

Future of Skidmore College Solar Array Remains in Question

By Rachel Kashdan, Contributing Writer

On Wed, Dec 4, 2013

Update: The solar array was approved by the Greenfield Town Board in a 4-1 vote on Thursday night.

Skidmore College continues its efforts to turn the plans for a two-megawatt solar array on Denton Road into reality, and this task has not been simple.

Michael Hall, Special Assistant to Vice President Michael West and the solar project's spearhead, had already been exploring the possibility of bringing solar power to Skidmore for several years when Skidmore received a \$2.35 million dollar grant from New York state one year ago. The grant came from New York State governor Andrew Cuomo's NY-Sun Initiative, which was established in 2012 as a state effort to increase its number of solar installations.

The College plans to build a 6,950-panel solar array on eight acres of land owned by the school. The array would be installed behind Skidmore's baseball fields on Denton Road in Greenfield. Skidmore has partnered with Dynamic Energy Solutions, which will build the solar plant and generate Skidmore's solar power for the next twenty years. The solar farm would satisfy about twelve percent of Skidmore's electricity demand, which Hall said would represent Skidmore's "first big move toward trying to reduce our electric carbon footprint."

Karen Kellogg, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Skidmore, says that this project would provide the opportunity to demonstrate to the community an "approach to a more sustainable energy future." She is also confident that the project would provide vast opportunities for curricular connections, and expressed her hope that Skidmore will be able to "develop courses that talk about everything from the planning stage to the implementation stage [of this type of project] and how [these projects] fit into the broader landscape of an alternative energy future."

The process to get the plan approved has been a difficult one, as some residents who live near the site have vehemently spoken out against Skidmore's proposal. Despite the fact that the homes closest to the solar array would be about 1,100 feet away, many of these residents are concerned that it will disrupt the peace of their neighborhood.

During town hearings on the subject, residents have expressed concerns about increased traffic, noise pollution, and visual pollution. Yet throughout the approval process, Hall has been adamant that these will not be issues. "You are not going to be able to hear it, you are not going to be able to smell it, it won't give up any radio waves... and we are going to plant however many trees are required to make it

not visible," he stated. In addition to the trees, a six-foot high cedar fence would also surround the entire area and further conceal the solar array. Moreover, increased traffic due to the solar farm should not be a concern, according to Hall, as only a single truck will visit the site about four to eight times a year to maintain the panels.

Greenfield's Planning Board has already positively reviewed the project; but it is now up to the Greenfield Town Board to make its final decision on the fate of the project, with residents' concerns in mind. A hearing will take place on December 5th, during which the project team will answer the board's remaining questions and the proposal will be put to a vote. If the Town Board does not vote in favor of Skidmore's proposal, the project will almost certainly be ended.

Despite this, Hall declares that the team continues to be "cautiously optimistic" about the fate of the project. If approved by the Town Board, the next step will be to perform a "site plan review" with the Greenfield Town Planning Board, in which every detail of the project will be thoroughly examined before it is given the final green light. Hall's goal is to then begin building the solar farm in January.

Although the process to get the project approved has been long and trying for everyone involved, Hall says that the board members have been "very fair" and that Skidmore is appreciative of "all of their effort that has gotten us to this point...We're just hoping that this diligence continues and we'll get our approval."

#1.3126138:3193936735.jpg:solarpanels

Plans are underway to install a solar array on Denton Road, in the town of Greenfield.

www.bonerrasolar.com



Campus Safety Reports: Nov. 22 to 28

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

Incidents of Note:

- **Saturday, Nov. 23-Suspicious Activity:** A hunter reported at 11:08 a.m. in the woods behind the stables acting suspiciously. Officer checked the area, but was unable to locate the subject. Sheriff's Office advised.
- **Sunday, Nov. 24-Criminal Mischief:** Report received at 2:04 a.m. that three students had removed the flag pole from the reporting person's yard and damaged the lattice around his house at an off-campus location. Officer dispatched. The Saratoga Springs Police Department advised for report.
- **Sunday, Nov. 24-A confidential report** received at 9 a.m. from a former student of a sexual assault that had occurred on the campus sometime during the fall semester of 2011. Report issued.

Further Incidents:

Friday, Nov. 22:

- **Medical:** A fallen woman reported at 2:15 p.m. in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater. The Saratoga Springs Fire Department responded and transported her to the hospital.
- **College Violation:** Officer reported confiscating contraband at 3:07 p.m. at 14 Whitman Way. Report written.
- **Accident:** Reporting person stated at 5:03 p.m. hitting a tree with vehicle at the Waring House. Report taken.
- **Suspicious Odor:** A suspicious odor reported at 6:38 p.m. at Penfield Hall. Call unfounded.
- **Fire Alarm:** Fire alarm received at 7:01 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments. Officer and maintenance responded. Alarm was due to cooking.
- **Criminal Mischief:** Reporting person observed a hole in the wall at 9:01 p.m. on the sixth floor of Jonsson Tower. Report taken.

Saturday, Nov. 23:

- **Suspicious Activity:** A male reported at 11:39 a.m. acting suspiciously in Wilmarth Hall. Report taken.
- **Larceny:** Two fire extinguishers reported missing at 11:30 a.m. from Penfield Hall. Report taken.

- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor detected at 1:20 p.m. in McClellan Hall. Drug law violation referral.
- Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person advised of a conflict with another student at 1:17 p.m. Report taken and follow up initiated.
- Medical Assistance: An injured male reported at 4:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse Gym at the Williamson Sports Center. The Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service assessed the subject, who declined further treatment. Report taken.
- Medical Assistance: Reporting person requested the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service at 9:43 p.m. at Penfield Hall. Subject was evaluated and transported to the hospital.
- Criminal Mischief: A broken florescent light bulb reported at 11:10 p.m. in the second floor study room of Penfield Hall. Housekeeping notified.
- College Violation: Loud music reported at 11:15 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments. Officer spoke with the students.

Sunday, Nov. 24:

- Intoxicated Subject: An intoxicated student reported at 12:29 a.m. in Penfield Hall. Officers and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service dispatched for a medical evaluation. Report issued.
- College Violation: Noise complaint received at 1:15 a.m. at Dayton Drive. Officer dispatched reported that the students lowered the music volume upon request.
- College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 1:22 a.m. at Cane Crossing. Officers dispatched reported that students turned the volume down upon request.
- Criminal Mischief: Report received at 2:33 a.m. that a vending machine in McClellan was smashed and broken into by an unknown person. Officers dispatched and inventory secured. Damage recorded. Report issued.
- Criminal Mischief: Several fire extinguishers reported discharged at 2:25 a.m. on vehicles in the West Lot and in dormitories by unknown persons. Damage recorded. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: The Saratoga Springs Police Department notified Campus Safety at 2:40 a.m. of a student's DWI arrest.
- Missing Person: Report received at 4:30 a.m. that a friend was lost and was ill-equipped for the cold weather. Officers dispatched. Subject located upon search. Report issued.
- Criminal Mischief: Various evidence of criminal mischief reported at 10:16 a.m. in Penfield Hall.
- Criminal Mischief: Various criminal mischief evidence reported at 11 a.m. in Penfield Hall. Report issued.

- Criminal Mischief: Criminal Mischief reported at 11:30 a.m. in the laundry room basement of Penfield Hall. Report issued.
- Criminal Mischief: Report received at 2:33 a.m. that a vending machine in McClellan was smashed and broken into by an unknown person. Officers dispatched and inventory secured. Damage recorded. Report issued.
- Criminal Mischief: Several fire extinguishers reported discharged at 2:25 a.m. on vehicles in the West Lot and in dormitories by unknown persons. Damage recorded. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: The Saratoga Springs Police Department notified Campus Safety at 2:40 a.m. of a student's DWI arrest.
- Missing Person: Report received at 4:30 a.m. that a friend was lost and was ill-equipped for the cold weather. Officers dispatched. Subject located upon search. Report issued.
- Criminal Mischief: Various evidence of criminal mischief reported at 10:16 a.m. in Penfield Hall.
- Criminal Mischief: Various criminal mischief evidence reported at 11 a.m. in Penfield Hall. Report issued.
- Criminal Mischief: Criminal Mischief reported at 11:30 a.m. in the laundry room basement of Penfield Hall. Report issued.

Monday, Nov. 25:

- College Violation: A noise complaint received at 12:49 a.m. in Kimball Hall. Officer dispatched reported that the residents lowered the volume.
- Criminal Mischief: Criminal mischief reported at 7:25 a.m. in Wait Hall. Report issued.
- Medical: An unconscious female reported at 2:24 p.m. outside of the Tisch Learning Center. Dispatched officers and the Emergency Medical Service. Subject transported to the Emergency Room. Report issued.
- Medical Assistance: Reporting person requested the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service assistance at 8:43 p.m. Dispatched officers and the SCEMS. Student evaluated. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 9:37 p.m. at Sussman Village. Dispatched all units, maintenance, and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Activation due to a cooking error. Report issued.

Tuesday, Nov. 26:

- College Violation: Noise reported at 12:25 a.m. at Whitman Way. Subject requested to cease for the duration of the night.

- Criminal Mischief: A large hole reported at 10:15 a.m. in a wall on the third floor of Weicking Hall. Dispatched officer recorded the damage. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 4:54 p.m. for the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall. Maintenance reported the exhaust hoods were being worked out. Report issued.

Wednesday, Nov. 27:

- College Violation: Reporting person requested that an officer pick up items at 8:57 a.m. from the Office of Residential Life that were violations of the College Police and Drug Law Violation Referrals. Report generated.

Thursday, Nov. 28:

- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 5:40 p.m. for the Sussman F Apartment. Officers, maintenance, and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department dispatched. Alarm was due to cooking.

#1.3065873:1498683990.jpg:campus safety

Dylan Lustrin/The Skidmore News



NBA Talk: The East stinks and will only get worse

By Andrew Shi, Editor-in-Chief

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

The Eastern conference is currently in shambles. As of Wednesday, only two of its teams are above .500. Boston, the team that just traded away its all-stars and was suspected of tanking the season, is fourth. Meanwhile, the team that it dealt its all-stars to and was expected to be a serious contender for the conference finals, the New Jersey Nets, is 13th. In the Western conference, there are 12 teams .500 or better and the bottom four of those teams, which are currently sitting outside of the playoffs could, if in the East, be battling for third place. Simply put, the East is awful and it may only get worse.

The reason for this is that in the East only two teams are seriously playing for the championship: the Pacers and the Heat. The Bulls were the third team until Derrick Rose suffered another knee injury that has resulted in a second consecutive lost season. Perhaps another seven or eight teams are playing just to make the playoffs. Four teams are likely in a race to the bottom: The Celtics, 76ers, Magic and Bucks. In the West, there are six teams that can reasonably aspire to play the Heat or Pacers in the finals: The Trailblazers, Spurs, Clippers, Thunder, Rockets and Warriors. More importantly though, there are another six teams that are definitely playing to make the playoffs, and the Suns are playing well enough to make the playoffs as well. There are only two teams playing for the lottery: The Kings and the Jazz.

There are thus three groups of teams in the West: the championship contenders, the playoff contenders and the tankers. As the season progresses, these demarcations will become more accentuated, but what's important about the first two groups is that as the trade deadline approaches, they're going to be bidding for spare role players to increase their chances for victory. That's 12 teams looking for role players, or even stars, and they'll be looking at teams that won't be playing for the playoffs. And those teams will be in the East.

If the rumors are true, the Celtics, 76ers and Magic are all playing for the draft. Originally, the Bucks were expected to be playing for mediocrity again, but after the loss of Sanders and Defino and the current disaster their team has become, they may be joining that race to the bottom. A fifth team, the Raptors, which is good enough to make the playoffs in this conference, is allegedly looking to shed its big contract players and make a run for Wiggins. That would make five teams, all with serviceable players, that will be targeted by the West.

By the February trade deadline, players that have been playing impressively: Aaron Afflalo, Glen Davis, Evan Turner, Brandon Bass and Demar Derozan, for example, may very likely be playing in different

uniforms come the end of the season. The end result is that these Eastern teams, which have been playing admirably and playoff worthy, will be even worse.

On the flip side, though, these Eastern teams may also trade with other Eastern teams aspiring for the playoffs: the Cavaliers, Knicks, Nets, Pistons, Bobcats and Wizards. The Knicks and Nets are desperate to make moves and they are both likely to pay big for whatever may put them over the edge.

So while on the whole the Western will become better at the expense of the East, several Eastern teams may improve as well, or at least make the playoffs more interesting. And even without these inevitable trades, it's unlikely that the Cavaliers, Knicks or Nets will continue to play gutter-worthy. Still, come playoffs, it will all be about the West.

#1.3126804:3253205890.jpg:basketball

The Eastern conference is looking like it will be another Heat-Pacers final.

Issac Baldizon/Getty Images

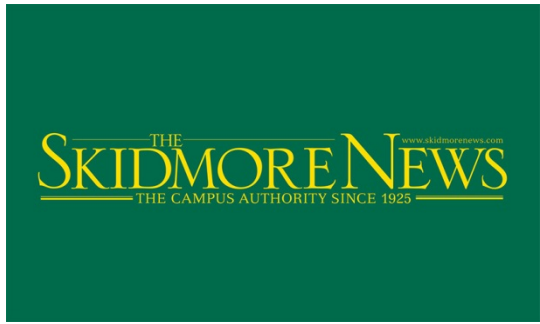
#1.3126809:2582952033.jpg:basketball

The Knicks and Nets both entered the season with playoff expectations but are struggling, and may be looking to spend to make the playoffs.

Jim McIsaac/Getty Images







Winter athletes honored by Liberty League

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

The winter-sports teams are well underway, with some Skidmore athletes already earning recognition from the Liberty League for their individual performances.

Women's basketball senior Jordyn Wartts was selected for this week's League Honor Roll. In the team's overtime win over Hamilton College last week, Wartts led Skidmore with a double-double. Wartts scored 24 points and added 12 rebounds, including seven key points in an 8-0 Skidmore run in the second half that pulled the team back into the game. Wartts is currently ninth in the Liberty League in scoring, averaging 14.6 points per game for the Thoroughbreds.

Connor Merrill '15 of the men's basketball team was also named to the Liberty League Honor Roll this week, as he helped lead the Thoroughbreds to an 87-74 victory over SUNY Potsdam. Merrill scored a career-high 32 points in the game, shooting 12-16 from the field and 6-7 from beyond the three-point line. Merrill also added 15 rebounds in the game, and he combined with teammate Tanner Brooks '16 to score 13 points over a four-minute span late in the game to cement the win.

Wartts and the women's basketball team, who sit at 1-4 on the season, are hosting Middlebury College at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7.

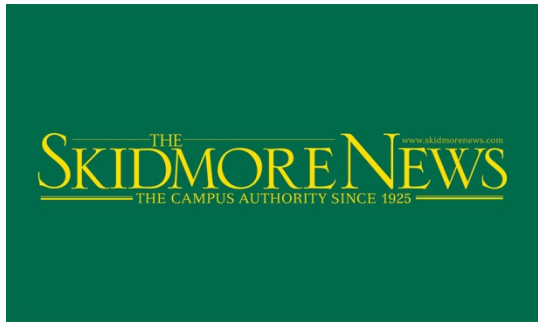
Merrill and the 3-1 men's basketball team are also playing Middlebury College at home at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

#1.3126856:3737608416.jpg:basketball

Wartts and Merrill both earned places on the Liberty League honor roll.

Skidmore Athletics





Blackhurst earns Longstreth/NFHCA Division III National Player of the Year

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

Blackhurst was selected as the 2013 Longstreth/NFHCA Division III National Player of the Year, adding to her already packed trophy case.

The Skidmore field hockey team's season ended in the NCAA Division III semifinal, as they lost to Salisbury on a rare overtime penalty stroke. The season was one of the program's most successful, and it also marked the end for Kelly Blackhurst '14, the program's all-time leading scorer. Blackhurst, though, is continuing to pull in national recognition for her season and her career.

On Tuesday, Blackhurst was selected as the 2013 Longstreth/NFHCA Division III National Player of the Year on the strength of her 32 goals and 15 assists this season. Her 79 points this season give her a career total of 264 points (105 G, 54 A), which is 5th all-time in career scoring in Division III.

This season, Blackhurst was also tabbed as a Longstreth/NFHCA All-American for the third time in her career, and she was selected as North Atlantic Region Player of the Year for the second time in her career. Additionally, this season marked the second time Blackhurst was named the Liberty League Offensive Player of the Year as well as being named to the All-Liberty League team, and she finished her career as the League's all-time leading scorer.

Blackhurst's 32 goals this season was a record for most in a season, and the eight of those goals that were game-winners was also a record. Blackhurst also slashed a couple other records, including most career game-winning goals (20) and most points in a season.

Blackhurst's career goals per game (1.24) is fifth all-time in Division III, her career goals (105) and career assists per game (0.64) are both seventh all-time.

The Thoroughbreds ended the season at 19-4, won the Liberty League championship and made it to the Final Four for the third time in program history.

#1.3126852:1954378436.jpg:field hockey

Blackhurst is seventh all-time in DIII in career goals (105) and career assists per game (0.64).

Katie Peverada '14



Why the Red Sox letting Ellsbury, Saltalamacchia walk is a good move

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

The past week has been quite busy in the world of baseball, with the hot stove turning on full-blast. There were a lot of notable players moving around, via trade and free-agency, but the Boston Red Sox letting two players walk in free-agency were calculated moves for the benefit of the team. It would appear that the Red Sox let two key players walk in catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia and centerfielder Jacoby Ellsbury. These moves seem detrimental and counter-productive (isn't the idea to repeat as World Series Champions?), however, Boston's general manager Ben Cherrington has the Red Sox on the right track. So far, the Ellsbury and Saltalamacchia moves are the right moves for each team involved.

By now, the sports world knows that Jacoby Ellsbury left the Boston Red Sox and signed with the New York Yankees for \$153 million over seven years. The deal, which has an option for an eighth year, was in typical Yankee fashion. Stealing the Red Sox star-center field is something they've been doing for years (see Johnny Damon). Ellsbury is coming off one of the best years of his career and, pending he can stay healthy, should provide the Yankees with a strong bat at the top of the lineup. On top of Ellsbury's signing, the Yankees also signed catcher Brian McCann, and are still in a good position to resign pitcher Hiroki Kuroda. To sum it up, the Yankees missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008 (!), and as a result have embarked on a huge spending spree to return to the top of the AL East. Even if they don't win the World Series, the Yankees will still achieve their yearly goal of spending the most money, as they did in 2013 with \$228,995,945 payroll.

In an equally as important departure and signing, but one done with much less fanfare, Saltalamacchia signed with the Miami Marlins for three years and \$21 million. Saltalamacchia is a huge upgrade over Jeff Mathis and Rob Brantly, the Marlins platoon in 2013. Saltalamacchia's batting average of .273 is an upgrade of over .060. The Marlins, as bad as they have been the past few years - they haven't finished over .500 since 2009 - they do have a strong, young, and deep pitching staff that finished a respectable 11th in MLB in 2013 with a team ERA of 3.71. It's at the plate where the Marlins struggle, finishing dead last this year with a team average of .231. Saltalamacchia wasn't the best available catcher on the market (the Yankees got that with McCann), but his stats are very comparable and his experience with winning is what the Marlins need in the locker room. Pending any crazy fire sales from owner Jeffery Loria, Saltalamacchia will prove to be the anchor for the Marlins climb back into relevancy.

But what about the Red Sox? They lost their starting centerfielder and their primary catcher and remain committed to keeping their roster financially flexible. Saltalamacchi was looking for a multi-year deal and Ellsbury was asking for a lot of money. In what was one of the quietest offseason signings, the Red Sox signed catcher A.J. Pierzynski to a one-year deal worth \$8.25 million. Pierzynski was signed before Saltalamacchia made it official with the Marlins. The Red Sox were not only ready to move on, but they were also prepared to. Pierzynski, a durable catcher coming off of a .283 season in Texas, will join last year's backup David Ross. Ross is no slouch, and could start on other teams, as he caught four of the six World Series games. Cherrington probably also had in mind that he has the sixth-ranked prospect catcher, Blake Swihart, and another great catching prospect in Christian Vazquez. Swihart won't be ready this year, but the Red Sox are high on his ability, which is why signing a one-year deal was important. It allows Swihart and Vazquez to develop in the minors in 2014 and makes the spot behind the plate open in 2015, when hopefully Swihart or Vazquez proves ready. Ellsbury's departure makes way for Jackie Bradley Jr. to replace him in centerfield, and explore free-agency a bit. Bradley struggled at the plate in his time in the majors last year, but the team seems ready to commit to him and his lights-out defense.

The Red Sox letting Ellsbury and Saltalamacchia walk got what everybody involved wanted. The Yankees will continue to spend, and nobody can ever tell what the Marlins are going to do. And while the Red Sox's success from letting the players walk does depend on how the prospects develop in 2014, all these teams will at least get a chance to prove that they made the right moves.

#1.3126793:1539724295.jpg:baseball

Ellsbury (l) and Saltalamacchia (r) were valuable players for the Red Sox, but Boston's farm system is allowing the team to move forward.

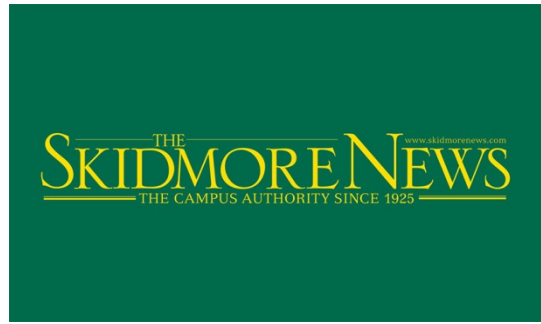
NESN.com

#1.3126794:4084627625.jpg:baseball

Pierzynski, while known for a fiery attitude, is also a great-game caller.

sportsmockery.com





Mental Health: The Stigma is Real

By Amber Charette
On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

Mental health is a topic of interest that not only fascinates me, but that affects me on a personal level. For the past several years, I've been struggling with severe anxiety and depression. My illnesses began sometime in high school, but it wasn't until my junior year of college that I really started to try and make things better for myself. Since then, I've experienced enormous ups and downs, and have at times questioned my ability to continue fighting these illnesses. Recently, with the help of medication and therapy, I have begun to make great strides in my coping ability. I'm not going to say that I'm in the clear, but I can tell that what I'm doing are the right things for me and that as long as I continue doing them I will become increasingly stronger.

My name is Amber Charette, and I am a senior exercise science major here at Skidmore. I wanted to share a small piece of my story to you all because I would like nothing more than to help open people's eyes to the realities of mental illness. The stigma that is present on mental illness is real, and it is not only hurtful to those affected by mental illness but also detrimental to their overall wellbeing. How is someone going to ask for help if society does not accept people being ill in this way in the first place?

Most of you who are reading this article probably don't fall into this stigmatizing group. But that doesn't mean there aren't people out there who do. I can recall several instances where people have ridiculed, bullied, and tormented people because of their mental illness. Not only this, but I have also witnessed such stigmas via popular social networks such as Facebook, Myspace, and Tumblr. One of the latest stigmatizing experiences I came across was a Facebook post shared by a group I am a member of. While I couldn't find the exact post (as it was shared back in September), I did find an article that highlights the gist of it very well:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/09/26/asdas-mental-patient-fancydress_n_3993125.html. While I encourage all who are reading this article to take a peek at this link, I understand the realities of the last few weeks of the semester very well. Thus, I'll give a brief synopsis of the whole situation. Basically, two companies, Asda (which is owned by Wal-Mart) and Tesco were selling "mental patient" and "psycho ward" Halloween costumes in England. One look at the costumes, and viewers became instantly outraged. And while I was pleased with the quick backlash from viewers, I was nonetheless disgusted by the fact that some people, somewhere, thought it was acceptable to sell such costumes.

To some, I may seem like I was exaggerating my frustration at this post, but I don't think I was. As someone who has been a patient in a mental health unit multiple times because of my illnesses, I was personally offended and hurt by what those companies did. But what bothered me most was the message that was being sent to consumers: which was that mental health patients and people with mental illness in general are all violent, scary, and insane.

First, I can guarantee you all that while I admit to being quirky and weird at times, I am certainly *not* crazy. I'm a normal college student, who happens to struggle with anxiety and depression. Second, notice I said that I struggle *with* anxiety and depression. I do not consider myself to be "an anxious and depressed" person. Rather, I am a person *with* anxiety and depression. While the change is subtle, the meanings differ enormously: I am first and foremost a person, and thus, using what is known as 'people-first' language is essential.

I do not define myself by my mental illnesses, and I think it is time that society realizes and respects that mental illnesses are just that - illnesses. I read another post on Facebook recently that said something like this: "You wouldn't tell someone with diabetes to just snap out of it." Whether psychological or physical, illnesses should be treated equally.

As an endnote, my struggles with mental illness have helped to show me what I am passionate about doing in my future. I hope to become a social worker in an inpatient mental health unit one day, so I can help individuals cope with and eventually overcome their illnesses too. Sometimes, just sometimes, your weaknesses can become your strengths.

#1.3126781:837270090.jpg:depression



Sustainable Skidmore: Reworking the Curriculum to Incorporate Sustainability Credits

By Rachel Dyckman
On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

Sustainability is a topic on everyone's mind these days. With the impending crisis of global climate change, many colleges and universities have decided to implement mandatory sustainability credits into their curriculums. Schools like Dickinson and Middlebury are developing sustainability requirements, and Skidmore seeks to follow suit.

Skidmore Sustainability Committee member, Rachel Dance '14 explains, "We are in the very beginning stages of putting this together and it's going to be a long process... we have been looking at schools that already have this requirement and are looking to simulate those curriculums to make it applicable to Skidmore's mission. The curriculum as a whole is being reevaluated and will take about three to five years to implement." If Skidmore implements sustainability into its curriculum, it can join the 280 higher education institutions (including Wesleyan, Vassar, Franklin and Marshall, and Tufts just to name a few) that are currently rated by STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. STARS is a "self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance" (stars.aashe.org). Skidmore currently offers (but does not mandate) hundreds of courses in various departments that would be able to fulfill sustainability credits. In order to integrate sustainability into Skidmore's curriculum, student support is critical. A petition process must occur, as well as involvement from SGA. Finally, a proposal will be given to the CEPP, the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning.

A major push for adding sustainability requirements into the Skidmore curriculum stems from the notion that Environmental Studies majors should not be the only students aware of environmental issues occurring today; instead, all students should be encouraged to learn about sustainability and how their actions affect the environment. Several years ago, an intern for Skidmore's sustainability office started working on getting Skidmore ranked with STARS. However, after the student graduated, the process slowed down. Now a new group of dedicated Skidmore students and faculty members are on a mission to make certain that all Skidmore graduates will be knowledgeable about environmental issues and sustainability.

"Peaking interest in students is really important right now because we want more people to get on board with this initiative," Dance stated. Thus, in order to move forward with formally incorporating sustainability into the Skidmore curriculum, student and faculty support is necessary.

#1.3126786:3364365726.jpg:sustainability curriculum



Reel Talk: Winter Preview

By Sean van der Heijden, Copy Editor

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

A ton of great films have already been released this year, from *Gravity* to *12 Years a Slave* to the recent *Hunger Games* sequel, but there are still a bunch more to come. Here's a preview of a few of the films I'm most looking forward to as winter approaches:

1. American Hustle: dir. David O. Russell, starring Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, and Jeremy Renner.

Set in the 1970s, this film is a fictional account of a conman (Bale) forced to work for an FBI agent (Cooper) in order to bring down the corrupt New Jersey government. David O. Russell is essentially combing the casts of his two previous movies, *The Fighter* and *Silver Linings Playbook*, but there's honestly nothing bad about that. It looks like a fantastic setup-part comedy, part crime-drama, all amazing actors and actresses. *American Hustle* comes out on Dec. 18.

2. The Wolf of Wall Street: dir. Martin Scorsese, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill, Matthew McConaughey, and Kyle Chandler.

Based on a true story, this chronicles the immense success of a wealthy stockbroker (DiCaprio) who succumbs to corruption and crime during the 1990s. It's sort of a black comedy, but it looks insane: full of outrageous, witty characters and wild parties, but also investment fraud and the federal government. This marks the fifth collaboration between Scorsese and DiCaprio, and it promises to be one heck of a film. *The Wolf of Wall Street* lands in theaters on Christmas Day.

3. Her: dir. Spike Jonze, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, Rooney Mara, and the voice of Scarlett Johansson.

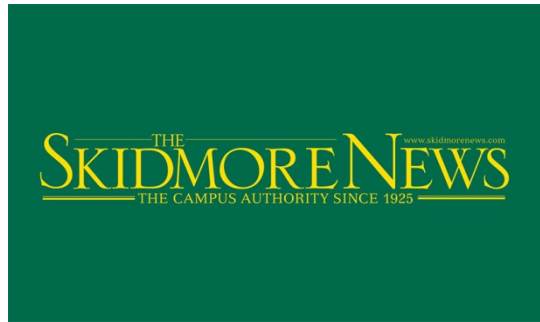
My personal favorite, *Her* is the story of a lonely writer (Phoenix) who buys an advanced operating system (queue Scarlett Johansson) to help organize his life, but ends up falling in love with it. The film sounds strange, quirky, and inventive, but also emotionally poignant and biting current. Featuring a score by Arcade Fire and original music by Karen O., it appears Jonze is going for a slightly surreal atmosphere here, while nevertheless connecting the film back to raw human emotions. *Her* opens in wide release on Jan. 10.

Also coming out this season are *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* (Dec. 13), the highly-anticipated comedy sequel *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* (Dec. 20), Ben Stiller's surreal adventure story *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (Dec. 27), and family saga *August: Osage County* (Dec. 27) starring Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts.

#1.3126784:123398988.jpg:her

Her: A love story





Democracy Matters: A letter from the chapter founder

By Juanita Tabb '15, Chapter Founder

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013

Skidmore students are actively working to get big money out of politics and people back in! A new club, Democracy Matters, is exploring the dominance of big money donors to political campaigns and what we can do about it and the political corruption it creates.

Democracy Matters is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots, student organization that fights to take back our democracy from wealthy corporate donors and to end the corruption that over 80% of New Yorkers think is rampant in Albany. Striving to create the next generation of social justice leaders, Democracy Matters provides hands-on organizing projects to support democracy-strengthening reforms of social justice issues such as the environment, funding for higher education and student loans, economic inequality, civil rights, and the availability of good-paying jobs.

The Skidmore Democracy Matters chapter has been organizing discussions with faculty on issues of money and politics, screening documentaries, tabling, planning a poetry slam and music festival and much more. Next semester we will be lobbying our elected officials to pass "Fair Elections," which would reduce corruption and give all New Yorkers a voice. Most importantly, Skidmore Democracy Matters wants to create a non-partisan but politically engaged student body devoted to real social change.

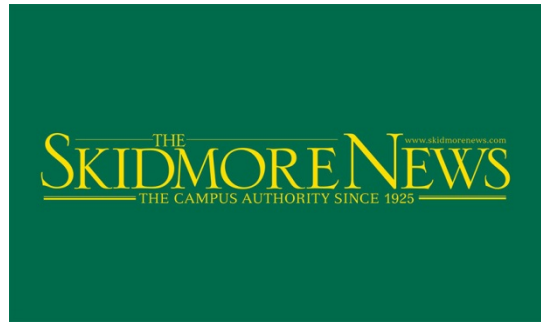
Since my involvement in the Democracy Matters club on campus, I have felt inspired to change public policies and to stand up for what I believe in. I am more politically aware and believe that students can make a difference and build a democracy that is fair, inclusive and responsive to all citizens. Join Democracy Matters and learn how you can become an advocate and make your voice heard. Contact Gschwab@skidmore.edu or go to www.democracymatters.org. We need your help creating a government of, by, and for all citizens -- not just wealthy funders and lobbyists!

#1.3126779:3619363614.jpg:democracy matters

A national student organization designed to strengthen our democracy.



Democracy
MATTERS
Change Elections Change America



Are we using our resources?

By The Editorial Board

On Fri, Dec 6, 2013

As much as Skidmore is about the liberal arts and diversifying student's knowledge and understanding of the world, it's also about preparing students for the world. So don't wait until you've graduated to begin utilizing these resources.

Over winter break, the College will host its second Sophomore January Program. The free program - but only open to a limited number of students - offers leadership sessions, career and personal assessment sessions with the Career Development Center, alumni guest speakers and a mini-course entitled "Presenting the Brand Called Me." Last year 36 sophomore students participated in the program.

Sophomore year at Skidmore is filled with a number of important decisions. Students must declare a major, select an advisor and begin thinking about if, when and where they would like to go abroad.

These are most certainly personal decisions, and ones that for the majority of students should not require intensive hand-holding throughout the process. But *The Skidmore News* does view the Sophomore January Program as a well-timed optional supplement to a student's sophomore year. The program is offered during the winter break, around the time when sophomore students are required to declare their major. The goal of the program is to develop a deeper understanding of personal and civic responsibility.

This paper recognizes that it is during sophomore year that much of a student's identity at Skidmore is constructed. The first year is a time of academic experimentation, but once sophomore year arrives, students are expected to choose and pursue a specific path and begin to plan for the future.

Creating an optional program personally tailored for sophomores looking to develop their personal presentation skills, as well as work on their resumes and interview strategies, is the most logical plan of action in preparing students for the future and hopefully fending off sophomore slump too. The services are available for those who seek them out, and non-mandatory for students who are not interested. After all, it's not the College's job to force students to actively think and plan for the future - nor should it be. It is, however, the College's job to encourage student planning. As students we have an enormous amount of resources and programming at our disposal - but are we using them?

Enrollment at the College is 2,660 students.

According to Megan Jackson, associate director and Information Technology manager at the College's Career Development Center, in the 2012-2013 academic year, 2,285 appointments were made with the Center.

Seem high?

Actually, 906 individual students and alumni made the appointments. Of that group, 709 were students while 187 were alumni.

That means about 25% of our student body pursues the free services at the Career Development Center.

Jackson recognizes that the Center offers a lot more services than most students are aware of, including free help with interview skills, resumes, cover letters, graduate school applications, networking with alumni and seeking internships. The Center will even assist a student with the specific language to use when reaching out to an alum or employer via e-mail. And here's the kicker-these are unlimited, lifetime services for all Skidmore alum. The Center even provides long-distance appointments via Skype.

As much as Skidmore is about the liberal arts and diversifying student's knowledge and understanding of the world, it's also about preparing students for the world. So don't wait until you've graduated to begin utilizing these resources.

#1.3127141:3262002817.JPG:starbuck center 12/6/13

Preparing for the future isn't relegated just to the classroom.

Meredith Simonds '15/ The Skidmore News



Campus Safety Reports: Nov. 29 to Dec. 5

By Julia Leef, Managing Editor

On Mon, Dec 9, 2013

Campus Safety Reports from Nov. 29 to Dec. 5.

Incidents of Note:

- **Monday, Dec. 2**-Aggravated Harassment: Report received at 10:17 a.m. about a threatening Facebook message. Officer conducted an investigation. Report issued.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 4**-Maintenance: Reporting person advised of a large leak at 12:18 p.m. in the sub-basement of Howe/Rounds and a possible water main break near the Howe/Rounds Fire Lane. Report made.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 4**-Burglary: Report received at 3:30 p.m. that an unknown person(s) had stolen a marble sculpture from Wait Hall. Report made.

Further Incidents:

Sunday, Dec. 1:

- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activated at 11:13 a.m. at the Sussman G Apartments. Officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department advised. Alarm was due to cooking. Report taken.
- Campus Safety Assist: Assistance requested at 3:15 p.m. with an argument that occurred between two teams at the hockey tournament at an off-campus location. Officer dispatched. Argument resolved.
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 8:45 p.m. in Wilmarth Hall. Drug law violation referral.
- Suspicious Odor: A burning candle smell reported at 11:37 p.m. in Wilmarth Hall. Officer dispatched. College violation reported.

Monday, Dec. 2:

- College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 1:20 a.m. in Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officer reported that the subjects complied with the request to lower the volume of the music.

Tuesday, Dec. 3:

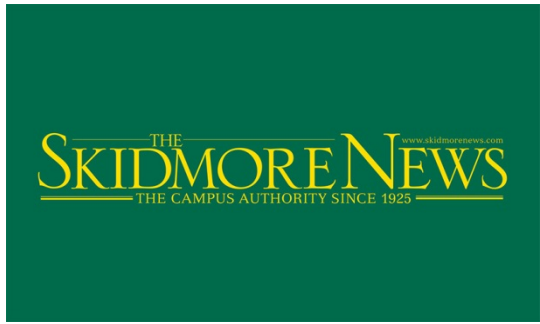
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 5:58 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments. Dispatched officers, Unit-10 and advised the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Activation was due to a cooking error. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 10:17 p.m. at 12 Whitman Way. Dispatched officers and Unit-10. The Saratoga Springs Fire Department advised. Activation was due to a lit candle. Report issued.
- Liquor Law Violation: Report received at 10:29 p.m. that upon investigating a noise complaint call the subject observed a liquor law violation in plain view in Wait Hall. Report issued.

Wednesday, Dec. 4:

- College Violation: A noise complaint reported at midnight in Wait Hall. Dispatched officer who stated that the cause was due to loud music. All quiet at the time.
- Property Damage Auto Accident: Reporting person stated at 8:03 p.m. that she had just hit a vehicle while parking her car in West Lot. Dispatched officers. Report made.
- Medical Assistance: A transport requested at 9:33 p.m. to the Emergency Room. The Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service also requested. Contacted the SCEMS and an ambulance. Evaluation conducted. Transport provided.
- Medical Assistance: Report received at 11:59 p.m. of a student in need of medical attention in Wait Hall. Dispatched officers and toned out the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service. Evaluation conducted.

Thursday, Dec. 5:

- Suspicious Activity: A male reported at 6:30 a.m. standing next to a vehicle in the Case Center parking lot. The reporting person stated that the individual was acting suspiciously. Dispatched officers reported that the individual was an employee walking into work. No problems to report.
- Medical Assistance: Reporting person called at 11:22 a.m. to state that a person was in need of medical attention at the Tisch Learning Center. Dispatched officer. Report made.
- Suspicious Odor: An odor reported at 6:51 p.m. in the Jonsson Tower Penthouse. Dispatched officer reported that the source of the odor could not be located.
- College Violation: A noise complaint received at 10:02 p.m. in Wilmarth Hall. Dispatched officer reported that a large group was leaving the building. Officer reported no problems at the time.
- College Violation: Loud music reported at 11:57 p.m. at Dayton Drive. Officer responded and reported no noise at the time.



1-3065873:1498683990.jpg #1.:campus safety

Dylan Lustrin/The Skidmore News

