous voice, demanding that they should be more responsible and confront him directly.

Kondabolu was clearly disappointed and upset. He singled out the anonymous voice, condemning his refusal and fear to talk about topics that really mattered.

Despite the discouraging comments made by the anonymous audience member, the audience rallied Kondabolu on and the rest of the show ran smoothly.

This tactic definitely helped his show succeed. His performance left students talking about it all over campus for the remainder of the weekend.

HAYAT mentioned the possibility of bringing Kondabolu back to campus so that students who missed the first performance could get another chance to experience his thought provoking stand-up.

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Hari Kondabolu entertains the crowd.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Sports Wrap: Lacrosse and riding pull out on top

By Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

After a slow start in the first half, the men's lacrosse team found the back of the net seven times in the second period, firmly securing their 12-8 win against Western Connecticut State in their home-opener. Part way through the second period, the score was tied 4-4, but Skidmore's relentless shooting brought its opponent to their knees.

Skidmore outshot West Conn. 48-28 and completed 20 out of 23 attempted clears, as opposed to West Conn.'s 15-of-25. Mike Holden '13 and Tyler Masters '13 scored the first two goals of the game to put Skidmore up 2-0. Their early successes carried throughout the game; Holden finished the match with four goals and two assists, while Masters netted two goals overall.

This game was a strong start for the team and boosts their overall record to 2-0, giving a polished record to match the team's new jerseys this season.

After Skidmore's loss to Haverford on neutral turf March 9, the team heads to Florida to heat up the competition for a game over break.

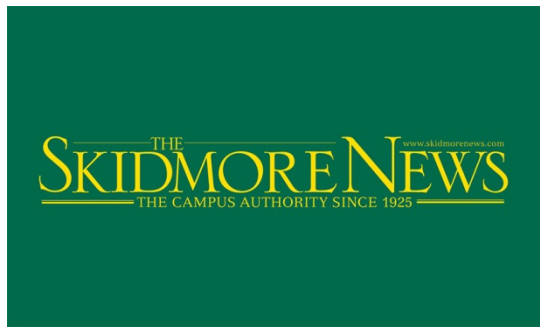
Women's lacrosse

What started off as a slow game quickly turned into a fast paced shootout that left the women's lacrosse team with a sizable win in their season opener against Mt. Holyoke College. Senior Lindsey Stavola '11 lead the way for the Thoroughbreds in their 12-3 win with five goals and four assists.

Skidmore controlled the tempo of the game, especially during the second half, keeping the ball on the offensive end for the majority of the game. Lauren Madden '12 ended the game with three goals.

Many other players had their first goals of the season, including Summer Segalas '14 and Robin Fetterolf '14, who each scored their first goals of their college careers. After Rachel Klein '13 made five saves in goal, Annie Keeler' 14 got between the bars in her first college appearance, making two saves in the last five minutes of the game.

Coming out of a losing season last year, this game was an auspicious start for the women's lacrosse team. It was also the first game for the new women's head coach, Elizabeth Ghilardi, indicating that the new management is partially contributing to the new success of the team.



The team hosts Manhattanville College Mar. 10 before heading to Maryland over spring break to play McDaniel and Wisconsin Concordia.

Riding

Another week and another first place spot for the riding team. The event took place at Hartwick College where 9 teams competed for the highest rank. Skidmore won the event with 42 points, narrowly beating Colgate who had 39. Flavia D'Urso '13, Kelly Campbell '12, Alex McGuire '11 and Molly Parker '13 were the winning, pointed riders for Skidmore.

Winning on the flat and over fences, McGuire went head to head with Morrisville State College's Jill Featherly for top honors. McGuire's elegant rides earned her High Point Rider of the show. Marisa McCullough '13 and Megan Merritt '11 both finished second in their respective competitions, giving the Thoroughbreds the points they needed to finish first overall.

D'Urso, McGuire, Campbell, Kaitlin Swartwood '11 and Maria Lorenc '11 all qualified for the regional championships. They will go to compete for these individual titles April 2, 2011. The next show for Skidmore's so-far-perfect riders will be after break on March 26.

Women's tennis

The women's tennis team recorded two victories this weekend: one against William Smith and the other against Ithaca. The clean sweep pushes the team's overall record to 6-0, including games from last September.

Against William Smith on Friday, the team dominated the singles rounds, picking up wins from Nataly Mendoza '13 and Sophia Bryan-Ajania '14. Both players also combined with other teammates to win their respective doubles rounds. The overall score was close, but Skidmore came out on top 5-4.

On Saturday, Skidmore owned the net, sweeping through against Ithaca 8-1. Skidmore's Mendoza, Nolan, Melissa Hirsch '14 and Robyn Baird '14 all had winning rounds in both their singles and their doubles matches. The team will head to California over spring break, where they will play against Pomona-Pitzer and UT Tyler, also accompanied by men's tennis.

While the racket teams head west, both baseball and softball travel south for spring break to start their seasons in the warmth of Kissimmee, Fla.

#1.2105516:256762539.jpg Women's Lacrosse 1

Robin Fetterolf '14 cradles the ball during a win against Mt. Holyoke.

Chris Weigl/The Skidmore News



Grant encourages civic engagement

By Rebecca Orbach, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

The college requested the grant to "launch a major initiative to advance, institutionalize and sustain a comprehensive program of civic engagement in the curriculum," according to the proposal to the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

The college was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to create new programs within the curriculum that will enable students to give back to the local community.

The college requested the grant to "launch a major initiative to advance, institutionalize and sustain a comprehensive program of civic engagement in the curriculum," according to the proposal to the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

The grant will help bolster the work of The Responsible Community Task Force, an entity charged with developing ways to tie community service into the academic curriculum.

Goal III of Skidmore's Strategic Plan states that the college strives to be an institution that "empowers and inspires all of our students to make the choices required of informed, responsible citizens throughout their lives, and that itself acts as a responsible corporate citizen."

The Vining Davis grant will allow the college to evaluate its academic programs and assess potential ways to increase students' involvement in the community.

Furthermore, it will enable the school to train and prepare both faculty and students for advisor and mentor roles, respectively, in the new programs.

Seven faculty members will be named "civic fellows," and will receive funding and training to become experts in the ways in which their areas of study affect the local community.

The goal, Associate Dean of Student Affairs David Karp said, is for these faculty members to convey to their students the public value of each discipline.

The college also plans to develop ways for students who are studying abroad to involve themselves in their new communities around the world.

The college already offers numerous courses that facilitate student involvement in, and research about, the local community.

In Sociology 329, "Criminal Justice," students volunteer at Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility, a medium-security prison. The students help teach inmates conflict resolution skills and assist with inmate reintegration into the community.

In Foreign Languages 221, "Spanish for the Health Professions," students work with service providers in the Saratoga Springs area to explain local health care options to Spanish speakers and to serve as translators in health care situations.

The college will utilize the Vining Davis grant to expand the roster of community-serving classes like these.

Acting President Susan Kress said of the grant, "At Skidmore we stress community involvement on many levels, and we believe that this should be reflected in the courses our students take, no matter what field they pursue. This very important grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations will enable us to prepare students and faculty for new levels of community engagement, which we expect will benefit both the college and the local area."

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, based in Jacksonville, Fla., are a national philanthropic organization established through the generosity of the late American industrialist Arthur Vining Davis.

The foundations currently provide grants for private higher education, religion, secondary education, health care and public television.

Civic engagement is a huge topic, many colleges and universities are trying to get better at this and we are too, Karp said.

Administrators will meet on March 14 to allocate the money to different projects.

Donation helps fund new crew boathouse

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

The college crew team is closer to receiving a new boathouse after a recent graduate's family donated \$750,000 toward the capital project in February.

Construction will begin on the new boathouse once the college raises \$1.5 million more to cover an estimated \$2.2 million building cost.

The current boathouse, located about six miles east of campus on the north bank of Fish Creek, houses the men and women's crew teams, as well as the Skidmore Community Rowing team.

The new boathouse will be built on the same site as the old one.

Architectural plans include changing rooms, bathrooms, a meeting room, a workout room, more boat space and insulation.

Jim Tucci, coach of the men and women's crew teams, said conditions in the current boathouse hinder rowers' training and morale.

The conditions now are Spartan, Tucci said "It's essentially a glorified garage. It can be uncomfortable because it's always cold, and not a good place to warm up. There's no meeting room or large-enough workout facility. As a result training is less efficient."

The co-captains of both college teams agreed.

"There's just not enough room for everything," Korina Burgio '11, co-captain of the women's team, said. "It houses a lot of rowers now, and it's uncomfortable."

"The boathouse is cold and difficult to practice in. We sometimes have to come back to campus to train [...] A new boathouse would make everything much more efficient," Jacob Boersma, co-captain of the men's team said.

Gail Cummings-Danson, director of athletics, said the department has considered a new boathouse for almost four years.

Cummings-Danson also said the team is anxious to receive the better facility.

"We have a lot of buildings to be proud of on campus... we have some signature pieces, if you will. Quite frankly, this isn't the case for the boathouse," Cummings-Danson said. "Fish Creek hosts a high school invitational every year. Rowers go by and must think 'Oh yeah, that's Skidmore's.' It doesn't represent our program well."

Patrick Babbitt '14, a first-year rower, will likely experience the new facility and believes a new heating system will make training easier.

The boathouse is very cold at 6 or 7 a.m. in the late fall or early winter, Babbitt said. "I can imagine going out or returning from a row would be more enjoyable from the relative warmth of a new boathouse. It would make our work on the water just a little bit easier."

The \$750,000 donation comes from Martha Valentine '09's family.

Valentine rowed at the college and now coaches crew at the University of Cincinnati.

"Rowing was one of the best experiences I had at Skidmore. I only rowed for two years, but it was the best," Valentine said. "My parents valued the time I had, and decided to donate to the athletic program."

Cummings-Danson believes the team will ultimately grow and improve with a new boathouse.

"I think it will attract both Skidmore students and some great high school prospects," Cummings-Danson said. "But now, if you're a prospective rower, you see the boathouse once and maybe you won't want to go back."

Student missing after party found dead

Missing Boston College student found dead in creek after 42-hour search

By Rebecca Orbach, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

The deceased body of 19-year-old Alexander Grant of Briarcliff, NY was found in Putnam Creek in Saratoga Springs at around 11 a.m. Tuesday morning

The creek is three-tenths of a mile from where Grant was last seen on a surveillance video breaking into a medical facility at 3 Care Lane at about 1:15 a.m. on Sunday, March 6.

Grant, a sophomore from Boston College, was visiting Skidmore for the weekend and staying with his friend from high school, Mike Perlow '13.

On Saturday night Grant attended two separate parties at 146 and 150 Church St.

Both residences are located about one mile from campus and police reports said there were several hundred people between the two parties.

Neighbor Brandon Scheidt, 25, said he called the police at 11 p.m. to report the rowdiness and three partygoers he watched urinate on his driveway, according to Shawn Cohen of The Journal News, White Plains, NY.

The police responded shortly after midnight, when the local noise ordinance begins, and forced partygoers to leave the Church Street parties.

Police reports say that Grant left the party at some time between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. It is believed he left the party on his own accord; no one saw Grant for the rest of that night.

Early Sunday afternoon, police investigated a break in at a medical facility at 3 Care Lane and discovered a security video that showed Grant, wearing only shorts, a long-sleeve T-shirt and one sock, breaking in shortly after 1:15 a.m. and leaving about an hour later.

At about 5 p.m., while the burglary investigation was still underway, three individuals entered SSPD to report their friend, Grant, was missing. The description they provided of Grant matched the man in the surveillance video and the friends were able to confirm that the person seen in the video was Grant.

After this confirmation SSPD expanded the search and found his pants, a second sock and his identification about 100 yards from the medical building.

Police think he injured himself while breaking into the medical facility. He kicked in a window and officers found blood inside the building and on the broken glass of the window.

Nothing was stolen, he did not enter any of the offices and police speculate he went inside to get warm.

On Sunday, searchers noticed footprints in the snow, but the snow began to fall so quickly on Sunday evening that the tracks were soon covered up.

Searches continued unsuccessfully on Monday with the use of thermal imaging equipment until sunset.

On Tuesday morning, using underwater probing equipment, a search team of Saratoga Springs City Firefighters and New York State Forest Rangers located Grant's body tangled in the underbrush beneath the surface of the water.

He was located in a sharp bend of the creek in about four feet of water. Grant's body was then transported to Albany Medical Center for an autopsy.

The Saratoga Springs Police Department said they believe Grant had been drinking at the parties, but it is too soon to tell whether the alcohol contributed to his death. As of press time on Wednesday a preliminary autopsy conducted at Albany Medical Center confirmed Grant drowned in the creek, and he was suffering from hypothermia before he died.

"It seems to me that SSPD has ruled out foul play. They looked at a videotape at 3 Care Lane that indicates that he was alone and acting very strangely. He appeared to be intoxicated, removing clothing and breaking the glass at the medical center," Jim Murphy, District Attorney of Saratoga County said.

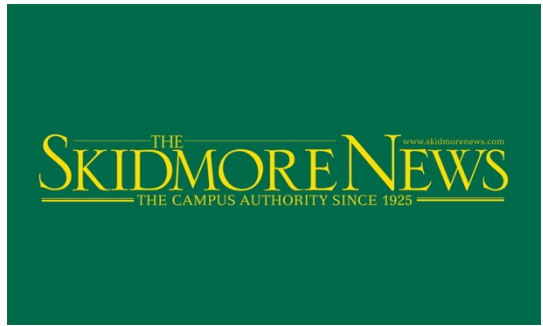
The homeowners at both Church Street residences are Saratoga Springs residents. They will be investigated, Murphy said.

"I know the people who rent the apartment have all had their lawyers contact SSPD... and indicated that they are willing to cooperate, so these meetings are being set up currently," Murphy said.

#1.2105449:2696004769.jpg Alexander Grant

Alexander Grant

Courtesy Lt. Greg Veitch / Saratoga Springs Police Department



#1.2105450:2306749712.jpg Alexander Grant 2

Alexander Grant broke into this medical facility at 3 Care Lane early on Sunday morning. The window he broke is visible in the bottom left.

Andrew Cantor/The Skidmore News





Gardasil now available to males

Health Services offers 60 male students free HPV vaccinations

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On Feb. 21, Health Services received a limited supply of Gardasil vaccines that were made available for 60 male students free of charge. Gardasil, a vaccination that protects against some types of human papilloma virus (HPV), was approved for men in October 2009.

[The vaccine] helps prevent against four types of HPV- there are over a hundred types - two types that cause 70 percent of cervical cancer and two more types that cause 90 percent of genital warts, said Patricia Bosen, clinical director of Health Services.

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that can be transmitted through any genital contact. Many infected people show no symptoms.

“[The lack of symptoms] means you can get the virus or pass it on to a partner without knowing it. In the United States, an estimated 75-80 percent of males and females will be infected with HPV in their lifetime,” Bosen said.

Health Services received the supply of Gardasil vaccines from the Saratoga County Health Department.

“They had extra vaccines and called and asked if we would like them at no cost,” Bosen said.

“The Health Services staff decided to distribute the vaccine to men free of charge, as most insurance companies now cover the costs for females to receive the vaccination but not males,” Bosen said.

The HPV vaccine is administered through a series of three injections during a six-month time frame. Though 175 Gardasil shots were provided, only 60 men will be able to receive the free vaccine to insure they can complete the entire series of shots at no cost.

As of Feb. 8, 17 males had received the first round of the vaccination.

“We will continue to offer the vaccine to both men and women after this [free] supply runs out. The cost to receive each vaccine is \$150.00 per shot, and we can provide receipts to students to submit to their insurance carrier,” Bosen said.

Gardasil is approved for males and females ages 9-26.

“The FDA recommends vaccination before adolescence and potential sexual activity, but we are offering it to all students not previously vaccinated,” Bosen said.

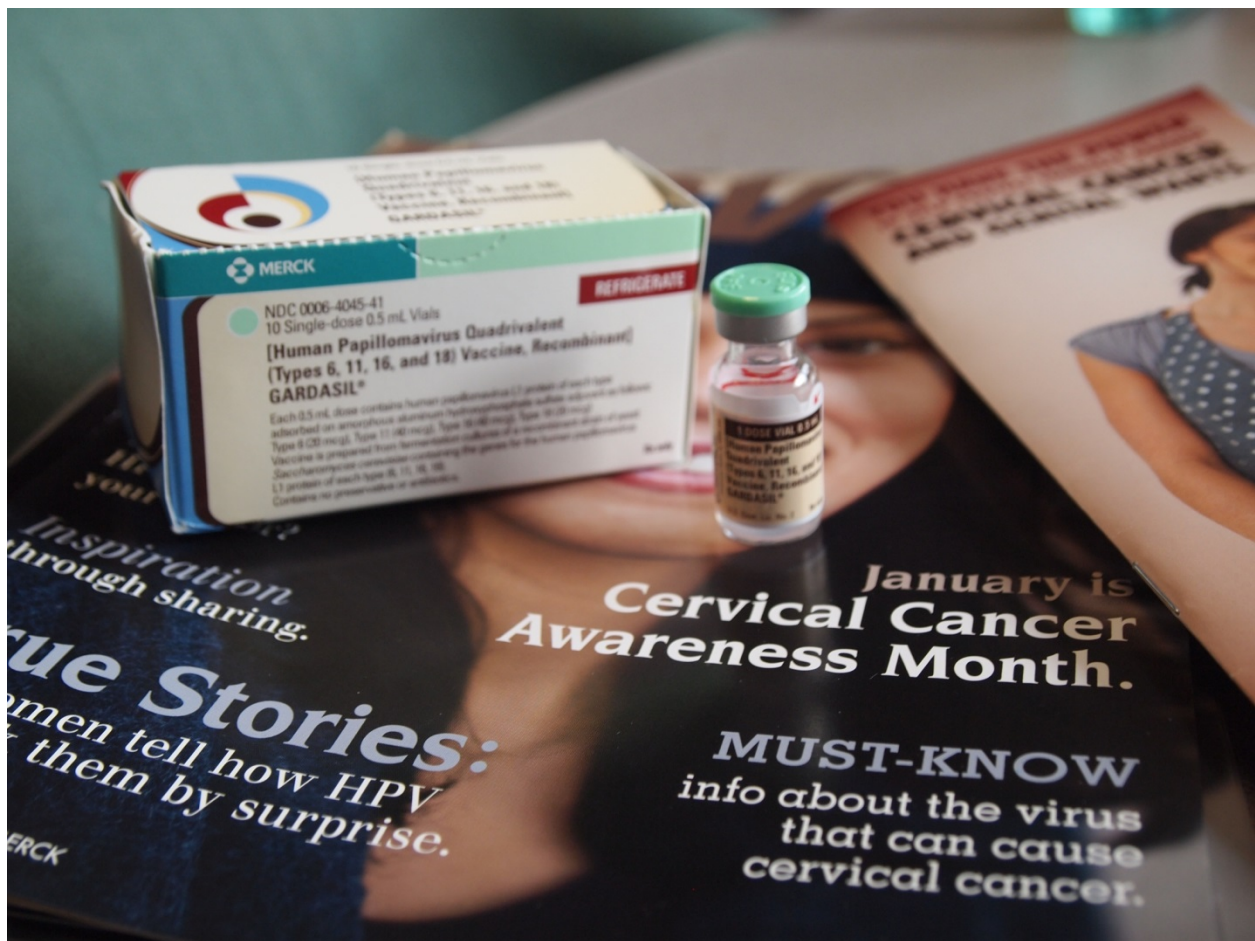
For students who are unable to receive the free vaccine, the cost can be paid in cash, charged to a student account or deducted from a SkidCard declining balance.

Health Services is located on the first floor of Jonsson Tower. Appointments are not required.

#1.2105444:3037658009.JPG Gardasil

HPV vaccinations are now available for men through Health Services.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Restaurant critic's talk fills Gannett

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

The New York Times' chief restaurant critic, Sam Sifton, drew a large audience to Gannett Auditorium on March 7. His presentation on the purpose and process of his work as a critic lasted for nearly two hours, including a question-and-answer period.

Sifton holds an A.B. degree in history and literature from Harvard University and has worked as a restaurant host, cook and social studies teacher in addition to his work in journalism. Sifton began his work with the New York Times in 2002 and progressed from the dining section editor to the culture editor before landing the position of chief restaurant critic in 2009.

The lecture began with an explanation of why a restaurant critic's role in journalism is so appealing to the public. "Food is the great equalizer of journalism," Sifton said, "Everyone has something to say about eating food."

Throughout his talk, Sifton spoke about his responsibility to "find the narrative of the restaurant." Sifton's job is much more elaborate than eating a meal and whipping up a review, he said.

When asked by an audience member what defines a top-notch food critic, Sifton responded, "The ability to tell a story, to enable people to live vicariously, to be right."

Sifton also spoke about his reviewing process, saying, "I eat, I observe, I take notes in the bathroom, then I write a review," he said. Sifton spoke about the advantage of being a restaurant critic in New York City.

"It is such a vital food scene-it's unparalleled," Sifton said.

Sifton said he dines out six times a week, and visits a restaurant at least three times before reviewing it. The aim is to experience a medley of restaurants, Sifton said, and to investigate almost any dining option.

"You have to go in there believing it will be great," he said.

Sifton went on to say his anonymity, as a reviewer is essential to his success in restaurant criticism.

"Facelessness," is the only way to achieve an honest and fair review, he said.

Sifton described his methods of disguise, which range from invented names to wigs.

Sifton said he tries to go unnoticed, but currently there is one photograph of him on the Internet in addition to several snapshots taken by bloggers.

“It’s hard to erase your digital past,” he said.

He also dines in groups to help stay anonymous, Sifton said, but does not take his companions’ opinions into consideration in his reviews.

“While food is the focus of a restaurant, there are many elements that compose a dining experience,” Sifton said.

“I want to figure out the story of the restaurant. Décor, ambiance, music, and environment all matter. There are good restaurants with terrible food, and vice-versa.”

During the question-and-answer period, audience members asked questions ranging from progression of the American palette to the health effects of being a food critic. Sifton responded to each question in a lengthy manner, usually accompanied by an anecdote that produced laughter from the crowd.

Sifton disclosed that he grew up in Brooklyn Heights, prompting the audience to ask what his favorite pizza place is. Sifton responded by explaining his "pizza cognition theory," saying that he believed people always like the pizza from their hometown most.

“The truth of the matter is, all pizza is awesome,” Sifton said.

Sifton also told the audience he went to Hattie’s Restaurant in Saratoga Springs before the lecture. "I didn’t eat," Sifton said, "I fed."

Senate allocates additional funds for Power Shift

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On March 8 the SGA Senate unanimously approved a resolution to allocate an additional \$2000 to the Environmental Action Committee to help fund the club's trip to Power Shift, a movement to promote clean energy that will occur in Washington D.C. in April.

Senate recently granted the EAC \$3,000 for this same trip. Initially only 60 students were expected to attend, but due to a large amount of interest in the program, the number has grown to approximately 90 students.

Anna Graves, '14 and Annie Bruckner '11 approached Senate to request the additional funds in order to house the additional students.

"Currently Skidmore is the largest group registered in New York, more than Columbia or NYU," Bruckner said, "This could start really great positive national press for Skidmore. And with this many people we could bring back what we learn to the student body."

Skidmore, in support of this trip, has increased the grant money from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and is providing buses to transport the students.

Students must pay a \$50 registration fee upon signing up. "We're exhausting a lot of resources," Graves said. "We're fundraising, co-sponsoring with other clubs and each student is sending out a letter requesting support. We realize that we need to work for this."

The resolution was unanimously approved. All 90 students will be able to attend Power Shift in April.

In other news:

- Signs for the new gender-neutral bathrooms have been approved and will be installed during spring vacation. All single stall bathrooms on campus will be officially gender neutral upon the return of the student body.
- Senate unanimously approved a supplemental to allocate money from the JSS/Activism Civic Engagement Fund to senators Randy Abreu, '11 and Javi Calderón, '11.

- The senators requested \$400 to open a library for a women’s shelter in the Bronx. The library will house a literacy program, providing ESL and GED books. It will also provide books for neighborhood children.



Eggers announced as spring keynote speaker

By Max Siegelbaum, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On March 21, tickets will go on sale for the Speakers Bureau spring keynote address, "A Conversation With Dave Eggers." The event will be held at 8 p.m. on March 28 in the Arthur Zankel Music Center.

Eggers, renowned for his New York Times best selling memoir, "A Heart Breaking Work of Staggering Genius," is an accomplished author with several published full length novels and a catalog of short stories.

Eggers also co-wrote the screenplay for the popular 2009 film "Where the Wild Things Are."

Eggers is also the co-founder of 826 Valencia, a non-profit organization that serves as a writing and tutoring center for kids in urban areas.

The keynote address will be presented in the form of a conversation between Eggers and professor Flagg Taylor, a childhood friend of the author.

Speakers Bureau president Alexandra Steinhauer '13 said the committee chose between several potential speakers. The possibilities included Billy Collins, a former poet laureate, Maulik Pancholy, an actor who has appeared on the television shows Weeds and 30 Rock, and the New York Times crossword editor Will Shortz.

"Ultimately, the committee decided Eggers would attract the most students because of the popularity of his work," Steinhauer said.

Steinhauer also said Eggers has expressed an interest in attending classes on campus prior to his address.

"His favorite part about giving talks is interacting with the students. After the conversation there will an open meeting where students will be encouraged to approach him," Steinhauer said.

It's peanut butter cookie time

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

In the Katie Lane Food Pyramid, chocolate has its own level with five to six daily servings.

I am a choco-holic.

I suppose there could be worse things. I could be addicted to TV shopping, World of Warcraft or meth. But instead, I have insatiable desire to fill my belly with sweet, delicious chocolate.

Give it to me in a bar, chip or candy coating, fill it with peanut butter or cover it in sprinkles: I will take it and I will love it.

Never even offer me the choice between a dessert that involves chocolate and one that does not. I find it kind of offensive.

However, these cookies do not have any chocolate.

I have this dear friend named Charles. One of the first things I learned about him is that he is allergic to chocolate.

I always felt guilty when I accidentally offered Charles a handful of sticky, half-melted M&Ms or a scoop of chocolate ice cream. It felt as cruel as dangling a Milk Bone in front of a dog wearing a muzzle.

Charles never really seemed to care. In fact, he found out a few months later that his chocolate allergy had subsided.

However, he still barely ate chocolate. That just confused me. I think that if I suddenly found out I could eat chocolate after being denied its goodness for years of my life, I would eat every last Hershey kiss in a 10-mile radius.

Charles came to visit this weekend. He had a long drive and I love to make cookies for people who have to go on car trips. Charles would probably enjoy a non-chocolate cookie the most, so I resisted my urge to force-feed him Dutch-process cocoa powder and whipped up some of these peanut butter cookies.

For more adventures in the kitchen, visit me at www.asprinkleintime.wordpress.com.

Peanut Butter Cookies

Adapted from www.annies-eats.net

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

½ cup sugar

3/4 tsp. baking soda

½ tsp. baking powder

1/4 tsp. salt

1 large egg

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350° F. In a medium mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; whisk together and set aside.

In another bowl, cream together the butter, peanut butter, honey and sugar. Mix in the egg. Add the dry ingredients beat just until incorporated.

Roll the dough into 1 1/2-inch balls, and roll each dough ball in sugar.

Place the dough balls on an ungreased baking sheet, a couple inches apart. Press the back of a fork gently into each cookie. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden.

#1.2105494:2368207494.jpg Peanut Butter Cookies

Peanut Butter Cookies

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News



Orchestra presents a night of French music

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On March 5 the college's orchestra performed its third concert in its 29th consecutive season.

The concert, led by conductor Anthony Holland, featured works by French composers Georges Hüe and Maurice Ravel.

Both the orchestra and two student soloists gave performances. Flutist Katherine Murphy '14 and violinist Hanna Tonegawa '11 were the first and second prize winners respectively of the college's annual Concerto Competition.

Murphy has played flute since her start in elementary school. She has previously been a part of the New England Conservatory (NEC) Preparatory Program, a pre-college extension of the renowned conservatory.

Tonegawa, who was the Concert Competition winner in the spring of 2009, has been a member of several conservatory and school orchestras and currently plays in the college's orchestra and chamber ensembles.

Throughout the concert, the role of the concertmaster switched between Andona Zacks-Jordan '11, Stephen Frye '11, Katherine Bohn '11 and Jessica Taffet '13. This unconventional change allowed each concertmaster and concertmistress to lead the orchestra alongside the guidance of Holland.

The concert began with Murphy, who performed the flute piece, "Fantaisie for Flute and Orchestra" by Hüe. Murphy is a Filene scholar and one of the few first-year musicians who have won first prize in the Concerto Competition.

The piece is filled with complicated and intricate melodic lines. Murphy delivered a graceful, harmonious performance. The orchestra followed her lead as she swayed back and forth. She played with confidence and visibly enjoyed being on stage.

Tonegawa followed Murphy with her performance of Ravel's "Tzigane," an arrangement notorious for its difficulty. The piece's opening immediately starts with an unaccompanied somber violin section that Tonegawa played with bold expression.

The rest of the piece flows with dramatic ease despite the difficult skills it requires from the performer. Tonegawa executed the complicated piccicato, harmonics and chords with precision, showcasing her mastery.

The audience responded to Tonegawa's performance with stunned silence, which was immediately followed by a standing ovation.

The last piece of the concert was Ravel's ballet, "Ma Mère L'oye," otherwise known as "Mother Goose Ballet." The ballet is divided into six movements. Between each movement student narrators, all members of the orchestra gave brief descriptions and explanations of each story.

The ballet includes famous stories such as "Sleeping Beauty" and "Beauty and the Beast" and other lesser known tales like "The Fairy's Garden."

The ballet brought the audience into a new realm of tales of fantasies. The orchestra unfolded each story with its performances.

The string sections captured the enchanting nature of the characters while the woodwind and brass sections produced an airy, ethereal sound that added to whimsical quality of the tales.

Although the program featured a compilation of exclusively French music, there was still a wide range that allured the audience and kept them captivated.

Fourth student pleads guilty in Compton's case

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On March 8 Sakhile Sithole '13 pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, in association with the assault that occurred at Compton's Restaurant last semester.

Four students, Justin Tavarez '13, Elijah Johnston '14, Korvin Vicente '13, and Sithole were arrested on the morning of Dec. 18, 2010 after an altercation with Saratoga Springs resident Christopher McCarthy. According to police reports, Tavarez broke a plate over McCarthy's head and the other three students joined in the altercation, but details of their participation are not clear.

Tavarez was initially charged with a hate crime, but the charges were reduced on Feb. 1 when additional witness testimony suggested the charge was unfounded.

In a press release issued on March 8, Saratoga County District Attorney James A. Murphy said, "Once the five week investigation was completed by the police department, and the DA's office was able to review all the statements and evidence, the ultimate determination to decline to proceed on the hate crime was the appropriate decision."

Tavarez pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault on Feb. 1 and will be sentenced in April.

Vicente and Johnston also pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct earlier this month.

Sithole, Vicente and Johnston will pay \$120 fines as a result of their pleas, and will also face possible discipline from the college integrity board. Johnston and Sithole were also briefly suspended from the men's basketball team.



Business is not a liberal art

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

A recent helping of "Food for Thought," the anonymously distributed poster series that has sparked controversy and charges of reverse racism, fed my thinking, but it didn't whet my curiosity in the way its authors intended. It says something to the effect of, "what if your silky smooth hair was considered nappy and kinky and ugly, think about that next time you criticize other hair textures." The poster intends to raise awareness of racial marginalization and its effect on self-image and, more generally, acceptance in our community (if I mischaracterized their message the authors have no one to blame but themselves for publishing anonymously).

It was a wasted opportunity, however, as it challenges people who have "silky smooth hair," rather than challenging the system that declares those traits to be desirable. This flyer's detachment from real issues is indicative of a larger disconnect between students' words and actions.

The author of this poster could have scathingly indicted our society, but stopped short and made an ineffective point. What I read in lieu of a substantial argument was that students are eager to take potshots at campus culture and its majority groups (who cannot defend themselves because doing so would demonstrate bias and necessitate liberal reeducation by the administration) under the cover of anonymity, but are not willing to question the larger ills of our society, which they are, as students, buying into. And that is truly the biggest problem facing our college and society today. Students work tirelessly to promote awareness of social problems and instigate progressive change, yet are entirely complicit in the larger system that begets oppression.

Skidmore students, administrators and faculty pride themselves on having a progressive curriculum and diverse community, yet perpetuate a spirit of apathy and a willingness to settle on rigid homogeneity. What we have instead is an institution replete with philosophical contradictions, whose hypocrisy, and that of its students, is crystallized in its treatment of "Management and Business" as a legitimate intellectual pursuit.

The study of "Business," of how to make money, is antithetical to the purpose of a liberal arts education, yet Management and Business is the most popular major. Clearly, there is a credibility gap between students' criticisms of the college and society and their own actions. Skidmore students who take up



progressive causes must in many cases be the same ones who, the classrooms of Palamontain and Bolton, plot to hoard wealth, manipulate the masses, and oppress the working class.

I took MB-107 my sophomore year, looking to branch out a bit, explore what the college had to offer. A course designed to teach the basics of business might be interesting, I thought. Unfortunately, as I soon deduced from a fifteen-minute homework assignment about the virtues of the McDonald's business plan, the course is intellectually bankrupt. Moreover, it promoted racial exploitation similar to that which the "Food for Thought" poster aimed to address.

We were assigned to do a semester long project with the goal of increasing the cosmetic giant Estee Lauder's profits. In keeping with our rapidly globalizing economy, we were encouraged to think outside the states, to establish markets abroad. We were given articles to look at, among which were several that focused on the potential market in India. India, they stated, was ripe for expansion by the cosmetics industry because there is an enormous demand among Indian men and women for whitening creams that will give them lighter complexions and make them look European. Here, in a Skidmore classroom, I was being encouraged to exploit deep-seeded and perverse racial complexes for profit.

At Skidmore, we have discussions about righting the wrongs in the world's societies, providing food and shelter to the starving peoples of the world, and advancing a harmonious multicultural philosophy, undoing and healing the effects of thousands of years of racial and economic oppression. Dozens of clubs exist to denounce the destruction of our natural environment and the perpetuation of racial injustice. And over in Palamontain, our very own, in the largest department on campus, we are plotting the economic rape of America's underclass, the exploitation of the colonially imposed psychoses of dark-skinned people the world over.

People will argue that Business can do good things and I am mischaracterizing it. They'll say Businesses can provide jobs and be leaders in environmentally sustainable, socially responsible practices. These businesses, however, are the exceptions and failed ventures. Most business majors won't be pioneering ground-breaking new industries, conceiving of and executing brilliant transnational business plans; they'll be making heart-wrenching decisions around Christmas time about how many employees to lay-off so their bosses can get pay-raises. They'll be lobbying third-world governments to loosen labor regulations and look the other way on child labor. The most helpful thing the Business department could do for its majors is train them to silence their consciences.

And Business is the most popular major at our college, more so than social work, government and philosophy combined. What this means is that we either have a deeply divided campus culture, with progressive socially-conscious students on side and would-be masters of the universe on the other. Or, as I've observed, we have rotisserie progressives at Skidmore, who take up and abandon popular causes

like middle school fads. Many students are half activist, half mindless self-promoting consumer. I have encountered many students here who are Studio Art and Business double majors, because "if I can't make it as an artist then I'll need something substantial to fall back on." I believe that if you view art as a means to "make it," then you're doing it wrong-or not doing it at all. We should be engaging in art for art's sake, exercising creativity for the sake of creativity.

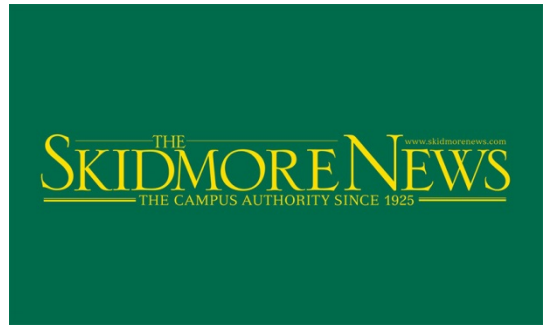
There is something to be said about the versatile liberal arts student, the student who balances playing the tuba, playing field hockey, painting, writing poetry and involvement in student government, who spent a summer building hospitals for albino Kazakhstani orphans. In most students' cases, however, these potentially rich personal skills and experiences are seen and wielded as a means to get into college and advance oneself, rather than as personally-fulfilling ends unto themselves. Students view themselves as marketable commodities, their degrees and skills valuable only as tools to achieve social distinction and wealth.

Which isn't to say that your college degree should not serve as leverage to advance your career. Most students do not have the luxury of taking a laissez-faire approach to post-graduation life. But the fact that Management and Business is the largest department at a liberal arts college signals that there is a culture of complicity in the entrenched systems that so many Skiddies aim to change.

Skidmore students too often allow themselves to be, as Mario Savio once analogized, products manufactured by an education machine, marketable items to be bought and sold in the post-grad business world. Our campus culture cynically assumes all of the idealism and activism of the college years should be shed upon graduation, put away like childish things.

Last semester, a representative from Career Services came and spoke to the seniors of my department. We were given a number flyers among which was "a formula for success," which instructs students to line up their interests and skills with their major, which will supposedly yield a viable profession. I was very disturbed by the idea that, after the intellectual journey I'd taken through college, after all the idealism, self-confidence and independent critical thinking skills instilled in me by incredible professors, that I was now honestly being encouraged to apply a "formula for success" to determine my career.

Let's practice what we preach here at Skidmore, and make ours a more genuine, socially conscious and intellectually oriented community.



Letter: Our dialogues are very big news

By Sarah Goodwin

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

It was gratifying to read your coverage of the Teach-In on February 24 in which a series of speakers addressed issues related to race and the criminal justice system in the context of recent events here in Saratoga that affected our students. Given that your article notes there were more than 200 people in attendance - the Spa was standing-room only, indicating considerable student interest in the Teach-In- it surprises me that your story is listed 6th in the list of stories for last week's paper, behind news about a new café in the library, a new SGA digital coordinator, and four other stories. When in recent history has there been a similar community gathering? I recall a Teach-In on Haiti after the earthquake, also well attended. This one had the added dimension that it bears directly on our students' lives here at Skidmore and in the community. I would have expected Alex Brehm's report to be the lead story for the day. We are not yet done with the troubling matters that the Teach-In addressed; we've barely begun.

Expose privilege now

Challenging Privilege

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

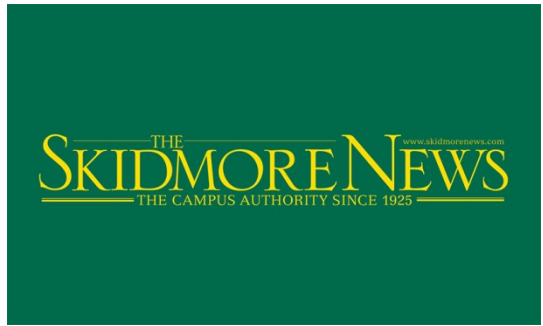
It is easy to be colorblind as white person. No one ever questions your race. Rarely will people ask the question "What are you?" Whiteness is the norm in our society. It is the majority race (for now) and the one that holds - not some - but all of the power in our society. Whiteness, one could say, is an awning that protects white people when racial issues change the political climate for the worse. Those under its shelter are unaware of the privilege that it affords. Meanwhile, people of color are left out in the freezing rain.

We cannot underestimate the power of systematic racism. White privilege is directly related to the discrimination people of color face on our campus. In the larger society, white people are more likely to hold positions of power. But even on a smaller scale, white people do not face the persistent negative stereotypes and prejudices that are reinforced through the media, and which were created solely for the purpose of demoralization. Privilege and power are kept from oppressed groups in order to maintain the normative social structure of white dominance in our society. There are no exceptions.

In his article last week, Rick Chrisman did well to reinforce valuable rules of etiquette, friendship, and love, all of which must be upheld in order to create a community that rewards all of its members. However, the racial tension on our campus calls for the need to push these ideas further. White allies must take a stand against racism. Dialogue needs to continue so that the poignant narratives of the marginalized can be heard, but also in order to address the privilege whiteness affords and its relationship with discrimination.

But the fact that friendship and self-control are important in the fight against discrimination goes without saying. It's like an introduction to a physics experiment that states these laws only apply within a vacuum; it's entirely unrealistic. The confusion students have regarding this campus is a private or public space (as Chrisman mentioned) is not the problem. It is the dangerous fact that this is a predominately white public space, as Jon Zibell noted at the Teach-In a few weeks ago. Unless we unpack the way privilege and discrimination intersect, the notions of friendship, love, and empathy will be tough to achieve.

As a multiracial student, being part white and Asian, I benefit from the privileges that whiteness affords, but also face the oppression that accompanies my Asian identity. However, I can tell you that I will fight



to change the system that dehumanizes and condemns groups because of their racial identity. I implore the Skidmore community - students, faculty members, and administrators - to join me in demolishing the awning that protects the privileged at the expense of the oppressed.

Danny is a sophomore who is inspired by the need for change.

Superficial students: looking the part

Campus Banter

By Taylor Dafoe, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

A couple of weeks ago, a friend of mine visited me from Swarthmore, a school whose student body unfortunately has a reputation of being more brainy than it is beautiful. While he was here, glancing around the campus and reveling in the novel greasiness of the dining hall, he commented several times on the "look" of Skidmore students. He mentioned that everyone here seems to be well put-together, or at least more so than the students at his school, who are supposedly notorious for their lack of concern with all things superficial.

And he's right, our school does have a very fashion-conscious mindset. So much so that for some reason we're often focused more on our boots and seasonal cardigans than on our classes. It's one of our school's defining characteristics, one that people both inside and outside the "bubble" tend to associate with Skidmore students.

Evidence of this obsession can be seen everywhere: our uniforms of Northface fleeces and pretty plaid flannel whatevers, the cigarettes hanging precariously from the pouty-lipped mouths of the hipsters outside Case Center, not to mention the full-length mirrors covering dorm walls. And it's all starting to seem like a bad thing. We can only check out our outfits in the reflections of campus windows so many times before we actually see ourselves.

We have this reputation of being stylish yet shallow students, as if we were walking ads for Urban Outfitters. We look as though we have nothing behind our looks - no original thoughts, no creative drive - nothing but plastic principles. I'm not trying to criticize the fashion trends of Skidmore students. I'm simply pointing out the ridiculousness of the conceited Skidmore mentality.

The irony is that in spite of my new awareness of Skidmore's superficiality, and in spite of the hopelessly naïve fact that I'm taking issue with it, I'm proud of this image. I like the idea that our school is looked at in this way: as a well-dressed and charismatic body of bound-for-success college students.

For a while, I honestly thought that this is how we were perceived. Like all ostentatious people, I assumed that everyone else thinks of Skidmore students in the same way that they think about themselves: as well-rounded, good looking kids, wise beyond our modest years, most of which were likely spent in some ritzy town in New England or Westchester. But maybe we're not seen in this way.

Maybe we're just vain idiots popping our collars and rolling up our jeans, reading fashion magazines instead of books. Maybe we'll be the best dressed at interviews, but also the ones that just missed the cut to someone from a school like Swarthmore. Maybe we're just second rate. Honorable Mention.

I don't think our obsession with looking good is an entirely bad thing; it's not, but the self-absorption that can come with it is. And I'm not saying that I'm above this trend, or that these things don't pass through my head as I'm picking out my clothes every morning. I just think we need to reel it in a little bit, to start focusing on something a little more consequential than that quirky old sweater you got from some thrift store that no one's ever heard of.



Editorial

Show yourself, speak publicly for change

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

On Monday March 8, faculty members found posters on their office doors that read "Dear Faculty Member, Your students don't feel comfortable being themselves in your classes. They are targeted, silenced, and marginalized. What have YOU done to make the campus climate better? Sincerely, The Student Body."

To the best of our knowledge, this letter was not actually written by the majority of our student body. Whether it was a disgruntled individual, or a small subset of our community is unclear, but the opinions expressed cannot fairly be interpreted as the voice of the entire campus community.

The posters targeted the faculty as a whole, which not only unfairly insulted and provoked some professors, but also the rest of the student body that does not feel "targeted, silenced, and marginalized."

The student or students who created these posters attacked every professor, rather than specifically confronting the supposed wrongdoer.

There is a time and place for anonymity. An anonymous note directed at a specific professor could prove to be an extremely effective method of critique that would, at the same time, protect the individual from any negative repercussions. Hiding behind a forged signature of the entire student body, however, dilutes the impact of the note and strains the relationship between all professors and their students, which does nothing to solve the problem.

Presenting a note from an anonymous source is cowardly and only undermines what could be a valuable opportunity to consider a potentially serious issue on campus.

The posters leave everyone bitter, rather than making the campus community aware of real issues. Professors feel accused, students who wrote the note still hold their resentment and everyone else feels frustration because they do not understand what these students want.

What could turn into an important campus dialogue will not be addressed unless the student or students who created these posters reveal themselves and share specific examples of why they feel "targeted, silenced, and marginalized."

By falsifying the signature on this letter, the student or students have trivialized what they perceive to be a pervasive issues on campus. While the complaints of an individual may be valid, they lose their legitimacy when that individual hides behind the voice of a falsified group, regardless of how legitimate the actual complaints are.

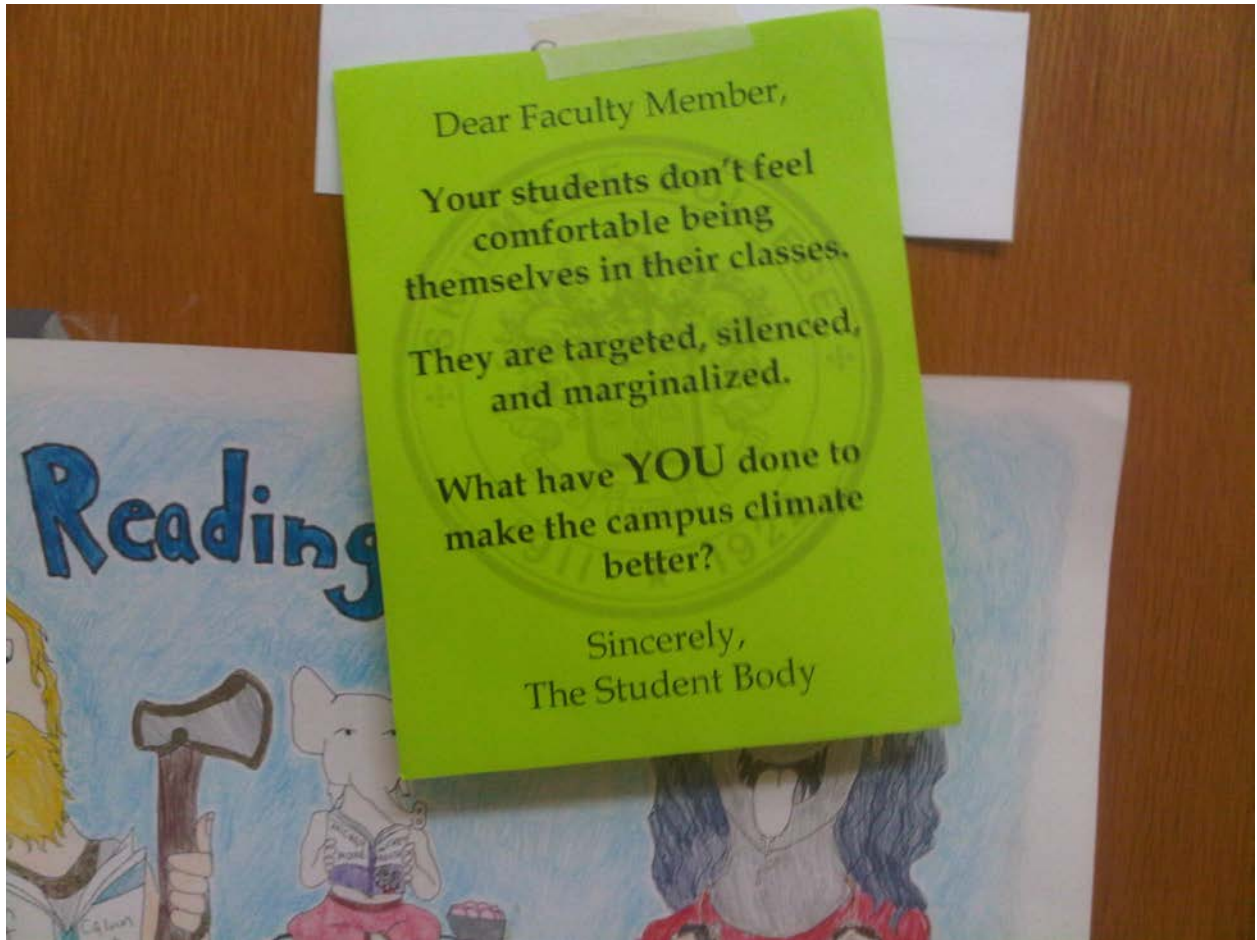
We should take example from this past spring when students in Mary Stange's "Feminist Theories and Methodologies" class organized a rally to change the culture surrounding sexual assault.

During the rally, victims of sexual assault spoke publicly against their attackers and the school's Sexual Misconduct Policy. By sharing their stories in public, they caught the school's attention and sympathies, and subsequently gained strength through solidarity. The Sexual Misconduct Policy changed because they gained the courage to speak publicly.

We encourage the student or students who created the poster to speak out at one of our many public forums on campus and share your story. We want to hear what you have to say. You will gain strength in numbers, and only then can you reverse your perceived marginalization. But for now we cannot do anything with an ambiguous and unsubstantiated letter.

#1.2105476:1568263822.JPG Poster

Photo by Gabe Weintraub/The Skidmore News



How to deal with spring flings and bumpy things

What Would C. Do? Advice From an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

Spring Break has finally broken! Let's hope by the time we get back the snow has partially melted and the sun is out more than three days a week.

Spend this week rejuvenating by finding some new man meat for a spring fling or by aiding your bumpy v.

Dear C,

If a guy says he doesn't want a relationship, does that mean he doesn't want one with me?

Blue Valentine

Dear Blue Valentine,

Yes, that is precisely what it means.

I hate to be the barer of bad news, but if a guy wants to date a girl he will. However, his intentions might be selfish, or for your benefit.

Perhaps he does not want to date you because he likes you as a friend, it is bad timing or he likes someone else.

Either way, it is better he be honest with you rather than start a doomed relationship and break your heart. Appreciate his honesty and move on-I know, easier said than done.

You should want to be with someone who wants every morsel of you, and who is proud and loud to say it too.

Dear C.,

How do I tell my bf about my ingrown hair?

Bumpelstiltskin

Dear Bumpelstiltskin,

Who says you need to tell him? However, if you feel like you need to, there are different ways you can unleash info on the beast below.

If you are half of a humor-filled relationship, you can send him a picture of the grossest ingrown you can find on the net and tell him to watch out for this upcoming attraction.

If you are more subdued, you might just want to cover it up with Neosporin and a band-aid until it goes away. Say you nicked yourself shaving.

If you are a frisky minx and think he will be looking, if he asks, "Ew, what is that?" sultrily whisper in his ear the truth while playing with his favorite spot-this should be distracting enough.

Guys do not really care to know what we have going on down there, as long as we are still in service. So do not feel like you need to tell him the bump and grind of what bodily stuff you have going on-as long as it is not contagious!

Hearts and Stars,

C.



F.Y.E. seeks mentors for fall

How to become a peer mentor for a class of 2015 Scribner Seminar

By Jesse Shayne, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

With the Spring semester already halfway over, the staff behind the First Year Experience Program has begun thinking ahead to next Fall. Though it will not be long before the incoming class of 2015 will be choosing their Scribner Seminars, each seminar first needs to have a peer mentor assigned to it and the process by which that takes place can be complicated.

There are two ways to become a peer mentor.

Students can either find a professor who needs a peer mentor for his or her class or they can go through the application process to try to get matched up with a professor. No paperwork is required if students find professors in need of mentors on their own.

However, if students hope to get matched up to a Scribner Seminar, they need applications stating why they are good candidates, a teacher recommendation and a brief interview with a member of the FYE staff to figure out which seminars would be the right fit.

Most faculty members choose to pick their own peer mentors but there are always a few who decide to get matched up by the FYE.

“We always have about eight to 10 seminars where the faculty member just says ‘give me somebody,’” said Beau Breslin, director of FYE and professor of Government.

Once a peer mentor becomes assigned to a Scribner Seminar the FYE runs an integrity check on the candidate.

As long as students have decent grades and no serious citations on their records, they are eligible.

The responsibilities begin after all of the seminars have been assigned peer mentors.

Over the summer peer mentors are supposed to get in touch with their mentees and start to get to know them. They should be able to answer any questions that the incoming students may have.

Peer mentors head back to campus about eight days before first-year orientation begins for an orientation of their own.



During this time they are taught how to have conversations about important issues and how to teach mentees about college resources.

“The discussions range from knowing academic services on campus, the alcohol and drug policy, sexual misconduct, academic integrity, citizenship and diversity,” Breslin said.

During first-year orientation peer mentors have a big role in leading the newcomers around campus and helping them adjust to their new surroundings.

Peer mentors also plan icebreaking group activities, organize group meals and keep first-year students on schedule.

When the semester begins the peer mentors’ role is not quite as intricate as during orientation, but it is still important.

Peer mentors are to attend their Scribner Seminar classes and do the readings while also taking a separate class in how to lead discussions. The class, ID-201, meets once a week for about an hour.

Peer mentors should also be willing to meet with their mentees to talk about any problems they might be having.

Given the responsibilities that come with being a peer mentor, not everyone is suited for the job.

“Broadly a peer mentor has two responsibilities: to model the type of behavior we expect from our very best students academically and socially, and to help the faculty member by working with the first-year students to make the transition as seamless as possible,” Breslin said.

Being a peer mentor gets you more than just self-satisfaction. Peer mentors get paid for the time they spend with their students outside of class, including \$250 for orientation.

They also receive academic credit. Mentors get one credit for the ID-201 course and two or three credits for the seminar depending on whether they choose to do additional readings for the faculty advisor.

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Peer Mentor Beau Breslin talks to students interested in becoming peer mentors.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News





Salmagundi celebrates 45th year

By Noam Dagan, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

Salmagundi, noun: a dish composed of chopped meat, anchovies, eggs and onions with oil and condiments.

Delicious - and informative? That is right, Salmagundi is more than a salad dish originating in early 17th century England. It is also a periodical devoted to the humanities and social sciences published at Skidmore College.

While the similarities between a seemingly random assortment of culinary ingredients and a literary and polemical quarterly may not be strikingly obvious, Salmagundi may be the perfect name for Skidmore's very own "little magazine."

Founded in 1965 and first published in 1969, Salmagundi publishes everything from essays, to reviews, fiction, poetry, regular columns, polemics, debates and symposia.

Similar publications can be found at college campuses throughout the country, but what distinguishes Salmagundi from the rest is its commitment to provide the reader with a wide variety of literary content and political perspective.

Robert Boyers, editor-in-chief of Salmagundi and Tisch professor of Arts and Letters, explains that "what distinguishes Salmagundi from other 'little magazines' is its obvious commitment not only to a very wide range of subjects and viewpoints, but to controversy. Though the magazine is politically left-leaning, its pages are given over to the unpredictable and contentious and its editors clearly avoid anything remotely resembling (or smelling like) 'political correctness.'"

Perhaps the multiplicity of perspectives and ideas is why the magazine chose the hodge-podge arrangement of random foods as its name.

Contributors long associated with Salmagundi include Nadine Gordimer, J.M Coetzee, Tzvetan Todorov, George Steiner, Orlando Patterson, Norman Manea, Christopher Hitchens, Seamus Heaney, Mary Gordon, Susan Sontag, Benjamin Barber, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Howard, Carolyn Forché, Martin Jay and David Rieff.



To celebrate the 45th anniversary of the magazine, which arrived this month, "the editors of Salmagundi brought out a special anniversary issue which features a 'Who's Who' of American writers and a typically feisty mix of highly provocative articles," Boyers said.

Having Salmagundi published on campus has benefited the school in a number of ways.

Boyers explained, "Salmagundi has sponsored conferences and other public events on campus, bringing to the college many of the world's leading writers, thinkers, public intellectuals and artists of various kinds. Often those events have been the basis for special issues of the magazine, published a year or so after the campus events."

In addition to organizing great events here on campus, Salmagundi brings the name of the school to distant corners of the globe because it is sold in select stores all over the world and is held in collections of several foreign libraries.

Salmagundi's relationship with the college provides students with ample opportunities to get involved with the magazine.

Students are often very much involved with the magazine in an intimate way. Six or seven students work on the staff of the magazine in any given year and some of them, upon graduation, move immediately into publishing jobs in New York City or elsewhere. Other students, of course, receive the magazine by subscription and attend events sponsored by Salmagundi, Boyers said.

To subscribe to Salmagundi, you can visit to its homepage on the Skidmore website.



Creative readers' favorite secret

Stranger Than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

Hidden in the depths of the murky world of writing stands a man named John Fante - an Italian-American from Los Angeles who wrote interesting and vibrant novels of city life told through the eyes of his alter-ego, Arturo Bandini.

There have been movies made of Fante's work, and the author has both a square named after him in Los Angeles and an extensive Wikipedia page.

However, little is made of his work. Like Charles Portis, he is the creative reader's favorite secret.

Fante's last novel, "Dreams from Bunker Hill," is a return to his early years.

Like Hemmingway, who chose to end his life while working on a memoir-type work - "A Moveable Feast" - Fante wrote this later novel after succumbing to blindness as a result of diabetes. He dictated the text to his wife.

Even though Fante was suffering toward the end, there is no hint of his pain in the work. It is as vibrant, funny and emotional as his earlier works.

Our character is Arturo, a young, aspiring writer living alone in a Los Angeles slum during the American depression. He is an arrogant and forceful man, accepting and leaving jobs as he struts the streets searching for women and making up crazy stories.

He tries to be a screenwriter and is petitioned to write a movie with Velda, a large, brassy, insipid woman whom he dislikes. Instead of working with her, Arturo sits in his room alone and finishes the screenplay in a matter of weeks.

He gives it to her so she can "edit" it. She proceeds to rewrite the entire story, the studio buys it and Arturo, in a fit of shame and desperation, takes his name off the picture, which ends up flopping.

Bandini is a man who knows what he wants in life. He does not know how to get it, but he knows what he wants.

He is difficult to like, yet there is something eerily romantic about an outcast who lives and acts alone. Whether he is blowing off work to type stories, or trying to get a girl who obviously does not want him, or morphing into a drunk with a writer 10 years older than him, he remains himself.

For all the levity and laughter in Fante's work, there is also a great amount of humanity and sadness. At the end of the novel, Arturo returns to his family at their home in Boulder, Colorado.

In Boulder, Bandini is humbled by his parents and lauded as a saint by his siblings. He comes from a family that is "stuck" in the same town - he is the only one who decided to leave to see what America had to offer him.

While reading this novel I felt that I knew Arturo like the back of my hand. I saw Los Angeles through his eyes.

When he returns and describes the street where he grew up ("How much of my life I had spent here, under the quiet elms, our house a block away - Christmas and baseball and first communion and Halloween and kites and sleigh rides and ballgames and Easter and graduation . . .") there is a deep richness to how he remembers his past.

He is only there for a few days before returning to Los Angeles.

Although his short trip might seem superfluous, as it has nothing to do with writing and drinking and love, it is important for Fante to show the reader where Arturo came from.

Until this point in the story, readers have an idealistic portrayal of this character and feel as if he is simply a boy who exists without roots, foundations or parents.

"Fante is my God," wrote Charles Bukowski, another poor writer based in Los Angeles.

Fante is not my God, but I understand the attraction that he has to young readers, especially those who grew up as outsiders and were intoxicated with the thrill and desperation of life.

Hunter Prichard is an English major from Portland, Maine.

Sushi Thai offers wide range of Asian cuisine

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 11, 2011

If you want to appease those Sashimi Moriawase and Luck Samee Long Song cravings all in one trip, check out Sushi Thai Garden for some Japanese and Thai cuisine.

Sushi Thai Garden is very casual but with a "typical" vibe. There are several elegant touches here and there, but the bright lighting and dull music overpower them. The large television put a huge damper on whatever cultural experience I would have had.

My group arrived at Sushi Thai a bit after primetime on a Thursday night, so by the time the appetizer came most of the restaurant had cleared out. Brimming with tempting dishes, the menu is extensive and somewhat overwhelming. Options range from sushi and dumplings to curry and Pad Thai. To ease the pain of a decision, the menu contains many smaller items, making it possible to order a few different samplings.

The staff was very attentive and friendly and the food arrived quickly. We first met an order of disappointingly bland Thai Spring Rolls to start. Everything to follow, however, was delicious. My vegetable Nigiri Sushi, beautifully plated with wasabi and carrot "sculptures," was surprisingly flavorful.

Also very tasty was the Yellow Curry with tofu. The onions, carrots, potatoes, peppers and pineapple were cooked perfectly, while the sauce was warm and had an ideal consistency.

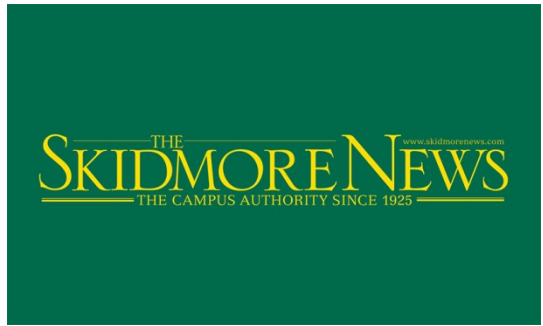
Unfortunately, I found myself picking around the tofu - it could have been cooked more. Still the dish was filling and warmed me up on a cold Saratoga night.

What I love about Sushi Thai Garden is its variety. Not only is there a broad selection of cuisine but also each category offers countless dishes that can be altered by the customer. Our table took a good 20 minutes to reach a decision.

The menu provides vegetarians with plenty of options as well, with the many Thai items made with tofu.

This cultural escapade set me back just more than \$20, which was very reasonable.

I will definitely be back soon. The food is scrumptious and the atmosphere welcoming. I strongly recommend eating at the restaurant but it will also deliver for a \$2 fee within three miles.



It is an easy walk or ride from Skidmore and the staff does not mind seating large groups.

Sushi Thai Garden is the perfect spot for a little paradise amidst the bleakness of winter's end.

#1.2105490:4124748264.jpg Sushi Thai

Sushi Thai's Vegetable Nigiri Sushi.

Erin Dillon/The Skidmore News



Second campus dialogue successful, students say

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

A second campus climate dialogue, held at 7 p.m. on March 8 in the Case Center Game Room, was more successful than the first, according to attendees. The event was student-exclusive and about 150 students were in attendance.

Led by trained facilitators from the Intergroup Relations program and peer mediators, the second dialogue focused on inclusivity on the campus.

“The event was more structured than the first, with exercises and activities used to draw out and hear every voice in the crowd that wanted to speak,” said Alexandra Stark, SGA president. Stark planned the event with SGA Vice President for Diversity Affairs Sulin Ngo.

The event began with a moment of silence for Alexander Grant, the Boston College student who died in Saratoga Spring while visiting friends at the college.

Signs with the numbers 0, 5 and 10 were placed across the room and students were then asked to line up based on how comfortable they felt on campus, with 0 meaning not comfortable at all and 10 meaning very comfortable.

“At first students were mostly lined up near numbers 5 and 10, but as soon as a few students moved toward 0, a lot of other students moved too,” said Kaitlin Guerin ‘14, a student who attended the dialogue.

“The visual of the spectrum was very powerful in displaying just how many students don’t feel comfortable on our campus,” Stark said.

Students then separated into smaller groups to discuss personal feelings and experiences with inclusivity.

Attendees described the discussions as productive and informative.

“I feel included at Skidmore,” said Cesar Ibanez ‘14, “But it was interesting to see that members of the majority here sometimes feel excluded, as well as minorities.”

“It wasn’t just about race. Socio-economic class came up a lot. People found that inclusivity was really challenged by class issues,” Eliza Straim ‘14 said.

Guerin said she felt the small group discussions were especially productive for students who are part of the white majority, and was encouraged by other student’s stories of feeling out of place as a student of color.

“It’s good to know other people feel like you do,” she said.

Stark agreed that the dialogue was productive. "When such a crowd shows up to dialogue about diversity, bias, privilege, and inclusivity - to share their personal stories with strangers and to listen to the emotionally harrowing experiences of their peers - I believe is gratifying for everyone there."

The event was schedule to end at 8:30 p.m., but conversations continued until around 9 p.m. because of student interest.

Victory during break for lacrosse and baseball

Sports Wrap

By Julia Schwartz, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

Skidmore athletics went on spring break this past week and achieved great success all across the country. The first of successes came from the men's lacrosse team, which traveled to Orlando, Fla. on March 16 to give No. 6 Dickinson College its first loss of the season, with a score of 9-7.

Skidmore sprang off to a quick lead in the beginning of the game with two goals from Ben Cornell '11. After keeping the lead from their jumpstart, Skidmore maintained the advantage at half time 5-2.

When the Thoroughbreds returned to the field after the half, they posted their sixth goal of the game to bring the score to 6-2. Dickinson made its first attempt at vengeance by posting a 3-0 run to bring the score within one point. Skidmore's Jon Hoeg '13 pushed the score up to 7-5, but then Dickinson returned with two goals to tie the score.

Late in the game, Skidmore secured its win first with a goal from Richie Davis '14, followed by Cornell scoring his third goal of the game.

On March 19, Skidmore returned home to play against Clark. The team creamed the Cougars 14-2, and held the score to 14-0 until the last period. Notable contributions to the game came from Cornell, Mike Perlow '13 and Kyle Grillo '13, who each had a goal in the first period.

The Thoroughbreds continued their winning streak as they played Williams at home March 23. After exponentially creating an eight-goal lead, the team was able to pull out a final score of 10-6. Cornell finished the game with three goals, Bryan Connolly '13 had two goals and one assist and Mike Holden '13 provided the two finishing goals.

Connor Dowling made seven saves in the net, bringing his goalkeeping record to 3-0 for the year so far. He received Liberty League Defensive Performer of the Week this past week for his play in goal, making 17 saves in the game against Dickinson and 11 against Clark. Skidmore plays next March 26 at home against U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Women's lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team did the least amount of traveling as compared to the rest of the spring teams, playing two games in Westminster, Md.

The Thoroughbreds began play March 15 against McDaniel on the team's home turf. Skidmore was able to pull out a win in the last 48.9 seconds of the game, with a goal from Lindsay Stavola '11 for a final score of 11-10. Stavola ended the game with three goals and two assists, followed by Kimberly Segalas '11 with four goals.

Skidmore returned to the field March 18 to play Wisconsin-Concordia. The Thoroughbreds improved their record to 3-0 with their victory of 14-2 against the Falcons. No. 1 player stood out in the game as 12 different players helped contribute to the demolition of their opponent. Rachel Klein '12 made four saves in the net.

The Thoroughbreds kept their undefeated record flowing as they improved to 4-0 against Castleton March 22 at home, with a score of 19-7. Stavola had a standout game, posting 10 points with six goals and four assists. The team returns to the turf March 30 against Trinity at home.

Men's baseball

Skidmore baseball headed down to Ft. Meyers, Florida for spring break, posting a 7-1 record to begin their season on a high. Their first two wins were against Bethel College, with scores of 6-4 and 3-0. Nick Laracuenté '11 pitched the second game tossing his first shutout of the season. He only allowed three hits, giving up no walks and throwing four strikeouts.

The Thoroughbreds kept up their winning streak, beating Nichols in a close game that went into extra innings. They produced 14 hits and won the game on a suicide squeeze from Alex Barber '13 who scored Logan Arena '11 in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Despite Skidmore's 12 hits in its game against Kenyon, they stranded 10 runners on base, leaving them with their first loss of the season 15-2. Even with the loss, the players kept their spirits high and were able to come out on top for the rest of their games.

They swept their double headers against Millikin, which gave the team the confidence to win its last two games on March 19 against Minnesota-Morris, 11-3 and 7-4. Trevor Brucato '11 threw five innings for the win in the first game, giving up nine hits and recording six strikeouts and Jordan Keyser '14 posted the win in the second game for the Thoroughbreds, with Chris Outlet '14 in relief for the first time of the season.

Laracuente received Liberty League honors for two weeks in a row, improving his record for the year so far to 2-0, and Leejay Pollachi '13 received Co-Performer of the Week this past week, posting a .429 batting average with eight runs, six RBI and 9 stolen bases. Skidmore returns to the diamond March 26 for their first league game on the road against University of Rochester.

Softball

The women's softball team competed in the Rebel Spring Games in the warmth of Kissimmee, Fla. during spring break, playing in 10 games during the course of six days. The Thoroughbreds had a rough battle as they played against excellent competition from all across the country. Their record for the tournament was 2-8.

The wins came against Hood College and Roger Williams, both of which were impressive scores, 16-7 and 9-2. Despite their losing record, the Thoroughbreds can look forward to opening play March 26 away against Utica, and then they open their home season the following day against Castleton.

No. 9 Pomona-Pitzer gave women's tennis its first loss of the season in Claremont, Calif. The team lost 9-0, breaking their initial undefeated record for the season. Sophia Bryan-Ajania '14 had the best play of the competition, losing a tight match at No. 6 singles.

The next day proved victorious for the Thoroughbreds, as they won 8-1 against No. 23 UT-Tyler. The team swept in singles, beginning with an effortless win from veteran Rachel Loeb '11. The only loss of the day came from No. 3 doubles, played by Melissa Hirsch '14 and Molly Nolan '14.

After their split performance in California, the Thoroughbreds returned home to play Rochester ranked at No. 20. Skidmore was able to pull out a close win with a final score of 5-4. Tory Engros '12 battled hard to pull out a win at No. 3 singles to help advance the team's record to 8-2.

Nataly Mendoza '13 and Hirsch received Liberty League honors for the week, earning Co-Performer of the Week and Co-Rookie of the Week, respectively, after their performances from the previous week. The Thoroughbreds travel to Vassar on March 26 to compete next in league play.

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The Skidmore News



A vision of eternity in playa del karma

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

I spent my Spring Break on the Mayan Riviera, cruising up and down the strip of mega-resorts, quaint cabanas and jungles filled with cenotes and ancient ruins that adorn the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. I slept the first few nights in Playa Del Carmen, where four years earlier I had blown two months of lifeguarding paychecks in one week. Playa Del Carmen, or "little Cancun," is a honky-tonk town across the Yucatan Channel from Cozumel and south of its nick-namesake, the mighty Mayan city-state turned frat-boy Spring Break Mecca. Amongst the ruins of these Ancient Mayan cities I was taught a lesson about historical karma and humans' relations to material wealth.

I went out one night to observe the hedonistic flailing, dancing and imbibing spring break rituals of Europeans, Americans, and Canadians in cheesy Mayan-themed clubs staffed by local Mayans selling overpriced sugary mixed drinks. These men and women of the west were crudely and, I presume, unwittingly engaging in activities similar to those practiced by pre-Columbian Mayans, in which alcohol, in the form of fermented and distilled Agave known as Pulque, was imbibed in large madness-inducing quantities (though in the Mayan's case, it was revered as a tool of communication with the gods: alcohol being an almost universal tool of divination, the Catholic sacrament of the Eucharist easily usurped Mayan religious practices, and those of other conquered peoples, upon conquest and conversion).

Later that morning, as my companion and I stumbled back to our hotel room, we were accosted by a group of local Mayan women who aggressively solicited us. Motor skills and situational-awareness impaired by mezcal and many 32-oz. bottles of Sol, I was forcibly pulled into the gaggle of scantily clad women.

I managed to protect my wallet from the hands that scoured and groped my body and freed myself from the women's advances within minutes and staggered back to my hotel room, pesos intact. Only when I had awoken later that morning and jumped in the hotel pool to ease the grogginess did I realize that my gold chain and crucifix, a Confirmation gift, had been snatched. I waded in the pool for a seemingly endless amount of time, full of despair at losing it.

What I really missed wasn't the "Au," or the 3-dimensional depiction of Christ. I missed an object that I had worn for ten years, into which I imbued what I saw as meaning in my life, a possession that reified my existence. I'd once lost it at the bottom of a lake whilst camping along the Delaware River, and,

passing by one year later, dove down and retrieved it, further granting it cosmic importance in my existential environ. Upon losing it I felt a sense of loss that only began to wane as I rode a bicycle through the ancient Mayan city of Coba and began to ponder the historical antecedent of that exchange, and the eternity of humanity through material objects.

Here, surrounding me, were the relics of a lost civilization. I climbed the crumbling steps of a pyramid that were once reserved for only the most elite religious figures of Mayan society. 519 years after the European discovery of the New World, gringos abounded and cameras flashed; the world had spun far too hectically and quickly out of those Mayan king-priests' hands. Rockets blast toward space and the cosmos are charted in detail surpassing their own impressive astronomical feats.

Yet, though long dead, they are still relevant and alive with us today, their presence still felt, pervading every inch of that ancient city. The power and privilege they wielded from atop those pyramids was palpable. They are survived by their material objects and an empire of tourism now dominates their domain and worships their achievements.

The Mayan empire had fallen by the time the Spaniards arrived on the Yucatan, but the culture remained somewhat intact, until the Spanish began colonization and acculturation ensued. Mayan texts were burnt and deities toppled, pious Spaniards believing these Meso-American cultures and rituals to be devil worship.

Indigenous Mexicans were enslaved and made to worship new gods, now channeled and personified by the Vatican and the Spanish crown rather than their own kings and priests. The pillage that wrought by European colonization has deformed Latin America to this day, creating what Uruguayan journalist Eduardo Galeano described as the "Open Veins of Latin America," in which the resources and labor of that continent were stolen and exploited by European and American capitalists.

Though Europeans pillaged and exploited the New World in all material capacities, gold, above all else, came to most succinctly express the European lust for resources. Gold so emblemized the Spaniard's frenzied plunder of the New World, that legends were spawned of El Dorado, a city made entirely of gold, a myth so pervasive that it has cemented itself in common parlance as an expression of insatiable desire. But latent in the obsession with gold, in the acquisition of limitless resources, is the quest for eternal life.

In the bountiful New World, the Europeans, their material desires quenched but souls still yearning for more, believed the Fountain of Youth, an ancient legend of an immortal paradise, to be within their grasp. And so unfurled history, the Europeans repossessing and building upon Meso-American empires, themselves built by slaves and the underclass, pillaging and re purposing resources and enslaving

indigenous peoples, subconsciously hoping that they might live forever; their culture and structures are testament to this desire.

Through my crucifix I sought the same thing and all of us, through our own possessions, seek immortality or confirmation of existence. We hoard possessions in the hope that they will grant us eternal life, and we build our own personal material empires on the backs of other human beings.

Our own American civilization, often referred to as unique and egalitarian, is unexceptional, built on the backs of African slaves, cheap immigrant labor, and the economic rape of Latin America. When alien conquistadors guide their ships across the galaxy toward Earth just like Europeans did to the Americas and the Empire State Building is excavated from thick jungle or glacial sheets, extra-terrestrial tourists will vacation and marvel at this grand temple to the god known as "Dollar," whose people sought immortality through this deity and trampled upon each other, stealing and exploiting, to attain it.

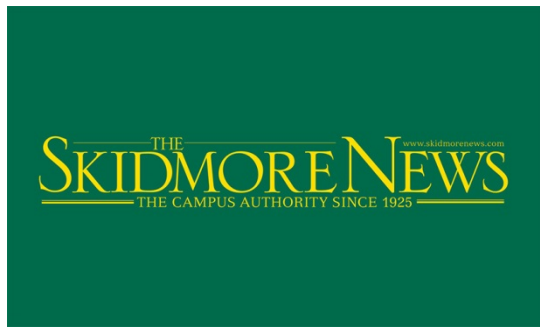
In a twist of fate, a chance encounter, 500 years of history culminated in a brief exchange. Gold, in the shape of the conquering god, was repossessed by an indigenous woman forced into economic exploitation by the forces of history, unwittingly enacted retribution, seeking economic exchange and engaging in a symbolic one.

I'll yearn for that chain for the rest of my life, it seemed to make me real, it reified my existence. But, like the soaring, crumbling pyramids of the Maya, it will outlive me, will decay, will be re purposed and rediscovered. For now I hope it will inspire a lost soul to straighten her life out, or be sold to feed a child or grant one chemically consoling evening from the terrors of modern life, or even to enhance her personal empire and confirm her existence, grant her immortality.

Our possessions can be taken away from us, small keepsakes and giant empires can tarnish and crumble, but they keep us grounded in existence. Like Ozymandias, we stake claim to our possessions, our kingdoms, and through them live forever despite our fleeting mortality.

Rene Belloq, Indiana Jones' rival archeologist, explains relics as such, holding out a pocket-watch: "Look at this. It's worthless - ten dollars from a vendor in the street. But I take it, I bury it in the sand for a thousand years, it becomes priceless." After trapping Dr. Jones in an Egyptian tomb Belloq tells him, "who knows? Maybe in a thousand years even you will be worth something."

That crucifix is now an artifact that allows me to live forever, its historical and personal symbolism along with me, lost in the sands of time at the bottom of an ancient lake, and like each of us, its atoms will be swallowed up by the sun in 5 billion years and re-deposited and re purposed somewhere in the universe, our material eternal.



Plagiarism surveyed at Skidmore

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

According to a study on plagiarism and cheating in American universities conducted by the Cornell University Press, "more than 75 percent of students admit to having cheated; 68 percent admit to cutting and pasting material from the Internet without citation."

Stephanie Seidmon '13, an environmental studies major and Writing Center tutor from New Jersey, is currently working on an independent study with Associate Professor of Social Work Crystal Moore to evaluate plagiarism on Skidmore's campus.

The team has produced a quick survey, which Seidmon states will hopefully show "if the Honor Code works in its pursuit to create trust between the students and the college."

The Skidmore Honor Code, which all students pledge during First-Year Orientation, defines plagiarism as "representing the work of another person as one's own: for example, the words, ideas, information, data, evidence, organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, submission of another student's work as one's own, the purchase of prepared research or completed papers or projects, and the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else."

The Honor Code continues to define examples of minor and major offenses.

Seidmon came up with the idea for the survey after taking a class to become a Writing Center tutor last semester.

Her final paper was a research paper explaining how and why plagiarism on college campuses has increased, specifically mentioning technological advancements.

However, Seidmon states, "What the paper was missing was data for small colleges. Many studies have been done on large universities ... but there have been very few conclusive studies on plagiarism at small colleges."

Around the same time Seidmon was researching plagiarism, Corey Freeman-Gallant, the associate dean of the faculty for Academic Advising, spoke on "the importance of reporting instances of academic misconduct."

In just a few short weeks there were more academic integrity violations reported than are usually reported in a semester. With this lack of information about plagiarism at small colleges and the spike in academic misconduct at Skidmore, I decided to turn my final paper from last semester into an independent study this semester, Seidmon said.

Seidmon and Moore are hoping to determine whether students are adhering to the Honor Code; if the data collected proves students are not adhering, they hope to find a way to "better the academic environment so that everyone respects and upholds it."

The project will be continued after the survey data is collected and analyzed.

We will continue the project by holding discussions and forums and openly communicating about how we can make students feel most comfortable so that honesty and integrity are upheld, Seidmon said.

The survey will be sent out via e-mail to 650 randomly selected students on Tuesday, March 29.

Seidmon said the survey is short and only takes about five minutes to complete.

The survey asks questions about plagiarism in high school and at Skidmore and students' perceptions on the Honor Code.

Privacy is protected, Seidmon said, as "the survey is SSL encrypted and doesn't collect IP addresses, so there is no way to trace the results back to any particular student."

Seidmon hopes all students who receive the survey will participate.

She urges her peers to "help better the academic community here at Skidmore as well as among other small colleges" saying, "you've got nothing to lose."

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Stephanie Seidmon at work in the Writing Center.

Maribel Kennedy/The Skidmore News



Stay friends or take the plunge into the DEEP end?

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

We are currently facing the home stretch of the school year, while winter is still trying to hold on to its gray glory.

However, winter is not the only one needing to let go. Sometimes we find ourselves holding onto failed relationships or failed potential relationships.

Regardless of how the relationship started - with a booty call, through a series of Facebook chats and texts or through a friendship - when ends, we often cannot help but think of our newly ex-lover and what went wrong. Even if the relationship did not have the love at first sight preamble, it does not make it easier to let go and forget.

When it comes to matters of the heart, perhaps holding onto a memory or thought of a person, positive or negative, is more fulfilling than the "what if" factor.

If we do not allow something to blossom, we cannot appreciate what we have been missing.

Hey C.,

Which is better, a fleeting friendship where the only regret is uncertainty or a fleeting love affair where the only regret is losing that very friendship?

-DEEPLY confused

Dear DEEPLY,

I am never one for regrets, even the menial pizza slice ... or two. Feeling regret is something we all struggle with on a day-to-day basis, and the bigger the slice the more we imagine it around our waist.

Consider your situation: is the regret of always wondering worse than the loss of a friendship? The bigger question might be, how well do you deal with regret?

Try and imagine both outcomes, especially if you do not tell him/her, and how you will feel if you miss your chance and he/she ends up with someone else.



Another thought to consider is whether you can maintain the friendship without your feelings getting in the way?

I believe the healthiest relationships blossom from friendship. If you believe the relationship is worthwhile (and it is not only an excuse to get in his/her pants) take this opportunity to be spontaneous and do something that has a higher chance of success than a pizza diet.

Stars and Hearts,C.

E-mail me at SkidWWCD@gmail.com with questions.

Privacy is guaranteed.

Advice can remain unpublished upon request.

Malloy artist lecture features Torreano

By Sandy Zhang, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

John Torreano, artist and professor of studio art at New York University, delivered the annual Malloy Visiting Artist lecture on Tuesday, March 22, in Gannett Auditorium.

Introduced by Kate Levitt, chair of the studio art department, Torreano started his lecture by acknowledging his role in the college's art community in the past few years.

Past exhibits featured at the Tang Teaching Museum, including the recent "Jewel Thief," and "A Very Liquid Heaven," that was shown in 2004, have featured Torreano's work.

His lecture, which lasted about an hour, was a showcase and commentary on his works from the past four decades and his more recent works.

Torreano works with a wide range of media including paint, photography, sculpture, installation, film and even theatrical performances.

Torreano showed works in groups which were organized by common subject matter. These topics included: diamonds, gems, cubes, spheres encased with small particles, paintings with dots and photographs of dying factories.

Torreano explained that although he primarily identifies himself as a painter, he is often known more for his sculptures and installations.

Despite this, his approach to his work is heavily grounded in a painter's perspective. "At the end of the day I always see myself as coming from a painterly vision," Torreano said.

At the same time, the other, differing forms he works with are inherently connected with each other. "I was making paintings that were simultaneously paintings and sculptures and installations," Torreano said.

One prominent feature of his paintings is his use of dots, which Torreano has been working with since 1968. He explained how he was intrigued by the ways dots alter spatial relationships, and the different ways viewers perceive relationships on a plane when dots are present.



Torreano also showcased a large body of sculptures of gems, which varied drastically in size and style. In one work, Torreano placed gems on a physical hill, which he saw as creating a larger painting in itself.

He explained that the reflections of the viewer in the gems would serve as a reminder that the particular moment in time that they would experience is unique to them. The moment cannot be reproduced, and no one will ever have the same experience.

Torreano explained that his work with gems questions value. He explained how he liked exploring the idea that diamonds and gems often carry a lot of meaning for viewers, and addressed whether dramatic changes in scale or color change these meanings.

There is something about decay that is simultaneously attached to aesthetic value, Torreano said about a series of photographs that depict the fading factories of his hometown in Flint, Michigan.

I like to mess with boundaries of ideas in the works, even though I don't necessarily do it on purpose, Torreano said.

#1.2125020:218511984.JPG Torreano

John Torreano speaks at the Malloy Visiting Artist Lecture.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



The Allman Brothers take back the Beacon

Let's Talk about Rock

By Eli Cohen, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

The Allman Brothers, the celebrated Georgian jam band, have played at the legendary, beautiful Beacon Theater in New York City every year for more than 20 years.

That is to say, they had played there every year until 2010, when the Upper West Side theater decided to rent the space out to Cirque Du Soleil's show "Banana Shpeel."

After several delayed openings, the circus act finally opened, only to close quickly after receiving overwhelmingly poor reviews.

MSG Entertainment, the company that owns Madison Square Garden, was not only willing, but eager to apologize for this clear mistake.

"Earlier this year we undertook a programming experiment with our friends from Cirque du Soleil," MSG president Jay Marciano said at a press conference. "We all know how that little experiment turned out," he continued.

On March 10, the Allman Brothers returned for a 13-show run that will last until Saturday, March 26.

I caught the Friday, March 18 show, which the Bros. opened their first set with the words, "It's good to be home," appearing on the giant monitor behind the stage.

The first thing I noticed about this show (alright, the second thing I noticed after the 80-year-old hippy stealthily smoking a bowl in the next row) was, simply put, that the Allman Brothers still rock.

They replaced their fallen great, Duane Allman with Warren Haynes from Gov't Mule and the Dead and Derek Trucks, the heart and soul of the aptly named Derek Trucks Band.

Trading solos back and forth all night, the two seemed in perfect sync with one another, and more so with the original and still present member Gregg Allman.

The real surprise, and one of the best aspects of an already great performance, was the appearance of Susan Tedeschi, Trucks' wife.



A Grammy-winning, well-respected presence herself, Tedeschi quickly stole the show with her powerful singing and facemelting solos, some of which put Haynes to shame (though she still was not quite able to top her husband).

Also making an appearance was John Scofield, a jazz guitarist by trade who is also known for his many performances with jazz trio Medeski, Martin, and Wood.

The setlist consisted mostly of originals, with classics such as "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed" and "Come in My Kitchen," but there were also several covers, mostly of Bob Dylan songs.

They played Dylan's classic "It Takes a Lot to Laugh, it Takes a Train to Cry," as well as his all-but-unknown "Blind Willie McTell," a story of the legendary bluesman who wrote such staples as "Statesboro Blues" and "Delia," songs most known for being played by Bob Dylan and David Bromberg.

The only real disappointment offered by the show was the self-righteous security guard who kept kicking people out for smoking weed.

The Allman Brothers proved that they are still worth the \$75 they are asking for tickets with an amazing show, and a light display on the monitor behind them that looked like a mushroom-themed iTunes visualizer on acid and from Hell.

Literally, most of the pictures were of mushrooms. And that's how it's done, '70s style.



Lasers' reaches half its potential

Hip-Hop Weekly

By Jenna Postler, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

Anyone who knows me knows how big of a Lupe Fiasco fan that I am.

One of my first and favorite concerts that I've ever attended was when I saw Fiasco with my brother at a small Vermont college.

His first two albums, "Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor," and "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool," are two of my favorite hip-hop albums.

When I reported on the long overdue release date being set for his third album, "Lasers" this past fall, I was ecstatic.

A few days before the album's release on March 8, in an interview with Complex.com, Fiasco said, "But when I think about what it took to actually get the record together ... I hate this album."

As a fan, it's always disheartening to hear that the artist's work isn't what they had wanted it to be. Even after reading the interview, I was eager to hear just what "Lasers" was about.

Admittedly, some of the release sounds like a bad pop/techno record. For instance, the first 30 seconds of "Break The Chain" featuring Eric Turner and Sway sounds like a tasteless record one would hear at a cheap dance club.

Fiasco fans can easily spot the artists who Fiasco may have been pressured into featuring on some of the tracks.

Suspicion of label intervention is apparent with the inclusion of R&B singer Trey Songz's appearance on "Out of My Head."

Beautiful Lasers (2 Ways) suffers from a painful auto tune chorus, but if you can get past that, Lupe's lyrics are fantastic.

State Run Radio featuring Matt leaves listeners scratching their heads, trying to understand the pairing of a Lil' Wayne "Rebirth"-esque beat and pop chorus slipped in between Fiasco's comments on the popular music industry.

Perhaps Fiasco's comments on the current state of the media would be better stated on a song without an extremely obnoxious hook.

That being said, some of the tracks sport a glimmer of the talented, fast, intelligent rapping Fiasco of years past.

On "All Black Everything," Fiasco raps about racism, slavery and popular news with a hauntingly original beat.

A staple of Fiasco's original style is his ability to build rhymes with meaning, which is what we see on "All Black Everything," when the artist raps: "Martin Luther King read the eulogy for him/ Followed by Bill O'Reilly who read from the Quran/ President Bush sends condolences from Iran/ Where FOX News reports live/ That Ahmadinejad wins Mandela peace prize."

Fiasco raps about poverty and success on "Never Forget You": "The hookers on the corner and the kids sellin' crack/The needles in the yard where we used to play catch/Stories from the project we could never go at/Or to, these are shades of my youth/ Trials of a child, everything truth."

Never Forget You, serves to remind us that when Fiasco is good, he's really good. He has the ability to stick to a subject and theme and a song without becoming stale.

Another memorable track is "Words I Never Said" featuring up-and-coming singer Skylar Grey, on which Fiasco raps not about drugs, girls or money, but instead, world affairs.

Fiasco's vocabulary is exemplary for any scholar, let alone a popular artist.

Wye Oak's 'Civilian' delivers emotional honesty

Noteworthy Releases

By Kara Clark, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

After their blowout performance at Fallstuffs, checking out Wye Oak's latest album seems to be a logical next step.

Released on March 8, Wye Oak's album "Civilian" is an earnest attempt at a record with dispersed moments of absolute clarity.

The Baltimore duo's fourth release brings them closer to a sharper band focus, a point of view that will undoubtedly garner respect from the musical community.

Each track on the album has the capability to stand on its own. However, a disparity halves the album into two different types of song, and this contrast detracts from the cohesiveness a great album should possess.

One half of "Civilian" is rooted in complexity, while the other half takes on a more simple approach. Overall, coherence is also made difficult by the odd track order; momentum rises and falls so extremely with each transition, making it hard to recover from one song before another begins.

With its best songs, "Civilian" boasts detailed construction, creative concepts and skilled musicianship.

Few female artists today can claim the intricate understanding Jenn Wasner has of the electric guitar.

Her detailed strumming, paired with keyboardist Andy Stack's simple rhythms and chords, make songs like "Two Small Deaths," "Hot as Day," and "Holy Holy" compelling to the ear.

Civilian's greatest asset, however, is its title track. Organ, tambourine and the lament of Wasner's guitar give the song an eerie poignancy unique in nature.

The song exudes a nostalgic hypnotism and cements its presence as if it were a memory one had owned all along.

At its end, "Civilian" rises to an emotional height that easily makes it the album's tour de force track.



I wanted to give you everything, Wasner drawls, "but I still stand in awe of superficial things." Her guitar reverberates with a menacing regret in a concluding guitar solo, an erratic string of notes, with Stack's kick drum and tambourine anchoring it in the background.

The song also highlights an exclusive strength of Wye Oak's - the total symmetry of their vocal and instrumental elements.

It's easy to approach a song from either a vocal or instrumental standpoint, but with Wye Oak the two become one.

Wasner's somnolent vocals compliment the dreamlike quality of her guitar, and even at the album's most exhilarating moments, both the instruments and vocals equally rise to a subtle menace.

The weaker half of "Civilian" sticks out due to its minimalistic tendencies. Since a good portion of the album flaunts layered and detailed tracks, songs like "Plains," "We Were Wealth" and "Doubt" seem rough around the edges.

These songs are in want of an additional once over, and lack the finesse of Wye Oak's other songs. If all of "Civilian" were presented in a minimalistic manner, these tracks would seem stylistically bare instead of obtrusive.

That said, I would not call "Civilian" a failure. The highpoints of the album tower above the low, but the low points are not wanting in skill.

In the end, "Civilian's" success lies in its emotional honesty, a quality that can only be respected and admired.

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

Crisis in Japan strikes close to home

With faculty and students abroad, Skidmore feels the earthquake half a world away

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

At 12:46 a.m. on Friday, March 11, just before students parted ways for Spring Break, a seismograph in Dana Science Center picked up tectonic activity.

A 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck off the coast of Japan. The disaster left up to 16,000 people dead, rendered millions homeless, and an environmental threat with the severe damage of a nuclear power plant.

While the earthquake affected the world community with family and economic interest in Japan, the Skidmore community felt the shake of the quake.

This disaster has influenced the lives of many professors and students, directly and indirectly, including several professors who were in Japan at the time of the disaster.

Greg Hrbek, Senior Writer-in-Residence at the English Department, was in Tokyo on a writing fellowship when the earthquake hit. According to Hrbek, life in Tokyo was relatively normal following the disaster, with the exception of a few power outages and subway delays. However, he decided not to risk a prolonged stay, and returned to Saratoga. He described being so close to a nuclear accident as "very bizarre . . . I imagine the experience will influence my writing at some point, though it's hard to say how."

Even though I was only in Tokyo for two weeks, I feel uncommonly sensitive to these events, Hrbek said. "I have been feeling very nervous for the people I met there and I'm hopeful that the signs of improvement are real."

Masako Inamoto, assistant professor of the Foreign Languages & Literatures department, was in Japan evaluating approved study-abroad programs in Nagoya and Osaka. She was in Nagoya at the time of the earthquake, and says that she could feel the earthquake strongly from 300 miles away. She realized later, when she found the trains home to Tokyo suspended, that she realized the severity of the earthquake. Inamoto continued her visits to the Osaka program, observing people lining up for food and



joking with each other to help cope with their terrible situation. She also watched as the news featured heart-rending survivor stories, affecting her emotionally.

"It was very difficult for me to come back to the U.S. while Japan is going through this crisis," she said, "but my friends in Japan told me that there must be things I can do because I'm outside of Japan, and that encouraged me to come back."

During her stay, Inamoto says that the disparity between the Japanese and U.S. media reports helped her realize the importance of looking at events objectively and with a balanced view.

She thanked the Skidmore community who came forth with condolences and questions of how they could help. "It makes me realize how fortunate I am to be a part of this wonderful, caring community," she said.

The earthquake also directly affected several students. Several students who wished to study abroad in Japan this semester found that they must look elsewhere for abroad study. On March 16, the U.S. government issued a Department of State Travel Warning for Japan, due largely in part to the radiation levels around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In addition, damages caused by the earthquake and tsunami affected the college's partner universities' ability to run programs safely, according to the director of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges, Coreen Filson.

OCSE is closely monitoring the situation to determine if students might be able to study in Japan for the fall, she said, adding students will be unable to study in Japan this spring. "We encourage students who are interested in that option to come talk to us. We will accept applications to Japan programs for fall, but recommend students apply to a second program as well."

One of the students affected by these events is Haoran Ma '12, who originally planned to start his pre-orientation on March 28th at Sophia University. He was to study abroad in Tokyo for the spring semester, along with Jennifer Latsch '12, who was unavailable for comment.

Haoran is currently in China, where he is still waiting to hear if it will be safe to study in Japan. "I do not think it was a bad decision to study abroad in Japan," he said, "but it may have come at the wrong time. If it is meant to be [being unable to go], there is nothing I can do."

Haoran is receiving support from Kendra Nelson, the counselor in the off-campus study office, his advisor Darren Drabek, and others.

I feel sorry about what happened in Japan, he said. "Being an international student at Skidmore, there is always someone that I can talk to when I need help. I know I am not alone."

In addition to those who either were in Japan at the time or had planned to be, many faculty and students have family currently residing there. Soon after the earthquake, Masami Tamagawa, the visiting assistant professor for the Foreign Languages and Literatures department, contacted his family members, who are all safe. Professor Inamoto's family in Japan is safe as well.

Although Tamagawa would like to eventually talk about these events in his Modern Japanese Culture and Society class, he says that it may be too soon to bring up the tragedy with students. "I'll admit that personally I find it difficult to watch the news," he said. "It affects me greatly and highlights for me a concern for the survivors who will naturally be left with emotional scars for a very long time."

Skidmore is not the only college to be affected by these events, of course. Universities all over the world are involved, none more so than those in Japan. According to a recent article in "The Chronicle," more than a week after the earthquake and tsunami, several university students in Japan remain missing, while five have been confirmed dead. Several universities, such as Waseda University, have announced delaying the start of the academic year, and many report the cancellations of contracts by part-time foreign instructors due to the threats of radiation leakage from the nuclear plant. Transportation is difficult and housing for students near impossible until April, revealing the extent to which these damages have affected people in Japan.

There will a vigil in front of Burgess Café on Friday at 5 p.m. Sergio Hernandez '12, is coordinating the event, but was unavailable for comment as of press time on Thursday. Students and faculty are invited to honor those affected with a candle ceremony, paper cranes, and a few words. condolences. donations for the Red Cross will accepted, perhaps the first of many efforts to raise aid for those in need.

Police seek unanswered questions in Grant death

By Rebecca Orbach, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

Saratoga Springs police are continuing to investigate the death of 19-year-old Alexander Grant, but as of press time on Wednesday no new information has surfaced.

On March 5, Grant attended a party at 146 Church St. and left at about 11:30 p.m. He was later identified on video surveillance breaking into a medical facility at 3 Care Lane at about 1:15 a.m. on March 6. He appeared to be intoxicated and was wearing only shorts, a T-shirt and one sock. On the morning of Tuesday March 8 Grant's body was found in a Saratoga Springs creek.

The investigation has been hindered by the apprehension of students involved to respond to police inquiries.

Police said the residents at 146 Church St., where Grant attended a party hours before his death, and the friends who Grant was visiting at Skidmore are refusing to cooperate with authorities.

The residents at 146 Church St. have all obtained lawyers and are not speaking to police.

"I can tell you that we're not getting a lot of cooperation from the residents who live on Church Street," Police Chief Christopher Cole said, according to The Post Star. "So we're having to pursue other avenues to determine where he was and what he might have been doing."

The Saratoga Springs Police Department broke up the party on Church Street shortly after midnight on March 6, and police now want to know what substances may have been provided to Grant while at the party.

An autopsy on Wednesday March 9 revealed that Grant drowned in the creek and was suffering from hypothermia before he died. "We are still waiting for a toxicology report, which is still probably several weeks from being released," Lieutenant Veitch of SSPD said.

Police say they are hopeful the toxicology report will determine whether any other substances contributed to Grant's death.

While residents of 146 Church St. have not commented, residents of 150 Church St., where another party was hosted the same night, said they do not believe Grant attended their party.

Residents at 150 Church Street said their party was a separate event from their neighbors' at 146 Church Street. They were celebrating the birthday of their 22-year-old friend and did not invite, nor provide alcohol to minors, they said.

They said neither they, nor their landlord, have been contacted or investigated by neither the police department nor the District Attorney with regard to the incident.

They expressed their sympathy for those who knew Grant and said this is a very sad and emotional time for the Skidmore, Boston College and Briarcliff communities.

Grant's parents, Ken and Deanna Grant, expressed their mourning through a letter to SSPD on March 14.

They began their letter by thanking SSPD for their dedication to finding their son.

When we came up to Saratoga Springs on Sunday night, we were strangers to you, but during the time of our terrible ordeal, it was not lost to us that we were among a group of deeply caring and highly dedicated professionals. We are fully convinced that the group did everything in its power to help Alex and his family during the ordeal, the letter said.

Despite their gratitude, however, the Grants say they have not received enough information to have full closure.

In addition to being deeply distraught at the unfortunate span of critical hours that lapsed before rescue efforts could commence, we don't believe that we have been told everything that we need to know about this by Alex's friends who were present at the time of his disappearance, the letter said.

The Grants also said they are not seeking "vindication or retribution," and it is for this reason that they cannot understand why his friends will not share the information they have with them.

His family has set up the Alexander Maxwell Grant Foundation in his honor. "Its mission will be to set up scholarships for talented, underprivileged young people in the New York City area," they said.

As of press time on Wednesday March 23, neither the residents at 146 Church St., nor Saratoga County District Attorney James A. Murphy III could be reached for comment.

A reality in question receives limited answers

Practical Race and Diversity

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

I want to step back a bit from the specific topics of race, class, and gender inequality and reflect on some of the hurtful comments made toward my pieces and my personal character. In no way is this a response; I will not immaturely fight insulting language with insulting language. But there is something to be said about the anonymous comments made on numerous online anonymous boards after last week's issue. They express more than disdain for the content of my articles. As Sarah Goodwin wrote in a letter to Skidmore News in last week's issue, "We are not yet done with the troubling matters that the Teach-In addressed; we've barely begun".

The insults, jokes, and disrespectful language unpack the need for people to discredit the reality that I have experienced and researched. Earlier this week, I heard from a friend that unidentified Skidmore News editors and writers said that they feel I need to substantiate my claims, with one saying that racism does not affect them. But there is plenty of research to prove the oppression that occurs in our society. It can be found in census data, research journals, the New York Times, and many classes that Skidmore College offers. We cannot offer the topic of oppression for debate; doing so leaves too many silenced and hurt.

Furthermore, the Skidmore News editorial on the faculty posters highlights this argumentative approach to human reality and experience. The article states every faculty member received a memo expressing feelings of stigmatization and marginalization on their door and signed as "The Student Body". The discomfort from these anonymous posters is understandable, as we cannot fully be sure what the students responsible for these posters want or need. But that does not take away from the fact that many have decided to discredit the message in the poster and the clear expression of discomfort on our campus. What critics wanted were specific examples of individual professors responsible and for the participants to come out from anonymity and voice their specific concerns. However, if one went to the campus climate dialogues sponsored by SGA, the community meeting, or the numerous Intersections panels, they would have met students who voiced their discomfort.

Ironically, anonymity is a theme for those who have decided to disrespectfully voice their opinions about my pieces and my personal beliefs. These anonymous commentators call me dumb and uninformed. Some mock my content with witty jokes; others decide to just call me an embarrassment to the



newspaper. Interestingly enough, one commentator lists many exceptions to the rules I propose, which only reinforce my beliefs of color-blind racism and a lack of understanding of the social realities that plague our nation from students on this campus.

It is for these reasons that I cannot be silent in the midst of such misunderstanding for people who must suffer for consequences of oppression. In our country, and yes, on our campus, students have been silenced. We have expressed our needs to other students, faculty and administration and have done so this semester, with no change occurring. Students of target (marginalized) races, classes, sexualities, and genders were courageous enough to pour out their hearts and personal experiences to the administration in an attempt to evoke empathy and institutional change that would make our community more embracive toward underrepresented populations on campus.

This was a powerful display, as often times uncomfortable and marginalized populations, such as the working poor and the unemployed underclass, have trouble voicing their concerns at a national level. Many become demoralized because their suffering does not improve, which ultimately leads to a lack of trust in others. The poorer you are in the United States, the less likely you are to vote. This relationship ultimately becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. The poor do not feel like their voice is important and thus have their interests easily pushed to the side. Unfortunately, in this country, this reality means losing the voices of over a third of the nation. We should consider the difficult nature of being constantly rejected and told that your reality and experience is not relevant. Similar to the poor in this country, the lack of change and action for the purpose of making our campus more socially responsible after the community forum brings anonymous claims of marginalization to light.

With that said, it is disturbing that these beliefs are not expressed publicly like the feelings of marginalization were at the community forum. I want to challenge all of us to participate in dialogue around these beliefs. We are students of a college community, not strangers. If you do not agree, have not experienced, or just do not know of the oppression on our campus and in the larger society, well it is time to take a closer look. Let us all seek more than right and wrong and do so without passivity. Let's seek needs, experiences, and change. Let's seek action.

Public education at stake in New York state

Politics for the Upstate Student

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

2011 has been a grim year for public education. State officials and school administrators nationwide have been calling for massive teacher layoffs in the coming year in an effort to "tighten the belt". The recently amplified assault on deficit spending has served as justification for extensive public sector budget cuts. The cause of these cuts is purely economic-but they have effectively impaired government's ability to fulfill its ends.

In New York State, thousands of teachers have been handed pink slips, effective in June. Why?-because Governor Andrew Cuomo is proposing a tax cap that would limit annual property tax increases by 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. Cuomo has been pushing for a tax cap since his gubernatorial campaign last year, emphasizing the need to reduce the state's growing deficit and to reduce unemployment.

If that last sentence didn't make sense, it's because Cuomo's logic is just wrong-reducing taxes won't magically reduce the deficit and create jobs. A tax cap simply means a reduced state income, and a state that is less able to provide funds for education. The problem with this economic ideology-that less state spending creates more individual incentive to invest-is (in addition to the fact that it's a myth) that it puts at risk vital social programs like health care and education.

Despite the acrid odor of supply-side economics applied to the social sphere, Cuomo raises one important point: efficiency. The Governor has recently emphasized schools' misuse of state funds, urging them to "reduce the waste, reduce the fraud, reduce the abuse." Schools could certainly reorganize their funds and reduce waste by cutting extracurricular programs and lowering administrative salaries.

But a recommendation from the Governor is certainly not enough to tempt administrators, who are often solely responsible for determining how budget cuts will be executed in their districts, to heroically lower their own salaries. If Cuomo is serious he should be much firmer, issuing public statements urging schools to cut administrators' salaries. With unyielding guidance from Albany, administrators would be forced to hang their heads, admit the injustice of their proposed cuts, and reduce their own salaries.

The lack of direction from Albany on the question of how exactly to make the necessary cuts has had a destructive effect on the morale of teachers, especially young teachers who are typically first on the cutting block. Recent discussion of basing layoffs on merit rather than seniority has given some hope to the younger generation of teachers. But still, the very concept of cutting directly into the state's public education force is a frightening one.

To invest in New York State means to invest in the future viability of its workforce-and that necessarily means providing sound education to all students. Not only is it detrimental to the workforce of current teachers, a large chunk of which might find itself jobless next year, but it is hugely detrimental to the young people who might find themselves cramped in an overcrowded classroom with an over-stretched teacher next year.

Especially in economic times like these, it is more important than ever to provide students with access to sound education-because without good learning, the ability of the state and its residents to sustain themselves is economically debilitated. In the State of the State Address back in January of this year, Governor Cuomo claimed he wanted to restore to New York its role as "the progressive capitol of our nation." Something is frighteningly wrong if being progressive means lowering taxes at the undeniable expense of institutions that are vital to citizens' well-being. Passing a budget that will result in large numbers of teacher layoffs would degrade the quality of our education system and would have injurious results on students' development of their natural abilities, thus causing economic problems for decades to come.

Editorial

We will not forget Alexander Grant

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

It has been more than two weeks since the death of 19-year-old Boston College student Alexander Grant, who drowned in a Saratoga Springs creek after partying with his Skidmore friends. We are at a loss of words to describe the tragedy, but as one of many student body voices, we are going to do our best to try.

We see Grant's death as a profound loss to his family, his friends in Briarcliff and Boston College, his acquaintances and the countless lives he touched in big and small ways. We want everyone to know we are also deeply affected, and most of us never met him.

What is perhaps the most disturbing for us is that this is not limited to Skidmore and our own campus culture - this could have happened at any college in the country. Indeed, some of us with friends at Middlebury College remember the accidental death of Nicholas Garza in 2008, when he fell into a freezing river after attending an off-campus party.

We do not have enough information at the moment to determine whether Grant's death was a casualty of college binge drinking culture, or if it was an anomaly, a "freak accident." All of us, especially Grant's family, are looking for answers.

In the March 22 Glens Falls Post Star editorial titled "Witnesses must come forward," the editorial board asks the residents of the house on Church Street, where Grant was partying earlier on March 5, to come forward with "answers." They ask these students to cooperate with investigators instead of staying silent under the protection of the 5th Amendment and their lawyers, as they have so far done.

We understand why these students are staying silent. As the Post Star editorial acknowledges, the party hosts "have done what we in society have trained them to do - lawyer-up." But the editorial chastises our students for "evading responsibility at all costs," and enlisting "Mommy and Daddy" to make sure they're not liable for Grant's death.

The Post Star editorial offends us in two ways. Firstly, their language suggests we are all financially dependant on our parents, and implies that we use our parents to bail us out of legal trouble. Their



language "Mommy and Daddy," to identify our parents, is a condescending way to characterize Skidmore students as irresponsible, and juvenile.

Secondly, the Post Star implies the party hosts are responsible for Grant's death. Yes, the hosts may be legally responsible if they served alcohol to Grant and other minors, as providing alcohol to a minor is a Class A misdemeanor in New York State, with a sentence of up to a year in jail. But we cannot use the party hosts as a scapegoat for Alexander Grant's death. We therefore understand our students' silence.

After years of D.A.R.E. education and our alcohol assessment before college, we understand the dangers of drinking. When we drink, we are inevitably responsible for our own actions and safety. We keep a close eye on our friends and make sure they are also drinking responsibly, but if we are drinking as well, our judgment is impaired. We all assume this responsibility when we take our first sip. We made the decision to drink. We cannot place the blame on another student or group of students, like the party hosts who live on Church Street.

To a certain degree, it seems as though Grant's parents understand this as well. While they have expressed their desire to obtain more information from the students who were with their son that night, they are not looking to place blame on any individual, as they stated in their March 22 letter to SSPD. They want "answers" so they can have "closure."

It is unfortunate that these students cannot readily share this information with Grant's family without running the risk of being held responsible by law enforcement.

To the family of Alexander Grant, we give you our most sincere sympathies. We do not know, and hopefully will never know, the grief you experience.

As far as the way we live on campus, we are going to be more attentive to our peers when we drink, and we are going to be responsible for our own wellbeing. And while most of us never knew Alexander Grant, we will never forget his death.

Responsible Citizenship amendment fails in senate

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

On Tuesday, March 22, the SGA senate met to discuss a resolution to amend the Responsible Citizenship Internship Award (RCIA) operating codes' focus on financial aid. The resolution did not pass.

The RCIA is a fund intended for students who have acquired unpaid summer internships and would be unable to accept them without aid.

The award is given to 30 students and provides each with \$2,500 for living and travel expenses.

A committee made up of senators and Willingness-to-Serve appointees review the applications and decide to whom the awards are given.

SGA President and senate chair Alex Stark '11 brought the resolution to the senate. The resolution stipulates that two members of senate sit on the RCIA committee, as well as a former RCIA recipient.

It also addressed the issue of financial aid. Currently it is stated in the RCIA operating codes that applicants do not need to be receiving financial aid to apply, although they do need to indicate if they receive aid.

The resolution stated that the importance of financial aid in the awards decision would be left up to the committee.

Jenny Snow '11, SGA vice president for communications and outreach, proposed an amendment to this section of the resolution.

"I think it's inappropriate for the RCIA committee to decide whether the process should be need-based or not. We should decide now whether or not to consider financial aid in the application," Snow said.

Many senators agreed with this, saying the emphasis should be placed on the financial need of the student, not the financial aid they may be receiving.

Several senators said financial aid only refers to the income of a student's parents.

While the parents may be able to afford tuition that does not necessarily mean that the student has the funds to accept an unpaid internship, some senators said.

Others disagreed and said financial aid should be a requirement for the applicants, because the awards would then provide opportunities for less privileged students.

SGA Vice President for Diversity Affairs Sulin Ngo '11 expressed concern about a change in policy. "I don't see here in this document anything that is based on financial need. If you're from a well-off family your opportunities and connections are likely better. For someone with fewer opportunities, this could be it. Financial need, not aid, should be a major deciding factor," Ngo said.

One of the primary concerns of the award is how it fits into the student's educational and career trajectory. It's all merit-based; when the award was first established there was no mention of financial aid at all.

"And either way, financial aid or not, the applicants need to explain why they need the money," Stark said in response to Ngo's concern.

After a close vote, Senate did not pass the amendment, meaning that the financial aid statement will remain in the document. However, the discussion has been tabled and will be continued at next week's meeting.

In other news:

- Senate unanimously approved a supplemental to allocate \$300 to the Environmental Action Club for the "Reuse-a-ball" dance happening on April 2. People attending the dance are encouraged to wear only second hand clothing.



Students launch academic journal

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

On March 4, a team of 9 students received a grant from Student Opportunity Funds to launch an interdisciplinary academic journal titled "What Iff."

Hugh O'Kelly '13, founder and editor-in-chief of the journal, said he was motivated to create "What Iff" by a lack of resources for students to publish academic work on campus.

"It's not that we don't have outlets for writers here. We have the newspaper, Folio, which is primarily for fiction and poetry, and a couple of other subject-specific publications, but nothing for interdisciplinary work or general student scholarship," O'Kelly said.

The journal's editorial team is seeking out work students have completed for classes and are proud of. "I really hope that it gets students more driven about their work and each other's work, as well as a little more notoriety. I also hope it makes more people even more focused on academic work," said Alex Brehm '12, a co-editor.

Other editors became involved because of their desire to combine work from two of their majors. "As an English and Theater double major, I am always looking for opportunities to combine my two interests. I think starting this journal will allow students to read and be exposed to the academic works of their peers in a cool, nontraditional way," said co-editor Adrienne Schaffler '13.

To get students interested in contributing, the editors sent e-mails to the chairs of each academic department on campus, requesting that they inform the students in the department of the new opportunity to have academic work published.

"Not to be too crass about this, but having your work published in any venue is going to be useful for your resume," wrote Katherine Hauser, chairwoman of the art history department, in an e-mail to art history majors.

Despite advertising with department chairs, the editorial teams had not received any submissions as of March 23.

"No students have submitted work yet, but we have received a couple of questions, so there is definitely some interest," O'Kelly said.



The editorial team is working with a graphic artist, not associated with the school, to create a large poster and several fliers advertising the journal. The team said it hopes the advertisements will encourage students to submit. Submissions will be reviewed by all 9 members of the editorial team for quality of writing and diversity of content.

“We’re really looking for submissions from as many different departments and view points as possible. We also hope to get science-oriented submissions as well as humanities, though we expect more humanities-based submissions simply because those classes are more conducive to in-depth writing assignments,” O’Kelly said.

All submitted works will be reviewed anonymously. When a submission is received, one member of the editorial board will remove the student’s name and replace it with a number. After works have been chosen, the student’s name will be replaced prior to publication.

The team hopes to publish by May 1. Student Opportunity Funds provided the group with \$445-enough to cover the printing costs of 100 80-120 page issues of a 5x8 inch journal.

The exotic taste of Indian cuisine in coastal Maine

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

I have lived on the coast of Maine for my entire life and I absolutely hate lobster; luckily the restaurants surrounding me offer much more than just seafood and chowder.

Portland and its suburbs have every cuisine imaginable, and it is all delicious. Bombay Mahal is no exception. Brunswick, Maine is about a 30 minute drive north from Portland. Maine Street is bustling with shops, cafés, galleries and plenty of Bowdoin students.

Among the countless restaurants is Bombay Mahal, an authentic and cozy Indian restaurant.

Bina and Raj Sharma opened Bombay Mahal 20 years ago, and it has been thriving among the locals ever since.

Bina and Raj go beyond average customer service by making friendly conversation and asking every patron where he or she is from. At Bombay Mahal every customer is treated like part of the Sharma family.

As I walk in I am transported from a frigid and gray Maine winter to a warm and lively India.

The restaurant itself is beautiful, dimly lit and adorned with Indian tapestries and lamps. The menu is extensive but not overwhelmingly so. The menu includes traditional rice, seafood, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes.

My table starts with Dal Paratha, a whole wheat bread filled with lentils, ginger and spices. As an entrée, I have the Shahi Aloo, a vegetarian dish of spiced potatoes sautéed in a tomato onion sauce with almonds.

The food is hearty, so I end my meal with a simple cup of Darjeeling tea. Despite the bill having been paid, Raj still offers us more tea.

It is now nearly 9 p.m. and people continue to trickle into the restaurant. There is no rush, so we stay for a while and enjoy the comfortable and exotic atmosphere.

Bombay Mahal allowed me to momentarily live in India, and hopefully those outside of Maine can experience a faraway meal on somewhere on the east coast.

A new spin on a classic breakfast

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011

What did you do on your spring break?

Perfect your Florida tan? Sleep until noon every day? Play Settlers of Catan with your little brothers?

Sure, those are all valid ways to spend your spring break.

But me, I made homemade Pop Tarts instead.

I never even really liked Pop Tarts that much. Especially the ones with the strawberry filling. Something about that taste of artificial fruit just did not jive well with me. Which is funny because I loved Toaster Strudels, which probably do not have any more real fruit in them than pop tarts. But I digress.

See, I like these Pop Tarts. Want to know why? I will tell you the secret.

They are not really Pop Tarts. They are flaky, gooey, sweet, buttery, pockets of yummy.

When I say buttery, I mean eating one of these things is equivalent to stuffing several tablespoons of butter in your mouth with some sugar and sprinkles and swallowing it whole.

But to make that experience a little more pleasant, those ingredients are magically made into layers of delicate pastry that contain just the right amount of sweet strawberry jam.

The sprinkles ... well sprinkles just make everything awesome.

I would not advise eating these every day unless you want to go up a pants' size by the end of the month. These are a spring break, time-to-relax-and-stuff-your-face special kind of treat.

Forget the Pop Tarts of your childhood -those hard, artificial, chalky slabs of chemicals. Yeah, I went there.

Move over Kellogg's.

Homemade Pop Tarts

Adapted from Smitten Kitchen

Pastry

2 cups (8 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon sugar

Stir together flour, sugar and salt in a medium bowl.

Rub in the butter with your fingers or a pastry cutter until the butter is in pea-sized chunks or smaller.

Gently whisk together the egg and milk in a small bowl and add to butter/flour mixture, stirring until the dough comes together. You may need to use your hands and knead the wet ingredients into the dry to get a uniform dough.

Split the dough in half and make two rectangular blocks. Chill for 30 minutes or so.

Take one piece of dough and roll out on a floured counter until 1/8 inch thick. Cut pop tarts to desired size (roughly 3x5 for large pop tarts or 1.5x3 for minis). Repeat with second block of dough.

Filling

1 large egg (to brush on pastry)

3/4 cup strawberry jam

1 tablespoon of cornstarch dissolved in 1 tablespoon of water

Mix together the jam and cornstarch mixture. Brush half of your rectangles with the beaten egg (used to seal the edges) and spoon a heaping table spoon of filling into the center of each.

Place another rectangle of dough on top and carefully seal the edges with your finger.

Use a fork to press ridges along the outside of each pop tart, and poke holes in the top layer of dough with a fork, making sure the holes go all the way through the top layer of dough.

Chill pop tarts (can be uncovered) in the fridge while preheating the oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 20 minutes or until lightly golden at edges. Cool on pan.

Topping

confectioner's sugar

milk

sprinkles

Pour some sugar into a bowl (1 to 2 cups) and add milk a little at a time, stirring with a whisk, until the glaze is fluid but not very liquidy. Whisk until all lumps are dissolved.

Pour generously onto each pop tart and add sprinkles.

Let glaze dry before storing.

#1.2125009:2798320277.jpg: Pop Tart

Homemade Pop Tart

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News

