

Army Man

By Allison Smith, Contributor

On Sun, Feb 2, 2014

Robert, my first best friend ever, boards Bus 22 today holding a large book. I know he got it from Dusty, the oldest of his three brothers. The four of them all look the same. Their mom cuts their white, blonde hair so short that they almost look bald. They have clear blue eyes and dirty faces from running around in the woods. My mom always washes the dirt off of my face. The book he holds in his hand has an army man on the cover with the same hair cut Robert has.

"Cat, I won't be in school tomorrow." Robert announces. I think that will be alright because he has Mrs. Raven as a teacher and I have Mrs. Hilperts so we don't see each other during the day anyway. I then remember and start to worry about who I will have to sit with on Bus 22. Patty Williamson better not sit down next to me because she is the worst and for her birthday got a purple backpack even though I had a purple backpack first. I decide that Robert needs to come to school tomorrow because I cannot and will not be stuck sitting next to Patty Williamson.

Robert takes a deep breath in and then declares, "Cat, I'm joining the army." He drops the big book in my lap and I open it up. We have looked through the book before. I knew he is joining the army but I did not know so soon. We are only in kindergarten. We had a plan. I look at the black and white pictures of the nurses helping wounded soldiers laying in rows of cots.

"But, Robert, who will take care of you?" I ask. We had a plan for after we graduate. I will go to nursing school and he will train with his brothers for the army. Then we would meet in a distant enemy land and whenever he was wounded I would heal him.

"I'm sorry Cat I have to go," He says in his deepest voice. "Dusty is going tomorrow and it might be my only chance to go with him."

For the rest of our ride on Bus 22 we flip through the book and he points to the pictures of all the things he will learn to do in the army.

Later that day on the playground I hide in the tunnel slide.

The next day I board Bus 22 and put my purple backpack on the open space next to me so that Patty Williamson cannot sit there. Bus 22 stops at Roberts house and I start to yell up to Bus Driver Nick that we won't need to stop here anymore. Then, to my complete surprise, Robert walks onto Bus 22. I quickly shove my purple backpack on to the floor so he can sit down.

“Robert what happened to the army?” I eagerly ask him with wide eyes.

Robert sits still for a moment. Robert pulls back his shoulders and takes a deep breath to fill his chest. Robert dramatically exhales and explains, "They would not take me. I was too good."

#1.3135331:184356727.jpg:Relief Collage

Allison Smith



Farm Pond

By Allison Smith, Contributor
On Sun, Feb 2, 2014

There is another world down there and we are the Kings of it. If we walk to the edge of the beach, and jump, then we would fall into the world we rule. We hope.

A portal has been created by a universal agreement not to disturb the still water. No wind, no birds, and no falling leaves dare cause a ripple on the surface. We sit on top of a disintegrating lifeguard stand on the ring that surrounds the opening. Tall black trees enclose the opening and us.

The purple sky and budding stars are perfectly mirrored through the hole in the ground. We are floating through space to some sort of heaven on this disintegrating lifeguard stand.

The cold bites our toes but we still sit up high, peering down at the world we used to be Kings of.

With our big sunglasses, red lips, we are queens of the beach. There is no way we are jumping into that cold water. The sand is warm and we like to run our manicured nails in it.

Children drag their parents screaming with excitement into the mucky water. The town's swim team, The Snappers, lazily lap back and forth in the deep end of the roped in area.

We push our blonde hair behind our ears and stick buds in to listen to music.

We walk in circles around the boys playing pickle admiring their firm abdomens. We suck our stomachs in. We lie on our matching white towels waiting for them to bow down to their queens.

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Elizabeth Lansbury



Brazilian Guitar Quartet Review

Starting Zankel's spring season off right

By Kelsea Schimmel

On Mon, Feb 3, 2014

Launching Zankel's Spring 2014 events, the Brazilian Guitar Quartet performed in Zankel on Thursday, Jan. 30. A world-renowned group, the quartet won the 2011 Latin Grammy Awards for "Best Classical Album," and has been praised for its "seductive beauty" and "virtuosic gusto." With a unique combination of six-string and eight-string guitars, the group has a traditional Brazilian sound and is able to perform an original and unusual repertoire. The group has performed over 250 times in America, Europe and Asia for more than a decade.

The Brazilian Guitar Quartet masterfully performs traditional music, embodying the sounds and styles of Brazilian taste and culture. Brazilian music is often referred to as samba, a genre of music that reflects the styles of Africa, Portugal and India. In the 1960's, Samba mixed with American Jazz and became 'bossa nova'. This style is much more contemporary, yet still maintains its traditional roots. Classical music is also prominent in Brazil, but maintains the traditional samba sound. The Brazilian Guitar Quartet brilliantly performed the traditional sounds of Brazilian Samba, paving the way for the exciting 2014 spring season at Zankel.

Check out their latest CD, *Spanish Dances*, and get ready for more musical talent this spring.

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Brazilian Guitar Quartet Performance at Zankel.

Courtesy of Skidmore College Music Department



Book Review: The Circle

Zoe Dartley '16

By Contributing Writer

On Wed, Feb 5, 2014

We continue reading a book for many reasons: the beauty of its language, its intriguing plotline or perhaps the fact that the story's tension is so palpable that one simply cannot stop following it, despite an ever-growing feeling of sickness. This is the case in Dave Eggers' latest tour de force, *The Circle*, whose plot unfolds like a fast-moving train wreck you can't take your eyes off of.

The novel opens at the beginning of Mae Holland's journey as a new employee at The Circle, a Bay Area Internet titan that has streamlined all search engines and social media systems into one completely transparent program, removing all anonymity from the web. Its members have a cult-like devotion to the company's mission, "Privacy is theft, Secrets are lies." The symbolism may not be subtle, but it's potent. Eggers has a gift for understanding the nuances of his main character's thought process. We follow Mae's opinion of the company from complete astonishment to mistrust to, finally, devotion.

While The Circle's employees are all Type-A devotees, they still know how to party; on her first night Mae attends an orgy-like festival, complete with rare, gourmet food and alcoholic potions. Many members pass out in the campus's well-equipped dorm rooms, feeling no need to return home when all of their necessities are on site. Part of Eggers' genius is the fact that, although we know something is about to go terribly wrong in the book, we can't seem to stop turning the pages. The novel reverberates with prophetic wisdom, especially because all of The Circle's inventions seem believable. What start out as nifty tech ideas morph into agents of immense societal change at a company where young and ambitious geniuses are given exorbitant amounts of money to roll with their dreams.

The most prominent example of this is SeeChange, a program that is introduced during Mae's first few days at the company. The program consists of tiny, high-definition video cameras that can be placed anywhere in nature and produce live-stream coverage. Introduced as an agent of human improvement, The Circle's employees believe the world will be free of corruption if these cameras are omnipresent. Thus, the regime begins: the cameras begin to be placed in cities all over the world, in private homes and even around the necks of politicians.

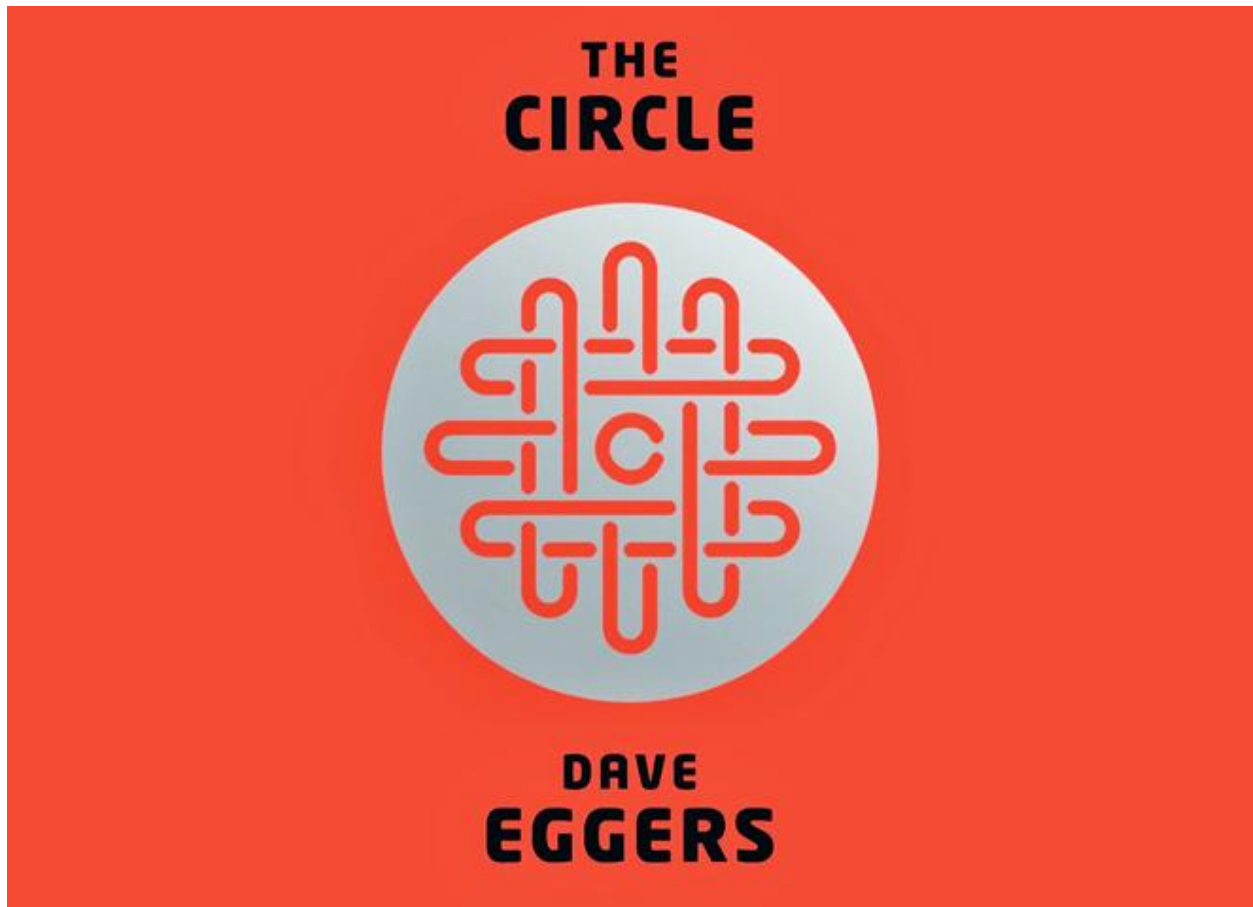
Sure to evoke comparisons to 1984 and *Brave New World*, *The Circle* is unequivocally relevant. While it may be hard to suppress a rise of bile in the throat whilst reading it, one emerges with a greater understanding of not only our technological world, but how it affects our need for validation and

communication. As any great book should, *The Circle* will haunt its readers with questions long after its scarlet cover is closed. How far are we willing to go in the need for information and innovation? Perhaps the next great dictator isn't a single figure, but rather the result of one of the proudest human inventions: technology.

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The Circle

Wired.com



Restaurant Review: Triangle Diner

By Tegan O'Neill, Contributing Writer

On Wed, Feb 5, 2014

The coffee at Triangle Diner isn't particularly strong, but the service makes up for it. As for the food, it is neither healthy nor fancy, but it is good, and that is all that matters on a weekend morning. Without a car, Triangle is not as easily accessible as the competition on Broadway, but some extra effort on the transportation front is worthwhile if you are hit with a hankering for a classic diner breakfast. Expect to have to wait until a spot opens up when at Triangle; expect to wait even longer if you prefer a booth to a seat at the bar. Most likely, the other diners are the ones holding things up because the women in the kitchen (on a recent visit, all workers were women except for one male dishwasher) are moving at a breakneck pace.

It should not take all that long to decipher the menu. Triangle has your classic fare and as always, there is the glaring divide between savory and sweet. At Triangle, though, you have the split between run-of-the-mill sweet and super sweet. This particular morning's sweet specials were Reese's pancakes and chocolate caramel french toast. Only those who were brave enough to go down the peanut butter pancake route will know what that concoction tasted like. I can not include myself in that ilk, but I can report on the chocolate caramel french toast. Talk about chocolate overload. Have you ever been worried that an eatery won't put enough chocolate chips in the chocolate pancakes? If so, put your fears aside at Triangle. A generous handful (or two) of chocolate chips provided a thick, sticky blanket for the toast so that not a bite of toast went naked. The wealth of chocolate smothered any hope for also tasting caramel or, for that matter, tasting the bread.

Although by no means the more visually appealing, the savory option was the more gustatorily appealing, hands down. What is this pile of fat on fat with more fat poured over it that you see pictured on the screen? Country eggs benedict in all its glory. The first layer, biscuit, is so buttery it tricks you into thinking that you just walked out of the barn from milking cows and sat down at the kitchen table in an old farmhouse. The second layer, sausage, has the same flavor that sausage (the real thing, not that fake tofu stuff) has had since you were in elementary school eating at the annual pancake breakfast. The third layer, poached egg, represents the pinnacle of poached eggs. The yolk oozes its golden goo out from its cocoon of light white. The last layer to be lathered on, homemade gravy, is better than any other gravy you have had. It avoids the common pitfalls of being too starchy and too tasteless; instead, it packs seriously rich flavor into a velvet-like cream. As if the portion were not yet big enough, a hefty side of starchy potatoes makes the plate complete.

You will leave Triangle with a full stomach, guaranteed. You will also leave with a smile. You won't be able to resist at least a chuckle when you remember how you saw two elderly women sharing a booth and how one of them ordered a bowl of fruit and the other ordered a huge chocolate eclair piled high with whipped cream; her eyes widened like a little girl's when her dessert was placed in front of her.

#1.3136760:1595190737.jpg:Triangle Diner 1

Triangle Diner

Sarah Weitzman '14

#1.3136762:634715825.jpg:Triangle Diner 3

Chocolate Caramel French Toast

Sarah Weitzman '14

#1.3136761:2549359265.jpg:Triangle Diner 2

Eggs Benedict

Sarah Weitzman '14







McLaughlin, Brooks earn Liberty League Honor Roll

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Wed, Feb 5, 2014

Junior Molly McLaughlin and sophomore Tanner Brooks were both voted to the women's and men's Liberty League honor roll for their efforts last week on the court.

Although the men's and women's basketball teams are in different positions in the Liberty League, with the men fighting for a playoff spot and the women looking to bust the bracket, both teams are still receiving excellent team and individual efforts. Both teams placed a player on this week's Liberty League honor roll.

Junior Molly McLaughlin scored a season-high 20 points in the 73-55 Thoroughbred's Liberty League victory over RPI on Saturday. The victory was the Thoroughbred's second-straight, as the night before they upended Bard 64-49, a game in which McLaughlin netted 11 points, seven assists and four rebounds. For her efforts, McLaughlin was named to the Liberty League weekly honor roll. McLaughlin leads the Thoroughbreds in 3-point percentage (.347), assists per game (4.4), and minutes played per game (37.8). McLaughlin is second in the Liberty League in minutes played per game and assist-to-turnover ratio (1.9), and her assists per game and 3-point field goals per game are both third and sixth respectively in the league.

Sophomore guard Tanner Brooks continued his clutch play for the Thoroughbreds men's basketball team three-win week, averaging 16.3 points per game on his way to a place on the Liberty League honor roll. Brooks, who is tied for third in the Liberty League in assists per game (3.6) and steals per game (1.6), led the Thoroughbreds in victories over St. Lawrence, RPI and Bard, scoring 17, 17 and 15 points respectively. In the win over St. Lawrence, Brooks scored nine of his 17 points in the final 2:15 minutes of play in a close 69-66 victory. Brooks also shot 82-percent from beyond the arc and 57-percent from the field across the three victories. Brooks currently sits fourth in the league in 3-point field goals per game (2.3), and leads the team in 3-point field goals this season with 45.:

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Molly McLaughlin '15 has been a key player in leading the Thoroughbreds on their current win streak.

Bob Ewell



Campus Safety Reports: Jan. 24 to 30

By Julia Leef

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

Incidents of Note:

- **Sunday, Jan. 26**-Depressed person: Campus Safety assistance requested at 4:48 a.m. for a female student who had attempted to harm herself in Kimball Hall. Officers dispatched. Counseling involved. Report issued.
- **Monday, Jan. 27**-Report received at 1:20 p.m. from a person stating that unknown persons stole cash from her office in the Tisch Learning Center. Officer dispatched issued the report.
- **Monday, Jan. 27**-Campus Safety Assist: Officer reported at 6:52 p.m. that he had assisted with the traffic due to an accident bordering the campus until the Sheriff and the National Grid arrival.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 29**-Power Outage: The campus experienced an unplanned power outage at noon. Officers and maintenance dispatched to individuals trapped in elevators. Power outage plan was enacted and the power returned approximately 30 minutes later.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 29**-Animals: A squirrel reported at 5:59 p.m. in the Club Storage room in Case Center. Dispatched officer. Squirrel exited Case Center without incident.

Further Incidents:

- Saturday, Jan. 25: Liquor Law Violation: Officer reported an alcohol violation at 2:19 a.m. on the third floor of Kimball Hall. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 6:31 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments. Officers, the Saratoga Springs Fire Department and the Unit-10 dispatched. Activation due to a cooking error. Report issued.
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 7:23 p.m. on the third floor of Jonsson Tower. Officers dispatched reported that they were unable to determine the source of the odor.
- College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 12:45 a.m. at Dayton Drive. Residents complied with the request to lower the volume.
- Intoxicated Subject: A male subject reported at 1:23 a.m. who was intoxicated and vomiting in Wilmarth Hall. Officers and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service responded. No additional medical attention necessary.

- Intoxicated Subject: The Saratoga Springs Police Department advised Campus Safety at 1:49 a.m. of a 911 report of an intoxicated student. Officers and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service responded. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: Report received at 9:40 a.m. of an intoxicated subject who was asleep in a vehicle in the West Lot. Officers and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service dispatched to evaluate the subject. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: A welfare check for a student requested at 11:28 p.m. in Jonsson Tower. Officer who responded reported locating the subject and that parental contact was made. Report issued.
- College Violation: A drug law violation reported at 4:56 p.m. on the third floor of Wiecking Hall. Report issued.
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 10:55 p.m. on the tenth floor of Jonsson Tower. Officers dispatched reported detecting an odor but being unable to determine the source.

Monday, Jan. 27:

- Campus Safety Assist: A parent requested a welfare check at 10:55 a.m. on his daughter in Kimball Hall. Officer dispatched located the subject and advised the concerned parent.
- Medical: A fallen subject reported at 10:48 a.m. in a bathroom in Kimball Hall. Officers dispatched requested the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service. Subject was transported via ambulance for medical treatment. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: An escort requested at noon from the Williamson Sports Center to the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall as the subject had just had surgery on his leg and it was too slippery to walk there on crutches. Officer completed the transport to and from these locations.
- Drug Law Violation: A strong odor of marijuana reported at 2:48 p.m. on the second floor of Wiecking Hall. Dispatched officer reported viewing a Drug Law Violation. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 5:42 p.m. from the Sussman Apartments. All officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department dispatched. Activation was due to burned food.

Tuesday, Jan. 28:

- Campus Safety Assist: Report received at 1:47 a.m. from a housekeeper who stated that there was an unauthorized male subject in the Scribner Library, which was closed at the time. Officers canvassed the entire library but did not locate anyone.

- Medical: Medical assistance requested at 2:56 a.m. for a roommate in the Sussman Apartments. Officer and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service dispatched. Subject transported to the Emergency Room. Report issued.
- Accident: A PDAA reported at 8:20 a.m. on Clinton Street. Officer assisted until additional police units arrived. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: A transport requested at 3:56 p.m. for a student to urgent care. Dispatched officer who completed the transport. Report issued.

Wednesday, Jan. 29:

- Suspicious Odor: Reporting person called at 2:13 p.m. about a suspicious odor in Wiecking Hall. Officer was dispatched and reported that the suspicious odor was unfounded. Odor had dissipated prior to the officer's arrival.
- Medical Assist: Report received at 7:39 p.m. that a female had slipped on the stairs at Kimball Hall and injured her ankle. Dispatched officer and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service to evaluate her condition. Report made.

Thursday, Jan. 30:

- Fire Drills: Fire alarm sounded at 10:07 a.m. for the Lodge. Good drill. Alarm reset.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 12:39 p.m. for 6 Cane Crossing. Dispatched officers, maintenance and advised the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Officer reported finding no cause; apparent malfunction. Alarm reset.
- Maintenance: Reporting person called at 1:57 p.m. stating that he and his friend were stuck in the elevator in Harder Hall. Dispatched officers and maintenance. Officer reported that the power appeared to be out in the Harder Hall building. Advised Facilities. Students were assisted out of the elevator. The power was restored at 2:12 p.m. An electrician worked on on the problem.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm sounded at 10:41 p.m. for the Sussman Apartments B. Officer and maintenance dispatched. Officer investigated and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department was advised that the alarm was tripped by smoking. A Drug Law Violation was observed. Report made.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 10:49 p.m. for the Sussman Apartments L. Officers and maintenance responded and discovered that the alarm was due to cooking. The Saratoga Springs Fire Department was advised and did not respond to the alarm.
- Criminal Mischief: A missing pin reported at 10:54 p.m. from a fire extinguisher on the ninth floor of Jonsson Tower. Report made.

- Animals: A bat reported at 10:29 p.m. loose in the main lobby of Wiecking Hall. Officers were dispatched and released the bat without making contact.

#1.campus safety

Jacob Reiskin/The Skidmore News



NBA Talk: Trades that need to be made

By Andrew Shi, Editor-in-Chief

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

Detroit was expected to be a middling contender in the enfeebled Eastern Conference playoff picture. However, they're currently two games behind Charlotte for the 8th and final playoff spot. The much-maligned Smith-Monroe-Drummond trio, expected to fail from the start, hasn't surprised its critics and has weighed the team down heavily. Detroit needs to blow up its big man project, but with Smith tied to a four-year, \$54 million contract and Andre Drummond proving to be a future all-star, and possibly the marquee center within another few years, the odd man out is Greg Monroe. Monroe himself could be a future all-star, and while his numbers are down from last year, they'll most likely skyrocket again once he is moved to a team that allows him to slide back to center, his natural position.

Possible Trade:

Detroit: Greg Monroe, Jonas Jerebko, Luigi Datome

Washington: Trevor Ariza, Otto Porter Jr., 2016 first round pick

The **Wizards** have recently been rumored to be pursuing the Detroit big man. Marcin Gortat is on an expiring contract and Monroe could serve as an upgrade. In return the Pistons get the small forward with the range that they need, the Wizard's first round pick from this year, who with a couple years of seasoning could redeem having been the third pick, a future round pick and unload some unwanted salary.

Possible Trade:

Detroit: Monroe, Charlie Villeneuve

Boston: Jeff Green, Brandon Bass, Celtics' protected 2016 first round, Clipper's 2015 first round

The **Celtics** finally get their big man and an expiring contract. The steep price of two first-round picks is because Detroit will be, with the additions of green and Brass, trading for financially inflexible contracts as well. However, Green will give them the outside shooting they need and Bass will be a worthy backup for Smith

Houston is fifth in the West and certainly a contender. So to say they need this trade is a bit of an overstatement, however, if they want to solidify their chances, then trading Omer Asik for a few role players and possible pick would be prudent.

Possible Trade:

Houston: Omer Asik

Boston: Brandon Bass, Joel Anthony, 2015 Clipper's first round, Philadelphia's first round

The **Celtics**, as mentioned before, need a big man. Asik is a top defensive big man and will fit well into the Celtics' defensive-minded game. The Rockets, meanwhile, pick up two first-round picks, although the Clipper's will likely be a late-round pick, and Philadelphia's may turn into two second-round picks if they don't make the playoffs by 2015. However, Brandon Bass is a great all-around player and will play well off the bench. Anthony, while not the most talented player, brings high energy and can hold his own during those several minutes that Howard will need a break. The Rockets will also be able to unload Asik's contract before it rises in his final year and becomes harder to move.

Phoenix has been a pleasant surprise in a somewhat disappointing season with an abysmal Eastern Conference and a series of injuries. They have made it known that they are searching for players that will help them push through the tough Western Conference during their unexpected playoff run, and are willing to trade some of the pool of picks they have collected for those players.

Possible Trade:

Phoenix: Emeka Okafor, Washington and Minnesota's 2014 first round picks

Philadelphia: Thaddeus Young, Spencer Hawes

Phoenix, an already young team with a lot of talent, no longer wants four picks in one draft. Thaddeus Young is averaging 17.5 ppg and posting a Player Efficiency Rating of 17.74. Hawes is the best three-point shooting center in the league. The two of them will give the Suns a lethal barrage of three-pointers, or, in other words, how the Mavericks won the 2011 Championship. The **76ers** get the picks they want, although they may be reluctant to trade away Young. Still two draft picks that will land late lottery (Minnesota) and right outside of the lottery (Washington) will be worth it.

Skidmore athletics celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day

By Maggie Sweeney, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

Skidmore College's women athletes hosted 118 girls in a clinic for National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) on Saturday, Feb. 1. This was the 8th annual event at Skidmore College and the 27th year for the nationwide celebration. The day consisted of a series of celebratory events provided for a group of jubilant women and girls. The abundance of positive energy in the Williamson Sports Center was highly contagious.

NGWSD began as a memorial to Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman for her athletic achievements and her efforts to assure equality for women's sports. Hyman died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986 while competing in a volleyball tournament in Japan. Since then, NGWSD has become a day to acknowledge the past and to recognize current sports achievements. It is also a way to expose the positive influence of sports participation and the continuing struggle for equality in women's sports. The event aims to recognize the accomplishments of individuals involved in the promotion and the advancement of girls' and women's sports.

The celebration also commemorates 41 years of Title IX, the federal law passed in 1972 that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions. It is not just a day to celebrate how far female athletes have come, but to educate with the hopes of fighting discrimination. This event helps raise awareness of women's athletics on the Skidmore College campus and in the community, and it exposes girls and women to various sports-related opportunities. It encourages their participation in sports while celebrating the past achievements of female athletics. Skidmore's program offers girls from around the Saratoga Springs community in grades 3-7 the opportunity to learn this rich history.

As a member of the women's lacrosse team, this writer was able to participate in the event with her teammates at a station where we offered them the use of our equipment and taught them basic skills. We executed drills to help with their stick work, and the enthusiastic group of girls rotated around and eagerly shadowed the older female athletes. This year, the tennis, lacrosse, softball, soccer, field hockey and volleyball teams all participated. Some of the girls were first time participants, which gave us the chance to educate them on basic techniques. The girls had the opportunity to eat lunch with Skidmore athletes and they were able to ask questions and get to know each other. They took photos with the

Thoroughbred mascot and received free shirts and bags. The Skidmore female athletes served as role models for the younger girls by encouraging athleticism and inspiring them to live an active lifestyle.

The event officially ended at 1p.m., but participants were encouraged to stay to watch the Skidmore women's swimming and diving meet. Meanwhile, the College offered several free fitness classes for women, such as yoga.

Numerous communities around the country are working to support the ongoing struggle for equal access for women in sports, and we are proud to be contributors to this cause after our successful day of commemoration.

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Skidmore



Punching in Daily at D-Hall: Gold Medal Chefs.

By Matt Choi, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

King crab and amaranth salad, apricot glazed pork belly, sautéed trumpet mushrooms, you could be forgiven for thinking this was the menu at a downtown restaurant, but it's actually part of the menu prepared by Skidmore Dining Hall chefs for January's American Culinary Federation (ACF) Culinary Competition.

Skidmore chefs Paul Karlson, Kelly Zimmerman, Scott Carey, and Frank Esposito took home a gold medal for the first time in eight years of participation in the competition. Most would think an award-winning chef would take their talents to the glamorous world of restaurants and hotels, but the ACF award speaks to the ability of Skidmore's Dining hall to attract and nurture top culinary talent.

"It's a very attractive industry when you can work in a college environment and still have a family life," said Mark Miller, Director of Dining Services.

For chefs trying to make it in the restaurant world, it means arriving at work in the afternoon and not leaving until late at night. It means working on weekends and holidays, not ideal for spending time with your kids. These benefits were echoed by members of Skidmore's ACF team.

"Quality of life has a huge impact on us here, in a very positive way," said Production Manager Frank Esposito. "I know when my days off will be," said Chef Zimmerman, "and there are usually two of them." These benefits, standard in much of the working world but not always in the fast paced culinary world, is one way Miller says Skidmore attracts top talent to Skidmore's kitchens. Miller, as well as seven of his managers, have culinary arts degrees from top schools like the Culinary Institute of America.

What does this talent mean for the student dining experience? Karlson touched on the educational benefits the staff can take back to their everyday jobs. "You get to refine things, see new industry standards." Carey echoed this sentiment. "You get to see new trends, what's trending upward. When I went to the [ACF] competition at UMass they had this whole Mediterranean theme so I was able to bring some of that knowledge back here."

Trends don't just refer to taste issues. Everyone interviewed for this article espoused new standards in health and environmental responsibility. Esposito highlighted the unique relationship between an educated student body and educated food professionals. "You guys know what's going on with the food

source, the environment, the country," Esposito said. "Our job is to bring that to your attention as well by going out and getting educated about food."

According to Esposito, one of the roles of the chefs is to apply their expertise and knowledge to student tastes and concerns. Karlson, who has worked at Skidmore since before the existence of the new Dining Hall, pointed to gradual changes in portion size, nutritional value, and environmentally friendly ingredient sourcing as examples of Dining Service's response to student concerns about food.

The ACF gold medal is part of a longer narrative of improved meal options at Skidmore dating back to the 2008 renovation of the Dining Hall. Dining has been identified as the administration's top quality of life concern for students, and a major admissions factor. Miller said that he had heard of instances where the Dining Hall had been the make or break factor in a student's admissions decision.

Of course Gold Medal's mean nothing to students if their daily meal isn't good. Luckily, for Dining Services the proof seems to be in the pudding. When talking about the Dining Hall's napkin suggestion board, Miller remarked "They're all very positive... its all, 'can we get this,' or 'this was great let's get this more often.'"

CTM In Action

By The Editorial Board

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

Skidmore College, like any college or university, is a business. Successful businesses have a strong brand, an aspect of the organization that makes them unique among their competitors. Skidmore chose "Creative Thought Matters" (CTM) as the hallmark of its brand as a liberal arts college. The current incarnation of creative thought has strayed from its intention, to the detriment of the college community.

Skidmore's current [Strategic Plan](https://www.skidmore.edu/planning/documents/strategicplan.pdf), effective from 2005 until 2015, helps inform how the College views CTM relative to the school's mission. The Plan highlights the "vibrant culture" that the arts bring to Skidmore's campus, concluding that they are a "key dimension of our heritage." It is a logical next step, the Plan maintains, to integrate this feature into the school's motto. The Strategic Plan puts a strong focus on CTM as a statement of innovative and unusual thinking, a concept through which students may gain "the independence of mind required to formulate a new approach to a particular problem or to rethink an entire domain of knowledge." But, perhaps most relevant to this conversation, the College asserts that "merely to value ideas, however, is not enough;" creative thought is truly of use when it is applied in practice. Both the school's Mission Statement and the Strategic Plan make mention of "Skidmore's dual legacy of mind and hand, episteme and praxis" alongside "the college's founding principle of linking theoretical with applied learning." The school's literature establishes and emphasizes that action is fundamental to CTM.

Whether this "dual legacy" of thought and action is played out on this campus on a day-to-day basis is debatable. At its most devalued, the motto is abused by students as an ongoing, campus-wide joke, the unfortunate subject of hashtags and a euphemism for YOLO. But at its most ineffective, CTM is an excuse for apathy, encouraging lofty thoughts without insisting on action.

Perhaps Creative Thought Matters is too safe a concept for students. Other mottos push students to strive for excellence with their focus on achieving distinction in all they do. Amherst College goes by "Let them give light to the world," Hampshire College by "To Know Is Not Enough," New York University by "To Persevere And To Excel." CTM suggests a framework for thought, but those three words put no explicit emphasis on action. In its current interpretation, CTM allows us to slouch down and lean back, to stray away from collective action and energy and remain in our own heads. It is too easy for students to project their own standards onto the idea of CTM (think of the student who declares "CTM!" upon

finishing their dorm room photo collage). The motto poses no challenge to those who ascribe to it, offering only a ready-made catchphrase. CTM applies to everyday occurrences as well as a professor's research into fighting cancer with sound: it casts too wide a net, allows too broad a definition of purpose. Without a motto to define the spirit of our school, our education and ourselves, we lose sight of the purpose of our place here and shortchange our school.

Creativity is about imagination and courage, but it becomes truly meaningful when applied in a productive way. As the College intended it, Creative Thought Matters is a motto that inspires thought and action, theory and practice. Skidmore has talented students who bring a rich variety of talents and interests to our campus. It is time to start living CTM as it was intended, as both an inspiration for thought and a call to action.

#1.3137843:3379040636.jpg

<http://www.skidmore.edu/mind/>

<http://www.skidmore.edu/mind/>



Skidmore's Women In Business Club

By Taylor Ray, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

Women in Business, a recent addition to Skidmore's list of clubs, has sparked interest all over campus. Founders and co-presidents Zoe Dartley '16 and Lyssa Jackson '16 have high hopes for the club, and since its creation in Fall of 2013, both have helped put Women in Business in the spotlight.

Women in Business is a forum through which the Skidmore community may share ideas, thoughts, and experience relating to female leadership. Carol Chiarella, faculty advisor for the club and member of Skidmore's Department of Management and Business, describes co-presidents Dartley and Jackson as being "energetic, dynamic, and focused individuals who care about affecting change."

According to a recent interview with Her Campus, Women in Business was created after Dartley and Jackson discovered the program's prominence in big universities around the country. They reformed the program to fit a small liberal arts environment but kept the focus and intent holistic and all-inclusive, with a fundamental goal of encouraging strength and leadership for women in all disciplines. For Women in Business, the path to achieving this goal lies in the sharing and exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience. "Skidmore's climate is characterized by community participation and engaging alumni," Chiarella said. The club hopes to achieve its goals by taking advantage of said climate. Exchange of simple tips - such as how to act in a business environment - brand Women in Business as a practical, constructive and collaborative club.

Members of Women in Business have made it clear that its goals reach beyond solely the business major. "To be dynamic and better the position of women, we need to be inclusive, support each other, and share wisdom we gain from our respective backgrounds," Chiarella said. In their interview with Her Campus, Dartley and Jackson describe the club's values as both entrepreneurial and philosophical, noting that the club will set pathways for applied learning and useful preparation for a number of careers. This will be done within the Skidmore community itself, but also within a network of students, community leaders and alumni.

Among other future plans for Women in Business are skill-building workshops that focus on leadership and communication skills, a student forum that includes job opportunities for women in the business field and a newsletter. Co-presidents Dartley and Jackson also plan to foster an engaged and successful club through panel discussions with representatives from the community.

Last December, Women in Business sponsored their first panel, entitled "Do Aggressive Women Win?" The speakers and audience members contemplated expectations for women in the workplace, the glass ceiling and more. The panel featured Skidmore professors from the business and philosophy departments, including Paula Tancredi, Susan Parillo, and Corinne Moss-Racusin. Doreen Crosby of the University of Albany represented professionals from outside of Skidmore.

Women in Business has already begun to promote a collaborative learning experience through social media, predominantly through their [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/SkidmoreWIB/timeline). In this informal setting, anyone is welcome to post interesting articles that may spark debate or discussion on an issue relating to women in business, women in the workplace or women's rights in general. The club also uses this space to post photos and updates on meeting locations and times.

Women in Business meets at 7 p.m. on Monday nights in Palamountain 201. The current leadership positions within the club include Treasurer Leah Docktor, Co-President Lyssa Jackson, Co-President Zoe Dartley, community outreach coordinator Olivia Dynan and Secretary Emma Marshall (all class of 2016).

Healthy Perspectives: The Functionality of Physique

A New Look at Body Image

By Brittany Dingler, Columnist

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014

One of the most prominent priorities across college campuses is combating the issue of negative body image. Regardless of gender or age, a toxic concoction of the intrinsically and extrinsically placed stressors brought on by work, classes, family concerns and general frustrations, induced by the realization that a gap exists between where we are and where we want to be, most often manifests itself through critical thoughts toward others and, sooner or later, ourselves. Although the possibility of an eating disorder should be delicately and seriously considered when diets are drastically modified for the purpose of changing one's body, here I hope to address more general tendencies that so many of us have whenever we get dressed, see ourselves in pictures from weekend festivities or - god forbid - pick up a magazine.

Many of us share a common set of ideas for how we define beauty. Although there are a limitless number of deviations from this common canon of pleasing traits, we are, essentially, biologically programmed to find certain core features attractive. That being said, the constant bombardment of sex-focused advertisements, TV shows and movies has seemingly overridden our brain's natural propensity to favor symmetrical faces, women with wider hips (suggesting greater reproductive fitness) and men with a strong jaw line (denoting higher levels of testosterone). Now we're told to admire an infinite assortment of features that, when consolidated, are not naturally found in one single person. The comedian Tina Fey comments on our propensity to envy these tailored traits in others while condemning our bodies for not having gotten the memo. Fey jokes that if we were to create a single individual with the 'most beautiful' version of every trait, we would obtain something that most closely resembles Kim Kardashian, who "was made by Russian scientists to sabotage our athletes." Although funny, Tina Fey's insight is spot-on in pointing out the absurdities of our expectations. We need to confront our proclivity to condemn even the smallest, pore-sized imperfections on ourselves, an energy-sucking habit that takes time away from dealing with other, more productive tasks.

Unfortunately, these criticisms tend to linger most when we evaluate our body by how it looks rather than by what it's able to do. We criticize our curves by abhorring the inappropriately placed adipose tissue concentrated too highly in our thighs (so sensitively named "saddle bags") or obliques ("muffin tops"). We are hopeful that we can simply wish it all to more desirable locations so our bodies may mimic an hourglass figure, spontaneously transforming into a svelte, toned physique. After shaming the

quality of our muscle and fat, however, we move on to critique the quantity; we want to be toned, but not bulky, curved but not chunky. Even the language we use to describe our "wobbly bits," as the zaftig Bridget Jones affectionately refers to hers, confers acceptance or disapproval. We experience estrogen envy toward those with larger cup sizes, or resent the larger, testosterone-triggered triceps that our 135-pound frame just won't quite allow. Furthermore, we often use arbitrary terms to describe our body shapes as the fruits they most closely resemble and continue our condemning from there: apples want to be bananas, who want to be pears - and all fruits gang up to envy their mutual enemy: the hourglass (a shape that currently only describes eight percent of women in the US).

It is important to note, however, that Americans did not always have this drive for the unobtainable perfection. In the late 19th century a Prussian immigrant named Eugen Sandow garnered considerable fame for his body. However, unlike Kim Kardashian and friends, he had a noble purpose for willfully advertising his defined, shaped, bodybuilding physique in the nude: to motivate inactive, American men to get up and shape up. In his "Looking Good: Male Body Image in Modern America," Lynne Luciano reflects on Sandow's ability to use his known success as a weight lifter, coupled with his impressive form, to "transform muscle and strength training into a miracle cure for the ills of a sedentary and stressed male population." Sound crazy? Perhaps. But one must acknowledge Sandow's bold brilliance, which can also be seen today in the First Lady's "Let's Move!" campaign, designed to get kids and teens up and moving. Her program aims to fight the obesity epidemic by making healthy food more accessible and tasty and by reigniting the fun of exercise for those who have grown up in an increasingly sedentary society made even more toxic by its technology-ridden tendencies.

Fully clothed, unlike Sandow, Michelle Obama works hard to look strong and healthy, thereby affording her the credibility to emphasize the importance of eating for fuel and exercising for fun. She created an environment in which the conditions for healthy eating and exercising are more readily available for everyone, issued incentives for children and teens to meet certain exercise goals, and, by being fit and healthy herself, is a non-photoshopped role model who passively and straightforwardly embodies the attainability of health. Moreover, she gracefully juxtaposes the omnipresent, rib-jutting storefront mannequins with her famous biceps and full face. It is therefore no surprise that not only have the First Biceps inspired the "Michelle Obama Arm Workout," but also, as President Obama pointed out in last week's State of the Union address, the obesity rate has dramatically dropped since "Let's Move!" took off in 2010 - a much-needed decline antithetical to trends from the past three decades. Although recent statistics show that children and pre-teens have benefitted the most from Mrs. Obama's laudable campaign, we all have something to learn from her and her biceps. In wit, rather than attempting to over-control the "wobbly bits" by creating a relationship with food in which we choose what to eat by imagining what ghastly effects each option could have on our physique, the First Lady's model encourages us to evaluate the food based on what we need it to do for us in that moment and for

various energy-demanding tasks throughout the day. In other words, when we begin to treat our bodies as temples for health and productivity, rather than merely for beauty, the latter comes as a natural side effect.

1.3137516:1251055068.jpg:Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama at a Play 60 event

The Guardian



Parrot Watercolor

By Charlotte Collins
On Fri, Feb 7, 2014

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Parrot Watercolor

Charlotte Collins



Skidmore basketball teams pull off double victory over Clarkson

By Matt Choi, Contributing Writer

On Sat, Feb 8, 2014

It was a feel-good night of Skidmore basketball and new tricks on Tuesday as both the men's and women's teams were victorious against the visiting Clarkson Golden Knights.

Skidmore women tipped off the evening's entertainment at 6 p.m. and entered the contest with Clarkson on a two-game-winning streak. The Thoroughbreds, who looked to be in a free fall just four games ago, came in with a few new tricks to overcome a defensively sound Clarkson.

Jordyn Wartts '14 and Molly McLaughlin '15, both with 16 points on the night, fired quick and accurate cross-court passes to get Skidmore players open looks before Clarkson could set up. The skip passing was just one new aspect of the women's game. The College showed more of a willingness to shoot from a distance and run in transition than they had in previous games.

Both Wartts and McLaughlin displayed confidence finishing around the rim, with Wartts making a few tough shots through contact. One reassuring aspect was a play by Angela Botiba '15. Botiba was heavily guarded after her double-double against RIT last week, and although her numbers were down, the grace and confidence she played with was a noticeable improvement after looking a little raw and turnover-prone at the season's start. Botiba finished with six points and six rebounds, and was involved in a key play of the game, streaking to the basket and scoring an athletic put back after Lindsay Davis '15 missed a three-pointer. The final score was 64-53.

The men took the court next at 8 p.m. The opening half was a tense affair, with good match-ups on defense canceling out both teams' offense. It was a tale of two no. 33s as Clarkson's Felix Abango '16 and Skidmore's Conner Merrill '15 traded post moves in the first half's most exciting match-up.

Abango was a handful on the boards, securing eight rebounds in the first half alone. Merrill was equally tenacious on the defensive low post, with five blocks on the night, including a highlight-reel stuff on Abango.

Both teams cooled off significantly as the half wore on, with a 28-21 Skidmore lead going into half time. The offensive spark came from the great play of second-string guard Eric Lowry '16, who had 11 points off the bench and single-handedly broke down the Clarkson offense with some key steals.

As is usual with the Skidmore men during victories, the scoring was spread out, with Perun Kovacevic '15, Lowry, Erik Sanders '16, Merrill, Tanner Brooks '16 and Aldin Medujanin '16 all scoring 10 or more points.

One area of noticeable improvement was in the interior game. Skidmore has relied heavily on three-point shooting in the past. Brooks was cold from beyond the arc for most of the game, but the six-foot guard responded by taking it inside and duking it out with the Clarkson big-men.

The game ended at a comfortable 66-45. The College showed more of a willingness to drive the ball from outside this game, with Sanders and Medujanin completing a number of athletic layups. The team will enjoy the development of a more nuanced strategy as they head towards a four-game road trip Feb. 11 to 21, and the playoffs loom ever larger.

Another applications record for Skidmore College

By Kevin Wang, Contributing Writer

On Sun, Feb 9, 2014

Skidmore once again broke their applicant record with 8,600 applications for the class of 2018, following last year's record of 8,286. This year's application total reflects a 3.8 percent increase over the application count for the class of 2017, and a 49.6 percent increase over the 5,750 applications received for the class of 2016.

According to Mary Lou Bates, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, this year's pool includes applicants from 49 states (plus D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam) and 119 international countries.

Several factors can be attributed to the dramatic growth in applications for the last two years, one being a more streamlined application process. An article in *The New York Times* [noted](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/14/education/edlife/extra-essay-requirements-on-college-applications-can-discourage-candidates.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0) that for years before their removal, Skidmore had included one or more short-answer questions on its supplement to the Common Application. Mary Lou Bates, who was quoted in the article, felt like answers were too generic and that the Common App essay was sufficient in evaluating the students. Skidmore's removal of the extra writing requirement correlated with last year's 45 percent jump in applications.

In the last two years, Skidmore has also appeared in favorable college rankings, including The Princeton Review's "Best Value Colleges," Huffington Post's "Most Accessible Professors," and Newsweek's top-ten list of happiest students.

In a State of the College address, President Philip A. Glotzbach also attributed last year's increase to expanded travel by admissions staff and a major upgrade of the College's Web site.

The admissions office is currently reviewing the candidates and decision letters will be mailed on Monday, March 24.

New Foreign Language Resource Center to be Completed

By Taylor Ray, Contributing Writer

On Sun, Feb 9, 2014

A new and improved Foreign Language Resource Center is in the works, according to Skidmore's Department of Foreign Language and Literature.

The new center will belong to the department, but will be open to anyone who wants to use the space. The new space will have many qualities that the old center lacked to some degree, including functionality and flexibility according to Cindy Evans, Director of the Foreign Language Resource Center.

One of the biggest differences between the current and new centers stemmed from the planning initial drafting process. The current center, which was redone in 1997, is more practical than functional. This time around, the Foreign Language and Literature Department worked closely with architect John Muse, who has done other projects for the college. "His process was to first listen to us at length about how we teach in the space, and the functionalities we would like to have," said Evans. Muse ultimately produced what Evans calls "an innovative design based on the learning experiences that we hope to support and promote."

The Foreign Language and Literature Department also brought in a consultant on language center design and held a departmental workshop in order to determine the needs, desires and priorities for the new center.

One of the primary goals of the new center will be achieved in the layout, in which Evans and five other faculty members representing the six languages taught at Skidmore will have offices. "We want to promote more informal interaction between students and faculty," said Evans.

As for new features, the new center is getting an upgrade in appearance and functionality. There will be a multimedia classroom, a small seminar space that doubles as a group viewing lounge and a workstation for Language Assistants. "My mantra about this new space is that it needs to be flexible," said Evans. This flexibility will be reflected in the entire space, but especially in the open lobby, which will serve as a study area, viewing lounge and much more. Tables in the classroom and seminar space will be mobile, and designs for the center have minimized walls so that the space is highly adaptable.

The area will lend itself to tutoring offered by the center, video and foreign TV viewing and studying, relaxing and socializing in comfortable and colorful lounge furniture. The design and the physical

elements of the center are meant to create an inviting atmosphere, also fostered by a flat screen TV, six computer stations and a kitchenette - all for use by anyone.

As in the current center, students will continue to have access to tutoring in any of the six languages taught at Skidmore. Tutoring is available at a drop-in basis, and available hours can be found on the center's website. The Foreign Language Assistants who hold tutoring sessions have all been recommended by a faculty member for the position - or have shown extensive and outstanding grasp of a foreign language - and the department hopes that the new center will encourage more students to take advantage of the tutors. Nonetheless, Evans reiterates that the space can be what students make of it. "We would like to get the word out there that students are welcome for tutoring, or just to use the facilities."

The new center will be located on the fourth floor of Palamountain Hall. Its anticipated date of completion is the fall of 2014.

Fishing

By Allison Smith, Contributing Writer
On Sun, Feb 9, 2014

Fishing seemed like a good idea an hour ago. When our faces were red and we spat with every word said, taking a break to fish seemed like a good idea.

We are sitting on a carpeted dock, smoking, fishing and not speaking. The sky is covered in grey clouds so it starts to get dark early.

He wants to go home.

I want to talk.

He wants to eat.

I want to keep fishing.

He puts out his cigarette on the dock, and then throws the butt into the water. He looks at me as if to dare me to challenge him. He wants me to tell him to not litter in my childhood pond. He wants me to tell him that he shouldn't have burned a hole in the carpet on the dock where we are not supposed to be. He wants to respond to me that he does not care and I am such a nag.

He stares at me with watery brown eyes and furrowed brows, tempting me to start another fight.

I wordlessly pull his butt out of the water and place it next to mine in a tin. My eyes meet his. Tension builds and then is broken by laughter. Not ours.

I jump at the sudden sound. He rolls his eyes.

We both look back and see two teenagers holding hands walk through the path in the woods and step onto the dock. I recognize them as they walk towards us. The girl is Elizabeth Rummel, she use to be a tomboy in elementary school and we were friends for a short period of time because I liked her pet chickens. She was also the first girl in our grade to have a boyfriend. In 5th grade she and Geoffrey Stevens would walk around the playground holding hands.

Now she is holding hands with someone who I recognize but I don't remember his name. Wesley? West? Walker? Walker Littlehand. Littlehale? Littlehan? Linahan? Ned Linahan. Elizabeth Rummel dated Ned Linahan in middle school. Now, in high school, she is dating Walker ...

Elizabeth Rummel and Walker... low their bouncy walk when they see us sitting on the dock fishing. We exchange greetings but mainly stay quiet. I'm not sure if she recognizes me since I left our public high school where she attends three years ago.

Elizabeth Rummel and Walker...stand to the right of the dock and we fish on the left. They keep whispering in each other's ear. We remain silent. I can tell that my boy wants to leave as he starts to wind up his fishing line. My attention keeps getting pulled to the right but sudden burst of laughter.

Elizabeth Rummel pulls her dress up over her head. She is wearing a white string bikini that loosely sits on her low set hips. She has always had short legs and a long flat torso. Nothing much has changed, even her breasts still barely fill out the top of the bathing suit.

Walker...pulls of his shirt while smiling. He reaches out and puts his arms around Elizabeth Rummel's long waist. They kiss quickly before jumping into the water.

When they bob up, both of them notice me staring at them.

My boy gets up and walks away. I grab my pole and leave Elizabeth Rummel and Walker...behind.

Sarah Mirk Lectures at Filene

How to use the Internet for effective social justice activism and work with mainstream media

By Daniel Kapp, Contributing Writer

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014

Passion for the feminist movement was the focus of Sarah Mirk's on Thurs Jan. 30 in Filene Recital Hall, though her presentation stemmed more into the importance of public involvement in activist issues. B*tch Magazine is a feminist pop-culture nonprofit which emphasizes involvement through the Internet and other media. Mirk, as a role model to her audiences, has posted multiple podcasts on feminist concern and has urged others to use the media not just as a source but also a tool in expressing and standing up for one's passions.

The name of her presentation was "Speak Up, Make Change-How to use the Internet for effective social justice activism and work with mainstream media," which, simply put, gets at the heart of her point. Mirk encourages students to engage in political and personal journalism, as well as challenges them to make a statement. Social media tools (such as Facebook and Twitter) have allowed millennials to get involved in what they otherwise might not have been able to while lending the freedom to express opinions.

Mirk wrapped up her presentation by describing the experience of writing her book, "Sex from Scratch: Making Your Own Relationship Rules." In writing about something she feels passionate about, despite its overall controversial nature, Mirk gained a sense of fearlessness. She then encouraged the audience to feel courageous and have strength when it comes to what matters in one's life. Walking out of the presentation, I felt motivated to actively think and participate in the organizations that I am involved in. Mirk expressed that there are benefits of being active and engaged in media, as well as the importance of speaking up when it comes to your passions.

#1.3138630:772533361.jpg:Sarah Mirk

Sarah Mirk

Yale Daily News



Reporting from D.C.

Settling in

By Paulina Phelps, Columnist

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014

Going abroad at Skidmore is very common; going abroad your sophomore year is not. Then again, going abroad to D.C. is not your typical abroad experience. I came to D.C. to study journalism through the Washington Semester Program (WSP) at American University. For those who aren't familiar with the program, it comprises three parts: an internship, a seminar on your specialization and an elective course at American. I have been living in Washington D.C. for almost a month. In this short amount of time I have experienced a huge range of feelings, sights, people, opinions and even weather patterns.

Despite this hodgepodge of experiences, I have never once felt overwhelmed. In fact, D.C. feels surprisingly small. In part, this has to do with the shorter blocks, and there is always something going on around you. The stretches of concrete without any life make you feel much smaller than a block populated with businesses and people. With the constant distraction of interesting people, cafes, bookstores, beautiful views from bridges and the rows of embassies lining Massachusetts Ave., you have to be acutely aware of everything around you. In my personal experience, the best way to get to know DC is to jog it. I highly recommend this for a number of reasons: the city is generally very flat, you will look like a Washingtonian and the streetlights change peculiarly fast so you're never left waiting at a crosswalk.

If the journalism professors have drilled anything into our heads here, it is that accuracy is the most important thing and that the truth takes time. This is reflected in all matters in life. In making generalizations and blanket statements about people, places and ideas, the truth becomes harder to uncover. Instead, I aim to make observations--sometimes bold reflections--but they are not necessarily the truth. So in this column I aim to be a travel journalist as opposed to a travel writer. While many aspects of D.C.'s culture were surprising, I could anticipate some parts. Seeing monuments like the Capital Building and the Lincoln Memorial was surreal after knowing them as scanned images on postcards for so long.

DC's particularly diverse population and unpredictability struck me most. Of course the same could be said of New York City, but it seems that the various burrows of the city all have stereotypes unique to their area. Compare that to Woodley Park, my neighborhood in D.C., where on just one block there is an Indian, Ethiopian, Italian, Japanese and Mexican restaurant. Every morning walking down the elevator at

the Woodley Park metro stop, I pass the murmurs of unfamiliar and colorful languages. Looking out my bedroom window and seeing busy Connecticut Ave. instead of the peaceful acres of Northwoods is an adjustment and makes me wonder about Skidmore at times. But, while uncertainty is ubiquitous, I am assured by the growing attachment I feel to this city every day.

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The Capitol Building

giantbomb.com



Injustice at the Grammys

By Sarah Benson, Contributing Writer

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014

28.5 million viewers tuned in to watch the 56th annual Grammy Awards broadcast on CBS on Sunday, Jan. 26. Maybe these high numbers - the second largest audience for the live awards broadcast since 1993 - can be attributed to the prospect of seeing Daft Punk in their signature space suits, or to the titillating temptation of watching Beyoncé slink across stage. Regardless of the reason for the initial draw, people looked on in anticipation, as they do every year, to confirm whether their favorite artists would receive due accolades.

And because it's an awards ceremony derived from the premise that the "best" music of the year should win and gather public validation, each broadcast is designed to fail. Sure, the recipe for glamorous success is there: beautiful, talented people milling around in fashionable outfits, performing elaborate dance and song numbers and attempting to come together as a community in order to recognize achievements of the music industry. But I would argue, as many irate Internet bloggers chafe to do in response to each category's winner (and its losers) that the notion of "best" needs clarification.

Unlike the Super Bowl, our nation's most recent televised spectacle, the Grammys have famously failed to explicate what it means to win. In the Seahawks vs. Broncos game, there was no mistaking what winning looked like. And in even closer games of years past, the time on the clock and the scoreboard always determined an absolute champion. But what does it mean, for example, to win Best Rap Album? What are the criteria that separate one great musician from another? Is it media exposure, personal charisma, live performance ability, album revenue, Facebook and Twitter followers, tour ticket sales, radio plays, Billboard chart rankings, ambition for social revolution, independence from a record label or recognition from veteran rappers? If an artist best represents any one of these standards, he or she is usually weaker in another comparison to a fellow nominee.

Arguably the biggest upset at the Grammys was when Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' "The Heist" beat out Kendrick Lamar's "good kid, m.A.A.d city" for the coveted Best Rap Album award. Before, and since then, skeptics have run with arguments that span from racially charged, to homophobic, to anti-mainstream: the rapper/producer duo who also scored the Best New Artist award are white, have put out an iconic song advocating for marriage equality ("Same Love") and have also seen immense commercial recognition. Unfortunately, for many in the hip hop community, these are not reasons to celebrate or embrace the win.

Instead, some critics take issue with all three of these talking points. For instance, back in September, rapper Lord Jamar (from New Rochelle's group Brand Nubian) had complicated feelings about Macklemore's rising fame. He expressed a controversial but articulate analogy in an interview with VladTV, suggesting Macklemore's "Same Love" is pushing an unwelcome gay agenda within the hip hop community that has nothing to do with hip hop culture:

"White rappers, you are invited into the house of hip hop as a guest...I can't go into somebody else's house, and even though they let me wear their clothes and eat their food, that's not my house! That's their house. And I can't get so comfortable in their house that I feel like I could now start talking house politics."

This comparison to an overly contented houseguest is apt, but only in that it puts to words why many others in the hip hop community have not been welcoming Macklemore onto the scene with open arms. No high-profile rappers have been clambering to collaborate with the Seattle-based star, despite his broad crossover appeal. Several hip-hop news outlets have already published articles calling his Grammy win a show of ignorance and disrespect. A humbled Macklemore even felt the need to let Kendrick know privately, and then publicly, that injustice had been served; The New York Times recently blogged about the text message that he posted to Instagram: "I wanted you to win. You should have. It's weird. I robbed you."

Well, damn. How does this happen? How can rap enthusiasts and experts alike, including the winning artist himself, all agree that this was a "robbery"? If there were no room for ambiguity, all awards ceremonies would be incredibly boring to watch-understood. Perhaps some people would miss the mystique surrounding Grammy politics and would rather leave the cryptic deciding factors unknown. But for many, the margin between what took place and what was deserved is too wide here: Kendrick went zero for seven on Grammy night, leaving without a single award.

This, to me, is unconscionable. That's not to say that I think Macklemore was entirely undeserving of any award; his win in the category for Best New Artist seems appropriate, given his sudden mass appeal this past year. And his bold attempt to find a home in the hip-hop genre, which is historically known for its homophobia, with a hit single like "Same Love" is a risk worth recognizing. I also happen to be a member of the camp that disagrees with Lord Jamar's parameters for "house politics": gay rights are civil rights; the struggle to attain them is indisputably related to the same strain of oppression that the predominantly black hip-hop community would like to claim as solely theirs.

Despite these differing vantage points, I can understand the outrage over Macklemore's win. The outpour of vitriol wouldn't be so widespread in certain corners of news media if winning Best Rap Album

were directly informed by a mutually accepted upon ethos of social justice. Pervasive backlash tells us that social justice shouldn't be the trump card. But what should be?

#1.3138441:3233273757.jpg:grammys

Awards on display at the event

Rollingstone.com



Campus Safety Reports: Jan. 31 to Feb. 6

By Julia Leef, Managing Editor

On Tue, Feb 11, 2014

Campus Safety Reports from Jan. 31 to Feb. 6.

Incidents of Note:

- **Friday, Jan. 31**-Criminal Mischief: Water overflow reported into rooms at Wilmarth Hall at 4:52 p.m. The flooding appeared to be intentional. Report taken.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 4**-Suspicious Odor: A burning odor reported at 7:43 p.m. in the basement of McClellan Hall. Dispatched officer and maintenance. Maintenance reported that the odor came from a spray lubricant placed on the boiler. The chemical was not hazardous and was vented out of the building.
- **Thursday, Feb. 6**-Sex Offense: Campus Safety office received a third party report at 9:37 a.m. of a possible sexual assault at an on-campus location.

Further Incidents:

Friday, Jan. 31:

- Medical Assistance: Ambulance requested at 4:20 p.m. for a female in the Filene Music Hall. Student and nurse declined transport due to a medical condition.
- Larceny: A card reported taken at 4:50 p.m. from Falstaff's Pavillion and used around campus. Report taken and investigation begun.
- Fire: Fire alarm received at 7:57 p.m. at 9 Dayton Drive. Heavy smoke condition and fire extinguisher used. Damage to residence. Report taken.
- Medical Assistance: A student requested medical assistance at 11:24 p.m. at 12 Whitman Way. Subject transported to the Saratoga Hospital.
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 11:31 p.m. on the second floor of Jonsson Tower. Report unfounded.

Saturday, Feb. 1:

- College Violation: Loud noise reported at 2:42 a.m. coming from the common area on the first floor of Wilmarth Hall. Students quieted down.
- Accident: Student reported an injury at 9:08 p.m. when she slipped and fell on the Keyes Quad. Accident report completed.
- Campus Safety Assist: A large house party reported at 11:30 p.m. with students in the roadway at an off-campus location. Sheriff's Department advised.

Sunday, Feb. 2:

- Criminal Mischief: A hole reported at 12:01 a.m. in the wall on the second floor of Wiecking Hall. Report taken.
- Intoxicated Subject: Intoxicated female reported at 1:20 a.m. in the Spa. Student was transported to the Saratoga Hospital.
- Intoxicated Subject: An intoxicated male reported at 2:45 a.m. in the first floor lounge of Wilmarth Hall. Subject was transported to the Saratoga Hospital.
- Suspicious Activity: Report received at 4:09 a.m. that someone was banging on the subject's door in Wiecking Hall. Dispatched officers reported no one in the area upon their arrival.
- Criminal Mischief: Club posters reported torn down at 1:49 p.m. in Case Center. Report taken.
- College Violation: Officer confiscated drug paraphernalia at 5:05 p.m. at 5 Dayton Drive. Property receipt left. Report filed.
- Suspicious Odor: Suspicious odor of grilling reported at 5:38 p.m. at McClellan Hall. Officer dispatched and students complied with the request to move the grill.
- Intoxicated Subject: An intoxicated male reported at 10:31 p.m. on the eleventh floor of Jonsson Tower. Subject was transported to the Saratoga Hospital.

Monday, Feb. 3:

- Campus Safety Assist: Officer assistance requested at 8:05 a.m. in Wilmarth Hall. Officer dispatched provided assistance to the reporting person with the removal of student property. Report issued.
- Harassment: Unwanted contact attempts reported at 10 a.m. in Wiecking Hall from another party. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 5:53 p.m. at the Sussman B Apartments. All officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department sent. Activation was due to burned food. Report issued.

- Medical Assistance: Report received at 8:53 p.m. of a male who had sustained an injury at intramural soccer at the Williamson Sports Center. Dispatched officer who requested the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service. Report issued.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 11:17 p.m. at the Sussman J Apartments. All officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department dispatched. Officers reported that the activation was due to burned food. Report issued.

Tuesday, Feb. 4:

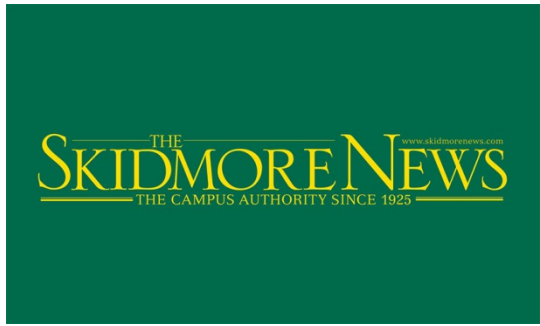
- Medical: Transportation requested at 2:33 p.m. for an injured student at the Art Center. Officer provided the transport for medical attention. Report issued.

Wednesday, Feb. 5:

- Suspicious Activity: A possible intoxicated subject reported at 12:43 a.m. in the West Lot. Officer dispatched was unable to locate the subject.
- College Violation: Loud people reported at 2:45 a.m. slamming doors in the hallway of Wait Hall. Officers dispatched were unable to locate the subjects.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 6:26 p.m. in the Sussman Apartments. Officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department advised. Burned food was determined to be the cause. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: Transport requested at 6:53 p.m. to the Emergency Room. Dispatched officer who completed the transport. Report issued.
- College Violation: A noise complaint reported at 11:22 p.m. on the first floor of Kimball Hall. Dispatched officer spoke with the resident who complied with the request to lower the volume.

Thursday, Feb. 6:

- Campus Safety Assist: Transportation requested at 9:39 a.m. for a student from Health Services to Wilton Medical. Dispatched officer reported completing the transport.
- Graffiti: Graffiti reported at 4:06 p.m. in Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officer recorded the incident. Report issued.
- Campus Safety Assist: A welfare check requested at 9:39 p.m. for a student at an off-campus location. Officer was dispatched and located the subject to deliver the message.
- Medical: Reporting person was in the Campus Safety office at 7:47 p.m. stating that he had a small piece of metal in his right eye. Officer and the Emergency Medical Transport provided assistance. Report issued.



- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 10:38 p.m. in Howe Hall. Dispatched officer stated that there was no odor at the time. Call unfounded.

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Jacob Reiskin/The Skidmore News



One Upon and Elevator Music to feature "sound pieces" of David Greenberger at the Tang Museum

On Tue, Feb 11, 2014

Artist David Greenberger, of Greenwich, N.Y., will bring the accumulation of approximately 30 years of work combining music and conversations with the elderly to the Tang Teaching Museum for two listening experiences in David Greenberger: One Upon, which opens Feb. 15 and runs through April 13. His companion piece, Elevator Music 26 - David Greenberger: one updown, also runs through April 13.

As an artist, musician, writer, NPR contributor, storyteller and performer, Greenberger has become well known for sharing conversations with the elderly that explore and reveal their individuality, integrity and humanity. At community centers, nursing homes, assisted-living residences and private homes, he has talked with older people in a way that focuses on who they are now rather than what they have lost. Working with musicians, he has combined fragments of those conversations with music into short sound pieces that give listeners a window into the minds of older people.

Greenberger's One Upon turns the Tang's mezzanine into an intimate theater space where one audience member at a time can listen to a two-minute live performance by the group A Strong Dog. The group features Kevin Maul on lap steel, dobro, and guitar; Mitch Throop on guitar, bass, and drums; and Greenberger doing monologues about the older people he spoke with.

Greenberger's monologues have attracted attention and accolades from various critics, including those of Rolling Stone, the New York Times and illusionist, author and musician Penn Jillette.

Greenberger completed graduate school in the late '70s with a BFA in painting and started to work as an activities director at a nursing home in Boston called the Duplex. He realized almost immediately that there was something really important going on there in the conversations he was having, said Tang Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs Rachel Seligman, who curated both Greenberger exhibitions. "His whole career has been thinking about questions of aging and identity and relationships, and the way that as people get older we tend to set them aside, and we tend to mourn the loss of who they were instead of celebrating and engaging with who they are now. If you listen very carefully, they really are telling us about ourselves and what it means to be human."

The companion exhibition, Elevator Music 26-David Greenberger: one updown, takes place in the Tang Museum's elevator and features more than 100 short recorded pieces featuring Greenberger and a

variety of celebrated musical collaborators, such as Terry Adams of the band NRBQ, Paul Cebal and the Shaking Ray Levis.

The two experiences are designed to complement each other, contrasting the chance hearing of recorded snippets in the elevator with purposeful listening at a live theater performance.

At a TED talk in Albany in 2011, Greenberger estimated he had had some quarter of a million conversations.

"I'm an artist and I'm also in the second half of my life," he said. "I think I've learned as a human being and grown as an artist by continuing to meet people who are living the last years of their lives. The differences between us are obvious, but it's the things that we have in common that are the most fulfilling to me. That's where you find the surprise and the mystery and the truth."

The public is invited to the Tang's Opening Reception for Winter/Spring Exhibitions from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, celebrating Greenberger's shows as well as Graphic Jews: Negotiating Identity in Sequential Art (Jan. 25 to April 13) and One Work (Jan. 25 to June 1).

Museum visitors are invited to enjoy Two-Minute Performances in a One-Seat Theater during the following live performance times:

- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 15
- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19
- 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 9
- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 18
- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, April 3

The Tang Museum is open from noon until 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday, with extended hours through 9 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information, call x8080 or visit this [website](http://www.skidmore.edu/tang).

#1.3139607:1407328660.jpg:Greenberger

Mitch Stroop, David Greenberger, and Kevin Maul of A Strong Dog.

Courtesy of Skidmore College



The Tang Museum's Classless Society exhibit examines ideas of social class and the American Dream

Recent proclamations on income inequality point to relevance of show's themes
On Tue, Feb 11, 2014

The Tang Teaching Museum is hosting the Classless Society through March 9, a show that raises questions about how people think about class in the current social and economic context, including the prospects for class mobility and the different ways that class is signaled and understood.

As visitors enter the exhibition, they have the opportunity to spin a large "wheel of fortune"- divided like a pie-chart to show the numbers of people in the lower income brackets in relation to the small sliver at the top of the heap. The wheel not only demonstrates income disparity in the U.S., but also symbolically determines how much of the exhibition you would be permitted to see, if access were based on your class position (color-coded tape marks the various sections of the show).

The show also features works of contemporary art and materials drawn from popular culture that examine the nature of class, the viability of the American Dream and the reasons why the myth of a classless society persists.

Two Skidmore faculty members, Professor of Economics Mehmet Odekon and Professor of English Janet Casey, curated the exhibition in collaboration with former Tang Director John Weber and the Tang's Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs, Rachel Seligman.

Odekon said he was surprised year after year to see how consistently students in his course "Economics of Income Distribution and Poverty" classified themselves as middle class.

"Nobody seems to admit belonging to any other class," he said.

Casey said she has been fascinated by the persistence of the beliefs that American society is functionally classless and that anyone can move up the societal rungs to achieve the American Dream.

"That's why immigrants come here," Casey said, "because they think there is a lot of mobility among the classes. But there is not."

"Some will find it controversial - hopefully," Weber said. "The system is not working for a lot of people, and that's very hard for a lot of Americans to think about, regardless of income."

The final event for Classless Society will take place at the Tang at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5. The session will be "Dunkerley Dialogue" featuring show curators Casey and Odekon with artist Steve Lambert.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, call x8080 or visit the museum's [website](http://www.skidmore.edu/tang).

#1.3139589:4228217421.jpg:power sign

Steve Lambert, It's About Power, 2011

Courtesy of the artist and Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles

#1.3139591:2632546110.jpg:classless society

The entrance of the Classless Society exhibition, showing the "Wheel of fortune" with the income brackets and their proportionate sizes

Courtesy of Skidmore College





Grasshopper Watercolor

By Charlotte Collins, Contributing Artist
On Tue, Feb 11, 2014

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Charlotte Collins



NHL Super Six: Power rankings at the Olympic break

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Wed, Feb 12, 2014

Sure, it's officially the Olympic break for the NHL and players are either lounging in Hawaii or feeling out their new line mates in Sochi. The next NHL game isn't until Feb. 25, but that doesn't mean the teams can't be ranked one last time before they go on their two-week hiatus. Let's take a look at the NHL's Super Six, which the Western Conference continues to dominate.

1. St. Louis Blues:

The Blues are three points behind Anaheim in the overall standings, 87 to 84, but the Blues have three games in hand and won their last two games heading into the break. Additionally, their +61 goal differential is top in the league, and they're in the top five in several offensive and defensive categories, such as point percentage (.737) and are second in points per game with 3.32.

2. Chicago Blackhawks:

Some might say Chicago doesn't deserve the second spot, losing to Phoenix 2-0 in their last game, which Patrick Kane didn't play in. But they tend to play down to their opponents, their offense continues to be strong and their league-leading 207 goals is 11 more than any other team. Most importantly, the Blackhawks just finished their worst stretch of the season, the traditional California trip, and still remain third in the standings. With a shutout win over the Ducks, they proved that they were one of the top teams.

3. Anaheim Ducks:

The Ducks lost five of seven home games heading into the break and are 5-5 in their last 10. But even though they are skidding a little right now, they're still first in total points (87). The Olympic break will give them a chance to gear up for their first game back, a showdown with the Blues, and give them a chance to prove that they should be number one.

4. San Jose Sharks:

San Jose, 6-4 in their last 10, entered the break on a two-game winning streak. Their offense is a bit anemic in the goal department, but it is putting up massive amounts of shots - 60 against Edmonton -

that will soon find the back of the net. They should be able to make up for their seven-point deficit to Anaheim after the break.

5. Pittsburgh Penguins:

That Pittsburgh is the only team from the Eastern Conference to crack the top six is maybe surprising, but that the Penguins entered the break fourth in the NHL is not. Playing with vengeful energy from being spurned from the Canadian Olympic team, Mark-Andre Fleury has posted a save-percentage above .900 in five straight games. Fleury leads the NHL with 31 wins and teammate Sidney Crosby leads the league with 78 points. The Penguins also have two games in-hand on the Ducks and Blackhawks, and are thus once again very much in the race for the President's Trophy (awarded to the team with the most points).

6. Colorado Avalanche:

Colorado only have a +21 goal differential, but have somehow still managed to remain within striking distance of the Ducks with 79 points and two games in-hand. Their nine wins in the last 12 games is due in large part to their goaltending.

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The Blues are second in the NHL standings with 84 points.

Brad Watson/Getty Images



Men's basketball edges St. Lawrence, women lose a close one

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014

Both the men's and women's basketball teams hit the road Tuesday night, squaring off against Liberty League foe St. Lawrence University. Despite a strong showing, the women lost a close 63-58 game. The men rallied to win 52-50, their fifth straight win.

Despite a 21 point, 15 rebound double-double from Angela Botiba '15, the Thoroughbreds were unable to unseat the top-ranked Saints. The Thoroughbreds, though, gave St. Lawrence a tough contest. The teams entered the half tied at 26-26, and despite the Saints opening the game up to 37-31 early in the second half, Skidmore fought back to tie it up at 42-42. Migle Vilunaite '17 and Ella Scheuerell '16 both hit field-goals to bring the team within two, and Botiba's work in the low post tied the game up.

However, St. Lawrence responded to the Skidmore offense by scoring 11 unanswered points to make it 53-42 with 5:36 remaining. A switch to the full-court press forced the Saints into several turnovers, and Skidmore got back within three with just under a minute remaining. However, six straight missed field goal attempts did the Thoroughbreds in, and the game ended with the Saints winning 63-58.

In addition to Botiba's performance, the Thoroughbreds also received 14 points and three assists from senior Jordyn Wartts, and Amber Holgate '16 added 11 points coming off of the bench. Skidmore dropped to 9-12, 4-8 in league play, and saw their three-game win streak come to an end. The Thoroughbreds visit Vassar on Friday night for another Liberty League matchup. The Skidmore men's team extended its win streak to five straight, rallying from six points down at the half to win 52-50. The first half left much to be desired for both teams, as they combined to shoot 17% from behind the three-point line. Going into the half, the Saints led the Thoroughbreds 25-19 and looked poised to extend the lead at the start of the second with a quick basket. But the Thoroughbreds had other intentions, and Aldin Medunjanin '16 sparked a 10-2 run and assisted Tanner Brooks' lay-up to reclaim the lead with 13:37 remaining. The assist was one of nine for Medunjanin, who also finished with 16 points. The Saints reclaimed the lead, going up 43-30 with under five minutes to go, but Erik Sanders '16 and Brian Moore '14 both hit from behind the arc to tie the game at 45-45. Medunjanin capped the Skidmore rally with a three-pointer with 15.4 seconds left to give the Thoroughbreds the 52 points they would need to win the game.

Brooks finished with nine points and six steals, which would prove vital as Skidmore scored 21 points off of turnovers. Sanders finished with 11 points and Connor Merrill '15 finished with seven. The men will also travel to Vassar on Friday with an 8 p.m. tip-off.

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Angela Botiba '15 registered a double-double for Skidmore in the loss.

Bob Ewell



Double Trouble

Senior Moments

By Jake Dolgenos, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014

"If you're like many Skidmore students, you'll graduate with a double major" explains the helpful "What's Special about Skidmore?" section of our slick, new redesigned website. And honestly, it feels like most students do double down on their Skidmore experience, picking up two majors and often a minor or two as well. Skidmore bills itself as a college catering to exactly this kind of behavior, with many students arriving each Fall having been promised the chance to combine two disciplines into an exciting and creative mixture. Ironically, however, the freedom to declare twice is often more limiting than liberating.

The necessary qualification: I will graduate in May with a single major. In this way, I can only speak to the experiences of Skidmore's many second-majored students from second-hand experience. I welcome other perspectives. But here are four reasons not to double major:

1) It will prevent you from taking electives.

Skidmore follows what has been described to me as the traditional liberal arts model of a cumulative coursework breakdown: one third of your classes will be in your major, one third of your classes will be fulfilling general education requirements, and the final third will be made up of electives - cool courses you take because of a professor or a subject (or a convenient time) of your own volition. If you tack on a second major...well, you do the math. Unless your two majors intersect enough to give you extra room, the number of classes you'll be able to take for the heck and/or fun of it will be pretty small. This is especially true for folks who don't come to college with a major in mind, having already devoted some of these credit hours to choosing a track.

2) It will limit your study abroad options.

I didn't study abroad. I had always wanted to study in Spain, but because I also planned to major in English, I had a few options: study in Spain (without any accredited English classes to take) and take 3 English classes every semester until I graduated, study somewhere else where accredited English classes were offered (and spend a good deal of my time abroad studying English) most of which are programs limited to London and Paris, or stay on campus for all four remaining semesters and spread out my requirements more evenly. It should be easy to see how trying to fit in two majors and a semester

abroad in an exciting new environment can leave one with even fewer options. (maybe say something about what it is that you got to do in particular - cool classes, best extra curriculars?)

3) It will prevent you from pursuing extracurricular activities.

I have plenty of friends who are both double-majoring and also active in clubs, groups, and sports. I don't see them very often. Many of them have had to take summer classes, or find that their academic or extracurricular activities suffer. Either way, breadth of experience can come at the cost of lesser depth. Without the time to throw yourself into extracurriculars, your chance to become team captain or club president will undoubtedly decrease.

4) You miss the chance to fully devote yourself to a particular major.

Ask yourself: with two majors in mind, how many extra classes will you take in these subjects?

Remember: major requirements are minimums, and don't necessarily equate to the full experience offered by an academic department. The English department, for example, offers an array of writing seminars and classes on literature and poetry of dozens of cultures and time periods. With the requirements of two majors, you may miss out on the opportunity to truly immerse yourself in one - audit an especially challenging course, approach a professor for help with your own particular interests, set yourself up for a chance at departmental honors, attend an academic conference, do an independent study in an area of special interest. It's not impossible to dive into two majors, but I bet those who commit fully to one get deeper.

There are reasons to double major - the appeal is obvious. And I have friends who have never doubted for a second that it was the right choice. But our culture of double-or-nothing can pressure folks into limiting their experience, sometimes in ways, which will hurt them or prevent them from enjoying aspects of the college experience that they may have enjoyed otherwise. If you are pursuing a double major and the shoe fits, then shine on, you crazy diamond. This is a message for the folks who are quietly living out their college lives in a single academic department: that's okay. You'll be okay. Go be all you can be.

Jake Dolgenos is a member of the class of 2014, reads boats and rows books, and obviously wrote this to belittle the efforts of harder working students.

People as Muse - 'Forms and Faces' exhibition, Sophia Baraschi-Ehrlich '16 and Morgan Gruer '16

The two student artists find inspiration in human faces and bodies

By Blair Warren, A&E editor

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014

'Forms and Faces', an exhibition that took place in the Case Gallery from February 1 to 10, featured works by Sophia Baraschi-Ehrlich '16 and Morgan Gruer '16. The two student artists experimented with color and contour in their depictions of the human body and visage. When put together in one exhibition, their works had a natural fluidity while still being characteristic of their own personal styles.

"I've developed a different type of painting style here than I had before, with more broken, straight out of the tube colors that are intense and in random places. I really like doing that now and I want to do it all the time," said Baraschi-Ehrlich.

Gruer agrees with Baraschi-Ehrlich when it comes to the innovative, freeing use of color.

Gruer added, "I don't always use the traditional color of a specific body, yet the color seems to belong there. Each body is so different. Even if you draw or paint the same model, it always turns out differently and you always learn something new."

Inspiration for these two student artists is found in the work of impressionists through their emphasis on light and color. They agree that their styles are not representative of this art period, yet they follow the impressionist idea of depiction not based on precision of reality but rather on essence, form and color - what can be noticed beneath the surface.

Baraschi-Ehrlich explained, "There's always something behind a face. With a painting, the painter is the one who interprets the personality or emotion of the person. It's like you have to create movement in one still image."

The way that a person's disposition and mood is reflected on his/her face is the inspiration behind both of their works. To Baraschi-Ehrlich and Gruer, it is not solely about capturing the person's features. It is instead about capturing their stresses, happiness, thoughts and feelings.

"Since both of our focuses are on the human body, people pretty directly inspire us. I sketch a lot of people, even if it isn't these dramatic paintings, like when I'm at home or on the subway. I always have

my sketchbook and I'm always drawing people under my sunglasses. I focus on facial expressions and body language a lot. People just fascinate me," said Gruer.

Their works seem to emulate their words through the use of color and curve, giving life to the people they depict. When asked if they have any favorites, they hesitated. Thinking about it, they realized they do not have any favorites and would not want to.

Gruer explained, "An artist is so critical of his/her work. There are things I like and dislike in every piece. I may like one the most at the time, but it can easily change as soon as I make something new. I think this is good. I want to keep making more and never get stuck on something I like, because then I would never be satisfied. Nothing would live up to it."

Ensuring that creativity is central to both of their lives, Baraschi-Ehrlich and Gruer will continue creating art, exploring and expanding their skills.

#1.3140317:840217225.jpg:morgan

Morgan Gruer '16, self-portrait

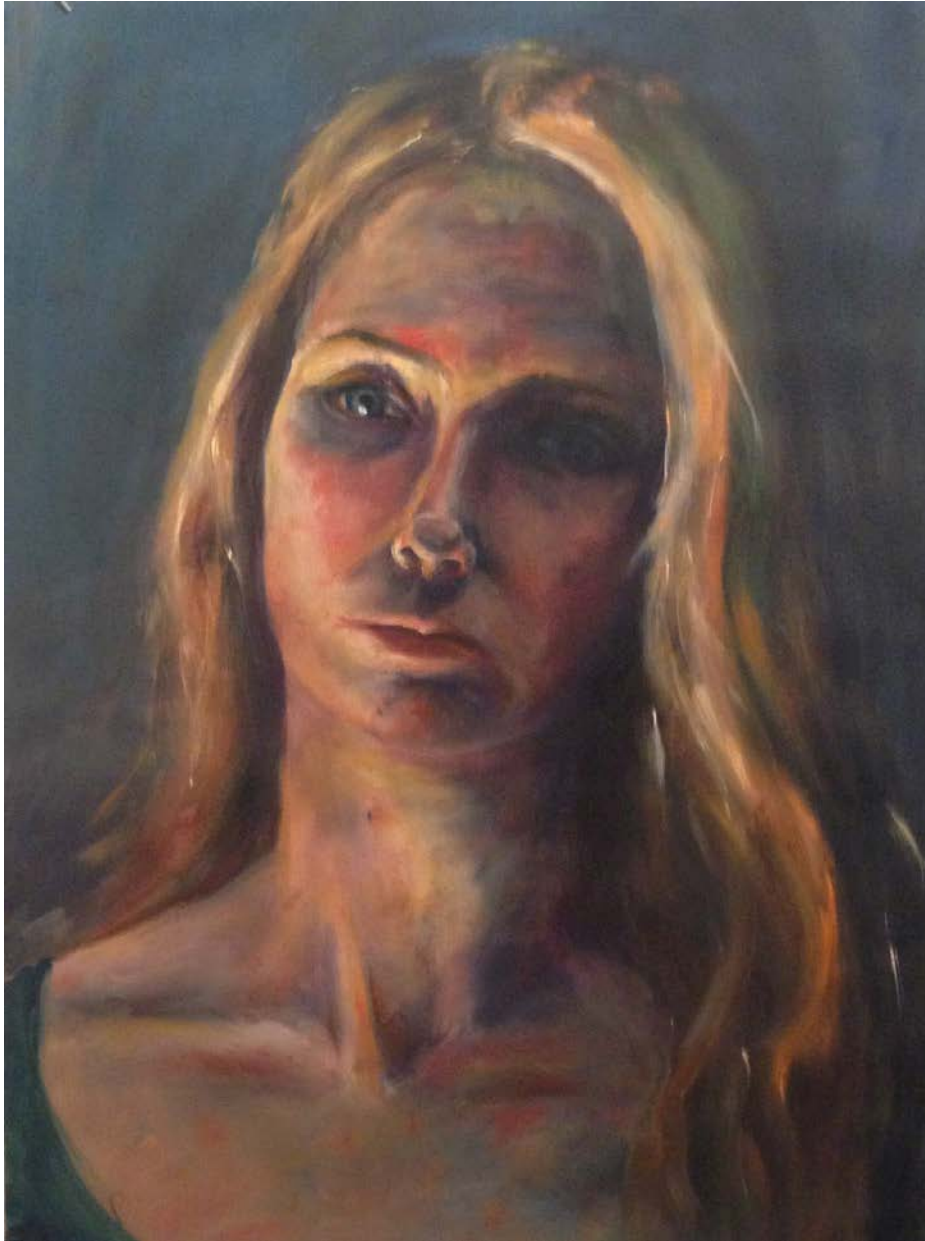
Courtesy of Skidmore News

#1.3140318:259300153.jpg:Sophia

Sophia Baraschi-Ehrlich '16, self-portrait

Courtesy of Skidmore News





Burger Review

A look at the Saratoga pub scene

By Matt Choi '14, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014

Here in Saratoga, we are blessed with a food scene that exceeds--in both quality and quantity--what you would expect from a town of similar size. In my time here, I have been lucky enough to eat at several Saratoga standbys and witness the recent boom of bars and pubs downtown. This year seems to be one of particular transformation. Following the success of Druthers, and The Local before it, Saratoga has welcomed Henry Street Tap Room and The Merry Monk (as well as a renovated Peabody's) to its ranks of beer-centric eateries. Proper reviews of these places are to come, but I want to talk for a second about the one thing they all have on their menus: burgers.

Burgers are inherently subjective things. Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, a good burger is often in the taste of ones own taste buds.

The criteria I focused on include the quality of the patty meat, the texture of the outside char and the consistency of the medium-rare insides. Of course, I paid attention to the bun too, but cared less about the ubiquitous iceberg lettuce and bland tomato slices which are an unfortunate staple, even at more expensive places. Lastly, although prices are relatively similar, I took cost into account because we're students after all.

Druthers: Druther's Burger \$13.

The standard Druther's burger has some rather untraditional toppings. Pickled green tomatoes, pickled shallots and Druther's aioli come standard. I've had enough bad burgers with unusual toppings to know that no amount of truffle oil or fried baby shallots can make up for a subpar patty, but I was pleasantly surprised by Druther's offering. The aioli added a nice peppery bite, and the pickles a pleasant sour note. The patty was nice and rare on the inside, fading to pink and then brown towards the outside. The bun was good as well, and sort of reminded me of the dense squishy buns that come with classic Nathan's hot dogs. Wash this one down with a house made I.P.A, \$3 a pint on Tuesdays.

Max London's: Grilled Long Lesson Farms Grass Fed Angus Burger \$14.

I have had more good meals at Max London's than at any other restaurant in Saratoga, which is why my most recent burger experience there was all the more painful. Maybe it was because it was during

Chowder Fest and chef Derrick Adams was outside the kitchen passing out cups of his pulled pork chowder to the masses, but my most recent burger was off.

Let's start with the good. This burger had the best bun of any on this list: buttery brioche, toasted to a deep brown that prevented the meat and cheese from making it a soggy mess. The patty was fine, a little lean for my taste, but cooked to nice pink medium-rare and incredibly moist. Unfortunately, that excellent bun could have fit another half a patty in-between it. The poor bread to patty ratio led to one of the ultimate burger faux pas, a first bite in which you get bread and no meat. I've had cheeseburgers here before and the cheese has been perfectly fine, but for whatever reason today it tasted like a Kraft Single, and not even the normal kind. It tasted to me vaguely like Kraft's approximation of mozzarella. Some people say a slice of Kraft cheese is the only true cheese for a good burger. I am not one of these people. The melted Kraft contributed a plastic, almost fishy taste to the top of the burger.

It almost sounds like I'm making this up. A Kraft Single? In Max London's! But I assure you this was the case, or at least tasted like it. If these criticisms sound nit-picky to you, it just shows that when you are constantly in the "best restaurant in Saratoga" conversation you are held to a different standard. This is still a burger worth having, just specify your cheese, and maybe don't go during Chowder Fest.

Merry Monk: Classic ¾ Pound Burger \$12

My dining companion for my night at the Merry Monk is the type of person who likes to cut their burger in half. I never do this (you lose too much juice and heat), but on seeing the inside of theirs I was tempted to. A beautiful pink center changed suddenly to a light brown before turning into a blackened char.

This is the kind of burger that can only be made when you have a grill that is so hot it can quickly cook the outside before heat penetrates the inside, leaving the center relatively rare. The Merry Monk must have a grill that runs on volcano stones because this thing was cooked perfectly. Biting into the burger revealed a taste that matched its look. The patty was lean enough that it kept its firmness and didn't fall apart, with just enough fat to stay juicy. Of course, that perfect medium-rare also gave it a wonderful texture. I also enjoyed the toasted brioche bun. I should mention that this thing is huge. In my memory it is a good three inches thick, but maybe that was the Belgian beer talking (don't skip on that). Not even the most expensive Burger on this list, but a step above the rest.

The Local: Local Burger \$9

The Local really caters to people who like to dress up their burgers. They have an exhaustive list of toppings, including obscure things like hummus and black olives. If you like lots of traditional toppings, and some not so traditional toppings, then go for it. If not, don't let that distract you from a very good

and well-priced burger. The meat is local and suitably beefy. The patty is about eight ounces and they usually do a good job cooking it. One of my companions said hers was a little off, but mine had a good medium-rare center. The bun is unremarkable but serviceable. This is a great bang-for-your-buck meal, but not necessarily a destination food. I'm usually more inclined to get fish and chips here, but if you find yourself craving a burger at The Local fear not. Bonus points for great sweet potato fries as well.

Dishonorable mention

Henry Street Taproom: Wagyu Beef Burger \$15.

The description of the Henry Street burger is full of buzzwords. The very first thing I noticed was not the heirloom tomato, nor the wagyu beef, nor the Adirondak Farms cheddar, it was the poor white bread bun, the kind of bun that comes with your bacon egg and cheese at the Spa. If you spend the time to source Wagyu beef and heirloom tomatoes, why not invest in a good bun?

The patty was tender and fatty. This sounds good, but it was so tender and fatty it pretty much disintegrated in my hands the second I picked it up, dropping little burger meat-bombs all over my plate. Despite this tenderness it was rather small, which makes a pink center nearly impossible because the whole patty cooks quickly. Sure enough, the entire burger was a dull brown. The heirloom tomato was a cut above your standard deli sliced tomato, but not by much. The fried shallots were too salty. Points off too for the limp oily fries. Avoid it. A real shame for the place with arguably the best beer selection in town, and one of the friendliest bartenders.

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A Druthers Burger

Albany Times Union



Why Divestment Matters

By David Katz, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014

This past Sunday, SGA President Sam Harris addressed the entire student body in an email informing the Skidmore community of the school's developing divestment campaign. What is divestment anyway and why is the SGA president blasting out an email to the whole student body about it?

The story began in the fall of 2012 when journalist and activist Bill McKibben authored a seminal [piece](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719) in Rolling Stone magazine articulating the severity of the climate crisis. McKibben illuminated the two most crucial numbers pertaining to greenhouse gas pollution: 565, the number of gigatons of carbon dioxide that humans can emit in global emissions and still stay below 2° Celsius of warming. And 2,795, the number of gigatons of carbon that fossil fuel companies possess in their known reserves and plan to burn. Thus we are left with a very simple situation. Around two-thirds of fossil fuel companies' known carbon reserves need to stay in the ground, unburned, if we want to avoid more than 2° Celsius of warming. Weary of constantly being on the defensive, McKibben sought to start a fossil fuel divestment movement to change the equation.

Simply put, to divest one's equity means to retract an investment from a given business. In this case, McKibben sought to encourage college students to ask their school to divest all equity holdings from fossil fuel companies. After all, this is a tactic that has worked famously well in the past.

In the mid-1980s universities all over the country, compelled by their student bodies, withdrew their financial support of the apartheid regime in South Africa. Student activists worked tirelessly, at times camping outside their university president's residence, to divest from the unscrupulous regime in South Africa. The work of student activists proved to be crucial to South African freedom, so much so that after apartheid ended, Nelson Mandela visited the University of California to personally thank them for their support.

Last spring a team of students working on the SGA's Sustainability Committee, a group created to institutionalize the three pillars of sustainability at Skidmore, authored an SGA resolution calling on the school to divest from fossil fuels and create a socially responsible investment policy. The resolution was unanimously passed in Senate and thus the Skidmore College fossil fuel divestment movement began.

It was not known then what would become of the resolution. Would it just be overlooked by the administration? Or would it be able to jump start the divestment process at the school? We got our answer last weekend when President Glotzbach delivered his charge to investigate the possibility of making Skidmore one of the first colleges to withdraw their financial holdings from fossil fuel companies.

The administration's response is an encouraging first step to what will undoubtedly be a complicated process. After all, the school cannot, and should not be expected to, jeopardize the growth of its endowment. Therefore, the committee President Glotzbach commissioned must devise a way to withdraw our support from the destructive fossil fuel industry without sacrificing the value and potential of our endowment

What does all of this mean for us as creative, engaged Skidmore students? We have come to a point where the scientific consensus is clear. If we do not act now to limit carbon pollution, we condemn future generations to live in an increasingly chaotic world of drastic climate change. Just as college students several generations ago were ultimately able to assist in the dismantling of the apartheid regime, we must do all we can to avail ourselves of the greatest threat to our future.

One year ago, a handful of dedicated Skidmore students started the campaign to move the administration to action. Now we have the opportunity to show the school, as well as those outside our community who bear witness to this divestment movement, that we must find a way to limit the warming of our planet.

I am here to tell you that this is entirely within our power to accomplish. As Margaret Meade famously said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Divestment leads to high spirits

By Andrew Shi, Editor-in-Chief

On Fri, Feb 14, 2014

With unprecedented speed, Skidmore College's Board of Trustees has announced their decision for the immediate and absolute divestment from fossil fuel corporations. This decision follows student pressure on the College's head honchos to adhere to Skidmore's vocal commitment to sustainability.

To the even greater surprise of the Skidmore community, The Board of Trustees has seen the students' call and raised them one. In an email sent out Thursday, the Administration announced, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, that to further conform with the image Skidmore has cultivated, funds returned from divestment in fossil fuel corporations would be reinvested into cannabis.

The announcement was met with a lukewarm response by the community at large, who thought that such a decision with a still unsavory industry would tarnish Skidmore's reputation.

The administration responded with a second email on Friday, saying, "Skidmore College is proud to be a trailblazer when it comes to social issues. Our decision today to invest in cannabis not only celebrates Skidmore's liberal tradition, but is fiscally prudent with the rapid legalization of the market."

In the 80's, when South Africans were under the oppression of the apartheid government, Skidmore was the very first college among many to divest from South African steel companies in protest.

Although the process to divest and then reinvest funds in the range of 5-10% of Skidmore's endowment will be a long and likely arduous process, it looks like Skidmore is on its way to become just a little bit greener.

Correction: I erroneously claimed above that Skidmore was one of the very first colleges to divest from South African steel companies in opposition to the apartheid. In fact, Skidmore never divested from said companies. Apologies.

#1.3140820:2254594093.jpg:skidmore Tang Museum

A monument to Skidmore's liberal tradition



College to explore divestment possibility

By Alex Hodor-Lee, News Editor

On Fri, Feb 14, 2014

Skidmore College President Philip A. Glotzbach announced the formation of the "Task Force on Divestment" this week. The initiative follows a series of student petitions to freeze the College's financial investments in fossil fuel companies.

[According](http://www.wearepowershift.org/blogs/skidmore-college-divestment-movement) to David Katz '14, a Sustainability Committee (SuCo) representative, students in the Environmental Action Club (EAC) and SuCo have been pushing for divestment since Spring 2013.

By April 30 of last year, student-organizers had gathered more than 500 signatures and, on that day, the Student Government Association passed a divestment resolution. Senator Talia Arnow '13, "Sustainability Manager at EcoMotion" and founder of Skidmore Composting and Senator Alex Barber '13, former Sustainability Senator, drafted the "Resolution 23-51: A Resolution to Support the Development of a Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investment Policy."

The SGA Senate, which in its resolution cited the serious threat of climate crisis and the disastrous effects of global warming, "supports prompt development of a socially and environmentally responsible investment policy by the Skidmore Community." This support is meant to ensure that none of Skidmore's assets are tied up in corporations incommensurate with The Carbon Tracker List, a list maintained by Carbon Tracker, an NGO. The list identifies publicly listed companies, examining their fossil fuel reserves - such as oil, coal, gas etc - that are traded as valuable assets in the stock exchange. Senate also urged the school to divest from investment vehicles such as hedge funds or mutual funds with more than 5% invested in fossil fuel companies.

'Endowment'

Endowments and their operating efficiencies reveal how much each college/university spends on individual students' education, a metric that is factored into the preeminent college ranking services' formulas, [according](http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-rankings-blog/2012/02/09/rise-in-endowments-may-impact-best-colleges-rankings) to a U.S. News & World Report. In 2012, the College's endowment was listed at just over \$280 million in the same report.

The College also [received](http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/skidmore-college) a B+ on The College Sustainability Report Card in 2011, up from a C in 2009. However, the College has continually received its lowest marks in endowment transparency and its lowest grade, a D, in shareholder engagement. According to Green Reportcard, the "shareholder engagement" category reflects the extent to which Colleges and Universities actively pursue a shareholder responsibility committee that examines and explores sustainable business practices.

College endowments hold principal; essentially, they act as a savings account. Portions of the endowment are invested in other ventures. These endowment investments perform primarily two functions: to grow the school's principal and accrue income. These institutional endowments generally pay out about four to five percent of the total endowment in the Annual Fund, most of which goes to campus operations and programs. However, the endowment mainly provides long-term financial stability for the College.

According to the [2012 Skidmore College Endowment Report](http://www.skidmore.edu/donor_relations/documents/12-13-Endowment-Report.pdf), endowment assets grew by nine percent during fiscal year 2012. The report also revealed where the majority (57%) of restricted funds - annual funding that is extracted from the endowment - was distributed to: student scholarships, totaling just over four-and-a-half million dollars, some of which may be jeopardized by divestment.

However, like many colleges, Skidmore College does not reveal information about which companies the Board of Trustees and their investment strategists have invested in.

Divestment Climate

Student divestment campaigns have spawned at colleges across the country. Their primary aim is to convince college administrators to liquidate their shares in fossil fuel companies (FFCs) and to discontinue investing with them.

This week [Boston College](http://www.bcheights.com/features/bc-fossil-free-works-toward-an-environmentally-friendly-campus-1.3138378#.Uv2OtfbOXYE) and [Warwick University](http://theboar.org/2014/02/09/fossil-free-warwick-intensifies-divestment-campaign/#.Uv2O2fbOXYE) made announcements about plans to divest in FFCs. Student divestment efforts have been raging for nearly three years, and most prominently began at Swarthmore University.

However, only nine colleges and universities have committed to divestment. In January, Brown and Harvard University rejected the idea of divestment. Last September, the board of managers at Swarthmore College also [2/14/2014 1.3140804](http://www.swarthmore.edu/board-of-managers/an-open-letter-of-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

wrote in an open letter that they did not agree in divestment "because [they] believe that to do so would have no measurable effect on halting climate change and at the same time would pose an unacceptable risk to the College's finances."

Other peer schools to Skidmore College, including those of the New York Liberal Arts Consortium have failed to make a real impact when it comes to divestment.

"The problem I have found in every instance without exception is that trying to use investment portfolio to accomplish a social or political causes comes up short in every way you can imagine," said Christine Wood, a Vassar College trustee, in an interview with University Business.

The same article also warns that divesting leaves institutions voiceless.

"Stockholders are the only way you can truly engage the company...if you don't own shares you're not eligible to vote with a proxy, you can't elect boards of directors, you can't vote on share proposals. You are completely without a voice," said Wood.

Wood also believes that divestment is the easy way out.

"Would the best solution to be to put up a 'for sale' sign in front of your house if there are problems in the neighborhood? No, you engage and you try to rectify the situation. Divestment is the easiest thing to do," said Wood.

The respective Boards of Trustees at both Middlebury and Colby announced they would not divest their fossil fuel holdings. At Pomona College, David Oxtoby acknowledged the "real and growing threat" of global warming and the College's environmental values. However, Oxtoby conceited in a politically tempered statement that divestment would jeopardize the College's chief purpose to "make Pomona great."

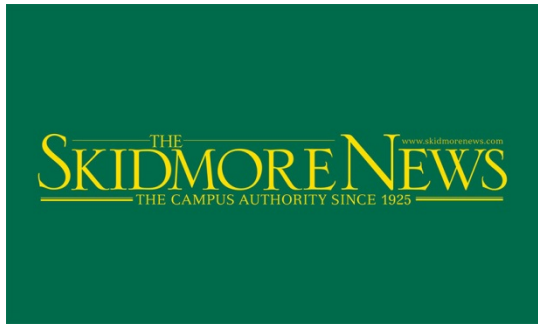
Singer, who sits on the student-led SuCo, explained the risks of divestment.

"The downfall is that for a few years the college may not be getting as much money as it had when it was investing in fossil fuels, but after a few years, the momentum of investing in either alternative energy companies or just other companies will eventually pick up," said Singer. "That is literally the only negative effect of divestment."

However, Government professor Bob Turner, who focuses on environmental politics, said he felt less hopeful. In an email to The Skidmore News, Turner said: "The critique of any form of social investing, where one makes investments on the basis of social, ethical, political factors instead of economic

criteria, is that you potentially diminish your economic returns. A smaller endowment means less money for financial aid, new buildings, salaries, etc. There is also the question about whether carbon divestment will have any significant impact on those industries."

It remains to be seen whether or not Skidmore College will acquiesce to the direction shown by other colleges, or if the Board of Trustees will show leadership on the issue of climate change.



New alcohol and drug policy to be implemented fall 2014

By James Rider, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 14, 2014

Next Fall, Skidmore College will implement an addition to its Alcohol and Other Drugs policy regarding the odor of marijuana in dorm rooms. The current draft of the policy states that if items are found in a space smelling of marijuana that "facilitate the use or concealment of an illegal substance," students may be "may be found responsible for a Level II violation of the [AOD Policy](https://www.skidmore.edu/student_handbook/aod_sanctions.php).

Don Hastings, Director of Residential Life, was the drafter the new policy. Hastings emphasized that the policy revision was in response to complaints from campus safety officers who could not intervene in rooms that consistently smelled of marijuana, and that it was part of a regular annual review of campus policies. Pointing to the top of conduct chart posted in all dorm bathrooms, he stated, "All policies are subject to change."

No student input was taken in drafting the addition to the AOD policy, nor was any input taken from the Skidmore Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS). David Goroff, Director of SCEMS (and a Managing Editor of *The Skidmore News*), said, "I did not help draft the policy. I am a member of the alcohol and other drugs task force on campus, but we did not have a role writing this new policy." Hastings stated, "In the long-term we take into account the student voice, but for annual revisions, no."

The new policy is based upon similar policies at schools such as [Becker College](http://www.becker.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Student_Handbook_2013-2014.pdf), [University of Nebraska-Lincoln](http://housing.unl.edu/reslife/policies.shtml), [University of California Sacramento](http://www.csus.edu/housing/Residence%20Hall%20Handbook/Guide-to-residential-life-handbook-2013-14.pdf), and [University of Rhode Island](http://www.uri.edu/judicial/assets/URI_Student_Handbook_2012-2014.pdf). The policy was originally planned to be implemented this semester, but plans were changed because of the complications associated with notifying students of policy changes mid-way through the academic year.

Students' response to the policy has varied. Some are offended by the policy, while others think it will improve the quality of life in the dorms.

One anonymous student stated, "No evidence means no crime. You shouldn't be able to issued points and harm a student's record without proper evidence." While another said, "I'm not very opposed to the policy. My old suitemate would smoke up the suite everyday. Hopefully the new policy will send some kids to Northwoods and keep that smell out of the dorms."

One anonymous RA said, "I think everyone deserves to live in a clean environment; besides minimizing fire hazards, the policy will hopefully make the buildings more pleasant."

Some believe there is a clear link between Skidmore's ranking as the number one "reefer madness" and the implementation of the new policy. Hastings denied any connection stating, "It doesn't have anything to do with Skidmore's ranking; we were talking about this revision long before that came out."

Below is a draft of the new AOD Policy addition:

Draft, January 2014, addition to AOD Policy Response Grid (Level II)

Items that Facilitate the Use or Concealment of an Illegal Substance

The presence of items that facilitate the use or concealment of an illegal substance are in violation of Skidmore College's Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Specifically, violations of this policy include but are not limited to:

- the presence of a towel at the base of a door
- the use of a fan
- the use of air freshener
- the use of incense
- the presence of an open window
- covering fire safety equipment

When any of the items listed above are present in a space where the odor of marijuana has been detected and confirmed by Campus Safety, the student(s) may be found responsible for a Level II violation of the AOD Policy.

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Smoking weed? Not on their watch



Finalists prepare for the last leg of the Business Plan Competition

A profile of the six finalists

By Rashawnda Williams, Contributing Writer, Additional Reporting by Julia Leef, Managing Editor
On Fri, Feb 14, 2014

With the fast approaching final round of the Kenneth A. Freirich Business Plan Competition, the six student finalists, selected on Feb. 7, are preparing to submit final business proposals for prize money totaling \$35,000. The prize will be awarded to the students (or team of students) who write the best business plans. The prizes are intended to help students start a new business or to assist the development of their existing business.

The competition is coordinated by Paula Tancredi, lecturer in Management and Business at Skidmore College. From now until the final round on April 11, students will work with the judges from the finalists selection panel, which include Geoffrey Citron, Andrew Eifler '07, Laurie J. Giddins '82, Jim Rossi '82 and Michael Stein '89.

One of the student finalists is Adam Beek '15, a business major originally from Jamaica. His business proposal consists of starting a medical marijuana importing business to the United States from Jamaica. Beek saw the business competition during his first year, and was thus inspired to participate himself. For the past couple of months he has been working with farmers of Cascade in the Blue Mountains of Portland, Jamaica.

"These farmers have been farmers their whole lives farming land that's been farmland from the beginning," Beek said. "Right now we're doing greenhouse farming and farming romaine lettuce. We're going to move into broccoli, cabbage and red seedless grapes. And as soon as we're certified to grow medical marijuana, we're going to move into medical marijuana."

Asked what made him want to go into medical marijuana, Beek pointed to its rising demand in today's society.

"It's a booming industry right now and Jamaica is one of the most suitable climates, especially the Blue Mountain range, which is one of the most fertile areas in Jamaica," Beek said. "Put two and two together and assume that Blue Mountain can produce some of the best marijuana from Jamaica."

Beek said he has learned a great deal from the competition and has been able to apply much of what he's learned to his classes. One of the best parts, according to Beek, has been meeting people in the business world and preparing for life after college.

"These judges aren't here to see you present a project, they're expecting you to pursue your concept and see it through," Beek said. "If you fail, you fail, but they want to see you give it all you've got."

Beek said that the only worry he has is the unpredictability of business and the high risk factor involved in entrepreneurship. However, he isn't worried about entering into the competition with a taboo subject like the distribution of marijuana.

"There is science behind it now and it's not as up in the air as it was before," Beek said. "Also, two states have already legalized it [Colorado and Washington] and around 20 states have legalized the medical production and distribution of it. It's not as taboo as most may think, but it still has a bad reputation. There's a lot more to be learned and the industry is rapidly growing right now so we'll see how it goes."

Beek, who has prepared for this competition since last summer, says he still has a long way to go in fully developing his business plan. With the business world continuously changing and the medical marijuana market growing rapidly, his work is never really finished.

"What I've been able to get out of [the competition] is being able to use my resources. So whether it is a professor, a business man in Jamaica or a banker, you have a business plan that you take to someone to review and they give you feedback," Beek said. "The competition encourages you to seek help when it is needed, which is what business is all about: relying on other people to help you along the way."

Another pair of finalists, Ezra Levy '15 and Marcella Jewell '15, are working more locally with the web-based Open Campus, which matches college students with businesses offering skill-specific work. Students may advertise their skills through the online portfolios provided by the site.

The idea for Open Campus first arose during Levy's work at a local, nonprofit theatre, and later he joined with Jewell to create Open Campus. The projects generated from these connections can range from commercial photography, menu designs for local cafes, theater company posts, entrepreneurial business logos and Photoshop jobs.

"I realized the potential of Open Campus to boost the productivity of professionals and students alike by connecting students with local businesses to complete projects," Levy said, "gaining them the experience they need to compete in the job market following college."

Levy said that their team focused on forming personal connections and completing short-term projects in matching up students with suitable businesses. Jewell interned with Troy Web Consulting to learn the skills necessary to develop their website, the first version of which can be found at www.projectopencanvas.com/, where students may sign up on and post their own projects.

Should they win, Levy said that they plan to use their prize money to improve the quality of their website and to fuel the business growth throughout the Capital Region this summer. They would hope to expand into schools in the Boston-area by early 2015.

"We are just ecstatic to be helping students get the experience they need while boosting the productivity of the local business community," Levy said. "Marcella and I look forward to continued success for the whole community."

Other student proposals have a more virtual quality to them. Leaf Pile Media, LLC, a transmedia storytelling start-up directed at children and young adults created by seniors Walter Barber, Ian VanNest and Andrew Zimmermann, is an original fictional universe on the scale of Harry Potter, Tolkien or Pokemon, which the group has been developing for the previous two years.

The universe will contain a wealth of original characters and environments, drawing on influences from ancient Greek and Japanese mythology, hip-hop aesthetics and modern folklore. The group hopes to expand this idea to various entertainment platforms, including a board game, a series of graphic novels and a mobile game.

"Ian, Andrew and I have been best friends since freshmen year," Barber said, "and co-authoring this narrative came as a logical next step. We live for this stuff, and we think we've got a lot to offer the industry."

Barber said that there has been a positive response to the project, with a great deal of support from family, friends and the Skidmore College community. Should the team place in the top three of the competition, they will use the prize money to fund their grassroots marketing campaign, traveling and displaying their products across the country. Their intended destinations range from game and comic book conventions to local comic book stores and youth centers. Their marketing efforts will cumulate in a major kick-starter campaign to help fund the project.

"Honestly, we eat, sleep and breathe this project. I can't even begin to count the nights the three of us have stayed up until four in the morning, pouring over our storyboards and the mechanics of our games," Barber said. "This is our dream, and we plan to take it as far as it can go. We're thinking big, and

we are confident that with all the amazing support we're receiving we can take this thing all the way and really make Skidmore proud."

Students' business proposals will venture overseas as well, as with sophomore Stella Langat's Double Dee's LLC, an undergarment production company directed at the modern African woman.

Langat said she was inspired by the multiple trips she took to the market in Kenya with her partners, who are students at other universities, to find well fitting and reasonably priced bras. A limited selection, due to a lack of bra manufacturing in Kenya, would force them to turn to the imported bras in stores that were far too expensive.

"Last summer when we took our trip we could not even figure out our sizes nor understand all the varying measurements of second-hand and unhygienic bras from all over the world," Langat said. "We then sat down and decided that it was the right time to stop feeling disappointed and start working on a company."

Langat spent eight months researching production in Africa, originally contacting Chinese manufacturers until her participation in the Harvard Women in Business Competition last October, in which Double Dee LLC was one of the finalists, encouraged her to look for another manufacturing option. She decided to train seamstresses in Kenya, supporting homegrown social entrepreneurship, which she describes as the key to the current emerging African economy. Should she win, Langat plans to use the money to invest in Double Dee LLC's first collection, as well as to develop a fully-functioning website, train seamstresses and pay the rent for her first store in Nairobi.

"I am so excited to do this, and it definitely is one of the fulfilling things I am currently involved in. It also has to do with the great passion I have in supporting women from a society where inequality is so loud," Langat said. "Besides being intelligent as a woman, a decent dress code boosts confidence. I am supporting women in all fields in my country, and giving back is the best part in my life so far."

In a different part of the world lies the inspiration for sophomore Alexander Nassief and senior Zach Rohde 's Rum Dog Inc., which took second place in last year's competition. Nassief, who also worked on the project last year, is developing a patent-pending underwater method to create a premium, local rum for his home in Dominica, a process he has thought about since he was 15. Nassief's method involves submerging rum into the Caribbean Sea and using various elements of the ocean to improve its taste, color and smell.

Nassief said that rum is a source of national pride for his homeland, and is especially popular with tourists who prefer the local drink over foreign brands.

"I had the frustration of not having a rum that I could be proud of within my country," Nassief said. As part of his research, he analyzed how different industries aged rum, such as Zacapa Rum, which ages its alcohol in the Andes of Guatemala, using the cool temperatures to slow down the aging process. Unfortunately for Nassief, Dominica did not have mountains at nearly the same altitude.

"That's when I first thought about inverting it - going deep," Nassief said. "The inspiration came from so many different places."

An increasing demand for local rum has led the group to focus on capitalizing on the growing market in Dominica. After putting its product online, Rum Dog Inc. will enter into a partnership with Secret Bay, Dominica, which will give complementary Rum Dog rum to hotel guests, possibly expanding to other islands should the company do well.

Nassief is working with a new team this year, as Brianna Barros '16, his partner from last year's competition, has moved on to pursue her own entrepreneurial desires, although she still remains involved in the project in an unofficial context. She is succeeded by Rohde, who Nassief said brings a lot to the team with his knowledge of lifestyle branding for the company's long-term goals.

"The competition's changed quite a bit," Nassief said. "Everyone's just presenting pitches that are far more well thought out; it's clear they've done their homework on whatever it is they're pitching. People are becoming more and more interested in competing with this and getting the cash prize and the experience."

Nassief tested his first submerged barrel last January, and in three weeks said he could already see the improvement. Should he win the first place prize money this year, he said he hopes to have the first batch of rum out by this Christmas, and to put the flagship product online within the next two to three years.

Nassief is not the only returning competitor. Seth Berger '14, who placed third in last year's competition, is back with East Coast Lacrosse, through which he designs lacrosse uniforms, and which generated \$73,000 in revenue in the previous year, which Berger stated was a 54 percent increase from 2012.

"I'm thinking bigger than I ever have in the past," Berger said. "The feedback I got from the judges was largely that I hadn't convinced them I could scale the business effectively, so I made sure to focus on how to viably scale the business and create full-time jobs."

Berger designed uniforms for his lacrosse team as a senior in high school, and the positive feedback he received encouraged him to sell his designs at lacrosse tournaments the summer before college.

Since that time, Berger has been searching for domestic manufacturers that will provide quality products and service for his customers. He has also been working on new designs and custom orders, and continues to attend lacrosse tournaments around the Northeast during the summer to form new relationships with customers and provide them with products unique to their needs.

Berger plans to use the prize money to fund the tournament fees in setting up a booth for the second year of his internship program and to update his website (<http://www.eastcoastlacrosse.com/>) to improve its navigation and the customer's ability to shop for products.

"I started East Coast Lacrosse in 2010, and consistently growing year after year has shown me that I've developed a brand and products that customers are responding well to, and has potential to continue to grow," Berger said. "The lacrosse industry has continued to increase in size over the past 10+ years and I know if I continue on the momentum I've generated I can continue to grab market share in the industry."

The final round for the competition will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 11 at the Tang Teaching Museum. First place will receive \$20,000, donated by Freirich himself, second place will have \$10,000 and third place will be awarded \$5,000.

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Sam Schultz '13 shares his experience in last year's competition with this year's contestants

Mark Bolles

#1.3140816:1012272214.jpg:Stella business plan 2/14/14

Stella Langat '16, presenting her plan for Double Dee's LLC

Mark Bolles

#1.3140817:3315529825.jpg:Frierich business plan 2/14/14

Ken Freirich at the outset of Friday's program

Mark Bolles





On The (Prospective) Divestment Plan

The Editorial Board weighs in on the recent development toward divestment

By The Editorial Board

On Fri, Feb 14, 2014

On April 30, 2013, the Student Government Association (SGA) adopted the divestment resolution, *Resolution 23-51: A Resolution to Support the Development of a Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investment Policy*, as drafted by SGA's Sustainability Committee (SuCo) and the Environmental Action Club. The resolution was supplemented by a petition with over 500 signatures. This represents the Skidmore student body at its finest - students not simply *contemplating* in a creative manner, but actually mobilizing - actually initiating a call to action.

On May 2, 2013, the divestment petition was delivered to President Philip A. Glotzbach, and this past October, the Board of Trustees empowered him to appoint a divestment task force. On February 9th, students received an email from SGA President Sam Harris '13 explaining the nature of the task force, the SuCo resolution, and Glotzbach's general plan for the divestment campaign.

The question remains, however, whether or not this initial plan will ultimately lead to results, or if it will instead be an empty gesture of environmental responsibility used as an impressive advertising ploy for prospective students. The goal is to adopt an environmentally responsible investment policy, where none of our endowment stays invested in fossil fuels. These organizations are defined in SuCo's resolution as "any of the two hundred publicly traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves, as listed in the Carbon Tracker Initiative's 'Unburnable Carbon' report."

The obvious downsides to this decision stem from the desire to protect the College's endowment. At approximately \$280 million, according to U.S. News, it is one that is already fairly small in comparison to other small liberal arts schools of similar caliber (Vassar's endowment, for example, is over \$860 million). Swarthmore, Tufts, Harvard and Brown's administrations have all rejected the possibility of divestment campaigns, though they control significantly larger endowments than our own.

A very small percentage of our endowment goes annually to campus operations and programs, while the majority of the funds are reserved for future projects as well as greater investment to increase the school's endowment. The freeze or decrease of this fund could potentially put a hold on several of the College's projects as well as threaten the school's public ranking.

Additionally, there is a direct link between strong academic talent of professors and a College's endowment, in that the account affects both teacher salary and benefits, perhaps ultimately denoting a decline in the value of our professorial staff if we follow the campaign through. Being that this fund is small, it is a fair concern that we are not in a position to be so selective with our investments - we must maintain financial relationships that have already proven to be beneficial.

These are, however, risks the student body has expressed an interest in taking. The pros in this scenario stretch far beyond the cry for good sustainable citizenship. Divestment from fossil fuel companies implies a move against climate change at a much more fundamental, holistic angle. It approaches from the source, at an institutional level, rather than merely attempting to alleviate the symptoms of environmental decline.

While there is little information released as to exactly where our endowment is tied up, SuCo's Emily Singer '16 has reported that approximately five to ten percent is invested in fossil fuels. This could represent a fairly significant decline in our endowment if we freeze all assets tied up in fossil fuels, however, there is in fact evidence depicting a hopeful future for more sustainably responsible investments.

Fossil fuels investments, in next economy terms and indeed in general economic terms, no longer appear to be the attractive source of risk-adjusted returns they have historically been, reported "green economist" Garvin Jabusch to the Green Alpha Advisors with regard to the Green Alpha Fund.

It is predicted that ultimately it will be a much more financially sound decision to invest in environmentally conscious organizations than companies that depend on fossil fuels. Shell Oil company geologist M. King Hubbert in his recent Financial Post article predicts that by 2060, solar power may eclipse oil as we reach a point of "peak oil" - a point where the world oil production plateaus and then inevitably begins to decline.

About 80 percent of the world's fossil fuels must remain buried in the ground if we have a chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change, according to the International Energy Agency, Hubbert said, meaning that not only is it environmentally responsible to divest but it could potentially be a fiscally-prudent decision. Renewable energy sources are a quickly developing industry and a potentially worthwhile investment.

The College's history with divestment in South Africa instills very little faith in a new reinvestment plan. During apartheid, many colleges divested from the South African steel industry in the interest of aligning their investments with their mission statements of responsible citizenship. As a result of international pressure, the South African government was compelled to end apartheid so to avoid economic collapse.

Skidmore did not divest. The Tisch Learning Center is, in fact, built of South African steel - the College supported the industry throughout apartheid.

There is a 1985 Schenectady Gazette article entitled "Skidmore Trustees Waffle on Investment in South Africa" despite the implemented plan to freeze all such accounts. Divestment from the fossil fuel industry presents a perfect opportunity for redemption and the Editorial Board commends the student body as well as Glotzbach for mobilizing effectively thus far. There is still reasonable doubt, however, as to whether or not the plan will come to fruition. Ideally, the start of the campaign would guarantee its achievement, but due to the non-committal rhetoric of Glotzbach's plan and in light of our history with divestment, this appears to be a somewhat naïve expectation.

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Our contribution may be small, but it is significant nevertheless.

Motherjones.com



Larynx

By Rashawnda Williams, Contributing Writer

On Mon, Feb 17, 2014

"The cancer has grown back," he croaks through the phone. "This time it's on the left side of my throat." He wheezes. "There isn't much the doctors can do." His body won't take the radiation. This isn't the first time the cancer has come back. It has come and gone like an unwelcome friend. I take deep breaths. I don't know what to feel. My throat burns, and my eyes glaze over. I feel like crying, but the tears won't come. Maybe I don't have any more left to shed. I hang up the phone.

"It's so hard to talk to him," I say to Ky'lend, my friend who just looks at me through his square rimmed glasses. Ky'lend doesn't respond. He shifts in his chair and tugs on his shirt. He reaches his hand to his hair as if to run his hands through it out of nervousness, but there is nothing there. He stops. A silent sentence passes between us; we both know what it is like to rarely see a parent. We know the pain of absence. We know the pain of sickness.

I have always known my dad as sick, it was a part of him, and it informed his nature; the cancer had always been there. When I was younger I never fully comprehended the extent of the disease, I couldn't explain it. The answer would be insufficient, incomplete. I would sound out the word just like they taught us in school. "Kan-sur." I would say how it is a noun and is pronounced with two syllables. I would explain how it's a serious disease in which some cells in the body grow faster than normal cells and destroy healthy organs and tissues. I could recite the textbook definition, but it's taken years to truly understand it. My understanding and perception of cancer is always changing. Cancer isn't a noun, but a verb. Cancer is alive, it grows and festers; when your heart beats it beats with it. It is as much a physical state as a mental one. It changes a person. It can kill both body and soul.

After the news from my father, I needed to clear my head. I say a quick goodbye to Ky'lend. I take more deep breaths. What did this news even mean? Was he going back to the hospital? Was he going to die?

Death. So finite. So inevitable. You shouldn't speak of the possibility of death. And, a doctor shouldn't say, "I'm sorry, you have cancer." He should say, "Your body will slowly break down. You will be at war with your body. It will fight hard, but you must fight harder." I have never known my father without cancer. It has made his body frail and his face gaunt. It has taken the breath from a once strong man. It has eaten away at his throat leaving a patched up hole.

Because of his tracheotomy, my father and I have never broken bread together. He no longer uses a fork or spoon to eat. He is forced to ingest bland chocolate flavored protein shakes. We never had those family dinners, where everyone would sit at the table and laugh while eating with our mouths open. Not us. I eat by myself, while he sits in the other room. He had a feeding tube, which goes from his stomach, right above his belly button directly into his stomach through the abdominal wall. It looks unnatural and uncomfortable to look at.

One time when I was in the CVS my mom caught me staring at a package of his favorite brand of protein shakes, Boost. It was Christmastime, I was about eleven, and I hadn't gotten my dad anything for the holiday. I had no idea what to get him since I didn't see him often. I wanted it to be good. My gifts had remained the same for every holiday. Christmas a DVD, Birthday a DVD, and Father's day a DVD. I guess I could feel guilty, but I didn't know what to get someone who spent so much time at home. Really though, I had no idea who he was and what he would like. I remember my mom suggesting I buy him the protein shakes for Christmas.

Since he receives disability checks and can only afford a modest apartment, my mom and I both knew paying for things other than rent was a struggle for him. I knew mostly from my lack of received Christmas or birthday presents over the years. The ones I had gotten meant nothing because I was too young to remember, so maybe my guilt didn't mean anything either. Maybe my mom was being sarcastic about buying the protein shakes as a present. I wish I knew what she was thinking; I like to think she was serious. Like all the other holidays and future holidays I settled for a DVD.

"What would you like to eat?" I said, my young round face and large gullible eyes stared at my father. It was during one of my rare summer childhood visits. Mealtimes were always sensitive; mostly my dad would cook for us. Even without going through the mechanical digestion process of chewing and swallowing, food he was a good cook. His years of aimlessly sitting in front of the TV watching the Food Network had paid off. Since I was the one visiting, the decision of what to eat wasn't mine, and I wasn't allowed to be picky.

Pork Chops! My half-brother, my father's son, exclaimed. It was a delicacy I had never been able to try, pork was never allowed in my mom's house. The only pork I had tasted was cheap cafeteria pepperoni pizza and the only reason I had was because of a dare. My father was having one of his good days, not spitting phlegm into the mounds of paper towels he carried around. We were in the kitchen as he pulled out the frying pan. My nostrils filled with the scent of fried grease. My brother and I were shooed outside to play while he cooked.

When we stepped outside it was hot. I could feel the heat on my skin. After a short period I began to sweat. I looked to my half-brother; we stared at each other unsure of what to do as we stood around.

He sat on the porch as I sat next to him; it was a game of Simon Says in my head. Whatever he did, I did. I didn't know what else to do. This wasn't my home. We headed back inside as my dad called us to the table to sit. I sat immediately because my plate had all ready been made. There were two pork chops and what looked to be potato salad on a paper plate. I never liked potato salad. It was slimy and had a tart sour flavor.

"Well aren't you going to eat?" I ask my dad with a full mouth before I bring a greasy chop to my lips. I knew that he didn't eat, but I always asked. I could never imagine not being able to eat.

As I think of the memory, I clutch my stomach and swallow repeatedly to control the urge to throw up. I had not tasted meat in a couple of years and the thought of eating dead animal flesh makes my stomach churn. Animals are my friends and I don't eat my friends. It wasn't the only thing upsetting my stomach. The thought of having to return to the hospital scared me and made me nervous. Hospitals were always white and cold. They lack empathy. Last year, he was hospitalized because of pneumonia. His immune system was as fragile as a china doll. He was so sick he was forced into a medically induced coma.

"You should go talk to him," the nurse said to me, "Sometimes people in comas can hear what you are saying." I thought what she was saying was bullshit. Despite that, I was desperate enough to try. I walked through the stark white hallway, the soles of my shoes squeaked. It all felt over exaggerated, like something out of a movie. Once I reached his door, I walked through, and walked to his bed. The room smelled faintly of mothballs and antiseptic. I didn't know what to expect when I saw him. I didn't know what a coma would look like up close. My father looked like he was sleeping. He looked peaceful. His physical appearance was noticeably deteriorating. He looked severely under weight and sickly. I didn't think people with darker skin could look pale but he managed to somehow.

Cancer stole the father that could have been. The one that my mom would still be in love with, skin dark as the night sky. Sometimes I imagine that I know the once tall, strong, robust man she fell for, eating medium rare steaks and burnt pork chops oblivious to the poison growing inside his body. He would hold his head up, and his teeth would gleam white and sparkly. The charming smile that all the ladies fell for, the way it contrasted against his ebony skin.

Cancer stole my childhood that could have been. We never went fishing nor went to the playground. We never had the hallmark daddy's girl relationship that many of my friends had. Whenever I see young girls with their fathers I feel jealous. I never even knew what it was like to take a walk with my father. He couldn't be outside for more than five minutes. If he stayed out too long he would become weak and drowsy. His breath would quicken and he would have trouble breathing. Being outside also causes him to spit mucus constantly as well as having a chronic cough. If he ever swallowed the mucus he could die.

Any chance of doing "normal" things with him was almost impossible. We would never go to a movie or go out to dinner. He will never be in the audience at my fast approaching high school graduation.

I've always been told I looked like my mother. I didn't share my father's skin, his lips, or even his nose, but his eyes. Eyes the color of tree bark, each groove telling a story. The more you looked at them, the more you can read the story. He gave me eyes that I have been told were beautiful many times over. For this I am grateful to my father. My eyes, his eyes, are one of my best physical attributes, if not the best, but they are my strength and my weakness. I can use them when I need too, but I usually avoid eye contact. It has gotten me into trouble, so I just glance at people here and there, never longer than a second. It only takes a second. I first noticed the resemblance while looking at a photo from his wedding. He looked robust and athletic. Confidence permeated through his eyes. That picture was taken before the cancer and before old age, since I could tell gravity has tugged down on his eyes. A weary old man replaces the athletic robust man in the photo; the confidence had been replaced by sadness. Everyone felt the tragedy. It was as if the cancer lay dormant for years. Emerging as I was pulled from my mother's womb, plotting out its lengthy existence.

If the cancer had not happened who knows how my life would be. Maybe I would have a better relationship with my father, maybe I wouldn't. Although I would like to imagine I would. We could go to places. We could do things outside of his small cramped apartment. We could talk on the phone for more than minutes at a time without him coughing or spitting into a paper towel.

Before I hung up the phone with my father that day, the news of cancer wasn't all he told me. My father told me that he was preparing for death. He told me he isn't afraid anymore, and that he has endured enough pain. The unspeakable is coming - the finite. I am not ready to except it. It may not come until next year or the year after, but it will happen soon. He won't be there when I graduate college, or to walk down the aisle with me to give away my hand in marriage. He will never meet my husband or his grandkids.

All I can think is I should have fought harder to salvage our relationship. I should be making more of an effort to get to know him before "it" happens; at least I could have that. I can't get past the emotion, the anger and sadness of his disease. The anger and sadness I harbor somewhere deep inside of me because he was not the father I needed. Even though he has been as strong as he could be and has held on for years, it is not enough. I have come to realize I can't be mad at him. He has tried his best, and has given it all he could.

What more can I do? What more can he do? I have prayed, but I know my disillusionment grows stronger every time I stand on my knees and clench my hands tightly. Sometimes in those moments of prayer I get lost and forget what I was praying for. I forget who I was praying for. Those moments I feel

that it's just me in the world. I sit quietly waiting. I don't know exactly what I'm waiting for, but it's like a wave of energy passes through me. Those split seconds of my life are beautiful. They are also painful. I feel clarity and understanding.

To release pain I have to forgive. Forgive myself, forgive my dad, and forgive the cancer. I can't be mad at him and I can't be mad at the cancer because all it wants is to be alive just like the rest of us.

Changing of the guard in men's Olympic figure skating

By Julia Martin, Skidmore News Figure Skating Expert

On Mon, Feb 17, 2014

The international stage of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics was host to a great shift in the world of competitive men's figure skating.

A king has been dethroned.

To many viewers, competitive figure skating is only a blur of sequined spandex, made more exciting by the occasional hiring of a hit-man to sabotage the Olympic hopes and dreams of your arch-nemesis (see: Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding in 1994). But regardless of what the (genius) Will Ferrell would have you believe in *Blades of Glory*, competitive figure skaters undergo great mental and physical challenges to be able to compete on an international level.

The international stage of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics was host to a great shift in the world of competitive men's figure skating. Favorites such as Russia's Evgeni Plushenko and USA's Jeremy Abbott succumbed to mental errors and injuries, allowing space for the emergence of a new generation of elite male figure skaters.

Russia's figure skating royalty Evgeni Plushenko, a quadruple-jump machine, dropped out of the competition just seconds before he was due to skate his short program. Plushenko was the 2002 Olympic silver medalist, 2006 Olympic gold medalist and 2010 Olympic silver medalist - an Olympic medal record virtually unheard of in a sport that favors young, spritely teenagers rather than "aging" skaters in their mid-20's. When Plushenko dropped out due to a lower back injury, a more than decade-long era of Russian dominance ended.

Maintaining the skills to compete on elite international ice is both physically and mentally grueling.

Here's an example of a single element during a four-minute and 30 second performance. During his short program, Canada's Patrick Chan completed a quadruple toe loop-triple toe loop jump combination. That means he vaulted himself in the air using only his toe-pick as leverage, completed four rotations, landed the element cleanly and balanced, and completed a triple toe loop (three full rotations) only a fraction of a second following the jump. That's seven full rotations in roughly 4 seconds.

And those four seconds are the difference between a spot on the medal podium or going home empty-handed.

Here's what happened in Sochi:

YUZURU HANYU, JAPAN: The 19 year-old Japanese prodigy brought home the gold after setting a world-record with his short program score and skating a (nearly) flawless long program.

PATRICK CHAN, CANADA: The favored Canadian pulled out a silver-medal performance, although his jump elements (including a quad-triple combination) did not match the quality of Hanyu.

JEREMY ABBOTT, USA: America's top men's figure skater, a characteristically unreliable competitor, took a nasty fall during his quad attempt in the short program, recovering and completing a satisfactory long program to land him in 12th place overall.

JASON BROWN, USA: The 19 year-old YouTube sensation skated his Riverdance long program, successfully completing his triple axel passes (a three and a half revolution jump), and earning 9th place. Brown's the American to watch for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

EVGENI PLUSHENKO, RUSSIA: Pulled out of the competition after clutching his lower-back during warm-ups. Russia's sole entry into the men's completion, he has since officially retired from competitive figure skating.

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Evgeni Plushenko pulled out of the men's tournament before even attempting his short program.

Bernat Armangue/AP

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Yuzuru Hanyu survived two falls to bring the men's figure skating gold home to Japan.

Bernat Armangue/AP



Reporting from D.C.

Dreaming of Journalism

By Paulina Phelps '16, Columnist

On Mon, Feb 17, 2014

My roommate overheard me sleep talking the other night. At first she didn't realize that I was sleep talking, and thought I was conducting an interview with someone on the phone. "Can I interview you for my story?" I asked coherently, followed by a cheery "thank you!" However, realizing that no one would appreciate an interview call at 4 a.m., she identified it as sleep talking, and went back to sleep. The next morning she jokingly told me of the "commotion." I wasn't very surprised as I have been an active dreamer and sleep talker for my entire life.

Instead, my surprise was over what I was saying. As a child, in fear of danger, I often screamed, "Help!" or "Save me!" in my sleep, as my Mom furiously shook me awake. Therefore, I thought it curious when my roommate told me I was sleep talking about journalism. After some further reflection, however, I see that journalism is the soundest part of my life and explains perfectly my outburst. My environment undoubtedly influences this overwhelming passion. Journalism has never been more a part of my life or of the lives of the people around me than it is now. My strange realization makes me feel aged, while saying the words "I want to be a journalist when I grow up" feels rather childish.

When are we supposed to start acting out our career choices? According to the story "What College Graduates Regret," printed in Feb. edition of The Atlantic Monthly, the highest percentage of college graduates (50%) said they wished they had gained more work experience to prepare them for the job they wanted. The resources at an academic institution are helpful for pursuing almost every profession, but don't replace real world experience. A journalist can't just sit back expecting stories to come to them, but has to go out and find the stories.

While I am certain of my interest in journalism, almost daily I find myself questioning what kind of journalist I want to be. Do I want to report horrific and courageous stories coming out of a disaster? take on a freelance journalist's incredible liberty?; or am I persuaded by the photojournalist's premise that stories need visuals after covering the Rwandan Genocide? I think the questions worth answering or contemplating now are where we want to work, what kind of people we work well with and what professional area we want to work in. Leave the questions of the kind of work you will be doing for the future to determine. In the case of an aspiring Senator, knowing your policies and stances right now is

important, but already knowing for what political party you will run as is unrealistic, as political parties change views with time.

Although the real world often seems like the scariest place for me, the interim has always felt scarier. But being aware of the limitless opportunities in life, and the relative unimportance of this short college life allows me to take a deep breath and feel good about the work I've put into internships instead of obsessing over my GPA. I encourage everyone to take on this mindset, even if you are a straight-A student. We have a tendency to see college as a sanctuary from the cruelty of the real world, but this creates unfair negative expectations for the future.

My fears as a child extended beyond sleep; I was often convinced my mom was missing minutes after she left for the grocery store. However, in D.C. especially, the vastness of the world no longer overpowers me. Instead, I'm beginning to see the enormity of our world as a sign of the boundless opportunities we have and, for once, I am okay with my grades.

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Phelps (left) and Emily Rooke-Ley '14 (far right) at a One Billion Rising Event

Paulina Phelps



Belated Valentine's Day Recipe

Vegan Red Velvet Cupcakes

By Erin Dillon '14, Vegan Aficionado

On Mon, Feb 17, 2014

I feel just as bitter on Valentine's Day as the next demoralized romantic. Pink carnations, chocolate boxes and Groupon deals for Match.com memberships only bring to mind the bleak Skidmore dating scene that I prefer to forget. But my palate escapes the infectious bitterness of February 14th. Everyone – single, taken, hopeless, hopeful, carnivore, vegan - deserves something sweet.

How about a red velvet cupcake? These festive cakes are crowd-pleasers that tip their hats to the American South all the way from a Northwoods kitchen. Any amateur patissier can whip up a batch in the time gained from skipping that 3:40 class; don't let three "from-scratch" components intimidate you. Baking for others is an act of love, so the only corner we're cutting is from the zip-locked frosting bag. This vivid vegan cake, moist with chocolate undertones, buried under dense dairy-free cream cheese frosting and crunchy hazelnut brittle might just transport you back to the second grade when receiving a stockpile of Valentines was still guaranteed. If celebrating St. Valentine still isn't your thing, simply omit red dye.

Recipe notes:

- For a truly vegan dessert, use organic sugar
- If you don't have a sifter, I will lend you mine, but please sift!
- Use any nut you like for the brittle (pecans would be traditional), or omit entirely
- Recipe is adapted from Vegan Cupcakes Take Over the World

Cupcake ingredients:

- 1 cup non-dairy milk
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar (or other mild vinegar)
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour (preferably unbleached)
- 1 cup organic granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt
1/3 cup canola oil
1 tablespoon red food coloring
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 teaspoon almond extract

Cream cheese frosting ingredients:

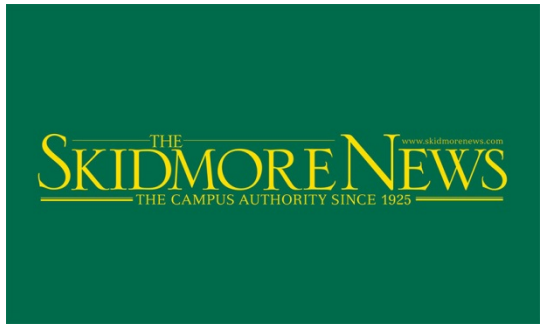
¼ cup Earth Balance (or other nonhydrogenated margarine)
1 cup raw hazelnuts
3 tablespoons organic granulated sugar
3 tablespoons maple syrup
¼ teaspoon salt

To make cupcakes, preheat oven to 350°F and fill cupcake pan (regular- or mini-sized) with liners. Whisk vinegar with non-dairy milk and set aside to let curdle. In a large bowl, sift together flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk vinegar and milk mixture with oil, food coloring, vanilla extract and almond extract. Add wet ingredients to dry, stirring gently until batter is relatively smooth. Fill cupcake liners two-thirds full and bake 18 to 20 minutes for regular-sized cupcakes, or 9 to 11 minutes for miniature cupcakes (check doneness with ye olde toothpick). Cool cupcakes in pan for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling.

To make cream cheese frosting, use an electric handheld mixer (or, if you're desperate, a fork and brawny arm) to cream together margarine and cream cheese. In ½ cup increments, add confectioners' sugar and whip until smooth. Mix in vanilla and red food coloring until desired pinkness is achieved. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

To make hazelnut brittle, toast hazelnuts in a saucepan over medium-low heat until fragrant and golden (careful to avoid burning). Transfer to a plate to cool. Grease a sheet of parchment paper to have at the ready. In a cold skillet, add sugar, maple syrup and salt, then turn heat to medium. Using a wooden spoon, stir 7 to 9 minutes, until mixture is thick and caramel-colored (it will bubble - don't fret). Remove pan from heat, add hazelnuts, and stir to coat. Spread hazelnuts on greased parchment. When nuts have cooled, chop brittle into small pieces. It's yummy. Try not to eat all of the garnish before it gets to the cupcakes.

To assemble cupcakes, fill a Ziploc bag (or pastry bag if you're fancy) with frosting and snip off a corner. Pipe swirls, roses, or blobs atop each cupcake, garnish with brittle, and delight in your domesticity.



Share with friends and lovers. Or pop in your favorite Valentine's Day flick (the jovial Silence of the Lambs seems an appropriate complement to a vegan treat, right?) and devour the batch yourself.

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Vegan Cupcakes:The Finished Product

Erin Dillon



Alternative Spring Break Group Hopes to Raise Awareness

A safe passage in Gutatemala

By Taylor Ray '17, Contributing Writer

On Tue, Feb 18, 2014

This spring break, from March 7 to 16, a group of 12 Skidmore students will depart on a trip organized by Jane Dowd '14 to work with Safe Passage in Guatemala. Safe Passage is an organization that collaborates with the surrounding community in order to recycle the country's trash and to extend services to impoverished Guatemalan families. Dowd and her group will focus primarily on the Guatemala City municipal dump and the surrounding area.

According to the organization's website, Safe Passage makes an effort to provide any kind of support needed for children from areas affected by the Guatemalan City municipal dump to attend school. The organization also extends resources to parents who live in the area and/or work at the dump, and has programs that teach the families important skills that will help them break the cycle of poverty effectively and permanently, according to the site.

Two events this week aim to spread awareness of the issues that Safe Passage confronts and to raise funds for the organization. A screening at 6 p.m. this Wednesday in the Spa will feature the short film *Manos de Madre*, created by Safe Passage. The film gives a brief overview of the struggles and daily lives of dump workers in Guatemala City and the help that Safe Passage extends to them. The screening will be accompanied by free Esperanto, and is free for all students and faculty. Donations will be accepted during the event, either in cash or through a SkidCard.

A fundraiser in Falstaff's will also aim to bolster funds and spark interest in the trip. The event begins at 8:30 this Friday, Feb. 21, and will feature performances by student groups, including Villains, Drastic Measures, Breakbeats, Bandersnatchers, Rhythmos, Dynamics and Bo Peep & the Funk Sheep.

"We hope to raise around \$1000 to donate to Safe Passage to show that the Skidmore community is invested in their mission," said Dowd. Although the event is free, there is a suggested five-dollar donation.

Although Skidmore has not worked with Safe Passage in the past, a new partnership is arising between the college and the organization. Skidmore alumna Megan McAdams works full-time at Safe Passage, and Dowd herself has previously worked with the organization during a six-month stay in Guatemala.

The trip this spring break will expose Skidmore students to work being done to help those far beyond our college borders and allow them to contribute directly to that work.

“I hope that this trip will inform students of the recent history of the Guatemalan Civil War, help them understand why that society has become what it is and offer a more critical look into the inner workings of international NGOs and nonprofits,” Dowd said.

Along with the experience and benefits that come with traveling to a foreign country and putting work and critical thought into a cause, students involved in the trip also had the opportunity to enroll in an optional 1-credit course in the Latin American Studies department this semester.

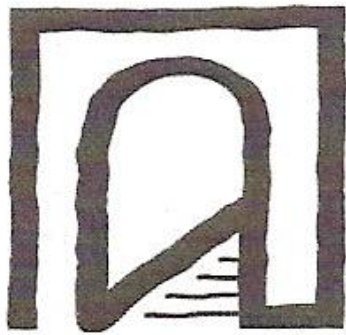
“I hope that the incentive of getting credit for the trip will push people to want to sign on in the future,” said Dowd.

Information about the Guatemala spring break trip events can be found on the Manos de Madre and Falstaff’s Fundraiser event pages on Facebook. For those who are unable to attend but would still like to donate, the group is accepting donations through Go Fund Me.

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Safe Passage

SafePassage.org



Safe Passage

Hope · Education · Opportunity

Liberty League tabs Loutsenko, Botiba and Medunjanin

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Tue, Feb 18, 2014

The Liberty League tabbed three Skidmore athletes on Monday for their performances on the court last week. Oliver Loutsenko '14 earned the men's tennis Performer of the Week, while Angela Botiba '15 and Aldin Medunjanin '16 were both respectively named to the women's and men's basketball Honor Roll.

Loutsenko led the men's tennis team to a 9-0 win over Union College on Saturday in what was their first match of the spring season. Loutsenko won in the number one singles' spot, beating T.J. Moor 6-3, 6-4. Loutsenko then paired up with Danny Knight '14 to win the number two doubles 8-1 over Spencer Fontein and Anthony Louroncio. Loutsenko and the men's tennis team will host New York University on March 1 at the Wilton YMCA.

In the three games that the Skidmore women's basketball team played last week, Botiba recorded a double-double, giving her 11 on the season. Botiba's record of 10.7 rebounds per game is second in the Liberty League, and she is fourth in blocks per game with 10.7.

Botiba also ranks second on the team in scoring with an average of 13 points per game. In last week's game against first-place St. Lawrence, Botiba put up 21 points and 15 rebounds, and followed that up with an 18 point, 16 rebound game against Vassar. Botiba ended the week with 13 rebounds and 12 points against Bard. Botiba and the Thoroughbreds will head to Union College on Feb. 21 for a Liberty League contest.

With an average of 15.3 points per game, 4.6 rebounds per game, 2.0 steals per game and 5.3 assists per game over the course of the three Thoroughbred games last week, Medunjanin is second on the team in scoring with an average of 15.0 points per game. He is also second in the conference with 5.1 assists per game and is fifth with 1.4 steals per game. Medunjanin and the Thoroughbreds will look to cement their playoff spot when they travel to Union on Friday night.

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LibertyLeagueAthletics.com

THE SKIDMORE NEWS www.skidmorenews.com
THE CAMPUS AUTHORITY SINCE 1925



Short History of Ruthie West

By Allison Smith, Contributing Writer

On Wed, Feb 19, 2014

Ruthie West's birth was undocumented. She was born in the 1850's on a stretch of land located about 60 miles west of the iconic town, Tombstone, Arizona. Nothing much is known of her childhood. She is expected to have been a free spirited child because her mother worked and she had no father. West would swim in rivers, roll down hills, and always had straw hanging out of her mouth.

At a young age she was put to work as a saloon girl at the same bar her mother worked at. Nothing is known about her at this time.

Once she entered her twenties, West cut off all her hair, stole a black horse and ran up into the mountains. Shortly after she ran away, the saloon she worked at was burned down. West's mother was trapped inside and died during the fire. It is questionable as to if West started the fire.

West spent the rest of her life on the run. She would wake up on cold mornings, alone in the mountains. She never slept in the same place twice. The first thing West would do is rub ash under her eyes left from last night's fire and then light a cigarette. She traveled on her horse, Bumpy, and never carried any belongings.

Often, West would travel through towns under the name Richard King, after a man she believed to be her father. The fact was never confirmed. West and King both died without ever meeting each other.

West soon gave up trying to pretend to be a man. Her breasts were far too big for other men not to notice. She was raped constantly during the first year after she ran away.

West befriended the famous bandit, Belle Star, who showed her the ropes on being a cowgirl. Star was the only person to truly know West.

Cattle rancher and gunfighter, Clay Allison, was in love with West from 1874-87. They met during a shoot out in a bar on the boarder of Arizona and New Mexico. They met again two years later during a camp raid. Three years later Allison proposed to West. West denied.

West died alone in 1886 on a mountain covered in snow.

#1.3142521:947780374.jpg:Freckles

Allison Smith



You Are So Beautiful

By Amber Charette '14, Peer Health Educator

On Wed, Feb 19, 2014

I remember looking at the long body-sized rectangular mirror that was attached to my sister's bedroom door sometime when I was in middle school and she was in high school. Cracked at the bottom with white tape placed over it, there was nothing particularly special about this mirror. What made it unique was what my sister wrote at the top of it with red lipstick. Encircled with a heart she had written, "You are so beautiful." When I first saw this, my head tilted to the right as my eyebrows formed an expression that had confused written all over it. All I thought was "why would she write on her mirror with lipstick?" Nonetheless, each time I walked past this mirror I stopped, even if just for a quick glance at it.

Now, as I reflect and focus on the topic of body image, I finally realize what the meaning of that mirror and its quote was: that you should recognize that you are beautiful and continue to remind yourself of that every day.

While I was too young at the time to realize how important of a symbol that mirror was, it only took a year before society taught me about the negative sides to body image. Between flipping through Seventeen magazine, Googling, watching reality television, and attending middle school (which is notoriously known as a core time of bullying), it hit me how critical American society can be of the human body, and what looks they have classified as "beautiful."

I can still recall an assignment I was given during an afterschool program to choose the part of my body that I liked the most. This made me so uncomfortable, and as I tried to look into the mirror and choose something I could feel my self-esteem melting into a puddle by my feet. I ended up choosing my hands, arguing to my program counselor that they were the only part of my body that I liked. Thankfully, in the years since, I have slowly but surely been able to regain my self-esteem towards my body by listening to those who love me, choosing good role models and not being afraid to challenge mainstream society's beliefs.

Regardless, I am not writing to tell everyone to shake out of society's views, as I realize how powerful they can be. I do hope, however, that people will work together through various means to break these views and to rebuild new and more realistic ones: those of acceptance, kindness, humbleness, confidence in oneself and acknowledgment that people - all people - are so beautiful.

I also realize that everyone interprets and views body image differently. With that said, I asked several Skidmore students their opinions of body image, and advice for others. Here are some of the things that they said:

- "One must remember that staying healthy and fit is very important not to meeting the societal expectation of being "slim" but to the welling being of the human" (Mohammed Almashhadani, '15).

- "Everyone looks different because nobody was meant to look exactly the same way...Body image is a tricky subject, but it's important to make sure that everyone loves their body for how it is, to accept their beauty and not feel pressured to look like what the media considers to be beautiful" (Janet Vidal, '14).

- "The less you try to be like others, the happier you will probably be with your body" (Michelle Mendia, '14).

- "[Body image] can have a huge impact on someone's sense of self-worth and confidence...I would tell [others] that the pictures in magazines, ads, etc. are totally edited and to never compare themselves to those...And maybe to think of things they like about their body and focus on those" (Emily Paull, '13).

- "I'd say that one of the main ways to fight negative body image is to be critical of the media and understand the insane amount of manipulation that goes into every image, and to treat your body with respect (i.e. proper diet and exercise as well as finding ways to dress your body in a way you love)" (Jessica Strasser, '14).

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Ikea.com



Campus Safety Reports: Feb. 7 to 13

On Wed, Feb 19, 2014

Incidents of Note:

- **Friday, Feb. 7-Sex Offense:** A sexual assault reported to Campus Safety at 1:16 p.m. at an on-campus location.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 11-Accident:** A Property Damage Auto Accident reported at 1:26 p.m. near the main entrance to the College on North Broadway. The Saratoga Springs Police Department and officers issued a report.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 11-Sex Offense:** A sexual assault reported at 2:30 p.m. that occurred off-campus in late October 2013. No further information given.

Further Incidents:

Friday, Feb. 7:

- Campus Safety Assist: Reporting person requested a transport at 5:10 p.m. to the Saratoga Hospital for a student. Transport completed.

Saturday, Feb. 8:

- Criminal Mischief: Graffiti reported at 12:11 p.m. in various locations at 11 Cane Crossing. Photographs taken and report issued.
- Intoxicated Subject: Admission declined at 8:35 p.m. for an intoxicated male at the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater. Subject was escorted from the premises.
- Criminal Mischief: Ink reported at 8 p.m. on the front passenger door above the door handle of his vehicle in Jonsson Tower Lot. Report generated.

Sunday, Feb. 9:

- Liquor Law Violation: A liquor law violation reported at 12:13 a.m. in Jonsson Tower. Liquor law violation referral made.
- Suspicious Activity: An unknown female reported at 1:33 a.m. wandering around Penfield Hall and acting strange. Officers checked but the person was gone on arrival.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 1:54 p.m. at Sussman Apartments F. No smoke nor fire detected. Alarm restored.

- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 7:10 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments I. Alarm was due to a smoke condition. Alarm restored.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 8:13 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments L. Alarm was due to cooking and was restored.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 9:18 p.m. at the Sussman Apartments K. Alarm was set off by boiling water and was restored.

Monday, Feb. 10:

- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 2:43 a.m. at Dayton Drive. All officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department dispatched. Activation was due to a burning candle. No smoke or fire detected. Report issued.
- College Violation: Report received at 6:09 p.m. that the vending machine on the first floor of Case Center was making a lot of noise. Officers arrived and hit the reset button. The vending machine's condition was corrected.

Tuesday, Feb. 11:

- College Violation: Loud acoustic guitars reported at 2:18 a.m. being played by neighbors at the Sussman Apartments. Officer dispatched reported that the residents complied with the request to cease the activity due to the late hour.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activated at 11:25 a.m. at the Sussman Village. Dispatched officers, Unit-10 Maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Activation was due to a cooking error.

Wednesday, Feb. 12:

- College Violation: A noise complaint reported at 12:35 a.m. in Wait Hall. Dispatched officer reported that the source of the noise was a loud television. The volume was lowered.
- Suspicious Activity: A male reported at 3 p.m. going through the dumpsters of the North Woods Apartments. Officer dispatched. Subject gone on arrival.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm received at 6:56 p.m. for the Sussman Apartments L. Dispatched all units. Advised the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Alarm was due to cooking.
- College Violation: A noise complaint reported at 9:45 p.m. in Jonsson Tower. Someone either above or below was playing a guitar. Dispatched officer who spoke with the resident of the room. The resident agreed to stop playing.

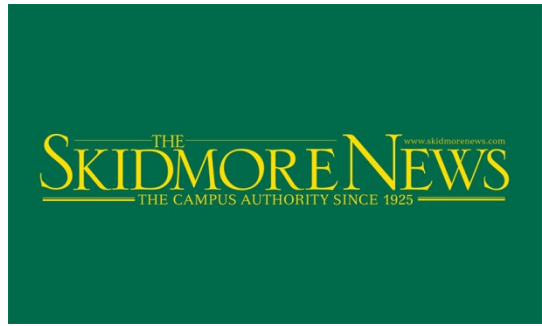
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- College Violation: A noise complaint reported at 9:45 p.m. in Jonsson Tower. Someone either above or below was playing a guitar. Dispatched officer who spoke with the resident of the room. The resident agreed to stop playing.
- College Violation: A loud noise reported at 11:12 p.m. coming from the second floor lounge of Penfield Hall. Dispatched officer who reported speaking with four individuals who agreed to keep the noise down.
- College Violation: A noise complaint reported at 11:55 p.m. on the first floor of McClellan Hall. Dispatched officer who checked the area with negative results. Subject was gone on arrival.

Thursday, Feb. 13:

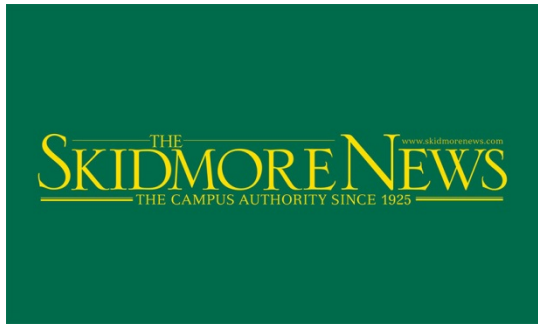
- Aggravated Harassment: Reporting person was in the Campus Safety office at 7:33 p.m. to report against a non-student who was attempting to contact her at various times and days. Report issued.
- Larceny: A larceny reported at 10:03 p.m. Cash missing from a wallet at the Art Center. Report taken.



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Jacob Reiskin/The Skidmore News





Class Dismissed?

By The Editorial Board

On Thu, Feb 20, 2014

Every week, Skidmore plays host to a number of events designed to encourage conversations about race, ethnicity, sex and gender. Whether these forums achieve their goals is a different issue, but the panels, film showings, dialogues and lectures continue to appear on the college calendar every month. Where Skidmore falls short, however, is on the topic of socioeconomic class (SES). The Editorial Board suggests that conversations about class on this campus are lacking and proposes that the student body make a concerted effort to engage in these discussions to broaden perspectives and make the campus climate more supportive for all students.

General perception on this campus is that Skidmore College is a "rich" campus and that the majority of students here do not need to worry about money. One editor recalls a friend's shock upon learning she did not have a car on campus, another speaks of the incredibly high cost of the art supplies required for studio classes (often upwards of \$400). The frequency with which students are expected to order take out, partake in wine and cheese nights or take an \$80 taxi ride to Albany assumes a certain level of expendable income. While this perception is no doubt rooted in students' experiences here, the narrowness of this statement omits a significant proportion of the student body.

In the 2011-2012 school year, 46% of [Skidmore](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=skidmore&s=all&id=195526#finaid) students received financial aid, with 15% receiving Pell Grants (the primary form of government financial aid). As a point of comparison, in the same academic year, 37% of all undergraduate students nationwide (25.2 million students) received Pell Grants. At [Union College](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=union&s=all&id=196866#finaid), a member (with Skidmore) of the New York Six consortium, 72% of students receive some sort of financial aid and 17% receive Pell Grants; at [Vassar College](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=vassar&s=all&id=197133#finaid), whose applicant pool typically overlaps significantly with Skidmore's, the percentages are 63% and 22%, respectively. Vassar is need-blind (an applicant's financial situation does not factor into the admissions decision and the college completely meets all demonstrated need); Skidmore and Union are not. It is also worth noting that not all students who pay full tuition do so without feeling any financial constraints. The picture of socioeconomic status on our campus (and peer institutions) is more complex and encompasses a wider spectrum than the majority of the campus community believes.

Discussions about class are difficult and often uncomfortable. Students across the socioeconomic spectrum are quick to feel embarrassed or ashamed about their income bracket. Class is an elusive measure. Unlike the more phenotypic race or gender, it is easy to hide class as we walk around campus from day to day. Anonymity of class combined with the rhetoric of the "rich campus" makes SES a difficult topic to broach.

Skidmore has addressed class issues before, but campus events that do address SES rarely bring the issue of class back to how it plays out on this campus. The Classless Society exhibit in the Tang Teaching Museum, for example, encourages us to examine SES in America in light of statistics and photographs. We are distanced from the reality of class diversity on Skidmore's campus when we view class in a museum exhibit but fail to speak to our peers about their experiences with money on this campus.

Skidmore has hosted panel discussions and speakers in recent years to discuss class (the [Cornel West lecture](http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/cornel-west-tackles-race-politics-1.2179446) in Spring 2011 and the [Intersections panel series](http://www.skidmorenews.com/features/talking-about-the-big-issues-1.1787296#.Uwa0iLEo6Uk) from the 2010-2011 academic year come to mind), but these forums are largely focused on the theoretical or the stories of a select few, rather than taking the form of a dialogue or discussion. These are informative events and they lay the foundation for the campus community to build on. We as a campus community need to build on this foundation and establish forums where more people's voices and stories can be heard.

Facilitating conversations about the effect that class has on students' experiences on campus can produce concrete results. [Researchers](http://www.science20.com/news_articles/social_class_talk_taboo_when_it_comes_academic_achievement-129742) from Stanford and Northwestern [recently found](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/02/17/study-1-hour-program-can-close-achievement-gap-first-generation-college-students) that a one-hour program for first year students where upperclassmen talk about the effect that their class has on their college experience decreases the class achievement gap for the first-year students by 63% over the course of that academic school year. Reintroducing class into the conversation, perhaps as an FYE workshop or a series of facilitated dialogues, could improve the college experience from the first year on.

It is easy to understand that less than one-fifth of Skidmore's student body receives Pell grants. The challenge lies in humanizing the statistic, in understanding the stories behind these numbers. The current conversation too often resides only in the theoretical. This is a topic that is directly relevant to

each and every student on campus. It is crucial that we renew the conversation about perceptions and experiences of class on Skidmore's campus. SES is a personal, difficult topic.

Not everyone wants to take part in this conversation. But it is important that there is a space for those who do want to talk and to listen, to come forward and join in, and most importantly, that we as a community are made aware that not every student holds the same financial standing. That a student doesn't have a car to park on campus should not shock anyone.

A Saturday Night with Diane Coffee

By Caroline Falls, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Feb 20, 2014

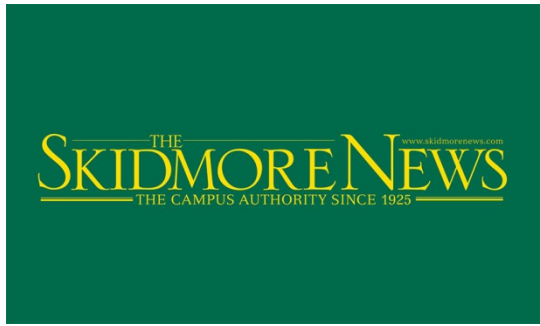
Shaun Fleming, of Diane Coffee, is set to perform at Falstaff's this Saturday, Feb. 22, thanks to the efforts of Skidmore's Student Entertainment Company (SEC). Skidmore's own Los Elk will open for the visiting artist, with a performance to rouse the crowd for what's anticipated to be a very big night.

Foxygen drummer and Diane Coffee's front man Shaun Fleming is one of several drummers (including Joshua Tillman of Fleet Foxes) who made a detour from their native bands to create solo side projects of their own. Diane Coffee resulted from Fleming's relocation from glossy Los Angeles to the greyer New York City with Foxygen. There, with the kind of empty minutes having the flu and being quarantined in an NYC studio apartment can offer, Fleming experimented with cookware, iPhone apps, detuned guitars and other unusual instruments in creating what would become the debut Diane Coffee EP, *My Friend Fish*. According to Fleming, this transition from west to east and a heavy dose of cabin fever - which kept him craving his hometown and reminiscing about "the good old days" in Agoura Hills, CA - was the right amount of drive required to generate the album, released last year.

The EP combines 60's psychedelics evocative of Fleming's work in Foxygen; yet, the songs you'll hear in *My Friend Fish* are so much greener. Fleming's sound is something hard to put a finger on - it's a hodgepodge of the new and the old. Take the Baroque pop of The Zombies, replace the plaintive voice of Colin Blunstone with the kind of feminine soul you'd catch with Diana Ross, and you're almost there. It's a salute to Motown, yet it manages to feel new and not overly nostalgic to the point where you'd rather just listen to Ross' *Love Child*.

The first track on the album, "Hymn," is crispy and 2-D; it utilizes the resonance of an aged and dusty record. Fleming performs a kind of séance, channeling the Beatles when he sings, "I'll treat you anyway that you want/won't tell nobody nothing at all," with the kind of sex appeal and funk Lennon would sing "joojoo eyeball" with, in *Abbey Road's* "Come Together." When the track slows down again, and Fleming sings, "I give you my word/though it's certainly one that you've heard/I think that you're cool/oh yeah, I'd catch a cold with you," he's Shaun Fleming of Diane Coffee again.

The final track on the album, "Green" consists of a mournful, psychedelic organ, indicative of The Zombies' "She's Not There," where Fleming laments his broken heart through a glittery kaleidoscope of reverb and percussion. Both tracks on *My Friend Fish* bookend an album of recycled yet classic sixties-style ballads that you'd expect to be sick of by now. But, Shaun Fleming of *Diane Coffee* holds his own. There's a good reason why Fleming's childhood career, as a voice actor on Disney Channel's *Kim*




Possible, didn't swallow him into obscurity. Saturday's performance at Falstaff's will show you why. And missing it will leave you with a sorrowful Sunday that a serenade from Diane Coffee could have saved you from.


#1.3142983:920565033.jpg:diane coffee

Courtesy of Skidmore College

Shaun Fleming of Foxygen's
Diane Coffee
los elk



Falstaff's
February 22nd
Doors at 8
Open to Public



What Are Those Evaluations for Anyway?

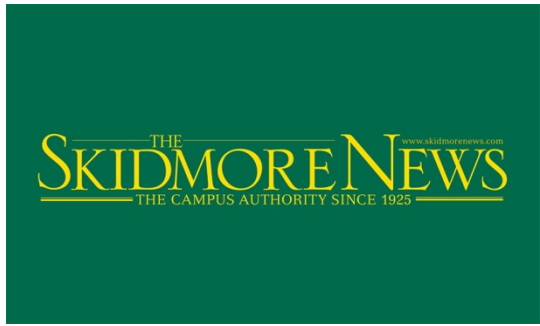
By Danny Graugnard, News Editor

On Thu, Feb 20, 2014

The end of a semester marks the end of classes, and in addition to the final exams and term papers, students are also given course evaluations to fill and return to the department of the course they're taking. Although many students don't realize it, evaluations are reviewed in part to determine the quality of the professor's teaching of the course, as well as the course itself. This can influence whether or not a professor may receive academic tenure. But what exactly is academic tenure, and how are these evaluations part of the process? In many colleges and universities, tenure is an academic's contractual right to not have his or her position at the institution terminated without just cause. Tenured positions are considered senior positions within the institution. Like other institutions, Skidmore College awards academic tenure to those who demonstrate a strong record of published research, teaching, and in the liberal arts, consistency in publishing creative work such as books or essays. Indeed, the Faculty Handbook states that, "Decisions to reappoint, promote, or tenure faculty members at Skidmore are based on the quality of their credentials in three areas: performance as teachers, achievement as scholars or artists, and contribution to the welfare of the college community beyond the classroom." For Skidmore, their "performance as teachers" is highly valued, and outweighs the rest of the criteria. Skidmore recognizes the quality of teaching more than the quality of academic or creative work; the handbook asserts "no record of unusual productivity will compensate for unsatisfactory teaching."

As students, we are all too familiar with the class evaluations that we are asked to do at the end of each semester. The evaluations ask us how we experienced the class and whether or not we felt the professor was efficient in teaching the course. It turns out these evaluations are taken very seriously, especially when it comes to new and younger faculty. Within the teaching criteria, there are three areas that are closely reviewed: course management and design, classroom manner and presentation of course materials, and finally knowledge and mastery of one's subject. Evidence that is reviewed for these criteria include the structure of the syllabi, fairness of evaluating student work, and class preparation.

Most systems allow a limited time for the professor to establish this record, which means that professors who wish to receive tenure have a set time to hold their junior titles. The motivation to receive academic tenure is to be granted "academic freedom," which would protect professors when they choose to pursue their own scholarly goals of research, voicing opinion, or other less relative



topics. To the extent of Skidmore, faculty with academic freedom are entitled freedom within the classroom as well, to discuss their subject, but are discouraged to discuss "controversial issues" in their teaching. Skidmore College also warns of the actions of professors speaking as community members, which are encouraged to exercise caution on commentary that may lead others within the community to question their profession and as a result, the College itself.

If you enjoy a professor's methods of teaching, the evaluations are your best bet in voicing your opinions. New faculty members heavily rely on these evaluations in addition to their independent academic work if they wish receive academic tenure from the institution. Ultimately, it is the students that hold a big factor in the promotion of prospective professors.

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Office of the Dean of Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs

jacob Reiskin/The Skidmore News



Olympic-sized upset in Sochi

By Julia Martin, Skidmore News Figure Skating Expert

On Sat, Feb 22, 2014

No one ever said figure skating was fair.

Thursday played host to the Women's Olympic Long Program event, where the world's greatest female skaters would go head to head for a spot on the podium. For some, like 23-year-old Kim Yu-Na of South Korea, 26-year-old Carolina Kostner of Italy and 17-year-old Adelina Sotnikova of Russia, their performance in the short program on Wednesday positioned them for a shot at the gold. For others, such as the prodigious 15-year-old Yulia Lipnitskaia of Russia and Japan's 23-year-old Mao Asada, the long program was their shot at redemption for the previous night's disappointing performances. 18-year-old Gracie Gold of the United States had the best shot of any US woman for a medal, coming in fourth after the short program.

Thursday's long program started out well; the US delivered three strong Olympic performances, and all three skaters placed within the top 10. Gold finished just short of the podium, earning 4th place at the end of the night. Kostner delivered a flawless long program, and was destined for the podium with the highest overall score with only two skaters left. Kostner became the first-ever Italian woman to win an Olympic figure skating medal.

That left only Kim and Sotnikova to skate their long programs and to decide who would be dubbed the greatest female figure skater in the world. Sotnikova was electric, fueled by, and exciting, the Russian crowd. Sotnikova certainly knew how to utilize her home-court advantage. She delivered fast spins with difficult positions, lofty jumps and un-polished but earnest artistry. The performance earned her a long program score that nearly beat Yu-Na's 2010 Olympic long program record of 150.06, and was a 20-point improvement from her score at the European Championships this season (her score increased from roughly 130 to about 150). She stepped out the final double loop in a triple-double-double combination, but otherwise skated nearly perfectly.

Kim Yu-Na, or Queen Yu-Na as she is known in the figure skating world, was next. The Korean superstar (Kim is the number one celebrity in South Korea, with dozens of endorsement deals and a squad of body guards when she leaves her home) took the ice and delivered a breathtakingly beautiful program, with only one mis-footing on the landing of her triple flip. While Sotnikova was energetic and forceful, Kim was silently graceful and effortless. Sotnikova completed more technically difficult elements, while Kim

delivered a spell-binding- four-and-a-half-minute performance. Sotnikova would win gold over Kim by nearly six points.

Cue the controversy.

Conspiracy theories are being thrown around on the World Wide Web like hot potatoes: "One judge is the wife of the director of the Russian Figure Skating Federation! One was involved in the ice dancing judging controversy in the 1998 Nagano games! Putin did it!" A petition has even been started on Change.org to ask for a re-count.

There are two crucial things to remember when figure skating controversy strikes: 1) Judging is subjective. Ultimately, it is a human being pushing those buttons-meaning they can hear and feel the crowd's reaction and the skater's energy. 2) The new judging system, where each element is defined by a point value, makes competitive figure skating no longer about the performance, but about the math. Sotnikova managed to squeak out extra points here and there with key elements, giving her the advantage.

Whether Kim or Sotnikova deserved the win will never be one-hundred-percent certain. There's no way to accurately compare two such talented skaters like one could compare the times of two Olympic swimmers, nor is the final result the most important. The sport of figure skating is first and foremost a performance, which is why the Michelle Kwan will always be unequivocally remembered as one of the greatest figure skaters of all time despite her lack of an Olympic gold medal. Olympic figure skating is, and has always been, passionate, emotional, shocking, scandalous and possessed of a sense of magic- here's to hoping it stays that way.

#1.3143852:899077893.jpg:skating

Adelina Sotnikova's higher technical score was one reason she found herself above Yuna Kim on the podium.

Josh Haner/The New York Times

#1.3143851:1667405767.jpg:skating

Adelina Sotnikova scored a 149.95 points in the free skate, 18 points higher than her previous best, to take home the gold.

Bernat Armangue/Associated Press





Cordless

By Joshua Speers

On Mon, Feb 24, 2014

For the past week and a half I have been without a cell phone. Most people my age see this as the equivalent to being grounded in middle school, having the N64 taken away, or even as severe as losing a limb. Thinking about going without a phone for even a few hours always prompts, "Oh my God, I couldn't even..." or "I'd sooner die," followed by a quick and impulsive check of the pocket to make sure the most feared is not reality.

The other reaction I've gotten from people who find out that I am phone-less is, "That must be so liberating!" Yes, it has been in the sense that it is one less thing to worry about. I can't distract myself with a nifty toy like we are all guilty of when we want to escape where we are; when we want to seem busy if we are walking by our self; when we want to look less alone. On a simple level, I hate having too many things in my pockets so going without a clunky flip phone was a huge relief.

In some ways it brought me back to a simpler time when people were better at committing to plans. If I said I was going to meet someone on campus at a certain time, I had to be there because there was no way of letting them know I was late. This was a satisfying pressure to have. I found myself more conscious of time I was wasting because being late had much larger consequences.

For the first week I settled into this new routine very easily and naturally. I don't have an iPhone so I was only missing out on texts and calls. I wasn't worried about the games of Words With Friends I was suddenly sidelined for, or all the naked snap chats shivering in my inbox. For the most part, it was much harder for my friends than it was for me. I got used to not being able to contact people the instant I felt the need to, but those around me had no reason to make this adjustment. I was charged with "wtf!? Where have you been?" multiple times.

Of course, this sense of ease would be different if I was a freshman or sophomore. As a senior I am pretty comfortable and after four years and have a relatively large circle of friends. I didn't worry about finding people to eat lunch with because I knew I would run into someone. For an underclassman this might feel like a slow and tortuous social suicide, but I came to love the spontaneity of it all. I found myself eating with people outside my usual crew and only occasionally felt the pangs of the dreaded Fear of Missing Out Syndrome.

It did start to get lonely though, especially when it came to staying in touch with family or friends that I couldn't run into on Case walkway. Emails didn't help because sound of another human voice will always trump text on a screen in its ability to convey love and affection. But this lonely feeling seemed warranted because telephones since their conception have always been there to bridge the distance between people miles apart. The way we use them now, unfortunately, is as a quick fix for the fear of being alone. Instead of pushing ourselves to fill that loneliness with human connections we delve deeper into our cell phones. Striking up a conversation with someone you don't know has become "awkward," and a stranger that starts a conversation with you is now "creepy." I won't preach for "mindfulness" or other words pirated from eastern philosophy by yuppies in expensive stretchy pants. Instead, I will only say that we need to get better at being alone. I certainly didn't master this by cutting the instant communication cord for a mere two weeks, but being forced to confront the habit of hiding loneliness behind conveniences is something we all should face.

#1.3144705:3084313241.jpg:by

Jacob Reiskin



Thunderstorm

By Allison Smith, Contributing Writer

On Tue, Feb 25, 2014

I feel the loneliest during a storm.

Thunder, pounding on my walls like a rude neighbor, wakes me up.

My eyes widen dramatically.

It is hard now to believe that they were ever closed.

My still sleepy mind doubts that I had just heard thunder. Sudden lightning provides the evidence I need.

It is a thunderstorm.

A short growl from the storm repeats me.

Silent lightning casts quick shadows on my floor.

My mind empties out and instinct takes over my body. My spine begins to elongate.

Wind blows rain into my room through my open window. My curtains are wet. I hope the rain does not reach me.

I will not take my eyes off of the window.

I lift my head and move the pillow I was sleeping out from under me. Without drawing too much attention to myself, I move the pillow behind me and slowly back my body up against it.

Thunder forces me to fall deeper into the pillow.

Damn it.

I almost forgot about my bear. The little stuffed animal is nowhere to be found.

Thunder rumbles and I begin to count.

1...

In preschool, all of our chubby faces were pressed against the window in the reading corner.

2...3...4...

My teacher, Queen Maureen, told us to start counting after we heard the terrifying thunder. Our little mouths move in unison.

5...6...

The number of seconds we counted, the farther away the storm was and the safer we were.

7...and then comes the expected lightning.

7 seconds. 7 miles.

I do not move until thunder claps its hands in my ear. I have a short amount of time before the lightning strikes.

Quickly, I slide across the bed and plant my hand on the ground. My lungs are constricted in this position and I feel blood rush to my head.

Anxiously, I run my fingers across my cell phone, a book, chap stick, nail polish, a pen, a lost earring, a piece of candy, a screw, a crack in the wood floor, and finally my bear.

Lightning strikes while I am still bent over the side of my bed.

Fuck.

I have been exposed.

My throat swells up. My stomach has an uncontrollable hunger that I know will never be satisfied.

I waste no time and fling myself backwards, like a breaching whale. I fall onto the pillow I had placed against the wall.

I hug my bear tightly into my chest. I close my eyes and place my chin on top of my bear's head.

I listen to the rain smacking against the pavement and tree leaves outside. Lightning will turn the back of my eyelids red. Thunder will remind me not to sleep.

I want to appreciate every moment of the storm.

I feel small.

My bear feels big.

The thunder humbles me.

The lightning shows me my size.

Sometime during the night, my bear had slipped off my bed again. The clock sitting on my bedside table flashes 2:04. Outside my window I can see the sun rise through its own steam.

The power had been out for nearly two hours and my alarm did not wake me up for school.

I walk down the soft, carpeted steps and meet my mother sitting on a stool in the kitchen. Through the bay window behind her I see two trees have fallen into my yard. I am disappointed that I did not hear the crackle and snap of the wood splintering. I wish I saw the limbs, leaves and branches bounce off the ground.

I sigh.

My mother is stabbing her long fingers against the iPad screen. She mumbles in response to my exhale that all of eastern Massachusetts has lost power. I want to appreciate every moment of the storm.

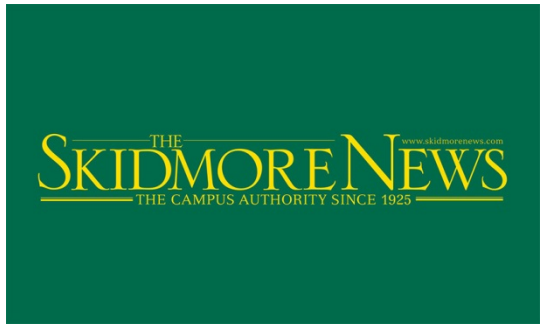
I feel small.

My bear feels big.

The thunder humbles me.

The lightning shows me my size.

I sigh.



#1.3145359:910319431.JPG:Thunderstorm

Allison Smith



Restaurant Review: Sweet Mimi's

By Tegan O'Neill, Columnist

On Tue, Feb 25, 2014

How can you resist feeling cheery while at Sweet Mimi's Cafe? You are surrounded by 360 degrees of pink and your ears hear nothing but mellow jazz. The coffee comes to the table quickly in generously sized mugs, and though it might not be as strong as you would like, it holds the promise of eventual caffeination. What's more, your server is perpetually peppy, and, evidently, does not believe in frowns.

With the decor, the wall decals and the garden party wicker chairs, Sweet Mimi's feels a bit like the setting of a little girl's birthday party. Choosing from the temptations offered on the menu feels like selecting between fetchingly wrapped presents. Both the specials board and the regular bill of fare are jumbled with long titles of scrumptious sounding choices. Specialty items outnumber the humdrum--a rare occurrence on menus. When you are deciding between the likes of lemon ricotta or bacon pancakes, it is like having the devil whisper in both of your ears.

You can feel satisfied with your decision to settle on the raspberry streusel-baked French toast, served with raspberries perched on an oversized pillow of whipped cream. Even though raspberry season is far over, one taste of these raspberries and you can picture the bushes right over yonder, brimming with fresh berries. Maybe expectations for the toast itself were too high at the first forkful; couldn't it use a smidgen more cinnamon? A little more orange zest? And wouldn't some kind of creamy filling stuffed inside make it that much more satisfying? Nevertheless, you are more forgiving the deeper you get into it, and before you know it, it's all gone.

The strata, on the other hand, is love at first bite. Fluffy squares of peasant bread hold sausage, peppers and onions which have been caramelized to the point of transparency. Soft sprigs of asparagus peek out here and there. The creation pays homage to savory bread pudding, quiche and Thanksgiving stuffing. It's eggy. It's golden. It's homespun, and yet still utterly flavorful. It's the compilation of best hits: breakfast edition.

After you have polished off your plate and swigged the last of your coffee, you still must make it past a display case of sweet, gooey confections before reaching the door. Thank goodness you are filled to the brim; otherwise, these sweets would be too tantalizing to pass up. You will just have to come back later to try one of the chocolatechip cookies. In fact, you might even come back later today.

#1.3144844:2761031504.jpg:toast

Raspberry streusel-baked French toast

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News



Growing up Fast: Where Skidmore basketball has come from and where they might be going

Men's Basketball Playoff Preview

By Matt Choi '14, Contributing Writer

On Tue, Feb 25, 2014

What a difference a year makes. Last season the men's basketball team was like a pit bull puppy. It was young and made some innocent mistakes, but you knew it was eventually going to grow up into something that scares people on the street. But you didn't expect it to happen this fast. On paper, the team jumped from 9-7 to 10-6 in the Liberty League, and from 15-11 to 16-9 overall. That's right, single game win improvements in both categories, not something that jumps off the page at you but the devil is in the details.

Skidmore has managed to improve to 75 points per game, seven more than the league average, and six more than its own average last year. Sophomores Tanner Brooks and Aldin Medujanin and junior Conner Merrill led the squad for much of last year and have continued to hold the scoring mantle this year. Throw in transfer wing Eric Sanders '16, who is leading the team in scoring at 15.8 a game, and you begin to understand this jump in production. It might be one more win over last year, but the margins are way bigger. Last season Skidmore outscored opponents by a total of 86 points, but this season it's 180 points. Skidmore has only been held to under 60 points once in the league this season, and in their last three losses they still scored at or above the league average.

Looking at how Skidmore got to this point yields some interesting improvements as well. Obvious to anyone who has watched this season's team is the three-point shooting. Brooks attempts seven threes a game on average, and Medujanin averages five. Amazingly, Merrill averages three attempts a game from beyond the arc, which is unexpected from the team's tallest player and an aggressive force in the low post. Every member of the starting lineup (and a good chunk of the bench) is confident taking a wide open three and it's shown in some ridiculous three point shooting displays, most notably when Brooks scored six threes over Union from a variety of head scratching distances. Believe it or not, three-point shooting is the stat that's changed the least since last year. Shots attempted and shots made from beyond the arc show small improvement, but have stayed relatively consistent.

The difference comes in the frontcourt interior offense. Skidmore added Sanders and Perun Kovacevic '15 this season. Sanders is a lengthy wingman who, like his teammates, is comfortable from behind the arc but is perhaps most impressive when he's driving to the rim. What he lacks in height he makes up for

in leap, and watching him elevate over big men is a sight to behold. Kovacevic is difficult to categorize offensively, showing grit and brute power on the post but then coasting in for layups and finger rolls not usually seen from a player of his size. Add these two new faces to the already prominent interior abilities of Merrill and Medujanin and you end up with nights like Skidmore's blowout victory over RPI, when they scored over half their points (42) inside the paint.

But what does this scoring frenzy mean if it doesn't translate to winning? It means we have one of the best offenses in the league, but far from the best defense. That sounds like an odd statement for a team ranked third in the league for defensive efficiency, but when we are talking about a four-team tournament, as is the Liberty League tournament, that's not good enough. There have been times where Skidmore's man-to-man defense has been lacking, especially against good shooting teams. Case in point, the final regular season game against RIT, when the visiting Tigers shot 50% on the night, and 66% from beyond the arc. Coach Joe Burke has attempted to hide some of his man-defense flaws in a be-deviling zone defense that places Sanders in the passing lane between the backcourt. This strategy has worked on many teams, but no system can account for a lack of hustle, getting a hand up, or chasing a shooter off his spot.

Taking these points into the playoffs, it's hard not be a little concerned. Vassar is one of the teams that has shot well against Skidmore, and they are 2-0 against the Thoroughbreds this season. The most recent game between the teams on Feb. 14 is a typical example of a Skidmore loss. The Brewers took the three-ball away on the defensive end, and went to work from midrange and three-point range on offense. If Skidmore wants to win on Wednesday they need to summon the interior ferocity they have displayed in bouts this season and only take smart three-pointers, while hounding Vassar shooters Erikson Wasyl and Johnny Mrlik. Only a balanced performance will get Skidmore back into the finals, and give it a shot at winning its third championship in four years.

Regardless of Wednesday's outcome, any talk of a transition period for this team is over. This team is performing years ahead of schedule, and nothing is impossible at this point. Underclassmen or not, the Thoroughbreds are full grown pit bulls.

#1.3144829:739095825.JPG:basketball

The Skidmore men's basketball team has developed ahead of schedule, and they enter the playoffs with a chance to winning their third championship in four years.

Bob Ewell



Photo by Bob Ewell

Campus Safety Reports: Feb. 14 to 20

On Tue, Feb 25, 2014

Incidents of Note:

- **Friday, Feb. 14th**-Sex Offense: Report received at 11:45 a.m. of a sexual assault that occurred at the start of the 2013 fall semester at an unknown location.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 18th**-Suspicious Activity: Officer reported at 2:40 p.m. finding a subject in the dumpster in Sussman Village. Subject was identified as a non-Skidmore community member and was escorted from campus. Report issued.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 19th**-Animals: A bat reported at 2:56 p.m. in the hallway of Wiecking Hall. Officer dispatched and nuisance animal control contacted for the removal. No human contact made. Report issued.

Further Incidents:

Friday, Feb. 14:

- Suspicious Activity: A male subject reported at 1:10 a.m. entering the Campus Safety office. The subject then started walking to the back offices looking for the radio station. An officer stopped him and found out that he was intoxicated. The officer asked the subject to leave the property as he was not a student.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 3:17 p.m. at the Filene Music Hall. Alarm was due to the setup for an event. Alarm was restored.
- Suspicious Activity: A suspicious male reported at 3:02 p.m. near the front entrance of Wait Hall who was picking up cigarette butts out of the snow and just pacing back and forth. Dispatched officers reported checking the area and all of the surrounding areas to no avail. Subject gone on the officers' arrival.
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 11:24 p.m. at Kimball Hall. Dispatched officers.
- College Violation: Officer reported finding subjects smoking at 11:38 p.m. in a room in Kimball Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 15:

- College Violation: A loud party reported at 12:13 a.m. at 7 Dayton Drive. Dispatched officers reported that the students were advised to turn the music down.

- College Violation: A loud and unregistered party reported at 12:24 a.m. at the Sussman Apartments H. Dispatched officers advised the students to shut down the party. The students complied.
- College Violation: Loud music reported at 1:27 a.m. in Penfield Hall. The responding officer checked the location. At 1:47 a.m., another call was received reporting the loud noise again. Dispatched officers.
- College Violation: A loud noise reported at 1:47 a.m. in Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officers.
- College Violation: A loud party reported at 2:14 a.m. in Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officers reported that several students were listening to music. Students complied with the officers' request to lower the volume.
- College Violation: A loud party reported at 2:34 a.m. at 12 Whitman Way. Dispatched officers.
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm sounded at 4:50 a.m. at Dayton Drive. Dispatched officers and maintenance and advised the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Cause of the activation was undetermined.
- Suspicious Activity: A student reported a suspicious male at 5:45 p.m. in front of Wait Hall. Officers responded.
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 9:11 p.m. on the eighth floor of Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched.
- College Violation: A loud noise reported at 11:26 p.m. on the second floor of Howe Hall. Officer dispatched.

Sunday, Feb. 16:

- Intoxicated Subject: Assistance requested at 1:26 a.m. with an intoxicated male subject at McClellan Hall. Officers and the Skidmore College Emergency Medical Service dispatched. Report issued.
- College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 2:40 p.m. at Kimball Hall. Officers dispatched reported that the loud gathering had dispersed.
- Criminal Mischief: Reporting person stated at 2:18 a.m. that she observed a student ripping posters off the wall and causing a disturbance. Dispatched officers reported that the subject was identified. Report issued.
- College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 3:22 a.m. in Wiecking Hall. Officers reported that the residents agreed to lower the volume.
- Suspicious Odor: An odor of marijuana reported at 10:23 p.m. on the seventh floor of Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officers reported that they could detect the odor but were unable to ascertain which room was the source of it.

Monday, Feb. 17:

- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 6:19 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 8:21 p.m. at the Hillside Apartments. Dispatched officers, Unit-10 and advised the Saratoga Springs Fire Department. Activation was due to a cooking error. Report issued.
- College Violation: Excessive noise reported at 9:46 p.m. at Wait Hall. Officer spoke with four subjects playing music who agreed to lower the volume.

Tuesday, Feb. 18:

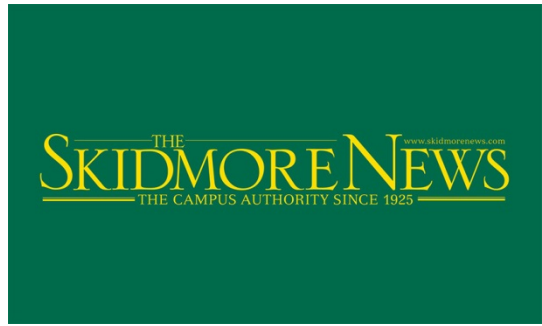
- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 10:59 p.m. on the second floor of Jonsson Tower. Dispatched officer reported that the subject was smoking cigarettes in the building. Report issued.

Wednesday, Feb. 19:

- Suspicious Odor: A suspicious odor reported at 10:47 a.m. coming from a room in Wiecking Hall. Officer reported that there was no one in the room and while there was an odor of marijuana and cigarettes there was no evidence in plain view. Officer secured the room. Report issued.
- Accident: Reporting person reports at 6:06 p.m. accidentally bumping another vehicle while backing out in the Jonsson Tower Lot. No visible damage reported. Owner advised. Report issued.
- Assault: Reporting person advised at 11:10 p.m. of a confidential report of a non-sexual assault on-campus. Report taken.

Thursday, Feb. 20:

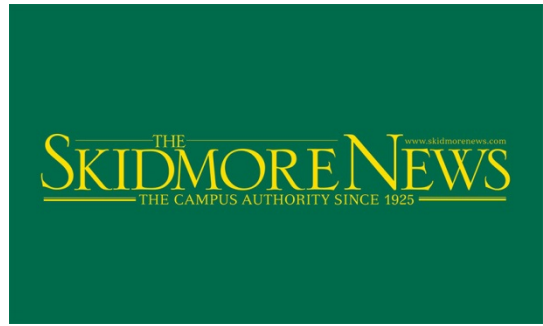
- Fire Alarm: Fire alarm activation received at 4:13 a.m. for Dayton Drive. Officers, maintenance and the Saratoga Springs Fire Department notified. Activation was due to a faulty smoke detector. Repairs to be conducted. Report issued.
- Larceny: Theft of an iPhone reported at 10:17 p.m. from the Field House Gym. Report issued.



#1.3137712:2630079076.jpg:campus safety

Jacob Reiskin/The Skidmore News





Relief Collage

By Allison Smith, Contributing Artist
On Tue, Feb 25, 2014

#1.3144871:1703691708.jpg:Relief Collage

Collage Artist:Allison Smith



Senior Daniel Shure to direct the Spring 2014 Black Box production of Middletown

On Wed, Feb 26, 2014

Daniel Shure '14 will direct the Skidmore College Theater Department's upcoming Spring 2014 production of *Middletown* by Will Eno. Performances will be at 8 p.m. from Feb. 28 to March 5., excepting for a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m., and will take place in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater.

In *Middletown*, contemporary playwright Will Eno has created seemingly everyday characters with extraordinary abilities to articulate the deepest truths about being human: the clawing anxieties we cover up, the hopes and fears we cultivate and the desperate need for connection with others, overlaying a deeper fascination with how incredible it is to exist on this planet, in this universe.

The Theater Department's pre-professional program provides students with the opportunity to pursue the study of the theater arts within a liberal arts setting. Courses within the department afford training in the basic demands of the discipline-physical and vocal control, technique in acting and directing, technical and design skills-as well as the opportunity for advanced study, practical production experience, study abroad and off-campus internships.

Due to limited seating, interested parties should reserve at the Skidmore Theater Box Office by calling ext. 5439 or sending an email at boxoffice@skidmore.edu. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens.

#1.3145582:3909715998.jpg:middletown

Courtesy of Skidmore College

The Skidmore Theater Department Presents

Middletown

by Will Eno



Directed by Daniel Shure '14
Scenic Design: Emma Mohrmann '14
Costume Design: Lena Wellhoefer '14
Lighting Design: Mark Baird
Stage Manager: Gabrielle Nieporent '14

Feb. 28th - Mar. 5th

Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater
815 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Tickets: \$8 Senior & Student / \$12 General Admission
All shows at 8:00 PM except Sunday matinee at 2:00 PM
For reservations & info: (518) 580-5439 or boxoffice@skidmore.edu

Finally, a victory for women's ice hockey

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Thu, Feb 27, 2014

After the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Jaques Rogge, threatened women's ice hockey with elimination. Apparently, people were growing tired of watching the U.S. and Canada duke it out for the gold medal, having faced each other in three out of four finals since the beginning of women's hockey at the Olympics in Nagano in 1998. This year's final, of course, was no different, as the U.S. and Canada squared off once against last Thursday in Sochi for the first spot on the podium. Uh oh, not again, right?

Wrong. The game proved to be the best of the tournament, as Canada won in overtime, coming back from a 2-0 deficit with under four minutes to go in regulation. The game made a statement: women's hockey is here to stay.

A few days before the game, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and the president of the International Ice Hockey Federation, Rene Fasal, held a press conference in which they addressed the words of Rogge. Both men are important figures in the world of ice hockey, and both agreed that women's hockey was here to stay. But they shouldn't have to say it at all.

The critics don't think it's fair that these two teams keep winning the medals at the Olympics (and at the annual World Championships), outscoring and outshooting their opponents by monumental numbers. For example, the U.S. beat Sweden 6-1 and outshot them 70-9 in the semi-final.

But do they even watch other Olympic events? The speed skating powerhouse that is the Netherlands took home 23 medals, even sweeping the podium in four events. And since 1980, Germany has taken home 55% of all gold medals in the luge, and Russia has taken 54% of the gold medals in figure skating.

Do they even know the history of the men's hockey tournament at the Olympics? Men's ice hockey began in 1920, with Canada facing the U.S. in the first-ever gold medal game. Canada won that match, and the next four, meeting the U.S. three out of the four times. And it's not like the games were close. In 1920, Canada outscored their opponents 27-1 and the runners-up scored 29 goals in their quarterfinal match. Sound familiar? The 1980 "Miracle on Ice" wouldn't have been so politically and socially important if the Soviet Union hadn't just won four gold medals in a row. Nobody complained about that dominance. The IOC waited it out and let the other countries catch up. It gave the other teams in the tournament time to catch up to the traditional powerhouses.

Luckily that's what the IOC and IIHF have realized they need to do with the women's tournament.

The women's game needs time to grow. This was only the fourth women's ice hockey tournament in the Olympics. In 2013, there were 87,230 female ice hockey players registered in Canada and 65,700 in the U.S. Finland had a respectable 4,787, and Sweden and Germany both topped 3,000. Those numbers appear decent, but when compared to the 66,636 male players registered in Finland, or the 64,214 men of silver-medal winning Sweden, it's clear: there aren't a whole lot of women playing ice hockey, yet. The U.S. and Canada are doing their jobs to build the game off the ice, spending time and money by sending coaches to these countries to help infuse the game. And the progress is evident, as Finland, Sweden and Switzerland have all proved in the past year that they can give the U.S. and Canada not only a hard game, but also a loss, often on the strength of strong goaltending. The best goaltender in the game, Nora Raaty, is from Finland, and several other European goalies play in the collegiate ranks.

But even if they weren't doing that work off the ice, their game on the ice would be enough to keep the game around.

Anybody who watched the heart-stopping, heart-breaking gold medal game saw not just the best women's game of the tournament, but also the best hockey game of the tournament. There was an unforgettable Canadian comeback from 2-0, a hit post that would have brought the gold back to the U.S. and questionable calls that gave Canada the game-winning power play and made Marie Philip-Poulin the hero for Canada the second Olympics in a row. The U.S. women were left in tears, inconsolable and appearing ungrateful for their silver medals. Their four years of hard work and passion to get to the big stage was for nothing. They left their humanness on the ice, something fans can respect and the men can learn from. Unlike the men's game, there is no coasting like the "show" the U.S. men put on in their embarrassing bronze medal game loss to Finland. The women's bronze medal game between Switzerland and Sweden was riveting.

Unlike the men's game, there is nothing else. There is no Stanley Cup or multi-million dollar deal to go back to. This was it. Taking away the one moment for the women to shine and show how good they are would be nothing short of a crime. The Olympics is it for them. If the women's ice hockey tournament disappeared, the best-played hockey of the Olympics would be gone. The fights that ([literally](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aefvtM8OQ)) take place whenever Canada and the U.S. square off will never get old.

And as Bettman and Fasal noted, the parity in the women's game is not far off. People just need a little patience and soon they will see the passion from more than just the U.S. and Canada. There will be other dogs in the fight.

#1.3146112:1263425686.jpg:hockey

Despite the heartbreaking loss, the U.S. will be able to seek revenge in four years, as the game will be given time to grow.

Julio Cortez/Associated Press

#1.3146114:722445133.jpg:hockey

The bronze medal game between Phoebe Stanz of Switzerland and Sweden proved to be an exciting, fast-paced matchup -- just what the women's tournament needed.

AP Photo/Matt Slocum





In Response to Skidmore's Gaping Asshole

By Katie Peverada, Sports Editor

On Thu, Feb 27, 2014

Dear Skidmore Gaping Asshole,

'Sup? http://skidmoregapingasshole.wordpress.com/2014/01/30/the-gaping-asshole-on-quidditch/?relatedposts_exclude=50">Thank you for your ponderings on the Quidditch team. I know we were all very upset about the ridiculousness taking place on the Library Green, so thank goodness you addressed it. There are, though, a few flaws with your insults.

While your suggestion of using recliners instead of brooms was comforting (pun fully intended), it contained highly inaccurate and false information. First and foremost, La-Z-Boy 3000s don't exist. Although if you were slyly hinting that Quidditch players should not even be "flying" on anything and rather just running around, which they would be doing on La-Z-Boy 3000s', then bravo to you for such a witty and intellectual thought.

I also find fault with the fact that you think chairs are way easier to brand. I believe that brooms would, in fact, reach a larger audience than recliners. You see, the [http://www.indexmundi.com/world/demographics_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/world/demographics_profile.html "world population in 2013") world population in 2013 was fairly equal (1.01 man for every woman - hard to believe that when we go to Skidmore, am I right!?!?). I thus argue that a large percentage of those women would be more inclined (once again, pun intended) to purchase a broom as opposed to a recliner. Second, I believe that men located in countries whose cultures don't revolve around reclining in chairs and throwin' back some brews would recognize brooms more than armchairs and thus purchase the broom out of recognition. My point is, you're trying to tell me a Swiffer (which I see as the hybrid of brooms) has less brand recognition across the world than an armchair (and I say world because we all know the best Quidditch players are from England and other parts of Europe). My point is, I think that if you were to send a SurveyMonkey out to the world, more people of both sexes would indicate they want to purchase a broom than some made up armchair, like the La Z Boy 3000.

Also, your insinuation that the game is determined in the clouds is false. Find me one example in a Harry Potter Quidditch match where the game ended in the sky, unbeknownst to the spectators. The game is sometimes won in the trenches, in battles between beaters and bludgers that the normal observer doesn't even notice (kind of like football!).

And on a side note, the governing body of Quidditch is not QUIFA. It's the Department of Magical Games and Sports, of which I postulate the IQA is a subsidiary. Get your facts straight, SGA.

But let's give credit where credit is due. These kids are out there getting their 60 minutes in when they could just be sitting "anonymously" behind a computer screen like yourself.

#1.3146738:3819409352.jpg

http://img4.wikia.nocookie.net/__cb20080716044906/harrypotter/images/3/3a/Ron_in_Quidditch.jpg



Committee to Assess General Education Requirements

By Alex Hodor-Lee

On Thu, Feb 27, 2014

Students in the classes of 2017 and beyond will likely adhere to a new set of general requirements than the ones current Skidmore students follow.

That is because the Committee on Educational Planning and Policy (CEPP), the college committee which recommends educational policies to the faculty and administration, is currently reviewing the foundation and breadth courses requisite for graduation.

Last year the College reviewed its cultural diversity requirement - which requires every student to fulfill one course that familiarizes them with a non-Western culture.

Having reviewed the cultural diversity requirement, CEPP is now appraising the College's general education requirements. Committee members will evaluate whether or not the general education requirements are effectively carrying out the student goals for learning as articulated in the College's goals for student learning and development. [link to: <http://www.skidmore.edu/assessment/goals-for-student-learning.php>]

"It's getting to that time to assess some of the general requirements," said Peter von Allmen, chair of the Economics department and CEPP. "Some of them haven't been reviewed in almost twenty years. That doesn't mean that the courses that make up the requirements haven't changed...but the requirements themselves have been the same for a while."

CEPP's two major goals are: transformation and integration of education. Transforming the general education curriculum is an effort to tailor students' education to more effectively carry out the College's vision for student learning. Equally important is integration: designing curriculum that intentionally connects students' understanding of subject matter across disciplines. "[disciplinary integration] is a conversation not only happening, here, that comes from the AAC&U (Association of American Colleges and Universities) and that is a primary area of interest in higher education right now: not to give up the depth that comes with a major, but to, particularly in a liberal arts setting, make sure that students are seeing the connections across disciplines," Von Allmen said

College policy mandates that the entire review process take at least two years, though many schools which adjust their general education requirements often experience a three to four year process.

The school is concurrently assessing science literacy for many upperclassman students. This week, scores of classes will spend their seminars with science literacy evaluations which are concomitant with the general education review and the planning for a new multi-million dollar science center that the College plans to construct in the near future.

But the College is not just assessing its students and policy. CEPP and other College officials are turning to other schools as a source of inspiration and guidance, according to von Allmen. "A lot of smart people have spent a lot of time thinking about this and so, I think it would be inefficient to just ignore that work," said von Allmen.

Charles Tetelman '16 is one of two student representatives on CEPP. Tetelman recognizes the integral role of outside research as adding to the efficacy of both process and outcome, as such transformative processes are high-stakes and enduring, "One of the difficult things, is that we can't make curriculum based-off evidence that it's working. If it's not working, it's not something you can just change again," Tetelman said

The transformation and integration will have a substantial impact on students' learning, "I like to think Skidmore like a triangle, your education starts out broad and you knock off all of your general requirements, and you get to think peak. But the point of this general education is to have an understanding, of not just what is in your major, but everything else," said Tetelman, adding, "That's not to say if you're an art major you have to be able to understand all the processes of photosynthesis, but you'd be able to understand that biology does have an impact on the world and on art."

The review process will take years. The first challenge is getting departmental input, and then making sure curriculum changes meet everyone's needs. Then CEPP will have to bring it to the faculty for a floor vote, and then they will have to work out the logistics of such an immediate and impactful policy change.

But for von Allmen, such a successful change can deeply and profoundly affect student development. "One of the things that I feel most powerfully about in terms of what [CEPP provides] is not something completely immediately apparent, when you walk across the stage in May," von Allmen said. "That appreciation for multidisciplinary learning--the desire to continue learning after you leave, intellectual curiosity, intellectual maturity--those are things that we hope to foster here that provide benefits way down the road."

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Skidmore Seal



SGA Spring Elections

By Julia Leef

On Fri, Feb 28, 2014

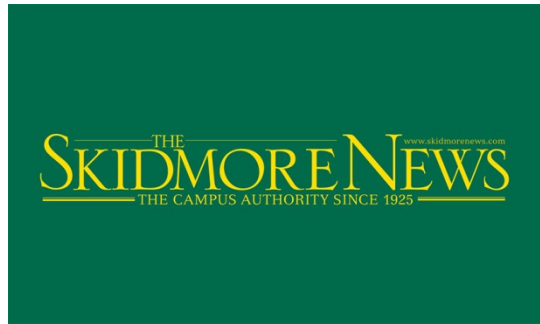
The first round of the Student Government Association spring elections will take place on Monday, March 20 for open positions in the Executive Committee and Inter-Class Council to be filled for the fall semester. Students interested in running or who would like to self-nominate should attend the information session on Monday, March 3. The self-nominations will be due at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5 and there will be a mandatory meeting for self-nominated candidates at 5 p.m.

Following the meeting, candidates will have the opportunity to campaign and collect signatures until Tuesday, March 18. Speech Night, which will give the candidates an opportunity to speak about their platforms, will take place at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, the night before the elections begin. Although previously non-candidates were not permitted to voice support for a particular candidate, a new rule will allow non-candidates to share original content made by the candidate in support of their campaign, according to Vice President of Communications & Outreach, Madeleine Kanazawa '15

The SGA Executive Committee includes the SGA President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Budget & Finance, Vice President for Student Life, Vice President for Club Affairs, Vice President for Communications & Outreach, Vice President for Diversity Affairs and the Senior Class President.

The members of the Inter-Class Council consist of all the presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers and social chairs for each class year, with the exception of the incoming first-year class, whose elections will take place during the fall semester.

The second round of spring elections will begin two weeks after the first round concludes and will be for the positions of Senator-at-Large, the Speakers Bureau Chair, the Traditions Committee Chair, the Student Entertainment Committee Chair, Student Life delegates and any remaining open positions from the Spring Round I elections. Students seeking more information are encouraged to speak with Miles Calzini '16 and Elizabeth Reisen '16, who are the election coordinators for this election.



On Reclaiming "News"

By The Editorial Board

On Fri, Feb 28, 2014

Last Sunday, the Editorial Board sat down to write an editorial on the identity this newspaper holds on Skidmore's campus -- the niche we occupy -- and we found that we could not do it. We were unable to label anything cohesive about our purpose as a student-run newspaper that made us unique or gave us a particular sense of character. While admissions will gladly tell you, "there is no typical Skidmore student," we felt as a publication, that it was important to have some sense of identity that made us into a more accurate representation of the Skidmore community. The problem lies, then, in creating a publication that is generally appealing to a collective that refuses to label itself to begin with.

Despite the lacking selection of news sources in print on Skidmore's campus, the student body has an extensive array of potential forums from which to gather their "news." Yes, we have *The Skidmore News*, but this is just one of a few of the news sources for students. Skidmore Unofficial, one of the most popular online resources, gives commentary on Skidmore life, but also offers general listings of activities on campus. It is an essential and easy way to stay informed as to what is happening and when in any given part of Skidmore's community.

The Skidmo' Daily, Skidmore's only in-print news source, offers satire born of the Schools' daily life, which tends to be *just* offensive enough to render it witty and amusing, without making substantial affronts to any particular group of students. Skidmore's so called "Gaping Asshole", definitely mildly more insulting in the jabs it takes at the Skidmore community, is also a satirical news source. There are even widely visited blogs that seem to get a great deal of airtime among students: Everyone Dresses the Same, a collection of photos of students wearing unintentional matching outfits, Skidmore Sleepsmore, students sleeping in various places on campus or, "Shit Skidmore Students Say," giving an account of all the most absurd quotations overheard around campus. For creative writing, art, and photography, students turn to Folio, BARE and Line.

Despite the evident amusement embodied in all of these forums, they do not seem to give, in the broadest sense, *news*. So, what is it about The Skidmore News that doesn't seem to be reaching students? Have they simply lost interest in a more neutral, factual news source? Would they rather read Skidmore Unofficial's "weekend updates?" And is this the sort of thing we should be publishing instead? It seems that the inability to identify the Skidmore community in any particular way poses a difficult problem in terms of presenting objective news that does, in fact, reflect the current student body.

We have become the MySpace or the blackberry, of news sources, effectively "one-upped" by more exciting, newer projects. So how do we best access a student body that seems so all over the place in terms of what it seeks in a publication? The Skidmore News is attempting to represent what is essentially unrepresentable, and in doing so; we seem to have lost our prestige on this campus. We are an online newspaper, primarily attempting to communicate objective news, with few more defining characteristics than that. This is our attempt to ask you, seekers of news, what it is that we are lacking. Whether it be more lyrical work, more opinion pieces, more angsty jabs at SGA, we want to know. Perhaps we should focus more on a specific facet of Skidmore, be it clubs or classes. While we do not wish to alter the fundamental characteristics of our publication, we do want to better provide for a collective of students who seem to have a range of interests that is ever evolving. We want *input* from the students - we want to know how to more accurately cater to the things they care about, without losing our integrity as a journalistic paper. We are, however, at a loss for where to begin.

Suggestions/Commentary Welcome: skidnews@skidmore.edu

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http://www.gamasutra.com/db_area/images/news/2012/Oct/180134/identity.jpg



This Year's Juried Art Reception

Getting to know the artists

By Gwendolyn Plummer, Contributing Writer

On Fri, Feb 28, 2014

On Feb. 6, Skidmore's Schick Art Gallery unveiled this year's Juried Art Reception. Regarded as one of Schick's most exciting and highly anticipated events of the year, this year's gallery was no disappointment. Annually, a selection of art in every medium is presented to a prestigious guest juror. This year the role was fulfilled by Sanford Mirling, professor at Middlebury College and co-founder of Collar Works Art Space in Troy. Out of the 215 submissions that were presented before Mr. Mirling, 67 pieces were selected, nine of which were award winners.

Winnie Vaughan '14 is a studio art major and received the Schick Art Gallery award for her series of paintings centering on the role of the listener.

"Making and producing art has always felt like an extension of myself," Vaughan said. "Thinking about this role, I began to realize that no matter how well we know a person, our perception of someone will always be slightly different than someone else's because we are all unique and inherently experience the world differently."

In order to capture this sense of ambiguity and haziness, Winnie said she first photographed some friends as they spoke to her, a process during which many of them talked about personal issues and things that they had not shared with others. After taking photographs, Winnie then painted her interpretation of them. She said that she chose painting as her medium due to her long-standing love for it.

"I love how expressive [painting] can be, whether it is through brush stroke, color, composition or some combination of the three. Nothing is ever set in stone, either. For me, painting is all about building up layers and letting parts of it be transparent. I have always been inspired by human relationships and how we learn about ourselves through others," Vaughan said.

Kate Biel '15 is a studio art major and winner of the Renee Vandewater Award for her photograph entitled Lillian. She said she prefers photography as a medium for her own expression.

"Photography is exciting because it holds a reality effect that's powerful through manipulation," Biel said. "The medium itself holds a complex dichotomy between artistic influence and representation of

life. [The winning photograph] came from a series of six that stemmed from my interest in dolls and how they represent our ideals and expectations of femininity - taken from a sinister standpoint."

Juror Sanford Mirling said that he did not understand the narrative put forward in her work, yet he kept attempting to and loved that.

"[I'm inspired by] reading, meditation, hiking, snippets of conversations with friends, the news, as well as artists themselves," Biel said.

Another studio art major that was featured in the reception, Joe Klockowski '14, uses his art to focus on digital technology and the media age. Both of his pieces featured in the show, one oil painting and one digital media piece, centered on this idea.

"Both of these pieces were influenced by the same idea: interaction and experience, how digital technology is transforming the way we interact with and experience the world," Klockowski said. "I find the juxtaposition of these two experiences, the digital and the natural world, to be extremely interesting."

In particular, his painting interface combines these two inspirations by digitally interfering with a scene of nature.

"My goal is to create a visualization of the contemporary landscape, a landscape where people no longer intimately interact with nature but rather they interact with it through a digital interface such as digital photography or online images," Klockowski said, further stating that his work addresses the question, "What does it mean to interact in a digital culture?"

One of the featured ceramic artists is studio art major Madeline Johnson '14. She stated that she prefers ceramics as her way of expressing herself.

"There is an immediacy and tactility to this medium which is so instantly satisfying and pleasing to work with," Johnson said. "I drew inspiration for my piece, Spheres, from all over the place - sea urchins, coral, microbes, architecture, aliens, fruits and Pac-Man."

Her art is, Johnson said, more often than not, unplanned in its beginning stages.

"That's the fun part, starting with an idea and then winding up with something completely different and discovering how unpredictable, unexpected, yet welcome these changes can be. Starting with Pac-Man and winding up with a ball of spikes is not something I could have predicted," Johnson said.

The gallery will remain up through March 16, open for the public to explore the works of these talented Skidmore students.

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Courtesy of Skidmore College

