

Christopher O'Riley challenges classical music, plays rock

By Julia Grigel, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

It would be hard to categorize the kind of music heard at Christopher O'Riley's March 25 concert at Skidmore's Zankel Music Center - other than to say it was of the "good" category of music.

O'Riley came to the college as part of the Sterne Virtuoso Series, which has brought other prominent artists such as the Hawthorne String Quartet and The Bad Plus. As part of the Sterne residency, O'Riley gave a master class where he met and spoke with students.

O'Riley's many identities are equally intriguing: he is at once a classical piano virtuoso, admirer and arranger of popular contemporary artists and host of a leading National Public Radio music show.

The show, "From the Top," showcases outstanding young musicians from across the country, making classical music widely accessible and comprehensible.

He has successfully challenged traditional definitions of "classical music," arranging music by artists such as Radiohead, Elliott Smith, Nick Drake and Pink Floyd for piano, and performing these arrangements alongside works by classical composers like Ravel, Beethoven and Schumann.

O'Riley started off the concert with two songs by Elliott Smith, which showcased his technical skill and which also reminded me of why I quit piano in middle school - there are just too many notes.

However, Christopher O'Riley somehow takes what, for me, had always seemed like "too many notes" and turns it into something like an image in sound: a full experience in rhythm, melody and harmony.

He engaged the audience between pieces, speaking powerfully of the tragic and emotionally torn life of Elliott Smith and then following with a dynamic description of his next piece, Schumann's "Kreisleriana" cycle.

This piece, said O'Riley, is Schumann's "most bipolar work." Some movements seemed to be ruled by a chilling dissonance and a desperate effort to resolve to the "right" note.

Others were simple and catchy, and some were as triumphant as a royal procession. The whole piece ended furiously and in a huff.

The second half of the concert included three songs by Radiohead, Pink Floyd's "Us and Them" and Maurice Ravel's "Gaspard de la Nuit," which, in Ravel's own words, is "a caricature of romanticism."

Before he played, O'Riley eloquently described the piece's complexities: its three movements express somewhat morose, surreal visions.

The first movement is about a somewhat malevolent water fairy seducing a naïve sailor and the second is about the harrowing tale of the gallows, through which one note eerily maintains a constant tolling sound.

The last movement, said O'Riley somewhat deviously, "gets quite a bit darker." It is marked, he said, by "a molecular, malevolent presence." His description was spot on, and helped to paint an image in the mind of the listener.

Ravel's strange tone poem was followed by the comforting sound of Radiohead's perennially beautiful "Let Down."

As O'Riley began playing familiar notes, I thought I might miss Thom Yorke's vocals and the reassuring sound of the electric bass.

But my initial fear was quelled by O'Riley's creative take on the song - he used an entirely different bass line, tempting listeners' ears with the interesting sound of the fourth up from the actual bass note.

He then ascended until he finally reached the bass note, but in an uncomfortably high octave, making listeners subconsciously yearn for the drop down an octave (which he finally does give us, to the extreme pleasure of our ears).

It was actually just extremely beautiful and you should listen to his version of the song online.

I went away from the concert with a renewed love for the piano (not to mention a renewed admiration for Ravel).

It's great to see somebody doing something other than "replicating" written music or, what's 1,000 times worse, creating mind-numbing music that satisfies the ear, without creating space for dissatisfaction.

College receives 200-acre donation of undeveloped land

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

The college owns and utilizes an extensive amount of land, totaling 865 acres. On December 31st, that total increased when Michael and Margaret Roohan, owners of Granite and Marble Works, Inc. of Wilton, donated 200 acres of undeveloped land to the college. This land, which is located in the town of Greenfield to the north of Daniels Road and next to Nature Conservancy Lands, is to be used to preserve open space, among other purposes.

The Roohans themselves have no prior relationship with the college, and were referred to Skidmore by trustees. Michael West, vice president for finance and administration and treasurer, says that he believes the Roohans decided to donate some of their land after going on a North Woods tour and seeing how the college used its land for research and constructive purposes. "I think they got the idea that this could be something that could work for them," he said.

According to the college's ScopeOnline, an online source for news and events on campus, the land will potentially be used for study and research, much as the 250-acres that are North Woods have been utilized in over 30 courses for academics and for recreation. The donated land itself is undeveloped with wetlands and rock outcroppings, and can only be reached via walking and some logging paths. A committee is being formed under Muriel Poston, acting vice president for academic affairs, to study the land and determine whether or not it would be in the college's best interests to use academically as it has North Woods.

Views in many areas are spectacular of this unspoiled land, stated the Preliminary Report presented to Faculty Chairs on January 14th in response to the recent donation by the Roohans. The report also stated that phase I of an environmental review, which looks at the historical records of the use of the land, interviews with current and adjacent landholders, a physical walk of the site, potential issues, records from the federal government, as well as hotspots for environmental problems, revealed no negative findings concerning the land.

From a historical perspective, the site presents an opportunity for past Native American use, the report says, adding that geologists, biologists, botanists, environmental scientists, and wildlife enthusiasts alike, "will see this gift as a significant study opportunity."

An additional hiking trip for both faculty and students is planned for the future, as soon as the ground becomes firm and the snow melts away, bettering the conditions for such an excursion. Once the date is determined, an announcement will be made to the college concerning a tour of the new property, giving people the opportunity to see the land for themselves.

Riley Neugebauer, sustainability coordinator for the college, said that the college is in the process of determining how the new land addition will best benefit students and faculty. "The Roohans' donated the property because they felt that Skidmore College would be a great recipient, for tax purposes, and because they knew it would be a benefit to the college and its students given its location and proximity to existing college land," she said.

"We're very appreciative that the family gave this very generous gift," West said. "When people do get to see it, I think they'll see that it's a very special piece of land." In addition, West has stated that Skidmore will not request tax-exempt status for the donated land, which will thus remain on the Greenfield tax rolls. He also expressed his appreciation to the board, who met specially in December before the winter holiday to discuss the donation, as well as to the cabinet and the president for their support.

The college has always made great use of its land. In addition to North Woods, which provide trails and locations for academic studies, the Van Lennep Riding Stables, comprised of 212 acres, allow students to work and ride both academically and recreationally. The college also owns a small piece of land which it uses as a baseball park, and has property on which the boathouse is located, which provides storage and training use for the college's rowing team. Students have easy access to these facilities, and that availability is apparent in all of the college's uses of its property.

With more land available to it, the college will be able to provide more resources for research and study to both faculty and students. The Roohans' gift is greatly appreciated, and will be used to help extend not only the academic uses of the land, but the natural beauty of it as well.

#1.2138014:471423313.JPG Land donation 1

Photo courtesy of Mike West

#1.2138015:3489759978.JPG Land Donation 2

The land is largely undeveloped wetlands and is only accessible on foot.





Softball splits double-header

Sports Wrap

By Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

The softball team played to a split in its double-header against Castleton on Wednesday. Castleton took the first game 3-2, but Skidmore came back with a vengeance, winning the second game 12-1 in five innings.

The Thoroughbreds drew first blood in the opening game - Carol Brown '13 brought teammate Molly Canavan '12 home with a big double, making the score 1-0. Castleton responded with an RBI double two innings later to tie the game.

Skidmore then went up in the sixth on an RBI ground ball by Julia Schwartz '13. But Castleton scored two in the seventh, the final run coming on a game-winning hit with the bases loaded and two outs.

After this contentious game, Skidmore took the field again with newfound vigor, and demolished Castleton - warranting the mercy rule by exceeding an eight run margin by the fifth inning. After the teams went run-for-run in the first inning, Skidmore came alive and went on an 11-0 run during the remainder of the game.

Katie Peverada '14 had a brilliant two RBI double in the fourth that cemented Skidmore's dominion. Christina Gargiso '12 and Carrol Brown '13 each finished with three RBIs. After allowing just three hits and one run, Abby Fuhrman '12 picked up the win in just five innings pitched. Skidmore will play at Utica College on Sunday, April 3 .

Men's lacrosse

A big week for men's lacrosse and a strong finish for the riding team

With home field advantage, the men's lacrosse team won three games this week on the Wachenheim turf. The first adversary to fall was Williams College last Wednesday. The Thoroughbreds built up a six-goal lead by the end of the first half, the spread being 8-2.

Senior Ben Cornell scored two of the initial eight goals, and finished the game as the leading scorer with three goals overall. During the third quarter, Skidmore widened the gap with two additional goals, pushing the score to 10-2.

Williams responded with one goal that quarter, and then rallied in the last quarter with three goals, but it was not enough. The final score was 10-6.

The main contributor to Skidmore's success lay in its defensive fundamentals; the defense cleared the ball on 29 of 30 attempts, and stifled all but one of Williams' offensive attempts when it was man down. In addition, goalie Connor Dowling '12 made seven saves and improved his record to 3-0 for the season.

Three days later, the lacrosse team took to the field again, but this time against the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Skidmore kept its hot streak alive, demolishing Kings Point 16-7. With the Liberty League opener just ahead, this was a great warm up for Skidmore: every player dressed got playing time, and nine of those players saw the ball into the back of the net.

By the time the clock showed 1:20 in the first quarter, Mike Perlow '13, Jeremy Goldman '11 and Bryan Connolly '13 had already scored, putting Skidmore up 3-0. This set the tone for the entire match, with Skidmore leading throughout.

Wednesday afternoon, Skidmore took the field against RPI in the League opener against the No. 8 team (Skidmore is currently ranked No. 19), where they upset their opponents in an 11-9 win.

Skidmore took the lead early on, and held it for the entire game. Its margin reached its pinnacle in the third quarter when Skidmore went up 11-4. Though RPI rallied back with five goals in the fourth, the Thoroughbreds held onto their lead to win their first League game.

Jaques Ward '11, Mike Holden '13 and Perlow picked up two goals a piece; Dowling made 13 saves, contributing to yet another win under his belt. The Thoroughbreds go on the road this Saturday to St. Lawrence for their next game.

Women's lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team suffered its first loss at the hand of Trinity this Wednesday. This was Skidmore's first loss on the season, making its record 4-1 overall. After reaching a 2-2 tie midway through the first half, Trinity strung together three goals before the clock ran down, leaving the field with a 5-2 lead.

Skidmore rallied somewhat in the second half, but did not bring enough fire to smoke out Trinity players who maintained a lead for the remainder of the game. Lauren McCarthy scored half of Skidmore's points, secured three ground balls and controlled three draws.

Despite controlling more draws than Trinity, Skidmore was nearly doubled in shooting by Trinity, the deciding factor in this loss. Skidmore will travel to play RPI on Friday, April 1.

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team came out strong last weekend and beat the Liberty League defending champion Vassar on Saturday, March 26, in Saratoga Springs. The Thoroughbreds won all of the doubles matches, and won four of six singles matches, giving them a five point margin in their 7-2 win.

The team will travel to Vassar's courts to play Amherst College Saturday, April 2.

Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team lost to league rival Vassar Saturday, March 26. Nataly Mendoza '13 had a perfect day for Skidmore, winning both her singles and her doubles match. The rest of the team, however, did not share her zeal, and lost a few key doubles matches that made the difference.

Skidmore will travel to Wellesley, MA this weekend, where they will play TCNJ and Wellesley on Saturday April 2, and Sunday April 3, respectively.

Riding

The Skidmore riding team finished its perfect season with yet another victory at Morrisville last Saturday, March 26. The Thoroughbreds scored 47 out of the 49 possible points, edging out the No. 2 team, Morrisville, by five.

The Thoroughbreds will go to St. Lawrence University on April 9 to compete in the Zone Championships. Flavia D'Urso '13, Chelsea Jones '12, Kelly Campbell '12, Melissa Hillberg '13, Emma Weinstein '13, Hanae Kimura '11, Julia Mazzarella '13, Megan Merritt '11, Erika Wohl '14 and Cecilia Culp '11 were all class winners. Winning both of her classes, Campbell finished as the High Point Rider.

The Thoroughbreds will host the Regional Championships on April 2; Skidmore riders will compete for individual titles at their home course.

Students volunteering with local dementia patients

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

Many students do not give much thought to the local Wesley Community; the building complex may seem to be little more than a stopover that delays the bus trip to downtown Saratoga Springs. On the contrary Wesley means much more not only to residents and staff members, but also to several Skidmore students looking for volunteer work.

For more than 35 years, the Wesley Community, located at 131 Lawrence Street, has offered what its website calls "an innovative combination of independent housing for older adults and skilled nursing care on a single site."

Services range from apartment complexes to assisted living to in-and-out-patient rehabilitation to long-term care and beyond.

The Wesley Care Center, the complex providing services in long-term care and adult day services, also provides Skidmore students with the chance to brighten the days of many residents through literature.

Interested students can spend time volunteering with Wesley's reading program through 2 Victoria, the floor designated for dementia patients. Students can sign up to come to the center and read to patients with early-stage dementia or Alzheimer's Disease on a regular basis or on a schedule that works for them; times are flexible.

Trudi A. Cholewinski, program manager for 2 Victoria, explains the program developed from Saratoga Reads, a local program in which community members read a book and engage in discussions and events pertaining to the book and the experience.

Recommended types of readings are episodic pieces, short stories, poetry or anything that can be read in full during the 30 to 45 minute timeslot.

Regardless of the material being read, volunteers are both encouraged and expected to be engaging and interactive. Cholewinski said, "The main thing about our residents is that they need someone to speak a bit louder, slower and clearly. Read with enthusiasm. Ask questions. Get imaginative. If the book has pictures, show the pictures to everyone. The one thing they don't want is someone just sitting and reading. It is more of a discussion."

Carol Brown '13 has been actively volunteering with the reading program since the fall semester of her first year at Skidmore.

"Reading aloud is one of the best ways to entertain dementia patients in a nursing home. It can keep them more alert. It can help stimulate their memories," Brown said.

Like Cholewinski, Brown stresses the importance of engaging residents during sessions. Brown feels energy and animation are key, saying, "Stop reading and tell a story, get up and show them pictures, act out a scene, use voices for characters, do anything you can to keep them engaged." Brown says she likes to sing aloud and make sound effects as she reads, adding that it is fine if you do anything embarrassing since the patients will not remember during your next visit.

There can be difficulties associated with working with dementia patients. Brown said, "The hardest part about working in the dementia unit is that the residents will often fall asleep while your reading." However, she says that volunteers just need to understand it is not personal or disrespectful.

Cholewinski said, "The patients generally enjoy the visits from the students/volunteers. Our folks have short-term memory loss. They may not remember that the person came the last time, but in the moment they enjoy it. Also, they enjoy discussing books/stories from the old days, they enjoy reminiscing." Brown describes the residents as some of the sweetest people she has ever met.

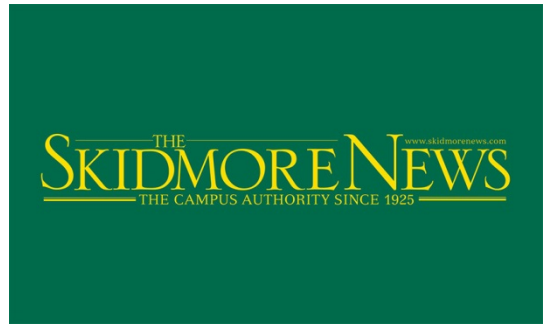
Though there are no prerequisites for a position, Cholewinski says she asks potential volunteers to shadow a reader and take a tour of the floor to get an idea of the job and environment. Before being hired, potential volunteers are typically screened.

Again, positions are flexible. Each month, Cholewinski sends out an e-mail to volunteers containing available timeslots. Volunteers can sign up for one or more reading slots.

Cholewinski added, "I am open to suggestions for books, or new ideas to the program. That's the beauty of our floor, we are forever changing and making things better."

Brown says there are several benefits of the program, mentioning specifically creating a connection with the Saratoga Springs community and interacting with peoples who can be underserved by the community. The added knowledge of improving the lives of others is not that bad either.

"More than anything I'll remember every time I made them laugh. Sometimes you'll think the whole room is asleep, and you'll read something funny, and all of a sudden it will come alive because they got the joke too. Those are the moments when you can feel how big of an impact you're making on their lives," Brown said.



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Wesely Care Center

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Love and war in human history

Daydreams

By Rick Chrisman, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

There are many facets to one's identity: gender, class, ethnicity, education and so on. But perhaps the most telling aspect of our identities is our behavior. After all, we are no more than the sum of the decisions we make throughout life.

Judging our identity from the perspective of our behavior has its pros and cons. On one hand, it provides an objective and clear indication of what sort of person we are. On the other hand, the decisions we make are permanent and don't always speak well of us.

We are historical creatures. Human lives have a beginning, a middle and an end. Nature itself is cyclical: the sun rises and sets, and summers come and go. All of our days are named and numbered sequentially, and we tag our summers with memories, associating them with the time "when I went to France," and "when I lost my virginity" and "when I underwent surgery."

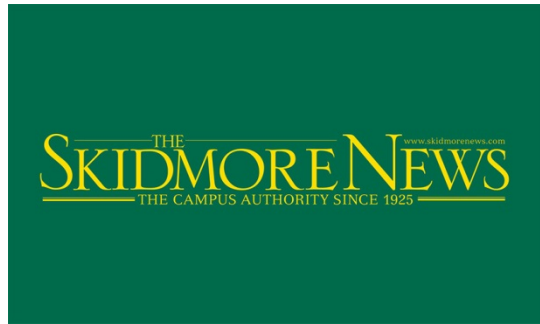
Our kinship groups are historical, too. In the West, we trace our origins not only to natural beginnings (the Big Bang), but to social beginnings. As the Jews say, "A wandering Aramean was my father." The Christians date their calendars from the birth of Jesus Christ and Muslims chart the progress of Islam.

Human time is measured by important and unrepeatable events such as these. Similarly, the decisions we make stick with us, even our secrets. This can make life quite the adventure. We learn day-by-day from the decisions that we make, and in turn, we make new decisions in response to what we've learned. Brave people say "I'll try anything once." Most risks are rewarded with revelation. But making the same decision again and again with the same negative consequences is self-destruction. Either way, we're always making history.

Our sexual history, the most private part of our private lives, illustrates this best. We divide these experiences up into categories: "what I did for love" and "what I did without love," and "I want more of that" and "I'll never do that again." Our sexual encounters are our history, our identity.

Every decision we make is another ornament on an individual tree with our name on it - that's the glory of life, as well as its downside. Making love is making history. So is waging war, and history is indelible.

When we have doubts about our identity, when we suffer because of our social identities and our tangle of feelings therein, it would help to look at things in a new light, or under a new lens, in order to see our own personal history. Others may not know us this well, but God does. God, the divine creator, calls us out of nature into history. Ultimately we do not belong to this or that SES group, or to Skidmore or to the U.S. We belong to God. So, as Koheleth says, remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the silver cord is snapped and the golden bowl broken.



Definitions, denials and decisions

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

Since this is an interesting, diverse topic week, I thought I would consider a word that seems to be the "Skidmore word" of the 2010-2011 school year: BIDDIE. What exactly is a biddie, you ask? The submissions on UrbanDictionary describe it as:

****Disclaimer:** The quote is excessively long because I believe this incorporates all that is complicating in an overly used word.

1. In a generic usage, biddie is the female counterpart of a bro. Where a bro is overly male, overly stupid, and often intoxicated, the biddie is overly female, overly stupid and often intoxicated ... Pejorative but can also be used in a friendly context.
2. A potential for sex. This usage emphasizes the positive aspects of femininity (being hot, being available) and does not always (but can) encompass the more pejorative connotations of the word.
3. A total mess. This usage emphasizes the pejorative aspects ... and does not always (but can) encompass the more complimentary connotations of the word.

This word has been tossed around all year, and it seems we are a bit confused about the true meaning: is it a term of endearment or a term of humiliation? Let me know what you think at SkidWWCD@gmail.com

Dear C.,

My roommate walked in while I was masturbating. Now, it's so awkward...he doesn't look me in the eye. Should I pretend it didn't happen?

Lost in Lubrication

Dear Lost in Lube,

You would be surprised about how often this actually happens - more than you would think and more than you would want it to happen.

If pretending it did not happen is comfortable for you, take that route. However, ignoring the subject may take you down a tense road. If you want, bring it up as casually as possible. Begin by apologizing; this is an awkward situation for both of you, so it is best to nip it in the butt. Perhaps he will sympathize with you, since it could have happened to him, too. The best advice I can give: before you proceed with your five-knuckle shuffle, hold on for one second and lock the door.

Dear C.,

When choosing a place to study abroad, should I base my decision on my academics - completing my major? Or choose a country I've always wanted to visit?

Traveler 101

Dear Traveler 101,

I found myself in this predicament. I decided going abroad is about going to a country where I have never been before, taking classes that are not offered at Skidmore and having a barrel of fun - especially at Oktoberfest. Could I have an amazing time in a country that would further my major? Yes. But I would not have the same level of excitement.

Now consider your situation: are you behind in your major? If so, you might need to compromise and make the system work for you. Look for classes that are similar to your major in your first choice country; ask your advisor and major chairman while professing your love of the country, and hopefully they will consider it.

You might be struggling the rest of your Skidmore career to finish your major, but going to a country you are passionate about might be worth it.

Stars and Hearts, C.

Owner of Moosewood Restaurant lectures on experiences

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

David Hirsch, co-owner of the prominent Moosewood Restaurant in Ithaca, NY, visited Skidmore on March 29. Skidmore Nutrition Action Council, also known as SNAC, presented Hirsch in Emerson Auditorium, where he spoke about his experience in the many Moosewood facets.

Hirsch started out with an architecture degree from City College of New York, but soon found himself working at Moosewood after a not-so-exciting job as a Cornell fraternity cook. "[Moosewood] was so much fun, everybody was so pleasant," Hirsch said.

Hirsch has since advanced from his entry-level position and now gives lectures and cooking classes across the country, in addition to his work on recipe development and Moosewood's line of cookbooks.

Moosewood Restaurant began in 1973 and changed ownership in 1976, Hirsch being among the new group of collective owners. Hirsch explained the concept was to serve food that the owners liked to eat. "The feeling was 'Hey gang, let's open a restaurant,'" Hirsch said.

Meat was on the original Moosewood menu, but soon the menu evolved to be meatless and less dependent on dairy products and eggs and even offering vegan dishes.

Hirsch mentioned the importance of having healthy, "whole" dishes low in fat and rich in vegetable content.

Moosewood is not only vegetarian, but also nutritious. Hirsch's passion for creating a truly healthy meal seems obvious. Moosewood uses as many organic and local ingredients as possible.

Because of the frequent menu changes, the chefs have to get creative with what is available. Thankfully, there is a database of 12 Moosewood cookbooks on to rely on.

The collective owners have all contributed to Moosewood's cookbook library. Hirsch has worked on each, "Low-Fat Favorites" and "Simple Suppers" to name a few.

The first cookbook was published in 1978, and popularity has since soared. "There are more customers, people making pilgrimages," Hirsch said.

Hirsch emphasized Moosewood's role as a trendsetter in the vegetarian scene. The restaurant has been thriving for the past 30 years, its popularity increasing with each cookbook sold.

"The menu has to be up-to-date in terms of what people want," Hirsch said, "our menu changes every day."

And what do people want? "Everyone disagrees about what healthy is," Hirsch said.

Still, he has seen interest in vegetarianism grow. "A lot of our customers are interested in having meatless meals - some are vegetarians, most are not," Hirsch said.

Attendees nearly filled the auditorium, eager to question David about everything from local produce to his favorite type of veggie burger.

One student asked about Moosewood's motive for serving vegetarian cuisine.

Surprisingly, Hirsch said that ethics and nutrition - while vital to Moosewood - were less important than "playing with the challenge." Moosewood clearly operates in a quite imaginative and experimental manner.

When a student inquired how Moosewood has maintained its popularity for so many years, Hirsch responded, "We became a destination, that made an enormous difference."

Moosewood Restaurant has proven to be a dynamic business, catering to the mores of our generation and drawing people to Ithaca despite the town's remoteness.

Editorial

Make internships accessible

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

Our college gives deserving students money to pursue unpaid internships. This is the kind of project that needs to be trumpeted by tour guides, praised by professors and buzzed about around campus every March. But first, it needs to become what the college needs: a program that serves the students who deserve help the most.

In the Responsible Citizenship Internship Awards, SGA has created an admirable program that could help level a job search playing field that has historically favored the wealthy and well-connected. But to do this, the program needs to evaluate merit only within a pool of students who have established financial need, to be as certain as possible that money will go to food and rent - not shopping budgets and weekend vacations.

At its best, the RCIA program's importance can't be discounted. It helps combat real unfairness in a world where summer internships historically act as just another way the wealthy take care of their own, where students with financial need stand at a severe disadvantage. Without paychecks attached to many of the top opportunities, positions favor those students who can afford to choose an unpaid internship at their dream post-graduation company of choice, in place of a summer's wages at the neighborhood retail chain.

Limited financial resources can also restrict some students' ability to relocate to pursue opportunities where they're available, a serious issue for those students living in rural or low-income areas. Already without the connections and networking opportunities available to their wealthier classmates, these students can be left with limited options and, come graduation day, bleak choices.

As college graduates become a dime a dozen, work experience has become the chief way that employers differentiate among applicants. But besides helping students win jobs after graduation, internships help students hone in on what they want to do in an overwhelming field of options. Whether an experience is good or bad, these summers can be instrumental in helping students learn what kind of offices and industries suit them best. Back in the classroom, students will find that what they learned on the job can act as a complement to and an application of their professors' lectures.

In short, internships have become as integral a piece of the college experience as caffeine and midterms. As shown in administrative work like the "Transitions and Transformations" document, which highlights the need for "experiential learning," administrators recognize the value and importance of how students spend their summers. In setting up the RCIA program, SGA makes these influential experiences available to more students - a powerful example of how students can put administrative theories into action.

But as this new program begins to take shape, the college needs to structure RCIA as a program that makes internships accessible, not just easy. That is, awards need to be given to only those students who would otherwise be unable to pursue unpaid summer internships, in a very real sense: not because their parents are stingy, or because they'd have to scrimp, but because those opportunities would not be possible. Making that distinction about a student's true financial need won't be easy, but it's necessary. And within that specific pool of candidates, only then should merit be considered.

We're a community that talks a big game about confronting our own privilege. But RCIA could genuinely be a step in that direction, toward a graduation day where all students who walk across the stage have had the same opportunities available to them in the last four years.

This is a program that has the real potential to make our college a better place. Let's not screw it up.

‘Beebo Brinker Chronicles’ explores gender and identity

By Michelle Minick, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

Nestled in the intimate (even more intimate than the Blackbox) Studio A, in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhardt Theater, the college’s Theater Department presented the student workshop, "The Beebo Brinker Chronicles" from March 23 to 25.

Zoe Johannes ‘11 directed this noteworthy and provocative play written by Kate Moria Ryan and Linda S. Chapman, which was adapted from Ann Bannon’s series of pulp fiction novels.

Set mainly in Greenwich Village during the 1950s, the play deals with the dual reality of homosexual men and women living half of their lives in a closeted world and the other half searching for an honest open home.

As soon as the audience set a foot in the studio, the simple set and the early rockabilly sounds from the 1950s immediately set the tone for the evening. The play was set in the 1950s and the costumes looked as though they came directly off of the set of "Mad Men."

Since the play was located in both a California suburb and New York City, it made sense that the set was so minimal because the play was constantly switching back and forth between the two locations.

The majority of the scenes took place in either the barroom or the bedroom, and for the gay and lesbian characters of the play, these places represented a world where they can be who they want to be, rather than who they are expected to be in reality.

This concept is analogous to the author, Ann Bannon’s experience, who wrote these stories as a California housewife, thinking longingly of the life she wanted to live.

The lights, designed by Marcus Goldbas ‘13, were very simple, and the limited use of lighting instruments provided a nominal, yet an old-time effect, which achieved visual precision that was synonymous with the time period.

The Beebo Brinker Chronicles explores a wide array of eclectic and subversive topics and the motley cast of six did an excellent job of conveying these challenging and mature themes.

The audience enters the world through the perspective of Laura Landon (Emery Matson '14), a recent college graduate whose first gay relationship was with a sorority sister, Beth Ayres (Nikki Siclare '13), which ended in heartbreak with Beth's marriage to Charlie Ayres (Lowell Glovsky '14).

Devastated and left to struggle with her identity, Laura moves to Greenwich Village, where she meets a colorful cast of characters, including her flirtatious roommate Marcie (Skye Van Rensselaer '13), Jack Mann (Connor Mullen '14), a witty and flamboyant gay man who lives a closeted life by day and Beebo Brinker (Emma Johnstone '14), a butch, magnetic bartender, who walked with a slight swagger with her hands thrust in her pockets.

Beebo is also smooth and handsome and has a complex relationship with Laura throughout the play. To further express the concept of the dual realities, Laura is ushered into a more open world in the gay community of New York City, while Beth struggles with her unhappy marriage in California.

As the play unfolds, the audience follows the two women on their separate, but parallel individual journeys.

Throughout this drama, Laura and Beth's stories are linked by the recurring motif of lesbian pulp novels, a source of strength and escape for both women.

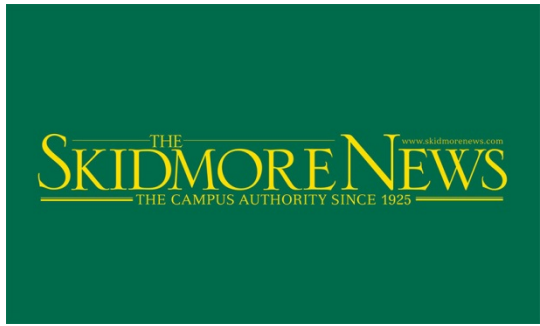
The Beebo Brinker Chronicles aggressively pursues laughs, playing with the novels' more dated and histrionic elements, yet it doesn't settle for caricature of the characters.

The loneliness cavernous beneath Jack's worldly façade, Laura's desperation for fulfillment and Beebo's jealous rages are all complex emotions that darkly edge the play's absurdities, anchoring what could easily have been an exercise in faction.

Through the combination of the directing and acting and through the personal portrayals of Lowell's imploring character, Siclaire's vulnerability, Matson's ability to shift emotions quickly, Mullen's demonstration of a hilarious and precise gay best friend, Van Rensselaer's flirtatious and deceitful behavior and Johnstone's smooth and sharp innuendo all synthesized together and created a cauldron of a provocative and powerful performance.

The Beebo Brinker Chronicles posed a serious question: is love worth pursuing if it comes at the cost of social scorn, inner pain and turmoil?

In the fraught, socially closed world inhabited by the characters, the pursuit of true love is something dangerous, not just on a personal level, but on a societal level as well. And for some of the characters, the cost is too much in the end.



Yet, there is also a hopeful note: even when there's no reason to hope for the best or for a brighter future, people always will continue to be optimistic. It is a message that reverberates still.

In a society that is far more open-minded than it was in the 1950s, there is still work in progress. It is a fitting message for a college theatrical workshop that stubbornly hopes to reflect its message to the world at large.

How to win in the housing lottery

By Taylor Dafoe, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

It is that time of year again: the puzzling process we call room selection. It can seem to be a straining time for everybody, but in an attempt to curb unwanted stress, this is a walk-through of the process and an attempt to clear up some commonly asked questions.

There are four basic requirements you will need to meet before being eligible to choose housing.

First, your tuition bill must be paid. Second, you must be free of outstanding sanctions within the college. Third, you must be a current student on the Skidmore campus. You will not be able to select if you are traveling abroad or living off-campus. Fourth, you must complete a preliminary application, available online on the Res Life website, before the selection process.

Additionally, there are a few changes in the housing selection process this year. Maybe the biggest change is that there will be no adjoining singles in the dorms. That means regardless of your own number you will not be able to pull lower-numbered friends into your suite. Everyone will choose their living arrangements individually at the time they are assigned to do so.

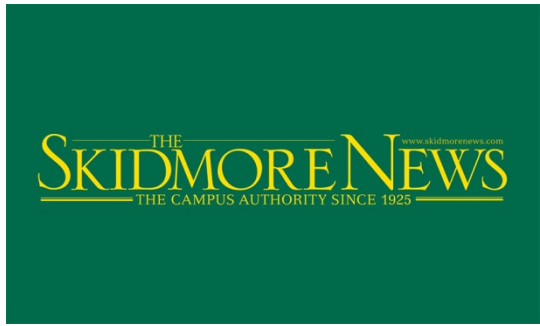
Substance-free housing will once again be offered as a living option next semester, occupying the third floor of Rounds Hall. There will be an application process for living on this floor, and the most appropriate candidates will be selected.

Finally, there has been a change in the number system that positions students' time slots for selecting housing. It is now one rotation of numbers, spanning from one to 2300. Classes are divided roughly into sectors of 700, with seniors being the first (number one through 700), juniors the next (701 through 1400) and so on. The lowest numbers will have the first time slots.

In regard to the process of choosing your respective living situation, there are a few things you should know.

The housing selection process will not be online this year; you will have to do it in person during the timeslot you are assigned. It will take place in the basement of Wiecking Hall.

Those in charge of the housing selection ask that you take care of questions and ameliorate any potential problems before the morning of your room selection, so as not to delay the process for others.



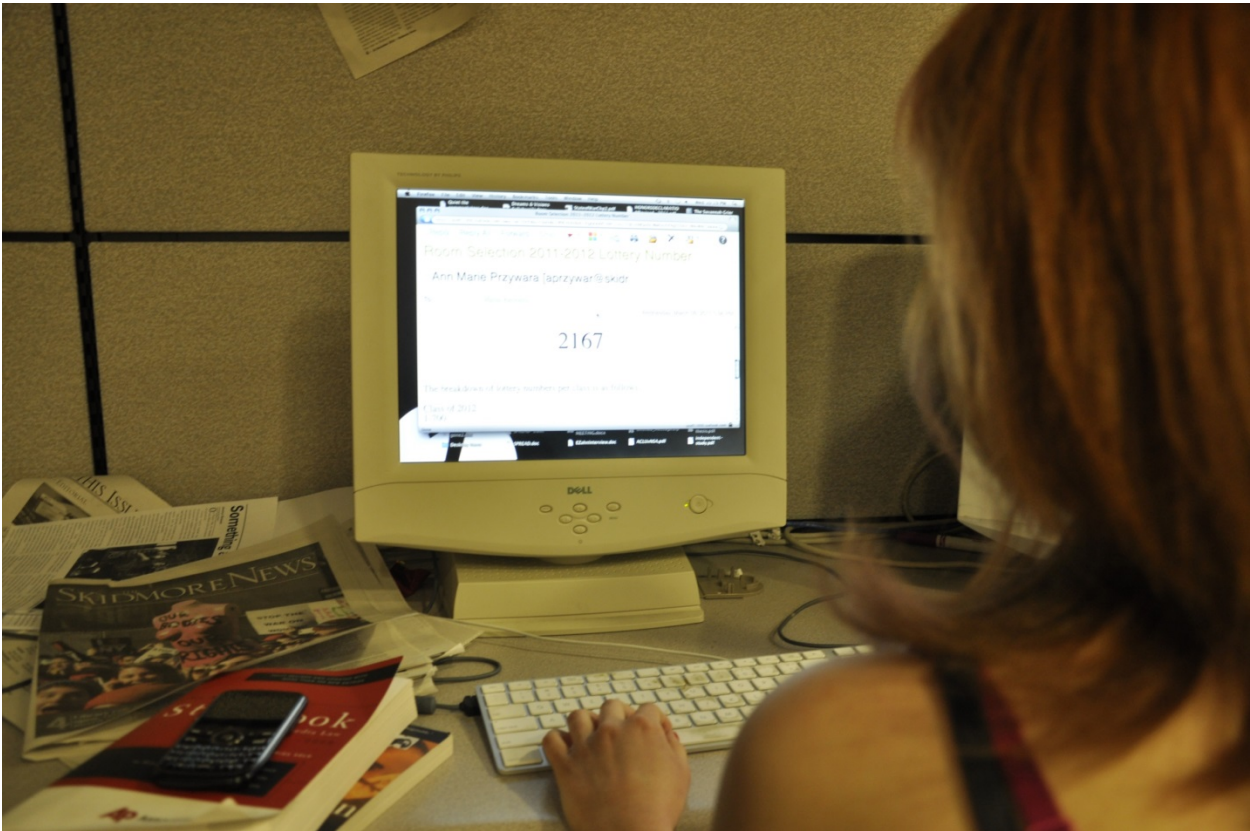
More times than not, most questions can be answered simply by visiting the Res Life webpage on the Skidmore website.

Of course it is simply not possible to satisfy the individual wants of everybody within the student body, and though the Office of Residential Life is more than willing to help in any way it can, keep in mind that there is always a possibility that you do not end up with your first housing choice.

Remember that the Office of Residential life is a resource at your disposal - feel free to stop in to the office at any time during the week with questions or concerns. Hopefully the housing selection process will be a painless one for everybody this year.

#1.2138007:1159413145.JPG Housing lottery

The Skidmore News



Psychology class plans Autism awareness events

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

National Autism awareness organization Autism Speaks says that doctors estimate that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined.

Rachel Mann Rosan, professor of psychology, and the students in her course "Developmental Disabilities and Autism" are currently planning Autism awareness events on campus for this April, Autism Awareness Month.

The course focuses on a clinical overview of developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

Mann Rosan said that students not only gain an understanding of disorders but also learn the roles of assessment and treatment for behavioral issues related to the disorders. Students "get an opportunity to learn about and develop skills in functional assessment and behavior support planning," Mann Rosan said.

We will have a variety of speaker presentations on a range of topics from the parents' perspective, to research in the area of cause and epidemiology to local clinicians who will talk about various treatment methods. There will also be a showing of a documentary that was released last year called 'The Horse Boy,' Mann Rosan said.

The students have also prepared information posters that will be hung around campus and will be presenting these posters in Case on April 14.

Speakers are associated with organizations Saratoga Bridges, ASPIRE NY and the Parent Network.

The speakers were selected and contacted by students in the course and relate to the topics addressed on each informational poster, Mann Rosan said.

Saratoga Bridges is a local resource aimed at serving people with disabilities and their families. ASPIRE NY is a recreational and activity group for teens and young adults with ASDs. The Parent Network is self-described as a community resource for families of individuals with special needs and for professionals who work with these families.

Mann Rosan began organizing Autism awareness events on campus last year. She describes the events as "a way to build upon students' enthusiasm for the topic," adding that she has found that many of her students have personal connections to ASDs. "It seemed that the Skidmore community could benefit from learning more about it," Mann Rosan said.

Last year Mann Rosan and her students were pleased and proud of both the work they achieved and the response from the Skidmore and Saratoga Springs communities.

Last year's events included several lecturers, such as New York State Senator and advocate of autism awareness Roy McDonald, and an Autism Informational Fair.

The Informational Fair consisted of both on-campus and community organizations that provided information about ASDs and community resources, as well as about available volunteer opportunities at Skidmore and in the Saratoga Springs community.

In addition, the fair featured a sale of craft and art items created by local artisans diagnosed with development disabilities and a bake sale that benefited the Autism Society of America.

Above all else, the focus of the events being planned is to raise awareness in the community.

Hannah Miller '14, one of Mann Rosan's students in "Developmental Disabilities and Autism," said, "Autism is a growing issue in our society, but a lot of people don't understand what it is, how it is caused or how they can help. "

String Festival features collaborative effort

Student ensembles join with the Ying Quartet for a night of music

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

The college's seventh annual String Festival Finale was held on Sunday March 27 at the Zankel Music Center. Participants included four of the college's string ensembles, outside community members.

Members of the Ying Quartet, who had performed at Zankel the night before, worked with five of the seven ensembles.

The first ensemble performed Mozart's String Quartet No. 17 in B-flat Major, "The Hunt." In typical Mozart fashion, the music was light and flowed with ease.

Violinists Rebecca Schwartz '14 and Lyndsay Stone '14 nimbly played through the fast, intricate notes as the violist Gia Vaccarezza '13 and cellist Bridget Smith '14 played along with strong notes that supported the melody.

The second number featured the Vermont Youth Orchestra that also played a Mozart piece. The String Quartet No. 19 in C Major created an atmosphere that differed from the first performance.

The quartet started with the cellist, Will Kiendl, leading the group with the repetition of slow, ominous notes, creating a serious, somber tone that revealed a different, lesser-known side of Mozart.

Still, the common Mozart qualities showed through when the ensemble quickly jumped into faster, lighter notes. Despite the many tempo changes, all the members stayed together, entering and ending phrases in unison.

Next was The Felix Quartet who performed Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 3 in D Major. All the members were dressed in black and expressed a seriousness that immediately demanded the audience's attention.

The first violinist sped through the notes with a quick, dramatic pace and hit every high note with accurate pitch.

Violinists Noah Luft-Weisberg and Avery Normandin gracefully intertwined their melodies with that of the cellist Molly Goldstein and violist Paige Normandin, ultimately transitioning the piece into a slow, dramatic quiet. The players ended with a strong chord that resonated throughout the hall.

Another one of the college's string ensembles then performed Beethoven's String Quartet No. 7 in F Major. Each player was able to show individual talent with individual solos.

The piece had a give-and-take feel as the solos were passed along. Cellist James Merrick '11 and violist Grace Eire '12 produced rich sounds that reflected the Romantic characteristic that is so often found in Beethoven's works.

Another Beethoven piece, the String Quartet No. 9 in C Major, reflected similar rich tones. Another ensemble from the college opened the piece with dramatic loud notes that dropped to softer, quiet ones. The strength of all four players carried through every note until the very end.

The Spectrum Quartet then played String Quartet No. 2 in A minor by Shostakovich, a composer notorious for his difficult pieces.

From the start, the quartet's performance changed the tone of the overall concert. The piece had a more modern sound that contrasted greatly from the Classical Mozart and Romantic Beethoven that preceded it.

There was a dissonance in the notes that kept the audience intrigued and wanting for resolution. Despite the frantic rushes of notes and clashing minor scales between the instruments, the group impressively stayed united throughout the difficult piece.

The last ensemble composed of the college's own students, played Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor. All four players performed with an air of elegance as they gracefully moved their bows across the strings. The piece had a beautiful complexity that was marked by dramatic rises and falls.

Finally, after a 10-minute intermission, all participants and the members of the Ying Quartet crowded the stage and played Beethoven's famous String Quartet No. 9 in C Major.

The violas quickly raced through multiple complicated notes and were followed by the other instruments.

Eventually, all the players filled the entire hall with a loud, grand sound.

College announces honorary commencement speakers

By Bradley Morris, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

The college has recently announced that Colin E. Greene, James M. McPherson and Anne Bogart will be the featured speakers at the 2011 commencement ceremonies. Additional commencement speakers will include Erica Bastress-Dukehart, professor of history, Libby Gronquist '11, senior class president, and President of the College Philip A. Glotzbach.

Colin E. Greene is a member of the Board of Education International, a leader for equitable access to quality education in developing countries and principal of the largest secondary school in Antigua.

James M. McPherson is the George Henry Davis '86 professor of American History Emeritus at Princeton University, and a Pulitzer Prize winning author.

Anne Bogart is an American theater director and co-founder and artistic director of the SITI Company with an emphasis on international cultural exchange and collaboration.

Each year, the Skidmore Board of Trustees chooses the honorary speakers. The board awards honorary degrees to those who have demonstrated "exemplary artistic, intellectual, scientific or humanitarian achievement or who have made outstanding contributions to Skidmore College," Gronquist said.

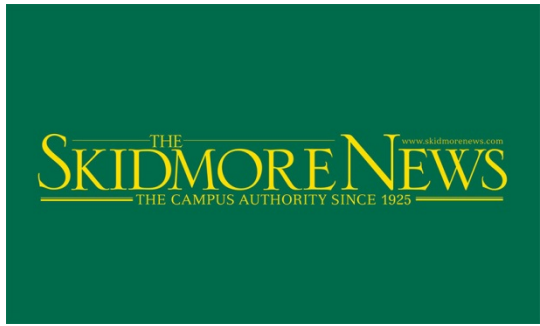
President Glotzbach also invites members of the Skidmore community to suggest possible honorary degree candidates for the following year's commencement.

From these nominations, the Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the president and the Trusteeship Committee, votes to confer these degrees, Gronquist said.

Prior to consideration by the Board, the Committee on Appointments, Promotions and Tenure reviews nominations.

The selection process for the professor speaker at commencement takes less time and uses a different process. Unlike the final selection for the honorary speakers, which the students do not get to vote on, the professor speaking is chosen by the seniors.

The professor is chosen via [write-in] nominations and survey of the senior class after the nominations are counted, Gronquist said.



Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 10:40 a.m.

Wittes lectures on security policies

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

At 6:30 p.m. March 28 in Davis Auditorium, Brookings Institute senior fellow Benjamin Wittes presented a lecture titled "Detention, Rendition, Drones and Commissions: Continuity and Change in National Security Policy Between the Obama and Bush Administrations." About 80 people attended the event, which many described as "unexpectedly witty."

Wittes' academic focuses include the Supreme Court, judicial nominations and confirmations, and the legalities of the War on Terror. Wittes has published several works about legal issues in the War on Terror. Wittes is also the co-author of the popular legal blog "Lawfare."

The lecture began with an introduction by Professor Scott Mulligan, who teaches the government department course "Terrorism in the Law." Wittes spoke to Professor Mulligan's class, as well as Professor Kate Graney's "International Human Rights" class prior to the lecture.

Wittes said there are four lenses through which the national security policies of the Obama and Bush administrations can be compared: substantive powers claimed, the articulated basis for those powers, how the power is functionally used and how the administrations publicly discuss the powers they claim.

Depending on the lens used to evaluate the administrations' policies they could appear very similar or very different, Wittes said. Through the lenses of the powers claimed and how they are used, the Obama and Bush administrations appear to have strikingly similar policies.

However, the administrations articulate the basis for their powers and publicly discuss them in very different ways, according to Wittes.

Wittes said that despite vague promises of change during Obama's campaign, the current president's national security policies are, for the most part, continuations of Bush policies framed with different rhetoric.

As an example, Wittes said that many people point to the dramatic decline in Guantanamo Bay detainees as a success of the Obama administration even though the decline began during Bush's presidency.

“We really overstate the personalization of these tactics to individual presidents. The policies change with the conflict. The presidents are just along for the ride,” Wittes said.

Wittes asked the audience for questions after about 30 minutes of lecturing. During the question and answer period, one audience member asked how citizens can be sure that the Obama administration is not using more covert aggressive tactics in the Middle East.

“We know because sometimes things blow up,” Wittes said.

Audience members said they were unsure of how to feel about Wittes’ somewhat humorous discussion of serious policy issues. “His intelligence combined with his witty delivery of issues of drone warfare and coercive interrogation techniques kind of gave the lecture an interesting vibe, and I came out of it feeling a little odd,” Julia Grigel ‘11 said.

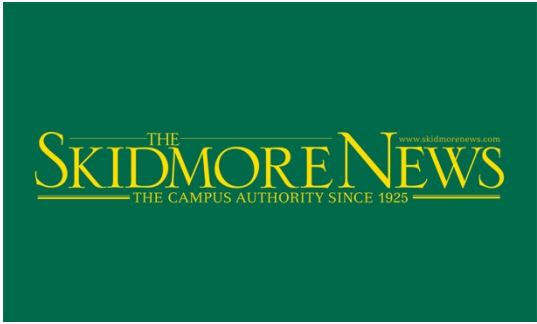
Despite some audience members’ reservation about the lecture, others felt it was necessary that national security issues be discussed on campus.

“It’s really important that someone of Benjamin Wittes’ prominence is on campus, discussing issues that matter to current political discussions,” Ethan Flum ‘13 said.

#1.2137987:806669560.JPG Benjamin Wittes

Benjamin Wittes

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Senate working group addresses political expression

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

On March 28 the SGA Senate met with Barbara Krause, the executive director of the president's office to discuss political expression on campus. Though no conclusions were reached at the meeting, the working group will continue to rework the policies to attempt to increase political activism on campus.

Krause and Jenny Snow '11, vice president for communication and outreach, sit on a working group designed to examine Skidmore's policies on political expression on campus. The group was formed last fall after the college declined a visit from former President Bill Clinton, who was publicly endorsing Scott Murphy at the time. Currently, politicians cannot come to campus if they are soliciting endorsements or funding, thus Clinton was unable to attend.

"We're a nonprofit organization, so we can't have partisan political activities on campus. So we have obligations and we can't put our non-profit status at risk," Krause said.

"Students have been the quietest voices on this issue so far, but they were loudest on the Bill Clinton problem. My question is whether it's our obligation to actively pursue a non-partisan view without violating our status?" Snow said.

One of the committee's suggestions to help bring more political figures to campus was to allow student clubs to invite partisan figures to campus. There would be no Skidmore endorsement or banners, and the club would need to pay a fee for the facilities. However, this would be a way to allow more politicians to visit.

"The college itself has to be non-partisan," Krause said, "But if student groups who bring a speaker had a distancing technique, that might be enough."

While some senators said they were in favor of keeping all political figures off campus to keep our non-profit status, others said it is important to change some of the college policies.

"It's important to make people on this campus more aware. It's important for students to realize that your vote does count. I'd love more opportunities to learn more about politics," Senator Becky Anthony '14 said.

Another senator agreed, saying, "We missed out on something when Clinton didn't come. So something needs to change."

Vice President for Financial Affairs Jono Zeidan '12 said the conditions of the speaker should affect who appears on campus.

"At the heart of this [policy] is how these political speakers will affect our votes," Zeidan said. "But that's not always the case. The conditions on which the speaker is coming should affect these policies."

"We care about academic freedom and political discourse, students having free thought. We just need to decide what kind of speakers support this, and what we can do about these policies to make change on this campus," Krause said.

Conversation with Eggers fills Zankel

By Noam Dagan, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

On March 28 writer, editor and publisher Dave Eggers spoke in front of an audience of 600 at the Arthur Zankel Music Center.

Rather than a conventional lecture, Eggers sat down with childhood friend and Assistant Professor of the Government department Flagg Taylor to talk about their childhood together and Eggers' career.

He showed a photo slideshow of himself and Taylor during their childhood and high school days in Lake Forest, Illinois. The audience responded with laughter as Eggers said Taylor was "the smallest kid in cub scouts - they had to special make his uniform."

The conversation then turned to Eggers' discussion of the process behind writing several of his books.

Eggers' body of work is vast, touching on many different genres and mediums. Some of his best-known works include his memoir "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," "What is the What," "You Shall Know Our Velocity," and his collaboration on the screenplay for "Where The Wild Things are."

He began by discussing the title of his best selling memoir "A Heartbreaking Work Of Staggering Genius."

"It's a tough thing to live with," Eggers said in reference to the book's title. Eggers told the audience this title was meant to be a placeholder, but by the time he thought of a new title, it had already been printed.

Eggers said he never predicted the success of his first book and that the title was more of an inside joke than a serious artistic decision.

He then recounted how he came to write "What Is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng."

Eggers said the project began when he received a letter from Jane Fonda's adopted foster daughter, Mary Luana Williams, the biological daughter of members of The Black Panthers. Williams requested that Eggers write the biography of Valentino, a Sudanese refugee and member of the Lost Boys program.

Writing the book did not come easy to him, Eggers said, and with great remorse he gave up on the project after three years.

“Two hours after giving it up, it all came to me,” Eggers said.

The structure and architecture of the book that he struggled so hard to conceive of finally fell into place, he said.

Eggers also said he decided to incorporate fictional elements rather than keeping the book a biographical account, so he could recreate scenes that would otherwise be impossible to substantiate if it were strictly non-fiction.

Taylor then asked Eggers to explicate his journalistic process and how he gathered research for the book.

Rather than pressing Valentino and his family about the crux of their struggle right off the bat, Eggers said he slowly built a personal relationship with them to understand the grand scope of their life beforehand, “to describe and illuminate the full human being.”

In the spirit of being as respectful to Valentino as possible, Eggers said he had the family pre-approve the book before it was published so they could take ownership of their own story, and so “the process could be healing in the end, instead of further violating.”

Eggers said after evading near disaster with “What Is the What,” he promised himself he would never write about a real person and for a real constituency again for fear of letting them down.

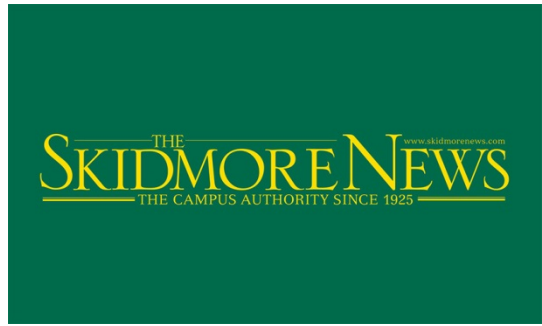
But after Hurricane Katrina slammed the coast of Louisiana, Eggers said he felt compelled to take up a non-fictional project of the catastrophe. “Zeitoun” is the story of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-American and New Orleans native who volunteered to stay behind in the flooded city and help rescue his neighbors.

During the subsequent question-and-answer period, an audience member asked Eggers if he was working on any new projects.

After the question-and-answer period, Eggers stayed in Zankel to sign books and answer students’ questions in person. “I give excellent insight and advice about relationships,” Eggers said.

#1.2137994:1319166062.JPG David Eggers

Eggers and Taylor discuss their childhood in Illinois.



Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Fight Club demonstrates in D-Hall

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

At approximately 6:45 p.m. March 29, a loud argument attracted attention on the blue side of Murray-Aikins dining hall during the dinner rush. The argument was later revealed to be a staged street theater demonstration by the colleges mediation group, Fight Club.

The demonstration began with two members - Chris Lord '12 and Leanne Dwyer '13 - posing as a couple and pretending to have an argument regarding Dwyer's weekend plans.

Dwyer said she wanted to visit a friend at another college, and Lord, acting as her boyfriend, said he would rather she stay on campus because they had not spent much time together recently.

"In mediation terms there is always a topic - which in this case was the weekend plans - and each person has a need. My need was for independence, while Chris' needs were recognition and to be desired in the relationship," Dwyer said.

A Dining Services manager attempting to make the couple leave briefly interrupted the demonstration, but other Fight Club members in The Dining Hall quietly made the manager aware that it was a demonstration.

As the argument escalated a third Fight Club Liaison, Natalie Petrillo-Alvarez '11, stepped between Dwyer and Lord and demonstrated the methods of mediation that Fight Club teaches during weekly meetings.

Petrillo-Alvarez asked the couple to speak calmly and identify exactly what each wanted from the other, rather than getting frustrated and yelling. However, group members and students in the dining hall reported not being able to clearly hear Petrillo-Alvarez's mediation because of background noise in the dining hall.

Even though not many people could hear Petrillo-Alvarez's mediation, Dwyer said she still felt the demonstration was successful.

"What Fight Club has been trying to do lately has been to make ourselves more visible on campus so students start recognizing us as a resource ... Once this is accomplished then we actually start to inform students about the real process of mediation," Dwyer said.

“Right now Fight Club and conflict resolution is kind of a new thing. We’re just trying to attract attention. We may try to do this again in a different place on campus and improve upon the logistics - hopefully not get interrupted,” Petrillo-Alvarez said.

According to club co-president Nick Hara ‘11 the event was partially inspired by Duke Fisher, a professional mediator who works with Residential Life and Leadership Activities. Fisher organized a mock draft in the dining hall on Jan. 31 as part of the Theater of War in a House of Peace performance series.

A couple of us participated in the Theater of War demonstration and we saw that sort of street theater as a good way to get the message out. The dining hall is a good way to get the message out to underclassmen who can become involved and further the future of the group.

Fight Club will be hosting a "Fight Week" from April 18-22. The week will feature several events hosted by the club to promote conflict resolution, but an exact itinerary has not yet been announced yet.

Fight Club meets on Mondays at 9 p.m. in the Saratoga Room.

#1.2137991:4102536540.JPG Fight Club

From left: Natalie Petrillo-Alvarez ‘11, Leanne Dwyer ‘13, and Chris Lord ‘12, staged an argument in the Murray-Aikins dining hall.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Beautiful daze: modern American photography

By Jason Dowd, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

America's obsession with beauty has grown out of control. It's fueled mostly by ads and pictures in magazines. It seems that every magazine is packed full of fashion photos and beauty product reviews and tips, and, to make matters worse, they are also full of deception.

These magazines not only target adult women, but also impressionable teens and pre-teens, showing them exactly what "true beauty" should look like. The women who look at these magazines then compare themselves to the models and feel anything but adequate in comparison.

The photographs define what beauty is and, therefore, the women who feel they don't match up will do whatever it takes to be as beautiful as the women in the magazines. This is a tactic beauty product companies have used in order to make a multi-billion dollar industry based on the insecurities of women.

Unfortunately, in most cases the photos are completely altered. The model's skin is often digitally airbrushed, her weight is altered and the hips and bust are also enhanced. The problem then is that women are shooting for an unrealistic standard of beauty that can only be obtained through digital manipulation. To the untrained eye the photos look realistic. Women are led to believe that the products these models endorse really do work. What they fail to realize is that these photos are completely fake.

The question is - does it really matter? Is this really hurting anyone? Unfortunately, yes, it is.

The goal is to sell these beauty products in order to make money. As a photographer, I see both sides of the equation. I don't feel there is anything wrong with making money, but I do feel it should be done honestly.

I can see the rationale of the beauty product companies for doing what they do. If they placed people on their ads with major flaws, no one would buy their products. I feel that a little touching up on a photo is fine. If you want to reduce some wrinkles, remove acne or lighten up the shadows underneath the eyes, then go right ahead. However, doctoring the photos to the extreme that they do is just wrong.

Digitally altering photos to the extent they have has led women to compare themselves to the unrealistic. They think that if they are not a size 0 or 1, then they must be fat. And because these older

models seen in magazines have absolutely no wrinkles, then female readers feel unattractive with just a few frown lines or crow's feet.

This can make women severely insecure. To make themselves feel better and more beautiful they will go out and buy these beauty products hoping they can achieve the same "results" as seen in magazine ads. And when they don't they are put at risk for more serious problems.

Some women will turn to plastic surgery. There is nothing wrong with plastic surgery, except that it won't last. Breast implants, for one, will need to be checked regularly, and in most cases, replaced after so many years. This is expensive, but once the surgery is completed, these women will have no choice but to spend money maintaining the operation.

In other cases, both women and men will go under the knife to surgically alter their nose or other facial features. Again, there is nothing wrong with this, except every time you go under the knife, you are risking your life. There's also the possibility that the surgery will be unsuccessful and result in a permanent deformity. The sad thing in cases such as these is that the people were fine prior to the surgery, but not afterwards.

If not these things, then weight becomes the issue. In summertime I see ads in magazines and on television talking about the dreaded "bikini season." So, women will often diet in order to look their best in their swimsuits. Hoping to lose weight quickly, some women will turn to fasting, crash diets, dangerous dietary supplements and energy drinks in order to boost their metabolism. All of these methods of weight loss can be extremely dangerous, especially if you are not under a doctor's supervision.

Some women will virtually kill themselves to fit into that size 1 dress because they see so many skinny models on television and in magazines. To these women, thin equals beautiful. In our modern society, there is great pressure to be a certain weight. Interestingly, according to most height to weight charts, 110 pounds for a female who is 5'4" or taller is very underweight.

As these people fight for their optimal weight, they may develop severe eating disorders and other health-related issues. Some will take more drastic measures such as stomach stapling and lap bands, which are medically done, but can be extremely dangerous.

I've been a photographer now since the mid-1980s. I've had clients require me to alter photos to enhance their appearance. In turn, I have successfully shaved 20 pounds off my subjects. I have removed scars, baldness, wrinkles, pale skin, acne, eye bags and other flaws. I have taken away "the muffin top" and created a more toned stomach. If you've never seen these people in person or seen their photos

prior to being altered, you'd swear that that's how they look in real life. That's why most people can walk by a supermodel or celebrity and not even recognize them.

What we also tend to forget is that each of us are made from different genetics. With our unique set of genes, each one of us tends to age differently, wear our weight and bulk differently and have different complexions. So no matter what we do to ourselves surgically or cosmetically, a person may never be able to achieve the look they want to because their genes won't allow it. Photoshop, on the other hand, has no idea what a gene structure is.

Apart from the health risks involved with altered photos, we also face an ethical problem. A few years ago I heard a story about a plastic surgeon who gave breast implants to a girl who was less than 16-years-old. The teen simply wanted to enhance her figure. Her parents allowed it, but they too were obsessed with their bodies and had no qualms with plastic surgery.

This young girl said it was her body, and that she could do whatever she wanted with it. She's right, except she forgot a major piece of the equation that both her parents and doctor should have recognized. She was still developing!

The young girl went to a few plastic surgeons and all of them turned her down. Determined to find a doctor, the teenager and her parents kept searching until they found one who had no morals and just cared about the almighty dollar.

As previously stated, this girl was still going through puberty. Some young women do not finish developing until they are in college. So what if that was the case for this girl? What if she grew three cup sizes in addition to the implants and then developed physical and emotional issues down the road? Sadly, as long as there is a desire to be beautiful and the money to pay for it, there will be a doctor who will throw morality out the window to get paid.

In conclusion, I have this to say. We all have a flaw or two; we're human, after all. We need to use these flaws to bring out our strong points. We need to be proud of them and use them to our advantage. Our flaws are what make us unique. They make us stand out in a crowd.

Moving to the Skidmore suburbs

Challenging Privilege

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011

This is a personal narrative that I gave the social class Intersections Panel, which was held a few weeks ago in Davis auditorium. For those who ask for "evidence" to support the claims I make in my articles, forums such as these have given me the opportunity to provide it. SGA sponsored discussions are other outlets through which students can express their discomfort regarding negative experiences pertaining to their race, sexual orientation and class. I hope my story can be a stepping stone for others toward gaining a new perspective.

I grew up in Cambridge, MA, a place that has had a big impact on my perception of class-related issues. It is one of the few places I have been where the haves and the have-nots live in close proximity, but I never really talked about class as a child. If I could not have the video game or toy that my friend had, it was just because my father didn't let me. I did not question why - I may have whined - but I didn't think of it in regards to class. I was just left empty-handed and envious of my friends.

This silence surrounding class-related issues in my family made them embarrassing. Although my father's job paid decently, my mother's behavior eventually placed my family in a tough situation. She has never held a steady job for very long, and she has obsessive-compulsive behaviors, such as constant hand washing, as well as delusional ideas, thoughts and dreams. For example: during my early adolescence, she was rarely around the house, and spent most of her time with people whom I didn't know. How she met them is beyond me. One day, I woke up to a pissed off father. He screamed that my mother had blown our small savings and, accumulated a credit card debt of \$250,000 dollars.

I can only guess that my mother's actions were caused by her suppression of traumatic experiences from her past. But as complex as her situation might be, my dad had married her, and we had to deal with the aftermath. The idea of moving out of our small old apartment became a distant dream. When a window broke, it stayed broken. When our toilet clogged, my dad would suggest that we wash it out with a bucket of water. We had mice every winter and yellow jackets every summer. Needless to say, my home's deteriorating condition caused stress.

We didn't know if we could put up with it anymore, but moving out was not an option. Our stress led to arguments, which often led to blame. My father blamed my mother for our situation, and sometimes he would blame himself for marrying her. But nobody blamed the cannibalistic credit card companies that

had taken advantage of my mother. And we never sought the reasons for my mother's worsening mental state. We pushed these large issues to the side because they were just too much to handle at the time, and still are today. We had to focus on surviving from one day to the next.

I am going to fast-forward now to my experience at Skidmore. When I arrived, I had no idea what to expect: I did not visit beforehand, and I did not even know where it was located on a map. Four semesters later, I realized that, as in Cambridge, many people here have that same strong individualistic mentality around which I grew up. But the environment is one that I was not used to. For one thing, Skidmore feels just like a suburb, which is very different from my childhood home. I also hadn't interacted with wealthy people before coming to Skidmore, at least not knowingly, and here, it's unavoidable. But this isn't to say that anybody came up to me and said, "Hey, look at me, I am wealthy and rich." No, class distinctions were hidden from me once again, as they were at home.

I came to my conclusions about the identity of the typical Skidmore student from assumptions that were made about me. It has been assumed that I am "upper middle class." I have been criticized for not having a well decorated room and for the clothes that I wear. "You can't be that poor," some say to me. At times my friends at dinner will talk about all the opportunities they have had, such as jobs during high school and research they've conducted. Sometimes, the conversations get nasty. It will seem as though they think that those of us who haven't had such opportunities are just "lazy bums," or "incapable." Many of my closest friends couldn't make it to college - I guess they were bums.

And then there are the conversations about traveling overseas and around the country, or going on ski adventures at a winter resort, to which my friends assume I can relate. And then there's the criticism of the dining hall food, which also relates to class. I would have loved such a selection as a kid; all I ever ate for dinner was either ramen noodles or Chef Boyardee. In cases such as these, I just sit there quiet and bored.

But it's not only students who make these assumptions; it is the institution as well. My favorite example is the study abroad office. Call me crazy, but why should I use it just because it is there? The farthest I've ever traveled is three-four hours north of Cambridge. I think that the study abroad program is unreasonably unaffordable. And besides that, having that opportunity available to me is new, scary and uncomfortable.

These assumptions have made it difficult for me to share the experiences that make me who I am with most people at this school. I had a tough time adjusting here as a result, as the feeling I get from these assumptions is that I am different and that I don't belong.

So you are probably wondering why and how I am here. It is funny because I believe that my class experience led me to grow up without high expectations of a college education. This is where my different identities come into play. My class experience limited my access to SAT prep classes and even the desire to participate in extra curricular and AP courses. But my part white identity, as well as being a male, both led others to have high expectations of me. As a result, I was motivated to succeed in school.

Looking back, I now realize that no one has told me that I could not do well in school. In fact, most of my teachers have told me the opposite. I remember being scolded by my seventh grade social studies teacher for throwing a paper ball. She asked me what I was doing, and told me that I was "not like those knuckleheads" in our class whom she expected to behave as I had. Unfortunately, most of those knuckleheads were black.

Lastly, I am here at Skidmore because my class struggles did not worsen. A certain point of my life was difficult, but its hardships could be overcome. I don't consider myself mobile, because I don't believe in mobility among social classes at this point in time. I consider myself lucky and privileged, because I know my peers back home went through similar and even worse experiences than me and ended up in dead end jobs, in prison, or dead. And I know that their struggles, as well as those of the 100 million struggling individuals in this country, are silenced as mine were while they chase the lie - I mean dream. Harriet Tubman once said, "I freed a thousand slaves, I could have freed more, if only they knew they were slaves." Let's get free.

Sunny days and flower cupcakes

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Is it summer yet?

I know it is still cold and rainy outside, but all I can think about is summer. And when I think about summer, I think about these cupcakes.

This article is going to be a little unorthodox, o.k.? I am not going to give you a detailed recipe or exact instructions.

Instead, I am going to tell you that serving a plate of adorable edible sunflowers will result in the following: smiles, giggles, grins and, eventually, bellyaches after your friends eat three cupcakes loaded with Oreos, frosting and M&Ms.

But these cupcakes are really what baking is all about for me. They are just plain happy.

I do not know about you, but I am feeling the stress of senior year. My brain is whirring with papers, group projects and final exams, not to mention the whole part about finding a job and place to live in six short weeks.

Honestly, I have not even really had time to bake any treats as stress-relief. All I can do is pull up these pictures of sunny little cupcakes and try to visualize myself eating them on a beach in a bikini.

O.K., maybe eating cupcakes in a bikini is a little ironic, but you know what I mean.

I wish I could tell you that simply looking at this photo would make the stress of the final days of Spring 2011 dissipate into a sugary bliss, but it cannot and will not.

It can provide some temporary relief, though (see above: smiles, giggles and grins). You can even make these yourself right in your Scribner kitchen!

Yep, that is right. Look below: I am instructing you to use a cake mix, canned frosting and highly processed cookies and candies. Just go with it.

They are from a fabulous book called "Hello, Cupcake!" by Karen Tack and Alan Richardson, which is full of fun, little cupcake creations that you can make with very few tools.

We can do it, guys!

THINK SUMMER!

THINK SUNFLOWERS!

THINK LADYBUGS!

THINK CUPCAKES!

Sun Flower Cupcakes

Ingredients:

M&Ms

Black decorating gel

Directions:

Step 1. Whip up your favorite yellow cake box mix. One box should make 24 cupcakes.

Step 2. Combine some white frosting (Betty Crocker?) with a few drops of green food coloring and mix well. Spread on cooled cupcakes.

Step 3. Do the same with some yellow/orange food coloring. Scoop it into a Ziploc bag, press out the excess air and seal. Reinforce the corner of the bag with six overlapping layers of Scotch tape. Pinch the corner flat and cut out a small V-shape to make the leaf tip.

Step 4. Artfully arrange regular Oreos and mini Oreos on your frosted cupcakes. Use the Ziploc bag to pipe petals around each Oreo.

Step 5. Press M&Ms onto flowers and decorate like ladybugs with black decorating gel.

Step 6. Eat in the sun while wearing a bikini.

#1.2150634:4218564743.jpg Sun Flower Cupcakes

Sun Flower Cupcakes

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News



A question of Skidmore identity

By The Faculty of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Guest Columnists
On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

It is clear to us that what has come to be known as "the Compton's incident" has become a catalyst for change on the Skidmore campus. It has drawn the best and the worst out of our community, and its effects persist despite untold conversations, classroom discussions, teach-ins, and items published in The Skidmore News.

As a result, our individual characters and our collective character as an institution are being tested both by voices pleading for understanding and insight and by those who embrace ignorance and reject dialogue.

The question we confront is, who are we? Are we, individually and collectively, open-minded and capable of addressing questions that make us uncomfortable? Or do we shutter our minds, our classrooms, and our institution from the challenging questions concerning race, class, gender, and other points of difference among us that have been raised on campus, in Saratoga Springs, and on these pages? It is worth keeping in mind that these points of difference are socially created and have profound implications for us all.

Among those speaking publicly for unity, understanding, and in opposition to racism, classism, and the like, Danny Pforte, Teshika Hatch, Sulin Ngo, and Professor Kristie Ford stand out. Yet, in the on-line version of The Skidmore News Danny, Teshika, and Prof. Ford have been vilified and even threatened with bodily harm. Consider these quotes that were posted in response to Danny's columns over the last month:

And Teshika, listing traits that make one privileged? What textbook was that list from? ... Jesus, Kristie Ford is doing everything she can to incite race riots on campus. I fall into 4 of those categories, but guess what - I WORK HARD EVERY FUCKING DAY AND I'M PROUD OF MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. You know nothing about me personally, or most of the people that you're generalizing.

That guilty onlooker bullshit was relevant for the Holocaust, but for you to call everyone at Skidmore a racist who isn't fighting your made-up systematic oppression is such complete bullshit. I respect every race, but I don't respect you or your opinions anymore. There are ways to strive for equality without CONSTANTLY accosting the white students like Pforte does weekly. It's offensive and it makes him a

hypocrite ... We really need to get rid of the fucking sociology department. They're churning out these god-awful chronic martyrs at record rates.

Danny, ... [i]f you stop writing these articles now, that'll be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you, and I will 'dialogue' you.

We echo Acting President Kress's condemnation of these postings. The content of the courses that have inspired Danny, Teshika, and Sulin and that are offered by Prof. Ford and others in our department is founded in the best scientific research that can be brought to bear on social inequality, power, and privilege.

What these scholars, every professor in our department, and many others across the Skidmore campus are trying to do is to hold up a mirror to individuals and to our community. No one is trying to convert anyone to any point of view. Rather, we want to encourage students and our colleagues to examine the facts and to learn from and about one another. The point is to grasp and appreciate difference and the exciting, often difficult-to-acknowledge possibilities inherent in exploring the discomfort that many feel when confronted by difference and its societal implications.

So, what can you do? First, when you hear or read homophobic, racist, classist, or misogynistic language, challenge the assumptions behind those remarks - even if they come from friends. Second, promote earnest, curious explorations of those points of division. It's okay to question anything and everything on this campus, so ask for the data and ask others outside of your circle of friends about their experiences.

And most of all, do not shy away from hard questions about you: why do you believe as you do? Do you embrace stereotypes? What assumptions do you make about others - and others about you? How well founded in reality are those assumptions?

Here at Skidmore, we are fortunate to have numerous opportunities in the classroom, in The Skidmore News, and elsewhere on campus to ask these questions and others like them. Take advantage of those courses, and join clubs and casual groups that will help you to ask and answer those challenging questions. And demand that your peers, professors, and administrators promote opportunities for the sort of free interchange of ideas, suppositions, and facts that can result in this campus addressing difference in productive ways.

There may be no better vehicle on campus than The Skidmore News for the free interchange of outlooks and experiences regarding what divides us. In a small community like ours, the student newspaper has a profound responsibility to ensure the safety of those who publish on its pages - web pages included.

As such, we invite all Skidmore News readers to join with us in demanding an end to the on-line paper's anonymous posting policy. That policy allowed and encouraged the quotes above to see the light of day, and it is out of place for three reasons.

First, it allows for threatening, libelous posts but does nothing to protect those who write openly. How would you feel if someone wrote profane comments on-line that implied s/he would do you bodily harm and signed them "Anonymous"? Could you ever feel safe on campus?

Second, one of the standards of scholarship is acknowledged authorship, and we see no reason why the same standard should not hold for a campus's student newspaper. We must know who writes what so that we can engage one another in meaningful dialogue. Anonymity promotes bullying and even terrorism, not the sort of respectful disagreement and earnest engagement in issues that institutions of higher learning stand for.

Third, the discourse on our campus should be elevated and well-considered. Anonymity promotes thoughtlessness and does nothing to compel the sort of difficult self-questioning that we advocate.

The Skidmore News editors' new policy promising to censor objectionable comments does little to address these concerns. On-line posts are already monitored, yet threatening comments have slipped through. Indeed, our concerns about the comment quoted above addressed to Danny were dismissed by The Skidmore News editors, who insisted those lines were merely a paraphrasing from a movie, as if the threat to do bodily harm somehow no longer existed. Nor will the new policy do anything to promote engagement and elevated discourse.

Many of us are doing all that we can to ensure that Skidmore stands up to its ideals. Together, we can do more. Will you call out those who privately embrace intolerance? Will you call for more to be done to promote understanding in your dorms, your classrooms, all over this campus, and in Saratoga Springs? Will you demand honest interchange and the exchange of ideas person-to-person with nothing hidden: not names, not faces, and not even opinions? Will you try to understand difference - and in the process try to better understand yourself?

This piece was submitted by the Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work faculty. By request, this piece has not been edited by The Skidmore News editorial board.

Editorial

We stand by our commenting policy

By the Editorial Board

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Prior to the publication of this past week's issue, members of the faculty and administration approached The Skidmore News with concerns regarding online comments on our website.

A specific complaint sent to editors in an e-mail was that the comments, which are predominantly anonymous, are "vicious" and "vitriolic."

While the editorial board of The Skidmore News agrees that many of these anonymous comments are neither civil nor constructive, we have definitively concluded that we will not change our website's policy regarding anonymous commenting.

This nation was founded on the principle of freedom of expression, and as an institution of the free press we are fundamentally obliged to uphold that principle.

Readers' commentary, whether anonymous or signed, is an important component of journalism, and as long as these comments do not evolve into hate speech, bigotry, threats or libel, they must be protected. The comment board is a venue for our readership to hold writers responsible for their articles.

Furthermore, by censoring readers' criticism, we delegitimize our position as the "campus authority". Readers' responses to articles and other comments on the website often hold as much importance as the articles themselves.

These hateful comments have sparked concern because they are written in response to issues that have been a source of contention on campus.

Requesting that The Skidmore News take down such comments ignores the larger issue, which is that there are people within our community who clearly hold these offensive and hateful opinions. We recognize that reading these comments is disconcerting and unnerving, but we cannot confront the issue by denying people a forum to express their opinions. It is better that these commenters express their opinions anonymously than not at all.

Beyond this, the Internet is inherently anonymous. Even a required registered username may still only be a pseudonym, and we cannot limit commenting to only Skidmore students. Our readership extends outside of the campus, and those readers deserve to be part of the discourse.

Ultimately, requiring users to sign names on their comments does not guarantee the authenticity of that name, and shutting out the Saratoga Springs community isolates Skidmore further than its wooded plot of land in the north of town.

The Skidmore News does not accept all readers' comments. We protect, and will continue to protect our writers. In instances of hate speech, or threats to our writers, we will continue to remove and report such comments. Similarly, if a comment does not pertain to the discussion at hand, we will exercise our right to remove it from the board, otherwise, it is not in our interest to censor these comments.

We recognize the legitimacy of the administration's concerns, and we feel obliged to respond to Acting President Susan Kress's March 31 e-mail to the Skidmore community.

In her e-mail Kress wrote, "Much of what is currently being transmitted in the online postings of The Skidmore News is neither respectful nor open. In some cases, the commentary has shifted from reasoned and passionate argument to personal attacks that have been received as indirect or direct threats."

The Skidmore News would like to clarify that the opinions expressed by online commenters are in no way related to those of the editorial board. We feel her e-mail unfairly links these comments to us.

We will not remove the right to comment anonymously, and we will continue to encourage signed comments that are both constructive and respectful to all parties involved.

As journalists in a dynamic industry, we are always revising our policies. We have extensively researched this specific policy in other publications and we feel we are making a well-informed decision by upholding it.

Rule No. 1: Always read the book before you watch the movie

Stranger than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

About eight months ago I saw a movie called "The Trial", which was made in the '60s and starred Anthony Perkins and Orson Welles. The acting was good and it had some good scenes. However, the entire thing was confusing, hard to watch and a little boring.

When I read Franz Kafka's novel, *The Trial*, I realized how great it was. The film might be ruined for my for perpetuity, but the book - and Kafka in general - is a favorite.

Set in a dystopia Europe, the novel concerns Joseph K., an average, young man trying to please others as he rises in ranks as the manager of a city bank and is arrested and prosecuted for a crime that is never explained. Simply, officers come one morning, put him under arrest and tell him to go to the courts at a certain time.

The rest of the book follows K. as he falls for a cute neighbor, Fraulein Burstner, recruits a powerful lawyer by way of his uncle, has a morbid talk with a struggling artist who gives him a full explanation of the ways of the court (according to him, is nearly impossible for a man to be fully acquitted of the "crime") and is eventually executed in the final passages. The finality of K. should not come as a surprise to on who has any knowledge of Kafka's work - the brilliance of the story comes not from the shock or the movement of the plot but of the mood and pathos of the story.

I have already mentioned the dystopia in which K. is living; it is a world that influenced the next eighty years of science fiction. The frightening point about this world is the detachment and austerity of the law officials who put K. under arrest. Given that no actual crime has ever taken place, K. is the victim of a court-ordered destruction. Although the story is only of one man, there seems to be a systematic holocaust taking place.

The final two chapters are the best in the book. First, there is a brilliant interlude in action in which K. enters an abandoned cathedral. He believes he is there to lead an Italian client of the bank around the city. Instead, he has a long conversation with a priest. The priest knows everything about him, but K. knows nothing of him; shadows shade most of the man's face, so he is nearly hidden.

The conversation between the two concerns a parable titled, "Before the Law," that can quickly be described as a story in which a man stands outside a doorway and attempts to bribe the doorkeeper to

let him inside. Years past and the man is still sitting there. Finally he is on his deathbed, and he sadly asks the keeper why he is not kept out. The doorkeeper tells him that he cannot let him in because the door is only for him, and then he shuts the door.

K. does not understand the story, and there are many pages of analysis and conversation between him and the priest. The conversations are a little boring if one reads quickly, but they explain a good deal about confusion and discordance if read patiently.

The final scene of the book - the execution of Joseph K - is fantastically written even though Kafka originally left the book unfinished. K. is led to his death by two men and he is killed. His final words are "like a dog," a fitting conclusion to a novel about a human treated like a caged animal.

Hunter Prichard is an English major from Maine, or "Vacationland."

The Local serves up classic pub fare

One stop for local beer, Irish food, international teas and sustainable ambiance

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Although not a local best-kept-secret, The Local Pub and Teahouse falls under the Skidmore student radar. Located at 142 Grand Avenue, The Local is hidden in the Beekman Street Art District - not quite in the middle of nowhere, but a walk from the nearest 473 bus stop.

The Local Pub and Teahouse maintains a casual sports-bar atmosphere with a sophisticated twist. It is a small space with a cozy ambiance about it. Thick, wooden furniture, a roaring fireplace and a deep red motif create a richness in the restaurant.

To start, we ordered a small pot of a sweetly understated honey chai tea. We sipped and caught glimpses of a baseball game, but the televisions were in no way a disruption. The restaurant was filled with sports fanatics and tea enthusiasts alike.

The menu weaves traditional English and Irish cuisine with various American classics. Some daintier items include tea sandwiches (sans crusts, of course) and a selection of organic teas. At the other end of the spectrum, The Local offers hearty dishes like Shepherd's Pie and Steak 'n' Chips. For the conventional folk there is the Ploughman's Lunch, consisting of warm bread, a chunk of cheese, tomato wedges and stone-ground mustard. For the timid, Caesar salad and nachos are available.

I went with the veggie burger - lame, I know. But I was intrigued. The Local makes it with grilled eggplant, roasted red peppers and mozzarella. The roll was fresh and the sandwich good overall, although a bit bland without the balsamic served on the side. Also, my teeth were not quite sharp enough to sever the tough eggplant skin.

My meal set me back a mere \$10, including tip. Everything is modestly priced with the most expensive item being \$11. The food and atmosphere quality is exceptional for these prices.

The Local also displays a glass case filled with beautiful, drool-inducing desserts. There were three options when I visited: two cheesecakes and a red velvet cake. However, I dodged dessert, despite its allure.

Whether stopping in to play darts or practice your tea manners, the Local is sure to hit the spot.

Erin Dillon is first-year student with an exceptionally advanced palate.

#1.2150630:4290724467.JPG The Local

The Local's eggplant, roasted red pepper and mozzarella veggie burger.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Discuss these issues face-to-face

Challenging Privilege

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

People say that "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." But words are weapons, and they can hurt more than sticks and stones, depending on how they are used. Many students have used harsh language to disagree with my opinions and have done so anonymously.

I want to use this article to further push my beliefs until naysayers decide to use the resources available to discuss these issues in person, rather than disagreeing anonymously - or even worse - threatening me for my beliefs.

First, whether we'd like to admit it or not, inequality is a reality. The practices of neoliberalism (i.e. the privatization of everything and a prioritization of individual over collective good) has nearly eliminated social mobility and turned our nation into one of privilege. The underclass and working class in this country are struggling to survive while growing in number. Wealth and power remain in the hands of a small minority. This is a grim reality that will only worsen because of the ideologies that blind us to differences in race, class and gender that are socially constructed to divide us.

No matter if it is race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, age or a combination of these, aspects of identity, inequality and hierarchy exist within and between these groups. Access to power in this country is reserved for privileged groups, and that is true across the board. Often, experiences with oppression differ when various identities intersect.

White, able-bodied, upper class males are the creators of our current system. Their policies, institutions and ideologies are purposely created to subordinate certain groups of people. If one studies the political and social climate of our country, one would realize that there is a war against the working class, women and people of color, as well as other subordinate identities in this country. Being a combination of these socially constructed categories leads to disaster, because our country's institutions have systematically restricted resources needed by individuals within these categories to gain voices and to gain power.

I will reiterate that the Skidmore community is no different. The majority of the Skidmore population is white and upper class. Most are able-bodied, in that physical or mental disabilities are not an issue. And yes, the campus is also overwhelmingly heterosexual. The institution and many students do not understand groups who do not fit into the Skidmore norm. This lack of understanding rarely comes in

the form of blatant acts of intolerance. Usually misunderstanding takes the form of avoidance and silence.

When my friend told me to check out the most recent comment on my article from two weeks ago, I did not expect to read this:

Danny...although this privilege is not genetic, I have a very particular set of skills; skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you. If you stop writing these articles now, that'll be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you, and I will 'dialogue' you.

I was taken back by this harsh defensiveness toward my views. This infuriated response to my writing is nothing new, but here it transformed from mere comments to a threat. It has given me reason to fear for my safety in a community I call my own. I have grown uncomfortable walking by myself at night on this dark campus.

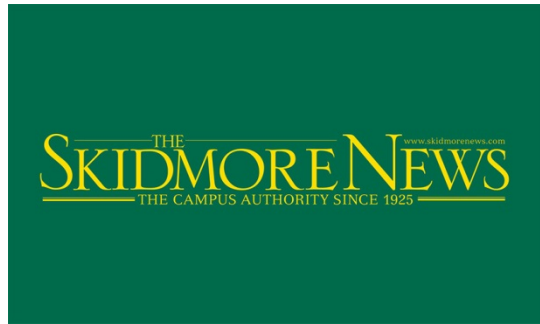
And why must I feel this way? The main reason is because I challenge the society we live in as unjust, and place accountability on those who are the privileged creators of the systems within it. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Robert F. Kennedy, among others, found out the hard way what happens when an individual challenges the status quo of our great nation. If you could ask them, they would probably agree, to put it simply, that you end up shot, thrown in jail or both.

I am uncomfortable on this campus, and I know others who have not only expressed their discomfort to me, but to the campus community as well. When I say that equality is a myth in this country and a myth on this campus, I mean it. I do not have to prove this like a detective because in fact, the detective work has been done already whether you want observational proof or proof in numbers.

This reality is enough for me to say that I will not stop writing these articles and pursuing work that leads to a change in society for the greater good. You can threaten me anonymously or otherwise, or even take the final step of following through with your threat. Or, you could join me. If you want my opinion, I like the second choice better.

My feelings toward this campus and this nation can be summed up by Canadian hip-hop artist Shad in a lyric from his song called "Call Waiting": "World full of pain got us waiting on a miracle, waiting on the world to change, when we should wait on the world like a waiter, serve the world man this world is strange, bizarro, lovers of tomorrow to break under the weight of the wonder and the sorrow." Well said.

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



Civic engagement grant not allocated

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

A month after the college received a \$250,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to encourage civic engagement, the money has still not been allocated.

The college has previously said that the grant money will help support the Responsible Citizenship Task Force, a group that is working to develop ways to integrate service learning into the academic curriculum.

The grant will also help fund the training of students and faculty members to work in the new civic engagement programs.

Administrators were scheduled to meet on March 14 to discuss more specific allocation of the grant money to individual departments and programs, but the meeting was delayed, according to Assistant Dean of Student Affairs David Karp.

When the meeting finally took place later in the month, no concrete decisions were made about how the money would be divided among programs and departments.

“We did identify potential candidates for being the director of the project and faculty fellow positions,” Karp said.

The names of faculty members being considered for the director position are still confidential, but Karp said the administration is looking for someone who is tenured, a strong leader and committed to civic engagement.

“The fellows wouldn’t have to quite meet this standard, but [will have to] champion the project within their divisions,” Karp said.

A director will hopefully be chosen within the next two weeks, Karp said. Once a director is selected, the process of allocating funds will begin.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Jacksonville, Florida. Established by the American industrialist Arthur Vining Davis, the foundation provides grants to educational organizations, public television, health care and religious organizations.

Terrorism hearings spark debate

Politics for the Upstate Student

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Assessing the state's readiness to respond to security threats is always a good thing, unless you seek advice from people who themselves should be considered national security threats.

State Senator Greg Ball is holding a hearing in lower Manhattan today called "Reviewing our Preparedness: An Examination of New York's Public Protection Ten Years After September 11." Ball, a Hudson Valley Republican, has called for the hearing as chairman of the State Senate Committee on Homeland Security. The hearing is set to cover a range of topics, focusing on public safety and public protection in the case of a crisis situation, be it a terrorist attack or a natural disaster.

But, so far, the terrorism part has gotten most of the attention. Ball has expressed concern that the state has been lulled into complacency by the passage of time since Sept. 11. In March, he said that "as New Yorkers, we live in the world's most likely terrorist target and as the ten year anniversary of Sept. 11 grows near, we must assess the measures that are being taken to protect our citizens from these types of threats, as well as what preventative measures we should be taking to ensure our continued safety."

Sounds good. But today's hearing has been the subject of heated debate in Albany, largely because of its inclusion of controversial anti-Islam activist Nonie Darwish. Darwish is known for her belief that the Islamic Law establishes jihad as the duty of every Muslim to struggle against the non-Muslim community. By inviting Darwish to speak at the hearing, as Senate Democrats have charged, Ball is turning what should be a hearing on national security into a discriminatory anti-Islam hearing. By including such people at the hearing, according to Senate Democrats in a letter to Ball, "you conflate the religious observations and practices of a faith into a security matter."

The letter, signed by State Senator Kevin Parker and several other senators, raised the vital criticism that talking about the nature of Islamic law should have nothing to do with talking about the best way to respond to national security threats. A speaker who underscores the dangers of radicalized Islam might be informative in certain contexts, but definitely should not be part of a conference intended to assess the New York region's readiness to deal with a potential terrorist threat or natural disaster.

In addition to Darwish, the hearing will include U.S. Representative Peter King (R-NY), who held Congressional hearings on the subject of the radicalization of American Muslims last month. Dubbed the modern-day McCarthy, King has proudly vowed to fight "crippling political correctness," and has taken on the issue of homegrown Islamic terrorism, which he sees as "the elephant in the room." The hearings generated more political heat than they did concrete answers.

Peter King, unlike Darwish, does not attempt to argue that Islam is inherently violent - but he nonetheless embodies prejudice. The presence of people such as King and Darwish undermines what could have been a constructive effort to assess and improve New York City's responsiveness to terrorism and natural disaster. A radicalized character who fights extremism with extremism is perhaps not the best person to bring to a hearing about improving a city's ability to respond to extremism.

King recently returned to the spotlight when he was sent a bloody severed pig's foot in Congressional mail. Presumably, the foot was a hateful response to his Islamic radicalization hearings. "Anytime you get involved in any controversial issue, there's always going to be extremes that react," said King in response to the foot incident. He's right: "extremes" do react to controversial issues, and he is one of them.

Today's hearing in New York has already generated some intense emotions. By including people like Peter King at the hearing, Greg Ball has blown his cover. It's obvious that his motives extend beyond a simple concern for our state's security, and people are not happy about it. It remains to be seen how extreme the debate will get (and if anybody will even touch on natural disasters). Maybe Ball won't be bequeathed with a bloody pig's foot, but he definitely shouldn't be surprised when he receives some flak for endorsing intolerant speakers under the guise of increasing security.

Julia is a senior who enjoys politics, especially when they're reactionary, Nihilist, German, or a combination of each.

Faculty meeting addresses growing campus concerns

By Alex Brehm, Staff Writer

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Acting President Susan Kress addressed her growing concern about alcohol and drug use on campus, and negative anonymous comments on The Skidmore News website, at the faculty meeting on April 1.

Kress opened the meeting by saying that several events associated with alcohol abuse, including Moorebid Ball and a car crash on perimeter road, are worthy of concern. Moorebid, she said sent nine students to the emergency room last Halloween.

She also spoke about the recent death of Alexander Grant, a visiting student from Boston College whose death was linked to an off-campus party and the possible use of drugs or alcohol.

The college is using a "three-fold process" in response to alcohol and drug use, Kress said. The college is examining current policies, increasing programming and examining student cultures relating to substance abuse.

Kress also said she is growing increasingly uncomfortable with anonymity and messages left in various forums, including posters, online message forums and, most recently, a threatening comment aimed at Danny Pforte, a columnist for "The Skidmore News", left on the newspaper's website.

She said she believes that such comments are threatening to the intellectual and social environment on campus.

The meeting continued with a report from Mary Lou Bates, dean of admissions, about the makeup of the incoming first-year class of 2015.

The college selected students from an applicant pool of 5,800, down about 4 percent from last year. Two hundred sixty students were enrolled through the early decision process and 10 were accepted for the first-year London program.

She also said 26 percent of accepted students self-identify as people of color.

Studio art professor Peter Stake, speaking on behalf of the Faculty Development Committee, followed Bates with an announcement that Spanish professor Grace Burton had won the Ralph A. Ciancio Excellence in Teaching Award. The announcement received a long round of applause from the faculty in attendance.

Hugh Foley, a psychology professor, followed with a presentation titled "What I learned on IPPC."

Foley discussed the role of the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC), which oversees far-reaching institutional changes to the college, such as construction and land development, creation of new offices, and tuition policy.

Foley said that the college's tuition, if left to increase at a seemingly modest 4 percent annual rate, would push yearly tuition to \$100,000 a year in about three decades.

Mike West, vice president of finance, followed Foley with a detailed presentation on the college's current finances and economic challenges.

The college receives about half of its revenue from students' tuition, West said, with the rest coming from room and board fees, interest on the endowment, grants and alumni gifts and other sources.

According to West, the college is facing a decrease in applicants, which makes it more difficult to preserve "quantity and quality" in each year's incoming class.

West also said uncertain financial markets and decreasing federal and state government aid decrease predictable sources of revenue, while requests from students for financial aid is predicted to increase.

These financial pressures make the school consider increasing tuition and fees, West said.

West compared the current financial situation to that of two years ago, when the financial crisis and "Great Recession" blighted many college endowments. At that time, the college's endowment decreased from less than \$300 million to about \$220 million.

Since then, the college has recouped most of its losses, with an endowment of about \$290 million.

West said that compared to the financial situation two years ago, however, the college's current finances are improving.

Anthropology department re-evaluates program

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

As part of a self-study that each academic department and program must conduct every 10 years, the college's anthropology program is evaluating its faculty and curriculum in an attempt to improve student academic experiences.

Proposed changes include eliminating several elective courses, including North American Indians and Applied Anthropology, shifting 300-level research methods courses to the 200-level, and altering 100-level courses from four credits to three.

"These are exciting moments because they are opportunities to stand back and consider what does work and what doesn't work," said Rik Scarce, associate professor and chairman of the department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work.

Michael Ennis-McMillan, an associate professor of anthropology who was on sabbatical for the past academic year, said he has been with the anthropology program for 13 years, and has witnessed many changes to the staff and curriculum.

Throughout the past few years, McMillan said, several professors have passed in and out of the anthropology program, bringing with them new ideas and inspirations for students, which, in turn, determine what courses students respond to and help shape the future curriculum of the program.

"I can see how, from a student's perspective it's news that professors come and go and programs change, but it's actually the way the program works," Ennis-McMillan said.

Based on recommendations from evaluators based on contemporary anthropology programs in other colleges, the anthropology program has strived to incorporate a broader range of training for its students.

According to Scarce, 90 percent of anthropology majors go abroad, so there is a lot of interest in studying non-western cultures.

There are also many opportunities for students to conduct research in Saratoga Springs, allowing students to study both locally and globally.

"What can we learn, literally in our own backyard, in the U.S.?" Ennis-McMillan asked.

During the next couple of years, anthropology majors will be required to complete a research methods course in Saratoga Springs, McMillan said.

In 2001, the college applied for a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to broaden knowledge and encourage high standards of service and leadership.

The grant sponsored a fifth teaching position for four years, with the understanding that this position would focus on non-western areas, particularly east Asia, after which the college funded the position.

Both Scarce and Ennis-McMillan said professors' areas of specialization are highly relevant to students' lives, especially for those interested in interdisciplinary work.

"The college has asked us when hiring people to have people who can actually contribute to other majors," Ennis-McMillan said.

According to Scarce, although the anthropology program is small, it is essential to student education.

"Anthropology has a really important role in this globalized future to bring understanding and to bring us together in very positive ways," Scarce said.

Composting Committee seeks paid management position

SGA Senate coverage

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

On April 5, SGA Senate met with the campus Composting Committee to discuss creating a composting manager position on campus. Though no decision was reached, the Senate will continue to work with the committee to improve composting on campus.

Composting manager would be a paid position, and would include a large amount of physical labor.

“It’s a lot of physical work; composting requires a lot of maintenance,” said Senator Dan DeMartini ‘11, who is also a member of the Composting Committee.

“Most other schools like Skidmore already have a program and a position like this. Composting training needs to be part of the job, but the person who filled the position would have to be really dedicated,” said Talia Arnow ‘13, another Composting Committee member.

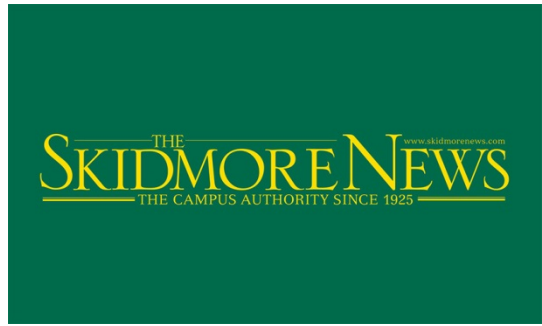
The Composting Committee was given \$800 at the start of the year to begin a composting program in Northwoods apartments.

The group has distributed composting buckets to all of the Northwoods residents interested in participating, and has established intermediate bins across the apartment complex. The composting center is located in Scribner, and is approximately 4 by 11 feet. This space handles almost all of the compost generated by the apartments.

What we want to do next is expand into Scribner. To do that we really want to create some structure around the program by creating compost managers to be in charge of Scribner and Northwoods and be a liaison with EAC, Arnow said.

Senate suggested the committee improve the program by sending weekly e-mails with updates of the amount composted in Northwoods, as well as holding educational seminars on what to compost and how composting helps.

“Eventually this composting could go back to the community garden, which would be a way to really give back. We also want the administration to pick up on all of this, and to have all the new buildings built with composting already integrated,” DeMartini said.



In other news:

Senate unanimously approved a supplemental of \$450 to Pulse, a musical group on campus that uses recycled items as instruments, to fund a weekend trip to New York City to play in public areas such as Central Park.

“We’ve never done it before, but I want to get us out there, and this could be fun and get us a lot of exposure,” said Andy Letwin ‘11, president of Pulse.

The group will videotape its performance for students to view the trip after they return.

Seminar campaigns for change

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

On April 11, "EN105: Under the Influence," will begin two weeks of campus-wide campaigning to improve awareness of healthy living, green initiatives, binge drinking and gender relations in Africa.

The class, an expository writing seminar, spent the semester studying the use of persuasive language to influence audiences. As a final project, students are working in small groups to design persuasive campaigns for subjects they feel passionately about.

The campaigns explore issues specific to the college, as well as larger national and international issues.

Many of the groups are focusing on green initiatives, such as water conservation and increased recycling on campus, and convincing the administration to install motion-censored outdoor lights to decrease energy use.

Siwei Song '14, an international student from China, is campaigning with her group to raise money for oppressed women in Africa.

To encourage donations, the group is offering hand-folded origami figures in exchange for contributions to its campaign. The group is also seeking the assistance of Benefaction and the International Student Union.

Two student athletes in the class are campaigning to increase student use of the gym in an effort to promote healthier student lifestyles.

They plan to host a campus-wide dodgeball game to encourage students to be active and social, according to Aaron Beck '14, a member of the group.

First-year Anthony Giacim's group is campaigning to decrease binge drinking on campus.

"We know we're not going to be able to end underage drinking, but if we can get people to have one or two fewer drinks in a night, then we'll consider ourselves successful," Giacim said.

The persuasive aspects of the campaign will take the form of posters, Facebook groups and documentary viewings, according to the class. Many of the groups plan to set up tables and small exhibitions in the atrium of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.

The success of the campaigns will be part of the students' final grades, according to Professor Thad Niles.

"Let's think about your actions on the ground," Niles said to his class during a brainstorming session, "The things people are going to see. The things that will make your campaigns successful and active rather than just ideas."

Each group will develop an individual, quantitative form to evaluate the success of its campaign. Song's group will judge its success by how many donations they receive, but many groups' evaluation methods have not yet been decided.

"All of these issues are so huge - it can be paralyzing to think about trying to take action. I want the class to see that even if it's just at the campus level, two people can get 30 or 40 people to take action, and that's success," Niles said.

#1.2150610:3611799129.JPG Thad Niles

Professor Thad Niles, right, helps his seminar students develop campaign plans.

Jean-Ann Kubler/The Skidmore News



Jono Zeidan '12 elected SGA president

Large voter turnout fueled by competitive races

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

On a Friday afternoon, SGA President Alex Stark '11 e-mailed the second round SGA election results to the campus. She announced the winners of a highly contested election for many positions, and said the elections received a very high voter turnout.

Students elected Jono Zeidan '12, currently vice-president of financial affairs, to the position of SGA president, the highest Executive Committee position in the college student government. He defeated Alex Bland '12, vice-president of club affairs.

"It was a pleasure to run against someone who was so qualified," said Zeidan in his first statement as president-elect. "I'm looking forward to the upcoming opportunities next year as SGA president."

According to the Stark's e-mail, 893 students voted.

"We're really happy with the voter turnout. Usually participation is closer to 600 students," Stark said. "I think people voted because a lot of these positions were contested. It gets people excited."

In the other contested races, Logan Brenner '12 won the position of vice-president of club affairs, Raiza Nazareth '12 won the position of vice-president of communications and outreach and Aaron Shifreen '12 won the position of vice-president of residential affairs.

All candidates running in uncontested executive committee races won against votes of no-confidence or abstentions: Melvis Langyinto '12 for senior class president, Thomas Rivera '13 for vice-president of academic affairs and Ethan Flum '12 for vice-president of financial affairs.

All candidates running in uncontested inter-hall board races won against votes of no-confidence or abstentions: Jess Sonnenfeld '14 for Howe-Rounds president, Daniel Gaunard '14 for How-Rounds vice-president, Britt Dorfman '14 for Kimball vice-president, Lindsey Decker for Penfield vice-president, Molly Grant '14 for Wait vice-president, Kim Ohnemus '14 for Wiecking president, Jess Strasser for Wiecking vice-president, and Margeau Canon '14 for Wilmarth vice-president.

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday evening, about 100 people packed into the SPA for the second round of SGA Speech Night. During the course of the two-and-a-half hour event, 20 students delivered speeches for significant SGA positions including SGA President.

Voting began at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday morning and ended at 12:01 a.m. Friday. Election results were not available as of press time on Thursday, as elections had not yet ended. Students who voted were automatically entered into a raffle with a chance to win gift certificates to local restaurants.

Many students' platforms focused on adding transparency to SGA to make the group's policies more clear to members of the student body. Students also campaigned to change the general campus culture in response to the recent dialogues about diversity.

Students also proposed "fun" all-college events, such as hosting a snowball fight and purchasing sleds for the student body, both related to the snowy winter months the college historically experiences.

According to SGA President Alex Stark, Wednesday's Speech Night received one of the largest audiences during her four years at the college.

Zeidan agreed. "Perhaps the biggest thing SGA does is extract ideas from everyone else," he said.

Bland said SGA sometimes receives superficial requests, like including an elevator in Scribner Village to connect to the Jonsson Tower parking lot, but also receives more significant requests, like changing the college's Sexual Assault Policy.

Zeidan began his speech by appealing to the audience with references of classic Skidmore all-college events.

"Did you know Skidmore used to have competitive mud wrestling?," Zeidan said. "We used to have hot tubs on the green in the dead of winter. We can bring the fun back to Skidmore... Those are some silly ideas but we I have some other [serious] things we can get done."

The candidates were asked what they thought of the diversity dialogues on campus, and how they would continue them, if at all, in the following semesters.

"I didn't know there was such an issue until I went to the dialogues," Bland said. "They caught me off guard... I think the biggest problem is that people just don't know."

Zeidan said the larger issue was that students feel uncomfortable on campus, and binge drinking has a been a way to remedy the discomfort.

"Alcohol is a symptom of this discomfort about diversity," Zeidan said. "Through these dialogues, we've laid the foundation, and now it's time to take the next step."

Bland saw the issue of diversity differently.

"I agree alcohol is a problem on campus but it's different than diversity," Bland said. "We need to address both [separately]."

One member of the audience said both candidates' platforms were similar, and asked what distinguishes each other from their candidate.

Neither candidate fully distinguished themselves from their opponent.

"We both even kind of look alike on paper so we're the same," Zeidan said. "I'm not going to bash Alex [Bland], he's a good friend of mine. What separates us is what's off the paper."

"The full commitment is pretty extreme and I'm ready to deal with it," Bland said.

Vice-President of Club Affairs: Donald Duff vs. Logan Brenner

Donald Duff '13 ran against Logan Brenner '12 for the position of vp for club affairs.

This past fall, Brenner resigned from her yearlong position as vp for academic affairs to go abroad to Turks and Caicos. Brenner gave her speech via a YouTube video she filmed outside by a beach, and she answered questions previously asked of her via Facebook.

The candidates outlined their procedures for chartering and de-chartering clubs.

"I would go through charters with the club affairs committee, and would ask the [executive] boards of these clubs to meet with the club affairs committee and if they've been inactive they should propose a plan for change for more activity," Brenner said. "I think all clubs deserve a chance [though]."

Duff campaigned for a more stringent policy on chartering clubs.

"The possible club or student members will have... a five week trial period before a recommendation to be chartered," Duff said. "For de-chartering, the club would have to be inactive for the semester, and would be put on probation status. If it remained inactive the next semester, they would be de-chartered by majority vote," he said.

Candidates were asked to elaborate on how they would change more bureaucratic processes, like the club presidents' meeting.

"I would like to create a social event in cooperation with presidents and vice presidents of clubs," Duff said. "I also think there should be interim evaluations of club presidents."

Brenner also campaigned for more social club presidents meetings.

"I'll make sure the meeting is properly publicized for their clubs try to get their opinions on how the semester is going... It'll probably be better with food in their stomachs... also smaller meetings would be helpful," she said.

Outside of his prospective duties for vp of club affairs, Duff plans to sponsor several SGA resolutions.

"I have not brought one to the senate but I plan to bring on in the coming weeks. One passed by Thomas Rivera, how the vp of diversity affairs should have OSDP experience. To understand what diversity is you have to be a part of OSDP club," Duff said. "Also one [resolution] by Leeland [Martin '14] ... A Resolution for sleds for the coming year. It will create more fun. We'll have better things to do around here," he said.

Vice-President of Academic Affairs: Thomas Rivera-Patterson, unopposed

Thomas Rivera '13, vp for academic affairs, ran for the position he currently serves. Rivera won an uncontested election in February after Logan Brenner '12 resigned and vacated the position, as she is studying abroad this semester.

Rivera, in his role as vp for academic affairs, offered many changes to the current academic program and academic social life.

"I want to have a faculty and student dinner," Rivera said. "I think this will create a better relationship between students and faculty, and we'll get to build that bond... I've heard a lot of people saying they're in biology and they've never met anyone in the government department."

In addition to the outside of the classroom experience, Rivera is planning a service-learning program, which is not limited to volunteer work.

"I plan to have a student in every single academic major represent to other students in the major options for service learning," he said.

Alex Brehm '12 asked Rivera if he supported internship work, even if students, who are not getting paid, end up paying thousands of dollars for credit hours, whether it is "out-of-pocket" or paid through scholarship.

Rivera did not see this as a problem.

"Service learning is entirely worth it," Rivera said. "You're doing something active, doing workshops... When you engage in what you're studying, along with the internship, it's worth it."

Inside the classroom, Rivera said he plans to propose a public speaking course.

While Rivera feels comfortable in his role as vp for academic affairs, but he said it was not initially easy learning the procedures.

"There was a barrier to a certain extent. The more communication got better, things got better," he said. "I was nervous first as vp... But we're getting to the point now where we can move forward [more smoothly]."

While the candidates running for executive committee positions received more questions and had a larger audience to deliver their speeches to, the other candidates running gave equal attention to their speeches and platforms.

For executive committee positions, Melvis Langyinto '12 ran for the position of senior class president, Raiza Nazareth '12 and Alec Unkovic '12 ran for vp of communication and outreach, Jovany Andujar '13 ran for vp of diversity affairs, Ethan Flum '12 ran for vp of financial affairs and Alexis Curry '12 and Aaron Shifreen '12 ran for vp for residential affairs.

The candidates running for hall presidents and vice presidents all ran uncontested.

The candidates for vp of residential affairs commented on the future role of popular college drinking events like Moorebid Ball and Fun Day, as their position requires them to monitor and administer the events.

The 2010 Moorebid Ball received national media attention after 14 attendees were hospitalized for alcohol-related sickness and injury.

"I want to speak with past planners of Moorebid Ball," Curry said. "I want to see how the event was transferred to Moore Hall [to Case Center], and see what was fundamental in doing that... We have to make sure Moorebid and Fun Day continue."

The recent race dialogues have also received attention, in the The Skidmore News and through various forums on campus.

Jovani Andujar '13 ran uncontested for vp of diversity affairs, and would be a leading voice in diversity affairs in his capacity in that position.

He said he wants to change the way diversity is perceived on campus.

"Diversity isn't about numbers," Andujar said. "It's about the interaction between the groups of people. There people who want to see diversity as something only visual. Diversity is more than something on someone's face and the color of their skin."

#1.2150651:2988781703.jpg Jono Zeidan

SGA President-Elect Jono Zeidan '12

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Softball soars through winning streak

Sports Wrap

By Julia Schwartz & Isaac Baker, Sports Editors

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

The Skidmore softball team cleaned up this week with four wins in two double-headers. Last Sunday, April 3, the Thoroughbreds traveled to Utica College where they pulled out two wins in two closely contested games. Skidmore came back from a formidable deficit to win the first game, and scraped its way back on top in the second game, giving it two big wins against Utica.

In the first game, the Thoroughbreds were down six runs in the seventh inning. But after many quiet innings, Skidmore's bats lit up, as the team drove in seven runs to win the game with a final score of 9-8.

The Thoroughbreds sprang out in the second game with the momentum gained from the first win, working their way up to a 4-1 lead by the third inning. The Pioneers closed the gap in the bottom of the fifth inning with a pair of runs, bringing the score to 4-3. The following inning, Utica brought in another run to tie the game. After a standstill in the seventh inning, both teams returned to the field for extra innings. In the top of the eighth, Skidmore proved more successful with seven runs to Utica's three that they put on the board in the bottom of the eighth, finalizing the score at 11-7.

Between the two games, Julia Schwartz '13 had two home runs; teammates Charlotte Evans '11, Caiti Ketcham '11, Katie Sorochka '14 and Christina Gargiso '12 each finished with one homer for the day. Gargiso also went 4-4 in the first of the two games.

Three days later on Wednesday April 6, Skidmore played another double-header against Sage. Skidmore won the first by a significant margin, winning the game 8-1. Charlotte Evans '11 was 2-4 with a two run double, Caitlin Ketchem '11 went 1-2 with two RBIs and Christina Hein '11 went 2-3 with a pair of runs scored.

The following game, first-year Sorochka threw a no hitter, allowing just three walks and one hit batter. The Thoroughbreds shutout Sage 5-0, and headed back to Saratoga with their fifth straight win under their belts. Hein went 2-3 with a solo home run, while Schwartz went 1-4 with a two run double.

Skidmore heads to Middlebury April 1, hoping to continue its streak.

Baseball

The Thoroughbreds home field advantage was not enough to bring them luck against their double-header April 2 against Vassar. The Thoroughbreds fell short at the end of both games, losing with the final at bats in both games.

Zack Rudman '12 took the loss in the first game, throwing the full nine innings to no avail. Matty Tatkow '13 led the Thoroughbreds effort up at bat, but was unable to punch enough through the gaps to bring them a win.

Skidmore called upon Bobby Stafutti '13 in the second game when the game went into extra innings to continue the efforts of Trevor Brucato '11 on the mound, allowing two runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts.

Stafutti received the loss after the Brewers were able to pull through in the bottom of the 11th inning. Rob Rubenstein led Skidmore's offense in the second game, going 3-5 at the plate with an RBI.

The Thoroughbreds returned to the field the next day for two more games against the Brewers, this time losing the first game 8-3 and coming back at the end of the four game series with a score of 6-1.

Nick Laracuente '11 and Rubenstein received Co-Pitchers of the Week and Co-Performers of the Week for their efforts in their competitions against Vassar. Laracuente improved his throwing record to 4-0 with his win against Vassar, giving up one walk and striking out nine, which also lowered his ERA to 0.60 on the season so far. Rubenstein went 11-19 against the Brewers with eight RBI and a .780 slugging percentage.

Men's lacrosse

Men's lacrosse continued its success ranked at No. 19 on April 2 with a win against league rival, St. Lawrence 16-10. The Thoroughbreds had 46 shots on goal, 16 higher than that of St. Lawrence.

Skidmore secured the advantage early in the game with a 6-2 advantage at the end of the first period. Despite the Saints' attempt at vengeance beginning in the second half, Ben Cornell '11, Jon Hoeg '13, and Sam Lawfer '13 all put points on the board for the Thoroughbreds.

After half time, Skidmore returned to the field and pushed out the score 13-7, securing the win with a large enough advantage to finish out to the final second.

Major contributors to the Thoroughbreds' success were Mike Holden '13, who had a game-high of five goals, as well as Cornell, Bryan Connolly '13, Matt Levesque '11 and Mike Perlow '13, all with two goals. Connor Dowling '12 protected the net for the Thoroughbreds with assistance from Ryan Paradis '12, who had a game-high of eight ground balls.

With The Thoroughbred's success came the elevation of their ranking in USILA Coaches Poll to No. 13. They have now won six straight games and have an 8-1 overall record and are 2-0 in league play.

Holden and Jacque Ward '11 received Liberty League Co-Performer of the Week and Co-Defensive Performer of the Week, respectively, for their contributions in their game against St. Lawrence. Skidmore returns to the field at home on April 12 to compete against Middlebury.

Women's lacrosse

The Thoroughbreds rallied back and forth attempting to win close competitions April 2 and April 3, but fell short at the end, terminating both match ups with a score of 5-4. Melissa Hirsch '14 stood out for the Thoroughbreds, despite the two losses, earning Liberty League Rookie of the Week. She was 2-0 at No. 2 singles and 1-1 playing doubles with teammate Molly Nolan '14, with an 8-4 win against Wellesley and a close 9-7 loss against TCNJ. The women's tennis team plays next at home April 16 against Williams.

Swan Lake' collaboration to take the stage at Zankel

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

On April 14 and 15, the college orchestra and the dance department's classical ballet workshop will be performing "Swan Lake" at the Zankel Music Center.

The dance performance, which was staged by associate professor Denise Warner Limoli, is based on Lev Ivanov's 1895 restaged choreography of the second act of the original ballet.

This particular performance is unlike others. For the first time, the orchestra and ballet can join one another in performance because of the amount of space that the Zankel Music Center has to offer.

"This is the first time we've been able to do something that really incorporates the orchestra and dancers," Julia Grigel '11, the percussionist said.

Swan Lake, written by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, is a ballet about Odette, a princess who, after being cursed by the evil sorcerer Rothbart, lives as a swan by day and a beautiful maiden by night. This curse can only be broken by the power of eternal love.

Prince Siegfried, the lead male dancer role, is gifted a new crossbow from his mother and goes hunting. He stumbles onto Swan Lake where meets Odette and falls in love with her.

Since the publication of the original ballet, many different revivals and productions have been made. The version of Tchaikovsky's ballet that will be performed focuses on this part of the ballet.

Before the ballet dancers come out, the orchestra will be performing its own piece in the pit below the stage.

"The orchestra is first doing the overture, which is in the first act. Then the ballet dancers come on stage," violinist Jane Esterquest '13 said.

The performance will then move onto the second act where Siegfried meets Odette.

"It's sort of a conversation between Siegfried and Odette. She explains to him about the spell she has," cellist Meg Ashur '11 said.

The middle of the piece will feature a solo shared between Ashur and violinist Hanna Tonegawa '11. This solo will be accompanying the dance between the main ballet dancers playing Siegfried and Odette.

"It's really a beautiful, romantic dance that's very graceful and even kind of sad. They fall in love, but she has to tell Siegfried about the spell," Tonegawa explained.

This new type of collaboration forced orchestra members to pay more attention to maintaining the tempo in accordance with the choreography.

"It's a unique experience for the orchestra because it's rare for the tempo to matter this much. It's kind of a nice challenge because the tempo is so important to the dancers," Grigel said.

Because of this new challenge, steps were made to ensure that the orchestra's music matches up with the ballet dancers.

"Everyone got a recording and listened to it and Dr. Holland kept the choreographer's directions in mind," Ashur said.

Limoli joined the orchestra's most recent rehearsal and provided directions to prepare the group for when it would rehearse with the dancers.

"She sat on the stage where the dancers would be and Dr. Holland watched as we watched him and played," Tonegawa said.

Performers would have to focus on conductor and music director Anthony Holland, just as in any situation, but with more attention.

Tickets for "Swan Lake" are now on sale and can be purchased online at skidmore.showclix.com.

Students create a gap year program

First Year Experience chapter for gap-year students organized

By Mariel Kennedy, Features Editor

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Skidmore's First Year Experience aims to aid a student transition from high school to college living by implementing first-year, peer mentors, pre-orientation programs and a plethora of other resources.

Special programs and events also exist for incoming students of color, international students and transfer students. Soon, students who deferred a year will also be able to have a program in the FYE dedicated specifically to their needs.

The idea for a deferred-students program came from Anna Graves '14 and Josh Speers '14, both of whom deferred a year before coming to Skidmore.

"The idea is out there with other colleges, and there are even schools that are encouraging students to take a year off ... We are getting this idea from our own experiences in wishing we had a program like this as first-years," Graves said.

Graves said she spent her year in a number of productive ways, ranging from working on an organic farm to working with nonprofits and environmental internships to even sneaking into classes at the prestigious Brown University. She ended her gap year by moving from Rhode Island to California to be a climbing instructor in the Sierra-Nevada's.

Speers, who could not be reached for contact by press time on Thursday, spent his gap year working with the Governor of Massachusetts before moving to Denver, CO, and playing music, according to Graves.

Graves said she and Speers both wanted to meet more students, like themselves, who had chosen to defer. "We wanted to create a network to meet each other and learn about all the different experiences," Graves said. "The transition from a year off is hard, because students are coming from a world that doesn't feel or look like college at all."

Graves also stressed the importance of this network because most students who defer are older than their peers, which Graves says can make a difference in connecting with other first-year students.

The main goal of the program, according to Graves, is to give students a bigger outlet to meet and connect with different people.

The program is being set up with the coordinators of the FYE program, who Graves describes as "extremely supportive ... and really willing to help." The program will start with a deferred students dinner during first year orientation week. It will continue throughout the first semester with slightly less formal meetings. In addition, there will be "peer friends," who Graves describes as upperclassmen who deferred a year and who will be available to students throughout the semester. However, Graves said the relationship with a "peer friend" is "not to be a formal relationship like there is with a peer mentor."

Graves and Speers are working with similar programs at other schools - Princeton, UNC Chapel Hill and Harvard - to establish and expand Skidmore's program. Though no students attended the informational meeting on March 29, Graves said, "The interest has been extremely high in all the deferred students that have heard about it. Almost everyone has been excited about the prospect of meeting other deferred students."

Matt Gaydar '14, who took a gap year before enrolling, says the program sounds interesting, but lacking in purpose. Gaydar spent his year, which he says was definitely beneficial to him, participating in three different programs, leading him to travel around the U.S. and to South America, Africa and Spain. While traveling, Gaydar learned many things from outdoor skills with Outward Bound to African drumming and dance.

"I think that having a program like this would be interesting, although I personally do not see the point ... I actually felt more motivated and ready for college after the gap year. I do not really see the need to separate gap year students anymore," Gaydar said.

Still, Grave, Speers and their potential members are enthused and excited about the upcoming program and encourage students who deferred a year to contact them and join the network that they call "awesome to be a part of."

#1.2150637:2962987865.JPG Gap Year Program

Anna Graves '14 and Josh Speers '14 explain their new program.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Lee Shaw Trio and Medeski share confidence on stage

By Dale Obbie, Op-Ed Editor

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

Last Friday, pianist John Medeski of the jazz-funk trio Medeski, Martin & Wood joined the Lee Shaw Trio (Lee Shaw on piano, Jeff Siegel on drums and the college's faculty member Rich Syracuse on bass) to play a highly anticipated jazz show at the Zankel Music Center.

Before the first tune, the group captivated the audience with its easygoing poise. To begin the show, Medeski took to the stage alone.

With no more than a wave to the crowd, he sat down at his Hammond B3 organ and filled the hall with the heavy sound of its warbling chords.

After a little bit of free improvisation, drummer Siegel joined him, and soon the groove was underway. Not long after, Shaw appeared, followed by Syracuse, who walked leisurely to his upright bass, all the while bobbing his head to the beat.

The reason for their shared confidence is no mystery: Syracuse and Shaw have been playing together for 20 years, and Shaw began teaching Medeski the art of jazz improvisation in his early teens.

What this sort of familiarity among such accomplished musicians entails in the music is a limitless creative potential - the ability to play whatever they want on the spot.

On Friday they did just that. According to Syracuse, they hadn't decided upon a set list when they began the performance, but instead only "talked about concepts."

He went on to explain that "what we strive for in a very nonchalant way is that we save it all for the music ... you have to imagine that the whole thing, the concert, is like running water. Like a river. And you walk up to the river and you jump in, and it carries you."

They opened with Duke Ellington's songs "Mood Indigo" and "Love You Madly," giving each soloist a chance to strut their stuff over the tunes' bluesy chord progressions. Even Shaw, now 84, didn't hesitate to show off her chops, playing with just as much vigor as her younger counterparts.

But, as expected, Medeski eventually took the spotlight. About half way through the performance he played a solo improvisation on the grand piano that showcased not only his command of melody, but of rhythm as well.

The sight of his percussive playing was as enthralling as its sound; his hands seemed to vibrate effortlessly above the keyboard, resembling balls of grease skidding along a frying pan.

In a significant departure from the standards with which they began, Medeski's flurries of notes led into his song "Where's Sly?" during which Shaw left the stage.

Unsurprisingly, the remaining trio had no trouble recreating the avant-garde texture of sound characteristic of Medeski, Martin & Wood. Syracuse strummed harmonics on his upright bass, while Siegel dragged his drumstick across the cymbals, resulting in a gloriously dissonant screech.

The next song, Shaw's "Prairie Child," featured a heartwarming duet between teacher and pupil. Medeski picked up his melodica (an instrument that lies somewhere between a harmonica and an organ) and stood at Shaw's side throughout the song.

Appropriately, the quirky instrument gave a lighthearted feel to a song that, as Shaw explained, is about her childhood, despite the fact that it lacks lyrics.

They concluded with another of Medeski's songs, the funky foot-stomper "Wiggly's Way," which was undoubtedly the highlight of the show.

It featured an outstanding bass solo from Syracuse, and left the audience hungry for an encore. And they weren't disappointed: the group closed with Shaw's tune "Blues 11," and left the stage to a standing ovation.

Student artists make sales at Art Craft fair

Partial proceeds given to the Jeneba Project through the IAC

By Sandy Zhang, Staff Writer

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

On Friday, April 1st, the International Affairs Club hosted an Art Craft sale for the second time this year. The fair, which took place in Case Center, featured works by more than 12 students.

The fair was part of a larger effort by the IAC to raise awareness and funds for the Jeneba Project.

Founded by alums Joseph Kaifala and Peter Brock, the Jeneba Project focuses on reconstruction efforts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea through educational projects such as school building and scholarship grants for girls.

The success of the first Art Craft fair had motivated the IAC and student artists to organize and participate in a second one. The first fair had raised more than \$500 for the Jeneba Project.

Issac Chansky '13, a member of the IAC and an organizer of the event, expected this fair to raise even more money than the previous, because there were more students participating.

The club now plans to organize an Art Craft fair every semester. The Art Craft fair was originally created out of a want from student artists to sell their works.

"We started off wanting to sell rings, and another student from printmaking also wanted to sell their art. Then, eventually, we partnered up with the International Affairs Club," said Rebecca Donner '12, who was selling silver and copper rings.

The financial arrangement between the IAC and students selling their works was that 30 percent of all sales would go toward the Jeneba Project and the student keeps the remaining 70 percent.

Student sellers thought this policy was fair. Ripley Sager, a junior art major, sold lithographic prints. "I'm definitely comfortable with the 30/70 split," he said.

"I did pretty well. I was very happy with how the whole sale went. I was definitely impressed with how every one of my peers did, and I was impressed by the turnout of students to buy student art," Sager said regarding the first Art Craft fair.

For Sager, the Art Craft fair is the chief avenue he uses to sell his work.

For others, like Kelsey Cioffi, a sophomore majoring in art, the Art Craft fair is the only sales option. Cioffi sold hats and headbands that she made.

“I’ve given them out for free to a lot of friends before. I haven’t thought about selling them until last year when somebody mentioned that they had craft fairs and I thought that’d be a good option,” Cioffi said.

“I’ve been trying to keep them relatively cheap so people will buy them. The only thing that really matters to me is that I can make back the money I actually put into them,” she explained about setting the prices.

A first time participant in the fair was the Photo Club, which sold photos that were taken by students. The Photo Club was happy to have an additional setting to sell student works, in addition to other opportunities that they have had such as Celebration Weekend, Accepted Students Day and Club Fairs.

Other items sold at the fair included drawings, handmade bowls, T-shirts, handmade iPod sleeves and bowls made out of vinyl records.

#1.2150642:1150393775.JPG Art Craft Fair

Student artists participate in the second annual Art Craft fair and sell their works at the Case Center.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Voyeurism and violence at the track

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Sat, Apr 9, 2011

This past September, as the racing season came to a close and the Fall semester began, a friend and I took a group of first-years on a pre-orientation trip to the racetrack. To make things more interesting, we took a little trip of our own. We strolled around the track and the paddock underneath the mellow late-summer sun, which cast a strange glow on the scene, simultaneously nostalgic and melancholic, as families came out to picnic for the last few races and old raspy-voiced, wrinkly-faced horseplayers tried to recoup their staggering season-long losses.

We wandered, dressed in our finest threads, though still confined to roam the general admission areas, as the owners and elite lounged above in their boxes. Psychologically indisposed to responsibly supervise the first-years in our care, we abandoned them, procured beverages and managed to place several completely random impulse bets before joining the masses near the post. As the tension within us rose to a fever pitch, synergistically enhanced by and channeling the crowd's pre-race tension, the starting gates blasted open and they were off.

The crowd erupted as the horses battled around the far stretch and the vicious faces of the potentially impoverished yelled over our shoulders, their beer sodden spittle dowsing our clothing. The crowd was awash in waves of ecstatic glee and vicious desperation as these giant beasts, muscles tightening and rippling, jockeys furiously egging them on, crossed the finish line.

And then, about 50 yards from the finish, a horse at the back of the pack suffered a massive heart attack, flipped over, planting its head in the dirt, its enormous torso crashing down after it, throwing legendary jockey Kent Desormeaux several yards onto his neck, breaking one of his vertebrae. A deafening silence fell over the crowd and all the emotional outpouring was instantaneously stopped in its tracks and crystallized in the thick summer air. The wide-eyed first years looked confused and frightened. I was shaken very badly.

I fumbled through my betting stubs, hoping these numbers and dollar amounts would somehow make sense of the situation before me. Nobody really knew what to do or how to feel. A truck came out onto the track, and officials gathered around the felled horse, preparing to put it to sleep. To my side, I heard someone yelling. I turned to see my aforementioned friend, a shocked look in his eyes, shifting his gaze

between the crowd and the scene on the track, yelling to no one in particular, "they're ANIMALS!," "these are ANIMALS!," "these are f***ing ANIMALS!"

I was too bewildered at the time to understand his pronouncements, but when I ran over a turtle on perimeter road later that evening, I began to understand. The turtle lay there, its broken belly spurting out greenish brown bile, its legs beating trying to turn itself over, and I was transfixed as I watched, gripped simultaneously by hollowing sorrow and visceral, unflinching curiosity.

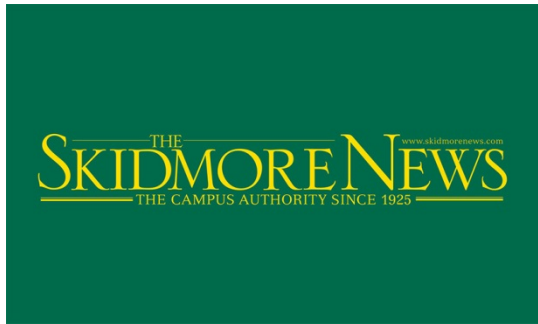
In each of us there is a repulsive, yet completely innate, infatuation with death and violence. The racetrack, my friend had observed, is an exhibition of these innermost primitive longings. Though thoroughbred racing is popular around the world, the American racing industry is infamous for its lax policies on performance enhancing drugs. The horses are pumped up on intense steroids and then forced to compete against each other in unnaturally taxing capacities. And human beings come to watch and exchange money on these twisted, forcefully imposed, drug-riddled displays of physicality.

At the racetrack, the line between human being and animal is obscured. The "animals" my friend was speaking of, the "animals" he became acutely aware of at that moment, were all around him. All of the spectators, who came to gamble and watch the beasts compete, all of the owners, who, despite their cocktail party chatter about breeding and pedigree, sacrifice the horses' health for profit and celebrity, were animals, indulging in primitive, base voyeurism. We are the animals, and this fact is more evident than ever in our new sadistic internet culture.

Don't tase me bro was the desperate cry for mercy uttered by a University of Florida student who, invoking his 1st Amendment rights by posing questions, on Constitution Day no less, was tased and physically removed by police from a lecture given by Senator John Kerry. This incident, the video of which went viral on YouTube, should have been regarded as a deeply disturbing incidence of police brutality, but was instead trivialized and made into an internet meme, setting off the "bro" craze which brought us "bro rape," "bros icing bros," "brosemit Sam," "bro-Nameth" and the general prominence of "bro" in the American lexicon.

The video did spur some serious discussion over 1st amendment rights and appropriate use of force by police. Major networks chimed in, and the event became a rallying point for some radical civil rights groups. On the whole, however, the event was buried under an inane avalanche of popular culture renderings on T-shirts and in remixed YouTube videos.

Even students in the audience, witnessing this horrific act first-hand, can be seen goofily guffawing at this man's cries for help and his screams of pain at having electricity shot through his body. The backwards way in which this video appealed to young internet-faring American audiences, as a "bro" to



be laughed at for being such a "bro" and provoking violence, rather than as a gross injustice, exemplifies our prevailing culture of voyeuristic sadism.

When Tyler Clementi's roommate streamed his sexual encounters over the internet, he was indulging in that same technological sadism. This was the tased-bro situation with a fateful and telling twist: rather than the police perpetrating a wrong upon a person while a second party captured it and a third party, our culture, looked on and laughed, the roommate assumed all three roles. He was the cameraman, the perpetrator and the cruel voyeur. But this time, no one was laughing and a sick culture was briefly exposed. But, for all its importance as a symptom of an ailing culture, the Clementi incident did not have nearly as much lasting power and internet presence as did the "don't tase me bro" incident.

Clementi's suffering and resulting suicide was talked about briefly as an example of a potential homophobic hate crime and the definition of privacy in our uber-information age was discussed, but our innate longing for sadistic voyeurism remained intact. The cries of despair uttered by the student who gets tased - like the electric current that swept through his body - instantly triggers the animalistic pleasurable response in which our synapses are wired to indulge in.

A month after that grisly scene at the racetrack, after that turtle's demise and after Clementi's suicide, Paul the Octopus, the German World Cup predicting animal, died. He correctly predicted seven matches as well as the final result of the 2010 World Cup. He was cremated, a shrine was erected in his honor, and the rest of the animal kingdom, humankind included, continued its eternal competition, trudging through life and making sure to slow down and rubberneck here and there, to stop and smell the anguish.

Brian Connor is a senior American Studies major from Brooklyn. He spends his summer nights at Siro's and his winter mornings in bed.

#1.2150620:4103001605.jpg A Day at the Races

Art inspired by a day at the Saratoga Race Course, previously published.

Brian Connor/The Skidmore News



Cars vandalized in Northwoods

By Andrew Cantor, Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

Sometime late April 8 or April 9, unidentified subject(s) broke into and vandalized seven vehicles parked near the Northwoods Apartments.

The subject(s) smashed windows, ripped off side-view mirrors, and spray painted the cars in light blue paint, spraying "FAG" on one car, according to a Campus Safety report.

Director of Campus Safety Dennis Conway said he does not believe the vandal(s) targeted certain students.

"The students are from all different areas of campus... they're musicians and athletes... the cars are also next to each other," Conway said. "After speaking with the police, the students do not believe they were targeted."

Conway said Campus Safety and the Saratoga Springs Police Department are simultaneously investigating the vandalism. He said a police officer assigned to Saratoga Springs High School investigated if students from town were behind the attack. Conway believes the vandal(s) are from campus.

"I'm fairly confident people on this campus know who did it," Conway said. "If the student code of conduct means anything we should get to the bottom of this."

Conway cited an Oct. 30 incident, when vandal(s) caused \$200,000 worth of damage to the Northwoods construction site, as a reason to believe the vandal(s) are college students.

While Conway did not know the cost of damage done this past weekend, he said the damage most likely constitutes felony criminal mischief.

In New York State, damage of 250 dollars is a class "E" felony, and damage more than \$1,500 is a class "D" felony.

The vandalism on campus has students questioning their safety in the Northwoods parking lot.

"I'm worried to be in the parking lot at night," Preety Aujla '11 said. "I don't know if anyone's targeting me."

The vandalism did not threaten senior Matt Belloise but it did offend him, he said.

"It's ridiculous. First of all, I don't know why they dropped the 'f' bomb," Belloise said. "Unprovoked destruction is the last thing we need right now, the way things are going at Skidmore this semester. It really makes you think about 2012."

Contact Campus Safety at 518-580-5566 or use the confidential T-I-P-S line from a cell phone at 518-580-8477 to provide any information about the incident.

#1.2179449:601790208.JPG Northwoods vandals

Seven cars were vandalized in Northwoods between April 8 and April 9.

Photo courtesy of Skidmore Campus Safety



Cornel West tackles race, politics

Intersections keynote address fills Zankel to capacity

By Max Siegelbaum, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

On Thursday April 6 Zankel Auditorium was at full capacity as Cornel West presented the final lecture in the Intersections Panel series, titled, "Race and Democracy in the Age of Obama."

More than 600 students, faculty and community members attended.

Audience overflow was sent to Gannet and Davis auditoriums, where the lecture was simulcasted.

West is the Class of 1943 Endowed Professor at Princeton University, where he teaches African American studies.

He is a civil rights activist and a self proclaimed "radical democrat."

West is also an author, a musician and an actor, with cameos in "The Matrix Reloaded and "The Matrix Revolution."

He is also a frequent guest on television programs such as "The Daily Show," "The Bill Maher Show," and "The Colbert Report."

The lecture began with an introduction by Acting President Susan Kress, who thanked Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Human Resources for making the lecture possible.

Professors Jennifer Delton of the history department and Michelle Rhee of the English department followed the Kress, and spoke about interactions they had with West when they were both students at Princeton.

Professor Grady-Willis ended the introduction with a list of West's accomplishments.

West began the lecture with a direct address to the audience.

"You are an intellectual jewel and a moral gem," West said, "Make no small plans."

West then said he wanted to begin on a Socratic note.

"What does it mean to be human?" he asked.

He said being human, for many, has to do with dealing with the "vicious legacies of white supremacy, which create unjust suffering."

West then said he believes the nation has to embrace race, because "sometimes color blindness leaves us more than blind."

Transitioning to the topic of current American society, West said he believes it is difficult to be courageous because of societal obsessions with wealth and status.

For past generations, West said, the general goal was to be a great person, but today the goal is to be successful.

He blames the current market driven society and culture of celebrity, West said.

West said he was fiercely critical of President Obama, who he believes is too politically moderate and does not address race aggressively enough.

It is important for everyone to find an individual voice for his or her self, West said.

West ended the lecture saying that he is not optimistic, but considers himself a prisoner of hope.

After the lecture ended, West participated in a question-and-answer session with the audience.

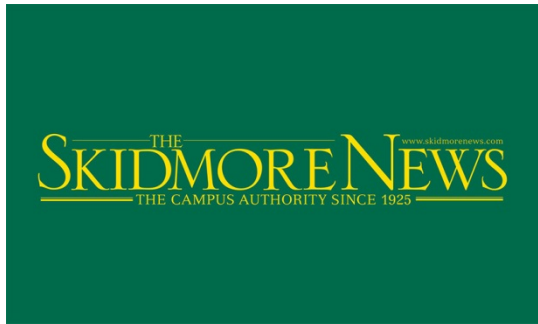
West was brought to campus by a team of faculty and administrators, including Winston Grady-Willis, Rochelle Calhoun, Muriel Posten, Herb Crossman and Mariel Martin.

#1.2179447:817587288.jpg Cornel West

Cornel West speaks to a full-capacity Zankel auditorium.

Photo courtesy of Calder Wilson





Skidmore website sets new 'welcoming' layout

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

The co-founders of Skrounge.com, a Skidmore-exclusive coupon web site, debuted a new welcome page on April 14.

Skrounge.com, created by Dan DeMartini '11 and Jacques Ward '11, launched on March 21.

The web site offers discounts to local Saratoga Springs businesses, and features a discussion board where students can post housing opportunities and buy or sell textbooks and other items. "Toward the end of spring 2011, we started to think, 'What do other schools do to encourage students to interact and spend money in their own town?' The idea developed from there," DeMartini said.

Curry Ford and Bob Ford, family friends of Ward, provided funds for the site's startup and helped the founders establish the site as a legally recognized business. Though funded by the Fords, DeMartini and Ward maintain control over the site's development.

To access the site, members of the community must provide a valid Skidmore e-mail address. Use of the site is free for students and vendors, but if the site proves to be successful vendors will eventually have to pay to advertise deals.

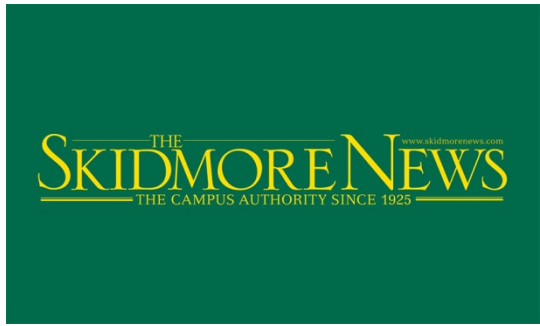
The founders said some students have been reluctant to use the site because of the welcome page.

"Currently, the sites welcome page asks you to register before you can see the deals we offer, and we think people visiting are turned off by that. They think its some sort of scam," DeMartini said.

The new welcome page allows visitors to browse the site first and only register if they want to print and use the coupons.

"We have over almost 60 vendors represented on the website," said Ethan Flum '13, the Skrounge.com business manager. Flum will take over local operations of the site when DeMartini and Ward graduate in May.

It's not just discounts for restaurants and fast food, DeMartini said, "We have three mechanics offering huge discounts for the Skidmore community. You can find deals for clothes, housing, it's all there on the site."



The Skrounge.com team is also working on a smartphone application, which will use geo-location to connect users with local deals.

“If you’re standing in the middle of Saratoga, and want deals for the nearest pizza place, the app will tell you the closest deals, and you can walk right in with the coupon on your phone,” DeMartini said.

If the site is successful at Skidmore, the founders said they hope to expand to other colleges, and eventually turn a profit.

Band Trailer debuts

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

On April 2, a new space for bands to practice became available to the college community.

Informally known as the "band trailer," the space is located behind Falstaff's.

Members of student bands began petitioning for extra space to practice on campus last fall.

Prior to the opening of the band trailer, Wilson Chapel was the most readily available practice space for student bands, but was difficult to book because it is also used for other campus activities.

"The petition wound up on my desk and in consultation with Mike Hall, the director of financial planning and budgeting, Paul Lundberg from facilities and some of the students involved in the petition I put together a Presidential Discretionary Fund request for just more than \$10,000 to create the space," said Robin Adams, assistant director of student leadership activities.

The trailer is currently just a soundproof room.

Adams said he hopes to get a PA system installed and a drum set put in as soon as possible.

"I hope to get more equipment for the room so you don't have to spend tons of time setting up and tearing down and your time slots can be used for practice rather than taking apart drum kits," Adams wrote in an e-mail to students on April 6.

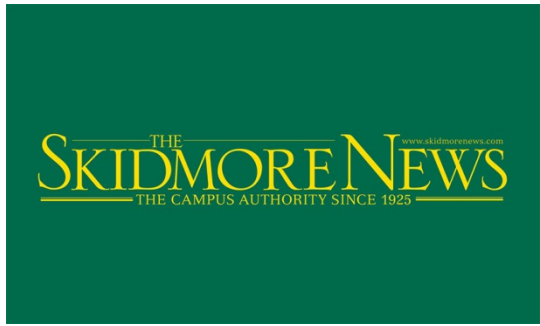
Students can reserve the space for three hours at a time.

A sign up sheet is available outside of Adams' office in Case 226b.

The key to the trailer can be picked up at the Campus Safety office in the basement of Jonsson Tower.

"Be respectful of the space. If it gets trashed then it's done. Both myself and Campus Safety will pop in periodically to make sure it's in good shape but I'll expect you to police yourselves on this one," Adams' wrote.

Students are reacting positively to the additional practice space.



“I think [creating the space] is one of the most productive things Skidmore has done in a while. The trailer is pretty much everything you can ask for as student band,” said Warren Bianci ‘11, bassist for the student band Houseboat.

Though it is still in its trial phase, Adams said if everything goes well he hopes to install a more permanent practice space on campus.

Students can send questions and suggestions for improvement to Adams at radams@skidmore.edu.

#1.2179445:3499650944.JPG Band Trailer

The Band Trailer is located behind Fallstaff's.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Senate amends ICC operating procedure

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

On Tuesday, April 12, the SGA Senate unanimously passed a resolution to change the Inter-Class Council Operating Codes.

The new resolution stipulates that each class is required to have at least one event where the proceeds go to charity.

This rule was already in effect from a resolution created at the start of the year, but due to an error, had yet to be officially added to the Operating Codes.

Libby Gronquist, president of the 2011 class, and senator Emilee Bell '13 brought the resolution to Senate.

"We've already been doing this all this year, but it's important to have this in writing to set precedence," Bell said. "This year we did pinnies, the can drive, and several other events. It's important that class council have support for each other and that we give back."

"We came into this year with interesting relations with Saratoga and we need to strengthen that relationship. Saratoga is a big part of Skidmore and we need to act as leaders for our community," Gronquist said.

Senator Dan DeMartini '11, presented a brief update on the development of the new housing complexes. DeMartini sits on the Scribner Village Replacement Committee with administrators such as Mike West and Rochelle Calhoun.

"Weather has been a major concern, obviously, but they've been doing as much as they can," DeMartini said. "They're still planning on having the Northwoods apartments done by January 2012."

Construction will continue during the summer months and into the fall semester, when progress should be openly visible.

The three new sophomore buildings will potentially be finished in September 2013, with all the construction done in the fall of 2014.

"When it's finished, it's going to be amazing," DeMartini said.

The new Scribner will include composting sites, a community center, a picnic area and a fire pit.

“In fact, the seniors of 2014 will probably want to live in the new Scribner, and the juniors will get Northwoods. Campus is going to be different, but fantastic,” Demartini said.

DeMartini will continue providing updates as the committee continues to meet.

In other news:

- Senate unanimously granted a supplemental of \$700 to the Model U.N. so the club can go to a conference in New York City next week. Club president John Goepfinger '11 came to Senate to request the money, which is needed for food and subway fare for the seven attendees.
- Voting for the fall 2011 SGA senators-at-large began on April 14 at midnight. Candidate speech night was April 13.
- SGA president Alex Stark will announce the results via e-mail.

Campuswide game draws big crowds

By Brad Morris, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

The zombie apocalypse has come. OK, not really. On Apr. 13, the college began playing the campus-wide game of tag, "Humans vs. Zombies." The game will last four days and ends on April 16.

The game has several rules: humans must wear headbands around their arm to signify this status, while zombies must wear headbands around their heads; the zombies feed on the humans by tagging them; if a human is tagged, he or she becomes a zombie, and the zombie rules now apply to her or him.

To fight off the zombies and protect themselves, humans can stun zombies with a shot from a Nerf gun. Students who do not have Nerf guns can throw a sock at a zombie instead. Melissa Philley '13, a coordinator of the game, said if you do not want to lose a sock, you can simply run.

On Tues Apr. 5, Philley promoted the event in the dining hall atrium with Graham Dawson '13 and Sam Gunther '13, who helped advertise the game around campus. They were prepared with Nerf guns, bandanas and a cardboard cutout dubbed "Pressure-Point Pete."

All three were styled in Humans vs. Zombies surgical masks. "We signed up about 40 people. It was pretty successful considering we were only advertising for a few hours," Philley said.

Human vs. Zombies was created at Skidmore, but at Goucher College in 2005 by students Brad Sappington and Chris Weed. After hearing about the game, Philley and Charlotte Levy '13 decided to try to bring the game to Skidmore.

"It just [felt] natural [to do this]," Philley said. "We've been doing 'Nerf Wars' since freshmen year so it sort of progressed from there," Levy said.

The process for setting up the game took the coordinators and helpers most of the year. They originally set up a booth at the club fair fall semester "to see how many people were interested," said Philley. After a great number of students expressed interest, they decided to progress their idea by contacting the sophomore class President Emilee Bell to set up event.

When discussing the process for setting up Humans vs. Zombies,

"We've been doing it in bits and pieces [since the fall]. The Humans vs. Zombies website is a big help in terms of registering and keeping track of the participants. The rest of the process is mostly scheduling," said Philley.

On Apr. 9, Philley said around 180 people had signed up for Humans vs. Zombies. By Apr. 1, the number increased to over 200 participants. Philley said this number "is well within the range of how many people we expected to sign up."

Participants are enthusiastic about the event. Dawson, who is participating in the game, said, "I am finally excited to live out my dream to survive and fight through the zombie apocalypse."

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Melissa Philley '13 and Charlotte Levy '13 prepare for battle.

Brad Morris/The Skidmore News



Seniors present Dance Capstones

By Carly Stokes, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

The college's Dance Department showcased the Class of 2011 Senior Capstones at 8 p.m. on April 8, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on April 9. All showings were held in the Dance Theater, where the capstones are usually held annually to display the works of the seniors' yearlong projects.

The seniors featured in this year's event included Anna Long, Daniel Chenoweth, Danny Weinstein, Emily Craver, Hartley Parish, Jazmyn Jaymi Young, Nicole Kadar, Rebecca Greenbaum and Zoe Prengaman.

The opening performance, "Fusion," included a tap and modern number choreographed by Weinstein. Tap dancer, Steven Anton '12, displayed impressive footwork, which was emphasized by an echo and the beautiful, dramatic lightning by Jaime Martinez-Rivera '11.

Sydney Magruder '14 and Courtenay Thorne '12 successfully portrayed a great partnership.

Greenbaum '11 who choreographed, "The Way That I Am," conveyed a personal piece that had a lot of movement and brought out fluidity from dancers Angela Cascone '12, Alison DeFranco '13, Molly Kimmel '11, Emily Pacilio '12 and Tory Stoker '14.

Greenbaum's choice of music by Max Richter added to the personality of the piece.

Acclaimed choreographer, Robert Battle, was chosen as Young's yearlong study. Young performed "Damn" (1996) in an exciting and passionate performance staged by Erika Pujic.

True to Battle form, Young's intense movements kept the audience captivated.

Senior Long performed "paisley Boteh Jegheh" by Kraig Patterson. The simplistically beautiful costume by Kraig Patterson and Parish incorporated a nude body suit with a knee length navy tulle skirt. The choreography captured the electronica-digitalized nature of the music by Paul Lansky.

Parish showcased her great talent with "Fledgling." Her piece featured Andrew Magazine '13 who led a pack of animalistic dancers that included Ivy Rose Cardillo '14, Corry Ethridge '14, Kelly Jackson '12, Sabrina Lambert '12, Kelly Martinet '13, Lauren Parra '13 and Courtenay Thorne '12.

The movements, music and mentality enraptured the audience in a raw performance of tribe versus tribe.

After the intermission, Chenoweth used a plethora of mediums to present his piece, "Body of Work."

From the tangled pencils that hung from his coat to the books and paper that fell from the ceiling, Chenoweth's avant-garde choreography kept the audience constantly wondering about what was going to happen next, and if it was going to inflict any pain.

The audience gasped as not-so-light books dropped onto Chenoweth. The choreography and videography by Melecio Estrella that played during the dance portrayed the life of a tortured student.

Senior choreographer Prengaman created an army-themed piece "Lock N' Load."

Dancers Julia Clancy '14, Sabrina Lumbert '12, Nicole Sartor '11, Tory Stroker and Tess Wendel '11 donned serious expressions, which added to the army-element, as did the great music compilation by Carl Landa featuring Phoenix.

Prengaman also integrated ballet, which provided subtle feminine aspects to this overall masculine piece.

Kadar gave an enchanting performance in "Across the Meadow," by Camille A. Brown. The music by George Gershwin and the backdrop of a night sky with a subtle moon shadow, gave Nadar's performance a dream-like essence.

The final performance choreographed by Craver, "immortal fishes," had fluid, free-flowing qualities in the movements performed by Angela Canscone, Jacob Goodhart '12, Emily Pacilio '12, Martha Snow '14 and Sam Szabo '11. "immortal fishes" brought humor with the expressions of some of the dancers, and was the perfect closing act for this year's show.

The 2011 academic year produced awe-inspiring senior Capstones, which showcased all the hard work that was put in both on and off the stage.

The lighting crew and stage work impressively and effortlessly helped to effectively convey the creative products that the school's dance department had to offer.

Be wary of sailing on the jealou'sea'

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

Ahoy, matey! Now that the sun has come out to play, we can flounder to the green to cure our scurvy skin, whether it is sunbathing, playing your guitar or walking along the tightrope.

To the people who climb trees: I know this might be considered jealousy of your ninja squirrel-like abilities, but if you bust a nut, this is a fair warning that people will laugh before we worry or wait for you to pop right up like a cat.

My point? This campus is not a backdrop for your rendition of Jackass, nor is it looking for any more freaky, climbing critters. In any case, please videotape.

Dear C.,

Over winter break I hooked up with a good friend and it ended really badly. Now we are trying to be friends again. But he's starting to get flirty and I don't know what to do. Should I have "a talk" with him?

-Floundering "Friend"

Dear Floundering "Friend,"

Regardless of what you consider "really badly" - whether he took double the time to answer a text or did something as dramatic as on Gossip Girl - do you know what you want? You need to consider what it is you want out of the friendship.

If you really like him, then let the relationship take its natural course toward something that can possibly be great. If you are not feeling it and the hookup left a funky taste in your mouth, I would not take the flirting too seriously.

Sometimes friends unintentionally flirt because they are comfortable with one another. Or maybe he might be trying to diffuse the situation by way of flirting.

Once it borderlines sweet nothings and drunken caresses, then I would consider other signs that your fishy friend might want to swim breast stroke with you. If that time comes, make sure you consider his feelings and find a way to make the conversation as light and relaxed as possible.

Dear C.,

My boyfriend went away to A.C. (Atlantic City) the other weekend and I got very paranoid and we ended up fighting. I tried explaining to him that it's not that I think he'd actually do anything; I'm just not good at trusting people. How do I explain to him that I trust him to the extent that I can trust people in general?

-Trust-Scurvy

Dear Trust-Scurvy,

If it is any consolation, I would be equally paranoid about a boyfriend going to AC. However, I would never let him know it. Not telling the boyfriend about your paranoia and instead wishing him a good time sets his weekend off to a great start because he knows he has such a cool girlfriend.

You might bite all your nails off by the time he returns, so make sure to surround yourself with your best girlfriends. But this does not mean you get to vent about your boyfriend the entire time. Send him a text halfway through the weekend saying you hope he is having a great time, but do not expect a quick response or a long conversation.

When you tell a boyfriend you do not trust people in general, it makes him feel like he will never be able gain your trust. Figure out the root of your trust issues. This self-evaluation will not only help with your boyfriend, but in other relationships, too.

Comparing that failed relationship to your current relationship will help you understand that some people can be trusted more than others, but the only way to find that out is to communicate why you have these fears.

Hopelessness is a buzz-kill before a poppin' weekend with the boys, so try and make an effort to trust him more than other people around you, especially if there is no reason why you should not him.

Hearts and Stars,C.

Philip Roth's alter-ego finds his 'happily ever after'

Stranger than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

The "Zuckerman books" are a series of three novels and a novella written by Philip Roth. Roth has been a force in American literature for the past 40 or 50 years; he has written books that scare critics away and trick the intellectual fools on the Pulitzer and National Book Award committees into giving him honors.

Nathan Zuckerman, the arrogant and insecure narrator, is Roth's alter-ego. Both are perverse, unromantic, famous, Jewish and from New Jersey. When Roth was in his thirties, he wrote a book sparked "Portnoy's Complaint." The book caused controversy and vilified Roth as a "self-hating Jew."

The book sold a lot of copies and turned him into an outlaw of American letters.

Zuckerman writes a book titled, "Carnovsky" - the same in spirit and in content as "Portnoy's Complaint" - that gave some assurance into Roth's private life.

The Anatomy Lesson, written in 1983, is the third novel in the series. Zuckerman is in his forties and is well-known around the world as an important author. He is a survivor of three marriages, and the divorces are all considerably his fault. His parents are dead and his brother is estranged. Suddenly, he is overcome with physical pain that leaves him stationary and unable to type.

The physical impediment comes so suddenly that no diagnosis can be made. Zuckerman comes to the conclusion that it is God's sign to stop writing.

Zuckerman is a lonely man with an ear for words and a high-voltage sex drive. He does not have friends, his ex-wives hate him and he has no family. Though he has four women who come to take care of him, he is eager to reinvent his life.

On a whim, he decides to reenter the University of Chicago as a pre-med student. He decides to quit writing to become a doctor to follow his literary heroes who found themselves in ruts, mentioning Kafka, who became a waiter in a café, and Mailer who ran for mayor of New York City.

On his way from New York City to Chicago to convince an old friend to give him a recommendation on his application, Zuckerman brings the reader into specific moments in his life. There is the pain of his

mother's death and his travels to Florida for her funeral, which is the last time he saw his family. There is a letter from a distinguished academic named Milton Appel who critiques his work and now wants him to write a pro-Israel essay following the 1973 Egyptian-Syrian attack on Yom Kippur.

The action of the novel goes everywhere. One moment Zuckerman is impersonating Appel and explaining his love of pornography to a limo driver and the next he is comforting a friend's father who is weeping after losing his wife. There are moments of reflection about the relations between sons and "the last old-fashion fathers," as well as a hopeless, exasperated argument about the merits of extravagance.

Things jump about while questions and conflicts are raised and contemplated, making the narrative seem like a mess. Then comes the wonderfully thought-out ending of Zuckerman's reaffirmation in life.

During an argument, he falls and smashes his face into many pieces. The injury forces him to spend a considerable amount of time in surgery. Zuckerman ends a new man, making rounds in the hospital as a doctor's assistant.

For the first time in a while, he is happy.

Hunter is a controversial writer who speaks his mind. He is also from Maine, or "Vacationland."

McCarthyism reincarnated at Skidmore

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

The 1950s was a frightening time in American history. The Soviets had recently acquired the atom bomb and what was thought of as a global communist conspiracy for world domination was thought to have infiltrated the United States. A climate of fear engulfed American society, reason was abandoned and the word "Communist" evolved into a generic term for evil, shedding all the political and philosophical nuances that Communism entails. These were the circumstances that allowed Joseph McCarthy to rise to power.

Skidmore has an unhealthy fear of racism. Back at school in Brooklyn, when the odd swastika or racial slur was found drawn or written here and there, it was disposed of, not even briefly legitimized by discussion, given no more thought than excrement waiting to be flushed. When I got to Skidmore, and our entire dorm was gathered to discuss a "bias incident," I was introduced to a system that treats every offensive doodle as a profound social phenomenon indicative of deep-seated "biases."

Racism, and all other forms of bias, have become to Skidmore what Communism was to 1950s America: a grave concern, of course, but also an obsession that borders on mania. There is an enormous specter that Skidmore believes is looming right over North Broadway, threatening to encroach at any time, to sweep in and shatter its dream of harmonious diversity. And now, from this atmosphere of fear, a movement has begun which has abandoned reason in favor of ideological conformity, taking a form that eerily resembles McCarthyism.

McCarthyism at the College

In the aftermath of the Compton's incident, the lines of ideological conflict were drawn. Supporters of the allegedly criminal students were quick to demand total allegiance to the cause of absolving the students of guilt. Yet there remained a silent majority of students and faculty, myself included, who, though fully aware of and disgusted by the obvious signs of institutionalized racism, were not willing to throw caution to the wind and condone violence.

As I attempted to convey in my column, "Quiet the commentators," (which was an inappropriately authoritarian title thought up by one of my editors) the incident was much more complicated than the diametrically opposed narratives offered by the two emerging camps. I pleaded for the bickering

between town and gown commentators to cease, I urged the community to abandon ideological warfare and embrace reason and tempered analysis. I also mentioned Danny Pforte in passing.

The very next week, Danny's entire column was addressed to me! Somehow he had misconstrued my words to suggest that I was advocating apathy, and rebuked everything I'd written.

To what did I owe the honor of having an entire article addressed solely to me? It was because I offered a perspective that demonstrated a slightly different understanding of the situation, and I questioned the approach that commentators such as Danny were taking. Apparently, I had broken party line. I was disturbed by the us-and-them mentality that I saw emerging at that moment.

I felt no need to respond - to engage in polemics over the barely coherent argument Danny posed to me would constitute hypocrisy given the fact that I had, a week earlier, criticized this approach to the issue. I watched the situation develop with distanced curiosity, ever open-minded and never quick to dismiss others and their opinions before reflecting on the worth of my own. I can now, however, say with confidence that Danny's writing is detrimental to our community and its discourse, and that many of his critics are completely justified in their infuriation.

Each week Danny has written slightly different versions of the same column and each has garnered the same vitriolic responses on The Skidmore News commenting boards. Danny has taken the exceptionally vicious comments and cited them as evidence of oppression and discrimination.

In some cases students may actually be racist or unwilling to accept the reality of their white privilege. But in most cases, at least in mine, people do not want to be pigeon-holed and generalized, their myriad experiences and realities reduced to one monolithic "white majority." Offense to these articles is even more justified, when the majority of students are characterized as wealthy white oppressors.

Skidmore has long been stereotyped, had generalizations thrust upon it by outside entities. The 420 media escapade two years ago reminded us of our susceptibility to this. But, never before, at least not in my time at Skidmore, has one of our own made such malicious generalizations about the student body.

I couldn't have imagined up until now that we would ever be generalized as rich, white, able-bodied perpetrators of discrimination and oppression. Danny wrote that Skidmore has a "conservative student body." This certainly is a radical suggestion, though it is also highly dubitable, and, in my opinion, patently false.

Danny's articles have in no way contributed to campus dialogue. Danny had the opportunity to bring the community together to discuss ways in which we can improve the social atmosphere at Skidmore, which many, as Danny has repeatedly stated, have testified is unwelcoming. This is a cause that, as members

of this community whose comfort here is inextricably intertwined with our peers', is dear to nearly all of us (I can't speak for the students who draw swastikas and other "biased" words and symbols around campus or just generally project ignorance).

All Danny has done, however, is inspire resentment from many students, whom he has been continually disparaging and marginalizing through his highly polemical columns each week. We need to be brought together, but instead we are being torn apart, lines are being drawn, and blame is being recklessly cast in a situation that has descended into near McCarthyism.

When one student anonymously posted a veiled threat to Danny on one of his articles, Acting President Susan Kress issued a statement, and The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work wrote a letter to The Skidmore News, defending Danny and condemning the paper for its anonymous commenting policy, and commenters for their incivility.

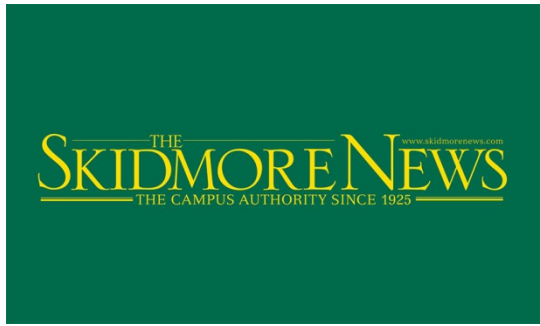
The Department of Sociology framed the issue as "A question of Skidmore identity." What the letter essentially boils down to is the question, "are you with us or against us? Are you for what's right or what's wrong?" This letter displays a frightening demand for ideological purity, a demand for rigidity of thought.

The Sociology faculty gave us two options of who we, members of the Skidmore community, can be, of where we can stand. We can either be, "individually and collectively, open-minded and capable of addressing questions that make us uncomfortable." Or, we can "shutter our minds, our classrooms, and our institution from the challenging questions concerning race, class, gender, and other points of difference among us."

The letter concludes that The Skidmore News currently practices the latter and asks readers if they will "call out those who privately embrace intolerance." To criticize a publication's online commenting policy is one thing. But to suggest that its editors "privately embrace intolerance" is another, frighteningly McCarthyistic, thing all together. The faculty even deigned to equate allowing anonymous commenting with supporting "terrorism," the 21st century's version of "communism," a catch-all term for evil.

It is now open-season for racists at Skidmore, for calling out "shutter-minded" lovers of ignorance, and apparently no individual or organization is immune to those charges. The comment boards now indicate that our Student Government Association is being accused of racism. Teshika wrote, "SGA: you are completely perpetuating the system of white power."

And Danny, our own Joseph McCarthy, has free reign, with full administrative and faculty support, to spearhead these outrageous charges, to use extremely isolated incidences of racism to draw broad



conclusions about his fellow students and their organizations, implicating anyone and anything he likes as perpetuating racism and oppression. Have you no decency, Danny? Have you no shame?

West brings old-time religion to campus

Daydreams

By Rick Chrisman, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

If you were lucky enough to attend Cornel West's lecture last week, you must have left it bedazzled. I sure did. West did more than live up to his reputation as being a great speaker. In a true tour de force, he spoke for more than an hour without any notes, citing Seneca, Plato, Anton Chekov, Shakespeare, Eugene O'Neill, and Alfred North Whitehead.

His lecture was more than merely interesting. It was profoundly intelligent and he delivered it with humanity and passion. As one student described it, it was poetry. We were moved, we were pierced, we were shaken, we were lifted, we were humbled, and we were challenged. We laughed, and some of us nearly cried.

As a public intellectual figure working in an academic setting, West took a unique approach in appealing to us as moral beings. He posed fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of our individual lives: what does it mean to be human? Whom have we helped, whom have we served, and what greater vision have we served? Do we have a vocation or a career in mind? What is the purpose of a college education?

He started by proposing something startling: the idea that education is about facing death. He defined "deep education" as facing the fact of death - both the inevitability of our own deaths, as well as the many forms that death can take, namely in social and political oppression.

So, if you're an American, you have to grapple with the centuries of social death imposed upon African-Americans and many other minority groups. It's not a comforting thought. At the end of the lecture, he asked if we have what it takes to do so. Can we endure such an education and allow it to affect our personal decisions?

To some ears this would sound pretty radical. But it is entirely traditional, and West reiterated this point throughout the lecture. The most essential human endeavor is to pass on tradition, which he summarized with the expression "Socratic questioning and prophetic witness." How traditional - Socrates and the Bible!

You probably know all about Socrates and the idea of critical thinking, but do you know what West meant by "prophet" in the phrase "prophetic witness"? The prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures - such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Amos - maddened kings and their subjects alike by criticizing exploitation and the widespread abandonment of religion. These God-intoxicated prophets gave voice to God's empathy for those who suffered. They spoke of doom for these delinquent leaders, but also promised them comfort if they were to repent their sins.

The disconcerting message of the prophets was that "few are guilty, all are responsible," which held everybody accountable. As West said, their words were like "a scream in the night," but also assured people of God's compassion. The prophets ultimately sought the redemption and reconstruction of social and political life, a mission inspired by the divine. West is not only a modern Socrates, but a bona fide prophet as well.

Being a "Rev." on campus myself, I joked with him afterwards, asking him whether we should call him "Rev. West." He emphatically declined. I suggested the title "evangelist for justice" instead. He said yes. Like James Baldwin before him, West may have left the church of his upbringing, but the church never left him at all.

You can read all about the lecture's content in West's 2004 book, "Democracy Matters." You might wonder, then, why you should bother to see him speak in person. To me, the answer is obvious: to be questioned personally by someone who takes the kind of risks that he wants us to take. To hear someone speak of hope who has survived the lash of discrimination and the boot of derogation. To be in the same room as this remarkable man, and to leave in awe, entering into a new Skidmore day.

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

The taste of spring and fresh cookies

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

Last week I wrote about sunflower cupcakes out of a sense of desperation and need for sun, warmth, summer and relaxation.

Well, one out of four is not so bad. (Hint: it is not summer, I am not relaxed and it is barely sunny ...) But I am not complaining. I walked outside in a T-shirt without getting frostbite. I am a happy camper.

This article is not going to showcase some fancy bread technique or show off an elaborate cake design. It is just about cookies. Sometimes, you just need to step back from all the fancy-pants recipes and wild kitchen adventures and whip up a batch up of regular, old cookies.

Do not worry if they are perfectly round, and definitely do not bother to measure the chocolate chips. These are lunchbox cookies. Cookie jar cookies. The kind that you can gobble up without having to stop and admire.

So this weekend I opened my cupboard, pulled out a bag of chocolate chips, a box of raisins and a jar of peanut butter, and I just made cookies.

These cookies totally lived up to my expectations. They were sturdy, snack-sized and delicious. They tasted great with that just-out-of-the-oven warmth, but were still great the next day. They were a nice post-dinner treat and the perfect chaser to a lunchtime PBJ.

A versatile, simple, sturdy cookie. What else could a girl ask for? (Besides summer, sun and relaxation, that is...)

For more adventures in the kitchen, check out www.asprinkleintime.wordpress.com.

Chocolate Chip Raisin Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup brown sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla

3/4 cup peanut butter

1 cup flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

A Pinch of salt

1/2 cup chocolate chips

Cream butter and sugars until creamy, then add egg and vanilla and beat until smooth.

Add peanut butter and continue to beat until combined.

Add flour, baking powder and salt and stir to combine.

Add chips and raisins and stir again.

Drop small spoonfuls of dough onto parchment

Bake 12 minutes or until just golden.

This recipe is adapted from canarygirl.com

#1.2179457:1575379697.jpg Chocolate Chip Raisin Peanut Butter Cookies

Chocolate Chip Raisin Peanut Butter Cookies

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News



We need to trust our community

Editorial

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

On Friday, April 8, a group of vandals defaced five cars parked in Northwoods Lot, spray-painting offensive epithets and causing thousands of dollars of damage. With no witnesses and little evidence brought to light so far, the perpetrators could very well go unpunished.

This isn't the first shocking case of vandalism seen on campus this year. Even aside from the long lists of instances investigated by Campus Safety or emailed out in the Bias Incident Reports, extreme cases have caught the community's eye. In just one night last October, there were more than \$200,000 of damages inflicted on the Northwoods Apartments construction site and the Center for Sex and Gender Relations.

In both of these cases, and as is likely with this most recent crime, the vandals were never found.

News of attacks like these shocks a campus community accustomed to considering itself free from crime. This is a campus where laptops are left unattended in the library, wallets turned into Campus Safety and dorm-room doors kept unlocked. Students wander the campus alone until the early hours of the morning, never questioning whether doing so is unsafe.

To see members of the campus or local communities betray that sense of trust is frightening; the fact that these attacks frequently include reprehensibly offensive hate speech makes it all the more so. Is this really a campus where you might return to your car and see the word "fag" written across the windshield? What do instances of vandalism like these say about the college we attend?

These are good questions, and ones we expect to see pursued in campus conversations that reflect on how these attacks fit into a larger picture of violence and prejudice at Skidmore. We hope, too, that these conversations might touch on how to better the college's relationship with the Saratoga Springs community, as members of the local area might also have played a role.

But this crime also needs to be addressed with specific and immediate action. Campus Safety should begin installing video camera surveillance of areas that - like Northwoods Lot and the area surrounding the Center for Sex and Gender Relations - are isolated during the weekend nights where these crimes most commonly occur. This investment of resources, while potentially dear, might be the difference between catching the parties responsible and, as in the last cases of vandalism, failing to do just that.

Campus Safety officers might also increase their nightly rounds taking them through these isolated areas, allowing them to head off crimes before they occur. If this means that they might not be able to respond to every noise complaint in the dorms, we know these officers will make the right choice. In anyone's book, catching the student holding a baseball bat and a can of spray paint is a better bust than writing up the first-years settling in with a six-pack and a deck of cards.

We hope officers will continue to consider new strategies that will ensure that students feel safe on the campus and that administrators will allocate the funds necessary to aid them. Using whatever means necessary, we need to preserve the sense of safety and trust that makes this college, for four years, our home.

Recognize mortality to cool campus climate

Challenging Privilege

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

After attending the Cornel West lecture and after having an intimate breakfast with him and the rest of the Intergroup Relations (IGR) team the following morning, I feel the need to reflect upon the purpose of human life.

In the U.S., we are born into a nation of conflict. We are a people passed along a conveyer belt, built up with socially constructed expectations, only to be met with disappointment, fear, loss and suffering, while the creators of the system stand by and watch.

For the few that reap the benefits, it has become easy to shrink into a cowardly apathetic state and shed accountability. For the rest, hope is lost. Survival mode is in full force. So what is the purpose of human life?

I agree with Dr. West that a major step in finding purpose is learning how to die. Learning how to die means that we go beyond our comfort zone. It means critically engaging with our surroundings and grappling with harsh realities, and that to not do so would be to let go of what it truly means to love. It means connecting love and justice with an unbreakable bond. When we love, as Dr. West said, we can't stand to see others treated badly.

The painful truth - one that I believe has driven us into our bubbles and away from our purpose - is that the very country we live in is on the brink of collapse. The powerful have formed a systematic oligarch complex enough to blind us to difference and hatred, and also powerful enough to make us turn a blind eye toward love and community.

The sense of individual pride and power we are taught to embrace (that lie called the "American Dream") has sapped us of the compassion that we may have otherwise had for those unable to gain access to the creators' power and privilege.

Too many of us have bought into the idea that we live in a vacuum and that our purpose is to strive for wealth that we can earn all by ourselves. This sense of independence seems gratifying, but it is extremely problematic. None of us who have ever gained privileges within our unfair system have ever done so alone. Privilege always has and always will come with help. Many of our privileges come in the

form of hereditary power, such as the inheritance of wealth among the upper class and the ongoing political dominance of white men.

The purpose of human life is to critically analyze what we have been told is true and to challenge the status quo. Instead of following the leaders of apathy, oppression and fear, we should take a step back and look through a different lens. Listen to the voices that you cannot relate to and make an effort to understand them.

Empathy is not guaranteed, but we must work toward this important life goal. Flip the script of the American Dream and better yourself by learning from people whom you fear, whom you hate. Only after striving toward this goal can we truly fulfill life's purpose.

The campus climate has been a hot topic of conversation over the course of this semester. The naysayers who have discredited the experiences of people who have been and are presently marginalized have done so in a manner that is prevalent in our current society. It is unfortunate that the loudest voices you hear in our society are those of the cruel tea-partiers and conservative politicians, who look for every way to take away basic human rights in the form of budget cutting and privatization.

But even more disturbing is the number of people who are silent and can only find the courage to voice their opinions anonymously. As rapper David Banner states, "We are livin' in a day and time, where we stand for nothing, fall for anything, and everything we say is fine."

We must look beyond our socialized "realities." A purpose in life worth dying for is one that examines what we do not know. And once we find it, we should feel obligated to take it into consideration rather than to disregard it. I acknowledge that this is much easier said than done.

Our segregated and unequal society has separated us from both the knowledge and experience needed to understand its complex construction and its impact on people. It has also removed any sense of community, so that people coming together for the common cause of justice is an exception and not the norm.

Our campus climate reflects our need for the life purpose that our society strips from us when we are born into our unjust system. But if we can expose injustice, fight it and stand for something different and something new, then our purpose can finally manifest itself.

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

Let's address campus discomfort

Letter to the Editor

By Jonathan Zeidan

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

Dear Editors,

As expected, the record number of contested positions for the Student Government Association (SGA) elections last week invited significant attention from members of the Skidmore student body. During the debate between candidates for the position of SGA President, we were asked about what we, as candidates for SGA President, will do next year if further issues regarding racial tensions arise.

In my speech I pointed out that there are actually two important issues affecting Skidmore campus culture and the student community: racial tension and alcohol abuse.

I would like to clarify that these two issues are in no way causal. They do, however, represent significant issues relating to feeling comfortable with oneself and in one's community that we, as a student body, must address.

It is clear that we are struggling to find answers to many questions surrounding diversity on campus. We are far from having all the answers, but now is not the time to stop looking. After reflecting on my own personal role in the discussion surrounding diversity at Skidmore, I understand that the awareness we have gained this year is only the first step in a long process. There are no easy solutions, but I plan to continue to facilitate discussions and work with an increasingly diverse set of student leaders to make concrete progress for a stronger community in which we can all take pride.

The Skidmore student community also experienced tremendous difficulties with issues surrounding alcohol consumption this year. After attending the "alcohol dialogue" in the fall, it became clear to me that many students drink to overcome stress and anxiety and often use alcohol as a social lubricant. Our Skidmore community will have to continue to encourage and enforce policies that support responsible alcohol consumption among its members. I personally do not think we can or should attempt to stop students from drinking. Rather, my approach would attempt to promote responsible drinking practices and develop an awareness of social pressures on college campuses.

Last week the student body elected many strong, qualified, and diverse members to positions in the Student Government Association. SGA is an evolving organization that strives to accurately represent all facets of the Skidmore Community. Like you, next year's SGA Executive Committee members have

begun searching for answers to the issues affecting the student body. I invite everyone to look for the Executive Committee's letter to the student body in the coming weeks where we will detail many of the planned activities and action items on the agenda for the ensuing academic year. SGA encourages your feedback. The Student Government Association is a vehicle for change - we need to work together to create our vision of an ideal Skidmore community.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Zeidan '12

Jonathan Zeidan is the SGA president-elect.

OSDP show brings students together

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

On April 14, the Office of Student Diversity Program (OSDP) hosted their third annual One Night Stand Talent Show at the Spa.

The show is an end of the year entertaining event that is coordinated with the Discovery Tour, a program for under-represented accepted prospective students that showcases academic and student life, diversity and interculturalism on campus.

Both prospective and current students were encouraged to attend and signup for the show.

"The goal of the show is to join together students of all backgrounds, to invite any and all students to participate in OSDP and to showcase the talent within our community at Skidmore," said Mariel Martin, Diversity of Student Diversity Programs.

The show has previously allowed various groups to showcase their talents, "We've had the pleasure of debuting some especially talented groups on campus including the Life Every Voice Gospel Choir and the Ujima Step Team," Martin said.

Students and prospective students filled up the Spa as host Randy Abreu '11 opened the show.

There were 11 performers at this year's show. Various acts included acoustic guitar playing, stand-up comedy, poem recitals and step dancing.

Abe Lerman '11 opened the show with an acoustic performance of "Let You Go," a song he wrote and composed.

His act was followed by Harper Sibley '12 who sang and played two songs on the electric guitar. Lerman and Sibley's performances both included solos that were received with warm applause.

The two musical acts were followed by a poem recital by Kim Caceres '14, who read her piece, "Response to Love," out loud to the crowd that listened silently.

Pibo Shongwe '14 then took the stage and sang to an interactive crowd that joined him. The audience fell to a silence when Janet Vidal '14 sang "Adios," a slow, soft song by Mexican music duo, Jesse y Joy.

Next was Marvin Michel '14, who entertained and drew some laughs from the crowd with his stand-up routine.

The show opened itself to impromptu acts, which included Philip Ortiz '14, who, at the last-minute, decided to sing and play an acoustic version of the song made famous by Frank Sinatra, "Fly Me to the Moon." Evelyn Canela '13 also recited her own poem.

Members of the Ujima Step Group then crowded the stage and impressed the audience with their rhythmic routine. Emma Bridges '14 sang and played on her guitar and Hailee Minor '12 sang and closed the show.

The judges, Martin and program coordinator Nate Richardson, picked the winners after listening to the audience's applause.

Lerman won third place and took the \$50 gift card. Bridges came in second and collected the \$75 award and the Ujima Step Team came in first place and won the \$100 gift card. They plan on donating the money to the Ujima club.

Host Abreu entertained the crowd in between acts with mini-interviews with random students and prospective candidates selected from the crowd. Abreu also took the time to remind the audience of other upcoming OSDP events.

The past two years were successful and like this year drew a large audience as well. "The Spa was packed each year with prospective students in addition to over 100 current Skidmore students," Martin said.

Andrea Gibson moves crowd with spoken word

By Gia Vaccarezza, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

Spoken word artist Andrea Gibson visited the college on April 9 to perform as a part of the (Dis)orderly Voices Festival.

Professor Rebecca Krefting and her students of the American Studies course, "Disorderly Women," sponsored the festival, which lasted from April 8 to April 9.

Gibson's poetry performance, which was held in Gannett Auditorium, mesmerized the crowd and received a standing ovation.

Gibson first performed at an open mic in Denver, Colo. and since then has won the Denver Grand Slam four times. She also finished fourth in the 2004 National Poetry Slam and finished third in the 2006 and 2007 Individual World Poetry Slam. In 2008, Gibson became the first poet to win the Women of the World Poetry Slam.

Her poetry covers many topics that range from gender norms to political statements concerning war. Saturday night's performance featured works from three of her spoken word CDs: "Yellowbird" (2009), "When the Bough Breaks" (2006) and "Swarm" (2004). She also released an album in 2003 titled "Bullets and Windchimes."

Gibson's work is often accompanied by an instrumental track that she plays on her laptop. The tracks featured during her performance were soothing and added to the feeling of intimacy between speaker and audience.

Her poetry touched on various topics and resonated strongly with students, especially in light of the recent dialogues that the college has had concerning the issues of race, sexuality and overall equality.

There is a great range of emotions in Gibson's work. Poems like "Swing Set" explore her experience as a kindergarten teacher whose students were constantly asking if she was a boy or a girl. Yet Gibson makes light of this, since once the children's curiosities are answered, they always ask for a push on the swing set.

Then there are poems like "For Eli," which Gibson dedicates to her friend, Elijah, who served in the army. Her word choice in this poem is the most stunning, like in the line, "Michael, 19... Steven, 21... John, 33/how ironic that their deaths sound like bible verses."

Even for those who have not experienced the effects of war, the somber tone and the brutal honesty that "not all casualties come home in body bags" can make the listener's skin crawl.

It is not enough to say Gibson has great talent with words. She creates and develops a relationship with her audience - or at least, she did when she was here.

Another poem she read was only a few lines, written by her niece. She asked audience members to record her reading and post it to YouTube so that her niece's wish to be on television would come true.

Gibson's ability to take excerpts from her personal life and share them with the world is incredible. Her poetry grabs the audience, shakes them around, makes them cry, makes them laugh and finally sets them back down gently. Her works inspire honest and heartfelt discussion as well as hope for equalities across all planes.

#1.2179484:3434149869.JPG Andrew Gibson

Andrea Gibson performs spoken word at Gannett Auditorium on April 9.

Lauren Elsner/The Skidmore News



Students Spread Autism Awareness

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

In conjunction with April - Autism Awareness month - this week the college featured many events hosted by Professor of Psychology Rachel Mann-Rosan's PS-212B Developmental Disabilities and Autism class. These events ranged from panels of students speaking about their experiences in working or living with people with special needs to guests from the non-profit organizations Saratoga Bridges and ASPIRe NY presenting at information sessions to help raise awareness about autism.

The series of events started on Tuesday, April 5 with a showing of the film, *The Horse Boy*. On Monday, April 11, a panel of students spoke about their experiences in working with children with special needs. The majority of the panel previously worked with children on the autistic spectrum at a special needs summer camp. One helped a student with Aspergers Syndrome in theater, and another, Elizabeth Karp '11, did research at UCLA with a focus on people affected by autism.

Nearly all of the college students said they just "fell into it" through the suggestions of family or friends and have enjoyed their time working personally with autistic children. They taught the children how to play with one another and assisted them in social situations, which many special needs children find difficult or awkward.

Each student on the panel emphasized the uniqueness of each individual child, saying that they were simply normal children who had trouble expressing themselves in a way that others could understand. One student described a boy who had an exceptional memory, and had memorized the floor plans of every mall in the area where he lived. For the students, their experiences provided lessons in patience, cooperation, and in dealing with difficult situations. They recommended that other students participate in special needs summer camps and other opportunities in working with children on the autism spectrum.

The Drastic Measures, the college's co-ed charity a cappella group, performed briefly and talked about their experience in working with and donating money to ASPIRe NY, which provides recreational activities for teens and young adults on the autism spectrum in the greater Saratoga County and Capital District Region.

Tuesday, April 12, featured three guests from Saratoga Bridges who spoke about various topics relating to those with autism. Beth Mormando, speech and language pathologist, discussed effective ways to

communicate with people on the autism spectrum. Cassandra Estey, behavior specialist, talked about positive behavior supports and some disorders of the autism spectrum. At the end of the presentation, Wendy Ashe, certified occupational therapy assistant, gathered the audience together to simulate what it felt like to be autistic by having them follow a series of rapid instructions while overloading their senses with noise and flashing lights. Several people could not go through with the exercise, and one student even said that he thought he was going to throw up.

Two events occurred on Wednesday, April 13, that involved stories from parents of children on the autistic spectrum and speakers from ASPIRe. In the latter, Julie Marks, one of the co-founders of the organization, spoke about how people normally perceive those with Asperger's Syndrome and other forms of autism, and the importance of people accepting that they are autistic.

Melanie Hecker, a three-year member of ASPIRe who was diagnosed with Asperger's at a young age and is now 17 and about to enter into college, spoke about her experience with the syndrome. She talked about many issues that people diagnosed with Asperger's have, such as difficulties with social interactions, reading emotions, and coping with sensory overload. Melanie also emphasized that such issues differ from case to case. "When you've met one person with Asperger's, you've met one person with Asperger's," she said.

Melanie added that she has enjoyed her time with ASPIRe, saying that she is able to interact with people in a way that she was not always able to in school. "I have people who I can be close to," she said, "and I don't have to question whether they're my friends or not."

Marks concluded the meeting by suggesting that students who wished to become more involved could volunteer as peer mentors in the program. She and her partner Deborah Garrelts can be contacted at info@aspireny.org.

In the morning on Thursday, April 14, students of Mann-Rosan's PS 212B class presented posters on autism and developmental disabilities in the Case Center, and in the evening Paul A. H. Partridge, Ph.D., who practices psychology in Schenectady, NY, gave a review of the recent research on the epidemiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), as well as some of the proposed changes to the ASD diagnoses to the next diagnostic manual.

Mann-Rosan, who had hosted an Autism Awareness week last year with her class, said that on average there were about 25-30 people at each event, and this year was the same, if not better. Students tell her that they find the events interesting and relevant, which is not surprising considering most of these students, according to Mann-Rosan, know someone on the autism spectrum who is regularly involved in their lives. "It seems like it's an issue that is touching the lives of the Skidmore community," she said. "I

felt like it was a mechanism for helping the students to feel as if they are getting involved and becoming more intimately involved in the subject."

Last year, Mann-Rosan was invited to give a talk on autism at a local conference with childcare providers. Prior to coming to Skidmore, she worked as a supervising psychologist at Saratoga Bridges, where she was able to reach out to the community and spread awareness about her work. "I have devoted my career to this," she said, "and my hope is that it will inspire young people to want to get involved in their own way."

In addition to contacting the aforementioned organizations, students may also visit the parent-run organization Upstate NY Autism Awareness's website (www.upstatenyautism.org) or contact families who are looking for students to work with their children one-on-one. Senator Roy McDonald, who spoke at the Autism Awareness week last year, may also be contacted for information on the legislative side of these issues.

"I encourage students to be open to people who are different," she said. "To be open to experiences like volunteering . . . and to get involved."

#1.2179595:2092958038.jpg Autism

Professor Mann-Rosan explains her class's involvement in Autism Awareness.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Men's lacrosse goes down to Middlebury in double OT

Sports Wrap

By Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editor

On Fri, Apr 15, 2011

The men's lacrosse team suffered a brutal defeat against Middlebury last Tuesday, April 12. After two rounds of overtime, Middlebury edged out Skidmore to win 11-10 on Wachenheim field. This loss ended Skidmore's six game winning streak, making its overall record 8-2.

Middlebury went up in the first few minutes with two quick goals, but by the end of the first quarter, Skidmore was up 4-2 with a 4-0 run for momentum. The rest of the game went back and forth, each team trading goal-for-goal. With 2:16 to play, Middlebury was up 10-9 and intended to run the clock out.

Much to the chagrin of the opponent, defender Michael Jennings '11 caused a key turnover, and Mike Milazzo '12 scored the equalizer with 29 seconds to play. This was Milazzo's third goal of the game.

Both teams had chances to score in overtime, but Middlebury ultimately found the back of the net first. Mike Holden '13 and Matt Lavesque '11 also finished the game with three goals apiece.

The Thoroughbreds will take the field again next Saturday, April 16, against Union on their home turf.

Golf

The Skidmore golf team took first place last Sunday, April 10, in the NYU/Manhattanville Spring Invite. The team collectively scored 28 strokes less than its closest competitor, SUNY Delhi, placing it well out in front of the nine other teams, all of which scored pretty similarly.

Of the top 20 scores that day, Skidmore held seven of them - including the No. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 spots. Anthony Dilisio '13 was Skidmore's top performer, finishing with a 72-74 - 146, one stroke behind Greg Verde (Cabrini College) and Andrew Kim (Columbia College), who tied for first.

Right on Dilisio's tail was Joseph Flowers '11, who shot a 72-75 - 147, while teammates Ryan Lloyd '11 and Peter Anderson '12 tied for fifth place at 151 strokes. Among those selected for the All-Tournament team were Dilisio, Flowers and Anderson.

Skidmore plays again April 15 at the Kravetz Invitational.

Softball

The softball team trounced Green Mountain last Thursday, April 7, in a clean sweep of the double header. Sam Crose '13 ran a tight shift in the first game, allowing no hits and just one walk in the five innings, the entire duration of the game. Caitlin Ketcham '11 went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs. Likewise, Charlotte Evans '11 also went 2-for-3, but with a two-run homer in the mix, her second this season. Katie Peverada '14 finished with two runs scored, two RBIs and a stolen base to boot. The final score of the first game was 11-0.

Game two began much like the last ended - with Skidmore lighting up the scoreboard with six runs in the first inning. The big hit in this spree was Christina Gargiso's '13 three run double with the bases loaded. The final score of the second game was 10-1.

The Thoroughbreds Monday game was cancelled this week, but they will return to action Thursday, April 14, against MCLA on Wachenheim field and again on Saturday, April 16, away at Rochester.

Baseball

The baseball team went on a five game winning streak this past week - beating Hamilton, sweeping a double header at St. Joseph's, shutting out Middlebury and edging out Southern Vermont with a series of late goals. This streak rockets the team's overall record up to 15-5.

The Thoroughbreds started off last Thursday, April 7, down 1-0 against Hamilton in the first. Due to an excellent rotation of pitchers, including Jordan Keysor '13, Zack Rudman '12, and Chris Aulet '14, this would be the only run scored by the Continentals.

Skidmore strung three runs together in the bottom of the third, and then grabbed its fourth run in the sixth. The rest were scoreless, and the final score of this big home game win was 4-1.

The following sweep of St. Joe's proved to be record setting for pitcher, Nick Laracuenta '11, who held onto his perfect winning streak and lead Skidmore to its 7-0, 7-2 wins last Saturday, April 9. Laracuenta pitched a shutout in the opening game, improving his record to 5-0 from the mound.

This was his twentieth win at the college level, which ties the program record for collegiate wins. The shutout was also his second of the season, which ties the shutout record at Skidmore.

Last Tuesday, April 12, Skidmore kept its winning streak alive with a clean run against Middlebury. After three early runs in the first four innings that went unanswered, the Thoroughbreds drove in three more runs in the ninth to finish 6-0.

Zach Rudman '12 earned his second win of the season, throwing three shutout innings from the mound. Keysor followed Rudman's lead with three more clean innings, and two other pitchers cleaned up the rest.

Clarkson returned after the half with four consecutive goals, but was unable to secure a lead. After that, Skidmore fired up and pushed its way toward another victory. In addition to Stavola's staggering nine goals and two assists (her second double digit game this season), Lauren Madden '12 and Kimberly Segalas '11 each finished with two goals.

This Wednesday, Williams ended Skidmore's winning streak. To start things off, Williams scored five of the first six goals scored to take an early 5-1 lead. Lauren McCarthy '11 was solely responsible for Skidmore's scoring in the first half, putting two in the back of the net to Williams' nine.

Though the Thoroughbreds rallied in the second half, they fell short of their mark and went down 11-8.

The Thoroughbreds resume play at Wachenheim field this Friday, April 15, at 4 p.m. against Rochester.

Men's tennis

The men's tennis team picked up two wins against St. Lawrence and TCNJ this past weekend. Skidmore is now ranked tenth regionally. In the matches on Saturday, April 9, Skidmore's Luke Granger led the team to its 8-1 victory with two wins in the singles, and one doubles win when he combined with Yahia Imam '11, who also had two singles wins.

On Sunday, April 10, Skidmore got a run for its money from opponent College of NJ, but still managed to pull out a 5-4 victory. The teams battled back and forth and New Jersey won two out of the three doubles matches; however, Skidmore made up ground in the singles to win it.

Skidmore will play again Wednesday, April 20, at Williams College.

Riding

The Skidmore riding team finished second to host St. Lawrence at the Zone II national qualifying show, giving them good standing going into the show at Kentucky Horse Park in early May. After a great day of riding, Coach Cindy Ford was recognized with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Lifetime Achievement.

In her 20 seasons as Skidmore's riding coach, she has led the team to five IHSA national titles, and has helped secure the 2010 championship.

#1.2179589:1350789358.JPG Lacrosse 1

The men's lacrosse team fought tooth and nail in its 11-10 loss to rival Middlebury in double overtime. Pictured: Defender Dan Demartini '11 forces a Middlebury attackmen away from the goal.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Skidmore hosts the class of 2015

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

April is one of the busiest months of the year for admissions. Between tours, open houses and Accepted Candidates Days, admissions is kept busy with a stream of incoming prospective students. Monday, April 18, marked the last of the three Accepted Candidates Days this month, as students and their families attended a series of events mainly hosted at the Arthur Zankel Music Center to learn more about the college.

Families arrived as early as 7:45 a.m. for registration at the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, and many then opted for one of the 8 a.m. tours, focused on the science facilities, the arts facilities or the campus in general. After being officially welcomed to the college, accepted students listened to Beau Breslin, assistant dean of the faculty and director of the First-Year Experience, and to a panel of students organized by Rochelle Calhoun, dean of student affairs, who talked about their experiences at the college. The candidates and their families were also taken to Williamson Sports Center where they met with faculty representatives from all of the academic and athletic departments for a 45-minute session. Families were also given the opportunity to sign up for financial aid appointments throughout the day.

After the 1:30 p.m. tours, which included bus tours of Saratoga Springs, the day ended with a closing reception at the Porter Plaza, where a jazz group entertained families. On the previous Accepted Candidates Days, which took place on April 8 and 15, the day culminated with The Accents and the Treble Makers, respectively.

Christina Sanyour, an early decision II student from Summit, New Jersey, said that she was attracted to the wide variety of programs she could participate in on and off campus. "Being here today made me realize even more things I could do," she said, adding that she really liked the idea that "Creative Thought Matters." Robert Miller, from Wellesley, Massachusetts, had an uncle who attended the college, and is interested in the liberal arts programs offered. He added that it was a nice day when he last visited and that he enjoyed seeing students outside on the green.

According to Mary Lou Bates, dean of admissions and financial aid, a total of 209 people came to the final Accepted Candidates Day on Monday, bringing the total from the month up to 540, which is slightly less than last year's total of 580. Prior to the construction of the Arthur Zankel Music Center, the college hosted four Accepted Candidates Days because of the large number of candidates and limited amount of space. This involved a day that was only for early decision students in late March.

Bates says that she has received positive feedback from families, whom she says are impressed by the how organized and efficient the events were. "One of the ways we gauge how successful the day was is the number of people who come out of the bookstore with big bags," Bates joked, referring to the people who bought items, such as college sweatshirts, from the SkidShop.

John Murphy, from North Andover, Massachusetts, said that it was the best accepted students day he had been to, and that he thoroughly enjoyed hearing students talk about their experiences at Skidmore. "The students that I see walking around seem like people I could relate to," he said. John is also interested in the new Arthur Zankel music building and is considering minoring in the music department.

On Thursday, April 21, the campus hosted an open house for high school sophomores and juniors. After an optional 8 a.m. tour of the campus, high school students registered at 9 a.m. and attended a student panel and an information session on applying to Skidmore. Several other tours were available throughout the day.

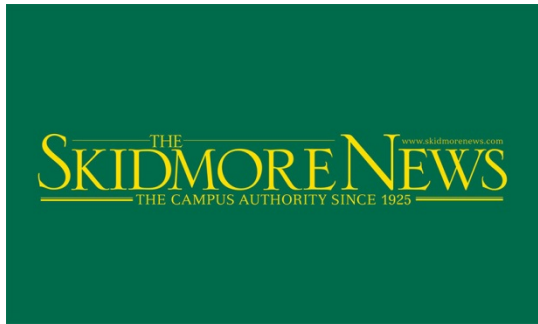
"This open house provides high school students with enough information to see if Skidmore College would be a good match for them," Bates said. And it brings in a wide variety of people every year. "We see students from literally all over the world," she said.

There are six open house days during the spring semester, three of which occur on April 6, 12 and 21. An estimated 620 people attended the open house on Thursday, by far the largest attendance of the year (the second highest was in March, which through two open houses attracted 130 people). Since the open houses occur relatively early in a high school student's college search, they can really affect the student's perception of the college, Bates said. Those who come away with a positive impression of the college may even apply early decision.

In addition to these two events, the college also uses two programs to contact the families of potential students, Parent-to-Parent, in which parents of current students talk to those of prospective ones, and alumni volunteers who talk to accepted students. These programs both occur during the month of April.

The college employs other methods to attract potential students. Peter MacDonald, director of Recruitment Communications, works closely with admissions from a communications and marketing perspective. This working relationship was a recent change made within the past two months. "It's a sign that the administration is taking our efforts seriously in terms of outreach," MacDonald said, "and in terms of making sure we do the best that we can in getting the word out and increasing our yield."

Most external attention comes from the college website, referred to by MacDonald as "the centerpiece of admissions recruitment." Other attractions come from social media offshoots such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, as well as e-mails, which are sent to accepted and high school students, and a



number of brochures. The college also uses websites such as cappex.com that help students with their college search. "There are so many ways for students to get information and so many places where they are," MacDonald said.

The Class of 2014 is well-known for being the largest and most diverse class in the history of the college. According to Bates, the college's target number for '14 was 640 students on campus and 36 in London, but, due to an unusual increase in the number of accepted students who decided to attend Skidmore, the end result was 730 students on campus and 40 in London, even after the summer melt, a term Bates used to describe the students who say yes in May but do not end up coming to campus in September.

The class target for this year fell within a range of 580-630 students in anticipation of an even higher yield on May 1, also known as "Candidates Reply Date". The college also offers a unique option to students on the wait list that allows them to notify the college by May 20 or 21 about whether they are still interested in attending. If not, they will be taken off the wait list in favor of those who are.

Attending events on campus is not the only influence that affects a student's final college choice. Financial aid plays a role in this decision as well. Skidmore College is a need sensitive institution, and will provide full financial need to as many accepted students as possible. "We are committed to meeting the full need of any student whom we admit who demonstrates financial aid need," Bates said. However, with a limited financial budget (\$33 million this year), the college can only provide full aid to a certain number of students. After there is no more money left to give, students will be accepted who do not require financial aid. There is no difference in the academic quality of these students.

Bates would like to thank the students for being a part of the process and in welcoming prospective students to the campus. "We hear from the kids who visit how warm and friendly Skidmore students are here, that Skidmore is a very welcoming place," Bates said. "When students on the panel are asked why they chose Skidmore, that comes up again and again."

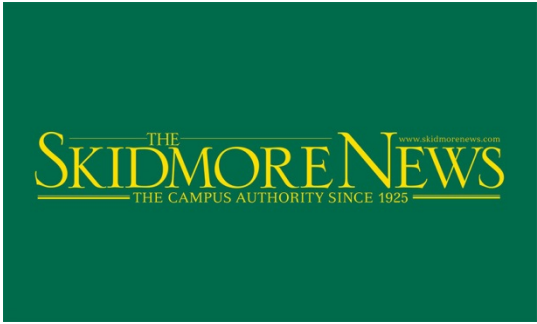
#1.2189805:3543288103.jpg Accepted Students

Accepted students and their families crammed the seats of the Helen Filene Ladd auditorium, for a series of speakers and a panel of current students.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News

#1.2189806:1326876874.jpg Accepted Students - Rochelle Calhoun

Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun led a panel of current students who discussed their college experiences with prospective students.



Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





Dowling and Holden dominate league

Sports Wrap

By Julia Schwartz & Isaac Baker, Co-Sports Editors

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

Skidmore started this past week off strong with a big win 12-4 over Union on April 16. The dreary weather was no match for the Thoroughbreds as the team won possession of the ball to start the game off on a high note.

Dominating from the start, the team kept the ball on offense for the majority of the first quarter to produce four goals scored by Ben Cornell '11, followed by Jon Hoeg '13, Mike Perlow '13 and Ryan Paradis '12. Union began to fight back in the second quarter, scoring three goals to end the half at 4-3.

As Skidmore came back from intermission, the team jumped into action scoring three goals in a row to increase their lead, with two goals from Mike Holden '13 and another from Perlow. Union posted another goal on the board, which would terminate its scoring opportunities for the remainder of play.

After the shut down of the other team, Skidmore posted another five goals on the board to bring the final score up to 12-4 by the end of the third, which did not change in the scoreless fourth quarter.

Holden finished the game with a game-high of four goals, notably followed by Perlow who had three goals. Seven other members of the team contributed offensively for the Thoroughbreds. In goal, Connor Dowling '12 made 14 saves, 10 of which came in the scoreless quarters.

Despite Skidmore's continuous rise in the rankings, the No. 11 team could not hold off Hamilton in the 9-8 loss April 20 on the road. After disorderly conduct on the field slowed the beginning of the game, Scott Madison '11 ignited the offense for Skidmore to begin play with a turnover, allowing Jacques Ward '11 to drive toward goal.

The Thoroughbreds were evenly matched throughout regulation, as Hamilton tied the score up every time the Thoroughbreds produced a goal. Standout players from the game were Holden, who finished the game with five goals, followed by Perlow with two and Cornell with one.

Dowling and Holden received Liberty League honors for their efforts on the field. Dowling's season high of stopping 19 shots nabbed him Co-Defensive Performer of the Week. Holden had a team high of seven goals throughout play this past week, boasting him as Co-Offensive Performer of the Week.

Women's lacrosse

Lindsay Stavola '11 led the Thoroughbreds to victory against league competitor Rochester April 15 with home-field advantage. She produced five goals and two assists during the game, bringing her year totals so far up to 41 goals and 27 assists. She is the 11th Skidmore player to score more than 40 goals in her career.

Lauren Madden '12 and Kimberly Segalas '11 also contributed to the team's success, with three goals and two goals, respectively. Rachel Klein '12 blocked the net for the Thoroughbreds with five saves for the day. The team had a 22-14 shot advantage, which helped produce the final outcome of 16-5.

Skidmore returned to the field the next day to cream the second league competitor of the week, William Smith.

Six different players contributed to the success of the huge win, led by Stavola, Madden and Segalas. Other notable scorers of the day were Lexi Melville '13, Summer Segalas '14, Sydney Weill '11 and Abbie Hamlin '12.

Women's lacrosse followed their win with a road trip on April 19 to Amherst where they played an evenly matched game against the No. 16 team. The deciding factor was a last minute goal from Amherst that brought the final score to 11-10.

After a competitive week on the turf, the Liberty League named Stavola Co-Performer of the week for the fifth time this season. She is the scoring leader of the season so far, and currently has 45 goals and 27 assists. Skidmore continues play on its home turf April 27 against Manhattanville.

Baseball

The baseball team had a busy weekend with four games against league competitor Union. The Thoroughbreds began action on the road in Schenectady, where even Union's home-field advantage could not stop the domination that took on a pair of 9-4 wins.

Nick Laracuentе '11 threw the first game, giving up eight hits, four earned runs and producing six strikeouts. The win improved his record 7-0 on the year. To assist his pitching, the team secured the win in the sixth inning by scoring seven of the nine total runs for the game, six of which were scored with two outs.

The second game began successfully for the Thoroughbreds, as the team produced three runs in the top of the first inning, and never looked back as they maintained the lead for the rest of the game. The final score of the second game reached the abnormal, yet identical score to the first, 9-4.

Zack Rudman '12 threw the second game, improving his record on the year to 3-1. Isaac Forman '14 provided assistance at the end of the game by relieving the junior pitcher to pull through and win the sweep against the Dutchmen.

The following day Skidmore returned to its home field to play Union in another double-header.

Softball

Skidmore struggled in its first league games April 15 on the road against Rochester. Rochester swept the team in two scoreless games for the Thoroughbreds, 8-0 and 3-0.

The fall in both games came when Skidmore could not string together any of its hits to bring runners home. Christina Gargiso '12 made great efforts to help the Thoroughbreds offensively in both games, producing one of three hits in the first game for the team and going 2-3 in the second game. Softball returns to league play April 22 away at Union.

Women's tennis

The women's tennis team volleyed through a rough weekend on the road April 16 and 17 as they took on non-league competition against No. 2 Williams and MIT. Williams swept Skidmore 9-0 despite the efforts of Rachel Loeb '11 at No. 1 and Rachel Baird '14 at No. 6 singles, respectively.

As the Thoroughbreds continued their travels, Sophia Bryan-Ajania '14 and Keirsten Sires '14 won at No. 3 doubles against MIT, as did Molly Nolan '14 at No. 5 singles.

Baird returned to the court and battled through to pick up a win at No. 6 singles. The rest of the team was unable to pull through as Skidmore fell to MIT 6-3. The Thoroughbreds return to the court on April 30 at Middlebury.

#1.2189802:2575161040.JPG Men's Lacrosse April 16

Bryan Connolly '13 cradles the ball as he pushes through the Union defense in pursuit of the net during the April 16 home game.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News

#1.2189803:3568662491.JPG Men's Lacrosse April 16 2

Jon Bubier '11 cuts around a Union defenseman to assist him teammates in the 14-2 win.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News





‘Romeo and Juliet’ opens with Latino flair

By Michelle Minick, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

Two households, both alike in dignity and enmity, set the scene for the college’s Theater Department’s mainstage production of "Romeo and Juliet."

While set in the fair Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, this uniquely stylized version of "Romeo and Juliet" takes place in the neighborhood of San Telmo in Buenos Aires, Argentina sometime during the mid-20th century.

Directed by Lary Opitz, this Shakespearean modern-day masterpiece also showcased the designs of Garret Wilson (Scenic Design), David Yergan (Lighting Design), Jenna Glendye ‘11 and Patty Pawliczak (Costume Design), David Wolf and Barbara Opitz (Dance Choreography), Douglas Seldin (Fight director) and Kate Kelly Bouchard (Voice and Acting coach).

From the opening tableaux featuring all of the actors, it was evident that Lary Opitz was putting his personal spin on a classic tale.

When William Shakespeare’s "Romeo and Juliet" comes to mind, one may think of the rich text and language, the balcony, two families feuding and two star-crossed lovers with a tragic ending.

However, this version included the Argentinean Tango and some impressive fight choreography and knife fighting.

Ultimately, Opitz’s vision for "Romeo and Juliet" was that the tango was the perfect expression for violence and passionate love and that Buenos Aires was a very appropriate setting because of its cultural synthesis of food, language, music and dance, demonstrated mainly through the dual-cultural blend of French and Italian cultures and influences.

As a trained dancer, I held my breath, hoping that the tango would go smoothly. And, in the end, I was so impressed by how the actors held their own for such a technical, passionate and fiery genre of dance.

For the fight scenes, I knew a great deal of the secrets of stage fighting, as I took stage combat lessons when I was younger. It was great to see how the actors kept presentation and safety in mind.

It was interesting to see how, instead of traditional sword fighting, Opitz utilized knife fighting with medieval knives for the family feuds. In the end, I thought the fights seemed too presentational and choreographed, although to the rest of the audience it looked awesome and translated well.

As for the aesthetics of the production, the set, lights and costumes helped to piece together the performance. While the set was simple, it captured and distinguished the time period and location well.

However, the set became complex as a result of the use of the "doughnut" circular rotating system. This rotating component did an excellent job of providing smooth transitions and adding drama during the discovery of Juliet's death in the Capulet household.

The lighting was exceptional in creating the perfect mood and the ambient light created a soft and romantic quality to the overall atmosphere of the play.

The costumes were colorful and sophisticated, which added a more vibrant dimension to such a melancholic play.

An additional aspect that brought together the play nicely was the music. Astor Piazzolla composed the music in this production and there were a blend of violent, romantic, passionate and fiery intonations.

The music also did an excellent job of setting the mood and provided good transitions from scene-to-scene.

While Shakespearean English is practically its own language, Shakespeare suggested judicious advice about love that everyone could understand.

Shakespeare warned viewers that, "the course of true love never did run smooth," this astute remark can definitely apply to Romeo and Juliet and their definitive tragic demise.

Thus, "Romeo and Juliet" remains a classic romantic comedy that reverberates through society and even throughout the world today.

What is so impressive to me, however, is that the college's Theater Company and Music Department collaborated so well together. Students, faculty and the actors in the play all helped to create and produce the production.

In essence, it takes the complete collaboration to make our theater productions happen.

Arguing friends and awkward 'hook ups'

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

Let's prepare ourselves for the upcoming weeks - there is about to be a lot of work, a lot of frustration and a lot of fun.

Fun Day is approaching and whether you have questions about your outfit choice or your flirt-buddy for the day, I will be here to address any last minute conundrums.

Dear C.,

My boyfriend has a friend that I don't really get along with. He has made direct, rude comments to me and does not make an effort to get to want to know me. What do you suggest I do? I really want to have a better relationship with his friends.

-Wantingtobefriends

Dear Wantingtobefriends,

Talk to the friend. Communicate with the friend without your boyfriend's knowledge to save him from the stress of a confrontation.

However, when you do talk to him there are a few guidelines:

1. Do not tell your boyfriend. Your boyfriend does not want to get involved with something with which he is already uncomfortable. I am sure he is aware of the tension and probably feels guilty.
2. Do not blame him for having a problem with you; make it about your boyfriend's happiness. If you come on aggressively about why he has an issue with you, he will most likely get angrier and nothing will be solved. Instead, calmly approach him to resolve things for the sake of your boyfriend.
3. Be honest. Maybe you guys just do not see eye-to-eye on issues, and he unintentionally upsets you. Also, do not mistake his rudeness for possible flirting. Remember back in middle school when boys would be mean as a sign of affection?

Well, you cannot expect things to change too easily - boys will be boys.

Dear C.,

What are the rules for using the Skidmore Hookup site? Someone I am interested in has added me and I added her back so she knows we have a match.

When I talk to her, should I actually mention that, or just ask her out while leaving that unspoken? It is great to know that she is interested, but I feel strange bringing up that she indicated that through the Internet. Should I say anything?

-Cyber Seduction

Dear Cyber Seduction,

The Skidmore Hookup site is an awesome idea for hooking up with your next booty call and maybe even your next girlfriend. I, too, have had weird thoughts about the site - to list or not to list.

I have yet to actually fill it out because of this dilemma. I hate to say this, but a party situation is probably the best and easiest way to pin her down.

If you do not roll in the same friend group, search for her on Fun Day. You know she will be there and will probably be feeling good, so why not say a friendly hello? Approach her like you would any other girl you are interested in and not like some bionic seductress.

It is an awkward situation for her as well, but making the first move shows you have confidence, a huge turn-on.

My aim is to advise, not to direct. The real question is what will you do? E-mail me at SkidWWCD@gmail.com with questions.

Privacy is guaranteed. Advice can remain unpublished upon request.

‘Casual elegance’ at Phila Fusion

By Erin Dillon, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

Though all amazingly delicious in distinct ways, not all Asian foods are created equal. Why go to a restaurant that serves just one cuisine when you can have five?

Phila Fusion offers Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese dishes. The diligence and expertise of the chefs was made clear to me after enjoying a Sunday night dinner with my dad.

Phila Fusion’s website describes its dining experience as "casual elegant," and it was exactly that. The space has a sophisticated appeal without the tension of an exceedingly ritzy venue. Bold yet simple touches create a modern vibe (as if the word "fusion" was not enough).

The restaurant was pleasantly full at peak dinner time, but not too noisy or chaotic. We were seated immediately by possibly the most cheerful waitress I have ever encountered. In fact, had it not been for the wait staff’s general glee, their over-attentiveness and frequent one centimeter water refills may have been annoying. I was very happy with the service.

The menu is long to accommodate such a diverse array of food. Everything displayed looked delectable.

The menu includes many vegetarian options, in addition to basically any Asian dish that your heart desires. Be prepared to make a tough decision.

To start, I had a simple green salad with peanut dressing. Even this run-of-the-mill appetizer was exceptionally yummy; I appreciated the contrast between the bright, cold vegetables and the warm peanut sauce.

For an entrée I ordered Mixed-Vegetable Panang Curry with brown rice. It came as a medley of peas, basil leaves, string beans, celery, carrots, zucchini, yellow squash and fried tofu in a red curry sauce.

The dish was quite good; every element was cooked correctly and it had a perfect vegetable to sauce to rice ratio. However, I was disappointed with its lack of a defining flavor. A curry should not be vague.

Phila Fusion is a bit more expensive than its neighboring restaurant, Sushi Thai. My meal came to about \$20. For a restaurant that made me feel so classy and cultured, I would say \$20 is a steal.

Good to know: Phila Fusion now has delivers within three miles. Just add an extra \$2 delivery fee to your order.

Phila Fusion is a restaurant I want to visit again. The food is whimsical and tasty. The unique atmosphere and service are definitely of Saratoga's best. I urge you to check this place out.

#1.2189791:2143729862.jpg Phila Fusion

Phila Fusion's mixed-vegetable panang curry is sure to please.

Erin Dillon/The Skidmore News



Zankel premieres 'Swan Lake'

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

The Music and Dance Departments and the Office of the dean of Special Programs presented "Swan Lake: Act II" at the Zankel Music Center on April 15 and 16.

Before the orchestra started playing, Jeffrey Segrave, dean of Special Programs, introduced the show. He noted the uniqueness of the performance. "It offers many firsts. It is the first time we have major use of the pit for a joint performance. This is truly an interdepartmental production," Segrave said.

After Segrave spoke, Associate Professor and Conductor of the college's orchestra Anthony Holland honored the senior musicians with an elaborate, heartfelt speech and thanked them for their dedication to the orchestra.

Next, Associate Professor of Dance Denise Limoli provided another introduction to the show, in which she provided a historical background of "Swan Lake: Act II."

"We are making art in our respective forms and bringing it all together for you," Limoli said.

Swan Lake tells the story of Princess Odette (Gaia Waisbrod '11) who is cursed by the sorcerer Baron von Rothbart (guest artist David Otto). Prince Siegfried (Jacob Goodhart '12) falls in love with Odette after he sees her by Swan Lake where he is hunting.

The lights in the theater dimmed as the orchestra members in the pit started to tune. They started to play the "Waltz of the Villagers," a lighthearted piece that showcased the abilities of the violinists and flutists as they played quick, flowing notes.

Although this part of the performance only featured the orchestra, without dancers on the stage, the waltz set the mood and prepared the audience for the next act.

The audience applauded at the end of the waltz as the second act began with the Overture. The familiar melody of the clarinet, most recently made famous by "Black Swan," captured the sadness of Odette's fate.

The Prince and his entourage enter the stage and start to hunt in the forest until Siegfried discovers Odette. The others leave as the Prince and Odette playfully chase one another around the stage.

Their dance is interrupted by the evil sorcerer who summons the flock of swans. His presence clearly indicates the powerful control he has over Odette. As the music grows dramatic, the entourage reappears, ready to hunt the swans, but the Prince thwarts their attempts.

The swans part, and the Prince joins Odette and they dance as the concertmistress (Hanna Tonegawa '11) and principal cellist (Meg Ashur '11) engage in a duo that is beautifully and profoundly sad.

The dance and musical duo reflect the conversation between Odette and the Prince, in which she tells him about her curse and the tragic end that their love must face.

The piece then continues to the "Dance of the Four Cygnets," (Julia Clancy '14, Hannah Foster '14, Kate Matthew '14 and Katrina Puffer '13) and the "Dance of the Swan Princesses," (Alison DeFranco '12, Emily Craver '11, Rebecca Greenbaum '11 and Hartley Parish '11).

The choreography and accompanying music of these two scenes captures the beauty of the swans. The cygnets and swan princesses are stunning in their costumes, and their performance left everyone watching in awe.

Princess Odette then dances alone on stage with melancholic gracefulness to the music of the orchestra in the pit below. As her solo comes to an end, the entire flock of swans appears and treats viewers to an intricately choreographed and stunningly executed piece.

All of the swans, including Odette, dance in the Coda, "Dance of the Swans," and move together, along with the music with accurate timing. The swans then flutter aside as the Prince declares his love for Odette.

Just as he makes his declaration, however, the evil Sorcerer appears and calls upon his swans. Princess Odette struggles to remain with her Prince, but fails to break free from the sorcerer's grip. She leaves the Prince, heartbroken and alone.

The dancers and the orchestra joined in harmony to successfully retell the tragic love story of Princess Odette and her Prince. The production moved the audience, who applauded between movements and gave a standing ovation at the end of the show.

The performance was dedicated to the late Oleg Moston, who provided piano accompaniment for ballet classes and the Classical Ballet Workshop at the college.

The Dance Department has initiated the Oleg Moston Prize in his honor. Winners of the prize will receive an award that will support their transition into the professional dance world.

Dead Prez heats up campus conversations

Hip-Hop Weekly

By Jenna Postler, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

Recent tension and discussions on campus surrounding race and class have caused some people in the college community to question the choice of rap group Dead Prez for the Student Entertainment Committee's Big Show on Friday, April 22.

A vocal questioning of the possible repercussions of having the group on campus has been raised on the Facebook wall of the event page for the concert.

Students have argued that the use of racist and homophobic lyrics by the group is negative, given the current campus climate.

What needs to be understood by the student community is that Dead Prez is a politically conscious rap group.

Since its founding in 1996, its members have maintained a socialist, politically active voice and hold a strong stance against corporate control of the media, and poverty within African American communities.

Although these issues are pervasive, the group often employs what some might call "reverse racism," or attacks and slanderous remarks against Caucasians, as demonstrated prominently in the song "Hell Yeah."

In the music video and the lyrics, Dead Prez advocates a "Robin Hood" figure stealing from the rich, contributing to the poor type of mentality that is filled with anti-white sentiments.

While the group is politically left and rebellious in nature, the controversy presented by some students is not its message, but rather how it presents its message.

Do racist, sexist and homophobic lyrics negate the group's message? Hip-hop as an art form has been filled with outlandish, racist and offensive lyrics since the genre's conception.

What needs to be asked though, is if offensive lyrics are an effective means to the end of raising political consciousness. Hip-hop's offensive lyrics have a lot to do with shock value, but also stem from the culture in which hip-hop originated from.

Condoning racism is wrong, and I am not one to do so. In listening to the music of Dead Prez, we must understand that the group aims to further a leftist, socialist agenda.

The lyrics are just a means to the end of raising popular consciousness. I know that as informed students we can all agree that racism is not okay, whether it be "reverse racism" or not.

Unfortunately racism and homophobia are often parts of the group's lyrics. To listen to the group is to accept it for the way that it is and the way that the genre currently functions.

As to whether or not bringing the group to campus is a good idea, I would answer that it could be positive, if used and understood in a productive manner.

Dead Prez's presence on campus can be used to continue the ongoing dialogue concerning class, race and sexuality that has been occurring on campus.

Essential to gaining something from the concert if you choose to attend is taking careful note of the lyrics and, instead of writing the group or its message off instantly, thinking critically about the role of the lyrics within the performance and greater political aims.

As listeners, we must be aware of generalizations concerning racial groups and hip-hop.

Jenna Postler is a sophomore from rural Vt. who knows what's hip (hop) and can be heard from 2- 4 a.m. every Friday morning on WSPN.

Give us more flexibility with our dining plan

Editorial

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

When prospective students tour the college for the first time, a walk through the Murray Aikins Dining Hall can be a jaw-dropping experience. Visually, the building makes an immediate impression - how many other colleges feature a dining hall on every student and faculty ID card? Once inside, the walk from station-to-station features more shouts of "But wait, there's more," than a Ron Popeil infomercial. The array of options available can be staggering, and the range of cuisines and dietary accommodations consistently impress.

Those students who decide to attend Skidmore will become intimately familiar with all of those options, as first year students are required to purchase an unlimited meal plan. With only a microwave available for food preparation in most residence halls, first year students will inevitably eat nearly all of their meals in the Dining Hall.

For first year students, that arrangement is ideal. The Dining Hall is an inherently social experience, and for first year students, particularly during the fall semester, being brought together at meal time is valuable. Likewise, while some students may come to school equipped to fend for themselves, gastronomically, not all are prepared to do so. Requiring all first years to purchase an unlimited meal plan may trend toward excessive hand-holding, but it also ensures that no one starves while learning the ins-and-outs of college.

The level of hand holding, however, diminishes in sophomore year. There is no explicit "sophomore year experience," and as the spring deadline to declare a major approaches, sophomores rapidly disperse along their own unique routes through college. For the vast majority of sophomores, however, dining remains restricted. All students living in residence halls, regardless of class year, are obliged to purchase an unlimited meal plan. Without more kitchen amenities in dorms, most students are admittedly unlikely to stray far from the Dining Hall, but it is not unprecedented, and the lack of choice is frustratingly restrictive.

The college's stated goal is for the majority of students to live on campus, and rules prohibit rising-sophomores from drawing for off-campus housing, so simple math dictates that nearly all sophomores will live in residence halls. As a result, nearly all sophomores are obliged to purchase meal plans, regardless of personal dietary preference. Dining Services does a commendable job catering to students'

needs, however, no system is perfect, and some students may find themselves more comfortable choosing other options. After a year spent living in Saratoga Springs, it is safe to assume that students are acquainted with the multitude of dining options available downtown, or may have friends with open kitchens in Scribner or Northwoods Village. Requiring sophomores to purchase an unlimited meal plan adds a significant cost to tuition and prohibits students from exercising other options.

It seems unlikely that allowing sophomores dining flexibility would put a dent in Dining Services operational budget; most dorm residents will still likely choose a meal plan, if only because it is convenient and readily available. The few who feel the need to pursue other options, however, ought to have the right to so. It is a simple matter, but one that speaks volumes about expectations of personal responsibility. As students we are expected to fend for ourselves in a strenuous academic environment; surely we can handle the choice of where to eat.

Updike uproots the American lifestyle

Stranger than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

There is an imaginative thrill about a person throwing up his hands, uprooting everything and taking an adventure.

Jack Kerouac and his fellow Beats exhibited this in his road novels. Hunter S. Thompson's Gonzo journalism took him on trips with his attorney to Vegas and with the Hells Angels.

Many authors also seem to have trouble with stability and marriage.

Sherwood Anderson left his wife and young children to go after the artist's life, while John Cheever struggled with alcoholism and eventually reinvented his wife as a narcissistic nuisance to his psychiatrist. Even Charles Dickens kicked his wife out of his home because he thought that she was not accepting his love.

However, writers who leave their families behind or treat them poorly are usually forgiven by the public; they are under the influence of a "greater art."

In the 1960 novel, "Rabbit, Run," author John Updike attempts to destroy this myth by creating a "family-man" who leaves his wife and child to live out his life. He ends up only discovering the harm behind his intentions.

The novel concerns the iconic Henry "Rabbit" Angstrom, a worker in a small Pennsylvania town with an alcoholic wife, Janice, and a young son, Nelson.

Rabbit, a tall man with an odd figure and countenance like that of a bunny, was once a great high school basketball player.

In the opening scenes, Rabbit tells his wife he is going out to get cigarettes. He proceeds to get into his car and start driving. He heads to West Virginia, but then turns around and settles back in town.

Eventually, he shacks up with a part-time prostitute that he is introduced to by his former basketball coach.

Rabbit is a young man - only 27 or 28 - who rejects authority, control, leadership and advice. He does not know exactly what he wants and continually shows signs of immaturity.

Back in town, where he lives a few miles away from his wife and son, Rabbit is hated by most people. Janice's parents are the wealthy owners of a car dealership and the hot shots of the area. They ask the local minister, Jack Eccles, for help.

He attempts to take Rabbit under his wing by confiding in him, questioning him on what he wants in life and offering him a psychiatric and spiritual outlet in the form of Tuesday golf games.

That is one half of the story: Rabbit living in a town in which nearly everyone either avoids him or smothers him with attention and questions about why he left his wife.

He is told at one point, "If you have the guts to be yourself, other people'll pay your price."

This quote sent a shudder through my body while I was reading. I immediately over-analyzed every important decision that I have made, fearing I may have screwed someone over in the process.

The second part of the story concerns his relationship with his new girlfriend, Ruth. Ruth is an unattractive, overweight, unappealing person who serves as a conscience for him.

As his relationship with Ruth tightens and strengthens, he is once again drawn to the clear sky of solitude.

The last third of the book is very eventful. The plot move quickly, making it hard to talk about without giving everything away. Things do not end happily for Rabbit, but for reasons that one would not expect.

Updike followed "Rabbit, Run" with four novels and novella that chronicles the life of Rabbit.

The threats and boons to our dialogue

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

As a follow up to my piece about McCarthyism at the college, which I believe was an important critique of how our community is currently conducting itself, I'd like to say a few words about writing to this community in general. Now, from my last column, you may have concluded that I despise Danny, that I feel he should be silenced.

Quite the opposite is true. For while I despise what this "dialogue" has devolved into, I thoroughly admire Danny for his resolve this past semester. I have been moved by Danny's writing but also criticized it, a stance which, despite the Sociology department's suggestions, is not contradictory whatsoever.

Call it a Saul-to-Paul moment, call it what you will, but after seeing the same concerns voiced in the message boards of my column, and the same insensitive language that appears on Danny's columns each week, I began to admire Danny as I never had before.

I wrote my article knowing that I would receive tons of support just for the mere fact that I was criticizing Danny. Danny writes his column each week knowing that, if past weeks are at all an indication of what's to come, that dozens of trolls are going to immediately jump on him and criticize him, no matter what he writes. He has become the vocal leader of a movement that has brought ugly truths about our community to the forefront of discussion, and he has knowingly and willingly made himself an easy target for critics of these truths.

The Skidmore News comment boards have become a bitter arena for dialogue and highly vindictive criticism of writers like Danny, and myself to some extent. But they also provide an essential check to our and other writers' power, a humbling reminder of our responsibility to our audience.

Some of the comments have exceeded the boundaries that common courtesy dictates, however, to the point where vulgarity and even fighting words have appeared on the Skidmore News website. These comments aren't appropriate and are detrimental to our dialogue.

On the other side of the same coin, when members of the community get themselves so worked up about these hate-filled comments that they lash out and make outlandish accusations toward

individuals and campus organizations, they become those "shutter-minded embracers of intolerance" that they seek to condemn.

The good people at the Sociology department threw Danny under the bus. It would have been appropriate if they had offered a well-reasoned argument against anonymous online commenting. But instead, they dragged Danny into a misplaced, ill-conceived, even threatening, demand for allegiance to their conception of open-mindedness. They posed the question of Skidmore identity in absolutes, rather than in a format that acknowledges the multiplicity of viewpoints and identities that Skidmore fosters.

Rather than encouraging all-inclusive dialectic exchange over a topic fraught with complexity, they advocated strict allegiance to what they posed as a moral dilemma, that is, you are either on the right side (you endorse and heed Danny and company's writing and viewpoints) or the wrong side (you disagree with Skidmore's notions of multiculturalism and Danny's writing and thereby implicate yourself as a "shutter-minded" embracer of intolerance).

This letter in particular moved me to compare our situation to that of American society in the McCarthy era. A healthy and free society depends upon, is predicated upon, the ability for someone as controversial as Danny to speak his mind. Many of us may not agree with what Danny has to say, but I hope each and every one of us can agree that we must all defend his right to say it.

That being said, we must defend others' right to criticize his writing and condemn it. We cannot allow our dialogue, our ongoing community-wide discussion, to solely honor one interpretation of our philosophy of applied multiculturalism.

This discussion is too critical to Skidmore's legitimacy as an institution of higher learning, and a community devoted to multiculturalism, to allow it to be hijacked and dominated by the most vocal and extreme 10% of commentators. By responding to, and thereby legitimizing, inflammatory comments with equally inflammatory charges, the framers of the dialogue are doing just that.

I hope that our dialogue can transcend this semester's vitriolic online commenting, move beyond the accusatory declarations we've read in the Skidmore News, and genuinely learn from the divisive ideological conflict of the Compton's incident, to recognize and invoke our shared beliefs and interests.

Though Danny has devoted his column to pointing out what's wrong with our society and community, in doing so he has demonstrated exactly what's right with it. When an unpopular and controversial perspective can be voiced, and can resist being silenced, then one of America's, and Skidmore's, foundational promises has been fulfilled.

And when trolls can democratically and anonymously disparage someone's opinion online, humiliate an author, and challenge preconceived notions of civility, then one of the Internet's fundamental promises remains intact. Bring it on, trolls. You're messing with a Vatican assassin who has tiger blood flowing through his veins.

A man's world is far from perfect

Challenging Privilege

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

Recently, much of the conversation around the Skidmore campus has been focused on racial tension. But there is much more to a person's identity than race. Social identities include race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, religious beliefs, as well as physical and mental ability. Each of these facets of our identities grants us a certain level of power, but also faces a struggle. Some groups hold more power in society than others. One social identity that has been overshadowed by our discussions of race is gender.

Gender is socially constructed, and men are the dominant group in the United States. Even though strides have been made to increase academic and workplace opportunities for women, the power remains in the hands of men. A common theme in our society's policies is the promise for equal rights and opportunities for subordinate groups. But these promises ultimately lead to hypocrisy and its consequences.

For example, the Equal Pay Act was supposed to eliminate workplace discrimination and wage gaps between men and women. However, the most recent census confirms that on average, women are paid significantly less than men for the same work. And of course a more obvious example of institutionalized sexism would be the recent congressional discussion to cut funds for Planned Parenthood, while also attempting to narrow the definition of rape to physical violence. As it so happens, rape is more complex and harmful than a beating.

Our campus reflects the consequences of the patriarchal society in which it is located. In challenging me to a debate, some of my critics decided to use sexist language, such as the phrases "sack up" and "man up." These expressions are very common and also problematic, because they not only reinforce male domination, but also highlight the socialized aggressive behavior that prevails among the men in our society.

Men are expected to be on the offensive when it comes to our values and beliefs, which often prevents any productive discussions from happening. Both sides should try to understand differing opinions. The media, peers, school, and other groups socialize aggression and violence as normal behavior for men, while women are taught the exact opposite. Women in our society are socialized to be weak,

submissive, and they are objectified, taught to think that their bodies are their only resource, rather than their true talents and intelligence.

We cannot blame ourselves for being socialized by the dominant groups in society. Their power gave them control over our thoughts and behavior while we were young. However, we must all take responsibility for the gender inequality on our campus. Women are most often the victims of sexual assault on this campus. The conversations I have had regarding the "hook-up culture" revolve around the idea that "men are assholes" and that they take advantage of the gender ratio on campus.

But I think that the sexual misconduct on campus and the hook-up culture are the result of sexism deeply ingrained within our society, rather than the ratio of women to men. Women are taught to use their bodies for power and have low self-esteem if they can't meet the high standard of being a "beautiful woman." Since men are socialized to the opposite effect, being inclined towards aggression, violence, and a sense of entitlement, they will continue to be the perpetrators of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, and gender inequality.

It is time we all ask ourselves what it means to be a man or a woman. Even more importantly, we should take a look at the power and vulnerability that accompany our gender identities. Other identities, such as our race and sexuality, play a key role in the formation of our gender identity. Another important aspect of gender is that it is not a rigid dichotomy. There are individuals within our society who identify themselves as transgender or "fluid." The binary depiction of gender as being either man or woman further highlights the power dynamic and inequality within our society.

The fight against all of the -isms (racism, classism, sexism, etc.) begins with a fight with ourselves. We cannot truly find solutions to large-scale issues without looking at how they affect us, how they place us in positions of either power or weakness. Once we come to this realization, we must try to abstain from practices that reinforce power inequality among social identities. Whether it is challenging a friend's sexist remark, or advocating the empowerment of women on the societal level, we can all play our part in fighting sexism on our campus and in the larger community.

A big part of this fight against sexism is for men to understand the problematic nature of masculinity. Masculine tendencies such as aggression and violence were constructed to relinquish power from women, but they also have dire consequences for men. Men are expected to be non-emotive, and it is taboo to seek help and to be incorrect about something.

Most social identities that divide us into privileged and oppressed groups entail negative consequences for both groups. Until we speak out on these important aspects of our identity, we will stay trapped in someone else's construction, which was created specifically to dominate certain groups. Let's get free.

Career Jam draws crowds to Case

College unexpectedly grants five internship awards to students

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

The college's second annual Career Jam, held on April 15, drew more than 200 students to Case Center in search of employment opportunities and advice. Toward the end of the event, five students received internship awards in a competition that was originally going to select only two winners.

Two of the college's established internship grants were awarded: the Parent's Council Award and the Council of 100's award, each of which provides \$2,500 to help financially support students' unpaid internships.

Five finalists presented minute-long presentations to a panel of judges from the Parent's Council and Council of 100. The presenters briefly detailed their proposed internships and why they required funding.

After the presentations, Matt Cowe '11 received the Parent's Council award for his summer internship as a lab assistant at Albany Medical Center.

Laura Meli '12 received the Council of 100's award to fund her summer internship researching adolescent schizophrenia and behavioral cognition at the Weill Cornell Medical Center.

The three other finalists were Aneta Molenda '14, Chris Iredale '11 and Rachel Weller '13.

Their internships are with the Fresh Air Fund, an organization that provides summer vacations to underprivileged children; Shakespeare & Company; and a domestic violence shelter, respectively.

After the two scheduled award announcements, Parent's Council member Dan Cox announced that the judges were so impressed with the other finalists' presentations that they would fund the three remaining students as well.

"There are no losers here. You will all be funded for your summer internships," Cox said.

Before the prize announcements, approximately 50 alumni and parents representing a range of careers - from medical research to publishing - spoke to attendees about their respective career fields.

Career Jam is hosted and organized by the Office of Career Services and the Parent's Council.

“A lot of networking went into organizing the event, and we think it was successful. The speakers who are here showed a lot of interest in coming back and helping students figure out what their options are”, Gail Dudack ‘70, chair of the Parent’s Council, said.

Dudack said much of the networking and planning happened during the town hall meetings the college hosts throughout the country.

“A lot of the questions that came up during the town hall meetings had to do with the value of a liberal arts education - Career Jam is a great way to demonstrate that value,” Dudack said.

The alumni and parents who participated were set up at tables throughout the second floor of Case Center.

Students wandered in and out of Case between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., approaching representatives to discuss career options and possible employment.

Parent and alumni participants represented a number of career fields, including human resources, marketing, law, arts and entertainment, management, publishing, finance and non-profit work.

Many recent graduates that participated in Career Jam heard about the event during the town hall meetings.

Hilary Sayia ‘08 contacted Dudack about participating in Career Jam after she attended one of the college’s town hall meetings in New York City.

“Programs like this are so important. When you graduate, they hand you a degree and then it’s just sort of like ‘Well what do I do with this?’” Sayia said.

Sayia, who majored in business and economics, works as a sales coordinator on the advertising decision solutions team for Akamai Technologies.

#1.2189782:3043056138.JPG Career Jam

More than 200 students attended the second annual Career Jam.

Dylan Lustrin/The Skidmore News



Senate unanimously votes to institutionalize IGR

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

On Tuesday, April 19, the Senate of the Student Government Association met with facilitators of the Inter Group Relations class to discuss a petition to institutionalize the program, which Senate passed unanimously.

IGR is currently a two-credit course in the Interdisciplinary Department, but is still in its pilot and has no commitment of resources. The IGR students brought a petition to Senate to collect signatures to show Skidmore that the program has the support of SGA.

The IGR program began in Michigan in 1988, and has spread across the country in the years following. It is a course designed to develop intercultural understanding, and is taught by rigorously trained student facilitators, rather than professors.

The typical class is designed to be half white students and half students of color, so several sides of racial issues can be presented and discussed.

IGR classes have been offered at the college for two years, and the students involved said they wish to make it a permanent part of the curriculum.

Teshika Hatch '11, a trained IGR facilitator, spoke about what she believes is the importance of the program.

"IGR has a lot of momentum because of the campus climate this year," Hatch said. "And there have been some of our dialogues that just can't happen because of lack of resources. With the institutionalization of IGR we would be guaranteed a budget and faculty support. We could even get people off the wait list for the class, and eventually offer dialogues on religion and gender, not just race."

Part of the problem with making IGR more permanent, according to the presenters, is the resistance of some professors.

"Some professors think that the class isn't academically rigorous enough, and that because it's student-led it's not legitimate," Hatch said.

“Some faculty members feel that experience-based learning is not academic enough, but it’s very emotional and rewarding. It’s totally unique to IGR,” Frank Cabrera ‘11, another facilitator, said.

Currently, the professors involved in IGR are committed to it only through interest, not job description. Institutionalizing the program would ensure that money and professors be allocated to the class.

The Senate unanimously approved making the program permanent, offering to help organize a support rally and a spot in the SGA newsletter to advertise.

One senator said, "Any professor or student who says that this isn't exactly what Skidmore needs right now isn't really here. Any way to get students involved in meaningful dialogue needs to be supported."

Each senator signed the petition of support, which will be distributed to the student body in the coming weeks.

Class raises funds for Japan

Student-directed course focuses efforts on disaster relief

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 22, 2011

On April 20, the honors forum class "Citizen Studentship" began selling T-shirts in Case Center to raise money for relief efforts in Japan.

Shirts cost \$12, and all proceeds will be donated to Youth for 3.11, a student-run organization that was formed in Japan immediately after the disastrous 9.0 magnitude earthquake on March 11.

Citizen Studentship is a course designed completely by the students who enroll.

According to the description in the college's master schedule, "The course gives students the chance to break down traditional educational structures of authority, thus offering an alternative method of education that emphasizes participation and responsibility as a member of the academic community."

Economics professor Roy Rotheim facilitates the class.

Students in the class say they decided to focus their studies on relief efforts in Japan because it was a cause everyone was passionate about.

The class decided to donate to Youth for 3.11 because it is a student-run organization and the class members are confident that the money they raise will be used productively, students said.

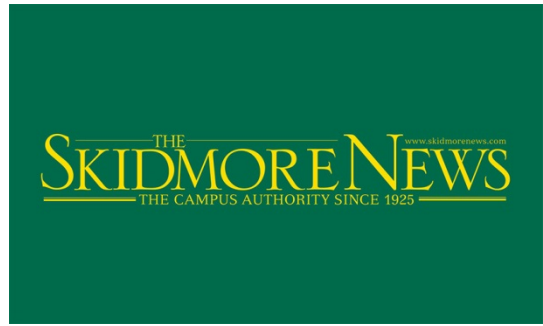
"[The organization is] actually on the ground, at the site, working with relief efforts there. They know what Japan needs and how to use the money to help," said Sarah Roscher '12, a student in the class.

The class received \$1,000 from SGA to buy 160 T-Shirts, and the Honors Forum helped pay for expedited shipping. Kaorina Kuok '11, who is not in the class, designed the shirts.

The students set up a table on the second floor of Case Center and began selling shirts at 9 a.m. By 2 p.m. the same day, the students had already sold about 30 shirts.

"It's been really great so far," said Roscher, "People have even come up and asked if they could just donate money and not take a shirt."

The class will continue to sell shirts while supplies last.



#1.2189779:3670394005.JPG Japan T-shirts

Yasmin Hormozi '11 sells shirts in Case Center.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



What happens when you get your moral wisdom from Donald Trump

Politics for the Upstate Student

By Julia Grigel, Columnist

On Thu, Apr 28, 2011

Mid-April is the time of year when Albany's legislative chambers are filled with glorious debates on such things as the state vegetable (corn won) and wiffleball safety precautions. They are now presumably doing things like sipping margaritas and watching Top Chef and scratching their heads about Donald Trump's bid for president in 2012.

Basically, Albany is on a break from politics, so I'm taking a break from Albany. And I really just would like to talk about Donald "The Donald" Trump and his newly resurrected public face.

Donald Trump is best known for owning a lot of stuff and having a bad hairstyle, but he has also had a successful career in Hollywood. He has played himself in several television series, most notably "The Apprentice," in which he fires people.

Recently, New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote that people like "The Donald" satisfy the public's subconscious yearning to see the crème de la crème of the obnoxious loudmouths rise to success. Trump, says Brooks, is "riding a deep public fantasy: The hunger for the ultimate blowhard who can lead us through dark times."

Brooks also says Donald Trump is successful because he personifies the current American individualist dream, "The Gospel of Success." Brooks' interpretation of the American view of success rings alarmingly true. Afraid of seeming too materialistic or too driven, we have to pretend to have only the most moderate and well-meaning of ambitions. "If you attend a prestigious college or professional school, you are supposed to struggle tirelessly for success while denying that you have much interest in it." Huh.

It is precisely that mechanism - the one for basic humility - that Donald Trump lacks. He lacks that part of the moral sense that causes us to veil our desire for unbridled success and personal glory. And that is why he is so popular with so many conservatives, says David Brooks.

The Donald is the latest and the greatest in harebrained political figures mouthing off left and right and denouncing everything possible. But he represents something present in Americans. David Brooks was right - we all secretly love blowhards, if only because they're entertaining. And if we deny that this weird

love for people like Trump is innate, we are being too morally hopeful about ourselves and about the rest of the species.

I'm by no means advocating that we throw up our hands and proclaim that we're all in denial of our true moral baseness - we are certainly not all Trumps. I'm just saying that if we take ourselves seriously as individuals - and if Skidmore takes itself seriously as a college - we ought to learn to stomach our flaws. We ought to learn to confront our inherent capacity for disrespectful, vainglorious and utterly egomaniacal impulses. Because if we refuse to admit that uncomfortable tendency, then we can't put it in check. And if we've learned anything this semester, it's that our community has got to put disrespect in its place.

Maxim Gorky recounts bitter childhood in a lazy country

Stranger than Fiction

By Hunter Prichard, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Maxim Gorky was a great figure in 20th century Russian literature. He was a friend to fascist leader Joseph Stalin and sat with Tolstoy, Andreev and Chekhov until their last days, writing the clever Reminiscences... in memory of them.

A writer of drama, poetry and prose, he is famous for his political views - he was supposedly murdered by Russian secret agents - and his audacious characters, who are often found in ruins at the close of the book.

My favorite is "The Man Who Was Afraid," which can be found in our library and concerns a character who is born into wealth but ends up a drunk living on the streets.

He is commonly known as a great Russian who rose up from the peasants. The victim of a hard life, it is easy to see why he changed his name from Aleksey Peshkov to simply Gorky, a word that can be translated to "bitter."

Since his novels were so interesting, I was eager to read of his past, of which he wrote extensively. His three-volume autobiography follows his life from birth until he finished schooling and entered the writing world.

I read the first book of the volume, "My Childhood": it is a frightening depiction of a young boy's life.

Gorky's first memories are the funeral of his father when he was three years old. His brother also died. His mother took him to live with her parents, two angry elders who constantly fight and scream at each other.

Not only is Gorky beaten many times - not an uncommon occurrence during his time period - but his grandmother is also horrendously abused by his grandfather. As a young boy, Gorky is greatly disturbed by this violence.

The writing is rich with violence, abuse and drunkenness. Young Gorky is an intellectual loner, shunned by most of the boys in his neighborhood. When he is allowed to play, his grandfather yells at him and

tells him to get to work; his overbearing direction is similar to Hank's father in Bukowski's "Ham on Rye," for those who remember my previous article.

His mother seems to float in and out of his life. She takes long trips where she travels about and stays with relatives who have enough money to support her. She is rarely present in Gorky's life, but her death closes the book. Immediately following her funeral, he is told by his grandmother to leave home to travel.

There are some very interesting comments that young Gorky makes in terms of the Russian people. The most fascinating concern is "the Russian laziness," a disease that he finds inflicting everybody in the country.

This laziness is Gorky's excuse for all of his life's hardships: his family's poverty, his father's death, his grandfather's anger, his grandmother's submission. He finds this laziness disgusting.

Laziness is one of the main motives to why Gorky worked so hard in his life, produced so much writing and struggled so hard in his political sphere.

Hunter Prichard is an English major from Portland, Maine, or "Vacationland."

Powershift draws activists to D.C.

By Tess Wendel, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

What do we want? Green jobs! When do we want them? NOW!

This was just one of the many messages students gave to Congress in Washington, D.C. last weekend. Eighty-two students from Skidmore College joined 10,000 other students from around the U.S. for Powershift, the largest environmental youth summit in the nation.

The idea behind Powershift is to create a network of environmental leaders across the country who can share ideas and experiences and through these partnerships and bring regional change to their schools and communities.

This year there was a strong focus on leadership training but there were also more specific workshops like the future of electric utilities, how to ban bottled water on your campus and promoting public transportation.

Students heard from world-renowned speakers like Van Jones, Bill McKibben, Al Gore and Rita Jackson of the EPA, who urged them to keep up the fight for a greener future.

There were also lobby trainings and direct action workshops to prepare for the third day of the conference where there was a large rally and march to the capitol.

Half of the students scheduled meetings with their representatives and senators and urged them to continue supporting the EPA and protecting the Clean Air Act, which has been under attack, particularly by the Republican party.

The other half of students took part in a direct action by marching to the Chamber of Commerce to protest the huge subsidies given to oil and coal corporations and then moving to the Department of Interior to protest the land being given up to uranium mining for nuclear power in Wyoming.

The environmental movement is incredibly diverse, but the beauty of Powershift is that it recognizes that all of the different smaller campaigns within the movement can be united through a shared goal of a clean equitable future for all.

One can become overwhelmed with the number of problems that need to be solved, whether that is human trafficking, hydrofracking or corporate greed and campaign financing.

The conference is designed to give students the tools to tackle these important issues and form a successful campaign to bring change.

However, the weekend is not just about learning the tools for change. As organizer Rachel Chalat says, it is there "to provide the inspiration and motivation to come back to campus and make personal, college and community changes."

This is the third year Skidmore students have gone to this biennial event organized by the Environmental Action Coalition, an umbrella organization for many smaller environmental groups, and the weekend continues to be a catalyst for change at Skidmore.

The last conference in 2009 inspired Laura Fralich '11 to start the Skidmore garden and spurred Becca Drago '11 to start the cool cities campaign, which led Saratoga Mayor Johnson to sign the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

#1.2214274:1720501005.jpg Powershift

Skidmore students protest subsidies given to oil and coal corporations at Powershift 2011.

Tess Wendel/The Skidmore News



Terezin legacy to be honored at Zankel

By Rachel Kim, A&E Editor

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

On May 7 and 8 Choral Director Janet McGhee will lead the Battenkill Chorale in presenting "Voices of Hope and Remembrance: Honoring the Legacy of Terezin."

Terezin is a town located north of Prague that was transformed by the Nazis into a Jewish ghetto and transport camp that held up to 60,000 prisoners at a time until the Nazis deported them to death camps.

"They had this spiritual transformation coupled with defiance. Defiance and determination that until the day they died, they were going to live," McGhee said.

The story of those who were imprisoned at Terezin is particularly unique because of all the intellectual and artistic pursuits that survived the horrors of the concentration camp.

Prisoners at Terezin bravely and defiantly created works of art, poetry, theater and music, despite the unspeakable horrors that they faced.

"I can't think of anywhere else, anytime else, anyplace else where that has happened to the extent that it happened at Terezin," McGhee said.

McGhee's personal history with Terezin goes back to the spring of April 2006 when the college's chorus joined the Battenkill Chorale in singing "The Flowers" as a part of the annual memorial that the choir holds for the victims of the Holocaust.

Composer Thomas Oboe Lee wrote "The Flowers" after being inspired by the story of Terezin.

It was at this performance that McGhee met Edgar Krasa, a 90-year-old survivor of both the Terezin and Auschwitz concentration camps.

"I met him at that event and he was so inspiring. It was here at Skidmore that I was first introduced to Terezin, to Edgar, to what had happened," she said.

Krasa lived with his roommate, Rafael Schaechter, at Terezin and together they became the driving musical life force at the camp. They created and sang in their musical productions until Edgar was sent to Auschwitz.

After surviving the infamous death march from Auschwitz and successfully escaping from the Nazis, Krasa returned to the town of Terezin and was reunited with his family.

Today, Krasa devotes his life to educating people about the Holocaust. Due to his age, Krasa will not be able to travel to Saratoga Springs, but the performances will feature a filmed interview.

The program includes the Bennington Children's Chorus who will be delivering a musical performance of the poem "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," which was written by the children imprisoned at Terezin.

The event will also feature music written by Jewish composers Franz Schubert, Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Weill, Eric Whitacre, Max Janowski and Max Lewandowsky.

McGhee formed the Battenkill Chorale 16 years ago. The chorus collaborated with the college last spring for the choral debut of Zankel.

Battenkill Chorale will be touring in Prague and Vienne this summer. One of their stops include Terezin, where the chorus perform a memorial concert.

"Most people don't know about it. And as soon as I knew that I was going to be traveling to Prague with a bunch of singers I thought, 'We've got to tell this story and help tell this story,'" McGhee said.

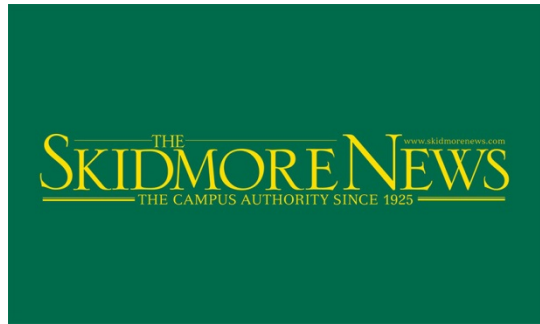
Tickets for the general audience are now on sale for \$15. Call (518) 692-7458 or email jen.braucher@gmail.com to purchase. Admission for students is free and tickets are now available at Zankel.

#1.2214289:3977754452.jpg Terezin

A sketch drawn by a Terezin prisoner.

Photo courtesy of Janet McGhee





Iron in Alabama

Sculpture students travel to National Conference on Cast Iron Art

By Gabe Weintraub, Artistic Director

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

During the week of April 11, five sculpture students and foundry club members traveled to the Sloss Furnaces, a national historic landmark in Birmingham, Ala., to participate in the 2011 National Conference on Cast Iron Art.

The students participated in a number of iron pours, and also competed in a contest for student-made cupolas - specialized furnaces for melting iron. The Skidmore cupola won an award for production. The students were accompanied by Professor John Galt, of the studio art department.

#1.2214284:2863299809.jpg Sloss

In attendance at Sloss were Jasper Goodrich '11, Charlie Engelman '11, Nina Bocobo '12, Melissa Schlobohm '12 and Max Friedlander Moore '12.

Photo courtesy of John Galt

#1.2214286:235507905.jpg Sloss 2

The Skidmore cupola, right, was one of dozens fired at once during the contest.

Photo courtesy of John Galt





The first-year guide to 'Fun Day'

What Would C. Do? Advice from an Anonymous Friend

By C., Columnist

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Who says it can only occur on one day? With summer upon us, everyday has the potential of being a "Fun Day."

This is the last and final installment of WWCD until next spring - I will be conquering Europe, in search of my soul mate and the perfect gelato flavor.

Hope there is plenty of reciprocated summer lovin' and a fun-filled fall semester for all. I will always be available to answer burning (hope not!) questions at SkidWWCD@gmail.com.

Hi C,

There is this guy who used to text me all the time when I clearly was not interested, to the point that I stopped responding to him. I never used to see him around, but lately I have seen him everywhere - help me with this awkwardness!

-Anally Awkward

Dear Anal,

This lucky situation always seems to occur at the most inconvenient times, like when you start to aggressively ignore. It is OK. The awkwardness is all in your head.

Sure, the guy might try to flash a sympathetic, easily-mistaken-for-a-puppy-in-the-playpen look, in hopes of sparking some pity pillow talk. If you comply with this tactic, throw the guy a bone and gently raise the sides of your mouth to produce a forced smile.

Just make sure to have some nice thoughts behind your eyes so it is not a total bitch blow-off. Flashing him a smile featured on your latest Facebook default might instill some false hope, and he will text you with the desperation of a dog begging for a treat.

A forced smile gives him a confidence boost from your subtle acknowledgement.

Also, I bet you would hate your crush to completely ignore you. Hopefully, the increase in sightings is based on coincidence and not on his following your scent.

In case you feel it is the latter, we only have a few weeks. Say something if you need to, either that you are not interested or you have a boyfriend.

Dear C,

Regarding Fun Day: how do I act, what do I wear, what drugs do I take, at what point is it appropriate to vomit? These are things that us freshmen need to know!

Thanks, Freshman's First Funday

Dear Freshie,

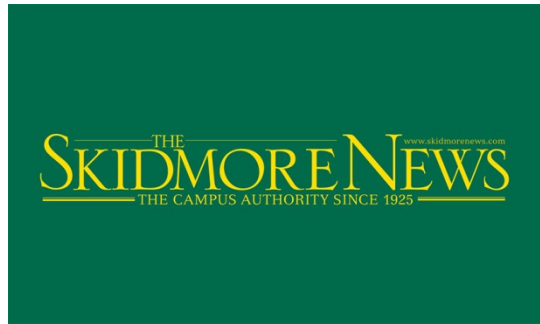
Prepare yourself. There are no rules to Fun Day. That is what is so fun about it - everyone is a complete mess.

However, there are a few helpful tips that I have learned and have witnessed from past day-drinking experiences:

Wear something comfortable that you can be bloated in, photographs well and can possibly get dirty. If you want to wear the dress that will give you beautiful tan lines - or none at all - be weary of what you wear underneath seeing as things can get rowdy.

Stars and Hearts, C

Email me at SkidWWCD@gmail.com with questions. Privacy is guaranteed. Advice can remain unpublished upon request.



The faces of Skidmore Unofficial

With graduation looming, anonymous bloggers expose themselves

By Julia Leef, Spread Editor

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

It was September 2008, and Alex Mendelsohn '11 had just come up with an idea for a website. A friend at Trinity College had started a successful Anonymous Confession Board, called TrinTalk, and Mendelsohn wanted to create one for Skidmore. Unable to do it himself, he approached his roommate, Jeremiah Budin '11, and good friend Kevin Sweeting '11 about building the site. Together, the three started a forum and a blog, where they could comment on campus news and events, and with that the infamous www.SkidmoreUnofficial.com was born.

For the past two and half years, Skidmore Unofficial promoted various campus events and provided commentary on what is going on around the school. Dissatisfied with the college's online publications - which were aimed almost exclusively at alumni - and the sporadic coverage of college events by local newspapers, the founders saw a need for an online student-run news source unaffiliated with the college that would alert students to campus happenings.

"If you're paying \$50,000 dollars a year and you're not exploiting every opportunity the college gives you," said Sweeting, "you're messing up, because you should be exploiting the college for all it's worth."

Sweeting, the site's executive editor, Mendelsohn, the site's editor-in-chief and publisher and Budin, the site's only staff writer, began writing several snarky posts a week, mostly about beer, concerts, lectures and the absurdity of campus-wide e-mails. Toward the end of his sophomore year, Sweeting took over the primary writing responsibilities and has remained the site's primary contributor ever since. He now writes around 800 words a day and looks through about 75 e-mails a week concerning suggestions for articles and events to promote.

Running the website essentially demands that I know everything going on campus, which I guess is kind of cool Sweeting said. "I don't get bored."

In the past few years, Mendelsohn has relinquished writing and editing duties, but still acts as the site's publisher, working with a whopping budget of \$45 dollars each year. He also works to promote the website around campus.

Budin, the grammarian of the group, writes comedy pieces on the website and is the only person who has his name publicly attached to Skidmore Unofficial.

“I wanted fame. I was hoping to get laid,” he joked. Budin writes an average of two articles a week and first started writing when Mendelsohn gave him a piece to edit, and he thought he could rewrite it with his humor. His pieces contribute to the satirical tone of the website.

“The blog is fun and it makes us more into the school and what’s going on,” Budin said.

Sweeting said that at first he chose to remain anonymous out of embarrassment, but now mostly does it to avoid talking to people about the site. Sweeting says that even now he isn’t sure how to respond to feedback about the site, positive or negative.

“Once it started to become successful, I thought the anonymous thing was more fun,” he said, adding that he “isn’t exactly comfortable being known as the kid who blogs about Skidmore all the time.”

Some of their favorite accomplishments, the founders said, were the print edition guides they wrote, particularly their Freshman Orientation Guide, which they wrote to generate new interest after temporarily shutting down the website while Sweeting went abroad to Copenhagen in the spring of 2010. The guide, which features an alphabetical, five-part list of everything a freshman would ostensibly need to know about the college, was followed the next semester by the site’s Guide to Binge Drinking, a publication that nearly got the founders into trouble after a deluge of drinking-related controversies began to surround the college shortly after the guide’s release in early January.

Several weeks after the Guide To Binge Drinking’s debut, Sweeting received an email on his personal Skidmore.edu account from Rochelle Calhoun, dean of student affairs, requesting a meeting concerning the recently published guide. Although she was at first worried that the guide have been insensitively released to mock the circumstances surrounding Alexander Grant’s death, after a quick explanation by Sweeting, Calhoun withdrew her worry. She even offered some suggestions on how to improve the humor on the website.

“We were a little scared of her, but we’re not anymore,” Budin said.

“Her job is really, really rough, especially this year . . . but she’s doing a pretty good job running stuff” Sweeting said.

Calhoun was not the first college administrator to contact Unofficial’s editors. In February 2009, Sweeting and Mendelsohn met with Dan Forbush, executive director of communications, for lunch regarding an article they wrote about the college’s shrinking endowment.

"We met him in The Spa and he didn't buy us lunch, which was a bummer," Sweeting joked, saying that while Forbush did correct two of their calculations, he felt that the meeting was more about the college telling the founders that "we know who you are."

One of the website's early controversial aspects was the Anonymous Confession Board, which was discontinued spring 2011. Originally intended as a place for students to post confessions about relationships or themselves under the safety of anonymity, the Anonymous Confession Board devolved into a forum students used to insult other students. The founders characterized the anonymous postings as "generally really stupid, vapid stuff."

According to Budin, there had been trepidation about the ACB from the beginning. "You can be completely honest if you're anonymous," he said, "but also not accountable."

Mendelsohn said that it was difficult to maintain the rules of the ACB, and so they eventually decided to shut it down, despite the fact that it brought a lot of traffic to the website.

But it seems that Skidmore Unofficial doesn't need the ACB to get a lot of traffic. The website has gone from an average of 200-300 views a day in its first few months to anywhere between 1000 to 1200 hits on a weekday and 650-750 on the weekends. The website received the most traffic, about 1700 hits a day, when AOL news mentioned the website's Freshman Orientation Guide in a news article.

"It is miraculous that actual news sources read our website," Sweeting said. "We've gotten mentions from the Albany Times Union, The Glens Falls Post Star and countless Capital Region news blogs. I'm always surprised when Pulitzer Prize winning newspapers source us."

All three students encourage other students to start their own school-related website or blog, adding that they are surprised more students haven't already. "If people have thoughts, they should start blogs," Budin said. "Blogging is fun."

When asked if they would do any blogging in the future, the founders responded that they would like to. "Anyone would want to do what we do professionally," Sweeting said. "I bang around on my keyboard in my underwear and make jokes all day."

Regardless of their impending retirement, the founders will continue to keep Skidmore Unofficial running until their graduation in May. Students will probably spot Sweeting, who recently spilled a mug of coffee on his laptop, updating the website in the library. He expects that the next couple of articles will reflect upon his past four years at Skidmore.

"We kid because we care," he said.

#1.2214295:1871437535.jpg Skid Unofficial

The staff of Skidmore Unofficial, from left: Kevin Sweeting '11, Alex Mendelsohn '11 and Jeremiah Budin '11.

Dianna De Sousa/The Skidmore News

#1.2214298:2306749712.jpg Kevin Sweeting

With his laptop recently destroyed by a spilled cup of coffee, Sweeting has resorted to updating Skidmore Unofficial using a more antiquated "albeit hip" technology.





Foxglove Co. presents 'Hazards of Love'

By Max Siegelbaum, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

On May 5, the Fox Glove Company will begin its performances of the Decemberists's 2009 album, "The Hazards of Love."

Created and directed by Sara Jane Munford '11 and co-directed by Samuel Kahler '11, the performance will be a multi-media staging of the work.

The Hazards of Love is a rock opera that tells the story of a woman named Margaret (Angela Cascone '12), and the shape shifting William (Kelsey Hull '13).

The two fall in love, but come into conflict with William's mother, the Queen of the Forest (Grace Troxwell '13) and her henchman, the evil Rake (Adrienne Schaffler '13).

The performance will run straight through the album, using choreography to tell the fantastical story. The music itself portrays a dynamic range of style and sensation, which helps lend itself to a wide range of actions and emotions for the actors to display.

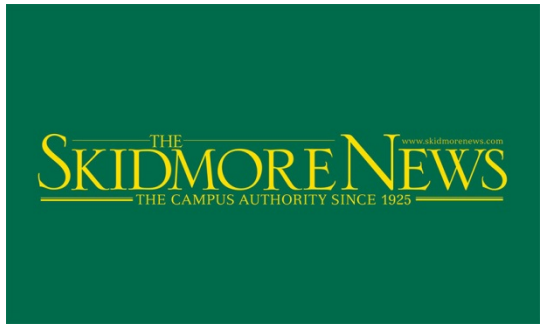
To stage the performance, the company built an elaborate set in a warehouse 20 minutes away from campus.

Under the guidance of Skip Suva '11 and Tom Meredith '11, the company transformed the space into a veritable set piece that could stand alone as an art exhibition.

Suva and Meredith divided the space into several different sets that center around a massive white tree.

In one area designated as the "Queen's Root Castle," white tendrils protrude from the ceiling to create the sinister and surreal home of the Queen. Dark and foreboding scenes painted by Abel Mills '11 and Hannah Mode '11 surround the main stage.

The space is designed to work as a "360 degree performance," Munford said. The actors will play their roles weaving in and out of the audience, using the entire space in the performance.



Several life-sized puppets created by a four person team of puppeteers led by Jeremy Ohinger '13 will be included in the performance. An animation by Galen Koch '11 will also be screened during the show.

Hazards of Love premieres on May 5 and performances will continue from May 7- 8 and 13- 15. Attendees should meet at Case at 7:30 p.m. before each show.

Audience members will receive a free CD of music to listen to on the way to the warehouse. The CD features a mix of relevant music selected by Munford and Kahler.

Audience members will also receive a program that will detail the history of the company and provide a synopsis of the story. All shows start at 8 p.m.

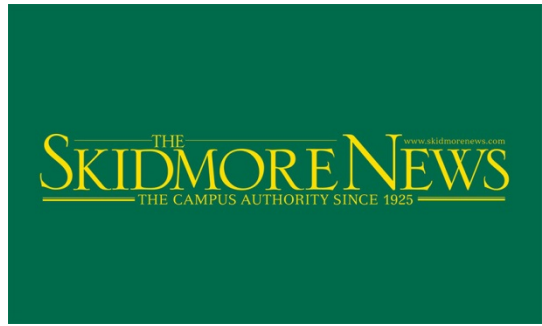
Tickets are free, but to attend the show, spots can be reserved by emailing foxglovecompany@gmail.com or calling (713) 816-5553. Transportation is limited, so it is encouraged to carpool to the performance space.

#1.2214291:1166451240.jpg Foxglove Co.

The Evil Rake (Adrienne Schaffler '13) traps Margaret (Angela Cascone '12).

Photo courtesy of Skip Suva





Thoroughbreds in Action

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

The women's lacrosse team took the field Wednesday, April 27, against Manhattanville and opened up the flood gates, scoring twelve goals unanswered to start things off. The final score was 21-10.

#1.2214293:3935600394.JPG Women's lax

Summer Segalas '14 assumes an athletic stance as she prepares for the draw.

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Senate re-examines campaigning policies

By Kat Kullman, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

On Tuesday, April 26, the Senate of the Student Government Association voted to amend the SGA election policies and procedures, limiting candidates' use of campaign materials and banning third party campaigning.

Jenny Snow '11, vice president for communication and outreach, brought the resolution to the floor. The primary change in the policy was the addition of a clause saying no candidate may produce more than 50 pieces of physical campaign material.

To help the campus become more environmental, Senate added an additional clause that no more than 35 of the campaign pieces may be paper.

A second clause in the resolution says the candidate is the only person who can campaign for his or her candidacy. The clause is included in the policy to give every candidate an equal opportunity, according to Snow.

"I don't want SGA and elections to become a popularity contest," Snow said. "We're trying to protect the people of Skidmore who don't have an army of friends to help campaign for them."

Some senators disagreed, saying more campaigners would raise awareness of elections.

"We don't have a right to tell people what they can't say," said Alex Bland '12, vice president for club affairs. "All this is doing is stopping people from talking about elections."

While many senators were in support of striking the clause from the policy, Snow pointed out that if the clause were to be struck it would become impossible to account for any slanderous or unfair campaigning from either the candidate or supporters.

The clause remained in the policy, meaning a candidate is now the only person who can campaign for his or herself. The resolution to amend the policy was passed, but will likely return at next week's Senate meeting.

Library Café deemed unsuccessful

By Gia Vaccarezza, Staff Writer

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Nearly a semester after the Lucy Scribner Library Café opened on the first floor of the library, students say they are still not sold on its services.

After multiple requests for a place to get coffee in the library, Dining Services remodeled the old copier room on the first floor, moving the copiers to the basement. The room now has a small counter, bakery case and Keurig instant-coffee machine.

A major source of complaints about the library café is the overpriced coffee, according to students.

The library café uses "K-cups," small packets of coffee grounds inserted into a machine. "K-Cups" only brew 10 ounces of coffee, but are brewed into 12 ounce cups and cost \$1.25. A full 12-ounce coffee at the Burgess Café costs the same price.

Students often ask employees at the Library Café for medium or large coffees, but find they can only choose the 10-ounce size.

"I know a lot of students would really like bigger sizes. I think Dining Services would bring in a lot more money and students would be more satisfied if they offered bigger sizes," one student employee said.

Other students have also said that the hours of the café aren't conducive to their needs. The library café is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 8 p.m. to midnight, Sunday through Thursday. On Friday, the café is only open for the morning hours, and it does not open at all on Saturdays.

Many students said they do not frequent the library during these hours and were hoping the café would be open during the afternoon. Some students have suggested Dining Services send out a poll to Skidmore students to find when the most beneficial hours of operation would be.

Student employees open the café at 7:30 a.m. and during their morning shifts they report seeing very few customers. This is also the trend with students working the night shifts.

"I get six customers during my two-hour shift. It gets really boring," one employee said.

Some students have come up with suggestions for Dining Services in addition to polling the student body. They said they would appreciate different hours of operation, as well as lower prices for the

coffee. The general consensus is that, because the amount of coffee from the Library Café is less than a small at the Burgess Café, it should not cost the same price.

Another suggestion is offering constant specials, like the Burgess Café does. At Burgess, before 11 a.m., there are five different breakfast specials - one per weekday. They all include some type of pastry or bagel and a small hot beverage. The prices for these specials are noticeably less than buying the two items separately.

The opening week at the Library Café did offer a different special per day, including a two-for-one special. They were successful at generating customers, according to student employees, but now that business has slowed, students are calling for special incentives.

"They should make getting coffee at the café appealing, because going to Burgess offers so many other options and a nicer atmosphere," Amari Boyd '14 said.

Bill Canney, director of Dining Services, did not respond to questions about the financials of the Café. However, the empty room alludes to little or no business and leaves some students wondering, "Why not just put in vending machines?"

#1.2214236:93597036.JPG Library Café

The Library Café is often without customers for long periods of time.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Commencement speech: read my lips

Ancient American Traditions

By Brian Connor, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Well, everyone, it's been real.

Four years and seven thousand beers ago, I first set foot on Skidmore Campus, dedicated to the proposition that Creative Thought Matters. And now, graduation approaches. This is not the end. This is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

The torch has been passed to a new generation, to a new class of Skiddies proud of our ancient creative heritage. Throughout the next two weeks we'll all be thinking about the bad breaks we might get after college. Yet today I consider myself the luckiest, most privileged man on the face of the Skidmore campus.

Because the long Green and Gold line has never failed us, and we won't fail it. Were we to do so, a million ghosts in Gold and Green and crazy hippie regalia would rise from their Lower East Side apartments crooning those magic words: "Drink more, smoke more, Skidmore."

Our graduating class is the great arsenal of creativity. I shall not fear a crisis of creativity, for I have been to the top of the Tang, and I have looked over and I have seen the hipster promised land of Brooklyn. I may not get there with you, but I know that many of us, as aspiring creative professionals, will get to the hipster promised land.

Hipster - that word should have new meaning for us today. We can't be consumed by our petty differences. We will be united in our common interests - we're fighting for our right to live, to be over-privileged douche bags with ironic and esoteric tastes. Today, we celebrate our graduation day!

Beware of the creative-industrial complex. Do not allow your abilities to be stifled and channeled through a soulless pipeline of cultural production that feeds insatiable consumer appetites solely for profit.

I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Rowdy drunks throwing beer bottles on the shoulder of Perimeter road. I watched joints glitter in the dark near the Northwoods rock garden. All those moments will be lost, like beer turned stale. Time to graduate.

Reconsider group work

Letter to the Editor

By Katie Vallas

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

This week, I had the opportunity to interview 14 professors in the Management and Business Department about their responses to an article called "The Default Major: Skating Through B-School" in "The New York Times." Their responses were helpful, informative and thought-provoking. The chance to speak with almost the entirety of the department on a broad range of topics, from student engagement to interdisciplinary learning, reaffirmed my sense that the college is fortunate to have so many experienced and motivated professors in its most popular major.

But through the course of these interviews, I realized that there is one topic, perhaps what seems like an insignificant one, on which these professors and I had a profound difference of opinion. Two paragraphs in "The Default Major" dealt with group projects: specifically, the article suggested that group work benefits the lazy and penalizes the hardworking, all while actually inhibiting learning. (The student who might benefit most from working on accounting, the article argues, will invariably be the one who asks his group members to crunch the numbers.)

Most professors conceded these criticisms might hold water, but they insisted group work nevertheless plays an important role in the business classroom. Working in teams is an important skill, they reminded me, and students need to learn how to compromise, make decisions and motivate their peers.

Indeed, the need for these skills is pervasive - so pervasive, in fact, that I question why professors think students haven't already learned them. Well-rounded students participate in sports teams, get part-time jobs, lead clubs, labor at internships and volunteer on weekends. They also have friends, boyfriends, girlfriends and families. The lessons of leadership, compromise, motivation and decision-making don't have to be integrated into every class, I would argue: students are learning them every single day.

That's not to say that anyone couldn't do all of these things more effectively. But at what cost do we make group projects a fixture of nearly every course? I suspect the majority of professors discount the degree to which work is distributed unevenly in group projects, as well as the resulting extent to which individuals finish classes without ever having completed entire segments of the coursework. (What do professors think happens when they assign a group of five to write a single paper? Do they think students alternate paragraphs?)

Group work can be valuable in learning about organizational behavior and might assist students in completing projects of a scale that would overwhelm a student working individually. But, at a certain point, professors who heavily rely on group projects need to know they are failing to do justice to their students: the ones who had to take on most of the work, yes, but also, and perhaps most regrettably, the students who never did.

-Katie Vallas '11

Combat stress by baking bagels

A Sprinkle in Time

By Katie Lane, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

When you are sitting up late at night writing a paper or studying for a test, do you ever dream about being a bread baker? I do.

I would happily go to sleep at 8 p.m. and wake up before the sun to head into my friendly, little bakery to start preparing fresh, delicious breads for my amazing local customers. Spending dark quiet mornings surrounded by rising dough and the smell of yeast...

What? You do not have that fantasy? Hmm...

You obviously have never made bagels.

I am telling you, the magical experience of creating your own homemade bagels is enough to make you want to put down your pen and put on an apron.

I have to say, as graduation inches - flies really - toward me, I am feeling more and more burned out by all the time spent on my computer, analyzing and fact checking and researching.

I have not baked in weeks., and I just want to get my hands covered in flour and heat up my oven.

There is something so grounding about the process of bread-making, and let me tell you, I am craving some solid ground right now. And while I do not have control over the type of security that might come with, say, a job prospect for the future, I do have control over my hands and the ingredients in my kitchen.

And really, if all it takes is a little kneading, shaping, boiling and baking to make me feel like I have got my feet on solid ground, I am a pretty lucky girl.

These bagels, well, they were just bagels. But I made them with my own two hands, and I will take pride in that, thank you very much.

For my farewell article to my beloved Skidmore readers, I am choosing to share with you something that brings me comfort in a stressful time. I hope that when your classes are over and your exams are finished, you can find a Saturday morning to give these a try.

Take your time. Get messy. Knead until your arms hurt. Be patient. Savor the taste. These are the things baking is really about.

For more adventures in baking, visit Katie's blog at asprinkleintime.wordpress.com.

Bagels

Ingredients:

Sponge:

1 teaspoon instant yeast

4 cups bread flour

2 1/2 cups water

Dough:

1/2 teaspoon instant yeast

the water

Cornmeal for dusting the pan

Toppings

Day 1: Stir the yeast into the flour in a large mixing bowl. Add the water and stir until all ingredients are blended. Cover with plastic wrap and allow to rise for two hours.

Remove the plastic wrap and stir the additional yeast into the sponge. Add three cups of the flour, the brown sugar, and the salt into the bowl and mix until all of the ingredients form a ball. You need to work in the additional 3/4 cups of flour to stiffen the dough, either while still mixing in the bowl or while kneading. The dough should be stiffer and drier than normal bread dough, but moist enough that all of the ingredients are well blended.

Pour the dough out of the bowl onto a clean surface and knead for 10 minutes.

Immediately after kneading, split the dough into a dozen small pieces around 4 1/2 ounces each. Roll each piece into a ball and set it aside. When you have all 12 pieces made, cover them with a damp towel and let them rest for 20 minutes.

Shape the bagels by punching a hole in the middle and then widening it as evenly as possible. Place the shaped bagels on an oiled sheet pan, with an inch or so of space between one another and cover the pan with plastic. Let rise for about 20 minutes. Test if they are ready: the bagels should float within 10 seconds of being placed in a bowl of water.

Day 2: Preheat the oven to 500. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Adding one tablespoon of baking soda to the pot to alkalize the water is suggested to replicate traditional bagel shop flavor. I went ahead and did this, though I have no idea if it made any difference.

When the pot is boiling, drop a few of the bagels into the pot one at a time and let them boil for a minute. Use a large, slotted spoon or spatula to gently flip them over and boil them on the other side.

Before removing them from the pot, sprinkle corn meal onto the sheet pan. Remove them one at a time, set them back onto the sheet pan and top them right away, while they are still slightly moist. Repeat this process until all of the bagels have been boiled and topped.

Once they have, place the sheet pan into the preheated oven and bake for five minutes. Reduce the heat to 450 degrees, rotate the pan and bake for another five minutes until the bagels begin to brown.

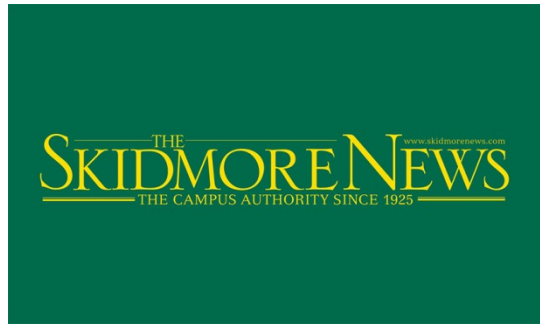
Recipe adapted from "The Bread Baker's Apprentice" by Peter Reinhart.

#1.2214269:2776016448.jpg Bagels

Fresh baked bagels

Katie Lane/The Skidmore News





Approach academic life with genuine interest

Editorial

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Numbers like these cry out for explanations. A disproportionate number of students might express interest in this discipline because the subject is inherently more interesting, relevant or valuable. The Management and Business faculty might be more encouraging, engaging or better qualified. Maybe MB 107, the introductory course, wins students' loyalty to a greater degree than other departments' equivalent courses.

Or Management and Business attracts the largest number of students because, perhaps, the department has become Skidmore's default major, popular among those students who, in the absence of interest in another discipline, have just decided to follow the crowd.

This idea will be familiar to anyone who picked up the April 14 issue of "The New York Times" and saw the article "The Default Major: Skating Through B-School," a ringing condemnation of larger trends in undergraduate institutions' approach to teaching business classes. The article - required reading for any student considering the major - posed the argument that many business departments have become overrun with unmotivated students, who will spend few hours studying thanks to a lack of real interest in the discipline.

Upon reading an article like this, the first response of anyone in our college community is to look to our own department of Management and Business. We question whether this picture of the apathetic business student coasting through dumbed-down coursework is an accurate representation of what has become the most popular and visible department on campus.

But even a first glance will show that when it talks about failed pre-professional preparation, this article isn't talking about schools like Skidmore. Our department sits one floor down from the (nearly as popular) department of English; one building over from classrooms where students are learning psychology, sociology and history; and across campus from biology labs and art studios. Ours is a liberal arts approach to business, the department's professors say.

We think such a department belongs here. Its holistic take on the discipline means that it's largely not the pre-professional department as labeled by its critics (and many of its supporters): with students gaining a basic sense of the many moving parts of a business, rather than an intensive understanding of

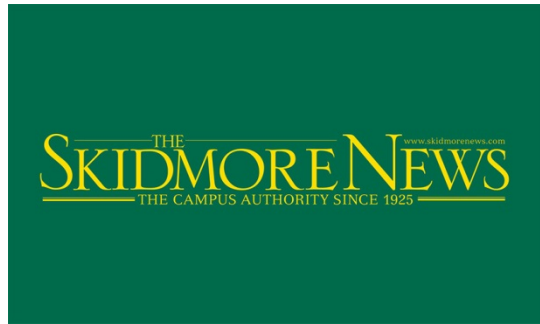
just one, students aren't leaving as marketing gurus and CPAs. For the most part, business students learn to apply the very disciplines that are quintessentially part of the liberal arts: math becomes finance, sociology becomes marketing, English becomes communication, and so on.

But the department runs into trouble when it expects a liberal arts understanding that, for many of its students, might not exist. If business majors haven't spent time with those other disciplines - if the finance student is weak on math, the marketing student ignorant of sociology, the communication student inexperienced with English - their understanding will be flawed at best, superficial at worst. Discussions turn vapid. Tests just recycle the textbook, without asking for students to demonstrate critical thinking. Even the most engaged students lose focus. That's when classrooms veer dangerously close to the generalizations made by the department's critics, of unquestioning and unthinking eyes on the bottom line.

Many Management and Business students already spend much of their time in non-business classrooms, but to thoroughly avoid the academic pitfalls laid out in "The New York Times," the department needs to mandate an interdisciplinary approach. Planned restructuring of the major, with a rumored emphasis on students' learning in other departments' classrooms, looks like it might do just that. Besides making our business students better at business, such changes would reinvigorate the intellectual curiosity of students who treat Management and Business as that pragmatic default major - the department that they chose because, well, they didn't know what else to do.

Those students will always be there, dragging down classrooms otherwise populated with some of the college's most engaged, enterprising and creative minds. So long as students continue to overlook the rich variety of the almost 40 departments and programs offered by the college, default majors like Management and Business - as well as other similarly popular majors, like English, Psychology and Studio Art - will continue to play host to unmotivated, apathetic students.

By picking these disciplines for a reason besides genuine academic interest, a student does not only himself, but our college, a disservice. He or she just robbed another department of one of its most passionate students.



Summer reading: consider change

Challenging Privilege

By Danny Pforte, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

We all want to believe that our eyes are open, but are they really? How quick are we to ignore the issues that plague our campus? No matter what your views are, it is important to at least give voice to them. My outlook on the overall campus climate is that students are apathetic to the point where it's dangerous.

So few students are fighting to empower and maintain the safety of those who suffer. So few students uphold the open-minded attitude with which Skidmore College advertises itself -- but what about everyone else?

Where were we when a group of our own was accused of a hate crime and an assault at Compton's Diner? We were so quick to judge and trust speculative evidence from the Saratogian while arriving at our own conclusions about the incident. We demonized the few people who understood the circumstances of people of color in the criminal justice system and the importance of showing solidarity in their community.

Where were we after the OSDP office was vandalized and when swastikas and "Kill N*****" were spray-painted on campus grounds? Voices were silent when there was reason to believe that homophobia resulted in a student's window being egged and other cars being vandalized in the Northwoods parking lot. These hostile actions are brought to our attention, but then quickly placed in the "too uncomfortable to address further" compartment of our minds.

The loudest voices heard this semester were anonymous. There were the "Food for Thought" posters, which offended some by challenging privilege and its relationship with oppression. There were also many anonymous comments posted in response to my articles.

We as an institution have done a poor job making issues that deeply affect students seem urgent. While I commend the students, faculty and administrators who have promoted dialogue and action regarding sensitive issues that arose this semester, people have prioritized their own individual ideologies over the collective good of the student body.

Instead of interpreting the message on the "Food for Thought" posters that were posted on the office doors of faculty members as a legitimate reason for concern, many considered the call for attention as an attack on individual faculty members. The posters were criticized because they challenged privilege. Similarly, many saw the threat I received online as a joke and tried to downplay the harm that online posts can have.

This campus is at a tipping point. I think that people relied upon anonymity with the "Food for Thought" posters, knowing that it would at least bring attention to the matters at hand. Despite numerous SGA discussions, community meetings and other events that sought to bring these people out in the open, most of the Skidmore community did not attend. This widespread apathy and ignorance has made those of us who care feel burnt-out and hopeless.

The challenge to the Skidmore community lies within each and every one of us. We must be true to ourselves. We must also challenge apathy as something that is unnatural and caused by larger issues within our society.

Why care about racism and bias incidents if you've never been the victim of one? It is a fact that white people enjoy this privilege on this campus and in our greater society. Why care about homophobia if you're a heterosexual? It is a fact that our society is hetero-normative and denies rights and privileges from sexualities that do not fit the narrow definition of heterosexuality. Who cares about people who feel uncomfortable on this campus? As long as I remain unaffected, these problems must not exist.

This has been the attitude of most Skidmore College students over the past semester. A lot has happened, but few students spoke up. This semester revealed the need for students to take a step outside of their comfort zones. I believe that this is an ongoing process. While it's fine to focus on oneself during stressful times, it becomes problematic when we cannot see how this selfish mentality is damaging to the greater society in which we live.

Individualism strips us of our ability to empathize with others whom we do not understand. Until we see beyond ourselves and the surroundings to which we are accustomed, we cannot find solutions to the social issues that have been leaking into our bastion of liberalism since Skidmore's creation.

There are huge issues that I will be thinking about this summer, and I hope that everyone who reads this does so as well. Do we see ourselves as incapable of becoming agents of change? Do we take offense to opinions that challenge our own? Will we remain indifferent to the unearned privilege and power that society grants certain individuals at the expense of others? These are questions that we should ask ourselves over the summer. Come back ready to improve our campus.

View Islam rationally: get to know our Muslim brothers and sisters

Daydreams

By Rick Chrisman, Columnist

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Although Greg Mortensen, author of "Three Cups of Tea," should be held accountable for stretching the truth in his book, Mortensen remains an important model for the unique work that he did while in Afghanistan.

As Nicholas Kristoff wrote in a recent article, "he was right about the need for American outreach in the Muslim world. He was right that building schools tends to promote stability more than dropping bombs. He was right about the transformative power of education, especially girls' education. He was right about the need to listen to local people - yes, over cup after cup after cup of tea - rather than just issue instructions" (NY Times 4/20/11). Greg Mortensen took Muslims and Islam seriously, and he succeeded in getting many Americans (including the Pentagon!) to do so, too.

Unfortunately, not everybody has adopted Mortensen's positive spirit. Instead, a large part of our population is afflicted with "Islamophobia." Evidence from last year alone is enough to warrant saying so. People determinedly opposed the construction of a mosque "at Ground Zero," even though it was not a mosque and not at Ground Zero.

Brigitte Gabriel, a "self-appointed terrorism detector" who makes \$178,000 a year by lecturing to big audiences, blames what she calls "Islamofascism" on the Qur'an. Glenn Beck of Fox News ranted all year about a worldwide Islamic conspiracy to reinstitute the ancient Caliphate, until he was finally banished by his boss, Rupert Murdoch.

New York Rep. Peter King held a controversial Congressional hearing in March to investigate American Muslim sympathies, confirming the widespread anti-Muslim prejudice in our society. The "Reverend" Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Fl., having changed his mind about burning a Qur'an back in September, decided to "hold Islam accountable" by holding a "mock trial" of the holy book.

He pronounced the Qur'an "guilty" of five "crimes against humanity," which led to a protest in Afghanistan two weeks ago that resulted in the death of 12 non-combatants. But if the Qur'an is to

blame for all the offenses committed by Muslims, shouldn't we also blame the Bible for David Koresh, Jim Jones and the "Rev." Terry Jones, too, for that matter?

Does any of this constitute a real problem? Yes. We have seen this sort of bigotry many times before in U.S. history: Massachusetts Puritans hanged Mary Dyer and three fellow Quakers on the Boston Common in 1660; the Mormons were driven out of New York and into Illinois where their leader, Joseph Smith, was murdered in 1830; Roman Catholic immigrants were persecuted in post-Civil War America.

Such poisonous intolerance doesn't disappear without effort. Although there have been no fatalities this year, there has been a lot of religious discrimination, harassment, threats and phony legislation (e.g. the law outlawing "Sharia" in Oklahoma, Missouri, North Carolina and other states).

We need to act better, not only for the sake of good human relations in our diverse country, but also so that there will be clear-sighted decision-making in Washington. Good policies do not grow in a climate of fear and intolerance, as we saw in the case of the Iraq War.

We have a part to play, too. We must live up to our image as an informed and compassionate citizenry. First, we need to defend American Muslims the way we would stand up for any other good neighbor. For example: Heartsong Church in Memphis put a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" sign on its lawn facing the construction site of a new mosque being built across the street.

Second, we need learn more about the Qur'an - it's a beautiful book that creates high expectations of a moral life and a just society. A good way to do so might have been to enroll in Professor Gregory Spinner's course on Islam next fall, but unfortunately, it's already full. You could, however, lobby the college to add more sections to the class and, while you're at it, suggest that we expand the Religion Department in general.

Third, students, get to know your Muslim peers at Skidmore better. Admittedly, it is hard to find and engage each other over religious matters. One option would be to join the (new) Islamic Awareness Club, led by Sofia Naqvi '14 under the auspices of Hayat.

Fourth, look next fall for Islam-related and other inter-faith programming of the (also new) Inter-Religious Council. Under its auspices, students are proposing a series on "War Today," featuring panel discussions about current religiously stoked hot-spots around the world.

Finally, good people, become curious about religion. And do so with genuinely sympathetic interest, not presumption or bias. There is much, much more to every religion than meets the eye.

SGA president-elect vows government transparency

By Jean-Ann Kubler, News Editor

On Fri, Apr 29, 2011

Jonathan Zeidan '12, SGA president-elect for the 2011-2012 academic year, says he will emphasize transparency and accessibility within the organization during his term as SGA president.

SGA does a lot of great and influential work in the community, but a lot of the time students don't know what's going on within SGA, or how to get involved and participate, Zeidan said, "SGA doesn't work without voices. Community engagement is paramount to our success."

Zeidan said this year's SGA members have done an incredible job of responding to the community's concerns after a semester of arguably negative publicity.

The college made national news after incidents of alcohol-related hospitalizations in October. In December, four students were charged with the assault of a local man at Compton's Diner in downtown Saratoga Springs.

In the wake of the Compton's assault charges, many students and faculty members spoke out on behalf of one of the students, who was charged with a hate crime.

SGA hosted a number of campus climate dialogues during the spring semester, during which students could express their concerns about the incident.

"I think SGA has done a great job of giving students a forum to have their voices heard in a focused way - but perhaps not quite focused enough, in the sense that the dialogues tend to be large and people may not feel completely comfortable voicing their opinions," Zeidan said.

The executive committee for 2011-2012 plans to host an open forum in the fall for students to tell SGA what issues they feel are important to discuss. From there, Zeidan said, SGA will work to create smaller, more focused forums for student dialogues.

"Intersections dialogues are going to continue, and those cover race, class, gender, nationality; but we also want to know what issues the students think are important," Zeidan said.

One area in which Zeidan said he feels SGA could improve is in its tendency to be reactive.

“On the flip side, SGA does do a lot of great things, but I think it has been very reactionary in the past. Taking a proactive, rather than a reactionary, stance is one place where I do think we can improve as an organization,” Zeidan said.

Zeidan said he will take many cues from Alex Stark ‘11, the current SGA president.

“I can definitely learn a lot from Alex’s term as SGA president. Alex is strong and flexible, and she’s been able to draw the best out of everyone, which is something I hope I’ll be able to do. She works hard and she works smart. We can all take a lot from her presidency,” Zeidan said.

“The biggest goal for his term as SGA president,” Zeidan said, “is fostering a stronger relationship among SGA, the college community and Saratoga Springs.”

“At this time next year, I hope SGA is more a part of the community. We want to define each position and each person, so every student knows that if they need money they should contact Ethan Flum, our incoming vice-president for financial affairs, or if they’re curious about a curriculum change, contact Thomas Rivera, the vice-president for academic affairs. It has to be all about transparency and accessibility,” Zeidan said.

#1.2150651:2988781703.jpg Jono Zeidan

SGA President-Elect Jono Zeidan ‘12

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News

