

Interested in rugby?

Saratoga women's rugby team opens membership to Skidmore students

By Andrew Shi, Sports Editor

On Thu, Mar 1, 2012

A sport that invokes the images of England, Australia, and Matt Damon's *Invictus*, rugby has flown mostly under the radar of America's athletic culture. In the past few years though, rugby leagues and teams have been exponentially forming across the nation.

Founded at Rugby school in England, rugby's origin story states that student William Webb Ellis one day was annoyed with the progression of a football game (in the United States known as soccer) and decided to pick up the ball and run with it. Rugby thus developed into a merge of football and soccer elements to become a fast paced game of energy, skill, and physical contact at its most extreme. Rugby is 80 minutes of the best that sports has to offer.

In a town renowned for the defeat of British forces during the Revolutionary War, Saratoga Springs has enthusiastically swung its doors open for the originally British sport. Saratoga Women's Rugby offers a new level of competition and fun that cannot be offered in the intramural or exclusive varsity sports. "Saratoga Rugby is a club team. We have a women's team who love rugby, the values and beliefs that it stands for as well, as well as its heritage," said Marieange Raimond, the Saratoga Women's Rugby recruiting coordinator.

Fortunately for the women at Skidmore who regret the absence of football or rugby teams, the Saratoga Women's rugby team is recruiting. "We'd love to encourage college students at Skidmore not only to come out, throw on cleats and try a new sport but also to come out to the games and watching an exciting sport as it moves rapidly live in front of you," Raimond said.

Raimond states that the team is open to anyone remotely interested or curious. "We are taking new players experienced and inexperienced. The great thing about rugby is that there is a position for every body size and style."

The Saratoga Women's Rugby team is holding a recruiting event from 6:30-8 pm on March 9th at The Parting Glass, located at 22 Lake Ave in Saratoga. For additional information visit the team's website at <http://www.saratogawomensrugby.com> or contact Ms. Raimond at swrrecruiting@gmail.com.

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image courtesy of Angelo Failla



Opinion: Syria in Perspective

A student of Syrian descent reflects on her time living under al-Assad's regime

By Kristina Kassis, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Mar 1, 2012

The ongoing uprisings in the Middle East, specifically in Syria, have spurred wide debate and controversy all over the world. Personally, I believe that Bashar al-Assad's refusal to resign in the face of threats and civil war in his country is merely a result of his stubborn pride and lust for power and wealth.

If Assad genuinely cared about the Syrian people, he would swallow his pride and step down immediately. I admire the people of Syria for fighting valiantly for their rights and freedom, both of which Assad has denied them for nearly a decade, and I think it is high time this tyrant be brought to justice.

During the first summer I spent in Syria's bustling city of Aleppo, I was under the impression everyone loved the president. Though he is a member of the notorious Ba'ath party, Bashar al-Assad was initially viewed as a moderate compared to his father, whose massacre of the city of Hama took the lives of at least 10,000 of his own people.

When Assad the younger first came to visit Aleppo, festivals were thrown in his honor and his face adorned every building in town. However, I quickly learned that I was witnessing Assad's regime from a very limited perspective - that of wealthy Christians. As a demographic, wealthy Christians in Syria have benefited greatly from Assad's moderate regime.

My perspective of Assad's regime changed immensely when I went to work in a poor Muslim neighborhood. I was shocked to hear the whisperings of rebellion and hatred, and the stories of the injustices he had done to these innocent people.

When I heard that Assad had banned the wearing of burqas in universities, I was, frankly, shocked. This meant that thousands of women essentially had lost the right to attend college unless they abandoned the form of religion they believed in so strongly. How did he expect to get away with this in a country that is 90 percent Muslim?

Decisions like these brought about the rebellion we see today. Initially, protesters assembled peacefully to exercise their right to free speech. However, tensions escalated quickly as Assad himself resorted to force to suppress them. His thirst for power over these people drove him to use brutally violent tactics.

He should not be surprised that the very people he sought to oppress are fighting for their freedom from this nightmarish regime.

As a woman of Syrian descent living and studying in the U.S., I have heard many different accounts of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Assad is often referred to as a "tyrant" or a terrorist." Some in the Middle East, perhaps marginally supportive of Assad, find this vocabulary offensive or misleading. But what is much more offensive is the labeling of the dissenters as "reckless." My question is this: How can you refer to people who are fighting for their rights and freedom as reckless? Would you not do the same under the circumstances?

For all intents and purposes, Bashar al-Assad is a terrorist. Though the early parts of his regime showed signs of progress and reform from the cruel dictatorship he inherited from his father, as soon as his people demanded a freer society he quickly resorted to violence and force, setting off the first of what became a series of withering crackdowns in April of last year. Assad sent tanks into restive cities as security forces opened fire on peaceful demonstrators, exercising their right to freedom of speech. Assad's actions, fueled by his lust for power, are unjustifiable and inexcusable.

It is clear that the time has come for Bashar al-Assad to swallow his misguided pride and realize that he is only asking for harm to himself and thousands of other innocent people if he continues to tighten his grip on a country that is already on the brink of civil war due to his unjust and unnecessary actions. It is obvious that he does not care about his people, but rather only for his own status as a man of wealth and power.

Bashar al-Assad, like his father was before him, is a power-hungry tyrant who needs to be brought to justice immediately for the sake of millions of innocent people.

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courtesy of panArmenian_Photo





Editorial: On heels of candidate's remarks, rethinking higher education

By the Editorial Board

On Thu, Mar 1, 2012

While individuals generally benefit - whether extrinsically or intrinsically - from further schooling, the education we receive at a four-year college like Skidmore is not for everyone. Americans, whether adults already in the work force or students just leaving high school should consider all of their post-secondary training options before enrolling.

The issue of work force development has been brought back to the foreground by contenders for this year's presidential election. "President Obama once said he wants everybody in America to go to college. What a snob," Santorum said while on a campaign stop in Michigan. "You're good, decent men and women who go out and work hard every day and put their skills to tests that aren't taught by some liberal college professor."

Santorum was likely making reference to President Obama's statements to a joint session of Congress on February 2009, in which Obama called on every American to participate in additional training beyond that which they received in high school.

"I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training," Obama said. "This can be community college or a four-year school, vocational training or an apprenticeship. But whatever the training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school diploma."

While Rick Santorum clearly misapprehended President Obama's statements, he is correct, in as much as he says that college is not for everyone. While all Americans with the aptitude and academic drive should have the possibility of college attendance available to them, it would be ridiculous to have every American attend a four-year college.

For many Americans, a four-year degree would not suit their wants, needs and desires. Fortunately, our economy creates demands for workers with skill sets that four-year institutions do not provide.

To bridge the gap between the need for better trained workers and currently limited access to proper training, President Obama's proposed budget includes an \$8 billion Community College to Career Fund. This program aims at training two million workers in high-demand fields including health care, advanced



manufacturing, clean energy, transportation and information technology. The type of training provided could lead directly to high-paying employment in these sectors of the economy.

This program could not come at a more appropriate time. Many states have cut funding for their state universities and community colleges. When compounded with increases in tuition at these institutions, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people with limited means to receive the kind of training that leads to jobs.

In addition to problems we face assuring the availability of vocational training, we have problems sending the right students to college. The graduation rate for four-year colleges rests at around 60 percent. Though reasons for dropping out are numerous, over-encouragement of high school students is at least partly to blame.

At 18 years old, though legally adults, most of us have not had any appreciable life experience. We may not be mature enough to decide what it is that we want to do with the rest of our lives. Though many people do discover their calling in college, this can be expensive, especially if that calling does not require a four-year degree. Navigating a course catalog of hundreds of classes can be a daunting task for college freshman - many of whom may change their major or drop-out.

High school counselors should refocus getting students to think about all of their post-secondary education options. With the reputations of many high schools dependent on the percentage of their students they send to college, there is a push to send all students, even those who are not ready or for whom college is not their best option.

One solution worthy of consideration is the gap year. At many institutions of higher education, including our own, accepted students have the option of taking gap years. Students can defer their studies one year and still be guaranteed a place when they return. Students can use this time to gain work experience, or consider what it is that they would like to do for a living.

Our country can benefit from a better-trained and more efficient work force. Keeping the United States competitive in the global economy will demand more training on behalf of our workers. As a branch of American society with a stake in all of this, we at Skidmore should remember to avoid old, reliable and perhaps comfortable ways of thinking as questions such as these evolve.

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Rick Santorum suggests that sending all Americans to colleges, like Skidmore, is snobbery.

image courtesy of Michael Righi





Friendly Fire: Live and Let Dialogue, Part I

The campus dialoguers are not nearly as tolerant as they like to think

By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief

On Thu, Mar 1, 2012

***Editor's Note:** Read <http://www.skidmorenews.com/op-ed/i-friendly-fire-i-live-and-let-dialogue-part-ii-1.2810516>>Part II here.

In my last column I mentioned that our culture of "dialogue" prevents Skidmore from developing a rigorous, deliberative atmosphere on campus and thereby prevents us from truly cultivating the liberal arts. In the aftermath of my remarks, criticism emerged that my analysis of our campus culture was out of touch and prejudicial. If only I would engage, some pleaded; if only I would attend some of the initiatives under scrutiny, I just might have an epiphany.

This week I set out to answer that charge of prejudice. Beginning the descent from my ivory tower, I made sure to accept the invitations of President Zeidan and VP Alamgir to the massive community dialogue held on Wednesday, dubbed "Interrupting Silence."

My attending the event definitely produced an epiphany: I now see that dialogues are far more limiting and dogmatic public forums than I had initially thought.

My confusion began almost immediately after the crowd on the second floor of the dining hall had settled to hear an introduction. Follow the story if you can: Zeidan and Alamgir kicked things off by explaining that last year, amid the <http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/fourth-student-pleads-guilty-in-compton-s-case-1.2105457>>Compton's controversy and moments of seriously bad press for Skidmore, there was *at least* a storm of campus dialoguing going on, in which all of our hopes and fears were served out in the open as a delicious emotional buffet.

This year, however, there have been no nationally embarrassing debacles and our campus has fallen quiet on such sensitive matters as racial tension, homophobia, etc. Whereas many might see this absence of disruption and tragedy as a desirable thing, SGA and Fight Club are worried that our relative quiet this year signifies a dangerous acceptance of some invisible toxin bubbling just under the surface. Having offered this exposition to the group in Murray-Aikins, the two SGA officers then opened the floor up to everyone.

And no one. After a few minutes of murmuring and collective feet shuffling, I raised my hand and followed up on Zeidan's question as to what constitutes this "silence." Are we not, I asked, a school that takes extra care to cater toward anxieties over these issues? Do we not have an IGR program designed to advance the intercultural aspirations of our Strategic Plan goals? Do we not have an actual VP of Diversity Affairs within SGA? A Bias Response Group? A Center for Sex and Gender Relations?

How, in other words, are we expected to construe Skidmore's campus as a place in which these issues are not addressed, let alone one where a silence is imposed upon the members of our community?

My questions, before long, were met with whispers and glares, which soon mutated into calls for me to shut up and let everyone get on with the preordained program. I was sternly informed that by asking these questions I was "perpetuating the silence," which wonderfully confirmed my suspicion that the dialoguers are incapable of perceiving any unfamiliar sound within their echo chamber.

"Now we all know why you are here," another warned. "You have your agenda. But now, what you have to do is listen. And you have to empathize." Empathize, or else. So much for tolerance.

In no way were my interests covert: I was indeed there to ask questions, but I was also there to observe. So I did shut up for the next hour and a half.

What followed was unexpected: only fifteen minutes after I was silenced and the ventilator of personal narratives was rattling on full blast, the population of the room swiftly dropped by half. It seems that all of my indignant peers were actually as turned off by the whole enterprise as I was. So much for community.

I can hear a response: "Well, maybe if you hadn't wasted our time at the start, we would have had time to stay and listen to all the stories." (I now hear, following this curt remark, a downpour of snaps-of-agreement.) Forgive me dear reader and fellow dialoguer, but you must have noticed the deafening *silence* at the start of the event, that silence which was only overcome by some poking and prodding.

This, to make explicit my argument here, is evidence of the inherent impotence of the dialogue culture. And the more one exposes such impotence, the more swiftly one is labeled an obstacle to change.

Throughout, the organizers and participants repeated that this was to be a "free flowing dialogue" - an obvious falsification, evident as soon as one noticed the venom spat upon anyone who led the conversation away from the understood, preapproved topics. These topics are, exclusively, narratives of racial, socioeconomic or sexuality-based marginalization, and, for some spice, also the guilt of rich students who struggle to interact with their marginalized peers.



I cannot deliver my entire critique of either this specific dialogue or the larger project in the remaining space, but until next time, permit me to state the most basic problem with the entire system.

What I learned on Wednesday was this: the content of each dialogue is simply an aggregate of many unpleasant yet individual and disparate experiences. This aggregate is then distorted and recast as a universal, vague and institutional problem that must be addressed in order for our community to be safe and open. But, again, since the atoms of this grand problem are merely distinct, unique cases of unpleasantness, there really is nothing to be done, except cope with life's lemons - so long as one is being given a fair opportunity to pursue one's goals in the broader picture.

So the participants soon become weary and emotionally drained and head home, having conducted nothing more than an AA-style support group meeting. Thus the crew only accomplishes the first two items listed in SGA's fevered email advertising Wednesday's event: "We'll eat, we'll talk, and we'll finally MAKE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE."

But thank the gods these dialogues are so impotent. As I will show, if the folks sat in Murray-Aikins that night had their way it would create a truly cold, unyielding silence on this campus that no dialogue could ever hope to interrupt.

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Fight Club simulates an argument in the Dining Hall. From left: Natalie Petrillo-Alvarez '11, Leanne Dwyer '13, and Chris Lord '12.

Melissa Cohn/The Skidmore News



Review: 'Chronicle' succeeds despite mediocre and generic plotline

Dane DeHaan and hand-held camera shooting format combine to make film enjoyable

By Eli Cohen, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 2, 2012

All high school students think they're invincible. But what happens when three of them actually are? This is the question that "Chronicle" seeks to answer.

Shot in the same format as "The Blair Witch Project," in which everything is shown through a hand-held camera operated by one of the protagonists, "Chronicle" follows three high school students who gain superpowers after being exposed to... something. What exactly that something is we never find out, only that it is blue, pulsates, and causes one hell of a hangover.

From there, the plot follows a pretty straightforward descent into evil that audiences have come to expect from this kind of good verses evil movie. The socially outcast character who is abused by his father gets darker and darker, and soon the others must choose between family and the good of the world. In fact, upon seeing the trailer for this film, audiences can predict pretty much exactly what happens.

The crazy part is, despite being utterly predictable and having a generic plot, this movie is really good. It is powerful, grim, and action-packed. What's more, the special effects kept me enraptured throughout.

Even the filming style, which only a few movies in the history of cinema ("The Blair Witch Project" and "Cloverfield" are the only ones that come to mind) have used, is done cleverly. It is done in a way that always shows exactly enough, but leaves the audience wanting more.

One of the most alluring aspects of the film is the acting. All three stars are 25-year old up-and-comers, with the best known of the main actors being Michael B. Jordan, who played the heartbreaking character Wallace in season one of the HBO series "The Wire."

Dane DeHaan, who plays Andrew, the central character, expresses just the right mixture of pathetic, tragic, and threatening in his portrayal as his character rises through the cutthroat world of high school popularity only to be shot down once he is at the top.



Of course, Hollywood is not lacking superhero movies these days. There are at least 12 such films slated to come out in 2012, with the most famous being "The Avengers" and "The Dark Knight Rises." In the face of these titans of the industry, how can a movie like "Chronicle" compete? The answer is DeHaan.

The film is not coy about what will happen to its protagonist. Between the trailer and the opening scene, Andrew is yelled at, and later beaten, by his drunk father. There was no doubt in my mind what was going to happen to the poor kid. Yet DeHaan portrays the character with such a vulnerability at first that one cannot help but empathize with him, even though you know this is only being built up so audiences will understand what makes him snap.

Hollywood is criticized a lot these days for recycling old storylines, and rightly so. There are a lot of bad movies that simply cannot come up with a plot of their own - "No Strings Attached" and "Friends With Benefits" are good examples. However, and I never thought I would say this, the generic plotline works for this film. It allows the audience to relax, enjoy the ride, and watch some kids fly.

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Dane DeHaan portrays protagonist Andrew Detmer in "Chronicle."

Courtesy of 20th Century Fox



Women's tennis thirsty for repeat Liberty League Championship

As the current Liberty League Champions, Skidmore's women's tennis prepares for the new season

By Andrew Shi, Sports Editor

On Fri, Mar 2, 2012

After winning the Liberty League Championship last year, the women's tennis team is preparing to begin their journey to victory once again, although with a drastically reshaped team, a repeat championship is no certainty.

Practices at the Saratoga Regional YMCA Wilton Branch have been rigorous. After a break from the autumn games which left them with two wins, the team is now back to finding their rhythm. "So far for practice we've been just getting back into competitive modes and figuring out our singles and doubles lineup. A lot of our practices are live point play and drills mixed in with some practice matches against each other. We also concentrate on conditioning at this time of the season," Head Coach Curt Speerschneider said.

Skill and stamina are only part of the workout that Coach Speerschneider is addressing however. With four new freshmen on the team of 10 this year, the total count of underclassmen is seven. "Double teams and chemistry are several of the things we try to figure out early on," Coach Speerschneider said. "It really comes down to everyone having the personal responsibility to work hard and make sure they're being good teammates."

On top of a team that is still familiarizing itself, the freshmen are also busy assimilating into the competitiveness of college tennis. "The freshmen and sophomores still have a bit to learn in terms of working hard 100 percent of the time. They're still inexperienced of the rigors of the season and the fact that they can't give less than 100 percent for a single practice or match," Coach Speerschneider said.

Still, Coach Speerschneider remains optimistic. "Our captains are the best group of leaders I've had in a long time. They understand exactly what it takes and are willing to go the extra mile for the success of the team," Coach Speerschneider said.

Coach Speerschneider is also very impressed with the raw talent of the new class. "Our freshmen are very talented, which gives us the most depth we've had since I've been here." Captain Tory Engros '12 agrees on this thought. "this year's team is the strongest it's ever been because of the freshmen, as well

as one sophomore transfer. Whatever our lineup is, we can count on each one of them. After their impressive performance in the fall, they can't be considered "rookies" anymore!" Engros also is impressed with the team's depth "One of our biggest strengths is the team's depth. Technically we have a line-up, but we are all good players and can be depended on to play any position."

As for Saturday's game against William Smith, Coach Speerschneider expects a win to start the season off well. "William Smith is a solid team, but we should be able to control the match if we're working hard and playing how we should." For the rest of the season Coach Speerschneider expects similar results. "We went 9-0 with some weaker teams in the fall, so our spring schedule is going to be a lot tougher as we start playing some regionally and nationally ranked teams. We should win the majority of them, but we need to be ready for them," Coach Speerschneider said.

Engros acknowledges as well that there will be some challenging games coming up this season but is confident in this new team's potential. "I'm very confident that we can win our second-straight Liberty League championship. Not only has our successful fall season proven what this team can do, but also our tough spring schedule will prepare us well for Liberty Leagues," Engros said.

The women's tennis team challenges William Smith at 1p.m., on Saturday at home.

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The Skidmore women's tennis team for the 2011-12 season

Skidmore Athletics

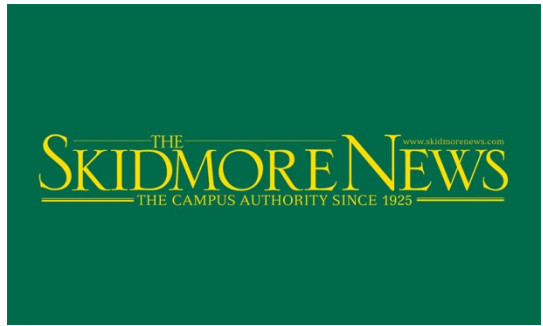


Investigating Faces 3

By Nat Nagar, Pulp Editor

On Sat, Mar 3, 2012

Mrs. Johnson is driving her mother and her four children (Ben, John, Carrie and Sandy) to the mall to get a few bits and bobs for their upcoming family trip to Morocco for spring break. Ben, John and Carrie are sitting in the back of the car listening to the music playing from the radio. But where is Sandy sitting?



Comic: Trivia

By Nat Nagar, Pulp Editor

On Sat, Mar 3, 2012

Going Gaga: Jack Halberstam speaks on the end of "normal"

By Sarah Barry, Features Editor

On Sun, Mar 4, 2012

Jack Halberstam was met with a nearly full auditorium at his lecture, "Gaga Feminism, Sex, Gender and the End of Normal," which took place March 1 in Gannett Auditorium.

"Look at this full house for a gender studies event!" said Holly Jackson, assistant professor of the English department, who introduced Halberstam.

The lecture focused on the ways societal norms are changing and disappearing. Halberstam used Lady Gaga as an example of a figure who has broken away from the norms of popular culture and who has impacted sex, gender and feminism. "In her live performances she does literally go gaga," Halberstam said. Lady Gaga's eccentricity paired with her popularity demonstrate a broad social departure from traditional norms, a shift that Halberstam sees throughout society.

"There are all kinds of signs in the world that the normal doesn't exist," Halberstam said.

Halberstam spoke for the Karen L. Coburn Lecture in memory of the co-author of the book "Letting Go: A Parent's Guide to Understanding the College Years." The lecture seeks to raise awareness and promote dialogue about gender studies on campus. Halberstam is a professor of English, American studies and ethnicity and gender studies at the University of Southern California. Halberstam explored the concept of Low Theory throughout the lecture. He explained that Low Theory is focused on communicating a given idea to a greater body of people; too often in academia, information is communicated in a manner that is difficult to comprehend. The goal of Low Theory is not to reduce a given message to banal terms but to find a middle ground that makes intellectual ideas and academic work accessible to a larger population.

"Low Theory is about trying to bring along as many people as possible," Halberstam said.

Halberstam also highlighted the Occupy Wall Street movement as a new form of protest for change. According to Halberstam, the unique aspect of the Occupy Wall Street was that the protesters refused to use normal protest politics. The protest was about the spectacle and the visual; protesters did not want anything and they did not do anything - they just occupied a space.

"We are allowed to think about alternatives," Halberstam said. "The point is to smash the normal in belief of alternatives."

Halberstam said that he was not in support of Lady Gaga's own manifesto. Rather, Lady Gaga serves as an example of change. Halberstam is interested in the way someone can find a way into society and do something transformative similar to the way Lady Gaga has influenced popular culture.

Halberstam was bold throughout the lecture, stating that he was not the person to ask for practical or pragmatic answers. "My project is really about taking risks," Halberstam said. Yet, Halberstam used a variety of media such as a clip from Wes Anderson's "Fantastic Mr. Fox" and a video of Lady Gaga performing with Yoko Ono to reach the audience and communicate his message.

Attendees spoke with The Skidmore News after the event regarding Halberstam's lecture. "The lecture was engaging and the use of humor was really good. I was fascinated with the idea of Low Theory - it's something that should be addressed more here," Molly O'Brian '12 said.

"It raised a lot of important issues for our generation. But I think that there are points particularly in her conclusion that were problematic and in need of critique - in particular the idea that violence is a necessary component of change," Stephen Bissonnette '12 said.

Catherine Golden, professor of the English Department, commented on the variety of tactics and aids Halberstam used throughout the lecture. "[Halberstam] was articulate, funny, smart, engaging, conformable and open to thoughts, [and] well researched. The lecture was provocative and has me thinking about a range of new ideas," said Golden

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Lady Gaga challenges our conception of normal while performing on ABC's Good Morning America

image courtesy of TJ Sengel



Campus Safety Incident Reports, Feb. 17 to 29

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Sun, Mar 4, 2012

Campus Safety incident reports from the week of Feb. 17.

Friday, Feb. 17

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transportation at 11:34 a.m. for a student to the Wilton Medical Center. Dispatched officer completed transport. Report issued.

Found Property: A Bank of American Debit card reported found at 3:15 p.m. The card was found by the McClellan Dorm. Student search records show no such student registered. Card secured in found property.

Criminal Mischief: Damage reported at 4 p.m. to statues in the middle of the Haupt Pond. Officer dispatched recorded damage and issued report. No known perpetrators or witnesses at this time.

Suspicious Activity: Spilled coffee and disturbed papers on the desk of a student reported at 4:22 p.m. in Jonsson Tower. Unknown perpetrators at this time. Interviews conducted. Report issued.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 10:45 p.m. in Wiecking Hall. Officer dispatched reports no noise detected upon his arrival. Unfounded call.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transport at 11:25 p.m. from Art Center to the Emergency Room. Officers dispatched. Reporting person later requests escort to residence instead. Transport completed.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 11:55 p.m. at Whitman Way. Officers dispatched report residents complied with request to lower volume

Saturday, Feb. 18

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 1:55 a.m. in Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officers report residents lowered volume upon request.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 3:28 p.m. in adjoining apartment at Dayton Drive. Officers dispatched. Residents were requested to turn down their music and complied.



Harassment: Officers reports <http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/saratoga-springs-police-remove-students-from-basketball-game-1.2792620>>altercation between Skidmore students & opposing team staffat 5:03 p.m. in the Williamson Sports Center. Officers and Saratoga Springs Police Department dispatched. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Person reports at 12:8 a.m. receiving a harassing phone call from a male acquaintance. Officer dispatched issued report. Assistance from the Saratoga Springs Police Department declined.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests a welfare check on his girlfriend at 1:40 a.m. in Jonsson Tower. Officers dispatched located and confirmed subject's wellbeing. No problems to report.

College Violation: Noise complaint received at 2:22 a.m. at Oak Apartments. Officers dispatched report an unregistered party with live band. Gathering dispersed. Report issued.

Found Property: Reporting person dropped off one purse and one student ID at 4a.m. from an off-campus location. Owners advised and claimed property.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests a student transport at 3:18 p.m. from an off-campus location to Wilton Urgent Care. Dispatched officer completed transport. Report issued.

Monday, Feb. 20

Campus Safety Assist: Saratoga Springs Police Department reports at 12:28 a.m. dispersing a large gathering at an off-campus Skidmore residence. No arrests made. Report issued.

Found Property: A backpack reported found at 12:30 a.m. in the Tisch Learning Center. Owner unknown at this time. Item secured in found property.

Animals: A suspicious acting raccoon reported at 10:50 a.m. on the North Woods Trail. No human contact. Facilities advised.

Medical: Ankle injury reported at 6:32 p.m. at Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched provided medical assistance. Report issued.

Suspicious odor reported at 9:11 p.m. on the second floor of Howe Hall. Dispatched officers unable to detect odor source.

Tuesday, Feb. 21

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 1:05 a.m. in Rounds Hall. Residents complied with request to lower volume.

Security Alarm: Numerous alarms received at 10 a.m. for the Wait basement. Officer dispatched reports motion alarm located in inappropriate location. Sensor to be relocated. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transport at 12:20 p.m. back to her group from the Sports Center, as she is not feeling well. Officer dispatched reports subject declined medical attention. Transport completed.

Burglary: An iPod and glasses reported stolen from a dorm room in Jonsson Tower at 1:45 p.m. Officer and the Saratoga Springs Police Department took the report. Unknown perpetrators at this time.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 5:02 p.m. on the third floor of Wait Hall. Dispatched officer reports no one in the vicinity. No noise or problems to report.

Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 7:57 p.m. at Cane Crossing. Dispatched officers report no smoke or fire. Alarm due to burnt food. Report issued.

Suspicious Odor: Officer reports a suspicious odor at 9:45 p.m. on the first floor of Kimball Hall. Officer located smoking violation. Report issued.

Security Alarm: Numerous alarms received at 10 a.m. for the Wait basement. Officer dispatched reports motion alarm located in inappropriate location. Sensor to be relocated. Report issued.

Found Property: Reporting person turned in an iPhone at 9:29 p.m. that had been found on the lower level of Case Center. Item secured in found property. The phone is not charged, therefore contact could not be made.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transportation at 8:02 a.m. from the Saratoga Hospital back to campus. Officer completed transport. Report issued.

Suspicious Odor: Suspicious odor reported at 4:17 p.m. on the second floor of Penfield Hall. Dispatched officer reports he is unable to ascertain the source of the odor.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests a transport at 4:57 p.m. from Wiecking Hall to the Wilton Medical Center. Dispatched officer completed the transport and accident report. Report issued.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Graffiti: Graffiti reported at 10:4 p.m. on the basement door of Penfield Hall. Officer dispatched recorded damage. No known perpetrator.

Found Property: iPod reported found in a Palamontain Hall classroom at 5:56 a.m. Secured in found property.

Fraud: Fraudulent ID reported at 9:30 a.m. Administrator secured as evidence. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests at 12:15 p.m. from Jonsson Tower for permission to interview the Information Technology department in regards to an ongoing investigation. Proper administration contacts made. Report issued.

Found Property: Reporting person found a set of head phones at 1:3 p.m. in Jonsson lot. Item secured in found property.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requested at 2:45 p.m. to have fingerprints taken for a New York State Teacher certification. Service provided.

Found Property: Reporting person finds a key at 3:07 p.m. on the seventh floor in Jonsson Tower. Secured in found property at Campus Safety.

Graffiti: Two subjects reported at 9:44 p.m. for spray painting the Case Center sign. Dispatched officers report subjects gone upon arrival. No known perpetrators. Damage recorded and report issued.

College Violation: Loud music reported at 11:45 p.m. coming from the next-door apartment at Whitman Way. Dispatched officer reports speaking with the residents and asking them to turn down the music. Subjects complied. Additional noise complaint received at 12:06 a.m. Officers dispatched to disperse the gathering. Report issued.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 11:45 p.m. in Wiecking Hall. Officers dispatched report residents complied with the request to lower the volume and disperse the disruptive group.

Friday, Feb. 24

Found Property: A MacBook laptop and an LG phone charger reported found at 7:22 a.m. in the Scribner Library. Campus Safety unable to determine the owner as the battery is drained. Secured in found property. Owner claimed property.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transport at 3:33 p.m. for her ill friend from Jonsson Tower to the Emergency Room. Officer dispatched completed transport. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests an escort at 4:10 p.m. from Barrett Center to Case Center. Dispatched officer provided personal escort.

College Violation: Cigarette odor reported at 11:05 p.m. coming through the air vents of a house at Cane Crossing. Officers report speaking with residents where a small gathering was taking place and they were smoking. Subjects complied to cease smoking and were made aware of the college violation. Report issued.

Saturday, Feb. 25

Criminal Mischief: A report given at 12:30 a.m. of a hole that was punched in the wall by the main entrance of Wiecking Hall. Officer dispatched issued report and recorded damage. No known perpetrators at this time.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests at 11:58 a.m. to speak with someone in Off-Campus Studies about issues with her student. Appropriate contacts made.

Larceny: Person reports the larceny of her jacket at 11:32 p.m. from an unsecured locker in the Williamson Sports Center. Report issued. No known perpetrators at this time.

Sunday, Feb. 26

Medical: Person reports a bleeding male in her room at 3:07 a.m. at Wiecking Hall. Officers dispatched and advised no need for emergency medical service. Student refused medical treatment. Report issued.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 3:58 a.m. at Whitman Way. Officers dispatched report that the residents lowered the volume upon request

Campus Safety Assist: Saratoga Springs Police Department requests student information at 8:38 a.m. Officer assisted.

Criminal Mischief: Officer located brown land-line phone at 11:40 a.m. torn from the wall in Wiecking Hall. Damage recorded. Report issued. No known perpetrators.

Suspicious Odor: Suspicious odor reported at 11 p.m. in Barrett Center. Officer dispatched reports subjects vacated the area upon his arrival.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests assistance for an ill student at 10:58 p.m. in Wait Hall. Dispatched officers offered assistance. Subject declined medical attention. Subject will contact Campus Safety if condition worsens. Report issued.

Monday, Feb. 27

Campus Safety Assist: At 10:45 a.m., reporting person in the Arthur Zankel Music Building expressed concern over an incident that occurred to a student over the weekend. Student interviewed and placed a statement regarding possible harassment. Report issued.

Found Property: Person reports at 11:30 a.m. that a contractor on the roof of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall located a telescope. Item secured in found property until the owner is located.

Campus Safety: Reporting person requests transport at 3:54 p.m. for medical attention. Officer dispatched completed the transport. Report issued.

Suspicious Activity: Derogatory remarks written on the front desk attendance sheet reported at 2:47 p.m. in the Williamson Sports Center. Officer issued report. No known perpetrators at this time.

Harassment: Reporting person gave a statement at 4:30 p.m. concerning a harassment event that occurred on the same day at 3 a.m. in the Wiecking Hall Lot. No known perpetrators. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transport at 9:06 p.m. from Wilmarth Hall to the Saratoga Emergency Room. Officers dispatched completed transport. Report issued

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Emergency Phone: Officers conducted the monthly testing of campus blue lights, handicap doors and emergency phones at midnight. Officers also tested the Academic buildings' fire alarms systems at 11:51 p.m.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests an escort at 1:17 a.m. from Cane Crossing to her apartment. Officers provided escort.

Parking: Officer reports at 9:57 a.m. booting a vehicle parked in Palamountain Lot that had received an excessive amount of parking tickets and is unregistered with the College. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transportation at 1:20 p.m. for a student from Health Services to the Wilton Medical Center. Officer dispatched completed the transport. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests a transport at 8:06 p.m. from Jonsson Tower to the Saratoga Emergency Room due to illness. Officers dispatched completed the transport. Report issued.

Wednesday, Feb. 29

Lost/Missing Property: Reporting person called at 8:43 a.m. stating that his blue bag, which contains some very important textbooks, is missing. He had the books around 12:30 p.m. in Harder 103 on the front desk during his class. He has checked all through Harder Hall to no avail and has also spoken with Information Technology personnel who have not seen them either. If located, please contact Campus Safety at x5567.

College Violation: Person reports at 8:55 a.m. that there are approximately five bicycles hindering the south entrance doors of Wiecking Hall. Advised appropriate officers/staff. Students were given until Friday, March 2, to move the bikes. Report made.

Lost/Missing Property: Reporting person states at 9:35 p.m. that he lost a prescription bottle on Monday, Feb. 27 in the Tisch Learning Center. If found, please contact Campus Safety at x5567.

College Violation: Noise complaint reported at 11:12 p.m. in the North Woods Apartment Complex. Dispatched officer reports that the subject was playing loud music and complied with the request to turn it down.

Non-student injures officer, arrested in Scribner Village

Man assaults SSPD officer after refusing to identify himself

By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief

On Mon, Mar 5, 2012

At 12:15 a.m. Tyler Sean Burton, 20, was found unconscious in Scribner Village, outside a Macruary house. Campus Safety approached the man and asked for identification -- when he refused, the officers called the Saratoga Police Department.

Police arrived shortly after and attempted to apprehend the man. At that point he began to scream obscenities at the officers, refusing once more to identify himself or submit to custody, said Officer Paul Veitch of Saratoga Springs Police Department.

The Saratogian reports:

Officers Daniel Mullan and John Guzek were both injured while arresting Burton. Guzek suffered a leg injury that Lt. John Catone said did not appear to be serious. Mullan, however, suffered injuries to his arm and shoulder that are serious and may require extensive treatment, according to Catone. Mullan may be out of work for some time.

Burton has been charged with three counts of seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, third-degree criminal trespassing, obstructing governmental administration and resisting arrest, all misdemeanors. Meanwhile his assault earned him a felony second-degree assault charge.

Readers may also visit the firsthand account at <http://skidmoreunofficial.com/archives/9942>>Skidmore Unofficial and the report at <http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2012/03/06/news/doc4f568d8caf94f033343484.txt>>the Saratogian.

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Police arrest non-student who refused to identify himself and then assaulted officer.

Michael Kraines/The Skidmore News



Blurbs Overheard! Mar. 5

By Pulp Editors,
On Mon, Mar 5, 2012

“Why did you just step away?”

“Because you’re not wearing a bra.”

“So?”

“And it’s cold.”

Overheard in Wiecking Hall

“I wonder how Miles Davis would have gotten along with Robert Byrd...”

Overheard outside the Embury Apartments

“Have you ever seen a black angel?”

“Saw a black cupid.”

Overheard in the first floor of Case Center

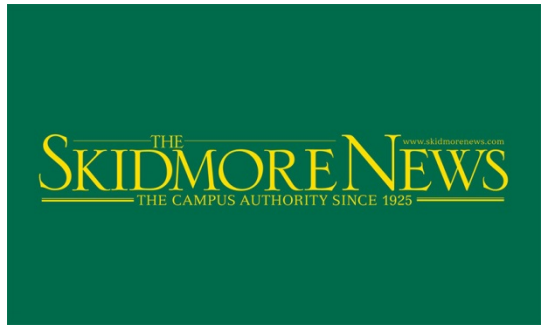
“What was that Machiavelli said? ‘If fortune is a woman...tie her down?’”

Overheard in the Scribner Library

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Meredith Simonds / The Skidmore News





SGA Senate Live Blog Mar. 6

By Joanne Schwartzberg, Communications Director
On Mon, Mar 5, 2012

Friendly Fire: Live and Let Dialogue, Part II

Whether to 'make change' or to restore the liberal arts, we must cut through relativistic dialogue

By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012

Editor's Note: *While I certainly do not renounce the content of any of my remarks, whether spoken or in print, I do apologize to any who perceived the delivery of my remarks at the campus dialogue, "Interrupting Silence," as intentionally offensive. Once more, anyone who wishes to respond to the arguments of this column may write a Letter to the Editor at skidnews@skidmore.edu.*

Perhaps it is characteristic of a two-part critique that anything argued in the first half, left to sit, will reek of negativity - so much that readers pinch their noses and turn away from the subsequent, more constructive serving. I can only hope that this is not the case in my two-tiered argument against propping up dialogue as the reigning form of campus discourse.

While last week's critical remarks on our "culture of dialogue" were a necessary throat clearing, I will offer here the positive alternative: a restoration of dispassionate, critical and reasoned argument. We need it here, in some form. Reappraising argument would not only push back against the relativistic, emotion-laden trend of dialogue here at Skidmore but also reequip us with the essential tools for a liberal arts education.

Why is such a push back necessary? First, we have plainly reached a point in which much of our student body views personal narratives as infallible and invariably permissible modes of argument. To a degree, Skidmore cultivates this: in various Scribner Seminars, students come to see their educational experiences as pathways to "awareness," and diversity in higher education becomes a central and apocalyptic matter. In many cases this disposition will fully calcify by a student's junior or senior year.

The construal of education as a liberating social "awareness" invariably entails a rebellion against the "traditional" approach to academics. Argument, properly understood, is revealed as authoritarian and close-minded; classical liberal values are parsed as nothing more than expressions of power by society/the ruling class/men/the Illuminati. Many students and faculty claim to have unmasked this awful facade and view the crumbling of objectivity - of "truth" - as emancipation. By undercutting the universal validity of argument, we are supposed to be opening the doors to multiculturalism and tolerance - where everyone's story matters, all the time. Dialogue is born, and Skidmore thereby earns its place among the echelons of tolerant and responsible colleges.



But really, in undercutting argument we kill any potential for real rigorous and constructive deliberation - the hallmark of both liberal democracy and certainly liberal education. Now, [persuasion](http://books.google.com/books?id=vPTxxYR7hPcC&lpg=PP1&dq=richard%20rorty%20contingency&pg=PA60#v=onepage&q=persuasion&f=false), rather than the "force" of argument, becomes the way we settle conversations on everything from race relations to AOD policy. Truth is forever ensnared in sneer quotes in order to protect our sensibilities from any of its harsh lacerations.

And so as dialectic slips away, so does our original understanding of tolerance and pluralism. It becomes a given tenet of mutual respect that no one be proven essentially and demonstrably wrong on any issue, for that would be attacking one's personal life and one's narrative. Thus, for fear of committing this or any form of soft oppression, everyone adopts a vocabulary that keeps out the "bigots." As things stand, the proper response to someone who questions the dogma of dialogue is to simply accuse that person of being divisive, "privileged," bigoted or even flat out racist. (It is similar to how Marxists used to label someone a "hyena" and call it a day; or how McCarthyites would dismiss someone as "pinko," with no further need for discussion.)

In other words, there is no need to engage with any argument put forth against a proposition, because the person advancing it must be a lousy chauvinist! Don't waste your time! Here at Skidmore I have heard arguments against IGR courses described as "discrimination." The critic or skeptic who hurts the sensibilities of dialogue/diversity program-enthusiasts is said to have created a new "minority" on campus. On and on, faster and faster, the definitions of once meaningful words swirl down the drain.

This is a dangerous point to have reached, where such serious (though sometimes meaningless) charges are hurled at those who merely doubt the sensibility of certain diversity initiatives or perhaps the project of hard multiculturalism more generally. But the beauty of it all is that this project steeps us in such relativism that at a certain point, there really is no way to claw out of it through sharp, clear deliberation and critique. The sacred cow this protects, above all others, is of course the institution of dialogue.

Some may find me here to be guilty of the same alarmism I ascribe to the other side. How does any of this relativism, perhaps desirable in private sessions on marginalization and narrative, infect other corners of life at Skidmore?

Allow me to provide just a recent example: last week, at an event titled "Faces of Israel," a panel of Israeli academics and activists shared their experiences and perspectives on life in the Levant. I did not attend the event, but I noticed that promotion promised the speakers would "engage" with students



"without shying away from the complex political and cultural issues Israel faces." Many students went along to the event, took this line at face value, and brought with them some complex questions.

However, several attendees approached me afterward, utterly frustrated by the proceedings. A few had tried to dig deeper into the aforementioned "complex issues" of the conflict. Their questions were dismissed, evaded again and again through more personal narratives. Any attempts to argue about international law, civil disobedience - that stubbornly *objective* idea, justice - were dismissed.

And so, despite the event's promotion, another uncritical episode of narratives took the place of what could have been a lively and relevant exchange of ideas. Once we sanctify this approach on the level of "bias responses" and the like, it does in fact creep into what should be the more rigorous academic sphere.

I ended my last piece with a cautious suggestion: if the methods and principles of dialoguing continue to be construed as the most legitimate (and thereby exclusive) mode of discussion at Skidmore, it will impose a very conspicuous silence. I'll end this piece with a slight adjustment: a more appropriate description would be a "white noise," where words ("oppression," "privilege," etc.) are spoken but devoid of meaning; where the majority roars over the voices of skeptics, labeling them intolerant; where emotion and sentimentality erode every discussion, dissolving logic and reason.

This is not a portrait of the liberal arts, no matter how subtly it is brushed over the original picture. I am advocating, in any shape, a concrete push for a newfound pulse of debate and intellectual probity on campus. It might arrive through the return of the debate team, a resurgence of the sparring matches between Skidmore Republicans and Democrats, within the pages of this Op-Ed section - or even through the panel I have been organizing with SGA and Fight Club.

Did anyone see that coming? Perhaps conflict and contention can bring us closer together, after all.

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"Dialoguing" has become a long-standing approach here at Skidmore. Erika Torres '13, Jovany Andujar '13, Brenda Goff '12, Mariel Bazil '12 continue a dialogue after the end of a meeting. (Stock image)

Maddie Pelz/The Skidmore News



Non-student assaults Saratoga Springs officers in Scribner Village (Updated)

Man injures two officers while resisting arrest for illegal possession of drugs

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012

Twenty-year-old Tyler Sean Burton, of Brigham Road in Greenfield Center, was arrested Monday, March 5, in Scribner Village. He was charged with assaulting two police officers and resisting arrest for misdemeanor drug charges, according to a recent article in [The Saratogian](http://saratogian.com/articles/2012/03/06/news/doc4f568d8caf94f033343484.txt).

Alerted to the man's presence by a College employee, Campus Safety contacted the Saratoga Springs Police Department after observing Burton trespassing on the College property. Officers Daniel Mullan and John Guzek were both injured, with Guzek suffering from a minor leg injury and Mullan from serious damage to his arm and shoulder, which may place him out of work for the time being, according to Lt. John Catone.

None of our officers were injured, Director of Campus Safety Dennis Conway said, adding that the two subjects were committed to jail overnight and arraigned at city court the next morning. If they are unable to pay bail, they will go to jail.

19-year-old Alexa P. Theo, of Van Dam Street, Burton's girlfriend according to Conway, who was with Burton at the time, was charged with resisting his arrest as well.

Burton is charged with three counts of seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, third-degree criminal trespassing, obstructing governmental administration and resisting arrest, all of which are misdemeanors. His attacks on the officers, however, have resulted in a felony second-degree assault charge.



Man sends death threats to President Obama from Skidmore computer (Updated)

Threats include vendettas against the President's life as well as the lives of school children

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012

Brent G. Dickinson, 33, used a public computer at around 1:56 a.m. on Feb. 17 in the Saisselin Art Building to threaten President Barack Obama with murder via the White House website message board, according to <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Documents-detail-arrest-of-man-who-threatened-3382888.php> >*Times Union*

"Secret Service officers showed up on campus requesting information on a computer IP address," Director of Campus Safety Dennis Conway said. "They didn't give us any explanation as to why they wanted this information."

The College only has a small number of computers available to the public, out of consideration for prospective students and visiting families, and it was one of these computers Dickinson used. The Secret Service agents worked with staff from the Information Technology department to locate the specific computer.

Dickinson also used a computer at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, March 2 in the Saratoga Springs Public Library to send a message on the board saying he would take school children hostage and kill them, according to Saratoga County District Attorney James A. Murphy III. Conway said this is where Dickinson was located and apprehended, adding that he was easy to identify since he made no effort to conceal his name on the board.

According to Conway, this is not the first time that Campus Safety has worked with federal agents, who ask for background information regarding former students or employees looking for employment in the government.

"We do work with them in other situations, too, so it's not that uncommon to have them on campus," Conway said.

According to *Times Union*, Dickinson lived in room nine of the Gateway Motel on Maple Avenue, a little more than two miles from the College campus. Secret Service agents intercepted his messages and

contacted the local police, who arrested him on Friday night. He has been charged with two counts of making terrorist threats against the president and school children and is being held in Saratoga County jail with a \$50,000 bail set by City Court Judge James Doern.

Dickinson, who Conway said does not have any connections to anyone on campus, has been banned from the College grounds for life.

"We have an open campus, but what we do in cases like this is write him an official letter banning him from campus. If he ever shows up here he will be arrested," Conway said.

The public defender will represent Dickinson, who is due back in City Court on Tuesday, March 6. A county grand jury will hear his case on March 21.

Linda G. Toohey Named Chairwoman-Elect of Skidmore College Board

Four new trustees also will join the College Board

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012

Linda G. Toohey, a mainstay of the Saratoga community for more than 30 years and a member of the Skidmore College Board of Trustees since 2001, has been named chairwoman-elect. She will succeed Janet Lucas Whitman '59, who will step down in May after serving 18 years on the board and four years as chairwoman.

Vice chairwoman of the Skidmore board since 2008, Toohey chairs the Infrastructure Committee and is a member of the Budget & Finance, Executive, Special Programs, Strategic Planning and Trusteeship Committees.

An expert on board governance and time management who often lectures on those subjects, Toohey is a member of the board of Saratoga Performing Arts Center. She has a bachelor's degree in religion and master's degree in journalism from the University of Iowa, and she received the University's Distinguished Young Alumni Award in 1979.

"Given her long experience in the non-profit world, her knowledge of the Saratoga community and her understanding of Skidmore, Linda Toohey is uniquely qualified to help steer the College forward at this time," Whitman said.

Toohey was executive vice president of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce from 1980 until she semi-retired in June 2005, serving as vice president of its Leadership Saratoga program, which she founded in 1985. She also coordinated tourism, the Saratoga Film Commission, publications and special events. She will retire fully from the chamber in mid-June.

Prior to joining the chamber, Toohey was president and publisher of *The Saratogian* from 1977 to 1980. She became the youngest female publisher in the country when Gannett Co., Inc. named her to that position.

"Linda Toohey is an experienced and dynamic leader," President Philip A. Glotzbach said. "She has demonstrated her commitment to Skidmore through many years of dedicated service as a trustee. I welcome the opportunity to work with her in this new capacity."



Toohy co-chaired the Saratoga YMCA Capital Campaign, was a vice chairwoman of the most recently completed \$12 million Saratoga Hospital Capital Campaign and was a member of Emma Willard School's \$75 million Capital Campaign Executive Committee. She also served as chair of Saratoga Hospital board for two of the nine years she was on its board. A member of Emma Willard School's board for 12 years, she served as its president for six.

She was a member of the Steering Committee of the Workforce Housing Partnership of Saratoga County and a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the National Museum of Racing for 15 years.

Additionally, Toohy was a patient/family volunteer for Community Hospice for 12 years, chairwoman of the Saratoga Friends of Hospice and member on the Community Hospice Foundation Board for a number of years.

The Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs honored Toohy in 2003, and Business & Professional Women Tech Valley honored her as woman of the year in 2004. In 2006, NYS Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno named her one of New York State's women of distinction, and in the same year, the YMCA of Saratoga named Linda and her husband Michael as two of their volunteers of the year. Saratoga Today newspaper selected her as one of 10 Women of Influence in their inaugural year of presenting the award. In 2009, the Saratoga Economic Opportunity Council honored her as its person of the year.

Toohy and her husband Michael reside in Saratoga Springs. They have two adult daughters, Megan and Elizabeth, who live in Denver.

New Trustees Join Skidmore College Board

The College also added four trustees to the Board:

- **Gail M. Dudack '70**, an investment strategist who has served in many key volunteer roles for the College and holds both the College's Special Achievement Award (2001) and its Outstanding Service Award (2010). Managing director of New York-based Dudack Research Group, she and her husband Pat Colombo - whose son, Ross, graduated from the College in May - served for two years as co-chairs of the Parents Council. She began a three-year term as president of the Alumni Association last June.
- **Andrew F. Hughes '92**, a marketing consultant to the asset management community who has served as Alumnus Trustee since June. With 20 years of experience in the financial services industry, Hughes in 2009 founded Brooklyn-based HD Advisors, which focuses on institutional sales within the public pension, corporate, foundation and endowment marketplace. A lacrosse player while at the College, Hughes won honors as defensive MVP in his senior year.

- **W. Scott McGraw P '12**, a private investor and consultant who worked for 29 years as a television advertising executive, most recently with the Discovery Network and for many years previously with CBS. He currently is consulting for Akoo, the world's largest social music television network, and is a producer of "Magic/Bird," a show opening soon on Broadway that tells the story of iconic basketball legends Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Larry Bird. His daughter, Carolyn, is a senior at the College.
- **Antonio Mojica '02**, the board's Young Alumnus Trustee, started his career in banking with a summer internship with the JPMorgan Investment Bank and today is a vice president with Iberia Bank, a leading financial firm in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. The owner of several investment properties in Houston, Mojica is a volunteer firefighter and is active in the Latino Bankers Association and the National Association of Hispanic MBAs. Born in New York City, Mojica attended the College via its Higher Education Opportunity Program.

Daydreams: When an institution becomes a community

Opening a line of communication between the debaters and the dialoguers

By Rick Chrisman, Columnist

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012

I have a riddle for you. It's World War II. As battle raged overhead and depth charges were being dropped on all sides of them, why couldn't the two U.S. submarine officers communicate with one another? Because they were in two different submarines! Submarines, you may already know, cannot communicate directly with one another (salt water's low conductivity precludes it).

From where I sit, not that anybody asked, it looks to me like the Skidmore News Editor-in-chief and the aggrieved Skidmore students are in two different submarines, in effect operating from differing air-tight assumptions. Try as they might, although each acknowledges the reality of the war surrounding them, they manifestly can't get their point across to the other. Until they recognize the source of their (at present bitter) conflict, they will not come to an understanding.

Their differences derive, I believe, from the dichotomy in human society between two distinct spheres of life. The distinction, not recognized by either party so far, lies in two specific words they use when the students call for dialogue and the Editor calls for debate. Each is an act of communication characteristic of two different realms, namely, the private and the public realms - and never the twain shall meet. It just isn't in the cards; they are different animals.

Dialogue belongs to the private realm, being a conversation, a thoughtful exchange between two or more people. Often, but not always, dialogue is a function limited to small groups and social intimates. It has no goal other than the communication itself, the sharing of a personal experience or an insight, or the attainment of the bond that results from a mutual airing of differences. It has relevance in business and political settings, too. But it is personhood, not persuasion, that chiefly characterizes dialogue. Such was the outcome sought at the Interrupt Silence meeting last Wednesday night, I gather.

By contrast, the debate that the Editor is calling for is an entirely different sort of discourse. Despite connotations of contentiousness and controversy, the essence of debate is a public deliberation over the truth of a certain proposition or course of action. The challenge of articulating our views in public leads to greater clarity of thought and to the fulfillment of our true visions. The Editor wants, in his own words, "a rigorous, deliberative atmosphere on campus." Here the desired emphasis is the opposite of dialogue; it's on persuasion, not personhood, and the venue for that is a forum where issues can be debated and a new course of action set.

Fair enough. For whatever reason, the Editor values the experience of public discussion of issues over the sharing which occurs in dialogues. That is his preference. By the same token, for their personal reasons, the students prefer the dialogue as a setting for airing their grievances. But people shouldn't expect the private setting to meet the goals of a public event, or vice versa. The Editor makes a mistake when expecting dialogues to be other than - well, dialogues. And the students are mistaken when they haven't recognized that the next step after dialogue is to bring their grievances to the level of a community arena where they can be deliberated upon publicly. Each has an indispensable place in the process, but they are not at all the same thing.

There is a point at which the private sharing of feelings needs to evolve into a public discussion of issues. But this does not happen automatically. At some point, a solidarity meeting has to draw some conclusions and decide who to approach about making changes in the environment. Then, at the moment they bring this issue to the institutional authority, it becomes a public discussion. In the meantime, dialogue should not be disparaged. This is the common route of progress.

However, it can also progress southward, as the emotionally damaging exchanges so far demonstrate. The bitterness of the conflict is something to be deplored as very unfortunate - and unnecessary. By my analysis, it is a direct result of all parties indulging in the written expression, which is public expression, of undigested opinion way outside of the private boundaries of our minds and living rooms. Casting aspersions and attributing motivations to people, some done under cover of anonymity, constituted a high percentage of this communication.

Neither dialogue nor debate need entail such antagonism. The virtue common to both private and public discourse is listening, and better still, deep listening. Actually, it turns out, both our Editor and the students want to break the Silence and have people speak in a safe environment. But then, everyone also has to be prepared to listen. It signals that you are inviting someone into public friendship (as distinct from "friending" someone). I think what we really want is not so much to "belong" to an institution as to belong to each other in this significant way. That's what I want, anyway. And I believe we can. That's when an institution becomes a community.

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image courtesy of Keith Bloomfield



Healthful Hints: Healthy Travel

Staying healthy during spring break travels

By Zoe Silver, Columnist

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012

Going somewhere exotic for spring break? Plan to study abroad for a semester? We Skidmore students love to travel, explore other cultures and try new things. In order to do this in good health, I will give you a few tasks to add to your pre-travel checklist.

Before you leave the country, check out the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website. They have a map of the world with necessary health awareness information for most countries. This will tell you if there are any travel notices in effect, how to stay healthy during your stay and a variety of additional information.

For some countries, there will be a recommended, or required, list of vaccinations that are necessary before traveling, such as Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Meningitis. It can also be helpful to visit a doctor who specializes in travel medicine before you depart. Depending on the country, they will also recommend specific vaccines and other medicines, such as preventative Malaria pills. If you will be out of the country for an extended period of time, such as a semester or a year studying abroad, it is a good idea to get a general checkup or physical to ensure that you are healthy before you start the arduous travel process.

While packing, consider bringing a first-aid kit in addition to basics like Tylenol, medicine for an upset stomach, medicine for motion sickness, and other personal health essentials. Talk to your doctor about getting a prescription for antibiotics to take with you in case you get a bacterial infection. It can be difficult to fill prescriptions abroad or to find the exact prescription if you need something specific. On that note, make sure that you will have access to any prescriptions you take regularly. If not, take enough with you to last for the entire trip. Some countries do not allow medications to be sent by mail, so consider what you may need before leaving.

Now that you have completed your packing and are on your way, there are additional challenges to be aware of upon arrival at your destination. For those of us going long distances, we have jet lag to beat. Travel and fatigue can take a toll on your body and mind, but if you take steps to give your body what it wants (the necessary amount of sleep), you will adjust to your new surroundings more easily and your body will thank you!

Try changing your watch to the time of your destination as soon as the plane takes off so you can begin adjusting your mindset. When you arrive, try to get on a normal schedule as quickly as possible. If you arrive in the morning, go out and explore for as much of the day as possible before you crash. Regardless of when you arrive, try to establish a regular sleeping schedule in the first few days so that you can be well rested and adjusted for the rest of the trip.

Depending on your destination, there are different precautions you should take while you are there. Countries have different standards and processes of treatment for their water supply, and sometimes our stomachs cannot handle the change, so be aware of your destination's water quality and buy bottled water when necessary. Raw foods require similar precaution as they are washed with the same water and can therefore result in the same ailments.

Whether abroad for an entire semester, or just a spring break trip, it takes a lot of effort for our bodies and minds to adjust to our new, foreign surroundings. This is a mentally tolling process, so be patient with yourself as you explore, learn and experience new places. If you are aware of the risks in traveling and take steps to avoid or treat them, you are more likely to have a healthy and enjoyable experience. Until next time, safe travels, and enjoy your break!



Letter: 'Live and Let Dialogue' crossed boundary of invective

By Hannah Kagan-Moore, Class of 2012

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012

Dear Editor,

In its Ethics Code, the Society of Professional Journalists asks that journalists "examine their own cultural values and avoid imposing those values on others." Though as a college paper, The Skidmore News is not a member of SPJ, this would perhaps be a helpful standard to consider in light of this week's article. Although an op-ed by its definition shows a bias, "Friendly Fire: Live and Let Dialogue, Part I" inappropriately crossed the boundary between stating a respectful opinion and delivering needless invective.

The newspaper has requested in the past that responses to its content not employ "*ad hominem*" rhetoric, which is entirely fair - but it should adhere to the same standards it expects of its readership. I found the tone of the article contemptuous, particularly in depicting dialogue members' responses to Mr. Brust. Skidmore News website comments and personal discussion show that many readers perceived the article the same way. Mr. Brust, if you did not aim to offend your audience, then it is time to reconsider the tone of your writing. Any good newspaper should be willing to examine its content when it realizes it has overstepped the bounds of professional content; I urge The Skidmore News to do so now.

I think we can all agree that fostering discussion about the usefulness of any measure on campus is important, and the press is at the heart of questioning its governing bodies. Any good discussion, however, is also constructive, which this week's column was not. Mr. Brust offered no better solutions or suggestions for improving the campus climate. While he may feel that getting rid of dialogue is an answer, "Live and Let Dialogue" excoriates that institution without providing insight. Ultimately, no one profits from this kind of criticism; it reflects poorly on the paper, and by association, the College.

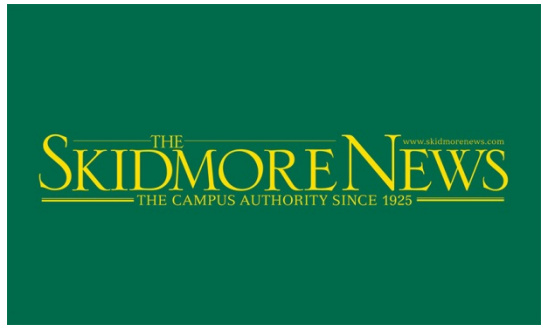
This paper does indeed represent the College, on campus and online; please write in a manner appropriate to your role as a campus representative. I speak for many members of the community when I say that I expect greater professionalism and integrity from The Skidmore News in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Hannah Kagan-Moore

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Class of 2012

Letter: Why dialogue may be more productive

By Dan Curley

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012

Dear Editor,

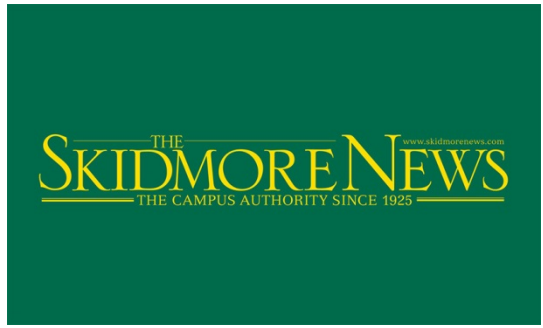
I'm writing first and foremost to praise Rick Chrisman's recent and very cogent op-ed piece on the differences between dialogue and debate ("Daydreams: When an institution becomes a community," March 5, 2012). I completely agree that different modes of communication are appropriate to different aims and different moments. Is this not one of the goals of a liberal-arts education - to master different modes in terms of form, content, and outcome?

Speaking of outcomes and aims, I wonder if we couldn't push the distinction between dialogue and debate a little further. Because debate (as I understand it) is contentious and seeks to find flaws, foster differences, and imply conclusions, it smacks of privilege and power. By "privilege and power" I mean two things. On the one hand, debate theoretically enables any party involved to gain privileges and therefore to empower itself. On the other hand, debate very often allows the already privileged and the empowered to shore up the status quo. (I'll pass over how skilled debaters historically have had a kind of specialized education and training that attends privilege.)

If debate aims to create or enforce hierarchies of power, dialogue (again, as I understand it) aims to destabilize hierarchies by cutting across them, cultivating areas of agreement, and leaving room for further communication. These aims might seem unacademic, or "touchy-feely," to some, but true dialogue requires discipline and commitment: I am obliged not only to listen to my partners in dialogue (and they to me), but also to reflect on and interrogate my own presumptions, suppositions, and core beliefs. If these actions do not constitute learning, I don't know what does.

I think one of the most valuable outcomes of dialogue is how it enables all of us - if we choose to participate - to hear narratives that we would otherwise not hear. Especially not under the terms of debate, which is predisposed toward judgment. My experience with InterGroup Relations (IGR) and other venues of dialogue have inevitably taught me things I did not know and would never have known without those opportunities.

None of this is to say that debate has no place at a liberal-arts college. It does, and so does discussion (another mode of communication we should value and interrogate). Yet for this moment at Skidmore, the lateral approach of dialogue seems to me the most productive way forward.



Dan Curley

Associate Professor and Chair

Classics Department

Administration introduces final revisions to the AOD Policy

The review team hosts an open forum; students protest lack of involvement

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012

In an open forum Feb. 28, members of Health Promotions, Residential Life and the Student Assessment and Intervention Group, including Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun and Director of Residential Life Don Hastings, introduced the final revisions to the Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy.

After receiving multiple complaints and criticisms from the student body regarding changes to the AOD Policy last semester, most notably regarding the "In the Presence of" clause, which holds any underage student accountable for being in the presence of illegal substances, the administration decided to revise the policy in accordance with student concerns.

Last semester, 14 students received first warnings for the violation of this clause. No one received a second offense.

At the open forum, Calhoun said the "In the Presence of" clause would change to "In the presence of Alcohol in the Residence Halls or at an unauthorized event." However, in an email later sent out to the student body on March 6, Calhoun announced that further change would be instigated.

"Since our AOD Open Forum, we have given further consideration to the important concerns that students continued to share about the possible unintended consequence of a violation that feels punitive to those who are attempting to act responsibly," Calhoun said. "We have been persuaded that removing this [clause] as a violation of the Alcohol and Other Drug policy is an appropriate response to those concerns and supports the continued enhancement of a culture of responsibility."

Calhoun also said the faculty would introduce a point reduction program, which would be based on students contributing something to the community. Opportunities may include attending and participating in a Red Watch Band program and completing five to 10 hours of community service.

Several students brought up the question of cultural differences and expectations in regards to the statement that informs students that their parents will be notified following a violation of the AOD policy. The review team determined that, while the rule would not be removed from the policy, the College would be willing to work with students on a case-by-case basis to address individual circumstances.

The review team also decided to revise the AOD policy to clarify the language of the consequences for violation at levels four and five to emphasize that dismissal is an option, rather than automatic, as some students believed.

During the open forum, one student raised the question of cultural exception, such as hookah with tobacco, which is considered less taboo than alcohol in the Middle East, where he lived before enrolling in the College. This is considered a violation of the AOD policy.

“As we become a more culturally diverse community, these things will come up, and perhaps cause tension. I hear you,” Calhoun said, adding that there would be no revisions addressing this concern at this time.

Another student asked for clarification on how the policy reflects New York state law, especially concerning the matter of false IDs, which are considered a felony under law, but only a level four violation, which is lower than some misdemeanors on level five. Hastings explained that for terrorism, a false ID is a felony, but in most cases it is merely a misdemeanor.

Hastings also shared statistical information during the open forum from the past four fall semesters, which indicated a reduction in the number of violations from 248 in 2008 to 152 in 2011, a drastic drop from 277 in 2010. Educational sanctions for marijuana dropped from 27 to six, and the Under-the-Influence program from 84 to 16.

Are people drinking any less? I don’t know, Hastings said. "But people are at least being wiser."

The number of off-campus parties decreased from 17 in 2010 to zero in 2011, which also happen to be the same statistics for student arrests from AOD related charges from 2010 to 2011. This information was also released in the email Calhoun sent out to the student body.

“Students expressed concerns that the decrease in violations may represent the fact that drinking is being pushed off-campus,” Calhoun said, adding that the data provided by the Saratoga Springs Police Department indicated that this was not the case.

Despite these reductions, the number of transport requests to the hospital has not decreased, with 11 in 2008, 10 in 2009, 20 in 2010, and 16 in 2011.

“It is our hope that this demonstrates that students are still making the important and right choice to seek help for themselves and their friends when needed,” Calhoun said.

At the end of the open forum, however, students expressed their disappointment with the lack of student involvement and ability to suggest revisions during the forum itself. Jonathan Zeidan ‘12,



president of the Student Government Association, asked why students were not more involved in the revision process.

"I thought the review committee had students on it," Calhoun said. "All that I can say is that I think students should have been invited from the beginning."

A date has not yet been determined for these revisions to be put into effect, although Calhoun said she plans to announce the date soon.

There is a small working group developing a proposal to the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee for the Policy on the Development and Modification of College Policies. This proposal will address the lack of students' roles in the development and revision of policies. Students will later have the opportunity to review and revise this new policy.

"As I expressed at the Open Forum, I believe that student involvement makes for good policy," Calhoun said. "It is my expectation that, working with SGA, there will be an opportunity for students to review the policy. I hope to reaffirm my support for student involvement in policy making and learn more about student concerns through these discussions."



Letter: Conflict is integral to dialogue

By Kali Block-Steele, Class of 2013

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012

Dear Editor,

Amazing to see how much you value conflict because, speaking as an IGR Dialogue facilitator, conflict is an integral part of dialogue. Dialogues are not designed so that everyone sits happy-go-lucky in a circle, cries and shares their emotional experiences. They are designed so that, yes, we share our personal experiences that sometimes carry with them emotions (surprisingly we all are not privileged enough to live in emotionless ivory towers) but that we realize we don't always agree and thus dialogues should also produce conflict. From conflict emerges growth.

I am not merely just a proponent of dialogue. Not everything can be learned or solved through it, but there is a huge value from actively and openly sharing with others. This value has been proven repeatedly; IGR has years of solid "real rigorous" data that proves dialogue has a huge benefit. I do not believe that dialogue should overrun campus and I don't think that it will take over our "liberal arts education" as you seem so worried about. It should, though, be able to have its place *within* our liberal arts education.

As you so virulently appose "dialogue culture" you seem to be excitedly proposing a "debate culture" instead. If we truly want to make this campus a better place, one that provides a relevant and impactful education and that also constructs a positive, open, welcoming community then we need a few different methods to do so.

As things stand this "tolerance and pluralism" that you say is slipping away has never been here. Yes, there has been much tolerance, for a small sector of the population. You attempt to make the claim that privilege, oppression, a white male ruling class, etc. hold no reality. Please, remove your self-imposed blinders for a second and take a look at, let's say, our presidents. What is something that ties all our presidents, but one, together? They have been, from the start, white, male and predominantly wealthy. This trend has also been reflected in the branches of our government and throughout all power wielding institutions, including colleges and universities. Because, as things have been going, those in power act in order to maintain their power, they must then create ideas, laws, and ambassadors like you to continue the cycle.

A little more awareness is what I am asking of you. I ask you to dig deeper into the ideas that you have been taught, that we have all been taught. I ask you to critically analyze these structures we are immersed in, and whether or not these ideas you claim are essential to a liberal arts education were constructed with the entire population in mind or just a segment of it.

I value your opinion, but I need you to value mine as well. Your arguments are drastic and your mind does not seem open. Time continues for a reason, it permits us to look back and allow our present to evolve our past ideas into new, more currently relevant places. Change is not a bad thing as long as it is done with *all* parts considered.

Kali Block-Steele

Class of 2013

Letter: We need to talk

By Molly O'Brien, Class of 2012

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012

Dear Editor,

We need to talk.

The Skidmore News recently published an op-ed criticizing the dialogues held on campus in recent weeks. According to the op-ed's author, our "culture of dialogue" prevents Skidmore from developing a rigorous, deliberative atmosphere on campus," and the dialogues themselves are nothing more than "aggregate[s] of many unpleasant yet individual and disparate experiences." His message is relatively simple and initially logical: how can we make change if all we do is talk about wanting to make change?

We need to talk. Talking is the first step. Lots of people spoke at the dialogue, and more spoke out in the op-ed's comments. There wasn't a clear consensus on the article - with our multi-voiced chorus at Skidmore, a single, roaring consensus would be downright strange - but many students expressed the idea that the mere existence of a dialogue engenders change. I agree with these students. A place in which we can express our hopes and frustrations, however contrived that place may seem, can nevertheless become an incubator for change.

Skidmore isn't a perfect place; the Skidmore community has to grow and change together in order to prevent marginalization, discrimination, and miscommunication. Our community has to communicate. We need to talk. One commenter noted that "racism, classism, sexism, ableism, nationalism, among others, are not over" - how can we prevent racism, classism, sexism, ableism, nationalism, if we aren't even aware of the smallest incidences of these ills? We can become aware of our privileges and problems if we give people the chance to speak, especially those who have been hurt by one another. A dialogue is not a "delicious emotional buffet" - it is an opportunity to be heard.

Skidmore is a diverse place. To say otherwise would be to ignore what makes our school special. We come from different countries and different socioeconomic backgrounds; we have different appearances and different sexual identities, and we speak different languages. We all have Skidmore in common: taking classes, playing on sports teams, joining clubs, working at on-campus jobs, living in residence halls. Our origins and identities differ, but we are all connected by the mere fact of attending a small school and interacting with each other on a daily basis.

So, we need to talk. Always, we need to talk. We need to talk, and argue, and discuss, and disagree, and clash, and face off. And we need to be kind when we do so. Our community has to communicate, and

when we communicate we must address each other with the respect we all deserve. We can clash without being callous, and we can disagree without being demeaning. Why must we be kind to each other? Because we're human. The real world is a rough place, and though there's no need to coddle one another, untrammelled spite and scorn should have no place on our campus. We don't have to support each other all the time, and there's plenty of room for snarky comebacks and razor-sharp wit at Skidmore, but if we don't respect each other, our college climate *will* change - it'll deteriorate.

These dialogues are a positive presence because they make us aware of the constant need for respect and tolerance. That's the kind of change I want to see here.

Molly O'Brien

Class of 2012

Sleigh Bells' 'Reign of Terror' lives up to expectations from first album

Duo's sophomore album shows maturity

By Will Eldredge, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Mar 8, 2012

Reign of Terror shows that Sleigh Bells are more than a one-album wonder. From the screeching guitar of "Born to Lose" to the spacey and plodding finale of "D.O.A.," the Brooklyn duo builds off of the successes of "Treats" while adding some of the pace, subtlety and maturity that their debut lacks.

Sleigh Bells' newest album, "Reign of Terror," is a record with big shoes to fill.

The two piece's debut LP, "Treats," was an enthralling mix of singer Alexis Krauss's bratty vocals and guitarist and producer Derek Miller's arena-rock riffs and monstrous beats. "Treats," however, owed as much of its success to its novelty as it did to the album's musical accomplishment. With "Reign of Terror," Sleigh Bells demonstrates its ability to refine and improve upon its signature brand of noise.

The album starts out with "True Shred Guitar," whose introductory applause and stage banter flash back to '80s hair bands and sold out stadiums before Krauss's shouts and Miller's brash guitar section kick in. The album then moves into "Born to Lose," a phenomenal combination of spacey vocals and pounding double-bass drums. The track gives an early taste of how the band has evolved, as "Treats" hip-hop heavy production gives way to a more varied beat selection.

Sleigh Bells also doesn't rely as much on sheer volume as it did on its debut. While "Treats" sounded like it was going to blow out your speakers at half-volume and was full of clipping, "Terror" is more atmospheric and does not have to be blasted to achieve its full effect. Krauss' jagged cries on songs like "Infinity Guitars" and "Riot Rhythm" have given way to her airy and melodic singing voice, and Miller's guitar work is more technical, focusing more on interwoven progressions than on power chords and bass drops.

That being said, "Terror" still sounds awesome at high volume and the duo is still as effective as ever at writing loud, hook-filled noise pop. The sing-song chorus of "Crush" and the high hats of "End of the Line" show that the band hasn't forgotten its roots. The meandering, poppier riffs of "Leader of the Pack" and "Comeback Kid" lack some of the thump of "Treats," but more than make up for it with their variety. The songs also succeed in bringing the album to its peak, which crescendos with the thump and energetic call-and-response of "Demons."



After "Demons" fades out, "Terror" shows its maturity, and the album's last four songs convey a somber introspection that was not present in the band's earlier work. "Road to Hell" has airy, yet frustrated vocals that flow nicely into the soft sorrow of "You Lost Me's" chorus; "Never Say Die" brings together the goth and art-punk of the two previous tracks with a more subdued version of the double bass and hair-metal riffage present earlier on the record. The album concludes with "D.O.A.," a glacial buildup that ends with Krauss declaring "remember who you are," and drops off into a beautiful echoing nothingness.

Reign of Terror shows that Sleigh Bells are more than a one-album wonder. From the screeching guitar of "Born to Lose" to the spacey and plodding finale of "D.O.A.," the Brooklyn duo builds off of the successes of "Treats" while adding some of the pace, subtlety and maturity that their debut lacks.

This album is absolutely worth the listen.

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Alexis Krauss, vocalst of Sleigh Bells, performs live at SXSW 2010.

Courtesy of Mehan Jayasuriya



Restaurant Review: Esperanto

By Tegan O'Neill, Columnist

On Thu, Mar 8, 2012

Esperanto has the vibe of a mall food court eatery that was picked up in the middle of the night (probably around 2 a.m.) and then plopped amid the row of bars lining Caroline Street. What you get out of your experience at Esperanto is all about the expectations you have going in. If you don't expect the atmosphere to woo you, you won't be at all put-off by the harsh lighting and the anything-but-cozy seating area. If you treat the locale as what it is - a whole in the wall - it will not disappoint; it might actually please.

The service is fast - that's one thing in Esperanto's favor. A good portion of the menu is already prepared and sits underneath hot lights at the register waiting for hungry patrons to stumble in to the storefront. Be forewarned that the food here necessitates a beverage. Chowing down at Esperanto sort of makes you feel like you've been deposited on a desert island. Luckily, pretty much every soda under the sun is available. If you have a hankering for something fruity, the MASH ripe mango and blood orange will quench your thirst. Packaged in an adorable squat bottle, it is a carbonated fruit drink that dances on the orange soda end of the spectrum with a sparkle of mango.

Esperanto also gets points for its eclectic menu. What other place has the nerve to lump food from Greece, Mexico, Thailand, the Middle East, and the garden on its menu? Plus, they have pizza and a slew of house specialties that, apparently, have no place on the map. At least, the street food of all of these countries (or areas of the world or of the yard) is represented, if not represented well.

Esperanto's falafel, for instance, is not the best fried concoction ever to grace the earth. Yes, falafel is usually deep fried, but it should never be fried so much that a scuba unit is needed to retrieve it. The fried matter encrusting the chickpea and veggie patty had the mouth feel of a rough cut gem. Strike two against the falafel: there was enough grease still on the patties that "grease" should have been included in the blurb about the menu item. Thank goodness for the soft pocket of pita enveloping the falafel; the pita cushioned the falafel's fall in more way than one. Nice too was the cucumber cool as can be.

The pinkish cubes of diced tomato were an unwelcome reminder of the fact that wintertime produce is not spectacular and although their inclusion was certainly well-meant, unfortunately, when it comes to food, it isn't only the thought that counts. The only function the hummus performed well was to serve as a filler. It slacked on its duty to add pep to the sandwich. The tahini sauce served on the side was too

meek to contribute any extra flavor, although it did add another textural layer to the experience of eating the sandwich this one silky, smooth, and wet.

Very similar to the falafel is the gyro but instead of greasy, forgotten in the frier falafel, there was cafeteria style meat stuffed inside a pita. Don't order it. If you do, you will not be inspired to dream about food consumed between exploring various ancient Grecian remains under sunny blue sky. Rather, the grilled strips of lamb and beef "seasoned with a distinctive blend of Greek herbs and spices" will bring you back to the days of eating the hot lunch option at school and memories of sitting on hard benches without backs, next to people you don't really like but are stuck eating lunch with every single day nevertheless. I think the meat was supposed to be aromatic but the spices end up creating an off taste that was also too salty.

Both of these sandwiches (which are both fairly hulking, by the way) come with a pile of tortilla chips - a good thing since Esperanto has a gold mine of salsas that are worth sampling. Best was a simple medley comprised mostly of chopped tomato and onion. It had a little bit of a bite to it and an unmistakable air of freshness.

Speaking of mexican fare, Esperanto has a nice take on the chimichanga. It's not your typical chimichanga since the the tortilla shell is baked not fried, thus making it a lighter, less artery clogging snack. The flavors of the lil' food package are not too heavy either. More than anything, the BBQ beef filling the chimichanga is sweet in a dainty sort of way. And the chipotle-spiced potatoes are as light as Cirrus clouds. These wispy elements combine to produce a solidly pleasant food stuff that is not at all obstructed by the outer wrapping of dough that is so thin it can hardly be tasted.

There is a difference between foods that have a pleasingly mild taste (the chimichanga) and foods that have no taste at all (the pizza). Esperanto is known for its pizza; it is also known for catering to a late night, inebriated clientele. Hence, the former known fact makes sense. It is the kind of pizza that, since it doesn't taste outright bad, can be ingested in large quantities and, since it doesn't taste that spectacularly good, merits no cause for slowing down and appreciating it. The tomato sauce is slathered so sparingly you'd think it was a prized possession that they didn't want to part with (it isn't that great for this to be true). Further disappointing is that the cheese lends scant flavor to the slab of underlying dough that is blander and flatter than the state of Nebraska.

The twice baked potato proved to be a much improved selection. Once you get past the congealed top layer (which most likely - and understandably - formed once it sat under the warming lights for a few minutes) the potato that has been mashed and then returned to its skin was actually quite wonderful. Made with sour cream and butter, it was rich and bursting with cheesy savor. I was reminded of eating Cheese-It crackers but in a more mellow form. It's the best way yet to get that irresistible Cheese-It

flavor without any of the pain of having spiky cracker crumbs scraping your gums. It just kept getting better: eating the skin was the best part of all. The natural, earthy quality of the potato's skin counterbalanced the inorganic merger of butter, potato, and sour cream.

The best thing about Esperanto is definitely the doughboy. This legendary comestible combines dough, chicken, and cheese in a way that has never been done before and for only \$3.50, you can buy it in all its glory. Soft, chewy pizza dough is wrapped around a mixture of diced chicken, sour cream, chives, and cheeses of the cheddar and Colby varieties which oozes like lava from its casing when bitten into. While usually consumed while intoxicated, I can assure you that the doughboy is still intensely gratifying while sober. Its seductiveness lies in its ability to satisfy that basic craving for rich, salty, creamy food and, oh, does it do that job well.

To read more of Tegan O'Neill's outings visit her <http://tegan-and-sarah.blogspot.com/2012/03/esperanto.html> target="_blank">blog.

#1.2815340:1196239939.jpg:esperanto

This week's column reviews a staple of the Skidmore late night.

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News

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Esperanto sits at 6 1/2 Caroline St.

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News

#1.2815353:2295667353.jpg:heat lamps

Most of Esperanto's food is ready upon order, enticing customers as they approach the counter.

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News

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Esperanto's Falafel is paired with cucumber, tomato, hummus and tahini.

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News











Letter: Dialogue and Decision Making - Finding a Middle Ground

By Warren Bianchi
On Thu, Mar 8, 2012

Dear Editor,

The issue of dialogue and its relation to policy is one that I am hesitant to approach. The evils of oppression, marginalization and discrimination, I confess, have not been as pressing in my life as in the lives of some members of the Skidmore community. Therefore, I will not take it as my task here to critique the *value* of dialogue *per se*, but only to offer some suggestions regarding its *functional value* vis-à-vis the culture of debate, policy making and legislation at Skidmore.

Let's begin by looking at Mr. James' critique of dialogue culture, or what he calls quite aptly, "hard multiculturalism." The danger, it seems, is that by granting each perspective equal validity and equal *worth*, we fail to make meaningful commitments to any values as a *community*. This is the relativism of which Mr. James warns us. By granting every perspective equal worth, in other words, we run the risk of undermining each perspective's claim to *truth*; it is simply a perspectival truth - an equally valid way of seeing things. Justice, which needs a concrete normative basis, is thus forsaken in the name of openness - *tolerance*.

I'm not sure, however, if this accurately captures the proper function of dialogue, nor the results thereof. It is simply not the case that, through a variety of disparate narratives, we succeed only in cultivating a moral stalemate. It is not necessary to employ logic or reason to be persuasive or to move toward an enlightened (or more enlightened) community sentiment. The function of dialogue can be understood, in my opinion, to be a forum in which an intersubjective understanding of intricate and often abstract phenomena can be cultivated through abandoning the emphasis on pragmatic ramifications, logical reasoning and power relations characteristic of *debate* culture.

In this sense, it is a gross generalization to dismiss dialogues as feel-good, relativist soapbox events. Rather, dialogue is a technique of broadening community understanding that includes factors often overlooked in the regular political process - namely, experience and appeals to emotions that do not fit neatly into the rational rubric of debate. But perhaps this is precisely where Mr. James' argument holds value. Is it fair to equate the non-binding process of dialogue to the concrete ramifications of political debate and policy implementation? Is it appropriate, in other words, to present dialogue as a place to "make the change we want to see," as SGA has done? Perhaps we should not be critiquing the value of

either dialogue or political debate. This may result, as I fear it has, in a polarization of the issue into a camp of *dialoguers* versus a camp of *debaters*. As each side becomes more entrenched and defensive, it will be harder to make any significant progress.

Instead, we perhaps ought to re-evaluate the understanding of dialogue's *function* with regards to debate, and vice versa. Instead of conflating the two - community awareness broadening and political decision-making - we should appreciate the value of these two techniques as dyadic elements of governance at Skidmore. The value of dialogue I have discussed above, and as for debate, well, we need a pragmatic process that produces rules and regulations in order to see to the realization of community sentiment. In this sense, it is not that we need more *debate* instead of dialogue, but rather that we need to discern the appropriate scope of each. Debate can't be neutral in the way dialogue can, but it *can be informed* by open, tolerant discussion that fosters a community approach to what *action* should look like arising from dialogue.

In this sense, dialogue has value in its neutrality, in its openness to the realities of experience and narratives. Debate is valuable insofar as it is the concrete decision-making process that the understandings cultivated through dialogue *ought* to inform if Skidmore's government institutions are, in fact, democratic. But how can we ensure this link? How can dialogue be inextricably bound to its educative function for decision-making?

A solution could come in the form of an open, tolerant public sphere that informs a neutral political culture or political process (to borrow these ideas from Jürgen Habermas, political philosopher and social theorist). In this sense, the revival of the debate culture that Mr. James calls for in his article "Friendly Fire: Live and Let Dialogue Part II" could be subsumed by this tolerant arena for public discourse. The format of this type of debate need not be the end-all of decision-making. But it does have an undeniable place in any pluralist public sphere. Mr. James is right, after all, to point out that even critical views must be included in any truly open and tolerant society. Our representatives in SGA or other embodiments of the 'neutral political culture' must, then, do their best to align *what works* with the public sentiment cultivated in an atmosphere of dialogical narrative expositions and debate. Surely, there is debate at the level of SGA or any legitimate decision-making body, but it need not be framed in terms of competing ideologies. Their debate should be over how to most effectively represent community sentiments and reconcile interests with an eye to pragmatic efficiency. In this sense, the SGA's involvement with dialogue is a good thing, and the members have been doing a great job with hosting and attending them! So long as they don't expect concrete, binding conclusions from them, but rather a basis on which truly democratic conclusions can be reached -that is, conclusions that reflect the *trust* a true democracy has in its citizenry (its *demos*) in determining to what end government *ought* to strive.



The final piece of this puzzle, as I see it, is *participation*. The one thing that Mr. James' critics cannot deny him is his dutiful commitment to our community. If we want the governmental bodies at Skidmore to be informed of our wishes and various interests, we must get out there and make them *heard*. In the final analysis, it is indeed a matter of speaking out and taking action - a quality that appears scarce on this campus of late. This is where Mr. James and SGA can agree. We need to break the silence, both with narratives and criticism, but we also need to ascertain the scope and functions of dialogue, debate and our political institutions.

Warren Bianchi

Class of 2012



Editorial: Variations on themed housing

To expand our space to apply our learning, expand our options for housing

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Mar 9, 2012

Campus life at Skidmore could benefit from themed housing. If students had the option to live with others who share their academic or creative passions they could whet the skills they learn in the classroom.

Skidmore currently has very little to offer when it comes to themed housing. As underclassmen, students who desire to live in themed housing are currently limited to gender neutral or single gender options.

The themed housing options in the on-campus apartments are equally limited. Scribner Village - while it still stands - offers only two themed housing options: Outing Club and International. As the aging Scribner apartments are razed and replaced with the slope apartments and eventually the new Scribner village, we have the occasion to think about ways of improving campus life through housing.

Having themed housing would provide students with an outlet for their academic passions. Living with people who share some overlapping interest would facilitate discussion outside of the classroom. In college, a very small portion of the week is actually spent in class. Themed housing can inspire the lovers of learning who are students of liberal arts.

For those who study foreign languages, the opportunity to practice the language in a house of others with a range of linguistic proficiency would be invaluable.

While language classes provide students with an introduction to literature of cultural significance or a base in grammatical structures, it is just that, a base. Learning a language must happen outside of the classroom. It cannot be restricted to the few hours of the week that are spending in class. Though the language clubs are a useful resource to those who are passionate about learning a foreign language, they are only a finite supplement. Extra effort must be spent to master idiomatic expressions, usage, humor and cultural norms.

Any student who demonstrates an interest in a foreign language should be eligible. Students in language houses do not necessarily need to be foreign language majors. Although 59 percent of Skidmore's students spend at least one semester studying abroad, 41 percent of students spend their entire college



tenure on campus. Because of the particular course requirements and prerequisites for some majors, it can be difficult to study abroad and graduate in four years. Living in a language house can offer an alternative to the linguistic and cultural immersion one would experience while abroad.

Providing the option of language themed housing with native speakers would not have to be either difficult or expensive. Skidmore already invites and provides housing for native speakers to act as language assistants and resources.

While the facilitation of language learning is the most obvious benefit of themed housing, we certainly do not need to limit ourselves. Academic or certain extracurricular themes would also be appropriate and inspire creative collaboration.

An environmentally conscious house could serve as a prototype for new campus initiatives and policies that aim to conserve resources and reduce costs and environmental impact. As an incentive to conserve, students in such a house could agree to pay their own utilities bills. Students could save money for the school and for themselves by reducing their consumption.

The liberal arts should facilitate a constant desire for learning. As an institution of liberal arts, we should keep this in mind for every aspect of campus life, housing included.

#1.2817907:3988508774.jpg:JTOWER

image courtesy of Craige Moore



Doug Pilawa heads to the NCAA Division III Diving Championship

Pilawa '12 will be Skidmore's first male diver to participate in the Championship

By Andrew Shi, Sports Editor

On Fri, Mar 9, 2012

Doug Pilawa '12 will be Skidmore's first male diver to compete in the NCAA Division III Championship when he dives into the pool at Indiana University on March 21. "It was always my goal to go to nationals," said Pilawa on the dream he formulated four years ago during his freshman year.

It was his freshman year in high school, however, when Pilawa first began diving at Notre Dame Cathedral Latin in Chardon, Ohio. "I began diving on a whim, just as something I might like," Pilawa said. That whim grew into a lifestyle as Pilawa left high school for Skidmore as a three-time district qualifier for diving.

Entering college competition, Pilawa was already proficient in the one-meter, which means diving from a board one meter from the surface of the pool. He realized, though, that whereas high school only demands diving from the one-meter, college requires proficiency in the 1, and 3-meter. "I came into my first year with a good set of dives for the 1-meter but had to spend much more time on the 3 meter," Pilawa said.

The set of dives to which Pilawa refers are variations of the five categories of diving: front, back, inward, reverse and twisting. "Twisting is the hardest to learn and there are different degrees of difficulty to twisting. I spent a lot of time working on my twisting, though and it paid off," Pilawa said. He now considers twisting his strongest category of diving. However he believes the reverse, which requires intricate flips in mid-air, is his weakest.

"I might spend a little more time on my dives that I think need work, but I generally practice two to three times for each dive of the eleven," Pilawa said. Whereas in normal college competitions, including the UNYSCSA Championships, each diver performs six dives, in the NCAA Championships, divers are required to perform eleven. "I'll spend about two and half hours each day in the pool practicing," Pilawa said. That's two and a half hours running through 66 dives.

Pilawa says that diving has defined him. During the fall, when the diving season hadn't yet fully kicked off, Pilawa was the assistant coach for the Saratoga Springs' women's swimming and diving team. After college, Pilawa hopes to continue coaching. "I really enjoy being in the pool; it's a fantastic environment

and the diving community is just fantastic," Pilawa said. "It's scary to think that this will be my last competition."

However, Pilawa says that the pressure is off for this last competition, since he has finally reached his goal of attending nationals. "During the UNYSCSA Championships there was a lot of pressure, and it was very stressful. I felt I had to prove myself, but now I'm just looking to have fun," Pilawa said.

Pilawa is entering the NCAA Championship as the fourth ranked diver in the nation. Over the past season he has been the Liberty League diver of the week four times, and Liberty League co-diver of the week five times. He has gone undefeated during the season, going 16-0, and broken the Skidmore, UNYSCSA meet and association records for the 3-meter with a hefty score of 574.05 points.

"I do want to make All-American, which requires me placing at least No.16 (out of 22) in the competition," said Pilawa, already reaching for a new goal. " But I'm just honored to be the first male from the diving team, and getting Skidmore's diving program on the map."

Despite having spent the last eight years of his life competitively diving, Pilawa says he's ready for a break. "I'm going to take a nice vacation from diving - it's so mental, and incurs so much mental and emotional fatigue."

Pilawa plans on moving to Paris next year, where he spent his junior year studying French - one of his two majors, the other being English. "Afterwards I hope to attend graduate school for English, and one day become a professor," Pilawa said. That day is still a long way off, however, and for now, Pilawa just has his mind on the Championship.

The NCAA Division III Championship meet will be held March 21-24 at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

#1.2815541:3152437933.jpg: Doug Pilawa 3/9/12

Doug Pilawa '12 will compete in the NCAA Division III Diving Championship coming off a record-breaking performance at the UNYSCSA Championships

Skidmore Athletics



Soapbox: Reactions to Quran burning in Afghanistan

Ending the West's culturally relativist exception to Muslim extremism

By Eric Shapiro, Columnist

On Sun, Mar 11, 2012

***Editor's Note:** This piece was written before the shooting outside of Camp Belambay on March 10, 2012, it is not intended as an indictment of all or the majority of Muslims.*

If the West should remain culturally sensitive in its endeavors abroad, it needs to stop tolerating the barbaric reactions of a minority of Muslims to slights against Islam. We should not make a culturally relativist exception for extremist Muslims to murder in the name of their religion.

The burning of Qurans at U.S. military base in Afghanistan was a terrible mistake that merited President Barack Obama's letter of apology to President Hamid Karzai. The Quran, like most other religious texts, must be disposed of in a particular manner as prescribed by religious law.

The failure of U.S. military personnel to recognize this was insensitive and counterproductive to America's stated goal of fostering stability in Afghanistan. Such mistakes undermine our credibility and deserve to be condemned without reservation. Whoever was responsible for the blunder deserves to be punished accordingly. The U.S. would be well served to provide its soldiers with the military equivalent of "sensitivity training" to prevent similar instances in the future. However, none of this excuses the disproportionate and, frankly, childish reaction of some Muslims to what was clearly an accident.

That being said, the actions of some Afghan citizens in response to the Quran burning is far more appalling than the incident that inspired them. This should not be considered a controversial statement; there is simply no non-theological way to justify murder on the grounds of book burning. If this were the case, the entire world would fall into chaos. It is one thing to accept the sanctity of a holy text; it is quite another to accept the notion that those offended by an act of desecration have the right to exact a blood toll.

The fact that a book burning is held by a significant number of Afghans as cause for massive protests, much less murder, speaks to a serious lack of priorities in that country and much of the Muslim world. In light of the horrific acts of violence inflicted on Muslim Arabs every day (some of them perpetrated by the "Christian" U.S., many more by other Muslims), the capacity of a book burning to provoke such a violent reaction speaks to a serious confusion of priorities in the Middle East.

Unsurprisingly, many progressives have justifiably condemned the Quran burning while unjustifiably sparing Afghans criticism for their barbaric response. Cultural relativism should never be construed to justify murder. It is long past time that we stop indulging the Muslim world's widespread extremism out of some misguided attempt to feel less guilty about imperialism.

Adherence to an antiquated version of Islam (just like strict adherence to any religion) is a big, if not the biggest, problem in the Middle East right now, and the West does not do Arab Muslims any service by catering to their fanaticism. For years, the West has tacitly accepted violent reprisals by Muslims in response to all manner of slights both real and imagined. The West acts as if years of oppression somehow absolve all Muslims of responsibility for the crimes perpetrated in the name of their faith.

These same progressives defend Muslims' penchant for violent reprisals by posing the question: would members of any religion respond differently to the debasement of their religious texts in a similar manner? Indeed, no one who has seriously studied Judaism, Christianity or any Eastern religion can seriously claim that violence and intolerance are unique to Islam. That being said, in recent years, a sizeable minority of Muslims have demonstrated a disturbing unwillingness to tolerate the inevitable criticism and disrespect that comes with being a major world religion. Worse, moderate Muslims have not adequately condemned the extremists perpetrating violence in the name of their religion - perhaps out of fear for their own safety or perhaps out of a misguided attempt to safeguard Islam's reputation. In many cases, mainstream Islamic authorities have tacitly accepted fatwas on individuals with the audacity to, for example, draw a picture of the prophet Muhammad.

For all their bellicose rhetoric about waging a religious war against Islam, it is not common for evangelical Christians (or Jews, or Hindus, or Buddhists...) in the West to go on killing sprees when Muslims disrespect their holy texts. Hamas and Hezbollah launch rockets at Israeli cities with the express purpose of killing Jews, who they consider the equivalent of pigs and dogs, and Israel is condemned for a "disproportionate response." But burn one Quran, or display one picture of Mohammad, and we tacitly accept that extremist Muslims will take to the streets in protest, issue Fatwas against journalists, and decapitate film directors in the street. Worse, it is politically incorrect to point out that this kind of reaction is incompatible with contemporary Western values. Comparatively little sympathy is spared for the countless Christians and Jews with the audacity to practice their religion in so-called "Muslim countries."

This is not to say that it is wrong to be offended when the Quran is disrespected, particularly when the events of the past 10 years have given Arab Muslims ample reason to be suspicious of Western intentions. Nevertheless, Arab Muslims deserve to be held to the same standards of conduct as members of every other religion; in the long run, indulging bad behavior on the grounds of cultural relativism will only leave the Arab world mired in a state of ignorance and superstition. Instead of

sympathizing with fanatics who kill people and destroy property over burned books, we should promote those Muslims - and there are many of them - who practice a more modern, secular and peaceful form of Islam.

Unfortunately, this silent majority of sane Muslims is systematically marginalized by theocrats who think every state in the Middle East should instate Sharia law. I am not referring to extremist boogymen like al-Qaeda and the Taliban - who, incidentally, enjoyed considerable support in the Arab world until they started blowing up Muslims along with everyone else - but rather to the considerable number of modern, secular people who only support free speech as long as it "respects" Islam. Reprisals like the one currently playing out in Afghanistan will only fan the flames of anti-Islamic sentiment around the world. True tolerance cannot be one-sided, nor can it be inculcated through fear. The sooner Muslims everywhere realize that they are the ones with the most to lose when extremists perpetrate violence in the name of their religion, the sooner they will receive the respect they deserve.

#1.2816832:3272759747.jpg:Afghanistan Koran

Afghanis protest outside of a NATO base after U.S. troops burned the Quran

image courtesy of marsmet521





Communications sends out a new survey on redesigning the College website

Further revisions will be made to the designs based on the results of this survey

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Sat, Mar 17, 2012

On March 5, the redesign committee, comprised of members of Communications, the Student Government Association, and non-member students, discussed three new designs for the Skidmore website that had been developed based off of feedback obtained from students and faculty. The committee will show these designs to students through a [survey](https://atrial.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_d52ZGZpufKuZ4Rm) on Sunday, March 18, in which they may provide further comments regarding their preferences.

Among the major changes from the previous designs, the committee cut down the amount of text, simplifying the overall design. The main feature of the home page will be a large slideshow of photos displaying creative endeavors by students and faculty, and is featured in all three designs.

"We are interested in how to make this as easy as possible for students to navigate," Executive Director of Communications Dan Forbush said. "We would always want to be telling somebody's creative story. There would always be a creative aspect to the featured photo."

The main differences among the designs, which can be founded in the survey, include the navigation menus, the color schemes, and the layouts. Designs [A](http://www.skidmore.edu/redesign/home6/) and [B](http://www.skidmore.edu/redesign/home5/) have the navigation bar, which will host quick links to popular sections of the website, possibly including Blackboard, the Master Schedule, and the Skidmore Shop, located at the top of the screen. The navigation menu for Design [C](http://www.skidmore.edu/redesign/home4/), on the other hand, is on the left-hand side of the screen.

The main color for Design A is the traditional Skidmore green, while Design B has an all-white background, which members of the committee, including Keith Kallas '12, head of the student-run Photo Club, and Raiza Nazareth '12, Vice President of the SGA, said they did not find as warm and inviting as the other designs. Design C also uses green as its main color, but includes a lighter shade for the text color as well.



Members of the committee overall preferred the color scheme of Design A, but liked the simplicity and layout of Design B, which hosts a much cleaner format than the other two designs. Students will have a chance to comment on their own preferences through the survey, which will be released on Sunday.

Among the issues the committee discussed was the importance of emphasizing the creativity of student activities through the design of the website. One of the ways in which they hope to accomplish this is through the photos on the main page, which they hope will change every day. Kallas said he liked featuring current student activities as main photos, possibly including photos taken by students for the annual Creative Thought Matters photo contest.

On this subject, the committee also discussed making changes to the CTM photo gallery in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, which currently feature photos of now-alumna taken by Emma Dodge Hanson '93. They also discussed the possibility of extending the gallery to other places around campus with blank walls, as well as including a section for it in the new website design.

"I think it needs to say something about the Skidmore experience," Forbush said.

Daniella Nordin, the College's online community manager, also announced the development of a new social media course in conjunction with the Career Development Center, which will instruct students in web marketing and basic website skills. The course, which has approximately 20 available seats, will begin on March 26, will consist of four sessions, and is open to all students.

To further discuss the website designs, two focus groups met over the Spring Break, one comprised of faculty members, which met on March 13, and one of students, which will meet on March 20 from 9:30 to 10:30 and again from 4 to 5 p.m. in conference rooms 1 and 2 in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall. Students may attend either one. The redesign committee will meet again in three weeks to analyze the results of the survey.

More detailed information about the new website designs can be found [here](http://cms.skidmore.edu/portfolios/portfolio.cfm?catID=955).

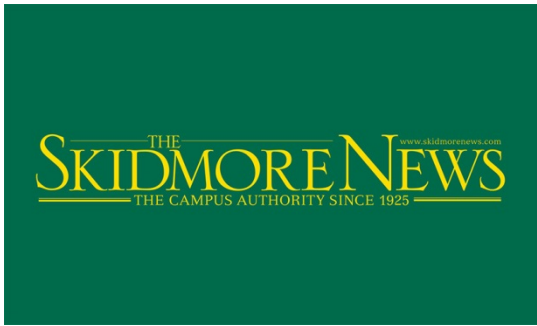
#1.2821161:2441814440.png:Design A Photo

Design A

Courtesy of Communications

#1.2821162:3429331108.png:Design B Photo

Design B

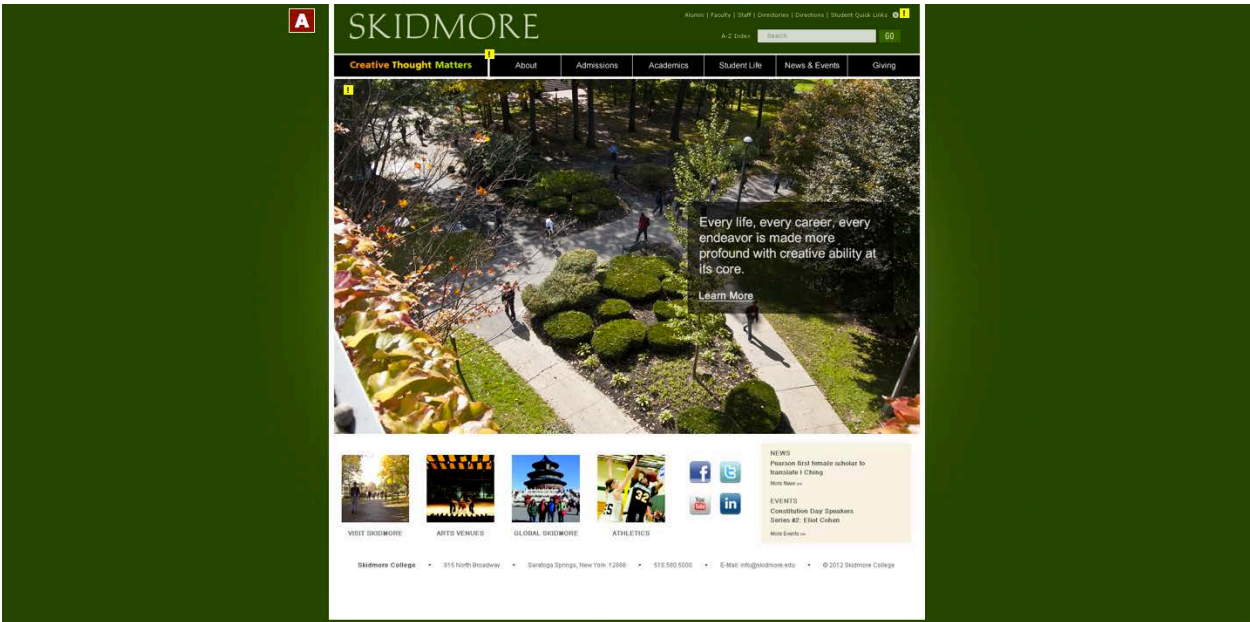


Courtesy of Communications

#1.2821163:1992808838.png:Design C Photo

Design C

Courtesy of Communications





B

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AT ZANKEL:
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The Greek economic crisis: a conflict that hits close to home

By Stefan Cocorelis, Contributing Writer

On Sat, Mar 17, 2012

My house back home is on the outskirts of Athens, just in front of the mountain Penteli where the marbles for the Acropolis were mined. These days, when I fly back home, I sometimes hike up the mountainside, but I no longer visit the surrounding area in which I grew up. This is in part because I want to preserve my memories of how it once was, and partly because I don't want to accept the fact that it has forever been changed.

When I first arrived at Skidmore, things back home were relatively fine, and I still had this boyhood excitement and energy about me. Sure, I was fully aware of the corruption, lack of organization and general array of problems, but like most Greeks, I wasn't concerned because, in truth, I personally was doing fine.

Even before the economic crisis began, virtually every Greek knew that the government was corrupt; people took bribes all the while knowing that the things worked was very ineffective. However, no one ever did anything about it, simply because they were never really affected by it personally. So when the crisis started to unfold in 2008, no one was really concerned because, they continued to think in this hyper-individualistic way. It wasn't until catastrophe struck in 2010 that people actually started to feel unease.

When the crisis hit in 2010, my country's unscrupulous financial practices were finally revealed. You see, up until that time, Greeks in general worked primarily under a system based on corruption, something that was largely fueled by the government. This system of corruption, as well as bribery, was something that really became a part of modern Greek society. It became so common that one could not even get a driver's license without having to "slip someone an envelope".

Eventually this method of cutting corners, both on national and international levels, resulted in a giant bubble effect, in which the majority kept finding ways in which to both obtain and retain as much money as possible, with no one caring about any repercussions.

When the wave of the 2008 recession hit, it unearthed this massive amount of debt that had been hidden away for so long. The rest of the story, as some may already know, was that the government started to implement severe austerity measures in order to somehow keep the country afloat. This led to significant job losses and laid the burden of recovery strictly on the people, subsequently creating a

massive nationwide movement of people who have come to be known as “αγανακτισμενοι” or “frustrated”, peacefully protesting against these measures as their last resort.

All in all, it’s a very weird feeling seeing your country slowly fall and break apart from afar. You can never really prepare for something like that. It is difficult to explain, for in order to really understand it, one must experience it as well. If I could sum it up in one word, it would have to be just plain weird. The best reason I can think to explain that ambiguity is that I am here while everything over there is collapsing. The feeling of shock, sadness and utter disbelief at what is happening dramatically increases when you are watching it unfold in its entirety, from your laptop in your bedroom, almost 5,000 miles away.

I may complain about my countrymen, how they annoy and frustrate me, but deep down my Greek identity is a huge part of who I am. I guess the closest analogy I can think of to better explain my view of my country is the character of Jesse Pinkman from the TV series, “Breaking Bad.” Jesse is a type of character who is not in his heart a bad guy, though bad things always seem to happen around him. You just can’t help but feel heartbroken because you know that, if under any different circumstance, he could have so much potential.

Greece is like that to me. We as a people have the potential to do great things, and it has been proven that throughout our illustrious history that in brief periods, we have - but for whatever reason we often come up short, and that’s what really breaks my heart. Ultimately, I hope that somehow, after this mess, we can finally find a way to be the great people I know we can be. But this requires true honesty and realism, things that seem to be diminishing more and more.

#1.2821669:3090973101.JPG:greece

Overlooking Athens, Greece from the Acropolis.

Sarah Barry ‘12/The Skidmore News



Campus Safety Incident Reports: March 1 to 14

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012

Campus Safety incident reports from the week of March 1.

Thursday, March 1

College Violation: Several students reported at 12:06 a.m. engaging in a snowball fight and being very disruptive outside of Wiecking Hall. Officers requested subjects take activities elsewhere. Group complied without incident.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transport at 9:45 a.m. from Jonsson Tower as he is on crutches. Officer assisted subject and provided transport.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests an officer at 10:38 a.m. to accompany her to do welfare check on a student in Wait Hall. Officer and staff report subject is safe and will contact parent. Report issued.

Accident: Student reports at 2:10 p.m. that while attempted to park her vehicle in Cane Crossing she hit another vehicle parked in the parking lot. Minor damage occurred to the reporting person's vehicle. No damage to other vehicle. Report issued.

Alarm: Security alarm for Health Services front door received at 6:43 p.m. Dispatched officer reports area secure. Last person leaving may have set off the alarm. Report issued.

Emergency Phone: Emergency phone activation received at 8:30 p.m. for the weight room in the Williamson Sports Center. Officer dispatched reports no one in the area. Attendant states it was possibly a false activation.

Suspicious Odor: Suspicious odor reported at 11:18 p.m. on the sixth floor of Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officers report odor dissipated.

College Violation: Report given at 11:18 p.m. of a possible party on the fifth floor of Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officers report no disturbance detected. Unfound call.

Friday, March 2

Liquor Law Violation: Loud people and possible party reported at 12:59 a.m. in McClellan Hall. Officer dispatched observed alcohol violation. Report issued.

College Violation: Loud noise reported at 1:56 a.m. on the second floor lounge of McClellan Hall. Subjects complied with the request to lower volume.

Drug Law Violation: Suspicious odor reported at 12:08 a.m. in Penfield Hall. Officer located the source of the odor and observed drug law violation. Report issued.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 12:31 a.m. from a television in Howe Hall. Officers dispatched report no noise detected. Additional complaint received at 1:03 a.m. Subjects in room requested to lower volume. Residents complied.

Intoxicated Subject: Intoxicated female reported at 12:50 a.m. in the lobby of Kimball Hall. Officer dispatched reports that the subject was gone on arrival. Officer checked entire interior and exterior of the building with negative results.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transport at 1:09 a.m. from Macruary apartments to the Emergency Room for medical assistance for an ankle injury. Officer dispatched reports injured party declined medical assistance and was transported to his residence. Accident report completed for injury. Reporting person later requested transport to the Emergency Room at 1:35 a.m. to the Emergency Room. Transport completed.

College Violation: Noise complaint reported at 1:35 a.m. at Whitman Way. Officers dispatched report loud bass. Subjects complied with request to lower volume.

Campus Safety Assist: A man reported at 5:17 p.m. on the loading dock roof of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall. Officers dispatched report no subject located or footprints in fresh snow. Call unfounded.

Sunday, March 4

Campus Safety Assist: Excessive number of people reported at 12:03 a.m. at a residence in Maple Apartment. Reporting person requests officers assist him in dispersing the large gathering. Officers responded and dispersed the large group.

Intoxicated Subject: Reporting person requests assistance at 12:40 a.m. at Falstaff's event. Officer dispatched. Responding officer requests Emergency Medical Services assistance for intoxicated female. Service dispatched. Subject transported to the Emergency Room. Report issued.

Criminal Mischief: Criminal mischief reported at 1:20 a.m. to the emergency door at the end of the second floor hall of McClellan Hall. Maintenance dispatched reports the door knob was intentionally broken and the door will not open or close properly. Supervisor on Call was contacted for a carpenter. Door to be repaired. Unknown perpetrators.

Campus Safety Assist: Report given at 1:27 a.m. of an authorized party that has exceeded time regulation. Officers dispatched large group.

Complaints: Two female subjects reported a rude cab driver at 1:43 a.m. Subjects were intoxicated and could not provide any further information regarding the company or driver name.

Drug Law Violation/Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activated at 2:16 a.m. at Cane Crossing. Officers dispatched. Activation due to student smoking marijuana in residence bedroom. Report issued.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 3:50 a.m. in the common area of the ninth floor of Jonsson Tower. Officers dispatched dispersed the disruptive group.

Suspicious Activity: Reporting person requests assistance at 5:05 a.m. as an unknown male is attempting to gain access to her room in Kimball Hall. Officers dispatched located the subject and identified him. Subject was intoxicated and confused as to his room location. Subject escorted to his room. No further problems to report.

Criminal Mischief: Reporting person says at 4:45 a.m. that while on patrol he observed the landline phone receiver in the lobby on the ninth floor of Jonsson Tower had been torn from the base. Unknown perpetrator or witnesses. Report issued.

Burglary: At 4:34 p.m., students report a burglary at their Fain C apartment. Officer dispatched. Investigation pending. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Officer reports at 9:28 p.m. finding a vehicle parked behind 4 Cane apartment. Officer advised subject that parking in this area is not permitted. Report issued.

Monday, March 5

Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 5:43 a.m. for 4 Cane Crossing. Officers and maintenance dispatched. No fire. Source of activation was due to a humidifier.

College Violation: Reporting person requests an officer at 12:01 p.m. to pick up items found in apartments while conducting fire inspections. Dispatched officer. Report issued.



Suspicious Odor: Suspicious odor, identified tentatively by the reporting person as marijuana, was detected at 10:14 p.m. in Penfield Hall. Dispatched officer who checked the area could not locate any odor.

[Suspicious Activity](http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/non-student-assaults-saratoga-springs-officers-in-scribner-village-1.2810755#.T1k9WHaQdbw): Officers report at 11:47 p.m. that they are out with a vehicle in Scribner Village and request police on the scene as officers observed drugs in the vehicle. By 11:59 p.m., the Saratoga Springs Police Department have two subjects in custody and the vehicle will be towed from its location by Matts Towing.

Tuesday, March 6

Loud music reported at 1:07 a.m. at Cane Crossing. Officers dispatched requested the volume be turned down. Resident complied without incident.

Larceny: Reporting person called at 2:48 p.m. requesting an officer to take a report at Case Center as someone has taken \$12 from a locker. Dispatched officer. Report issued.

Criminal Mischief: Graffiti reported at 4:10 p.m. graffiti on the washers and dryers in the laundry room in Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officer interviewed the reporting person and took photos of the graffiti.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 11:47 p.m. at 11 Cane Crossing. Dispatched officers reported that the resident turned down stereo. Officers cleared.

Wednesday, March 7

College Violation: An ongoing problem with excessive noise reported at 12:27 a.m. from a room in Wiecking Hall. Officers dispatched report the residents complied with the request to lower the volume.

Suspicious Odor: Person reports an odor at 12:48 p.m. of what appears to be marijuana coming from a room on the sixth floor of Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests transportation at 2:27 p.m. from her Dogwood Apartment to Health Services as she is too dizzy to make it on her own. Officer dispatched completed the transport.

Thursday, March 8

Parking: Officer reports at 9:50 a.m. booting vehicles in Tang Lot parked in violation of their parking restrictions and who have acquired an excessive number of tickets in this academic year.

Larceny: Person reports at 10:4 a.m. that some of his tools were stolen at the construction area in the Scribner Library. Campus Safety report issued. Investigation initiated. No known perpetrators at this time.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests a record check at 12:47 p.m. on a student who graduated in 2007 for employment purposes. Check completed. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Unauthorized subjects reported on the roof of the Tang Teaching Museum at 8:52 p.m. Officers requested they vacate the area. Subjects complied.

Friday, March 9

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 12:02 a.m. in Penfield Hall. Officer dispatched. Residents complied with the request to lower the volume.

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 12:24 a.m. at Dayton Drive. Officers dispatched. Officers requested that subjects lower the volume and residents complied.

College Violation: Excessive music volume reported at 1:05 p.m. in Penfield Hall. Officer dispatched reports the resident complied with the request to lower the volume.

Suspicious Odor: Suspicious odor reported at 9:07 p.m. on the third floor of Kimball Hall. Dispatched officer was unable to detect the odor. Call unfounded.

Suspicious Odor: A strong odor of marijuana reported at 11:16 p.m. in Howe Hall. Officers dispatched were unable to detect the odor. Call unfounded.

Saturday, March 10

College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 1:41 a.m. in Penfield Hall. Officers dispatched report that the residents agreed to lower the volume upon request.

Campus Safety Assist: Person reports at 8:27 a.m. being stuck between the first and second floor in the Case Center west elevator. Dispatched officers and maintenance to release the subject from the elevator. No injuries reported. Report issued.

College Violation: Officer observed at 11:55 a.m. a subject playing with a knife in the dining hall. Officer confiscated the knife as it is a college violation. Report issued.

Suspicious Activity: Anonymous male reports at 4 p.m. a tent set up in the North Woods Trail area. Dispatched officer reports that the tent is gone upon arrival and there is no sign of it or the owner. Report issued.

Drug Law Violation: Staff reports at 7:08 p.m. that while closing for Spring Break they observed a drug law violation and contraband in a Dogwood Apartment. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Person reports at 7:13 p.m. a college-aged male, possibly intoxicated, cutting through the Maple Avenue School athletic field and walking into the woods bordering the College property. Officer dispatched was unable to locate the subject. Report issued.

Sunday, March 11

College Violation: Officer reports at 5:16 p.m. skateboarders near the JKB Theater. Skateboarders were asked to vacate the area as they were causing a disturbance. All complied without incidence.

Trespass: An unauthorized dirt bike reported at 5:25 p.m. on the College walking trails. Officers dispatched were unable to locate the bike.

Monday, March 12

Suspicious Activity: Officer reports at 1:50 a.m. hearing yelling coming from the wooded area near North Woods. Dispatched officers searched the area with negative results. All officers cleared.

Campus Safety Assist: Person reports at 4:40 p.m. an unknown substance leaking from his vehicle in the Sasselin Art Building Lot. Officer assistance requested. Officer determined that the fluid as power steering fluid. No damage or hazard. Report issued.

Tuesday, March 13

Accident: Person reports at 12:15 a.m. sustaining a one-inch laceration to her right wrist on broken glass in Jonsson Tower. Officer controlled the bleeding and a fellow officer provided assistance. The wound was cleaned and bandaged. Accident report issued.

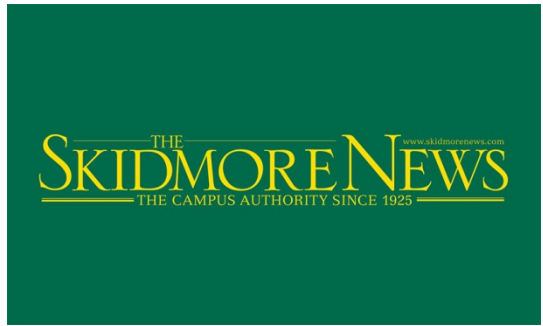
Propped Door: Person reports the front door of Penfield Hall propped open at 1:23 a.m. Officers secured the door.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person in the Campus Safety Office at 11:01 a.m. requests a background check on an employee. Director of Campus Safety Dennis Conway assisted the reporting person. Report issued.



Wednesday, March 14

Suspicious Activity: Reporting person called at 11:09 a.m. stating that there are two scruffy looking males who appear to be homeless pushing a green shopping cart from between Greenberg and the Williamson Sports Center. Dispatched officers interviewed the subjects, who stated that they were just passing through and left campus via the 3rd Street Bridge without incident.



Comic: Nihilism/Optimism

By Wyatt Erchak, Cartoonist

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012

Letter: Critiquing the Attack and Defense of Dialogue on Campus

By Danny Pforte

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012

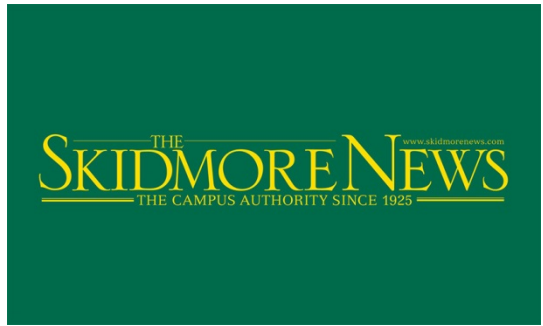
Dear Editor,

We defend against the attack on the dialogue process, which gives hope, community, and voice to oppressed individuals. We recognize that without programs like IGR, just talking about social justice becomes much more difficult. But my concern is the privileging of dialogue as the action we take to assert agency against oppression. Having to defend dialogue inhibits the ability to see beyond the approach, freezing discourse and agency in its current place.

Dialogue as a pedagogical approach serves many benefits, the best being its focus on expression and voice as the preferred method of learning. Issues of race, class, gender, and oppression become topics of reflection, allowing students to see their own reality differently and relate to that of others. Being a part of two dialogue classes, I have seen many people, including myself, develop their visions of the world and find confidence in their abilities to tackle difficult issues head on.

But dialogue is not perfect. In a dialectical social structure, in which contradictions and opposites characterize the social world, dialogue falls short of what is needed to truly empower oppressed communities. Dialogue courses do not teach the historical context that is critical to understanding how oppression works. Dialogue also does not allow for those who see some conflicts as unable to be dialogued to feel comfortable in forming oppositional political discourses. For some people living through the highest levels oppression, dialogue may not seem like an effective method. Potentially facing your enemy in the face without an already *established* community with you can be disempowering and discouraging. I believe it is for this reason many who are needed in the struggle against oppression reject dialogue due to a lack of interest.

Despite the benefits of dialogue, Skidmore College has not changed, and the broader societal context is becoming more oppressive everyday. We have to move beyond dialogue and towards community, organizing, and action. We must study the historical context of power structures (i.e. racism, capitalism, imperialism, hetero-patriarchy) and analyze what others have done to combat their destructive oppression. We must learn from constantly changing conditions and form politics and ideologies that will further the process of liberation for all.



For those interested in moving beyond dialogue, [The Liberation Chronicle](http://osdpworldnews.wordpress.com/) is meant to build solidarity with all struggling against oppression. Together we can work to make change.

-Danny Pforte

Class of 2013

Skidmore student group to host talk by reproductive rights pioneer

Bill Baird to speak about his experience as the subject of a Supreme Court case

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012

Guest speaker Bill Baird, acclaimed "Father of the Abortion Rights Movement" by the Associated Press and the United Press International, will give a lecture titled "Who Owns Your Body: Church? State? You! The Fight for Birth Control and Abortion" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in Gannett Auditorium. The College's Feminist Action Movement will sponsor the talk, which is free and open to the public.

A Brooklyn native, Baird graduated from Brooklyn College in 1955. He is the only non-lawyer with three U.S. Supreme Court victories. He has worked on the front lines of the reproductive rights movement for 50 years.

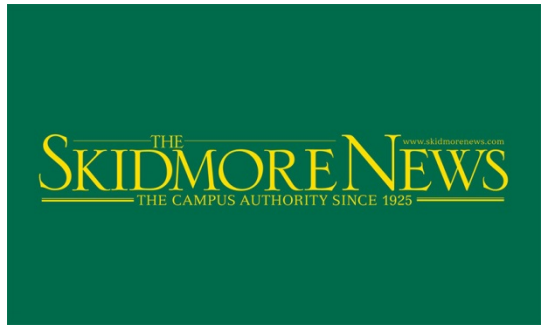
Baird will discuss the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court case *Eisenstadt v. Baird* that established the right of unmarried people to possess contraception. Baird was charged with a felony for distributing contraceptive foams after lecturing at Boston University. Massachusetts law at that time mandated that only doctors or pharmacists could distribute contraception, and then only to married people.

The Supreme Court determined that the law Baird was accused of breaking violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution, the same right to privacy that served as the foundation for the 1973 case *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion, and the 2003 case *Lawrence v. Texas*, which is seen as a victory for gay rights.

In the five years it took to bring his case to the Supreme Court, Baird was sentenced to three months in prison in the later-condemned Charles Street Jail. There he said he chased rats from his cell, picked bugs and pebbles from his food, suffered an eye infection from lice and endured humiliating random strip searches by guards.

In the lecture, Baird will discuss what he calls the "bologna method" that has sliced away at the gains achieved from *Eisenstadt v. Baird* and *Roe v. Wade* in the current social and political climate.

He will also talk about the presidential aspirants and their anti-abortion and birth control views and what he feels is the future for abortion and birth control, especially if a Republican is elected president. There will be a question-and-answer session with the audience at the end of his lecture.



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Bill Baird advocates for pro-choice as a front-runner in the reproductive rights movement.

Courtesy of Communications





Healthful Hints: Fact or Fiction

A look at drug and alcohol assumptions on campus

By Zoe Silver, Columnist

On Tue, Mar 20, 2012

Skidmore is a tight-knit community, so when a new fad hits campus, it is quickly on everyone's radar. But did you ever consider those trends and "customs" that you knew existed when you first got to Skidmore? Where did they originate? The truth is, many of the sentences we tend to start with "everyone does it..." are simply false. I would like to examine some of these common misconceptions, particularly those related to alcohol and drugs, so you can understand that it is OK not to do something, and no, NOT everyone else does it!

Myth: Everyone binge drinks on Friday nights.

Reality: There is a large community of students on campus who don't drink at all, and for those who do drink, the amount greatly varies. It is certainly not true that everyone is blackout drunk on a Friday night, nor is it true that you have to follow this fictional custom to fit in.

Myth: It is easier to make new friends when you are drunk, and you have to drink in order to fit in.

Reality: The reverse is more valid, as friends made while drunk are sometimes forgotten by the next morning. The only truth to this myth is that people are less inhibited when they are drunk and therefore may be more likely to approach new people or come out of their shell. When it comes to making new friends or connections, however, the lasting ones are generally made sober. Furthermore, if you feel that your current friends will only accept you if you drink, then you can find better friends.

Myth: You can cure a hangover with coffee and Tylenol.

Reality: The only cure for a hangover is time. Unfortunately, you cannot sleep it off, nor is there a medicine that will do the trick, although hydrating your body with water is helpful nonetheless.

Myth: You have to start drinking at 10 a.m on Fun Day and keep going all day long.

Reality: A lot of people chose to remain sober on Fun Day, and still have tons of fun! This is a day of sun-basking, listening to music, hanging out with your friends, eating and relaxing, all of which you can do without alcohol in your system.

Myth: Because marijuana is not addictive, it is OK if I smoke it every day of the week.

Reality: It is true that marijuana is not addictive, but you are still in an altered state of mind when you use it, which inhibits productivity and functioning. It is not good for this to become your "norm," as it may affect your schoolwork, social life, etc. If you want to smoke, try limiting it to weekends or special occasions.

Myth: It is OK to drive high, just not drunk.

Reality: This is just as dangerous and illegal as driving with alcohol in your system. Even if you feel in control, the drug affects your reaction time and mental capacity, and you do not have the ability to drive safely without putting yourself and others at risk.

I encourage you all to challenge the assumptions that you have about life on campus, because it is precisely these assumptions that create the behaviors to begin with. If we all had a more realistic idea of the behavior of our peers, it is likely that we would feel less obliged to engage in activities in which we may not want to engage, but do because we believe they are the norm and that we must partake in order to be accepted in the community. Until next time, stay healthy, enjoy the warmer weather and check your facts!

Professor Profile: Aldo Vacs

By Marcella Jewell, Staff Writer

On Wed, Mar 21, 2012

Government Professor Aldo Vacs might be known for the sheer number of books covering his office wall-to-wall. Described by his colleagues as one of the most well read professors in the government department it is no surprise his office resembles a condensed version of the Library of Congress. What students may not know about the Argentinean native is that he was exiled from his homeland amidst a military coup in the 1970s.

At the end of his senior year at university, his life was uprooted as the coup gained momentum. Seeking refuge in Brazil, Vacs continued his education, developing a passion for Latin American relations.

Vacs grew up in Mendoza, Argentina, close to the Andes Mountains. His involvement with grade school student government paved the way for his participation in the youth revolts when the military coup overtook Argentina. The radical transformation in Argentina between 1976 and 1983 from a democracy to a dictatorship created massive uproar among the youth. Vacs participated in youth street revolts when students were unfairly forced to leave their studies behind.

In Brazil, Vacs's new home, a period of liberalization emerged as another military coup lost support. Vacs studied political and social science at the school of sociology at the Univerdade de Sao Paulo. He began to work in Brazil and became involved in demonstrations for democracy. Vacs commented that his inspiration to study political science and sociology stemmed from "the general situation in Argentina," along with "the need for change." He was especially inspired by the military coup and read constantly in order to understand the totalitarin infiltrating his country.

Vacs expressed concern with people's lack of acknowledgment for eminent political changes around the world. "It is imperative for people who are going to be citizens of a democracy or a culture to have a sufficient background. They must acknowledge what is going on... More and more globalization does have an impact on the youth" he said. On the Colbert Report and Daily Show-popular shows on campus-Vacs comments, "Sometimes you can make some jokes, but international perspective is growing. You don't always see so much interest, seeing how the rest of the world is changing."

Vacs relocated to Pittsburgh and received his M.A. and Ph.D at the University of Pittsburg. The University of Pittsburg Press published his dissertation research paper titled, Discreet Partners:



Argentina and the USSR since 1917, in 1984. The former Soviet Union ruled with a right wing military dictatorship, similar to Argentina during the military coup.

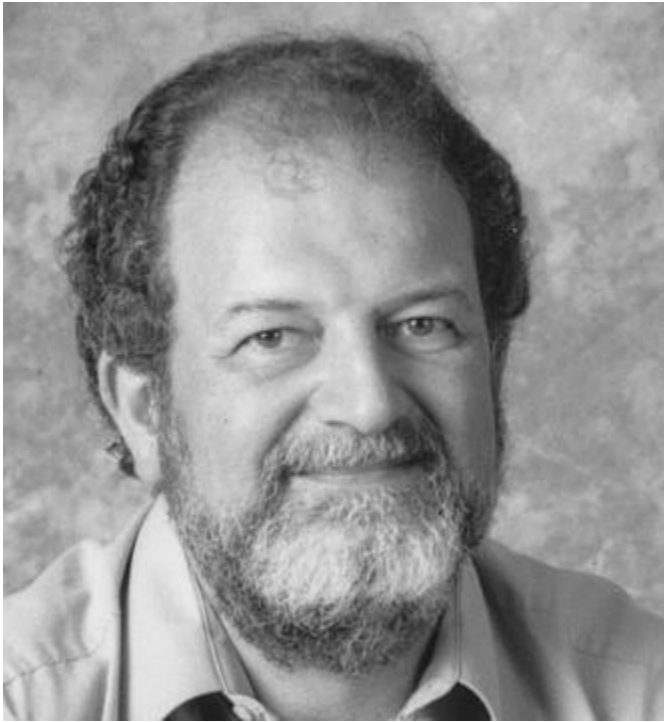
When asked about his pursuits for the future, Vacs commented on his interest in the consolidation of democracy in Latin America. He plans to study the transformation of the relationship with Brazil and other Latin American affairs this summer with the Fulbright Scholarship. Vacs comments, "There is much more familiarity with international affairs than what there used to be...college is pushing [students] in that direction."

Vacs's immersion into Latin American culture and first hand experience with the demolition of democracy triggered his desire to understand the precarious politics that reshaped his life. With his cheerful attitude and willingness to share, Professor Aldo Vacs brings his first hand experience to his students.

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Government Professor Aldo Vacs

Gary Gold Courtesy of Communications



Skidmore Unplugged encourages conservation on campus

By Sarah Barry, Features Editor

On Wed, Mar 21, 2012

On March 5, the Skidmore community concluded its fourth year of competitive energy conservation by marking the end of this year's Skidmore Unplugged challenge. This year, Skidmore faced an added challenge as the campus residence halls competed collectively in the Campus Conservation Nationals against more than 100 other schools across the country.

Skidmore placed third against other New York institutions in the New York Negawatt challenge with a 2.9 percent reduction of energy behind Hobart and William Smith, which had a 5.9 percent total reduction, and Hamilton College, which had a 3.4 percent reduction.

The campus as a whole saved 5,789 kilowatt-hours according to [Lucid's Building Dashboard](http://buildingdashboard.net/skidmore/#/skidmore/), an online resource that reported the progress of each building and school throughout the competition.

Kimball Hall finished first among Skidmore's dorms with a 5.6 percent total energy reduction, followed by McClellan Hall in second and Wilmarth Hall in third.

This year's competition was organized primarily by the campus' Sustainability reps or S-Reps." The S-Reps worked independently with their individual dorms, but also promoted the event collectively with a variety of events and media.

"Most of my individual promoting came from my bulletin board and emails. I found that, throughout the competition, using multimedia can be very effective. As a group we made a couple videos, which got a lot of views, and updated how the competition was going on Facebook" said Penfield's S-Rep Jeremy Rosen '14.

S-Reps, as a part of the Sustainable Skidmore program, are charged with increasing awareness of environmental issues and cultivating positive behavioral change in conservation efforts on campus.

The S-Reps, in collaboration with the Peer Health Educators organized the "Do it in the Dark" promotion that ran during the week of Valentine's Day, as well as an [S-Rap](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNEmtuTzD_c) video and some short promotional videos. S-Reps also promoted the event in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.



S-Reps said that if students commit to small individual changes, Skidmore can conserve a significant amount of energy collectively.

Simple things, such as unplugging appliances or turning off lights, can make a huge impact when everyone is participating."This year we reduced the amount of energy that a typical US home uses for six months, just by taking part in simple behavioral changes around the dorm" Rosen said.

S-Reps were largely positive about Skidmore's additional engagement in the Conservation Nationals Competition. "While I'm not sure that Skidmore students engaged as much with the bigger national competition as they did with the dorm competition, it helped create some school solidarity and motivated people to keep reducing, even if their dorm was doing well already," said Eliza Sherpa '14 McClellan's S-Rep.

"I definitely think [the Conservation Nationals] improved the competition because it gave us access to tools like the Building Dashboard from Lucid, which greatly enhanced the look and feel of the contest, and gave more options to people in terms of committing to reducing electricity via social media and the Dashboard site" said Riley Neugebauer, Skidmore's Sustainability Coordinator.

S-Reps also encouraged students to remember conservation practices after the competition ends. "I think that while people might not be quite as consistent about reducing energy as they were during the competition, some of the habits will definitely persist" Sherpa said.

Despite the success of this year's competition, S-Reps and Neugebauer still see areas for improvement. Neugebauer hopes to see "more overlap with other groups on campus for the competitions so that we can continue to develop more collaboration and innovation as to how to engage people in these kinds of activities.

Reisner '14, S-Rep for Wilmarth, said she also hoped to build on this year's progress. "More games and events would be great to help raise awareness about the competition, and it worked really well for the S-reps to collaborate and share resources so I think it will be helpful to do more of that in the future," Reisner said.

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S-Reps and Captain Kilowatt promoted Skidmore Unplugged with posters, videos and conservation themed events.

Meredith Simons/The Skidmore News



DO IT IN THE DARK

Skidmore Unplugged



Win a trophy for your hall,
bragging rights
and raffle prizes!

Captain Kill-0-Watt is watching you...

February 13 – March 5
for highest electricity reduction by building

This year Skidmore is also in the NY Negawatt Challenge!
Skidmore is competing against Hobart William Smith, Hamilton, Colgate
and St. Lawrence for highest total electricity reduction!



Designed by Samantha Shroyer. sshroyer@skidmore.edu

Burglaries continue in Scribner Village apartments

Similarities in modus operandi may indicate the cases are related

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Wed, Mar 21, 2012

Police are still investigating incidents on March 4 and on an unknown date during spring break, in which unknown subjects broke into two Scribner Village apartments through unlocked kitchen windows, stealing several items of liquor and, in the latter incident, some food items. Since that time, there have not been any new leads on either case.

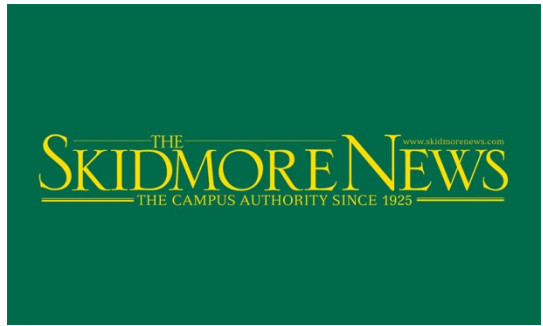
According to an email sent out to the student body by Campus Safety, the residents of the apartment that was robbed on March 4 went to bed at approximately 1:30 a.m. and noticed, upon arising at approximately 8:30 a.m., that someone had entered their apartment but had stolen nothing else except for several liquor items. Campus Safety officers did not find anything after searching the area.

A similar incident took place over spring break in another apartment, and again, Campus Safety did not find anything in the immediate area. Despite the similarities--both incidents involved the subject(s) entering through an unlocked kitchen window and stealing liquor--Campus Safety has not yet determined whether these two cases are linked, according to Dennis Conway, director of Campus Safety.

"In these situations, you look for similarities and the modus operandi, how they do it and what they take," Conway said. "They're both similar in this case, so it's a possibility. They've been taking these specific items, instead of others right out in the open that have been of considerably more value."

Campus Safety is working with the Saratoga Springs Police Department to speak with facility workers who were on campus during spring break, and has increased patrols and stationed extra officers in the Scribner Village area. Officers have also spoken with the locals to determine if any similar incidents have occurred off-campus.

"We're going to keep working on it, and hopefully we'll get some leads from people in the area," Conway said. "This is uncommon in the sense that the two cases are so similar. We've had burglaries from time to time over the past, usually as the result of an unlocked door. Everybody should really take affirm steps to make sure their doors and windows are locked."



Anyone with any information regarding these incidents should contact Campus Safety at extension x5566 or the Campus Safety TIPS line at extension x8477. The Saratoga Springs Police may also be reached at 584-1800.

Public use of North Woods to be topic of open forum

Students organize discussion for their senior project

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Thu, Mar 22, 2012

Adam Schmelkin '12 and Charles Glassberg '12 have planned an open forum to discuss the opportunities for public use of the College's North Woods, as well as initiatives to protect and conserve the property.

The meeting will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, in Davis Auditorium.

The North Woods is a 170-acre tract of forested land extending north from the College's main campus. The area is home to numerous native species, including migrating songbirds and 33 types of ferns. With southern oak, hickory and northern hardwoods, as well as ponds and marshes, the woods support a biologically diverse animal and plant population that is important to faculty and student research. Much of the area is available to the public.

The forum will be of special notice to joggers, hikers, dog-walkers, bird-watchers and others with an interest in the natural environment.

"Come and join this discussion to help build a sense of stewardship and respect for this piece of property that many of us have the opportunity to enjoy," Glassberg said.

Schmelkin and Glassberg are environmental studies majors who work for the Sustainability office as North Woods stewards. Their responsibilities include public tours, trail maintenance, monitoring of invasive species and public outreach.

As a senior project, the two students are researching the attitudes and behaviors of North Woods users as well as the challenges to land preservation in the area. The public forum is the culmination of their project, which will result in a report to the College with suggestions for managing and preserving the North Woods.

"We feel that it's crucial that the recommendations we develop reflect the diverse values of North Woods users," Schmelkin said. "This forum will help us refine our research on the values of community members. As a shared resource, the North Woods should be managed in a way that considers these varied values."

For more information, contact Campus Sustainability Coordinator Riley Neugebauer at rneugeba@skidmore.edu, or at x5865.

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image courtesy of Lyle Reed, Class of 2012



Investigating Faces 4

By Nat Nagar, Pulp Editor

On Thu, Mar 22, 2012

Moira, Doris, Chad, Laura, Filipe and Ross have just finished writing what foods they liked and missed having at d hall. Lucy has also written on a napkin and pinned it to the board, but seems to be lost amongst the six individuals. Where is Lucy hiding in the image?

(Locate Lucy's face, which is hidden among the other figures in the image to solve the puzzle. Her face may be upside down, sideways etc.)

Letter: *"Friendly Fire"* has fired us up

By Dorothy Franks

On Thu, Mar 22, 2012

Dear Editor,

I want to address the dynamics of the SGA dialogue and then I will attend to the conversation Brendan incited on the way Skidmore addresses important issues, and where he went too far.

I was at the dialogue, but arrived late. I jumped right into the "dialogue" and realized that a facilitated sharing of problems on campus would not be the dynamics of the meeting. I felt, and expressed to many people after the meeting, that there was a major clash of expectations and of facilitation styles. As mentioned by someone else, the dialogue was not well organized. There wasn't an official facilitator to make the dialogue constructive, which in part is one point Brendan highlights. There were representatives from both IGR and Fight Club, but Fight Club did their best to facilitate. From the response of half the people leaving part way through the meeting, and from Fight Club, the two ideologies clashed here, and with multiple expectations for the "dialogue" many were disappointed. IGR centers on a controlled environment to talk about issues on race. Fight Club uses conflict mediation to meet people where they are as parties in conflict. In terms of Fight Club and mediation, the meeting went really well. But this meeting was advertised as a "dialogue" which in IGR has a very specific meaning. So as much as people felt Brendan "messed up the environment" of the dialogue, it wasn't originally a dialogue according to IGR standards, and in terms of Fight Club and mediation it was quite a success. This whole event started to get people talking their needs and that's why mediation was successful here.

Now with regard to Brendan's article, I do believe he had unfair assumptions along with a set agenda to stir up people and drive them into action. I don't think that Brendan's "Ivory Tower" stance was a constructive or accessible post to bring up these issues. At the dialogue his agenda violated journalistic integrity by steering the conversation. We at Skidmore care, we want voice. Brendan's piece, although stirring, did personally alienate and silence many people who were at the "dialogue" and who read his first article. Carol Hanisch of the Women's Liberation Movement said that "[" and by alienating any one person, I think Brendan has done significant damage to his objective. Those people no longer wanted to listen, they shut down.](http://www.carolhanisch.org/CHwritings/PIP.html)

I noted on the Skidmore dynamic, where we want to act and want our input to be heard. This is what made Brendan's controversial editorial pieces successful, not his tactics at the dialogue or his poignant

bashing of Fight Club and SGA leaders. But, in conjunction with his second article, Brendan has fired up all of us (however unpleasantly that might have been done). He has called to action a community to tackle this issue of unstructured and unproductive "dialogues," (even though that may not be the purpose of the dialogues). So I suggest to Brendan to do a little repair and reach out to the people he has silenced. We want to talk about these issues and do something about them, and that wasn't made evident until Brendan's second piece. I want to thank him for his end result of getting us to care, but warn him to reevaluate his role as a leader on campus and his role as a journalist.

So now, I beg collaboration between Brendan as a student leader, SGA, IGR and Fight Club to raise awareness about the two different styles of facilitation, the use of vocabulary like "dialogue," and what that means for conversation for future meetings. Make sure the expectations of those going into a second SGA presented dialogue" are in sync and that it is a common drive for improving our Skidmore community, and not opposition to articles, unite us all.

Dorothy Franks

Class of 2014

NY Times journalist Danny Hakim to speak on campus

The event, hosted by the College and Saratoga Reads, will discuss investigative journalism

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Thu, Mar 22, 2012

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 31 in Emerson Auditorium, Albany Bureau Chief of the New York Times Danny Hakim will speak to students on the life of a journalist, in relation to Rebecca Skloot, an investigative journalist and the author of the winning title of this year's Saratoga Reads, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks."

Hakim will speak to coming up with story ideas, working with their sources and using his investigation skills to uncover the details of a story, all of which Skloot did to uncover Henrietta Lacks's story, an African-American woman whose cancer tissue was taken for medical and scientific experimentation without her consent and led to dozens of medical breakthroughs.

Hakim said he enjoyed Skloot's novel, but that he did not know the author personally.

"As I understand it, the College doesn't usually get the authors, just people to talk on various related topics," Hakim said. "I have no connection to the book itself."

Kirsten Drabek, associate director of Community Relations, explained the College's relation between Hakim and Skloot's novel.

"We were brainstorming potential events to tie into the book title, [because] we wanted to offer an event surrounding the topic of investigative journalism," Drabek said. "While Danny is not an investigative journalist per se, he does research and interviews with sources to put together his articles. Plus, we thought that having a New York Times journalist speak on campus would be a draw."

Michelle Bilodeau-Lanne, a member of the Saratoga Reads Events Team and a friend of Hakim and his wife, contacted the journalist regarding the event. Hakim has visited the campus multiple times to speak in several classes for Douglas Meyer, director of Special Programs.

As a resident of Saratoga Springs, Hakim also has visited the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery and said he enjoys seeing the College hockey games.



Among the topics he expects to talk about during the event, Hakim listed his work on "Developmentally Disabled 'Abused & Used' At New York State Group Homes," a series that he co-wrote that exposes the abuse and neglect present in some group homes in New York. He also expects that his role as part of the team that broke the story about the Eliot Spitzer scandal story a few years ago will most likely come up during the discussion.

Hakim said he did a lot of freelance writing when he started, and encourages potential journalists to build up their resumes.

"It's a tough field to get into right now. It's kind of a shrinking field in a lot of ways," Hakim said. "Try to write, try to get your stuff published as much as you can."

Linda Hall, associate professor of English and former writer for "New York" magazine, will preside over the event.

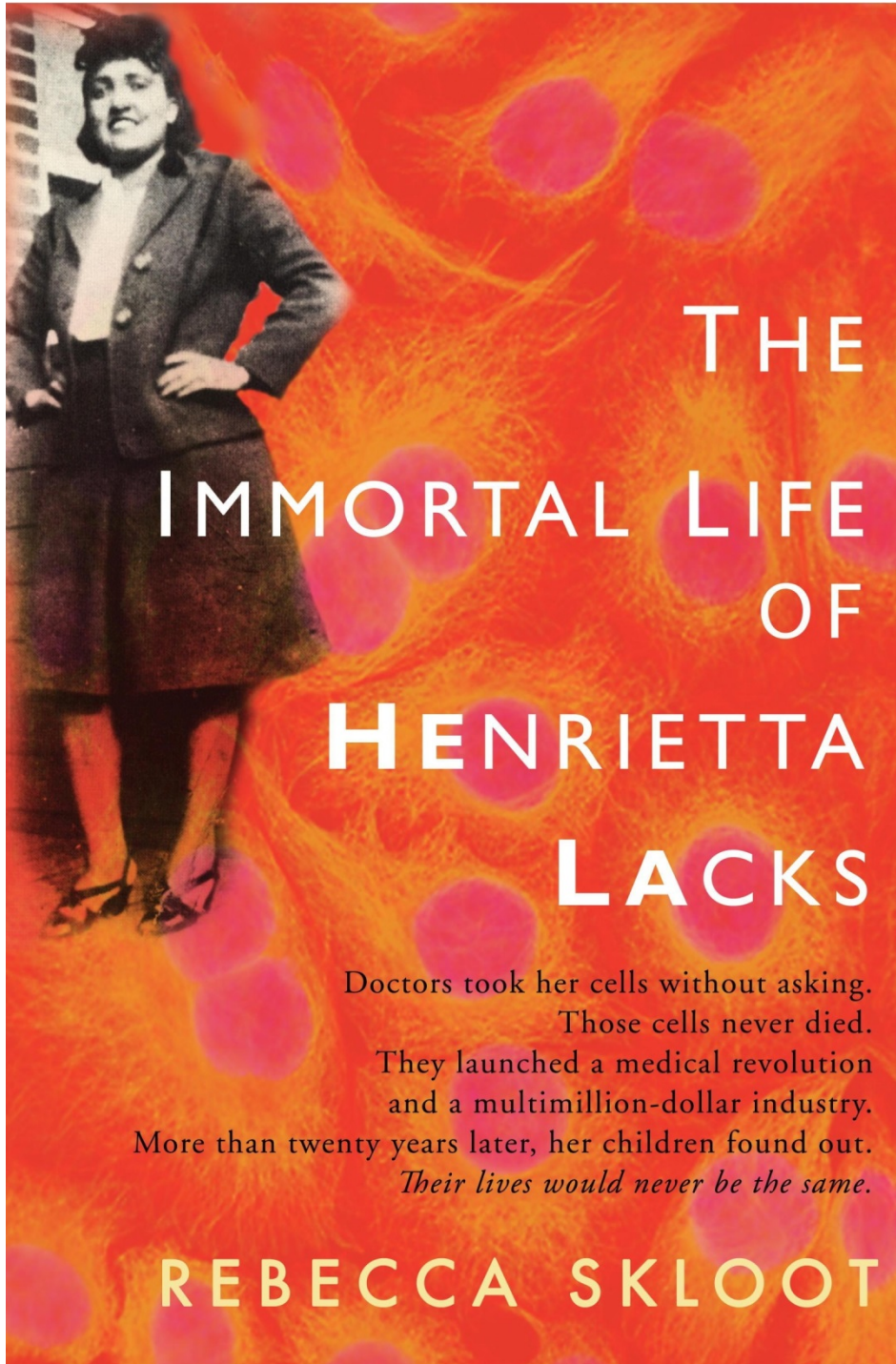
The College shares a partnership with Saratoga Reads, and has hosted a variety of events in the past, including a book fair at Barnes & Noble in Wilton in early December, two junior book discussion sessions for middle school-aged children in February and a book fair in March in conjunction with National Read Across America Day.

Next Thursday, March 29, a group of Saratoga Reads members will travel to Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., to hear Skloot speak. There will be a follow-up event at 7 p.m. on April 26 in the JKB Theater, when David "Sonny" Lacks, son of Henrietta Lacks, and one of his children will speak about their experiences after finding out about his mother's cells. Joe Donahue of WAMC, Saratoga Spring's local public radio station, will moderate the discussion.

#1.2826593:3321261100.jpg:Skloot book photo

Rebecca Skloot used her investigative skills to uncover the story of Henrietta Lacks, a woman whose cancer cells were used for medical purposes without her consent.

Courtesy of Community Relations





Renewing Skidmore's commitment to volunteering

Skidmore students should not just do well, they should do good

By Andrew Shi, Sports Editor

On Thu, Mar 22, 2012

Students often say they will volunteer, but when the time comes to act upon those words, they're more likely to hand out excuses than to give a hand. It's understandable that students often have heavy workloads, but if they really care they can make the time.

Generally, spring break invokes images of the sun, warm weather and beaches. For eight Skidmore students though, spring break 2012 was spent constructing homes to help tornado victims. Their efforts helped relieve Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which had been decimated by tornados nearly one year ago in April. At least 58 people were killed, and countless more lost their homes and everything they owned.

The Skidmore team stayed at an old YMCA camp that has been taken over by Habitat for Humanity, although the team operated through a localized charity organization named Project Blessings. During the six-hour work days they helped paint the whole inside of a gymnasium connected to the church and nicknamed "The Closet," as it served as a dispenser for much needed clothes to the impoverished.

They organized hundreds of articles of clothing by gender and size. They used metal spoons to remove paint that dripped onto the floor. In the last few days a house purchased by Project Blessings was repainted - inside and outside. Hedges were trimmed, the lawn mowed and leaves raked. Two decrepit sheds were torn down for liability reasons. The whole house was restored to a degree of cleanliness that even Cinderella would envy.

The Skidmore team, along with Project Blessings and students from other colleges, made one home donation-ready and refurnished a gym to house the needy. While this accomplishment is tremendous, it is still only a drop in the bucket. The 2011 Red Cross report determined that the April tornadoes had destroyed 7,807 homes and rendered an additional 5,817 in need of major repairs. In light of this information, our efforts seem almost insignificant.

The conclusion from this isn't to give up or to roll over in defeat. The answer isn't to do less, but rather to do more.

At the YMCA camp, the Skidmore team joined a group that was building a single house, from scratch, to be given to a single man. This man, during the previous year's tornadoes, had ushered his family into the

bathtub of their home, which, because it is grounded to the floor, makes it one of the safest spots. The man couldn't get himself into the bathtub in time though. In a sad twist the tornado swept away the bathtub, and his family, but left him behind. The man was left with nothing. This new house might just be enough to keep him going.

A lot of lives were ruined, a lot of people left homeless, but was that week spent by Habitat for Humanity in giving that one man his life back not worth all the trouble? It may have been one out of 100,000, but that was one life saved. The house restored in part by the Skidmore team will help this man get back on his feet.

In the wake of a new wave of tornadoes to ravage the Midwest and the South, communities need more volunteers. Lives depend on the aid of volunteers, because often the government can't step up.

In 2011, Skidmore was honored by President Obama as one of 511 colleges across the country to excel in community service. There is a multitude of clubs and organizations at Skidmore dedicated to the local community: Benef-action, the mentoring program, the Red Cross Club and others. These organizations host numerous events, fundraisers and food drives in Saratoga County for projects like Skidmore Cares.

Though our efforts are a good start, Skidmore didn't attain the president's highest achievement - honor roll with distinction. Many of the schools that received these honors are located near recovering disaster areas. Regardless of whether or not our efforts receive recognition, what matters is that Skidmore mobilizes and volunteers.

Students often say they will volunteer, but when the time comes to act upon those words, they're more likely to hand out excuses than to give a hand. It's understandable that students often have heavy workloads, but if they really care they can make the time. They can wait to start drinking until Friday, or even sacrifice just an hour or two from their weekends to go to the food bank or animal shelter. If they really can't afford a few hours from their school week, they have three months of summer break. There's so much to be done. Students can volunteer for issues that they connect strongly with, locally or globally. They can volunteer to protect the environment, donate blood or support Kony 2012. The great thing about volunteering is it can be done any time.

You don't need to give up your spring break to volunteer. You just need to realize that there are others in need and do something to mitigate the suffering of these people. It's not enough to read a headline about families losing their homes to a tornado or to see a homeless man perishing on a park bench, and to simply feel bad about it. Feeling bad doesn't change anything; unfortunately, it is not the thought that counts.



Time magazine named "The Protester" as its person of the year. Remember Occupy Wall Street and the movement that spread across the nation? There may be 1 percent that makes an absurd amount of money and 99 percent that has to worry about how to budget their next paycheck, but what about the 15.3 percent that live below the poverty line. We may be poor college students, but we still go to college.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said, "I'm not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there. If it needs repair, I'll fix it." Though from what can be seen, the current safety net is porous with too many person-sized holes. There's a large need for change and, to quote President Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

If you want change, then do something. If you are bothered by poverty, than do something about it.

As social creatures, we need each other. If you one day were befallen by tragedy, wouldn't you like to know that someone would be there to lend a hand? Skidmore needs to do-more, help-more, give-more.

To get started with volunteering, attend a Benef-action meeting every other Tuesday at 8:15. Benef-action is Skidmore's community service club, and can help point those who really wish to help others in the right direction.

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A home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, still destroyed one year after a tornado devistated the city

image courtesy of Ileana Paules-Bronet, Class of 2015





Editorial: Fan the flames of our education, grant alumni access to databases

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Mar 23, 2012

As the weather gets warmer and seniors' mailboxes are filled with notes asking them to order caps and gowns, the class of 2012 is constantly reminded about their impending graduation and the end of their undergraduate studies. Many seniors are, for the first time, thinking about their relationship that Skidmore alumni have with their alma mater.

Skidmore offers a slew of resources and benefits to its 30,000 alumni. Graduates receive invitations to Celebration Weekend, access to the Skidmore Business Network and the possibility of auditing courses. Skidmore organizes cocktail parties, lectures and receptions with President Glotzbach and travel programs for its graduates. Skidmore alumni are also granted a lifetime use of Career Services, weekend use of the Sports and Recreation Center, and use of the Scribner Library.

Our access to the library however, is not complete. One of the benefits that we do not retain as alumni is access to the academic databases like JSTOR and EBSCOhost. This loss is unfortunate and unnecessary.

Our academic interests certainly do not end the second we are handed a diploma. The liberal arts education ignites the spark of curiosity and fans its flames for a lifetime. Though many of us will be doing post-graduate studies that will surely grant access to these databases, others among us will enter directly into the workforce and will lose access these resources.

Though it would likely be prohibitively expensive to include all alumni in the license agreements that Skidmore has with these databases, we might consider an opt-in program for those alumni who would use and enjoy these academic journals.

Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., recently started one such initiative. Last month, Macalester announced it would begin a JSTOR alumni pilot program. Their alumni will have access to over 1,500 scholarly journals to help quench the thirst for knowledge that is created by a liberal arts education.

There is no reason that Skidmore should not explore adopting a similar program. The school would of course need to gage alumni interest and perform a cost-benefit analysis. We risk little by at least considering the possibility.

Skidmore's allocation of resources as an academic institution is primarily focused on its current students - as it should be. Skidmore should consider further supporting the love of knowledge that it steeped its alumni in as students.

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courtesy of Rice Lake Public Library





AIDS Benefit: Come See Jon and Emma Get Naked

By Joanne Schwartzberg, Communications Director

On Fri, Mar 23, 2012

"This isn't material one would expect to see in a chapel, director Kevin Berry '15 said of his show "Come See Jon and Emma Get Naked," staged for the AIDS Benefit Club.

The play is an evening of one-act plays by playwright Chris Durang. Berry was drawn to this work because of its eccentricity. "He is not afraid to go balls to the wall," Berry said of Durang's work.

The one-act plays cover a wide variety of issues, including self-esteem, job loss and HIV/AIDS. With this play, Berry hopes to explore the idea of judgment and what causes us to judge other people.

The show stars Emma Bridges '14 and Jo Lemay '15. They both agree that the show has been fun for them to be a part of. Both actors play eight different roles over the course of the show and they have enjoyed finding the intricacies and quirks of each character.

Berry asks the audience to come with an open mind, expect to laugh and to consider the question of why we make fun of people.

Reservations are not required. However, seating is limited. Performances are at 8 p.m. on March 23 and 24 in Wilson Chapel. Tickets are free, and donations to the Saratoga HIV/AIDS Coalition are encouraged.

Despite the right ingredients, 'Coriolanus' falls short

By Eli Cohen, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 23, 2012

Throwing Shakespeare's plays into the modern world is nothing new. A young Leonardo DiCaprio helmed the lead in "Romeo and Juliet," and Sir Ian McKellen in a 1930s, fascistic rendering of "Richard III." Yet, it has been several decades since such an adaptation emerged as a bonafide blockbuster film.

Ralph Fiennes attempts just that in "Coriolanus," his reimagining of the Bard's final tragedy, which is set in "a place that calls itself Rome" (actually filmed in Belgrade, Serbia). The veritable chameleon that he is, Fiennes pulls off a stellar performance as an elite soldier who makes the unwise decision to get into politics - even though he hates and is hated by the people he hopes to represent - on the advice of his mother (a fantastic Vanessa Redgrave) and his longtime friend (Brian Cox, "The Bourne Identity").

Things go poorly for the stone-eyed killer when he refuses to play nice with the populace, and he gets exiled from the place that calls itself Rome. Trying to make the most of a bad situation, he joins up with the one man who could possibly best him in a fight - Gerard Butler. From there, madness ensues.

The problem with this film isn't exactly the Shakespearean language (though it sounds clumsy and awkward on Butler's tongue) nor is it the fighting, which is done very well. The problem is that the film simply cannot decide on its purpose- is it a tragedy or a shoot-em-up action movie? Fiennes spends most of the film literally covered in blood while desperately shouting Shakespearean lines that take far longer than standard battle scene dialogue.

That is not to say that he isn't good at playing Shakespeare's tragic warrior. In fact, he's great, having cut his teeth playing the same role on stage a decade ago. It's just that, throughout the movie, something just didn't feel right. The ending is abrupt, Fiennes spends far too little time with the Volscian army and, above all, one is not moved to care about any of the characters.

All of the actors do more than fine jobs portraying their characters, but in the end, acting is what it looks like. It does not seem like you are watching Caius Martius Coriolanus team up with fellow supersoldier Tullus Aufidius to take on the might of a place that calls itself Rome. Instead, it feels like you're watching Ralph Fiennes team up with Butler to talk to some people and maybe do one more generic battle scene.

Perhaps this effect is lessened if the viewer is as familiar with the original work as "Macbeth" or "Hamlet," but I think that there is a reason this play itself is less-well known: it simply does not depict as

moving or interesting a story. And, in the end, that is the ultimate shortcoming of the film. It is well-filmed, well-written and well-acted, but it simply is not that compelling.

#1.2827129:2240984634.jpg:Butler

Gerard Butler and Ralph Fiennes in "Coriolanus."

The Weinstein Company



NBA Talk: how good are the Grizzlies?

With the return of Zach Randolph, can the Grizzlies dominate the Western Conference?

By Andrew Shi, Sports Editor

On Fri, Mar 23, 2012

Last year, the Memphis Grizzlies astounded the nation when they knocked out the Western Conference 1st seed San Antonio Spurs and took the Western Conference semi-finals against the Oklahoma City Thunder all the way to game seven before finally being eliminated. This year, they're currently ranked fifth in the Western Conference, and that's after they lost their super-star forward Zach Randolph early in the season. With his return though, exactly how good are the Grizzlies, and how far will they go?

The Grizzlies are good. That much is evident from their occupation of the fifth seed in the Western Conference. A look at their line-up is just as impressive. At point guard Mike Conley averages 13 points per game (ppg) but more impressively dishes out 7.3 assists, placing him at 10th in the league. At small guard, 2008-9 Rookie- Of-The-Year runner up O.J. Mayo adds 12 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists. Small forward All-Star dunker Rudy Gay leads the team in points with 19.2 and brings down 6.9 rebounds. Power Forward and All-Star Zach Randolph, in his seven games before his injury, put up 15.7 points and 7.9 rebounds. Center, and now All-Star Marc Gasol finishes off the starting line-up with 15.8 points, 9.8 rebounds and 2 blocks which ranks him at 11th for rebounds and 6th for blocks. Even coming off the bench is Celtics 2008 championship guard Tony Allen who adds an additional 10 ppg. Also, just Tuesday, the Grizzlies announced they were signing former Magic guard and three time All-Star Gilbert Arenas, who last season averaged 8.0 points, 3.2 assists and 2.4 rebounds.

The Grizzlies have a deadly starting line-up and a deep bench. They have the players to pull off a serious post-season run, but are they good enough to top the Thunder, Spurs, Lakers and Clippers who lead them in the conference? Their record says no. In the three encounters with the Thunder, the Grizzlies have lost all three. The Grizzlies have lost all three match-ups against the Spurs, both games against the Lakers and the one against the Clippers. Sure, Randolph was missing from action for most of these games, but he was in uniform for the first losses against the Spurs and Thunder.

Last year they were in eighth and upset the first seed, but a look at their 2010-11 schedule shows that the Grizzlies were 3-1 in their series against the Thunder, 3-2 against the Spurs, 1-2 against the Lakers and 2-2 against the Clippers. In two of those series they won, another they tied and the fourth they lost by one game. This season's schedule doesn't reflect that same caliber to upset the big teams.

It may be too early to call it. With Randolph back in the mix and Arenas adding substantial depth, the Grizzlies still might be a serious contender during the playoffs. Next week's games against the Lakers and Clippers and their game against the Thunder on April 2 will give a better idea of their post-season potential, but based on their performance thus far, it doesn't look like they'll make it past the first round when they currently have to go up against Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and the rest of the Clippers.

#1.2826459:4091822765.jpg:Memphis Grizzlies 3/23/12

Memphis forward Rudy Gay dunks over Toronto's Leandro Barbosa

Associated Press



Review: American String Quartet at Zankel

The premier quartet delivers a program of anguish and beauty

By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief

On Sat, Mar 24, 2012

On Saturday evening the American String Quartet, an internationally renowned group hailing originally from Juilliard, handled the task with tender care. The result was a varied and thrilling performance that captured the brilliance of each distinct piece.

For a single concert program to successfully combine the lofty work of Haydn, the tortured scribbles of Bartók's, and the sublime strokes of Ravel, serious talent is required of the performers.

On Saturday evening the American String Quartet, an internationally renowned group hailing originally from Juilliard, handled the task with tender care. The result was a varied and thrilling performance that captured the brilliance of each distinct piece.

Shooting occasional glances at one another, the members of the quartet demonstrated their mastery of the music as well as their confidence in interpretation.

Beginning with Haydn's Quartet in G Major, Op. 77, No. 1, the players were sharp in execution without giving away any of the composition's playful folksiness, derived from traditional Hungarian and Croatian dances. Cellist Wolfram Koessel provided a rounded bounce underneath first violinist Peter Winograd, who glided through Haydn's intricate but smooth melodies.

In no small part due to Haydn's flowing style, the performers seemed as though their fingers were only grazing the strings of their instruments, producing effortless and perfectly congruent harmony.

Once the first piece was over, however, sweet harmony was no longer the rule. Bartók's Quartet No. 6 was written under the looming shadow of Nazi Germany's march on Europe; during the threatening trudge of the second movement one could hear the performers evoking the swing of the 1930s in the grace notes before each stomp.

In their early years the American Quartet studied with one of the original performers of this work, Eugene Lehner of the Kolisch Quartet. It is little wonder then, that Winograd and second violin Laurie Carney came together at the perfect level of Bartók's intentionally less than perfect pitch.

Again, the powerful resonance of Koessel on cello fully captured each pop and pluck of Bartók's anxiety-ridden masterpiece. But it was Daniel Avshalomov on viola who provided the highlight of this section as he slapped and strummed his way through the third movement's broken cabaret dance.

By the finale of the piece the performers were more than instrumentalists: the power of the music had their bodies twisting just as much as Bartók's writhing harmonies.

The program drew to a close with Ravel's impeccable Quartet in F Major. The group lifted the audience from the underground bunkers of the previous piece and gently set off on a rolling tide of Ravel's scalar melodies. The iconic second movement in particular, *Azès vif: Très rythmé* resonated throughout Zankel as a distillation of the warm, high-spirited spring evening.

It was difficult not to burst out into applause following the group's wonderful delivery of the second movement's romp; the audience had to wait for the last notes of Ravel's finale, after which the Quartet earned three standing ovations.

Few performances this year have captured the essence of the season the way that the American String Quartet conjured up the lively and mischievous elements of spring in the final moments of that breezy night in Zankel

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The American String Quartet

Photo courtesy of Peter Schaaf



38988

photo © Peter Schaaf



Opinion: Impeachment Mandate

By Michael DuPré, Op-Ed Editor

On Sat, Mar 24, 2012

Last Wednesday, the Vice President for Club Affairs, Logan Brenner, sent an email to all of Skidmore's Club Presidents informing them of changes to the Club Affairs Committee (CAC) Policies and Procedures. This document is the governing law of student organizations and, as Brenner writes, "affects every single club on campus."

While most of the changes consist of minor, uncontroversial amendments or clarifications, the document also includes an entirely [new article](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18EJaljd4J0U_lgFTmONAwqqjzbltTfXVesy3q-NpfP4/edit) which grants the SGA Executive Board potentially unchecked power over the leadership of clubs.

Brenner did announce in her email that presidents had until Tuesday to make suggestions, but this new impeachment policy will take longer than a few days to sort out.

First, the new article does not lay out the general conditions in which a club member would be justified in starting the impeachment process. There is no provision that the "concerned member" start an impeachment process because the club officer in question violated the SGA Constitution, Skidmore College Honor Code, CAC Policies and Procedure or the Financial Policies and Procedures of their Club Charter.

If the impeachment process is not tied to an ethical violation or a failure of club officer to perform his or her duties as described by the club's charter, club officers could be impeached for personal reasons.

What's more, the proposed law does not introduce a thorough set of procedures for the appeal process with the SGA Executive Board. This ambiguity undermines rule of law. The impeachment of a club officer upon appeal could be decided by the caprices of the SGA Executive Board or any of its members. While this is not stated explicitly in the text, it logically follows from what the law would allow.

The new article also voids all of the impeachment policies and procedures that individual clubs have. As things currently stand, clubs have the ability to decide how best to discipline or impeach a member of its leadership in the instance of transgression. If a club has already decided among its members the most appropriate course of action is such cases, the VPCA should have no reason to deny clubs to decide their own prerogative.



As we examine the proposed article and its implications, there are a few assumptions that we must make. As was the case concerning the College's new Alcohol and Drugs (AOD) policy, we must always assume that any situation hypothetically permitted under the law could happen. We must also assume that the government will take advantage of all its powers granted under the law, including exploiting ambiguities in the law.

It is worthwhile conducting a thought experiment allowing for some possible scenarios that could arise under this new law.

Let us imagine that the two-thirds majority of a club decide that the club officer is not deserving of punishment or removal. The member who began the impeachment process could then make an appeal to the SGA Executive Board. Because the proposed law does not introduce any procedures that the SGA Executive Board must follow in the appeal, the process from this point forward is ambiguous; the possible implications range from simply restarting the process, to setting a dangerous precedent - allowing any club officer's continued service subject to the whimsy of the SGA Executive Board.

The article in question may have been written in good faith, but in permitting such unacceptable scenarios, it fails. Good legislation does not allow any room for outcomes contrary to its purpose, which in this case is the benefit and freedom of clubs on Skidmore's campus.

This is not to say that there is no need to have procedures that allow for impeachment of a club officer - far from it. There are certainly times when impeachment is appropriate and even necessary. However, impeachment is a serious act and it must be tied to equally serious ethical violations or a failure to perform duties under the club's charter.

The new policy proposed by the VPCA is heavy-handed, unnecessary and dangerous. This article should be stricken before the CAC Policies and Procedures is reauthorized by the SGA Senate. There is no reason to void the carefully crafted impeachment policies of clubs and replace them with mandated policies, especially those which might concede such sweeping powers to the SGA Executive Board.

Club presidents, SGA to deliberate new club impeachment policy

Proposed amendment to Club Policies and Procedures voids clubs' individual policies

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Sun, Mar 25, 2012

On March 21, Vice President for Club Affairs Logan Brenner sent an email to all of Skidmore's Club presidents detailing changes to the Club Affairs Committee (CAC) Policies and Procedures.

This CAC document is the governing law of student organizations. On Monday night the presidents will make any suggestions or criticisms of the changes; then on next Tuesday night, April 3m, SGA Senate will vote on the proposed amendment.

Most of the changes consist of minor amendments or clarifications, with the exception of an entirely new section on impeachment. This article outlines a brand new impeachment process granting SGA involvement while also voiding all clubs' previous impeachment policies.

In this new article, the vice president for Club Affairs must be informed of the intent to impeach as well as the club's final decision regarding the impeachment.

The article, as it stands now, states that, "Impeachment will be determined by a two-thirds majority vote by members who have attended at least 50 percent of the club meetings."

The concerned officer who brought up the impeachment or the impeached officer in question may appeal to the SGA Executive Board, and the entire process must be completed within three weeks after the initial meeting to address the issue.

"The new changes to the Polices and Procedures has not yet been finalized," Brenner said, and revisions are still in progress.



Changes and collaborations surround the new Career Development Center

Career Services to work more closely with students, including the addition of student Career Coaches

By Adrian Appleman, Contributing Writer

On Sun, Mar 25, 2012

April 20 will mark the culmination of changes in Career Services that have occurred over the past few semesters with the official renaming of the service to the "Career Development Center."

Though most of the changes have taken place gradually since the center's new director, Deborah Loffredo, came on board at the beginning of the fall semester, this switch will ceremoniously usher the campus resource into a new era of services.

Even with the relocation from Starbuck center earlier in the semester, momentum has not slowed within Career Services. According to Loffredo, the staff members have settled well into their new home in what used to be the Case Center Game Room.

Everyone, from Facilities to IT, was wonderful, Loffredo said. "The time frame was unbelievable - I remember one week seeing the floor plans laid out on the pool table, and two to three weeks later, there were offices!"

Since the relocations began, Career Services has sponsored numerous events around campus in collaboration with other departments and offices, including the SGA Fashion Show on "What Not to Wear," a presentation on how to dress for the professional sphere, which took place early last month.

This event also included collaboration with Alumni Association, bringing in Keith Fitz-Gerald, Class of '87, chairman of The Fitz-Gerald Group, LLC and chief investment strategist for Money Map Press, to deliver an introduction.

Later that week, the "Health Professions Career Panel" took place, which involved the combined efforts of the Pre-Med Club, Alumni Affairs and College Events and the Health Professions Advisory Committee, as well as Career Services.

Career Services is also currently working with Communication's Online Community Manager Daniella Nordin to offer a social media course beginning March 26.

All these events underscore the central philosophy of what is to be the new Career Development Center: collaboration. In analyzing the results of a Career Services survey posed to students last semester, the Career Services team determined that focusing on generating new ways to better integrate their services into the rest of the Skidmore campus is a priority.

"All the data from the survey has been analyzed, and what you are seeing is our plans to address this feedback," said Loffredo. "We are constantly coordinating new events to increase collaboration across the board. The biggest thing on the docket, though, is definitely the new Career Coaches position."

Career Coaches are student employees who will serve as peer professional mentors, much as the First-Year Experience office offers academic and social peer mentors, and the Off-Campus Study & Exchanges Office provides student program advisors.

Career Coaches will be current sophomores and juniors, whose jobs will include conducting workshops on résumé and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, summer internship possibilities, etc., in residence halls, as well as one-on-one résumé and cover letter reviews.

Loffredo said this position is aimed to help give students a professional experience, expand the capabilities of the new Career Development Center and provide a new area of collaboration directly with leaders and involved members of the student body.

We will be considering student Career Coaches as full members of the staff, Loffredo said, "and therefore will be training them at the professional level. They will even have responsibilities similar to the full-time staff, including being available to their peers during drop-in hours."

Career Coaches will be paid \$9 per hour to compensate for their extensive responsibilities.

Career Coaches will receive premium compensation due to the advanced specialized skills, knowledge or abilities expected, details the Career Coach job description, "as well as an increased level of responsibility, working with minimal supervision and making independent decisions."

The applications for the positions closed on March 8, and interviews for Career Coaches will begin later this week. The selected candidates will join the Career Development Center team in the fall.

Meanwhile, the Career Development Center continues to build upon its slew of program offerings with another installment of its "Living the Liberal Arts" in Gender Studies at 5:30 p.m. on Monday in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.

There also will be a presentation during Autism Awareness Week by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, looking to recruit students interested in nursing and working

with people with disabilities, on Tuesday, April 17 (more information can be found on the [Career Services Calendar](http://cms.skidmore.edu/career/index.cfm)). A new Career Development Center website will launch later in 2012, as well.

Even though April 20 is the date for the Career Development Center's official relaunching, changes will continue to be gradual.

"We plan to offer a whole lot more over the coming months to hit different and broader audiences," Loffredo said. "The great thing about a liberal arts education is that it is a springboard into the widest array of careers. Our goal is to accommodate a diverse community of students and alumni who are interested in, well, everything."



Campus Safety Incident Reports: March 15 to 22

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Sun, Mar 25, 2012

Campus Safety Incident Reports for the week of March 15.

Incidents of Note:

Thursday, March 15

Suspicious Activity: Two unkept male subjects reported at 11:09 a.m. pushing a green shopping cart from between Greenberg and the Williamson Sports Center. Dispatched officers located the subjects and escorted them from campus. Subjects said they were cutting across campus and did not intend any harm.

Sunday, March 18

[Burglary](http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/burglaries-continue-in-scribner-village-apartments-1.2824577#.T2zMfnYoNbw): Student notified Campus Safety at 4:40 p.m. about a possible burglary to her residence at Birch apartment. Officer dispatched and report issued. Investigation pending.

Thursday, March 22

Animals: Person reports at 7:0 p.m. that she observed a bat flying around the third floor of the Scribner Library. Officer dispatched and the Nuisance Wildlife Control was notified. The bat was removed without incident.

Further Incidents:

Thursday, March 15

Campus Safety Assist: A Williamson Sports Center employee states at 7 a.m. that he was cut off while driving onto campus. Officer identified the vehicle and appropriate actions were taken.

Suspicious Activity: Two unkept male subjects reported at 11:09 a.m. pushing a green shopping cart from between Greenberg and the Williamson Sports Center. Dispatched officers located the subjects

and escorted them from campus. Subjects said they were cutting across campus and did not intend any harm.

Friday, March 16

Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 10:08 a.m. in an office for Howe/Rounds. Dispatched all units and maintenance. Officers determined burned food to have caused the activation.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person at Campus Safety requests records check at 11:50 a.m. of a former student for an application of employment. Campus Safety disclosed the records and received a waiver. Report issued.

Saturday, March 17

Suspicious Activity: Three suspicious individuals reported at 4:28 p.m. near the Turf Field. Officers conducted a search of the area and found no problem. Subjects gone on arrival.

Sunday, March 18

College Violation: A continual problem with noise from a dorm room in Jonsson Tower at 12:20 a.m. Reporting person requests that an officer address the noise. Officers dispatched a report that no noise was detected in the area.

College Violation: Person(s) unknown reported at 9:11 a.m. having disturbed the playground equipment at the Lodge. No damage done. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requested a transport at 11:20p.m. from a location off-campus to the Wilton Medical Arts. Dispatched officer completed the medical transport. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: A concerned parent requests a welfare check on a student at 11:35 a.m. Officer located the subject and delivered a message to contact the parent. The condition of the subject is satisfactory.

Criminal Mischief: The ping pong table in the basement of McClellan Hall was reported damaged at 9:50 p.m. by unknown person(s). Report issued.

College Violation: Noise complaint received at 10:12 p.m. for an excessive volume of music coming from a residence on Whitman Way. Officers dispatched report that the residents complied with the request to lower the volume. A second complaint was received at 11:33 p.m. stating that the residences have

raised the volume of the music again. Officers dispatched. The small group in the residence has now dispersed and the stereo has been shut off for the night.

Tuesday, March 20

Missing Person: A missing person reported at 10:30 a.m. Appropriate procedures initiated and investigation pending. Subjects later located and is in satisfactory condition. Report issued.

Parking: Officer reports booting a vehicle at 1:44 p.m. as it has an excessive number of parking violations. Report issued.

Suspicious Activity: Suspicious activity reported at 4:25 p.m. regarding removed window screens at Whitman Way. Officer dispatched documented the activity. Report issued. No other disturbances noted.

Suspicious Activity: A suspicious male reported at 5:02 p.m. on the Case Green by the Scribner Library. Officers dispatched located the subject and identified him. Subject was warned off-campus. Report issued.

Wednesday, March 21

Larceny: Person reports at 12:01 p.m. the larceny of her watch. Saratoga Springs Police Department report issued. Person later reports that the watch was returned by an unknown person.

Campus Safety Assist: Employee requests transport at 3:34 p.m. from the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall for medical attention. Officer dispatched completed the transport. Report issued.

Campus Safety Assist: A concerned parent requested assistance at 6:35 p.m. with contacting his son. Subject was located and the message delivered.

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requested assistance at 7 p.m. with transportation back to campus as his vehicle was impounded by the Saratoga Springs Police Department. Report issued.

Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 10:06 p.m. at Dayton Drive. Officer dispatched reports no odor detected.

Thursday, March 22

Found Property: Person reports at 3:53 a.m. finding two Best keys at a computer station at the Cyber Cafe. Secured in Found Property. Owner unknown.

Complaints: Person reported an incident at 1:20 p.m. that she had at the College Polo Field earlier with an argumentative subject. Report made.

Thursday, March 22

Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requests records check at 1 p.m. on a former student. Waiver obtained and records released.

Medical: An art model reported fainted and fallen at 3:30 p.m. Officers and Emergency Medical Service dispatched. Subject transported to the Emergency Room. Report issued.

Medical: Reporting person requested Campus Safety assistance at 4:30 p.m. for an ill student from Palamountain Hall. Report issued.

Medical: Student and guest stopped into Campus Safety at 6:22 p.m. with a Medical need. Officer applied bandage to the small laceration. No further medical attention was necessary.

Animals: Person reported at 6:30 p.m. that a turtle was on the roadway near the Arthur Zankel Music Building. Dispatched officer reports that the turtle was removed and placed at a pond.

Criminal Mischief: Person reports glass objects being thrown from Jonsson Tower at 11:32 p.m. Officer dispatched reports locating the removed window. Subjects denied any participation. Report issued.

College Violation: Noise complaint reported at 11:30 p.m. in McClellan Hall. Officers observed alcohol violation. Report issued.

College Violation: Noise complaint received at 11:47 p.m. from residence at Whitman Way. Officers dispatched report that residents complied with the request to lower the volume of the stereo.



Opinion: SGA Executive Board's Impeachment Mandate (Updated)

By Michael DuPré, Op-Ed Editor
On Sun, Mar 25, 2012

**Editor's note: Since the publication of this op-ed, several of these criticisms have been received by the Vice President of Club Affairs, and the sentence allowing the "concerned member" an appeal has been removed. The impeachment process has also been tied to an ethical violation or a failure to perform duties.*

The Vice President of Club Affairs (VPCA), Logan Brenner, has [proposed changes](http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/club-presidents-sga-to-deliberate-new-club-impeachment-policy-1.2827555) to the Club Affairs Committee (CAC) Policies and Procedures that grant the SGA Executive Board potentially unchecked power over the leadership of clubs.

Brenner did announce in her email that presidents had until next Tuesday to make suggestions, but this [new impeachment policy](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18EJajd4JOU_lgFTmONAwqqjzbltTfXVesy3q-NpfP4/edit) will take longer than a few days to sort out.

First, the new article does not lay out the general conditions in which a club member would be justified in starting the impeachment process. There is no provision that the "concerned member" start an impeachment process because the club officer in question violated the SGA Constitution, Skidmore College Honor Code, CAC Policies and Procedure or the Financial Policies and Procedures of their Club Charter.

If the impeachment process is not tied to an ethical violation or a failure of club officer to perform his or her duties as described by the club's charter, club officers could be impeached for personal reasons.

What's more, the proposed law does not introduce a thorough set of procedures for the appeal process with the SGA Executive Board. This ambiguity undermines rule of law. The impeachment of a club officer upon appeal could be decided by the caprices of the SGA Executive Board or any of its members. While this is not stated explicitly in the text, it logically follows from what the law would allow.

The new article also voids all of the impeachment policies and procedures that individual clubs have. As things currently stand, clubs have the ability to decide how best to discipline or impeach a member of its



leadership in the instance of transgression. If a club has already decided among its members the most appropriate course of action in such cases, the VPCA should have no reason to deny clubs to decide their own prerogative.

As we examine the proposed article and its implications, there are a few assumptions that we must make. As was [the case](http://www.skidmorenews.com/mobile/op-ed/editorial-ambiguity-and-uncertainty-in-the-new-aod-policy-1.2609161) concerning the College's new Alcohol and Drugs (AOD) policy, we must always assume that any situation hypothetically permitted under the law could happen. We must also assume that the government will take advantage of all its powers granted under the law, including exploiting ambiguities in the law.

It is worthwhile to conduct a thought experiment that allows for some possible scenarios possible under this new law.

Let us imagine that the two-thirds majority of a club decide that the club officer is not deserving of punishment or removal. The member who began the impeachment process could then make an appeal to the SGA Executive Board. Because the proposed law does not introduce any procedures that the SGA Executive Board must follow in the appeal, the process from this point forward is ambiguous; the possible implications range from simply restarting the process, to setting a dangerous precedent - allowing any club officer's continued service subject to the whimsy of the SGA Executive Board.

The article in question may have been written in good faith, but in permitting such unacceptable scenarios, it fails. Good legislation does not allow any room for outcomes contrary to its purpose, which in this case is the benefit and freedom of clubs on Skidmore's campus.

This is not to say that there is no need to have procedures that allow for impeachment of a club officer - far from it. There are certainly times when impeachment is appropriate and even necessary. However, impeachment is a serious act and it must be tied to equally serious ethical violations or a failure to perform duties under the club's charter.

I am suggesting that the new policy proposed by the VPCA is heavy-handed, unnecessary and dangerous. This article should be stricken before the CAC Policies and Procedures is reauthorized by the SGA Senate. There is no reason to void the carefully crafted impeachment policies of clubs and replace them with mandated policies, especially those which might concede such sweeping powers to the SGA Executive Board.

#1.2827648:3965599651.jpg:Fist

image courtesy of dominiqueb



Club presidents finalize the changes to the CAC Policies and Procedures

The final revision will be put before the SGA Senate next Tuesday

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Mon, Mar 26, 2012

After a meeting with the College's club presidents on Monday evening, March 26, the group made its final revisions to the Club Affairs Committee (CAC) Policies and Procedures, which will be presented to the Student Government Association Senate Meeting on Tuesday, April 3.

Previously, both the concerned member of an organization who requested a meeting to discuss the impeachment of an officer, as well as the impeached officer, could appeal to the SGA Executive board. Now, only the impeached officer may do so.

In the revised policy, the impeachment process may only come as the result of an ethical violation or a failure to perform the duties as deemed by that club's charter.

The Club Affairs committee has considered making these revisions as early as last semester, according to Logan Brenner, vice president for Club Affairs.

"The amendment process for updating the policy involves getting as much feedback as possible from the club presidents," Brenner said, in order to make changes accordingly.

During the presidents' council meeting, students had the opportunity to share with me their concerns or suggestions, Brenner said. "I also incorporated some suggestions that I received electronically during the week before the meeting. Senate will have the final vote on whether to update the policies according to my proposed amendments."

In particular, Brenner said she received many suggestions pertaining specifically to the newly written impeachment clause.

"Impeachment is a difficult and sensitive process for all parties involved," Brenner said. "Creating a uniform process is meant to create equality between all clubs and provide a support system and a consistent methodology for those undergoing the process."

The clause also adds in new language that requires a club to inform the vice president for Club Affairs of impeachment, and voids the impeachment clauses in clubs' charters.



Brenner cited several reasons for this latter change, including the limited number of charters that have impeachment clauses, some of which are vague and unclear, and several of these clauses are identical, an attempt at consistency by a former VPCA that was discontinued.

The Policies and Procedures will be sent to the club presidents and will continue to be revised before its appearance in Senate.



Diver Doug Pilawa' 12 ends his Skidmore career in the NCAA Division III Championship

Pilawa placed 9th out of 24 in the championship to receive two All-American honorable mentions

By Skidmore Athletics

On Mon, Mar 26, 2012

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. -Doug Pilawa' 12 finished 9th out of 24 in the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving Championships, which ran from March 21-24, and earned two All-America Honorable Mentions in one week for his skill and technique.

He placed 9th in the 3-meter dive with a score of 480.75 and 9th in the 1-meter dive with a score of 450.65, for a total of 18 points for Skidmore during the championship. The All-American honors he earned for his scores makes him the first diver in Skidmore's swimming & diving program to win such a prestigious award.

Pilawa is the first men's diver from Skidmore to attend the NCAA Division III Championship, and entered the competition ranked 4th across the nation in Division III diving.

His coach, Jill Belding-Greenleaf, had only praise to sing for his accomplishments. "An outstanding conclusion to an amazing career" Coach Belding-Greenleaf said. "Doug has truly established himself as one of the best divers in Division III and we are proud of everything he has accomplished."

Pilawa's collegial diving career has come to a close, but he will leave behind an impressive legacy as the record holder for every diving event at Skidmore.

#1.2828546:3969671519.jpg: Doug Pilawa championship 3/26

Doug Pilawa' 12 earned an All-American honorable mention for his 3-meter dive at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championship

Skidmore Athletics



Students host Social Justice Week to promote awareness for various issues

Events include panels and discussions on topics ranging from hunger to human trafficking

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Mon, Mar 26, 2012

Students Najwa Webster '14 and Timothy Kim '15, as well as members of Skidmore VISTA and alumna Jennifer Au '11, are organizing Social Justice Week from March 26 to 30, to raise awareness about hunger, domestic violence, education, refugee, human trafficking and class through the theme, "Creative Action Matters."

The idea for this event originated at the Resolve to Fight Poverty Conference last November, which motivated a select group of students to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which took place two weeks later. This semester, the group decided to host a social justice week.

We wanted to include other injustices that we cared about, Sushi Au '11 said. Au was hired by Michelle Hubbs, director of Community Service Programs, as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the year. "We also wanted input from other students because we definitely were not the only ones of campus who cared about justice."

Au's job in the AmeriCorps, a federal community service organization, is to alleviate poverty in Saratoga Springs through her work with the campus. She works with three nonprofit organizations in the Capital Region, although this week's events are not associated with any of them.

In the initial announcement to the College, Au said that more than 30 people showed an interest in participating in the event, however, that number eventually decreased to fewer than 15 students, who now serve as the event's core team.

"The students who organized this week chose injustices they were passionate about," Au said. "We decided not to touch upon race and sexuality because the Office of Student Diversity Programs already covered it, but instead, we wanted to shine light on issues that weren't talked about much on campus."

Each issue will have its own day, during which students may learn more about it through such events as panels, dialogues, simulations, and a fair-trade market.

The core group began planning at the beginning of the semester and divided into six teams, each addressing a different issue, and met as a group weekly. Au helped students connect with the appropriate resources, find volunteers, obtain supplies and equipment and worked with the team for the human trafficking awareness day. She also made sure students would be able to carry out the event next year without her help.

My service year ends in August, but the students who planned this event now know how to plan one and what to do, Au said.

Many clubs and faculty supported the group's actions, including the Student Government Association and the Committee of Diversity Affairs, whose members offered tips and advice on outreach techniques.

Benef-Action, a student-run volunteer club that develops and supports community service among the student body, provided a place to collect co-sponsorships since the group is not a club and therefore does not have a budget. Several co-sponsors include: Inter-Group Relations, the Feminist Action Network, the Christian Fellowship and the Center of Sex and Gender Relations.

There will be a follow-up group meeting, most likely next Wednesday, to review the event and improve for the years ahead. Au said she has hoped since her first year at the College to have a social justice club on campus and is excited to see where students will take the idea.

A full schedule of this week's events may be found here .

"We want students to know that they have the resources and skills to take action," Au said. "Knowing about an issue is great, but without action, we can't change the world. And there are so many ways to act."

Club presidents and SGA to deliberate new impeachment policy

Proposed policy would void clubs' individual policies and introduce appeal policy

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Mon, Mar 26, 2012

On Wednesday March 21, the Vice President for Club Affairs, Logan Brenner, sent an email to all of Skidmore's Club presidents detailing changes to the Club Affairs Committee (CAC) Policies and Procedures.

This CAC document is the governing law of student organizations. On Monday night the presidents will make any suggestions or criticisms of the changes; then on Tuesday night SGA Senate will vote on the proposed amendment.

Most of the changes consist of minor amendments or clarifications, with the exception of an entirely new section on impeachment. This article outlines a brand new impeachment process granting SGA involvement while also voiding all clubs' previous impeachment policies.



Interview: SGA Presidential candidates on eve of election

Aaron Shifreen and Matt Walsh sit down with the Skidmore News

By Andy Shi, Sports Editor

On Tue, Mar 27, 2012

In an interview with the Skidmore News both candidates for SGA President, juniors Aaron Shifreen and Matt Walsh, sat down to explain their views and qualifications before the student body casts its vote on Thursday.

Q: Why do you think you would make a good SGA President?

Shifreen: My greatest personality trait is I listen more than I talk. I'm open to other people's opinions. I hear both sides of an argument before I formulate an opinion and I'm good at finding compromise which has made me a good mediator. I'm honest, an awful liar. I wear my heart on my sleeve, and I care very much for the student body. SGA must be more transparent, and I believe my predisposition to honesty will help achieve this goal.

Walsh: I think the president has to be responsible. Responsible to multiple groups, and responsible for getting things done. I am also efficient, which is a very important quality. As Junior Class President, I worked on starting the Sustainability Committee. I had to be able to meet deadlines and make sure everything was on track so we could start the committee this semester.

I have no problem speaking my mind, even if my opinions are different from others. I would not be silenced even by a majority, which would allow me to project the opinions of the many groups I've been voted to represent.

Q: How have you previously participated in SGA?

Shifreen: I have served on the SGA since my third week in Freshman year. I was Howe- Rounds President from Fall 2009 to the Fall of 2010 when I went to Washington D.C for a domestic study my sophomore spring. I served as the Honor Code Commissioner during his Sophomore year and am currently the Vice President of Residential Affairs, where I chair the Inter Hall Board; I also sit on the Communication and Outreach committee and Budget and Finance committee, and is also chair of the Moorebid Ad-Hoc committee.

I also sit on the Intercollegiate Policy and Planning subcommittee on Student Affairs (IPPC-SA), an all-college committee that discusses issues pertaining to student life at Skidmore. The committee is



currently conducting research to predict if in the future Skidmore might become a smoke-free campus, as well as working on easing the burden of student parenting. I am also the only student representative on the new residence hall group, where I did work on student concerns with environment, water quality and providing more large hydration systems to provide greater water quality.

Walsh: I joined the SGA as Vice-President of the Sophomore Class council. I sat on the Communication and Outreach committee and was involved with the organization of Spring Fling. I helped with finding the music for Fun Day (unofficially) and did odd-jobs for people who needed help. I helped with election and policy and worked on a flow-chart to better depict how the SGA runs.

This year I was elected to Junior Class President. In addition to organizing Junior Ring weekend, I am also in charge of mentoring the new Freshman Class council. I help them transition into SGA. I also sit on the academic council and help plan the Major Fair.

My responsibility is to help people even if I don't identify with them. I am part of mobilizing the effort to educate the campus on diversity.

Q: What are important decisions you have made while a member of SGA?

Shifreen: As Vice-President of Residential Affairs I've worked on changing Moorebid without compromising its values and traditions. This past year I felt we - campus security, SGA, and Residential Life- did the best we could with the time and resources we were given, but by already having the ball rolling for next year, we have a shot at making sure the event will be as safe and enjoyable as possible for the student body.

Walsh: I can't really pinpoint one decision, it's all been more of one whole process. Just being part of the Senate body and helping manage the budget, willingness to serve, reaching out to others, see what they wanted, shape policy around others and just in general give back to Skidmore.

Q: What do you believe are the most pressing issues at Skidmore and how would you address them?

Shifreen: There is a need for the SGA to become more transparent. There is a need for dissemination of information from the SGA to the student body. Only certain SGA officers have control of the SGA email and that the content of the emails should pertain to announcing changes in policy as opposed to solely advertising events.

Another big issue with Skidmore is the way the college administration treats SGA. The administration doesn't take SGA seriously because the student body doesn't. We need to make the SGA and



administration more accountable to the student body. This accountability could be accomplished by actively petitioning people on big decisions.

Walsh: SGA needs to encourage student input in decisions in a more formal sense such as with the AOD policy and summer housing. There should be more students in the SGA committees making policy with everyone else. Although the SGA members are voted to speak on behalf of the student body, there is a need for more student contribution in discussions on major issues that will affect the campus.

There is also a large diversity concern. The school can only do so much to getting the community to a comfortable place. As a freshman, I didn't see diversity as an issue, but once I joined SGA I realized how ignorant I was of the issues and that ignorance is part of the issue. I see a need to work on creating a more accepting campus and plans on working more closely with the Vice President of Diversity Affairs to formulate new ideas and plans for achieving this goal.

Acquaintance rape reported

Campus Safety releases information on violation after on- and off-campus parties

By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief

On Tue, Mar 27, 2012

According to a Skidmore Campus Safety Incident Alert:

A female victim reported to College authorities that on March 25 she had attended some on campus parties and then an off campus party where alcohol had been consumed during the course of the evening. She indicated that a male student she knows traveled back to campus with her and entered her room and would not leave. He proceeded to have sexual relations with her without her consent.

The Skidmore News is in touch with Campus Safety and will provide further information as it develops.

Letter: Fund Late Night

By Melanie Taverner, Class of 2013

On Wed, Mar 28, 2012

Dear Editor,

On Friday, February 17th, a large crowd of students gathered for Ujima's jazz café in the Spa to listen to spoken word poetry and grab free coffee, donuts, frozen yogurt and other desserts. The next night even more students came out to the Spa to dine on free soul food and watch Lift Every Voice Gospel Choir and Pulse perform. To most of Skidmore, these events were seen in isolation of one another, not as a continuing series of events that occur nearly every Friday and Saturday at 10pm in the Spa.

There is an SGA committee responsible for planning these events. Late Night at Skidmore not only refers to the greasy mozzarella sticks offered after 8pm in the dining hall; the Late Night committee brings you monthly open mic comedy nights and co-sponsorships with clubs that may range from a simple movie night to more involved events such as Ujima's jazz café and Lift Every Voice's performance.

Late Night's goal is to be a reliable source of fun for students who want something to do on Fridays and Saturdays yet it is a profoundly unacknowledged resource. Late Night is doing more than ever with less money than in the past. The Committee offers a full calendar of events for both the fall and spring semesters with a budget of \$5,000 less than last year.

Late Night could host approximately sixty events if there was an event every weekend night throughout the year. Currently, Late Night spends no more than \$500 per co-sponsored event so Late Night's current budget of \$30,000 just fits. When considering, however, the comedy acts that Late Night hires, which can range from \$1,500 to well over \$4,000, the Mentalist that comes every fall for \$4,500 and other smaller events that host outside performers that are priced upwards of \$1,000, this budget is not nearly enough.

Late Night's budget is only one third of the size of SEC's annual budget of \$89,000. While it is understandable that SEC's budget needs to be substantial in order to sponsor the annual Big Show, only about half of their budget is spent on this show. This leaves \$44,500, or about \$3,000, per event for the remainder of their approximately fifteen smaller shows scattered throughout the year.

SEC is an example of a funding success story while Late Night is the horror story equivalent. With more funding, Late Night could be as successful as SEC due to its potential to offer the Skidmore community what SEC cannot. Late Night utilizes club sponsorships and maintains a strong focus on comedy acts that



can complement SEC. Additionally, Late Night consistently offers everyone somewhere to go, something to do, on otherwise uneventful Fridays or Saturdays. Late Night is the answer administration's various task forces on alcohol use and abuse are looking for. Late Night is right under our nose- it is here and its potential needs to be recognized through increased funding.

Melanie Taverner

Class of 2013



Speech Night: Candidates for the Inter-Hall Board and the SGA Executive Committee speak out (Update)

Students listen as candidates explain their goals for the next academic year

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Wed, Mar 28, 2012

Jono Zeidan '12, president of the SGA, sent out the results of the SGA elections this afternoon.

Election Results:

SGA President: Matt Walsh

Vice President for Academic Affairs: Ben Bechand

Vice President for Residential Affairs: Jess Sonnenfeld

Vice President for Club Affairs: Leland Martin

Vice President for Communications and Outreach: Amanda Seres

Vice President for Diversity Affairs: Jovany Andujar

Senior Class President: Emilee Bell

President of Wiecking: Ryan Rubbico

President of Wilmarth: Farwa Naqvi

Vice President of Howe-Rounds: Noam Yossefy

More than 60 students filled the Spa during Wednesday's Speech Night, watching from the hallway and the upstairs balcony as 15 candidates voiced their platforms and ideas for the open positions on the Inter-Hall Board and Student Government Association Executive Committee.

Although more than half of the audience left after the two candidates for SGA president spoke, approximately 25 remained to hear the remainder of the speeches. The filmed event was hosted by Raiza Nazareth '12, vice president for Communications & Outreach on SGA.



"As a senior, it definitely feels strange that my time on the SGA is soon coming to an end," Nazareth said. "Being a part of the SGA is like being a part of a family. I will truly miss the work I've done, the events and committees I've been a part of and most of all the people I've worked with."

Of the 11 open positions, eight had students who ran uncontested. The only three that had more than one candidate were the positions for the SGA President, Vice President for Club Affairs, and Vice President for Communications & Outreach.

Candidates for SGA President: Aaron Shifreen '13 and Matt Walsh '13

Shifreen currently serves as vice president for Residential Affairs and the SGA's digital coordinator, and has been an SGA officer since the third week of his freshman year, when he started as the president of Howe-Rounds. He has served on numerous committees, including the Inter-Hall Board and the Student Affairs subcommittee.

Among his goals, he said, is the need to make the administration feel more accountable to the student body and to increase student involvement in faculty committees.

"The administration sees us as an apathetic body, which I see as absolutely not true", Shifreen said. "I think the best way to fix this is to increase channels for student output. I want to demonstrate that students are still interested in Skidmore College."

When asked to define a leader, Shifreen described a person who is conscious of his environment and is aware that working toward the next thing inspires others to follow in the same path.

Both candidates advocated for a set schedule of "office hours" to become more accessible to the general student body and supported more personal conversations with students around campus.

Candidates for Vice President for Club Affairs: Donald Duff '13, Leland Martin '14 and Laura Venner '14

Duff has participated in many clubs, including Hyatt and the Hip Hop Alliance, and has served on the Club Affairs Committee and the Budget & Finance Committee on SGA. He said he hopes to help new club leaders who do not know who to go to or what to do in order to run their club, especially financial-wise.

He also would like to see clubs given more opportunities to showcase their efforts, perhaps through a "club day" in addition to the traditional club fair, in which clubs would show students what and who they are.



"Clubs are the life on campus," Duff said, adding in response to a question that he would like to see more SGA senators become involved in non-SGA clubs, and vice versa. "If I'm reaching out to you, I'd like to see you reach out to me as well."

Martin has served on the SGA since the first semester of his first year, and said he gained insight on how club budgets are put together from his time on the Budget & Finance Committee. He is also involved in several clubs, including the Chemistry Club and the Irish Dance Club.

One of his goals, Martin said, was to encourage different clubs to reach out to each other, perhaps through establishing a separate budget that would help financially sponsor multiple clubs collaborating on one event.

"I would encourage all clubs to work together, and to improve the community at Skidmore," Martin said. He also told students not to be afraid to go to the SGA for help, and that if elected he would work to bridge the gap between the student government and the rest of the student body, as a student who has had experience in both non-SGA clubs.

Venner has been a part of the student council since serving as the treasurer for the Class of 2014 in her first year and recently joined the SGA Senate this year, sitting on the Club Affairs Committee.

If elected, she said she would work to initiate discussion between the executive boards of different clubs, and to provide active support for new leaders of clubs who may not know the resources available to them on campus.

"Clubs are an integral part of this campus," Venner said. "They create close-knit communities for students with similar interests and allow students to expand their horizons."

Venner said she believes it is important to have SGA members sit on non-SGA clubs, as she has witnessed the divide between the two through her participation in the student-led Pre-Med Club. Conversely, she also encourages club members to serve time on the SGA, at least as a member of the Senate.

Candidates for Vice President for Communications & Outreach: Amanda Seres '14 and Stacy Sullivan '13

Seres, this year's Willingness-to-Serve coordinator, has worked with more than 100 students who have run for Willingness-to-Serve positions and said she believes her work helping people find an outlet through which to voice their own opinions translates well into her work in the SGA.

"I think it's a good fit that I would continue on to become the vice president for Communications & Outreach next year," Seres said, adding that her previous experience on the SGA would be very helpful



in continuing the plans and ideas from this year into the next. "In order for a body to be effective, it needs to have continuity, or nothing will ever get done."

Seres said that if elected to the position, she would evaluate the SGA Senate, to make sure it is run as effectively as possible and maximizes student involvement.

When asked by Walsh how much she thought clubs should be able to update their own content on the SGA website, Seres said she prefers the idea of having an SGA member, possibly the digital coordinator, serve as an intermediary between the clubs and the website to manage content and create an aesthetically pleasing site that would best represent the College.

Sullivan has sat on the SGA Senate for three semesters on the Academic Affairs Committee, and said she would like to work with the Dean of Student Affairs to ensure students have the opportunity to give input on changes to policies before they are passed.

In addition, Sullivan said she would try to institutionalize a revision of the SGA constitution and major policies at the beginning and the end of every year, to ensure that they still reflect the needs of the student body.

I would like to use my position to highlight certain things that the SGA and the Senate do that are really beneficial to the student body that students don't always know about."

She also said she often thinks about the divide between the Senate and the SGA, and would like to create more events to garner student input on the matter, improve the SGA's relations with the student body as a whole.

"Our purpose is to serve the student body and their needs," Sullivan said.

SGA Executive Committee Positions:

Ben Bechand '14 is running for vice president for Academic Affairs, and believes his most important responsibility would be to increase the communication between students and faculty, incorporating a higher degree of transparency to what faculty inform students about on campus.

"Working with a team of passionate students who want to make a difference in the coming year, I can accomplish some really great things," Bechand said.

Jovany Andujar '13 is running for vice president for Diversity Affairs, a position he held last semester. He said he would like to adjust the idea of allies on campus, encouraging students to become allies or everything, rather than for a specific issue.

He also said he wishes to increase the diversity of some of the major groups on campus, such as the sustainability committee, which he described as predominately white and female, and the SGA. Such diversity, Andujar said, is important, both for students currently enrolled and to give prospective students a more well-rounded perspective of what the student body is.

Emilee Bell '13 could not attend Speech Night, as she is currently studying abroad in South Africa, but spoke about her desire to serve as senior class president through several pre-prepared videos. In these videos, Bell emphasized the importance of bringing all the classes together, so that underclassmen could benefit from the experience of their older peers.

Bell said she also wants to encourage student voice and to help build relations between the student body and the SGA.

"I want to make sure that everyone has their voice heard in some way or shape," Bell said. "I think people get scared of the SGAs as a body, and that's wrong. We want to do things and we want everyone to be involved. I want people to care about what we're doing."

Residential Hall Positions:

Jess Sonnenfeld '14, who has been a dorm president for the past two years and said she enjoys planning events for students, is running for vice president of Residential Affairs.

Sonnenfeld said that among her ideas is to plan a fall Fun Day, to celebrate the return of old students as well as to welcome in new ones.

Ryan Rubbico '15 is running for president of Wiecking, and said he would like to address the issues he has heard about the lack of community in the dorm by increasing the dialogue between himself and Wiecking residents to hear their ideas.

"I think it's key for any leadership position to have transparency. This will allow me to better understand what students need done and for them to understand what I'm doing and how I'm listening to their concerns," Rubbico said.

The candidacy for president of Wilmarth is filled by Farwa Naqvi '15, an international student who said she wants to become more involved in the community as a representative of her dorm. She said she would like to see more interactive all-hall events and is open to suggestions.

"Just email me and I will make it happen," Naqvi said.

Noam Yossefy '15 is running for vice president of Howe-Rounds, and said she would like to establish a better connection with the student body, welcoming freshmen when they come into their dorms for the first time, and fixing issues between roommates when they arise.

Kate Bridgham '15 is running for vice president of Wilmarth.

Voting begins at midnight, and will continue until 11:59 p.m. March 29. Students may vote at the SGA desk in Case Center, in the Atrium of the Murray Aikins Dining Hall, or online on the SGA website.

#1.2832007:444744706.JPG:SGA Speech Night Photo

Candidates Aaron Shifreen '13 and Matt Walsh '13 are both running for the position of SGA president.

Meredith Simonds/The Skidmore News

#1.2832016:2045098291.JPG:SGA Speech Night Photo 2

Stacy Sullivan '13 is one of the two candidates running for vice president of Communications & Outreach.

Meredith Simonds/The Skidmore News







Editorial: Appreciating religion at a secular college

By the Editorial Board

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012

In the latest edition of The Princeton Review, Skidmore is [listed](http://www.princetonreview.com/schoollist.aspx?type=r&id=749) 19 of the top 20 schools with the "least religious students." Clarifying this description, the subtitle of the list playfully states that the attendants of schools such as Skidmore "ignore God on a regular basis."

Hyperbole aside, do we recognize this as an accurate picture of our campus in our daily lives here at Skidmore?

Though we are certainly not a college that seeks to marginalize its religious population, Skidmore does possess a noticeably quieter presence of any religious impulse than many other American liberal arts colleges.

As far as academics are concerned, Skidmore does not demand the grounding in philosophy and theology required at, say, a Jesuit school such as Boston College or Fordham University. We are a non-sectarian institution, which thereby generally allows for a more overtly secular curriculum.

Beyond academics, this aspect of Skidmore seems to place religion in a secure but quiet, - and, to some, invisible - spot within our campus culture. The Wilson Chapel, for example, is certainly there, but hosts just as many musical and community events as explicitly religious services, if not more. Our commitment to pluralism and diversity is more than institutional and seems to characterize our clubs from the bottom up; even the college gospel choir is non-denominational.

The liberal arts curriculum, of course, finds its history and origin in the religious tradition of the West, and Skidmore College itself was founded and originally run by deeply devout Christian educators. We might, then, ask the question: having grown into a school that attracts and sustains the interest of chiefly secularized young Americans, are we diluting, or drifting from, any elements of the liberal arts experience?

This is not to ask whether our College should cater toward a different demographic or embark on a divinizing mission. The issue is more pedagogical, and might be best illustrated through an example.

Last year, studying abroad in Paris, a group of Skidmore students took a course on the work of English poet John Donne. Far away from Skidmore's soil, our peers were expected to have background



knowledge of the deep cultural and historical roots of Donne's devotional poetry - but our distance from such ideas was immediately apparent. The class simply did not have any strong consciousness either of the Bible or the history of Western Christianity that is required to understand not only Donne, but other giants such as Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare.

In this way one of Skidmore's premier courses of study, English, can be limited by our unfamiliarity and lack of exposure to the overwhelming influence of religion and faith on the human mind and heart. That group of students in Paris did not discover this until they had left campus - but we might find a way to address this disconnect without sending our peers abroad.

Perhaps the grounding in theology and history of tradition offered at, say, Jesuit schools has less to do with inculcating faith and much more to do with providing a common point of cultural and scholarly reference, in the form of religious texts. Our status as a secular school makes such a point of reference no less desirable, as the example above illustrates.

As a school striving to foster and account for rich diversity, we understandably shy away from "canonizing" any particular set of texts; but it was only a few years ago that the English department offered a course titled "Evolving Canon." This was not a way to exclude certain cultures and customs, either academically or socially, but a way to teach the texts and traditions that underpin central aspects of our curriculum, whether in literature, philosophy, anthropology or sociology.

Following this train of thought - whether discussing our curriculum or simply creating a more open space for religious observance - would be a way to ensure that we can be proud of our own identity as a secular and diverse school, while making sure we are not missing out on any element of the liberal arts tradition.

#1.2834614:1155787541.JPG:chapel

The Wilson Chapel, though a spiritual venue on campus, serves the Skidmore community in a broader sense, hosting musical and community events.

Meredith Simonds / The Skidmore News





Letter: Integrate Campus Tours

By Matthew Choi, Class of 2014

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012

Dear Editor,

It's spring time and as tours are wandering around campus I'm reminded of Skidmore's strange approach to diversity. Your average Skidmore tour is almost always overwhelmingly white, while every now and then a tour comes along that is almost completely non-white. These non-white tours are lovingly dubbed "DiversityTours." What is the message here? Why is there a special tour for the "Diversity?" Skidmore already suffers from de facto segregation, why are we instilling it in people before they even officially enroll?

The message you send when you have all the Black, Asian, and Latino students on their own tours is that they are somehow different and separate from the larger community. The intentions of the Diversity Tours are certainly benevolent, and I'm not arguing for the Diversity or OSDP programs to end, but integrate the damn tours. Black, Asian, and Latino students already tend to be separated from the larger community, don't set the groundwork for that during the admissions process.

Matthew Choi

Class of 2014

"Queerin' Putnam" in support of LGBTQ youth

Students gather at downtown bar for a "queer takeover" of Putnam Den

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012

In response to a recent incident at Putnam Den, in which two females who identified as queer were reportedly kicked out of the bar, BARE, the College's Sex Forum and online publication, organized a "queer takeover" of Putnam Den, which will host a drag show to raise money for the Trevor Project, which aims to prevent suicide in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning youth.

Originally, a post on March 4 in BARE urged students to occupy Putnam Den but boycott its services to protest against acts of non-tolerance.

"Many people have experienced blatant acts of homophobia at Putnam Den and recently people have decided to do something about it," the post says. "Make sure to give them none of your money that night so as not to support their unfair business practices."

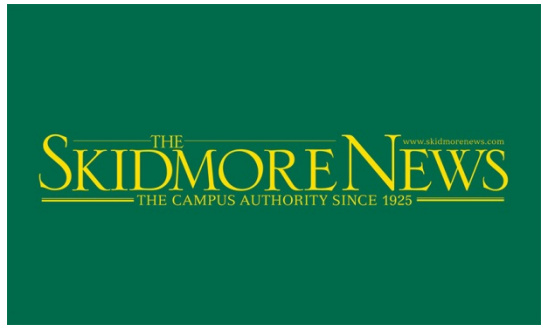
Since this time, the situation has changed. According to Skidmore Unofficial, which has released several Op-Ed columns on the subject, a \$10 cover for the band will be collected at the door, although there will be a \$5 discount for people 21 and over. Minors are welcome, but under-aged drinking will not be permitted.

Becks Kolins '12, is one of the organizers for the event, and described it in an Op-Ed on Skidmore Unofficial as a nonviolent, empowering gathering to create a safe space for queer-identified individuals.

"Many of us have felt uncomfortable at Putnam and while there may be queer-identified individuals who haven't felt that way, it's important that those who do feel uncomfortable and those who are in support, are able to create a safe space that many of us haven't felt at Putnam and don't feel at many places downtown," Kolins said.

Kolins asked people not to associate incident in Putnam Den with underage drinking, as the two individuals involved were of legal age. Kolins encourages supporters to come and work with those who feel discomfort to establish a healthy, safe environment.

I ultimately hope we can all enter this without hostility and in a way that we can all support each other, Kolins said. "If Putnam is queer-friendly, then we shouldn't run into problems and I would certainly love for no problems to arise."



More information to follow.

NBA Talk: Year of the Thunder?

After beating the Heat with a large win, are the Thunder now the favorite to win the championship?

By Andrew Shi, Sports Editor

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012

The Thunder was always going to leave the Western Conference as it's champion, but confidence that the team might emerge as the 2012 NBA champions was highly contested... until Sunday.

The Thunder, in one of the season's most anticipated games, beat the Heat by a hefty 16 points. After a year to acclimate the Heat's big three (Lebron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh) to working together, and a blow of humility after their loss to the Mavericks in the NBA finals, most assumed that James would receive his first ring this year. That assumption seemed to depart with the Heat as they left heads hung from the OKC stadium.

Perhaps it was the effects of the game being away that attributed to the Heat loss, but the Thunder also seemed to be having a much better performance this year than the Heat. Kevin Durant is ranked second in the league for points, James third. Russell Westbrook is 5th, Wade 6th. Thunder's Serge Ibaka is first in the league with blocks, but the first Heat player to make the list is Joel Anthony at 25th.

Although Westbrook is only 23rd in the league for assists, Wade is 32. The only statistic that exists where a Heat player beats out a Thunder player is in rebounds where James is 25th and Durant is 29.

In general the Thunder score more per game than the Heat, which is why the Thunder is first in the league and the Heat is in third. On the other end though, the Heat on average allow fewer points scored by the opposing team per game than the Thunder (the Heat allow 93.63, the Thunder allow 97.16).

So what does this all mean? It means that when the Heat and Thunder meet in the NBA Finals, which seems very likely as the Bulls still don't seem qualified for the No. 1 Eastern Conference seed they hold, it is going to be a very close series. It could very well go to game seven, and the win could easily go to either team. If both teams continue to play the way they have though, it seems that the Thunder will come on top. More definite predictions will have to wait until the two powerhouse teams meet again on April 4 in Miami.

#1.2834479:2755194891.jpg:Thunder-Heat 3/30/12

Thunder All-Star Kevin Durant dunks over Heat center Joel Anthony

The Miami Herald



Restaurant Review: Forno Bistro

By Tegan O'Neill, Columnist

On Fri, Mar 30, 2012

The flames rising out of the brick oven at the back of the Forno Bistro caught my eye before anything else, and the image of heat was seared into my brain. Those in charge have put thought into creating a sense of warmth that goes beyond the wood-fired pizza. Although dark and a bit cluttered, the setting strikes a comfortable balance between ornate and cozy. Mammoth curly-q sculptures meant to mimic the tendrils of a fire's flame adorn the ceilings. Nearly everything in sight is on the warm side of the color continuum. It does not feel cavernous but it certainly feels far from small and intimate. It is more of a place for families and groups to congregate.

It is always a plus when bread is served warm. Unfortunately, this bread's warmth was its only positive attribute. There is not much to say about a plain piece of white bread without dimension. It did serve as a suitable canvas for the paint of balsamic vinegar and olive oil, though.

Right off the bat, I could tell the rhythm of the waitstaff was off. Our plates of food were brought to the table as if the meal was a road race, and our dishes were cleared before we even finished chewing our last bites. I felt as though we were being rushed through the meal, and our permission to enjoy it leisurely whisked away along with the bread basket. The overly attentive army in charge of our table was stifling. I just wanted to be left alone to enjoy the food, which was good enough to merit savoring.

For example, I would have loved to spend more time cherishing the flavor burst that the Bruschetta Classica delivered. If only I could have dragged out the seconds of that first shock of basil and the slow wave of garlic that followed. I was thoroughly impressed by the flavor packed into the playground of diced tomatoes that topped off the slabs of toasted bread. Ideally, the components of bruschetta are enjoyed simultaneously, but because the bread was too tough to be bitten into without some pulling and tugging, the tomatoes toppled off the bread leaving it to stand alone. The scrumptious tomatoes left on the plate turned into a reward for struggling through the bread. And what better reward could there be than a simple mélange of garlic, basil and tomato? The medley tastes like eating a summer garden.

The Mista Insalata was another appetizer that had its flaws but, nevertheless, could be forgiven. All that made up this salad were mixed greens, tomatoes and a thin, but large, slice of Grana Padano. The salad was slick with a white balsamic vinaigrette that was too heavy on the oil and not liberal enough on the balsamic. The presentation of the antipasti was beautiful in its simplicity. The slice of cheese draped

over the greens was almost poetic. As it is a fairly mild cheese, the Grana Padano did not steal the show from the green and red parts of the salad. It added a slight richness to an otherwise unpretentious plate of humble ingredients.

Before we dug into the main course, we took our ever-attentive waiter up on his offer for freshly shaved cheese. What ensued was more than a shaving of cheese - it was a blizzard. It seemed as if time were frozen while white flakes resembling snow showered down from the grater above.

This glorious pile of cheese melted into the dish of Fusili con Broccoletti like snow on a warm spring day, enhancing an already interesting blend of foodstuffs. Springy spirals of Fusili pasta, house-made sausage, tuscan beans, broccoli pesto and fennel seeds made for a light but filling dish of pasta. Broccoli came out on top as the dominant flavor. That it was mashed made for a strange pesto. It was odd that the sauce was thick and mushy rather than smooth. Whole fennel seeds mingled with the clean taste of broccoli, which added an aromatic flare. Surprisingly, the sausage offered the least flavor, and, when paired with the hearty white beans, the sausage seemed an unnecessary additional source of protein. When thrown together and cooked, the beans, sausage and pasta all acquired a similar soft consistency, which, albeit pleasant enough, is not very remarkable. Beware of the large chunks of garlic buried within - unless, of course, you like whole cloves, in which case by all means plunge your fork in to the dish without abandon.

Forno's pizza has very soft, bread-like dough, trace amounts of grease on the bottom of the pie and a pillowy texture throughout, even when you get to the pizza bone. Neither the cheese nor the sauce speak loudly on Forno's Pizza Pomodoro e Rughetta. A thin layer of cheese makes it a dainty pizza. No strings attached here. The layer of sauce is even finer than the cheese. It seems to be used just for color effect. The flavors are muted, but it is a pleasing pie nonetheless. Spicy tendrils of arugula add some zing, but since they do not rip easily, it is difficult to avoid slurping up all of the arugula in the first bite, thus, leaving the remainder of the slice bare.

I have yet to be convinced that cannoli is really as good as it is cracked up to be. This particularly cannoli did nothing to persuade me of the classic Italian dessert's merits. Maybe if the ricotta in this cannoli had not been so grainy and had been a little sweeter and a bit smoother, it would have been good. I wish that the whipped cream sitting underneath the cannoli had been used for the filling. It was thick enough to have done the job and more delectable than its distant dairy cousin ricotta. Tasty footprints of nutmeg, chocolate and powdered sugar left their tracks around the plate and in the cannoli.

The affogato kills two birds with one stone - sweet merges with wham-bam caffeine to form an alliance that seals the meal. The rich whipped cream, hot espresso, cold gelato and gloriously goopy caramel

taste like a truly decadent treat. The gelato was too icy to be enjoyable but everything else was delicious, especially the caramel...if only it had been ladled on in gobs.

There is room for improvement at Forno Bistro, but I can understand why Forno is a much loved classic on the Saratoga dining scene. The restaurant has heart and seems to genuinely care about customer satisfaction, which is a redeeming trait important enough to make up for the small bobbles made along the way.

To read more of Tegan O'Neills outings visit her <http://tegan-and-sarah.blogspot.com/2012/03/forno-bistro.html> target="_blank">blog.

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Forno Bistro is located at 541 Broadway.

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News

#1.2834395:2139315006.jpg:food

Forno's bruschetta offers a delicious medley of tomatoes, garlic and basil

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News

#1.2834397:117396619.jpg:salad

Forno's Fusilli con Broccoletti features a broccoli pesto, white beans, sausage and fennel seeds

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News

#1.2834412:3379925819.jpg:connoli

Forno's rendition of the classic Italian treat consists of the traditional pastry and ricotta cheese with accents of nutmeg, chocolate and powdered sugar.

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News







