

Kevin Smith's leftist horror flick "Red State" falls short of expectations

By Eli Cohen, Columnist On Thu, Dec 1, 2011

It's an age-old story, one that we have all heard a hundred times before: boy meets girl online, boy talks to girl for a couple weeks, girl offers boy and his two friends a foursome, boys end up getting captured and killed one by one.

This is how the trailer for Kevin Smith's "Red State" portrays the recently released-to-DVD horror flick. The trailer shows a gritty, terrifying, and nail-biting experience, coupled with religious fanaticism and brief interludes of gunfights. But alas, as we discover so many times in life, looks can be terribly deceiving, if not disappointing. What the audience actually ends up with is a condemnation of the religious ultra-conservative (often referred to as "red-stater"), who seem to become almost a caricature at times. In fact, nearly everyone in this film ends up appearing so over-the-top and exaggerated that there are few characters that I was even remotely interested in by the end.

Granted, horror movies have never been known as the most plot-heavy genre, tending to rely more on shock value, gore, and things jumping out from behind furniture. What is problematic is that the part of "Red State" that is truly scary - the part that contains the suspense, horror, and revulsion - lasts a mere twenty minutes. After that there is some more overacting, a firefight, and John Goodman.

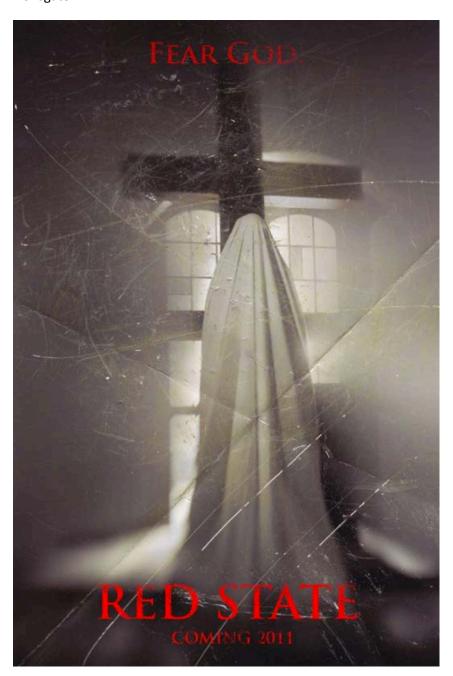
The end of the movie is especially disappointing. With so many possibilities, including an alternative ending involving the rapture, a giant sword-wielding angel, and the general end of days ("Dogma," anyone?), this film decided it would go gently into the good night. The conclusion is timid, unambitious, and, like the rest of the film, generally uninteresting.

The acting was ultimately the biggest letdown. John Goodman, Oscar-winner Melissa Leo ("The Fighter"), and Stephen Root (unforgettable in the cult classic "Office Space"), joining forces with Kevin Smith, the beloved slacker hero responsible for the "Clerks" series, "Dogma" and "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" should have been unstoppable. Yet, thanks to Leo's unbearable overacting, Goodman's complete lack of effort, and Root's unbelievably exaggerated character, they end up not only falling short, but failing to even come close to making this movie work.



Red State

Lionsgate





Men's Basketball remains unbeaten

By Skidmore Athletics On Thu, Dec 1, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College men's basketball team ran its record to 3-0 with a 62-52 non-league win over SUNY Oneonta, Nov. 30, at the Williamson Sports Center.

The Thoroughbreds never trailed and led by as many as 20 points in the second half.

Brian Lowry '12 scored a game-high 15 points to go along with eight rebounds for Skidmore. Gerard O'Shea '12 contributed 13 points and three assists.

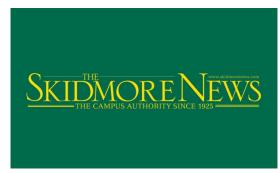
For Oneonta (1-3), Kevin Donahue had 14 points and Lukas Slivinsky scored 13. Frankie Kelly had nine assists and three steals.

The Thoroughbreds ran out to an 8-0 lead on a field goal by Terron Victoria '12 and three-pointers from O'Shea and Melvis Langyintuo '12. The Red Dragons eventually slowed Skidmore down and battled back to tie it 10-10 with 9:03 left in the half. The Thoroughbreds responded with a 19-5 run to open the lead to 29-15 with 2:45 to play in the half. Skidmore's bench came through in the run with 13 of the 19 points scored by non-starters, including a pair of threes by John Mantas '12. Oneonta used two late baskets to cut the lead to nine, 29-20 at the half.

In the second half, Skidmore patiently extended the lead to 20 points to go up 57-37 with 6:10 to play. The Red Dragons used a 12-0 run to pull to within eight, 57-49, but that was as close as they would get. Donahue had seven of his team's 10 points in the late rally.

Mantas finished with nine points and three steals, while Langyintuo had six points, four blocks and seven rebounds.

Skidmore hits the road for the first time this season, traveling to William Paterson University for a 3 p.m. game Dec. 3.



Editorial: Find a place for argument

By the Editorial Board On Fri, Dec 2, 2011

For a college ostensibly involved with politics, social justice and environmentalism, Skidmore still lacks a culture of debate.

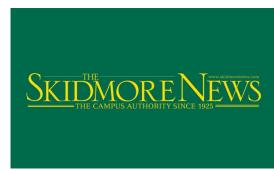
Students attend protests, lectures and dialogues. They take classes on topics of race, gender and class. All around campus can be heard the groundwork for controversial conversations, yet students still seem to think of argument as a dirty word. The recent reformation of the Skidmore Debate Club is an encouraging sign, and should leave the College looking for more opportunities to invite real, open discourse of the kind currently in scarce supply on campus.

Debate is not the same as dialogue, the specialty of Fight Club and the kind of meetings sponsored by the administration we saw last year following theCompton's incident. Dialogue is personal, emotional and highly sensitive. People share their feelings and anecdotes, and argument is usually discouraged in favor of ensuring an open and safe environment where all voices can be heard.

Debate is not the same as protest. Protest, the realm of slogans, posterboard and political theater, can be an extremely effective way to stimulate discussion and raise awareness, but involves little productive back-and-forth between divided ideological camps. As the Occupy movement finds itself in doctrinal gridlock, all should learn the lesson: protest packs a political punch, but protesters are not effective at finding solutions to complex problems. The forum is, again, one of showmanship, not of deliberation.

While a personal anecdote will win applause at an informal dialogue, and chants will raise a larger crowd than well-reasoned verbal sparring at a protest, neither tactic is effective in actual debates. Reason and logic are the faculties respected in debate, where points and counter-points are not shouted down and anecdotal evidence is rightly dismissed.

The EAC, engaged as it is with the issue of hydraulic fracking, should encourage well-educated proponents of the controversial practice to come to campus for a chance to defend their perspective in a real debate. The exercise would certainly be more educational than watching a documentary supporting the perspective of all or nearly all in the audience. "Preaching to the choir" should be especially abhorrent to all of us attending a college devoted to broadening our intellectual horizons.



Lectures are common, and the topics chosen can be quite contentious. A lecture given by the controversial journalist Chris Hedges last year provoked several inflammatory questions from the audience, none of which were given the attention they would have if the style of the presentation had been a debate. In contrast, this semester's sole debate on the sustainability of cities attracted a sizable crowd and gave a broader perspective on a contentious topic than would have been presented in a mere lecture. Leaving the argument for the remarks at the end of a lecture undermines the usefulness and integrity of dissent, something sorely lacking amid all this dialoguing and storytelling.

Oratory and logical dexterity are skills crucial to success outside of college, and they are very difficult to teach when true argument is discouraged. Seminars and intimate, small classes are a great start, but grading and the presence of a professor can preclude effective debate. It is important to offer a forum away from classroom conventions.

While Skidmore has several groups with different perspectives, too rarely do we students find ourselves in a room with two opposing, well-articulated points of view. As our campus celebrates the return of a club dedicated to the artistry of argument, we should encourage our clubs, and administration, to find room for real debate at Skidmore.



Restaurant Review: The Bread Basket

By Tegan O'Neill, Columnist On Fri, Dec 2, 2011

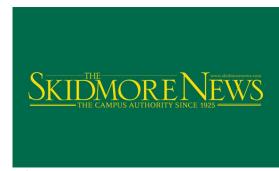
As I walked along the winding path to The Bread Basket's door, the smell of cinnamon tickled my nose, summoning me to step into a land of sugar and butter. The Bread Basket caters to the sweet tooth everybody has and nobody can resist indulging. Scrumptious baked goods aplenty sit like ducks in a row ready to be plucked out for a breakfast akin to dessert. I stood in front of the glass display looking googly-eyed at the goods, my eyes bouncing from one fluffy, sugary bread to the next.

Is it a bagel? Is it a flying saucer? No, it's a homemade English muffin that's 100 percent satisfying and delicious. All other English muffins pale in comparison to the one I ate at The Bread Basket - which, for added brownie points, was served warmed and buttered in its own little bread basket. For an English muffin, this one had serious oomph. Hearty as a Midwestern plane, it was thick and chewy and sunk easily beneath the teeth. I would love to try it with some jam and an egg sometime soon, but even with just butter it was impressive. A twinkle of crispy cornmeal added the slightest amount of crunch - perfection.

Speaking of perfection, imagine the flavor sensation of buttery goodness colliding with sweet serendipity and there you have The Bread Basket's utterly divine sticky bun. Its fluffy dough is crafted into a beautiful beehive up-do and glazed in a wickedly good syrupy coating. With the tiniest tug, the pudgy bun easily unwinds into a ribbon of sweet, butter soaked bread. The gooey walnuts scaling its glossy sides guild the lily but who's to complain? The combined effect is swoon-inducing. Ever since polishing off the last bite, my mind has not wandered far from the prospect of going back for more.

I would have been delighted by the pumpkin spice cupcake if the frosting had been left out of the equation. Wonderfully moist, deliciously spiced cupcake plus superficially sweet, inappropriately light frosting equals an incompatible combination. The frosting was too gaudy for the cupcake; it was like a tacky Sunday hat accessorizing a classy outfit. It would have been better bare.

Scones are hard - for some reason bakeries always seem to get tripped up on them. I don't really understand. Nevertheless, I am always (probably naïvely) willing to give scones a chance. At The Bread Basket, I simply couldn't resist. The mixed-berry scone, splashed with splotches of bright blue and magenta, looked as tempting as the dance floor in a disco club. It tasted, though, like a mushy rock. Its flavor was so pathetic that even dunking it into coffee did nothing in the name of improvement. The



berry taste was there but it was fake to the tongue, like Kellog's Special K Red Berries Cereal. Synthetic smack aside, the consistency also wasn't quite right. Nevertheless, I won't hold my disappointment with the scone against The Bread Basket. Next time I go, I'll just opt for something else.

Although I really do not want to harp too much about the shortcomings of The Bread Basket, I do think it is important to mention that it isn't the type of place where you feel like lingering over a cup of coffee, wishing there were more crumbs left on your plate. Instead, it is the type of place where you zip in and then right back out, paper bag and coffee in hand. The bakery is not very cozy; the space is a bit too wide and open, the chairs a tad too hard and the customers a little too much in a hurry.

Granted, the atmosphere could benefit from a little TLC, but with that said, The Bread Basket clearly cares about the quality of the goodies that they have up for grabs. What comes out of the oven tastes as goods as it smells, which is to say, very good - indeed, quite heavenly. All in all, I was thoroughly pleased by what I found upon visiting and as the saying goes, sometimes you have to take the bitter with the sweet.

Read more of Tegan O'Neill's outings at her blog

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The Bread Basket is located at 65 Spring Street

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News

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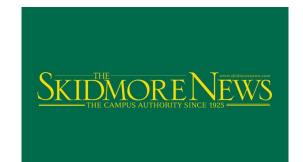
The Bread Basket's many fresh baked options

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News

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The Bread Basket's pumpkin spice cupcake

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News















Daydreams: Spiritual occupation

Religious values at work in Occupy Boston By Richard Chrisman, Director of Religious and Spiritual Life On Fri, Dec 2, 2011

You may not know much about religion, but fundamental religious values are at work in the Occupy Wall Street movement. I was at Occupy Boston over the Thanksgiving weekend, and it jumped out at me. The marks of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are all over this movement, along with those of Hinduism and Buddhism. The site radiates religious history - if you know how to look.

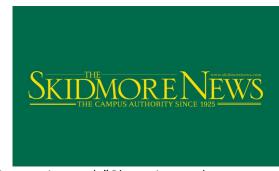
First, you can't miss Gandhi. The Occupy site in Boston, at Dewey Square across from South Station, prominently displays a grand, nine-foot statue of Gandhi, on loan from the Peace Abbey, a Quaker conference center in Sherborn, Massachusetts. Someone hung a sign from it reading, "The world holds enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed."

The statue was originally presented to Goldman Sach's in Boston for display in its atrium entrance, but it was declined. Now Gandhi stands at the head of the square. He led two political movements (one in South Africa and another in India), all the time propounding the need for spiritual faith in order to endure the hardest physical adversity.

Down one alley of tents, not far from Gandhi, was a site dedicated to sacred practices. Meditation, prayer, chanting and sharing were welcomed and encouraged. Signs representing different religions offered "bread for the journey," a reminder of the spiritual depths into which people must reach when under conditions of extreme deprivation. It was apparent just looking at the few who were still around during this holiday that the Occupy movement is not for the faint of heart.

Religion not only provides support and sustenance for the movement, it also provides a literal impetus from sacred scripture. To denounce greed is to invoke, perhaps unknowingly, the injunctions of the Hebrew prophets against the powers of state and commerce in their time, between the eighth and sixth centuries B.C.E.

Listen to these words from the prophet Hosea: "Turn back all of you by God's help; practice loyalty and justice and wait upon your God. False scales are in merchants hands, and they love to cheat. So Ephraim says, 'Surely I have become a rich man, I have made my fortune.' But all his gains will not pay for the guilt of his sins" (Hosea 12:6-8). This is typical of many verses, chapters and entire books of the prophets, excoriating the unfairness of the powerful. Jesus, himself well-versed in the prophets'



message, levied harsh judgments on the rich. One clever Occupy sign read, "Obama is not a brown-skinned anti-war socialist who gives away free health care - you're thinking of Jesus."

Income disparity is not just about equality - it's about justice. And economic justice is a religious value. What is called for has many different names, depending on whether you read Paine, Marx or Keynes. But I like Ralph Nader's version most, where he calls for corporations to honor four different constituencies, not just the one they normally serve, namely, stockholders. He names three others- the employees, the customers and the environment (both human and natural) - as part of an implicit and imperative business covenant.

Corporations, Nader emphasizes, are not people at all (as American law currently dictates), but they must be faithful to the personhood of their four constituencies. And, in saying this, Nader is taking a basically religious view of the world, in the direct line of the Hebrew prophets who demanded fairness of us in dealing with each other, especially across power lines.

People have a hard time classifying exactly what kind of civic engagement Occupy Wall St. belongs to - is it a sit-in, a demonstration, a movement, an outburst, a rebellion or a revolution? We will have to see how it evolves, but for me, right now, it evokes the spirit of Tahrir Square in Cairo, which was a spirit of prayerful determination. Those Islamic Egyptians came unarmed to the square and prayed five times a day. Before they were done, Mubarak was gone.

Not all religions are so peacefully inclined at all times, or so universally accepting. The religious track record on social fronts has been pretty bad. And yet there are still religious revolutionaries who remind us of their core values.

The time has come at Occupy Wall Street for a shift of some kind - in strategy, in focus. It is certainly time for a renewal of faith, not just in American democracy but also, perhaps, in God. Bringing these two thoughts together, one sign read, "I'm a Born Again American," held on high by a woman wearing a T-shirt with the "COEXIST" emblem on it.

This may be the time for Skidmore students to "get religion" by taking faith seriously, warts and all. Take advantage of your Religion Program and the religious fellowships and inter-religious programming on campus. Learn from your religious friends. You, like Gandhi, may find the spiritual fuel it takes to remain true to your self in the long and arduous road to change ahead.

Rick Chrisman is the Director of Religious and Spiritual Life. He enjoys looking down on Skidmore from his second story window.



Skidmore Cares promotes another year of community involvement

By Julia Leef and Sarah Barry, Editors On Mon, Dec 5, 2011

Skidmore Cares hosted an information session on Wednesday, Dec. 1 to spread awareness about its mission and beneficiaries. The organization, started by President Phillip Glotzbach and Marie Glotzbach in 2006, aims to support local organizations, specifically during the holiday season.

Marie Glotzbach addressed the group with representatives from most of the 10 organizations that receive aid from Skidmore Cares.

Donations are collected by a group of "cheerleaders," Skidmore employees who work to promote and organize the event.

The program is founded on the idea of being a good neighbor to the community. "We want the community to make a difference," Glotzbach said.

Skidmore Cares' beneficiaries include Corinth Central School District where Skidmore Cares funds a summer enrichment program, The Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services in Saratoga County and the Salvation Army. "It's good to know we have people supporting us," said Capt. Amber Boone from the Salvation Army.

Skidmore Cares started with only faculty and staff participation, but student involvement has grown. Several student organizations are involved in efforts to support the program. Student Athletes Advisory Committee meets each month to organize service and community initiatives.

This year the Polar Plunge event at Lake George raised over \$2,000 for canned goods during the holiday season. Benef-Action is also involved, as well as the Student Government Association. Proceeds from Beatlemore Skidmania also go to the event - this year the event raised approximately \$4,500.

Organizers started collecting goods last Thursday; the donations are later distributed with the help of student athletes.

President Glotzbach and Marie Glotzbach will hold a Holiday Open House for Skidmore Faculty and Staff as well as volunteers and agency representatives on Dec. 11 to celebrate the holiday season. The Skidmore Cares Sleigh will be parked outside Scribner House accepting donations from Dec. 9 to 11.



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Marie Glotzbach speaks at the information session for Skidmore Cares.

Savannah Grier '12/The Skidmore News

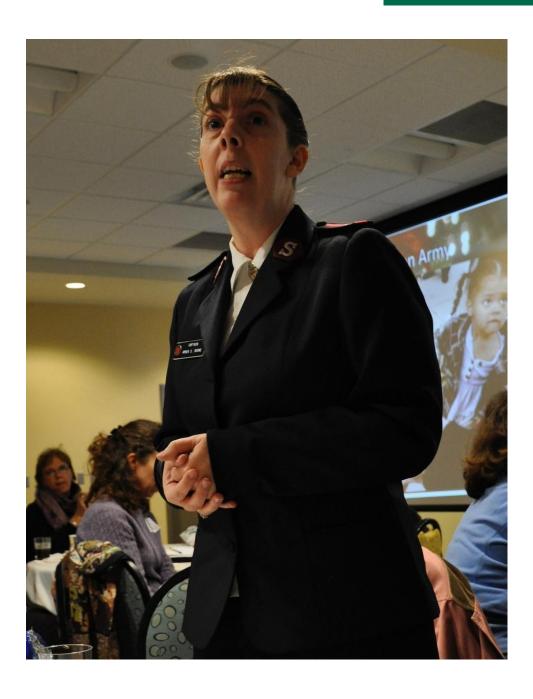
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Capt. Amber Boone from the Salvation Army also addressed the group.

Savannah Grier '12/The Skidmore News









Skidmore Men's Basketball suffers first loss of season

By Skidmore Athletics On Mon, Dec 5, 2011

WAYNE, NJ - The Skidmore College men's basketball team suffered its first loss of the season, 75-69 at William Paterson on Saturday afternoon.

The Thoroughbreds fall to 3-1, while the Pioneers improve to 7-0.

Gerard O'Shea '12 finished with 12 points, eight assists, five rebounds and three steals for Skidmore, while Brian Lowry '12 poured in a team-high 16 points in 18 minutes of action and Terron Victoria '12 added 13 points.

For William Paterson, Corey Chandler led all scorers with 32 points and also grabbed a game-high nine rebounds. Lance Brown recorded 20 points and pulled down seven rebounds.

The Pioneers held a 13-point advantage at the half and led by as many as 21 early in the second half. The Thoroughbreds were able to chip away at the lead and trailed by four with 2:12 left, but were unable to get any closer as William Paterson hit their free throws down the stretch and held off the rally for a 75-69 win.

Skidmore returns to action on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Castleton State.

Skidmore Athletics



Skidmore drops 3-0 decision at no. 1 Norwich

By Skidmore Athletics On Mon, Dec 5, 2011

NORTHFIELD, VT - The Skidmore College ice hockey team suffered a 3-0 loss to No. 1-ranked Norwich University in ECAC East action at Kreitzberg Arena on Saturday night, Dec. 3.

The Thoroughbreds fall to 4-6-0 and 3-5-0 in the ECAC East, while the Cadets improve to 8-0-0 overall and 6-0-0 in league play.

Chris Duszynski opened the scoring at the 17:15 mark of the first period when he took a pass from Igor Martinez in the high slot, turned and fired a shot past Skidmore goalie Colin Bessey's '12 glove to make it 1-0 Cadets.

In the second, Duszynski gave Norwich a little breathing room with his second goal of the night and third tally of the season on the power play to make it 2-0 Cadets at the 18:17 mark of the period.

Tory Allan capped the scoring at the 4:50 mark of the third period when he corralled a loose puck on top of the goal crease and shoveled it home to make it 3-0 Norwich.

Bessey made 22 saves for Skidmore and fell to 4-6-0 on the year, while Chris Czarnota improved to 2-0-0 after stopping all 24 shots he faced.

The Thoroughbreds have one game remaining in the calendar year, when they take on Middlebury on Dec. 31.

 Skidmore Athletics



Record-setting championship meet for Thoroughbred Swimming

By Skidmore Athletics On Mon, Dec 5, 2011

RENSSELEAR - Skidmore senior diver Doug Pilawa '12 racked-up a score of 481.95 to finish first in the Liberty League 3-meter event, to highlight a record-setting championship meet for the Thoroughbreds.

The standout senior finished second in the 1-meter (451.40) to share Liberty League Diver of the Year honors with Union's Ian Drillinger. Pilawa was the 2009 Liberty League Diver of the Year.

The University of Rochester won both the men's and women's team titles. The Skidmore men and women were each seventh.

There were several top performances on the women's side. Catherine King '15 finished fourth in the 50 free (24.88), seventh in the 100 free (54.94) and 16th in the 200 free (2:04.75). Carrie Koch '13 took sixth in the 500 free (5:22.36), 11th in the 200 free (2:03.79) and 14th 100 free (57.08).

Sarah Shaw '14 took seventh in the 1650 free (19:08.82) and 14th in the 200 fly 2:29.26. Katherine Kelloway '14 was eighth in the 400 IM (4:57.92), 10th in the 100 back (1:05.43), 12th in the 200 back (2:20.21) and 16th in the 200 IM (2:21.82).

Diver Kristin Stearns '13 had a pair of impressive finishes, taking eighth in the 1-meter (305.35) and 14th in the 3-Meter (288.20).

Other top finishers include Kate Lambos '15 who was 13th in the 1650 free (19:40.62), Emily Przysinda '15 who was 15th in the 1650 free (19:54.96) and Katie Kuklewicz '15 who took 15th in the 200 fly (2:29.82). Outstanding performances [something's missing here]

On the men's side, Jesse Adler '13 had four team records and top 6 finishes, he was fourth in the 200 backstroke (1:59.81), fifth in the 200 IM (2:01.40), sixth in the 100 butterfly (54.06) and sixth in the 100 back (54.91).

Skidmore Athletics



Skidmore Hockey dominates St. Michael's

By Skidmore Athletics On Mon, Dec 5, 2011

WINOOSKI VT - Seven different players scored goals as the Skidmore College hockey team beat St. Michael's College 7-3 in an ECAC East contest, Friday, Dec 2.

The Thoroughbreds improve to 4-5 overall and 3-4 in the East, while St. Mikes falls to 1-5-1.

Julian Malakorn '13 and Tyler Doremus '12 recorded a goal and an assist apiece for the Thoroughbreds. Zach Menard '13 assisted a pair of markers and Colin Bessey '12 made 31 saves.

The Purple Knights scored first, converting on a short-handed opportunity to create the hosts' lone lead of the contest. Menard played a role in the Thoroughbreds' two ensuing markers during the opening stanza, as Malakorn scored at 8:08 and Nick Dupuis '12 broke the tie on a power play with 10 seconds left.

Tony Giacin '14 created breathing room for his team at 6:56. Skidmore stretched its lead to 5-1 before the end of the period by scoring twice in a 3:46 stretch, including a short-handed goal by Vlad Gavrik '14.

Skidmore added third period goals by Doremus and Alex Radmin '13 for the 7-3 final.

Skidmore Athletics



SGA to host special election for vacant position

Candidates will speak at speech night before the Skidmore Shop Fashion Show By Layla Lakos, Contributing Writer
On Tue, Dec 6, 2011

Prior to the Skidmore Shop Fashion Show, the Student Government Association will hold a speech night at 7:3 p.m., for the Special Election for the position of vice president of Diversity Affairs.

The two qualifying candidates running this semester are Benjamin Bechand '14 and Rohini Alamgir '12. Bechand is a member of the Pride Alliance and is the president of Kimball Hall. Alamgir is the senior advisor of Hayat and co-president of the International Student Union.

The position is currently held by Jovany Andujar '13, a sociology major who will take a semester off in Paris next semester, requiring SGA to hold elections for this position one semester early.

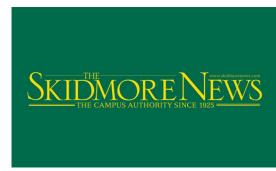
This will give new candidates more time to decide what they're going to change and how they would go about doing so, said Raiza Nazareth '12, vice president for communications and outreach on the SGA.

The vice president of Diversity Affairs heads the Committee of Diversity Affairs, which informs the Campus on the nature of diversity at Skidmore, offering opportunities to different members of the community through the Office of Student Diversity Programs, such as Hayat and the Pride Alliance club. Candidates must have at least a semester's experience in SGA.

Bechand, a biochemisty and music major, describes the position as a resource for the diversity groups on campus, which include clubs with a focus on racial identity, sexual orientation and political positions. Bechand said he intends to re-evaluate the ISU trips to cities, such as Boston and New York City.

"These trips provide opportunities for those who would otherwise be unable to experience an urban setting", Bechand said. He said his aim is to give priority to the students who chose to go on the trip itself, rather than allowing students to use hired buses simply as a form of transport for individuals not going to a cultural event.

"I would like to have trips prioritized as cultural events," said Bechand, citing the Japanese Language club NihonGo!, which attended the Berkshire Cherry Blossom festival last semester.



Alamgir chose not to disclose the specifics of her campaign, but said her decision to run was a spontaneous one. She described the position and committee as a way to help create a unified community and optimal climate on campus.

Because we are attempting to co-exist among a plethora of different socio-economic backgrounds, gender and sexual identities, race and color, etcetera, it is necessary to find an individual to facilitate conversation, understanding and acceptance between all of us, Alamgir said.

Candidates will have the opportunity to speak to the student body at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 in the Spa, prior to the Skidmore Shop Fashion Show at 8 p.m. Nazareth said she hopes this will prompt a wide variety of attendees with diverse perspectives.

The election is open to the community all day on Dec. 8, and will also include a vote on the addition of a Sustainability Committee, as well as an accompanying executive position to the SGA.

"This change will help integrate sustainability groups around campus and help voice opinions," Nazareth said.

Students can vote online through the SGA voting website, which will be made available on Dec. 8.



Review: 'Duets to Decahedrons' showcased bold and quirky modern choreography

The performance featured works of guest artist Sydney Skybetter and the College's Dance Faculty
By Olivia Powers, Staff Writer
On Tue, Dec 6, 2011

Last Friday, Dec. 2 marked the opening night of the College's annual Winter Dance Concert, "Duets to Decahedrons," which features works choreographed by four dance faculty members and guest artist Sydney Skybetter.

The performance showcased the College's commitment to equipping its students with a comprehensive dance education. Ranging from bold and provocative to lovely and lyrical, the pieces alternately inhabited worlds of combat, love and metropolitan funk.

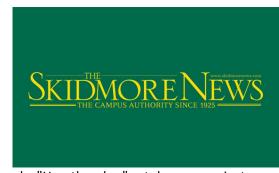
The show opened with Mary Harney's quirky contemporary piece, "Square One." In a light-hearted exploration of their surroundings, the dancers interacted with a large grey box. The piece utilized this prop to creatively illustrate clichéd phrases such as "back to square one."

"[Harney] had us watch a piece that had the box in it that she had created earlier," said Katie Wilson '13, a dancer featured in "Square One." "We worked with all of these different [dance] phrases, a lot of which we ended up scrapping. It was really interesting to see how the process came together."

The show continued with "Deux," two classical ballet duets choreographed by associate professor Denise Limoli. Accompanied by two live musicians, the pieces demonstrated threefold the simple harmony achieved by a pair of artists complementing one another.

The classical elegance of "Deux" was contrasted by Rubén Graciani's aggressive group piece, "Unknown Adversaries." The dancers, sporting utility suits, charged through the bold choreography.

Following a short intermission, the show resumed with Skybetter's more temperate contemporary piece, "Halcyon," and transitioned into Graciani's duet "Afloat Beneath the Surface." Performed by Emily Pacilio '12 and Graciani, this poignant duet displayed the subtle power of the dancers to lift an audience by the heartstrings. The audience let out a collective sigh at its conclusion before breaking into boisterous applause.



The program concluded with a bang. Debra Fernandez's spunky "Heartbreaker" set dancers against a vibrant film projection by John Danison, creating the illusion of watching a comic book come to life. This colorful piece drew on the youthfulness of the dancers, creating a fun-filled piece that captured the vibrant energy of a college campus.

Though the works presented were diverse, the range of dance classes offered at the College was surprisingly underrepresented. The College boasts a unique variety of dance classes, including classical Indian dance, jazz and tap. However, these disciplines were absent from the modern-heavy program, to the disappointment of some audience members.

"I always really enjoy seeing the dance concerts, Netta Bob '14 said. "But I wish that there was more variety in the types of dance performed."

Despite this, audience members and performers alike were grateful for the experience.

"I love seeing what everyone at Skidmore can do," Bob added. "I'm always so impressed by how talented our student body is."

#1.2728922:1155491944.JPG:Heartbreaker

Sabrina Lumbert, Alison DeFranco, Sydney Magruder, Andrew Magazine, Rachel Bier, Emily Pacilio and Jacob Goodhart perform in "Heartbreaker" by Debra Fernandez

Courtesy of Lauren Elsner

#1.2728918:1654655339.JPG:Deux

Hannah Foster and Andrew Magazine perform in "Deux" by Denise Limoli

Courtesy of Lauren Elsner











Fifth Skidmore Shop Fashion Show this Wednesday

Students can enjoy free food, music and prizes as student and staff models walk down the runway

By Julia Leef On Tue, Dec 6, 2011

Models will walk down the runway as students walk away from the Skidmore Shop's fifth Annual Fashion Show with prizes, free food and more starting at 8 p.m. on Dec. 7 in the Spa.

The Fashion Show is the second in a string of events in the Spa, beginning with the SGA speech night at 7:30 p.m., during which candidates for vice president of Diversity Affairs will speak to the public.

"I think having the SGA speech night will bring a crowd in early and to stay," said Bob Carlton, technology sales and social program administrator at the Skidmore Shop, who emcees the show in addition to working with sponsors and coordinating the event.

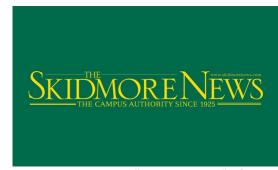
"It shows that other departments and groups are starting to get involved. Case Center has a lot to offer. The fact that people are here and using it on a Wednesday night is something that we'd like to see," Carlton said.

Organizers originally had difficulty securing enough student models to participate in the Fashion Show, but now in its fifth year they said they have seen an increase in the number of willing participants, including members of the staff and their children.

While the ratio of staff to student models is three to one, there is an equal percentage of male and female participants in contrast to the first year, in which there were problems getting male students interested in modeling.

"It has grown into something people are looking for to do and to participate in," said Dawn Greenlaw, assistant director of operations at the Skidmore Shop, who coordinates the models and their outfits.

In addition to these changes over the years, the Skidmore Shop first held its show during the spring semester, instead of in conjunction with holiday events, as it does now with holiday discount shopping opportunities. Starting at 11:30 a.m., students may spin the "wheel of discounts" to win up to 50 percent off all of their purchases until 11 p.m.



"We had these two really great events that together have a much bigger impact," Carlton said. "It [the holiday sales] generates some excitement for our customers and adds some nuance to coming in for a sale."

Organizers also said the show has grown in both popularity and manageability.

With repetition, you begin to remember what worked and what didn't work, said John Neil, associate director of business services and director of the Skidmore Shop. "Now we have people coming to us, being a part of it and just having fun. That aspect of it has been contagious."

Attendees may now enjoy free food courtesy of Dining Services, which will provide a buffet from 8 to 11 p.m., including vegan and vegetarian options. For entertainment, the student band Slim Charles will play at 10 p.m., following the Fashion Show.

Students also can win prizes totaling \$1,000, including products from Apple, Moshi, Plum Dandy, Legends Cafe, Sandwych and Esperantos. Until 8 p.m. tomorrow, students may fill out a raffle at the Skidmore Shop or post on its Facebook page. Organizers will draw the winners at the event. Winners must be present to receive their prizes.

"Even if you don't win, you still win," Carlton said. "We really make it worth your while to show up. Even if you don't win a prize, it's still a lot of fun - the food and the social aspect of it. It's a good way to relieve some stress as students are walking into finals. We hope to see everyone there."

#1.2730204:710358690.JPG Fashion Show photo

Organizers prep Fashion Show runway for student and staff models.

Meredith Simonds/The Skidmore News







Faculty discusses changes to policies for next semester

Alterations to the College's Intellectual Property policy and the Honors Forum announced

By Alex Brehm, Contributing Writer On Tue, Dec 6, 2011

Faculty members convened for the fourth and final faculty meeting of the semester on Friday, Dec. 2 to discuss the conferral of degrees for 33 early graduates and several policy changes, including the College's Intellectual Property policy and the Honors Forum.

The faculty voted to grant Bachelor of Arts degrees to 29 students and Bachelor of Science degrees to 4 students, pending their completion of degree requirements by Jan. 31, 2012. Many of these students were also granted Latin and departmental honors pending their satisfaction of graduation requirements.

Following the vote, an open discussion was held on a proposed intellectual property policy for the College supporting creative thought, calling to mind the college's motto.

Several faculty members said they felt that the proposed policy did not do enough to protect students' ideas, and asked that the policy clearly state that students' inventions will never become intellectual property of the College. Faculty and administrators acknowledged that the concerned parties were making a good faith effort to address such concerns.

Catherine Golden, professor of English and director of the Honors Forum, announced several changes to the name and policies of the Honors Forum, including the merging of the Honors Forum and the Periclean Society, due to non-regular membership of the Periclean Society.

Additionally, contrary to previous practice, students will be invited to the Periclean Honors Forum based solely on scholastic performance while attending the College, rather than including their performances in high school, as has been done in the past, although students have always been able to apply for the Honors Forum while in college.

Faculty also discussed new changes regarding the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies membership. Under the proposed revision, the faculty handbook will be revised to include four professors, one each representing the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and arts. There will be a discussion and a vote on the proposal at the next meeting, scheduled for Feb. 3, 2012.



Polls open for contested VP of Diversity Affairs position following Speech Night

Candidates share their views on diversity and the College community By Layla Lakos, Contributing Writer On Wed, Dec 7, 2011

Every seat in the Spa was filled for the SGA Speech Night for the special election for vice president of Diversity Affairs on Dec. 7.

Prior to the candidates' speeches, Raiza Nazareth '12, vice president for communications and outreach, spoke about a proposal to add a Sustainability Committee and a sustainability senator to the SGA.

"This is going to help integrate all the different Sustainability groups on campus into this one community. This includes the s-reps, EAC [Environmental Action Club] and Student Initiatives," Nazareth said. The proposal will be included in the Special Election voting.

After divulging this information, Nazareth introduced candidates Rohini Alamgir '12 and Benjamin Bechand '14, who each gave three-minute speeches before the question-and-answer forum with the audience.

"I learned that every good speech has a story. So I guess tonight, I'll tell you my story. My story starts with diversity," said Alamgir, who was the first to speak. Alamgir is an international student from Bangladesh who defines herself as a Muslim woman of straight sexual orientation and a student of color.

Alamgir argued that the ongoing fight for diversity has gotten nowhere today, citing the importance of faculty involvement in these issues.

"We tend to go for tolerance rather than acceptance or understanding, and that's not OK," Alamgir said. "If our faculty doesn't support diversity, then we can't fight for it."

Bechand said he feels very strongly that the College's Urban Experience trips do not fulfill their mission statements. He said there should be more guidelines to collaborate these trips with diversity events.

Bechand also spoke about the on-campus dialogues that are facilitated by different groups, such as the Pride Alliance, of which he is a member.



"Despite humanity dialogues that we've had, students don't feel comfortable [on] their campus," Bechand said. "My mission is to make every student feel welcome at our school."

Following the candidates' speeches, the forum opened up to the audience, who asked questions concerning diversity and the potential actions candidates planned to take.

During the questions, Bechand reflected on the open door policy he had instigated as president of Kimball Hall, which he felt would be crucial in connecting to new students. He said he also wanted to increase diversity clubs in relation to diversity, religion and culture.

"We don't have to be a part of a cultural group to appreciate it," Bechand said. "You don't have to be affiliated with it to look out for its best interests."

For her part, Alamgir elaborated on building a better community by identifying and naming issues, especially concerning diversity, through any means possible, such as discussions with professors, which corroborated her earlier comments on the faculty involvement.

"Diversity cannot be defined by just race, sexual identity or religion. There's diversity in everything. Diversity has no color boundary," Alamgir said.

After the open forum closed, Jovany Andujar '13, who currently holds the contested position, commented on the topics raised, illustrating the importance of the role both the Committee of Diversity Affairs and the College campus play as resources to the student body.

"Time commitment is necessary to remain contentious to issues around campus," Andujar said. "As a Christian, I inevitably see everything through a lens, but the ability to recognize bias and overlook issues is imperative to the role of vice president of Diversity Affairs."

All students may participate in the online vote, which will open at noon on Dec. 8, and will remain open until midnight. Students may also vote at SGA booths in Case Center and in the Atrium.

Editor's Note: Following Thursday's elections, Rohini Alamgir was elected Vice President for Diversity Affairs and the constitutional amendment passed.



Student curated exhibit aims to reveal obscurity

By Sarah Barry, Features Editor On Wed, Dec 7, 2011

From sculpture to photography, Zankel has expanded its walls to showcase both fine and performing art. Phoebe Pundyk '12 and Alec Unkovic '12 curated the exhibit "Revealing Obscurity," which consists of exclusively student art in Zankel's lobby.

Pundyk and Unkovic returned from a semester abroad with plans to create an exhibit on campus. Both students studied in Rome and curated a professional art show as a semester long class. "We had to do every step of the process," Pundyk said. "They threw us right in and we had to do everything on our own."

Immediately upon their return, the pair began planning and organizing for the exhibit. Pundyk and Unkovic applied for an independent study to pursue curating.

The show creates a new and visible space for student art on campus. "Student art isn't always seen even in the art building it's mostly art students who see it. We wanted to open it up to the whole community," Pundyk said.

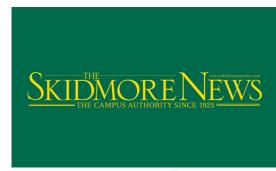
Although most open art calls center on a theme, Pundyk and Unkovic chose to collect submissions and then see if there was an underlying thread within the pieces.

We decided to title it Revealing Obscurity." It's about the artists working through their art to understand the unknown," Unkovic said.

Unkovic and Pundyk also completed a catalogue, which consists of interviews conducted by 10 different student writers. A student writer interviewed each artist, and the final result was compiled in the catalogue. The catalogue provides insight into the artists' motivations, as many of the pieces meanings are not explicit.

The inspiration for the student interviews originated from Pundyk and Unkovic's efforts for their art show in Rome. Pundyk and Unkovic completed each of the interviews themselves in Rome, but felt that, for this exhibit, it would be valuable to present other views.

"We presented writers with our theme and then opened it up to them to see their thoughts and perspective; it allowed us to open it up to more than our vision alone," Pundyk said.



Pundyk and Unkovic received approximately 20 submissions and showcased 10 artists. "There were so many good options, but part of the process is that sometimes you can't show everything you want to," Unkovic said.

Pundyk and Unkovic's project is the first student-initiated project of its kind on campus, so they were met with many questions and roadblocks. "Since it is a space that is very public, we had to prove that this wasn't a half baked idea," Unkovic said.

The show posed a series of unique challenges in terms of available space and the technicalities involved in displaying the art.

The Schick Art Gallery and Tang Teaching Museum are booked at least one year in advance, so Pundyk and Unkovic had to explore a new space for student art. Once Zankel was approved, Unkovic and Pundyk had to find a way to creatively hang the art in the lobby.

The show was made possible by student opportunity funds. Pundyk and Unkovic applied for funding immediately when they returned from Rome. "Skidmore provided the net where we could do the intellectual exploration [as opposed to] focusing more attention on the money," Unkovic said.

As seniors hoping to pursue careers in the field of art, Unkovic and Pundyk appreciated the opportunity to pursue an area not available in Skidmore's set course list.

"I think it's good that it's not such a rigid curriculum. There are no classes on curating at Skidmore, but we were able to do something here that we really enjoyed abroad. It was a bridge between academics and the careers we'll be pursuing after college," Unkovic said.

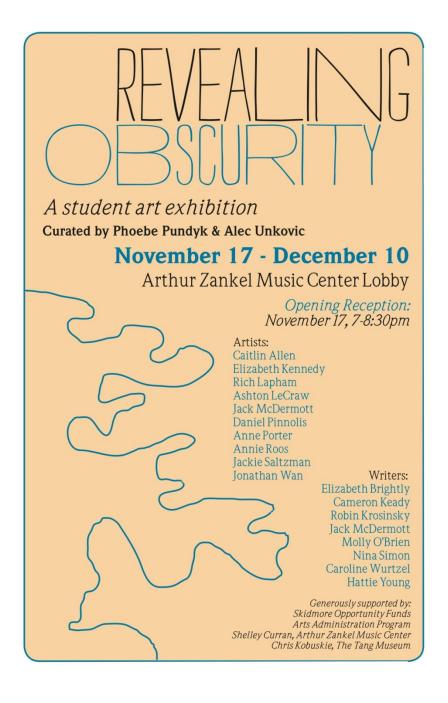
The exhibit ends this weekend, Dec. 10, so the time to delve into student obscurity is running out. Pundyk and Unkovic expressed their appreciation to all those who were involved in and supported the exhibit.

#1.2729356:2431812984.jpgrevealing obscurity

The poster and design for the Reveling Obscurity exhibit

Provided by Alec Unkovic and Phoebe Pundyk







Skidmore student struck down by car on East Avenue

Pedestrian thrown 10 feet ahead by Buick, according to witnesses By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief On Wed, Dec 7, 2011

On Tuesday evening a Skidmore student walking on East Avenue was struck by a vehicle driven by an elderly resident, according to witnesses at the scene.

The student, 21, was walking east on East Avenue around 5 p.m. when a green Buick struck her from behind. According to police scanners the car was traveling under 20 miles per hour.

Though no grave injuries are apparent, the student complained of leg injuries and a loss of consciousness. Police scanners indicate the student thrown 10 feet by the impact of the vehicle.

Among the witnesses was a Skidmore employee who identified the victim as a student at the College.

For more information visit The Saratogian's report.



Women's basketball takes first loss

By Skidmore Athletics On Thu, Dec 8, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College women's basketball team lost for the first time this season, 47-31, to No. 11 ranked Williams College on Dec. 7, at the Williamson Sports Center.

The Thoroughbreds fall to 4-1, while the Ephs remain unbeaten at 7-0.

Skidmore's lone lead of the night came on the first basket of the game, a jumper by Megan Gaugler '12 at 18:36. The Thoroughbreds kept Williams off the board until Claire Baecher's basket at 16:44 tied it 2-2. The basket started an 11-0 Williams run that gave the Ephs an 11-2 advantage.

Skidmore battled back with a 7-2 run of its own to cut it to four 13-9 with 7:45 to play. Gaugler had five of the points with a key three-pointer and a pair of free throws. Angela Botiba '15 had the other points on an inside lay-up off a Jordyn Wartts '14 steal. That was as close as it would get with Williams building a 22-12 lead at the half.

The Thoroughbreds hung tough in the second half, getting within nine points with 10:28 to play, but the Ephs were able to extend the lead to as many as 18 over the final minutes for the 47-31 final.

Gaugler finished with 12 points. Christina Gargiso '12 had nine points and 10 rebounds, while Botiba had two points and 10 rebounds. Wartts had two points, four steals and three assists.

Baecher and Ellen Cook had 10 points each for Williams.

Skidmore will close out the semester at home at 6 p.m. Dec. 9, against Middlebury College.

<a href="http://skidmoreathletics.com/news/2011/12/7/WBB_1207112450.aspx" Skidmore Athletics



Skidmore Men's basketball outlasts Castleton in Ot, 108-99

By Skidmore Athletics On Thu, Dec 8, 2011

CASTLETON, VT - Five players scored in double figures to lead the Skidmore College men's basketball team to a 108-99 OT victory over Castleton on Dec. 6, at Glenbrook Gym.

The Thoroughbreds improve to 4-1, while the Spartans fall to 2-4.

Brian Lowry '12 scored a team-high 19 points, while Connor Merrill '15 added 17 and John Mantas '12 had 16, both off the bench. Terron Victoria '12 tallied 15 and Gerard O'Shea '12 poured in 13.

Greg Hughes had a game-high 28 points and Mark Comstock finished with 21 for Castleton. Tyler Ackley recorded 14 and Dammy Mustapha added 13.

The Thoroughbreds took a 94-92 lead with just 11 seconds left after a free throw from Victoria, but Hughes found Matt Cooney for the game-tying layup with 2.4 seconds left to send the game to overtime.

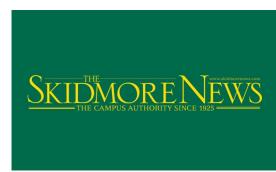
In the extra period, Skidmore took control, draining a triple on their first possession and holding Castleton without a bucket for the final three minutes on their way to the 108-99 win.

The Spartans started hot, jumping out to the 16-6 lead just 5:06 into the contest. The Thoroughbreds got back in it, going on an impressive 32-8 run over the next seven minutes to push their lead up to 38-24 with 7:54 left. The Spartans countered over the next six minutes by outscoring their opponents 27-9 and taking back the lead, 51-47. However, Skidmore scored twice in the final minute of play to tie it up at 51 at the break.

There were nine lead changes in the second half, as neither team could gain the upper hand. In the waning minutes though, it was the Thoroughbreds who made the first move, breaking an 86-86 tie with a 5-0 run.

Skidmore shot 57 percent from the floor and held a 50-35 advantage on the glass, while outscoring the Castelton bench, 47-14.

The Thoroughbreds host No. 1 Middlebury at 8 p.m. Dec.9.



Skidmore Athletics



New changes in store for the Periclean Honors Forum

Honors Forum student membership and housing to change By Andrew Shi, Staff Writer On Fri, Dec 9, 2011

During the faculty meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2, Director of the Honors Forum Dr. Catherine Golden announced that the Honors Forum would now be called the Periclean Honors Forum to preserve the name and history of the College's first honor society.

The name change refers to an earlier merger in 2008, an endeavor to save the Periclean Society, an honor society founded in 1956 to recognize academic achievement, which faced disbandment due to non-regular membership. The Honors Forum now administers the Periclean Scholar Awards, recognizing outstanding senior projects from the senior class.

In 2008, SGA de-chartered the Periclean Honor Society as an affiliated organization. "Periclean found itself in a crisis, and the Honors Forum was asked to take over some of its functions," Golden said.

"This merger is only one of several changes to the Honors Forum, the biggest of which is the procedure through which it inducts new students," Golden said.

Former Director and Chairman of the Honors Forum Professor David Vella initiated communications with Admissions last year until Golden took over and worked with Admissions and the dean's office to execute the changes.

"The biggest change affects the numbers of members inducted into the Forum, which has increased over the years. This year, the incoming class of inductees is 73, a number close to tripling the initial incoming Honors Forum class of 28 inductees in 1997," Golden said.

The Honors Council agreed that the membership numbers must be brought down and the population broadened. The Honors Forum Council believes there is little or no way to manage intimate intellectual engagement successfully with these large numbers, Golden said. "As things previously stood, staff of the Admissions Office, which supports our new way of inducting students, reviewed the files of incoming students and made invitations."

Thus, high school students will no longer be able to begin their college careers in the Honors Forum, but must prove themselves academically through college accomplishments in order to be inducted. Tillman Nechtman, associate professor of history, is the source of this idea, Golden said.



In addition, while under the current system, students are inducted in the fall and spring terms; following the changes to the Honors Forum, there will be only one induction per year. Students may apply to the Forum after their first and third semesters.

Other changes consist of a revamped initiative to create Honors Forum housing, which used to exist in the Adams and Hathorn Houses in 2000. The housing will be located in Weicking and will be open to sophomores through seniors.

"Beginning in fall 2012, Honors Forum housing will now be available for students in the Forum looking for a quieter and more work-focused environment," Golden said.

For more information on the Honors Forum and upcoming Honors Forum sponsored events, visit its website.



Editorial: Don't give up on Skidmore traditions

By the Editorial Board On Sat, Dec 10, 2011

In the wake of the second consecutive failed Moorebid Ball, the success of the Junior Ring dance last weekend provides grounds to discuss the future of Skidmore traditions.

Moorebid used to be a wholly different affair. Attendance was scarcely heavier than that of Junior Ring, the venue was off campus, and the festivities ended as scheduled, without a convoy of ambulances or frightening safety concerns. Over the past few years, however, attendance has grown along with the carnival excesses, and the Ball has become an embarrassment.

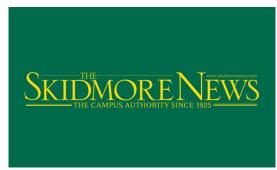
In subsequent discussions, SGA, Campus Safety and the Skidmore administration have made it clear that there are serious questions as to whether the College can continue to host an event such as Moorebid on campus. No decision has been made - the administration has formed a review board with the intention of having an answer during the spring semester - but it is possible that the Ball will be given a similar treatment to the Pride Alliance's once infamous Diva night, which was suspended for four years so that the culture surrounding the event might dissipate.

The swollen attendance numbers at Moorebid make the event a challenge to police, but they also represent the most important success of the Ball; it has increasingly become an event that brings together the majority of the College population, a rarity on the Skidmore calendar. Downsizing or suspending Moorebid will leave a considerable void. The only event with comparable attendance is Fun Day - there is no similar event in the fall semester.

Could Junior Ring fill that void? As it stands, it is a sort of quiet sequel to Moorebid, seeing less attendance but also less embarrassment and disaster. It is a genuine Skidmore tradition and generally succeeds in balancing an atmosphere of class with one of unpretentious college fun.

The fact is that Moorebid Ball, as a Halloween dance, brings very little to Skidmore culture that isn't found elsewhere around the country. Aside from the event's name, an artifact of the old downtown Moore Hall building, which the school sold in 2006, Moorebid Ball is less a timeless Skidmore tradition than it is an annual example of a conventional Halloween college dance.

Junior Ring, meanwhile, has been a Skidmore staple since the college's early days as an all-woman's vocational school. The dance has deep traditional roots, a culture and dress code that we students can call our own, rather than jump on the bandwagon with every other college cutting loose on Halloween.



In only a few years' time, there will be an entirely new batch of students on campus for whom the phrase 'Moorebid Ball' means little. In the interim it is possible to redesign the landscape of our college culture and emerge with something much more fulfilling and stable than what we have now. Shifting emphasis on Junior Ring is of course, only one option. But the larger conversation about Skidmore's identity, its traditions, and the values that underpin such things, is something that will not go away and is worth confronting.



Comic: Grade Inflation

By Wyatt Erchak, Cartoonist On Sun, Dec 11, 2011



Comic: Motivation

By Wyatt Erchak, Cartoonist On Sun, Dec 11, 2011